

## A New Initiative from the SWCA Board

### Evaluating Technology Infrastructure Improvements For Our Community

## **Technology Infrastructure Program (TIP)—Newsletter #4 (3/3/17)**

### Technology Infrastructure Project Update:

The TIP committee has now received proposals from all five companies that were asked to bid for the installation of a fiber based communication network for Shadow Wood. These proposals are now being evaluated by our team assisted by our consultant, CSI. The project remains on schedule to the timetable established by the TIP committee leading up to Town Hall meetings followed by a vote by the residents of Shadow Wood. **The committee asks that you reserve your final judgement about this project until all the pertinent information has been communicated to you via the SWCA website, these TIP Newsletters, by your neighborhood representative and ultimately at the Town Hall meetings planned for April 17th.**

### Why fiber?

Our current copper-based wiring is now 20 years old and showing signs of its age. This wiring will at some point (preferably before any large-scale failure) need to be replaced to ensure residents continue to enjoy the level of service they expect, both today and into the future. In addition, a more reliable and up-to-date communications infrastructure will prevent Shadow Wood from lagging behind its many neighboring communities that have already embraced this upgrade in technology.

While there is considerable focus on future wireless technologies (e.g., 5G), there remains significant technical issues that need to be resolved. For example, the type of wireless signal used by this technology can only travel over short distances and can be easily distorted by things like concrete walls and storm/hurricane windows, etc. Furthermore, wireless connectivity still requires fiber as the “backbone” for the service. This is why we are focused, in the medium to long term on fiber optic services. The following chart summarizes the key aspects between the various technology options available to Shadow Wood.

Considerations	Existing Community Infrastructure	Fiber to the Home (FTTH)	Next Generation Wireless (e.g. 5G)
<b>Availability</b>	Now	Installation required	Past 2020 (exact date unknown)
<b>Longevity</b>	20 Years old (questionable)	20++ years	5-10 years
<b>Community Costs &amp; Terms</b>	No cost to the community (aside from annual price increases)	Cost defined by Bulk Contract (TBD) and can be better controlled from the outset	Unknown
<b>Typical Data Speeds</b>	What we currently experience: 20Mbps - 150Mbps	Speed can be approx. 10 times faster than most current speeds-- approaching 1Gbps	Unknown at this time but faster than currently available >100Mbps
<b>Reliability</b>	Existing facilities will continue to degrade over time	Significantly greater data capacity, reliability and securely protected within conduit	Requires fiber as the basis of the service, but technical issues still need to be overcome and roll out will focus on major cities

*This summary was written by a Shadow Wood resident who has recently retired from an executive position with Verizon. As such, he is very well qualified to assess both our current and potential future technology delivery choices.*

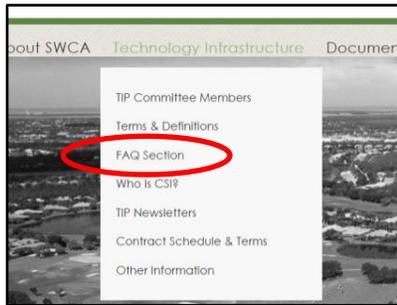
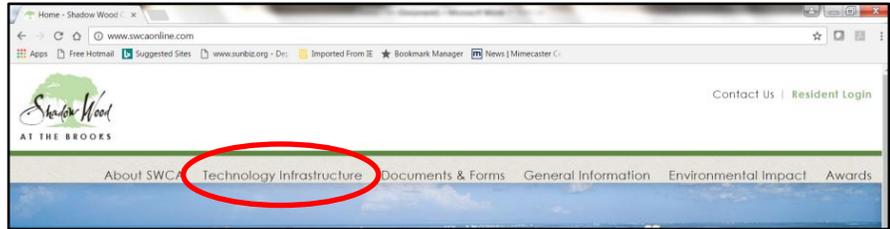
**Navigating to the Technology Infrastructure Project (TIP) page on www.swcaonline.com:**

In order to help our residents navigate to the Technology Infrastructure Project (TIP) information on the SWCA website, we have prepared this easy step-by-step tutorial. NOTE: NO PASSWORD IS REQUIRED TO ACCESS THIS AREA OF THE WEBSITE.

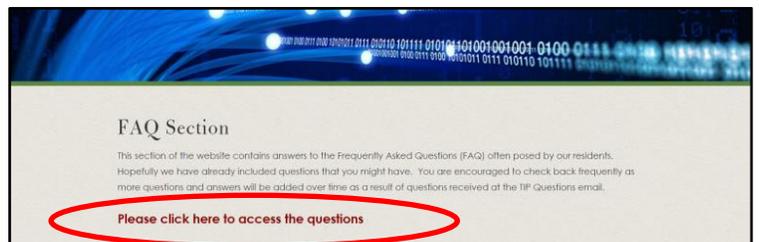
**If you are using a Desktop or Laptop Computer:**

**Step One: Log On**

Go to [www.swcaonline.com](http://www.swcaonline.com) and go to the grey ribbon directly under the SWCA logo. Hover over the “Technology Infrastructure” tab and the TIP drop-down menu will appear.



**Step Two:** Choose the category you are interested in and left click on the title.



**Step Three:** The appropriate window will open (scroll down to find the information and/or additional directions)

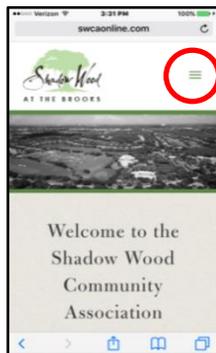
**Step Four:** Click and read the desired information.

**Final Step:** To go to another category, repeat steps One through Four.

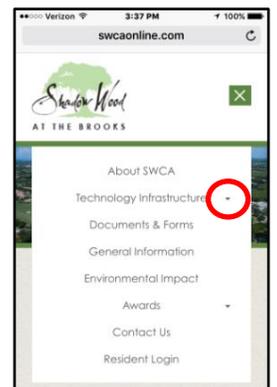
**If you are using a Smartphone or Tablet:**

**Step One:** Go to [www.swcaonline.com](http://www.swcaonline.com).

**Step Two:** press on the three lines on the right side to access the home page menu.



**Step Three:** press on the small arrow on the right-hand side of the “Technology Infrastructure” category and the TIP drop-down menu will open. Scroll down to find the information and/or additional directions



**Step Four:** Press and read the desired information.

**Final Step:** To go to another category, repeat steps One through Four.