



Stop by Our Office for Holiday Treats

Come see us on December 6th, 13th, or 20th from 8:30am to 4:30pm. All of us at KMTelecom thank you for choosing us as your provider and wish you the best in the New Year.

Business Office Closed

Friday, December 23rd, 2022

Closing at noon

Monday, December 26th, 2022

Christmas Holiday

Monday, January 2nd, 2023

New Year's Holiday

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



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EVERYONE'S BEEN BEGGING FOR FASTER INTERNET



SO WE'RE INCREASING SPEEDS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

It can be doggone frustrating to deal with the hassles of slow internet, like videos that buffer and Zoom calls that freeze up. To help, KMTelecom is making these speed changes* to our internet plans on January 1st, 2023:

- 40M increasing to 200M
- 70M increasing to 200M
- 100M increasing to 300M
- 200M increasing to 500M
- 500M increasing to 1G

We hope you'll enjoy your new faster speed in the new year for all those internet-connected devices you'll get for Christmas (plus the ones you already have). **Merry Christmas!**

*Residential customers with 40M, increasing to 200M, will see a rate increase of \$5/month starting March 1st, 2023. All other speeds will increase with no rate change. If you live in an area where fiber is not currently available, we haven't forgotten about you. Page 2 gives an update on fiber construction. Thanks for your patience.

Just for Fun, Check Out These Holiday Apps

These free apps, available for Android and iOS, are sure to generate smiles for the young (or young at heart) in your family.

Christmas Sweeper 4

Attention Candy Crush fans! Christmas Sweeper 4 is like your favorite game, except with a Christmas twist. You'll light candles, clear the snow to uncover gifts, catch jumping snowmen, fill up gift bags, drop Santa down the chimney, and more creative mischief.

Elf Yourself

You replace the Elf faces with the faces of up to five people or pets, select a dance theme, and this app will create a comical elf dance video. Once completed, you can share the video on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Message From Santa!

With this app, your kids can call Santa, get video messages, record a wish list, and hear what Santa is doing. There's also a Santa Chatbot that makes it seem like you're talking with the man himself. You can also request a call from Santa, and your children can record a voice message for him.



Fiber Construction Update

It will be another year of fiber construction in 2023. KMTelecom will continue to build out our fiber network to bring our customers internet speeds up to 1 Gig! Our goal is to have 100% of our service area served by our fiber network. To achieve this goal, we have two areas that we'll need to build out—the remaining area of rural Rock Dell as well as the City of Dodge Center.

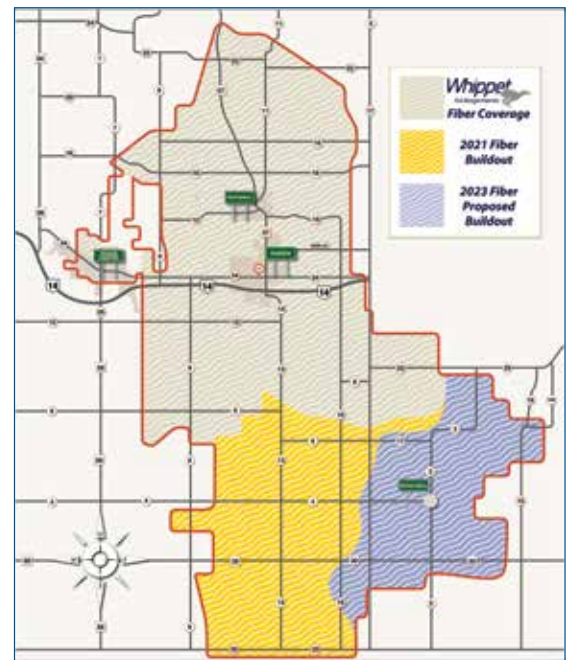
Rock Dell

The remaining service area in Rock Dell that doesn't currently have fiber is highlighted in blue on the map. Our grant application was submitted to the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development on August 3rd, 2022, and we hope to be awarded a grant to continue our fiber network buildout to this area. We're still waiting to find out the results of the grant

application. When we receive this information and have a better understanding of our construction plan, we'll update the residents of the impacted homes. We're still hopeful that construction can start in 2023. However, this will depend on the grant.

Dodge Center

By now you've likely heard the great news that KMTelecom will be working in partnership with the City of Dodge Center to overbuild the town with fiber construction. The City was awarded a \$3,142,747 grant from the Minnesota Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 (CDBG-CV) to help bring high-speed internet to unserved residents within the city. KMTelecom is also investing an additional \$1,000,000 to help fund the fiber project. Construction is set to begin in spring 2023. This build will bring high-speed internet with speeds up to 1 Gig to all residents and businesses within Dodge Center city limits.



Streaming Has Forever Changed At-Home Entertainment

The way most of us enjoy TV today is fundamentally different than it was 10-15 years ago. Instead of watching network and cable programs on a TV only, we're streaming a much broader range of entertainment on a variety of devices—laptops, tablets, and phones—in addition to TVs.

Clearly, streaming is the new way to watch TV:

- According to statista.com, 82% of U.S. households have at least one streaming subscription and 53% of them have at least three.
- Nielsen's 2022 "State of Play" report says in an average week, U.S. audiences watch almost 170 billion minutes of streaming video content, which is up from just over 143 billion in 2021.
- Audiences now have more than 817,000 unique program titles to choose from across traditional TV and streaming services. That's up 18% from just over 646,000 at the end of 2019.
- There are now 200+ streaming platforms.



Streaming services have changed what we watch, where we watch, and how we watch. We now have much more freedom in terms of at-home entertainment, and this freedom has opened up a whole new world of both challenges and possibilities.

For example, given the seemingly infinite amount of streaming content available, choosing what to watch next can be a frustrating and time-consuming experience. How many of us have spent half an hour scrolling through titles, only to give up and just rewatch a favorite movie or TV show?

TV series fans are taking advantage of streaming's viewing flexibility to assume more control. While some watch episodes from start to finish, others rewatch scenes (to understand confusing dialogue) or skip unwanted content (such as violence or scenes with a character they dislike). There are also people who watch all or part of a TV series in fast forward (called "speed watching") to consume as much content as possible in a short amount of time. We can't forget another major option enjoyed by many—binging an entire season in a day or two.

Need help with streaming? Go to our website; kmtel.com/streaming-tv/. Set up a streaming profile and browse the streaming marketplace. Remember, your streaming experience is impacted by the speed of your internet connection. If you need more speed, call our office at 507-634-2511 to upgrade.

Source: www.nielsen.com/insights/2022/state-of-play



Dodge County Kids Offered Free Books

We'd like to help spread the word about great news! Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a program that mails high quality, age-appropriate books directly to homes for free, and it's now available in Dodge County. KMTelcom supports this amazing program and has made a generous donation.

If you have children under the age of 5, this is a great opportunity to encourage reading. You can sign them up at imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability. If you'd like to support the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, donate at donate.imaginationlibrary.com/#us-MNDODGE.

\$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, 2022 for a chance to win a **\$25 credit** to your account. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Congratulations to our September 2022 winner, Bonnie Walters, Mantorville.

A Retirement and a Promotion

Bruce Ludwig



Todd Laganieri



It's with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of a longtime employee, **Bruce Ludwig**, who will retire from KMTelecom on January 1st, 2023. Bruce started in May 1975, when we were Kasson & Mantorville Telephone Company.

Bruce shared some of the changes he's experienced during his 47+ years of employment: "When I started, the outside plant had miles of aerial iron wire on telephone poles. During the winter, we had to walk out over snow drifts in the ditches and slap the wires to get them uncrossed to restore phone service. In the mid-1980s, the company decided to go away from party lines. A few rural families weren't happy with the change since it would raise their bill by 25 cents. I suspect they were actually disappointed that they could no longer listen to their neighbors' conversations and get the latest gossip! It was the social media of the time."

He added, "Technology has evolved so much since I've been here, from aerial wire to underground copper lines to fiber optics."



After Bruce's retirement, **Todd Laganieri** will step into those shoes. Todd started at KMTelecom in September 1994 as a Combination Technician and also has held the positions of Construction Foreman and Outside Plant Supervisor. Most recently, he was promoted to Outside Plant Manager.

Like Bruce, Todd has also seen many changes over the years. He recalled, "My first big project was the cutover of the new 5ESS Digital Telephone Switch, which required every customer to be rewired in our central offices and for techs to visit homes to change out the ringers in some of the phones. At that time, dial-up internet was new and teen lines were popular. For an extra \$5/month, teens could have their own phone number, and when a call came in for them, the phone would ring differently than the home phone number."

We thank Bruce for all his years of dedicated service to our company and wish Todd all the best as he takes on this new role.



New Employee Spotlight: Isaac Louks, Technician

Please help us welcome Isaac Louks to the KMTelecom team. Isaac started with us on August 15, 2022, and brings with him 10 years of experience in underground construction. He has quickly become comfortable with his new responsibilities as a Technician, and has already become an asset to our company.

Isaac grew up in Mantorville and graduated from Kasson-Mantorville high school. He's always lived in the area and has never had the desire to leave. He recently married his high school sweetheart, Raya, and they are parents to the cutest little guy, Conway. Their family also includes their dog, Pam.

When Isaac is not working hard for KMTelecom, he enjoys spending his leisure time with friends and family as well as participating in outdoor activities including fishing and hikes in the woods.

We're so happy to have Isaac on board.