



We Hope Your Days are Merry and Bright

Merry Christmas from all of us at KMTelecom. May this season be filled with whatever brings you joy—whether that's baking and sharing cookies, shopping for the perfect presents, enjoying holiday feasts with family, decorating your home from top to bottom, or giving back to the community through your time and talents.



We're honored to help keep you connected to your world.

Business Office Closed

Friday, December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve

Friday, December 31, 2021
New Year's Eve

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



A WINTER WONDERLAND CREATES

Wonderful Speed

Enjoy Wonderful Speed from Your Internet, Too

It's more fun to move more quickly, whether you're sledding down a snowy hill or flying through downloads at home. So why not give your family the gift of faster internet this holiday season? It's sure to make the new year more wonderful for the binge watchers, gamers, teleworkers, and students in your household.

Plans with 200 Mbps or higher speeds include Managed Wi-Fi and a FREE Amazon Fire Stick!

**CALL 507-634-2511 TO SIGN UP FOR
NEW OR UPGRADED INTERNET.**

Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Speeds up to 1,000 Mbps are available in homes passed by the fiber network. Certain restrictions apply. Contact us for details.



New Employee Spotlight

Please join us in welcoming Peter Piltingsrud, Information Technology Manager, to our KMTelcom team.

Peter comes to us with over 21 years of experience in the IT field. He attended Iowa State University in Ames, IA. After graduating, Peter worked as an IT Manager for Greenway Coop for 14 years, and then spent the next seven years at CHS as the IT Manager for Mergers, Acquisitions, and Divestitures.

He lives near Rock Dell with his wife Niki, daughter Anastasia, their coonhound Cooper, and a few cats. When not at work, Peter spends his time enjoying games with friends, working on projects around the house, attending concerts, and reading.

We're very happy to welcome Peter aboard!



Tech the Halls to Simplify Your Holiday

Smart home devices can reduce the stress of the holiday season by taking some of the tasks off your to-do list. Are you taking full advantage of this handy technology?

Holiday Light Control

If you love to brighten your home inside and out with what seems like miles of light strands, you know what a hassle it can be to plug and unplug them each day. Save yourself the trouble by using smart plugs in your electric outlets. You can control smart plugs via your mobile device or smart speaker, or program them to turn on and off automatically according to your schedule. While you're at it, consider swapping out your regular light bulbs in lamps and ceiling fixtures with smart bulbs. They offer color-changing capabilities to light up walls and décor for a more festive mood.



Doorbell Cameras

You'll probably have more visitors and more packages at your front door this time of year. By installing a doorbell camera, you can stay updated on what's happening with both. These cameras allow you to view and chat with porch visitors through a smartphone app—whether you're on the other side of the door or the other side of the country. They can also alert you when a package is dropped off, so you can grab it yourself or call a neighbor to do it for you. Plus, just the sight of a doorbell camera on a front porch may deter package thefts.

Voice-Enabled Smart Speakers

A smart speaker is like a "digital elf" that can handle all kinds of tasks. For example, the Amazon Echo can create multiple shopping lists (for gifts, party supplies, and more), schedule reminders, track an airline flight, play a Christmas carol for you, or even order a last-minute gift.

Housework Helpers

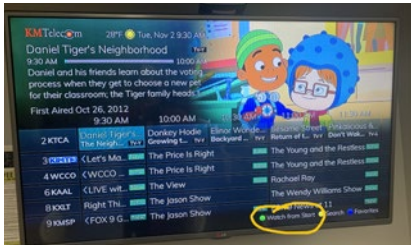
Get help managing your home. Robot vacuum cleaners and mops can automatically clean up messes, and smart refrigerators can alert you when the door is left open and tell you what's inside so you know what food to pick up at the store.

KMTelcom offers the high-speed internet plans you need to support smart home devices. To learn more, visit www.kmtel.com.

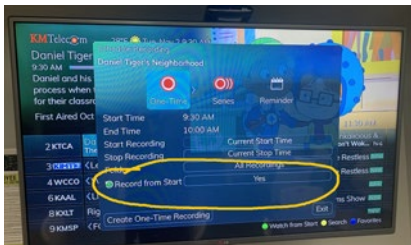
Handy Reminders About the New TV Platform

The new TV platform is complete, and we hope you're adjusting to the new look and feel. We thought this would be a good time to remind you of the new features that you may want to check out if you haven't already.

Restart TV: Restart a program that is already in progress. When you pull up the **GUIDE** and see the

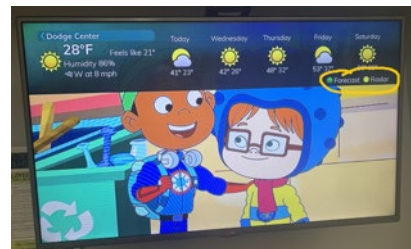


● **Watch from Start** option at the bottom of the screen, press the green button at the top of your remote, and it will tune in from the beginning of the program. This feature is also available from the DVR when recording. Look for the



● **Record from Start** option when you set up a recording.

Weather: Press the red button at the top of your remote for Weather, which will bring up the weather bar at the top of your TV screen. The weather information comes from the Dodge Center or Rochester airports. Check out the



● **Forecast** or ● **Radar** by using the designated color navigation buttons.

What's Hot: Press the yellow button at the top of your remote when watching TV. Select **What's Hot** and it will show you what other people are watching. Arrow over to see Recordings, TV, and Series that are popular.

NEW Cloud DVR:

- KMTelcom's cloud DVR (cDVR) has an option to record up to six shows at one time, while you watch another. Since cDVR is software-based and hosted in the cloud, no equipment is needed in your home. If you're a subscriber to cDVR service, all TV's in your home will be capable of the same functions.

- There are two DVR Plans to choose from:
 - Record two shows while you watch another – 500 GB storage \$9.99/month
 - Record six shows while you watch another – 500 GB storage \$12.99/month

- Manage your cDVR from the TV or download the MyTVs App to your smart phone. This app will give you the ability to view the programming guide, schedule series recording, or use as your remote control.

HD Channels: HD channel numbers have changed. It's the same number sequence as the standard definition (SD) channels— just add 1000. For example: Channel 80 is CNN in SD and channel 1080 is CNN in HD.

Remember to check out the tutorial videos on channel 1 or at www.kmtel.com. Please call us at 634-2511 if you'd like help with the new TV platform.

Our New Website Has Launched

We're thrilled to announce that our newly redesigned KMTelcom website is now live! Check it out soon at www.kmtel.com.

You'll find streamlined service requests, tons of great support features, an interesting look at our history, and so much more! This online resource is one way for us to make your customer experience even better!



\$25

Win a \$25 Credit on Your KMTelcom Bill

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill by December 31st, 2021 for a chance to win a **\$25 credit** to your account. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Congratulations to our September 2021 winner, Ryan Thoe, Mantorville!

Your Friendly Reminder of National Call a Friend Day

National Call a Friend Day is December 28, during the relatively quiet period after Christmas is over and before New Year's Day arrives. It was created in 2019 to encourage people to reconnect with friends they haven't spoken with in a while.

It's easy to understand how friends can lose touch. Our lives get hectic between the demands of work, family, and other activities, so maintaining friendships can slip down on the list of priorities. National Call a Friend Day is an extra incentive to pick up the phone and call that person you've been meaning to get back in touch with one of these days.

You don't have to limit yourself to friends with which you've completely lost touch, however. National Call a Friend Day is also a great time to call friends instead of your usual written form of communication, whether that's texts, emails, or chat messages.

KMTelecom believes in the power of the human voice. Call us at 507-634-2511 if you'd like more information about our voice services.



Online purchasing is the most common scam type reported to the Better Business Bureau (BBB). These scams typically start with a fake shopping website that offers incredible deals on well-known brands. If you order products from one of these websites, you may never receive the merchandise or you may get a shoddy, counterfeit item delivered instead. And your losses might continue. Scammers sometimes seed their phony websites with malware that infects your device and harvests personal information for use in identity theft.

Many fake shopping websites mimic trusted retailers, using familiar logos and slogans and a URL that's close to the real thing. According to the BBB, you should look for these warning signs:

- **Bargain-basement prices.** Internet security firm Norton says to be on guard if discounts exceed 55 percent.
- **Shoddy website design or sloppy English.** Real retailers take great care with their online presentation.
- **Limited or suspicious contact options.** For example, the customer-service email is a Yahoo or Gmail account, not a corporate one.
- **Slightly changed URLs.** Be suspicious if there's an odd character or extraneous punctuation mark compared to the real website's URL, such as "Amaz0n.net," which uses a zero instead of the letter "O." The same goes if there's a foreign domain or an unfamiliar domain such as ".bargain" instead of ".com" or ".net" at the end of the URL.

In addition to watching out for the signs of fake shopping websites, follow these strategies to minimize your chances of getting scammed:

- **Use trusted websites** rather than shopping with a search engine, since scammers can manipulate search results to lead you to their content.
- **Comparison shop and check prices** from multiple retailers to help determine if a deal you've seen really is too good to be true.
- **Research an unfamiliar product or brand** by searching for its name with terms like "scam" or "complaint."
- **Carefully read delivery, exchange, refund, and privacy policies**, and if they're vague or nonexistent, take your business elsewhere.

While shopping online is a convenient option, don't rush through the process and focus only on getting the lowest price. If you do, you might end up with nothing but headaches.