



### Upcoming Events

Stop by KMTelecom for **coffee, 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 2008.

### Holiday Hours

Our office will be closed for the following holidays:

- Wednesday, December 24th close at 3:00 pm for Christmas Eve
- Thursday, December 25th for Christmas Day
- Thursday, January 1st for New Year's Day

### Website Compass

Internet tips and online tools can be found in the latest edition of the Website Compass. Find it online at [www.kmtel.com](http://www.kmtel.com) or stop in and pickup a hardcopy.

### 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)



## Cherished Connections

The connections we share with family and friends become even more cherished during the holiday season. These are the moments that strengthen relationships and create the most memorable and meaningful celebrations.

The staff at KMTelecom wish you a joyful holiday, and hope it includes many cherished connections with those closest to you. We also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your loyalty and patronage in 2008. It's a pleasure to serve you, and we look forward to helping you stay connected in 2009. We're always here for you, and you can count on us for a variety of communications solutions.

You can also count on KMTelecom to stay connected with the communities we call home. We're here to build strong relationships with our employees, customers, and community leaders for many years to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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## Stay Connected During Winter Storms

In light of the increased use of wireless phones, cordless phones, and VoIP, KMTelecom wants to remind you that these types of telephone technology will not work if electricity goes out due to winter storms. One item to always have on hand is a corded landline phone that plugs into the phone jack in the wall. Since a corded phone does not require electricity, it can be your backup method of communication during and after a storm—keeping you connected to emergency personnel, family, and friends.

### It's important to understand:

- Once batteries wear out, cordless phones and laptops require electricity and will not continue to work during a power outage.
- Wireless phone systems and towers are not required to provide backup power, so wireless phones may not operate during a power outage either.

For safety's sake, we urge you to keep at least one corded landline phone in your home, along with a flashlight and other emergency items.

## Enjoy the Holidays Without Breaking the Bank

Each year, it seems like holiday gift lists get longer and longer—and prices go higher and higher. Between kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, and close friends, there is always pressure to spend more than you should. However, you can change all that. Here are a few ideas to make the most of the season, without feeling stressed about what is (or isn't) left in your wallet:

### Give the gift of time.

Real holiday spirit involves putting others first. You can help loved ones and give them a special treat at the same time. Create “coupons” that your family and friends can redeem any time for things like a homemade meal, a car wash, or child care.

### Check out thrift stores.

Great deals, and sometimes very unique items from the past, can be found at thrift stores such as books, toys, jewelry, and home décor. Plus, you're participating in recycling at the same time.

### Split up gift sets.

Instead of giving each of your friends a set filled with bath salts, lotions, perfume, and makeup,

divide the sets and give each person just one or two of the items. You'll save big, and they'll still appreciate the thoughtful gesture.

### Buy only what you really need.

Holiday sales are hard to resist, but they can cause you to overspend in a heartbeat. To avoid buyer's remorse and mounting bills, make a list and stick to it. (That means avoiding buying extras for yourself, as well.)

### Think twice about using credit cards.

Every purchase you make with a credit card will end up costing you in interest unless you pay off the balance at the end of the month. Even if your budget is tight, you'll be much more satisfied—and less stressed in January—if you stick to buying things on a cash-only basis.

Remember to establish your budget before you hit the stores, and to keep track of every purchase you make. By shopping within your limits, you'll have a happier and more peaceful holiday.



## The Big Ten Network Is NOW AVAILABLE!

It's official! KMTelecom has recently added the Big Ten Network, a channel dedicated to Big Ten Conference sports. It is a must have for every college sports fanatic. The Big Ten Network is available to KMTV customers in the *Basic* programming plan.

The network plans to broadcast 35+ football games per season. For men's basketball, there will be at least 105 regular-season games. For women's basketball, there will be at least 55 regular-season games and nine Big Ten

Tournament games. Also planned are 170 Olympic sporting events per year, as well as 660 hours per year of institutional programming and coverage from the conference's vast library of historic sporting events, including bowl games.

The Big Ten Network can be found on KMTelecom's digital television service, *Channel 115*.



## It Pays to Stay Local

At KMTelecom, we have a dedicated team of telecommunications experts working on your behalf every day. As your local provider, we live and work alongside you in the communities of Kasson, Mantorville and Dodge Center — and that local service is something our competitors can't offer. With KMTelecom at your side, you'll enjoy advantages such as:

### Personal attention.

You can walk into our office and talk face to face with a fellow resident, and immediately get all the help you need. Or you can call us at 634-2511 and speak directly to a live person. With KMTelecom, you don't have to settle for annoying "press this for that" automated systems, or waste your time being placed on hold to wait for faraway customer service representatives.

### Faster response times.

When you're experiencing phone or Internet problems, you need assistance right away. The last thing you want to do is wait for a service technician from

another town to show up many hours (or even days) later. Our service technicians are right here, so we can get to you right away.

### Commitment to improved services.

Whether it's the latest in digital television technology or Fiber to the Home for faster Internet connections and improved digital television service, we always strive to provide you with the best telecommunications systems available. Since we're your neighbors, we understand your needs.

### Consistently great values.

Unlike some companies, we don't play games with low teaser rates that go up later. With KMTelecom, you simply get a great deal every day.

All of us at KMTelecom want to thank you for choosing us as your telecommunications provider. We look forward to continuing to serve you. If you have questions about our services, or need help comparing our offerings to those of our competitors, just stop by our office or call 634-2511.

## KMTV Channel 1 Community Connection

Kids are in school and sporting events are well underway. Catch area community sports events on KMTV's Community Connection, *Channel 1*. Currently, you will find local area sporting events. We hope to expand this channel to include additional community events. Refer to our website ([www.kmtel.com](http://www.kmtel.com)) for a schedule of events showing on *Channel 1*.

## Winner of Our September Drawing!

Thanks to all who submitted their entry for the \$25 drawing from the September newsletter. The lucky winners of that drawing were Jake & Addy Carstensen. Congratulations Jake & Addy!

### Win Credit on Your KMTelecom Bill

Enter for your chance to win a \$25 credit on your KMTelecom bill. Just return this coupon to our office by December 31, 2008 to be eligible for the drawing.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## “DTV” Doesn’t Mean “New TV”

If you’re concerned about whether you need to invest in a new TV to get ready for the Digital TV (DTV) conversion in February 2009, KMTelecom wants to put your worries to rest.

*As a KMTV customer, you’re already viewing a digital signal, so the DTV transition will not affect you in any way—even if you keep your existing TV set.*

Current KMTelecom TV subscribers won’t have to do a thing. You can get a new TV if you’d like, so you can more fully enjoy the crisp, clear pictures offered by Digital TV. However, this is not necessary. As a KMTV customer, you’re already viewing a digital signal, so the DTV transition will not affect you in any way—even if you keep your existing TV set.

If you’d like to upgrade your services and add new channels, this is a great time to do so. KMTelecom offers a wide range of entertainment options for every taste. Just give us a call at 634-2511 to learn about our money saving packages.



## How to Guard Your Passwords

Your passwords protect valuable information and assets. To help keep them secure and away from criminals, use the following strategies:

### **Don’t tell all family members.**

For example, it’s fine to share the password to your joint banking account with your spouse, but keep passwords hidden from children who could pass them on to less trustworthy individuals.

### **Never provide your password over e-mail or based on an e-mail request.**

Any e-mail that requests your password or requests that you go to a website to verify your password is almost certainly a fraud. This includes requests that appear to be from a trusted company or individual.

### **Do not type passwords on public computers.**

Computers such as those in hotel lobbies, libraries, Internet cafés, and airports should be considered unsafe for any personal use

other than anonymous Internet browsing. Do not use these computers to check e-mail or bank balances, or any other account that requires your user name and password. Criminals can purchase key-stroke logging devices to capture your passwords after you leave the computer.

### **Change your passwords regularly.**

This makes it much more difficult for criminals and other malicious users to figure out your passwords. Put yourself on a schedule to change passwords at least every six months.

### **Be careful with the “Remember My Password” feature.**

This feature should never be used on websites containing valuable personal information. But it’s fine to take advantage of the convenience of this feature for things like online magazines.

### **Be careful about storage.**

Make sure you store any written records of your passwords in a safe place that would not be obvious to intruders.