

THE LINK

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A quarterly newsletter from your friends at KMTelecom

We Hope You Have a Ball This Fall

The fall season is full of opportunities to watch sports, whether it's from the stands of a local football field or in your home on the TV screen. KMTelecom hopes you have fun cheering for your favorite teams. We also thank you for being on our team by choosing us as your communications provider.



Business Office Closed

Monday, September 2nd, 2019

Labor Day

Thursday, November 28th, 2019

Thanksgiving 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

Visit Us Online

www.kmtel.com

KMTelecom
Where technology comes with a human touch



HIGH SCHOOL DEMANDS HIGH SPEED

If you have kids in high school, you know the whole family stays in high gear – from cheering for high scores at games to enjoying high notes at concerts to supporting high goals in classes.

When you're at home, your internet connection needs to meet the high demands of smart TVs, laptops, tablets, and smartphones in virtually constant use. How about upgrading to this high speed plan?

**CALL 507-634-2511 FOR
A FREE SPEED UPGRADE***

**Don't have our internet yet? Sign up by
September 30th, 2019 and receive your
first month FREE plus FREE installation.**



*Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Offer expires September 30, 2019 to get one month of your next-faster internet plan at your current plan's price. Contact us for details.



Happy 50th Birthday to the Internet

On October 29, 1969, a UCLA computer programmer named Charley Kline sent an electronic message to Bill Duvall at the Stanford Research Institute. This was the first time an electronic message was sent over a network from one computer to another, which is why Internet Day is celebrated annually on October 29 and why 2019 marks the internet's 50th birthday.

At the time, the internet was known as ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network). It's also interesting to note that the initial message didn't go entirely as planned. Kline intended to send the word "LOGIN," but only the letters "L" and "O" were transmitted across to Duvall before the system crashed.

The internet has certainly aged well and is getting better all the time. It's revolutionized how we work, learn, share information, communicate, shop, entertain ourselves, meet people, and much more. Can you imagine life without it?

One way to celebrate Internet Day is to upgrade your home's internet plan to a faster speed, and now's a great time to upgrade! Visit www.kmtel.com to review the current selection of internet speeds in your area.

Prevent Unauthorized Users on Your Home's Wi-Fi Network

If you don't take precautions, your home's Wi-Fi network could be used by neighbors trying to avoid paying for their own internet service. Or worse yet, picked up by "drive-by leeches" planning to introduce malware or access illegal websites. Either way, use of your Wi-Fi network by people outside your household can slow down your internet speed.

To help prevent unauthorized Wi-Fi access, make sure your home's network is as secure as it can be. Take these key precautions:

Turn on WPA2 encryption on your wireless router.

If you haven't already done so, consult your wireless router's manual and enable WPA2 encryption on your wireless router. Make sure you're not using the outdated and vulnerable WEP encryption. WEP is easily hacked by even the most novice hacker in less than a minute or two by using free tools found on the internet. Turn on WPA2 encryption and set a strong password for your network. The moment the router requires a new password that the connected devices don't know, all the free-loaders will disconnect from your network, unable to use your internet connection.

Hide your wireless network by changing its name (SSID).

Your SSID is the name that you give your wireless network. You should always change this name from its manufacturer set default which is usually the brand name of the router (i.e. Linksys, Netgear, D-link, etc.). Changing the name helps to prevent hackers and leeches from finding specific vulnerabilities associated with your brand of router. If hackers know the brand name, then they could find an exploit to use against it (if one exists). Make the SSID something random and as long as you can, since it helps prevent hackers from cracking your wireless encryption.

While there's no way to make your home's Wi-Fi network totally impervious to a dedicated hacker with the right tools and skills, if you layer enough security practices, the hacker will likely move on to another, easier-to-access network in the neighborhood.



If you'd like help with Wi-Fi security and troubleshooting, call 507-634-2511 and ask about our Managed Wi-Fi service. It's free for the first month with free installation!

Scam Pop-Up Ads Claim to be From KMTelecom

We recently had a customer report that while he was on the WebMD website, a pop-up ad claiming to be from KMTelecom said, "Congratulations! You get to spin the wheel to win a prize." When he spun the wheel, he was told he'd won \$1,000.00 and should push the button on the screen to be connected to a "partner." Wisely, he didn't follow through but called KMTelecom to report the scam.

KMTelecom never uses pop-up ads on websites belonging to other businesses or organizations. So if you see one claiming to be from us, it's fraudulent. Do not respond to it in any way or click on any buttons or links.

Scam pop-up ads happen occasionally to KMTelecom but are part of a much larger and more frequent issue. These ads are the result of malicious code being inserted into the software that virtually all publisher websites use in order to run fast-loading automated ads. It's a seemingly never-ending battle. Hackers will devise a way to interfere with your browsing, publishers will combat it as best they can, and hackers will come up with something new.

If you have questions or concerns about pop-up ads, call KMTelecom at 634-2511.

Buzz Through This Trivia About Bees and Honey

September is National Honey Month. It was initiated by the National Honey Board in 1989 to celebrate the time of year when honey collection typically concludes in the United States.

Here are some fun facts:

- A single worker honeybee produces approximately 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. That means around 22,700 bees are needed to fill a single jar of honey.
- For every pound of honey, honeybees must tap over two million flowers.
- The color and flavor of honeys differ depending on the nectar source (the blossoms) visited by the honeybees. There are more than 300 unique types of honey available in the United States.
- Dating back to ancient times, honey has been used for its medicinal purposes. When you have a cough, try reaching for a jar of honey, since the World Health Organization says honey can coat and soothe throat irritation.



"Bee" sure to follow KMTelecom on Facebook to get all the "buzz" about our upcoming promotions and events.



Hands-Free Law Effective August 1st

The new "hands-free" law went into effect August 1st, 2019, and KMTelecom is helping to spread the word.

Here are a few important facts about the new law:

- You may not hold a phone in your hand while driving.
- The new law allows a driver to use their cell phone to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts and get directions, but only by voice commands without holding the phone. A driver may not use their phone at any time for video calling, video live-streaming, Snapchat, gaming, looking at video or photos, using apps, reading texts, scrolling or typing on the phone.
- In an emergency, you can hold a phone to call 911.
- The first ticket is \$50 plus court fees and the second and later tickets are \$275 plus court fees.

For more information, visit HandsFreeMN.org.

\$25

Win a \$25 Credit on Your KMTelecom Bill

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill by September 30th, 2019 for a chance to win a **\$25 credit** to your account. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Congratulations to our June 2019 winner, Ron Eidem, Kasson!

Annual Scholarship Program Benefits Graduating Seniors

KMTelecom has been a supporter of continuing education for many years through our contribution to the scholarship funds at the Kasson-Mantorville and Triton Schools. We proudly give back to the communities we serve and are pleased to announce the 2019 scholarship recipients.

This year, \$9,000.00 in awards will be split between the following graduates. Congratulations and best wishes as you pursue your college education!



Garsen Schorr



Jora Nicole Gergen

MN Telecom Alliance Scholarship Winners

Congratulation to Garsen Schorr and Jora Nicole Gergen for being selected to receive a scholarship from the Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation (MTA).

KMTelecom is a member of the MTA, and students in the KMTelecom service area are eligible to apply for these generous scholarships. The foundation is part of the MTA, a trade organization based in St. Paul representing over 44 telephone companies and cooperatives in the state.

Jora Nicole Gergen was selected to receive a \$2,000 scholarship and Garsen Schorr was selected to receive the first \$2,000 Information Technology scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year.

It makes us all proud at KMTelecom when the statewide winners are selected from our area. All the best to Jora and Garsen as they go off to college this fall!



Brooklyn Aarsvold (K-M) – In the fall, Brooklyn plans to attend Rochester Community and Technical College to study Early Childhood Education. Brooklyn is the daughter of Todd Aarsvold and Wendy House.



Gabrielle Alvarado (K-M) – Gabrielle plans to attend the St. Catherine University in St. Paul this fall to study Public Health and Spanish. Gabrielle is the daughter of Steve and Cindy Alvarado.



Mikayla Courteau (Triton) – Mikayla is the daughter of Michael and Laura Courteau. She plans to attend University of Wisconsin, River Falls and is undecided about a major.



Matthew Harfmann (K-M) – Matthew is the son of Kent and Reva Harfmann. In the fall he plans to attend the University of Notre Dame, majoring in Biology.



Garsen Schorr (K-M) – Garsen, son of Scott and Brenda Schorr, plans to attend the University of Notre Dame with a major in Business Analytics.



Tyler Upham (K-M) – In the fall, Tyler plans to attend Winona State University. Tyler is the son of Suzanne Bretto and Mike Upham.



Olivia Zill (Triton) – Olivia plans to attend Winona State University, majoring in Business. Olivia is the daughter of David and Deborah Zill.