

# SPARKY'S TECH TIP



“We have the best internet in the area. I don’t say that because I work for the company, I say it because it’s the truth.”

Now, you might think I’m a little biased - and you’d be right! I work for a great company and I know how good our service is because I work on it every day.

We’re different because we deliver an underground fiber optic service to your home. This means your internet is the speed of light...now I won’t name any names, but I can tell you the alternatives in our area don’t offer fiber. Speed is only the beginning - the reliability is unparalleled, and our customer service is unmatched. When you call us, our CSR’s answer the call, not a call tree. When you have an issue, our tech’s (that’s me) usually take care of the problem within 24 hours...sometimes even faster! Did I mention that our staff are local residents? We live here and want the best for our neighbors.

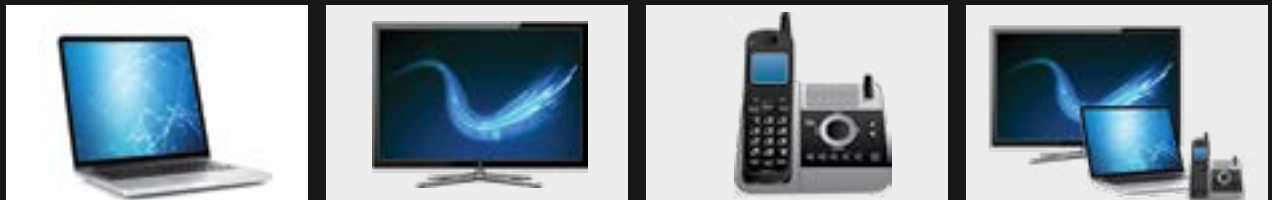
My tip for this newsletter? If you have friends and family in our area that are still on DSL, cable or wireless - do them a favor and tell them about our fiber internet!

Save on this new TV option! Same guide, same channels, different platform.

## COMING SOON! STREAMING SERVICE

Watch our website and social media for more details this winter!

### All of your services on one monthly bill.



Fiber Internet TV & Streaming Phone Bundles

## Cooperative CONNECTIONS



Photo credit: Dan Fearing

# TECH CLASSES



Register now!  
[marquetteadams.com/tech-tuesday-classes](http://marquetteadams.com/tech-tuesday-classes)

### TECH TUESDAYS COMING IN 2024!

We are excited to announce a series of four classes that are open to the public. We will host classes at the Marquette Adams office to help people feel more comfortable with different kinds of technology.

**Classes at 2:00pm and 5:00pm**

- February 6: Streaming**
- May 7: Internet Troubleshooting**
- August 6: Parent Controls**
- November 5: Internet Safety**



Address: 113 N Oxford St.  
PO Box 45  
Oxford, WI 53952

Phone: (608) 586-4111

Website: [www.maqs.net](http://www.maqs.net)



Business Feature: Signature Farms  
Tech Tuesday Classes in 2024  
Scholarships Available



## An Apeeling Business Feature

Written by: Shay Jilek

Since 1981, Signature Farms has worked to harvest potatoes and other vegetables. Over the past 40+ years, they have grown the farm into an impressive commercial operation. They have a great story that we're excited to share!



While getting to know our serving area, I was lucky enough to get acquainted with Chelley, Signature Farm's office manager and accountant. She shared some of the farm's historical "roots" and information I found pretty impressive for this rural area. I was excited to share more about Signature Farms with our members...and maybe a few potato puns.

Signature Farms is a local family operation specializing in potatoes and other vegetables. The farm, named initially Bula Gieringer Farms, was established in 1981 by Mark Bula and Ray Gieringer on 150 acres. The men grew the farm to 5,000 acres and expanded to operations in Missouri. The farm continued to grow to expand operations in Illinois, accruing 8,500 acres and adding a fleet of over-the-road trucks and a herd of black Angus cattle. Over the next few years, there would be some changes in partners, and in 2020, the business was owned by father-son duo Mark Bula and Shawn Bula, which led to the name Signature Farms, LLC.

Signature Farms has also proved to be a resilient farm over the recent years. On October 31, 2022, their operation endured a large fire. With the farm's production volume, it was critical to find a way to continue day-to-day operations. They quickly found a shop to rent in preparation for the planting season and truck and trailer maintenance. This brings us to 2023, and the new facility near Grand Marsh (see photos at bottom). It was time for a fresh "starch". The new building will have office space for each department, pull-through bays for the trucks, and much more space for equipment, parts, and supplies.

Signature Farms harvests some serious volume: 1.5 CWT (hundredweight) of white potatoes, 675,000 CWT of Russet potatoes, and 750,000 CWT of sweet potatoes. They sell potatoes to companies like Frito, Kettle Shears (Walmart brand chips), Backers (Aldi brand chips), McCains (for French fries), and more. (See photo second from the top)

That amount of volume is achieved with 35 year-round employees and over 100 seasonal employees. There are three generations of family working the farm today. You could say they're a "chip" off the old block. (See employees planting in third photo from the top.)

Now, to get to farm technology...after all, we're an internet company! The Signature Farms tractors use GPS tracking for planting, spraying chemicals, and harvesting. They also monitor all the warehouses and irrigation systems. This requires reliable internet and surveillance equipment. It is almost like Marquette-Adams and Signature Farms are a "mash" made in heaven.

Having a family-owned, commercial potato farm right here in the neighborhood is something we can all be proud of! We hope you think of their story the next time you drive past a Signature Farm field. I know I sure "yam". (Last pun, I promise) On behalf of Marquette-Adams, we wish continued success for Signature Farms.



### Why should I start streaming?

Streaming has become a regular in most households. It's versatile, affordable, and can offer a truly custom TV experience. If you are new to streaming, it can be overwhelming to know where to start. Let us help you take the first steps to getting more comfortable.

### Ask family and friends what they like to use.

There are so many streaming platforms out there, it can be difficult to pick one. Ask people you know what they like and get started with that platform. It's common for subscriptions to be monthly and easy to cancel if it's not what you want. Your friends and family can also help you get set up!

### Attend a class at Marquette-Adams.

We are looking forward to offering a class that will teach the streaming basics and help you feel more confident in "cutting the cord". The class is free and will offer a hands-on learning environment. Streaming can be a great way to choose the channels and networks you prefer, and can save you money. With your Marquette-Adams fiber internet, you'll find that streaming works great over multiple TV's and devices. Check out the Tech Tuesday schedule in this newsletter and try to attend a streaming session.

### Thank you for serving our customers!

Jake Van De Voort, 12 years (Left)  
Dan Andres, 12 years (not pictured)  
Jaden Mistele, 1 year (Middle)  
Jeremy Stephens, 1 year (Right)



**WINTER ANNIVERSARIES**

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS OPEN

- Marquette-Adams Scholarship
- Foundation for Rural Services (FRS)

**Go to: [marquetteadams.com/scholarship-opportunities](https://marquetteadams.com/scholarship-opportunities)**

### Do you know a high school senior?

Let them know that they can begin applying for scholarships from Marquette-Adams, as well as, FRS (Foundation for Rural Services).

**Go to: [marquetteadams.com/scholarship-opportunities](https://marquetteadams.com/scholarship-opportunities)**

### Robo-calls, spam, and spoofing - it's the worst!

We get calls from customers often wondering how to get rid of the spam calls that seem to come in aggressive and annoying waves. It happens to all of us...even the employees of the phone company!

These calls can be criminals trying to steal your information, or it can be an automated call as a result of an online sale. Either way, it's disruptive.

Unfortunately, the phone company can't stop these calls from getting through. They are generated by technology that trick caller ID into displaying a fake number. Often times, the number looks local. It's not - many times its actually coming from somewhere overseas.

We want to be sure you know how to stay safe when these calls come in. Best thing you can do, is simply not answer. If the call is legitimate, the caller will leave you a voicemail.

