



There's No Such Thing As a Dumb Question

As our community's classrooms once again become alive with learning, KMTelecom wishes students, teachers, and administrators a successful school year. Since questions are a key part of education, this is a good opportunity to remind all of us to ask questions without hesitation. Whether you're six or sixty, if you don't understand something, ask!

KMTelecom would be happy to answer your questions about our communications services or the devices used with them. Stop by our office or call 634-2511.

Business Office Closed

Monday, September 6, 2021
Labor Day

Thursday, November 25, 2021
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



Movie Movie Night OUTSIDE

What could be more fun than movie night in your own backyard? It's like summer camp meets drive-in theater. Just get a projector and screen—very affordable options are out there—to pair with your laptop or streaming device. Then make sure you have a strong Wi-Fi connection to support the movie magic.

Our Managed Wi-Fi service can play a supporting role. For as little as \$6.99/mo., we'll set up and maintain a high-performance router for reliable signals inside and outside.*

**CALL 634-2511
FOR MANAGED WI-FI**

**Should you require more extenders to achieve the desired coverage, we can install them for a small additional charge. Certain restrictions apply. Contact us for details.*

Let's Talk About Phone Call Songs

For decades, phone calls have served as a device in song lyrics to express love, longing, or loneliness. Although the types of phones have changed over the years—from rotary dial phones to smartphones—the phone's importance to relationships has stayed constant.

Here's a chronological list of some popular phone-related songs:

Beatles

Any Time at All (1964)

Steely Dan

Rikki Don't Lose That Number (1974)

Electric Light Orchestra

Telephone Line (1976)

The Beach Boys

Had to Phone Ya (1976)

Foreigner

Love on the Telephone (1979)

Blondie

Call Me (1980)

Tommy Tutone

867-5309/Jenny (1981)

The Replacements

Answering Machine (1984)

Stevie Wonder

I Just Called to Say I Love You (1995)

Carly Rae Jepsen

Call Me Maybe (2012)

Adele

Hello (2015)

To learn about the phone services offered by KMTelecom, call us at 634-2511.



QR codes, which stand for “Quick Response” or “Quick Read,” have been around awhile. You’re used to seeing these matrix bar codes in magazine ads and brochures as well as on posters, product packaging, restaurant menus and tourist attraction signage. But something new has arrived—the scam of QR code click jacking.

Scammers are now using stickers to place their own QR codes on top of legitimate ones. This is especially common in public places like airports, train stations, and bus depots, where the QR codes are purposely placed in an accessible place so people can use them easily. This plays into the hands of the scammers, because it also makes them easy to cover with their own stickers.

Victims who scan the fake QR codes are directed to malicious websites and prompted to provide personally identifiable information (PII), which can be used for identity theft. Or victims could have malware directly downloaded to their smartphones and lose money through online banking fraud.

According to Scambusters, here's what you should do to avoid becoming the victim of a QR code scam:

- Never scan a code box that doesn't appear to be linked to anything else and has no accompanying text — for example, just stuck on a wall or floor.
- Be wary of scanning codes in public places, such as transportation depots, bus stops, or city centers.
- Check first to see if a code is on a removable sticker. If so, don't scan.
- If you scan a code and find yourself on a webpage that asks for PII such as passwords, don't key in the information. Finding out details on a product is not important enough to take the chance on being scammed. You can always investigate the product later.
- Use a secure QR reader app that checks the website the QR code is directing you to before it takes you there.

Used by legitimate businesses, QR codes are a convenient information portal. But used by scammers, they can become a fraud gateway. Slow down and watch for warning signs before you act.



Who Needs Pay-Per-View? Use Streaming Video Instead!

You may think you need a TV service with Pay-Per-View in order to select a movie to enjoy at home. Thanks to new technology, that's no longer the case. You can enjoy the same type of convenience and entertainment variety of Pay-Per-View by watching streaming video.

What do you need to get started with streaming video? Not much, and you probably have some of the technology already. Here are the essentials:

- **A high speed internet connection.** In order to get good video quality while streaming — without buffering — you'll want a connection with download speeds of at least 10 Mbps.
- **An internet-ready TV or external device.** There are many devices to choose from including Apple TV, Roku Streaming Media Player or Stick, Amazon Fire Stick, and Google Chromecast.
- **A streaming service.** For a small monthly fee, you can get access to an unlimited number of movies through a streaming service. The most popular ones today are Netflix and Amazon Video, and they both offer vast movie libraries.

When you combine your KMTelecom TV service with streaming video, you get an excellent entertainment value. If you have questions, please call us at 634-2511.

To Reduce Bullying, Kids are Urged to be "Upstanders"

STOMP Out Bullying™ is the leading national bullying and cyberbullying prevention organization for kids in the U.S. One of its goals is to teach effective solutions on how bystanders can best respond when they witness bullying.

Bystanders often don't know what to do, or they're afraid of retaliation, so they do and say nothing. STOMP Out Bullying wants to emphasize that when bystanders do nothing, they send a message to the bully that their behavior is acceptable.

Instead of just being a bystander, kids are encouraged to stand up and be an "upstander." This includes doing the following:

- Don't laugh.
- Don't encourage the bully.
- Reach out in friendship to the victim.
- Tell an adult.
- If you notice someone being isolated from others, invite them to join you.

There is strength in numbers. After all, every school and every community has many more caring kids than bullies.

Visit www.stompoutbullying.org to learn more.



"The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson."

— TOM BODETT

We all have lessons to learn. So while this time of year conjures up images of kids heading back to classrooms, every day is a chance for everyone to pick up new knowledge.

As your local communications provider, KMTelecom is happy to teach you about our services and related technology. For example, are you unsure about what internet speed you need? Or do you need a lesson on working your TV remote or scheduling a series on your DVR? Whatever you'd like to learn about technology, stop by our office or give us a call at 634-2511.

\$25

**Win a \$25
Credit on Your
KMTelecom Bill**

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill by September 30, 2021 for a chance to win a **\$25 credit** to your account. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

**Congratulations to our June
2021 winner, Sue Lantz,
Hayfield!**



Graduating Seniors Benefit from Scholarship Programs

KMTelecom has been a supporter of continuing education for many years through our contributions to the scholarship funds at the Kasson-Mantorville and Triton Schools. Our company proudly gives back to the communities we serve and is pleased to announce the 2021 scholarship recipients. This year, \$8,000.00 in awards will be split between the following graduates. Congratulations and best wishes as you pursue your college education!



Ryan Darveaux (K-M) – Ryan plans to attend Minnesota State University - Mankato in the fall, majoring in nursing. He is the son of Mike and Sara Darveaux.



Mariel Faber (Triton) – Mariel, daughter of Timothy and Kristine Faber, plans to attend St Mary's University of MN in Winona, majoring in psychology.



Shelbey Hagedorn (K-M) – Shelbey is the daughter of Travis and DeAnn Hagedorn. She plans to attend the University of Kansas, majoring in business leadership and management.



Carlee Koehler (K-M) – Carlee plans to attend Purdue University and is majoring in nursing and global health. Her parents are Patrick and Bethany Koehler.



Olivia Matuska (K-M) – In the fall, Olivia plans to attend the University of St Thomas, majoring in mechanical engineering. Olivia is the daughter of Mark and Suzy Matuska.

Carlee Koehler Receives MTA Scholarship

The Minnesota Telecom Alliance received 158 scholarship applications from across the state and one winning student is from Kasson. Carlee Koehler was selected to receive a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year from the Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation. The Foundation is part of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance, a trade organization based in St. Paul representing over 44 telephone companies in the state including KMTelecom. Carlee Koehler plans to attend Purdue University in the fall. She is the daughter of Patrick and Bethany Koehler. In awarding the scholarship to Koehler, Mary Ehmke said, "We're happy to have this chance to make an investment in this student's college education. Rural communities need educated and talented young people to be our leaders of the future. It makes us all proud at KMTelecom when one of the statewide winners is from our area."

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

While suicide prevention is important to address year-round, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month provides a dedicated time to come together around a difficult topic. The goals are to raise awareness about suicide prevention, reduce stigma around the topic, and encourage people in need to utilize available resources.

Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. We can all benefit from honest conversations about mental health conditions and suicide, because just one conversation can change a life.

The 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides free and confidential counseling to those in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. People can reach the hotline by calling the 10-digit number: 1-800-273-8255 (TALK). However, the FCC has finalized 988 as the three-digit number Americans will be able to call to be directed to this hotline. All phone providers are required to implement the 988 dialing code by July 16, 2022.

KMTelecom has the 988 number set up and running in our switch. It can now be accessed by calls made from a landline phone in our service area.