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Find the local business you're looking for in either the print telephone directory or the online search option: www.localsolution.com. Search local business and residential listings for relevant results. View enhanced options such as ads, photos, videos, and much more all on our user-friendly site. Find it online at www.localsolution.com!

Business Office Closed

Monday, July 4th
In observation of Independence Day

Monday, September 5th
In observation of Labor Day



KMTelecom

18 Second Avenue NW
Kasson, MN 55944-1491
634-2511

Local call for KMTelecom customers in Kasson, Mantorville, Rock Dell and Dodge Center

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm
For help with service problems during non-business hours, please call 634-2505.

24/7 Internet Help Desk

Kasson, Mantorville Area 634-2575
Rock Dell Area 634-2575 (FREE call)
Dodge Center Area 633-2575

WildBlue

Sales/Inquiries 866-677-8677
or 507-634-5692
Technical Support 888-232-3796

Visit Us Online

www.kmtel.com



Where technology comes with a human touch

7 Suggestions for Saving

Whether it's around the water cooler or around the dinner table, seems like everyone's swapping stories about how they're saving money these days. To put you in a frugal frame of mind, we've compiled some popular tips to help you stretch your hard-earned dollars.

1. Stay home and save. An easy way to trim expenses is by simply spending more time at home. Cook your own meals, enjoy the entertainment options offered by your TV and Internet services, and entertain family and friends.

2. Streamline bill paying. Use eBilling and online bill pay to reduce what you spend each month on checks, stamps, and envelopes. This can have the added benefit of keeping you better organized and eliminating late fees.

3. Shop carefully. You're likely to spend more if you make impulse purchases or fail to do your homework before making shopping decisions. Instead, always check for sales at both online and brick-and-mortar retailers, consider store label items over name brands at the grocery, use coupons whenever possible, and take advantage of end-of-season discounts.

4. Watch your workday habits. How much are you spending on the way to work and during the workday? You may want to start bringing your coffee from home instead of stopping for a latté, as well as packing your lunch and snacks.

5. Bundle up. In many cases, companies will give you a better deal if you buy multiple products from them. For example, you can save by choosing a bundle of services from KMTelecom. Also check with your insurance company and bank to see what special opportunities may be available.

6. Share and share alike. Think about sharing magazine subscriptions with a friend that has similar interests. For example, you could subscribe to two magazines and he or she could subscribe to two others — then just swap them at the end of the month. The same idea applies to sharing infrequently used tools with neighbors.

7. Pick up the phone. You may be able to get a lower rate with your credit card companies or other service providers by simply asking for one. It's worth a try, and you won't know until your call. Perhaps the companies have changed their offerings since you first signed up.



Cornerstone Group © 2011

Save Time and Trees With Electronic Billing

Do something nice for yourself and Mother Earth. Switch from paper to electronic bills, statements, and payments. You'll save time by eliminating the clutter of paper statements and the need to write and mail checks.

According to a study conducted by the PayItGreen Alliance, a coalition of financial service companies, the average American household receives 19 bills and financial statements in the mail every month and makes seven payments in paper form. Here's the impact on the environment if just 2 percent more households made the switch to electronic bills and payments:

- More than 15 million pounds of paper would be saved, preserving more than 181,000 trees.
- Emissions of more than 390 million pounds of greenhouse gases would be halted.
- More than 143 million gallons of wastewater would be prevented from entering the environment.



To find out your financial paper footprint, click on "Green Calculators" at www.payitgreen.org.

KMTelecom offers online bill pay. You will be notified by email when your bill is ready and payment will be automatically made to save you time and stamps.

1. Go to www.kmtel.com
2. Click "pay bill" in the top right corner
3. Register as a new user (you will need your paper bill handy for pertinent information)
4. View your bill, check your long distance details, schedule monthly payments, and much more!



Dealing With the "Black Bars" on Your TV

Confused about the "black bars" that sometimes pop up on either side of the screen when you watch TV? To help you understand what they are, and what to do about them, we'll start with the basics of aspect ratio.

The aspect ratio of an image is the ratio of width to height. For example, the 4:3 aspect ratio refers to 4 units wide and 3 units high; the 16:9 ratio means 16 units wide by 9 units high. Conventional TVs, and some small LCD HDTVs, have a 4:3 aspect ratio while widescreen HDTVs have a 16:9 ratio.

TV shows also typically broadcast in either 4:3 or 16:9. Although most new HD programming is in 16:9, a significant amount of TV broadcasts are still sent in the conventional 4:3 ratio. It's the difference in shape between those two ratios that can result in a "pillar boxed" picture—one with black columns on the left and right of the image—when you watch a 4:3 program on your widescreen TV.

You can keep the black bars on 4:3 sources or decide to make adjustments in the picture to fill the whole screen; it's a matter of personal preference. Nearly all recent widescreen TVs include one or more viewing modes that fill out the screen's width by stretching and/or zooming, or stretching the image. Usually there's a dedicated button on the remote, labeled "Wide" or "Aspect," that lets you cycle through these options. Since the aspect ratio of the programming you're watching can change frequently—when you change the channel or even when a new show begins on the same channel—you should get comfortable using this button to get the picture to your liking.

Before You Dig, Know What's Below



There could be many things below ground in your yard besides earth worms. It's also where utility lines are located, including the infrastructure for electricity, water, sewer, gas/petroleum, and communications. Part of the communications infrastructure in the community of Kasson and soon Mantorville is the fiber-optic network installed by KMTelecom to bring you expanded bandwidth capabilities. This network relies on underground fiber-optic cables.

Before you begin any construction project (even small jobs like planting trees and shrubs), call 811 to get utility lines located and marked for free. Keep in mind that the depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you, or even potentially result in fines and repair costs.

With one quick call to 811, all utilities in your area will be notified to come and mark the location of their lines. When you call, be prepared to pinpoint the location of your dig site, describe the type of work to be done, and provide your planned start date for the project. Remember to call at least two business days before you dig.

Ever wondered what the color of the paint and flags used by the locators means? Here's the universal color code:

Orange – Communications, Telephone/CATV

Red – Electric

Blue – Potable Water

Green – Sewer/Drainage

Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line

Purple – Reclaimed Water

White – Premark site of intended excavation

It's really very simple: Don't pick up the shovel until you pick up the phone. Call 811 and know what's below.



Marilyn Skov's Retirement

After 27 years of employment, Marilyn Skov has decided to retire full time. In 2006, Marilyn retired from full time employment, working two days a week. May 24, 2011, marked the final retirement date for Marilyn.

Congratulations Marilyn as you pursue retirement seven days a week. We will miss your bright smiling face in the office. **Thank you for your dedicated service to KMTelecom!**

2011 Directory Photo Contest Winner

Choosing the 2011 directory photo was challenging with the number of entries received. There are some really great photographers out there! Thank you to all the customers who took the time to submit their entry.

The photographer who was responsible for the photo is Michael Hardwick, resident of Mantorville. The choice of this photo represents the time well, with the upcoming Civil War reenactment happening this summer in Wasioja. Congratulations Mike!



Photographer
Mike Hardwick

\$25

Win a \$25 Credit on Your KMTelecom Bill

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill for a chance to win a \$25 credit to your account. Return it by June 30, 2011, to be eligible. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Congratulations to our March 2011 winner, Kasson American Legion!



Are you having trouble using the telephone due to a hearing or speech disability?

Minnesota Relay is a free service that uses a specially trained communications assistant (CA) to relay the telephone conversation between a person who has a hearing loss or a speech disability and the person they wish to speak with. Calls can be made to anywhere in the world (long distance charges apply), 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are completely confidential.

Now it is easier to make a Minnesota Relay call. Just dial 7-1-1! Once connected to the relay service, tell the CA the type of relay call you wish to make. Or, you may dial the specific toll free number for the type of relay call you wish to make.

Types of Relay Services Available

Captioned Telephone (CapTel™)

CapTel is an amplified telephone and relay captioning service that allows people who are hard of hearing to see word-for-word captions of their telephone conversation on a bright, easy-to-read display window built into the CapTel phone, while also listening to what is being said using their residual hearing (much like TV captioning). Requires a CapTel phone. If you wish to contact a person who uses a CapTel phone, dial: 1-877-243-2823.

Voice Carry Over (VCO): 1-877-627-3024

Allows a person who has difficulty hearing on the phone to voice their conversations directly to a hearing person. The CA then types the hearing person's response to the VCO user. Requires a special telephone.

2-Line VCO: 1-866-855-4611

Allows a VCO user to use one telephone line for speaking directly to the other person, while the second line is used to receive the CA's typed response from the other person. This enhanced feature provides a more natural flow of conversation without the pauses of single-line VCO calls. Additional service and equipment requirements.

Hearing Carry Over (HCO): 1-800-627-3529

Allows a person who can hear but who has very limited or no speech capability to make and receive phone calls. The HCO user types his/her conversation for the CA to read to the hearing person, and listens directly to the hearing person's response. Requires a special telephone.

Text Telephone (TTY): 1-800-627-3529

Allows a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled to use a TTY to communicate with the other person on the call.

Standard Telephone: 1-800-627-3529

A hearing person may use a standard telephone to place a relay call and easily converse with a person who is deaf, hard of hearing or speech disabled.

Speech-to-Speech (STS): 1-877-627-3848

Allows a person who has difficulty speaking or being understood on the phone to communicate using his or her own voice or voice synthesizer. The CA revoices the words of the person with a speech disability so the other person on the call can understand them. No special telephone is required.

Computer (ASCII): 1-800-627-3529

Computer users can also access Minnesota Relay. Set your communications software to the following protocols: speeds ranging from 300 to 2400; 8 Bits; No Parity; 1 Stop Bit; Full Duplex. When calling at a rate of 300 or below, follow the above using Half Duplex.

Spanish Relay: 1-877-627-5448

The CA relays calls between a Spanish speaking person with a hearing or speech disability and a Spanish speaking hearing person.

900 Pay-Per-Call Services: 1-900-230-3324

Allows a relay user to connect to any pay-per-call service.

Important Information

Emergency Assistance

TTY callers should dial 9-1-1 directly in an emergency. All 9-1-1 centers are equipped to handle TTY calls. Minnesota Relay can process emergency calls, but this may delay the response to your call.

Billing Options for Long Distance Relay Calls

Direct • Collect • Third-party billing • Pre-paid or Carrier Calling Card

Filing a Complaint

To file a complaint regarding Minnesota Relay, call 1-800-657-3775 (voice/TTY). You will need to provide the date and time of the relay call, the CA's identification number and the nature of your complaint. To file a relay complaint with the Federal Communications Commission, call toll-free at 1-888-225-5322 (voice) / 1-888-835-5322 (TTY), or file online at <http://esupport.fcc.gov/complaints.htm>.

Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program

The TED Program provides free specialized telecommunications equipment to income eligible Minnesotans who are having trouble using the telephone due to a hearing, speech, or physical disability. For information on the TED Program, go to their website at: www.tedprogram.org or call 1-800-657-3663 (voice) or 1-888-206-6555 (TTY).

For More Information on Minnesota Relay Services: www.mnrelay.org or 1-800-657-3775 (voice/TTY)