



## Upcoming Events

### Cider and Cookies

Stop by KMTelecom for Cider and Cookies each Tuesday in December. Enjoy our holiday decorations and sign up for prizes. It's our way of saying thanks for your loyal patronage in 2007.

### Holiday Hours

Our office will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday, December 24th close at 3:00 p.m.  
for Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 25th for Christmas  
Tuesday, January 1st for New Years Day

### Warm Wishes

All of us at KMTelecom wish you a joyful holiday and hope it includes many cherished connections with those you love.

## KMTelecom

18 Second Avenue NW

Kasson, MN 55944-1491

Kasson, Mantorville Area 634-2511

Rock Dell Area 634-2511 (FREE call)

Dodge Center Area 633-2511

### 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

### Visit Us Online

[www.kmtel.com](http://www.kmtel.com)

**KMTelecom**  
Where technology comes with a human touch



## Weather on the 8s

Our KMTV customers asked for local weather information and we delivered. Tune in to The Weather Channel – 263 on your KMTV Digital Television connection – for Weather on the 8s. You'll get local weather updates 'round the clock on the 8s of every hour such as 10:08, 10:18, 10:28, 10:38, and so on. So while the weather may be unpredictable, you always know where to find current conditions on KTMV. Check it out today.



*"So while the weather may be unpredictable, you always know where to find current conditions on **KTMV.**"*

## Bundle Up & Save

Give yourself the gift of monthly savings with a KMTelecom bundle. You'll receive discounts when you bundle your local and long distance telephone service with our KMTV Deluxe Programming Package and/or DSL High Speed Internet access.

For more details on the KMTelecom bundles available, call 634-2511 or visit [www.kmtel.com](http://www.kmtel.com).





## Wireless Access is Coffeehouse Perk

Inside the County Seat Coffeehouse at 15th Street West in Mantorville, you can go online while you sip your espresso and enjoy dessert. It's a popular perk provided free to the restaurant's customers thanks to Wireless Internet Access powered by KMTelecom. And the County Seat Coffeehouse isn't the only area location now offering this service. You can also bring your laptop and enjoy free Wireless Internet Access amidst the books and periodicals at the Kasson Public Library at 16 1st Avenue Northwest in Kasson.

These hot spots are part of a growing trend across the country, as more businesses of all kinds are starting to provide Internet access to their patrons. While common for years in airports, coffee shops, restaurants, hotels, and libraries, the practice is spreading to virtually any business with a waiting area. In some cities, you'll find the service in medical offices, auto-repair shops, retail stores, beauty salons, and laundry mats.

## Get Ready for the *DTV Transition*

The end of an era is drawing near. Beginning February 18, 2009, a government mandate will require TV broadcasters to stop transmitting analog signals and use only digital signals. This means that over-the-air viewers with non-digital televisions who aren't ready for this transition will only see snow and hear static when they turn on their sets.

Why is this change taking place? There are two primary reasons. First, the massive conversion is designed to make better use of the public airwaves. Digital television (DTV) broadcast signals take up less spectrum, so once broadcasters make the transition, it will free up a big chunk of the airwaves for public safety uses and advanced wireless applications. Second, the sound and picture quality of DTV is far superior to traditional analog technology.

It's important to understand that this change applies only to over-the-air television broadcasting. If you currently receive your TV programming via KMTV, cable, or satellite, you won't be required to make equipment changes. If, however, you currently receive over-the-air programming using a rooftop antenna or rabbit ears, you'll need to do one of three things to prepare for the transition to DTV:

**1. Purchase a digital-to-analog converter box that plugs in to an existing television.** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration will be making available to each U.S. household two electronic coupons worth \$40 each that can be used toward the purchase of two converter boxes. The converter boxes will be available from

Best Buy and other participating retailers in early 2008. Be aware that while the converter box will enable you to view free, digitally broadcast programming, your analog television will not deliver the video and audio performance improvements made possible by DTV.

**2. Subscribe to KMTV, cable, or satellite service.** Before choosing this option, make sure that all desired local broadcast stations are carried by that service.

**3. Purchase a new television set with a built-in digital tuner.** If you decide to upgrade to DTV, be aware that there is a difference between DTV and High-Definition TV (HDTV). Not all digital TVs are High-Definition TVs. HDTV refers only to the highest-quality forms of digital broadcast. Some lower-priced digital TVs can receive all types of DTV programming, but are unable to display high-definition signals in their full glory.

For help navigating this DTV transition, visit the FCC's user-friendly website at [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).



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## Update on Do Not Call List

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in June 2003 set up the national Do Not Call list of phone numbers that did not wish to receive telemarketing calls. The program was an overwhelming success. In the first week, people signed up 18 million phone numbers, and the Registry now has more than 149 million listings.

When originally developed, the Registry adopted a policy that required consumers to re-register their phone numbers every five years. Under this policy, if you were one of the millions who registered for the national Do Not Call list in its early days, it would be time to do it again or your phone numbers would automatically drop off the list in June 2008.

Some lawmakers, however, believe it's a hassle to expect people to remember to re-register their phone numbers every five years to keep telemarketers at bay. Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Pa., introduced legislation in September 2007, with bipartisan support, to make the Do Not Call list registrations permanent. Doyle serves as Vice Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's

Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, which has jurisdiction over the program.

In October 2007, Bureau of Consumer Protection Director Lydia Parnes announced that "the Commission now commits that it will not drop any telephone numbers from the Registry based on the five-year expiration period pending final Congressional or agency action on whether to make registration permanent."

So, as it now stands, you don't need to re-register your phone numbers with the Do Not Call list – they will remain there even after the five-year term expires. However, if you have new numbers since you initially registered (such as additional wireless phones), you can add those numbers by visiting [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or call 1-888-382-1222.

Since the Registry began, the government has filed cases against more than 30 companies, resulting in \$8.8 million in civil penalties and \$8.6 million in redress to consumers and forfeitures. But best of all, millions of families have been able to enjoy their dinners uninterrupted ...

## Be Prepared for Winter Weather

The winter season is fast approaching, and can bring some of the harshest weather conditions of the year with little warning – so it's important to prepare early. Be sure to have these items in your home to help keep you and your family safe in the event of a winter emergency:

### At least one corded phone

When the power goes out, cordless phones don't work.

### Food and water

Keep non-perishable items on hand (along with a manually operated can opener), and enough water to last three days at a rate of about one gallon per person, per day. A good supply of food for your pets is important, too.

### Warming gear

Blankets, sweaters, hats, gloves, and even boots will help you stay warm short-term, while a generator can help during extended power outages.

### Battery-operated items

Keep radios and flashlights where you can find them easily – and don't forget to stock up on the batteries needed to keep them running!

### Medications

Be sure you have enough for several days in case you're unable to leave home.





## Need Help Paying Your Phone Bill?

The ability to stay in touch with others can be vital to both safety and emotional well-being. That's what makes telephone assistance for low-income households so important.

**Are you currently enrolled in one of the following programs?**

- Medicaid (Medical Assistance)
- Food Support (Food Stamps)
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- National School Free Lunch Program

**If not, do you have a household income at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines?** If you answered yes to either of these questions, you may qualify for telephone assistance. The Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) and Lifeline provide eligible persons a monthly credit on their telephone bill. For more information or an application, please contact KMTelecom at 634-2511.

*Age, disability and eligibility will be verified.*

## Help With Your New Year's Resolutions

It's that time of year again – time to make a list of your New Year's resolutions. If you're like many of us, it will include statements such as:

- "I'm finally going to get organized."
- "I'd like to simplify my life."
- "I want to save more money."

Need some help? We've put together a few ideas on how to achieve these goals when it comes to your communications products and services.

### 1. Stay on Top of Computer Maintenance

Begin 2008 with a plan for computer maintenance, then resolve to stick with it. Once you develop a routine, you'll be able to avoid the big computer problems by staying on top of the little ones.

- Keep your computer's operating system up-to-date at least monthly. For PC's – open Internet Explorer, select Tools, select Windows Update. For Mac's – click on the Apple icon at the top left, select Software Updates.

- Keep your antivirus software up-to-date, run a virus scan weekly.

- Run an antispyware program weekly to make sure your PC is clean. A good free program is available at: [www.superantispyware.com](http://www.superantispyware.com).

- Back up your data regularly, including your address book, favorites, personal documents and data files (checkbook program, etc.).

- Run Disk Cleanup on your hard drive monthly (Start > Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Disk Cleanup).

### 2. Protect Your Kids Online

With undesirable websites and chat rooms, the Internet can clearly be a dangerous place for children to visit. If you've been meaning to get serious about parental controls, now's the time to take action. A variety of easy-to-use software programs exist to help you manage your children's online usage through Internet content filtering and access controls, time management tools, and activity reports. Visit our Internet Safety page under Links on our website at [www.kmtel.com](http://www.kmtel.com).

### 3. Streamline Bill Paying

Save yourself time and trouble every month by switching to online bill paying this year. You'll no longer have to write all those checks, search for stamps, and allow days for "snail mail" delivery. With online bill paying, you can pay your bills instantly – using your bank account or credit card – with just a few clicks.

### 4. Bundle Up for Savings

It makes good financial sense to bundle your services from KMTelecom like local and long distance phone service, digital television, Internet access and phone features. You'll pay significantly less than buying these services separately from different companies. Plus, you'll gain the convenience of dealing with just one company and receiving just one bill.

*Good luck with your resolutions and may this year be a very successful one for you.*

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