



## **JASPER - Can You Gig It?**

### **Fiber Optics - Bringing Science Fiction to the Present?**

The last thing an achy, sleepy, sick child feels like doing is getting dressed, driving and waiting to see the doctor, and then waiting in the car some more while you drive by the pharmacy before finally getting back home, into pajamas and back in bed. This is the old-fashioned way to handle illness, and there must be another way. Well good news! There just might be.

Telemedicine is slowly, but successfully, sweeping the healthcare industry. You may be surprised by how wide the span of telemedicine can be. Nurses can monitor their patients' levels from their home. The school nurse can be connected to doctors via video chat. Factories can video conference with specialists in the middle of the night to determine whether or not a worker needs to go to the ER.

Telemedicine is particularly beneficial in rural communities that may not have the same access to specialists as urban communities do. Fiber optic connections to rural clinics are making it possible. This makes the sci-fi geek in us think about Star Trek, where a non-invasive scanner can not only diagnose, but also treat a patient. Do you remember the movie where a pill caused a woman's kidney's to regenerate? We hope we are able to see the day when medicine catches up to our science fiction imaginations!

### **Project Update**

By now you have started to understand just how long the engineering and main fiber duct placement takes on a project the size of your town! We expected this part of the effort to take a full year, which can seem slow when you are waiting on something you really want! We continue to run into the occasional problem as we bore duct, such as hitting bedrock, but even so we remain on schedule. Look for our staff and contract partners working at SR56 and 6th street, along St. Charles up to 15th Street; from 15th street up St. Charles to Poplar where the second cabinet will be placed we have begun setting hand holes on this segment. We are also starting to bore on our next project segment from Poplar and St. Charles up to Northwood, and from there east out to US231. Here's a picture of one of our crews, and also an area where we have placed duct - perhaps familiar sights to you already!

[\[http://owl.rarebirdinc.com/smithville/jasper/Crewupdate.jpg\]](http://owl.rarebirdinc.com/smithville/jasper/Crewupdate.jpg)

[\[http://owl.rarebirdinc.com/smithville/jasper/Ductupdate2.jpg\]](http://owl.rarebirdinc.com/smithville/jasper/Ductupdate2.jpg)

### **Did You Know?**

When it comes to strokes, timing is everything. Response time is critical, and telemedicine is decreasing that and saving lives. If you are interested in reading more, check out this article:

[<http://cl.exct.net/?qs=32e7d5e376f061126f84faf474045799629a0eb87af149cad68cee9f694c94dc>](http://cl.exct.net/?qs=32e7d5e376f061126f84faf474045799629a0eb87af149cad68cee9f694c94dc)