

Come See Us at the Dodge County Expo



Please stop by the KMTelecom booth:

Saturday, March 25th, 2023
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Triton High School in Dodge Center

Business Office Closed

Monday, May 29, 2023
Memorial 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

Stay Up to Date

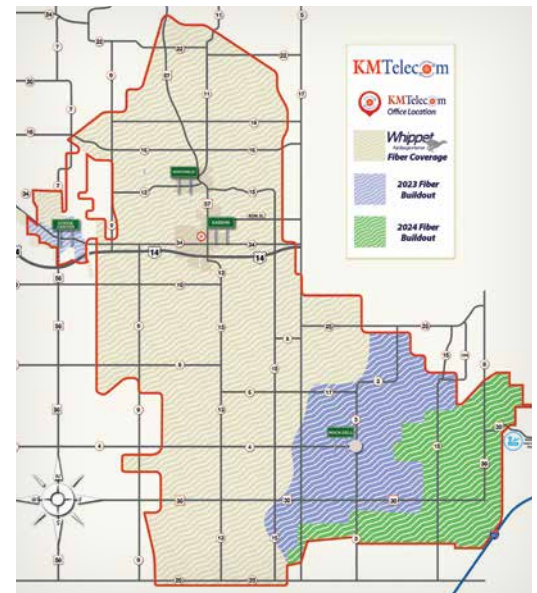
Follow KMTelecom on Facebook and Instagram @kmtelcomwhippet

Fiber Construction Update

Have you heard? KMTelecom was recently awarded two grants from the 2022 Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program! These grants are great news for KMTelecom and our rural communities. Thank you to the MN Office of Broadband Development and all the residents and businesses in the project area for your help throughout the application process.

2023 Fiber Buildout

The first grant awarded totals \$1,498,115 with KMTelecom investing an additional \$1.8 million to help fund the project. It will bring fiber to the remaining 260 locations of rural Rock Dell served by KMTelecom (blue area on map). Our current customers have been waiting for this moment! The project area covers approximately 35 square miles of land with 87 miles of fiber cabling. Construction is set to begin this fall. Watch for mailers and yard signs to preregister for the project.



2024 Fiber Buildout

The second grant awarded totals \$1,620,007 with KMTelecom investing an additional \$1.6 million to help fund the project. It will bring fiber to roughly 210 locations in the rural areas east of Rock Dell, which are outside KMTelecom's existing service territory (green area on map). We're excited to improve their internet experience with a fiber connection. The project area covers approximately 23 square miles of land with 73 miles of fiber cabling. Since this is a contiguous project dependent on our first grant project, construction is tentatively set to begin in spring 2024.

Once we build out these areas with our fiber network, residents will have access to synchronous high-speed internet speeds ranging from 200 Mbps to 1 Gig.

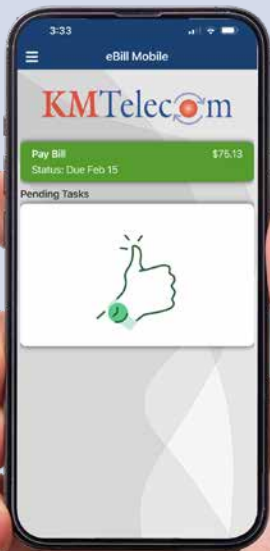




eBill Mobile
Make your
payments
on the go

With the eBill Mobile app, you can pay your bill safely and securely online, enroll in auto pay, view previous bills, change payment methods, and set invoice preferences anytime, anywhere. While you are setting up the eBill Mobile App, choose Web Bill only and we will give you a one-time credit of \$10!

- 1** Download the eBill Mobile app and enter your ZIP code.
- 2** Select KMTelecom.
- 3** Enter your account information.
- 4** Start making payments!



Scan the QR Code to find the eBill Mobile App on your mobile device.

Four Ways to Save Money on Streaming Services

The monthly cost for several streaming services can quickly add up, especially given the recent price hikes of many popular subscriptions. Fortunately, there are ways to trim your streaming costs without having to make too many sacrifices.

1. Drop live TV (if you don't watch it much).

Live TV streaming services (also known as cable replacement services) such as YouTube TV and Sling cost significantly more than on-demand streaming services such as Netflix or Prime Video. Think about how much live TV you currently watch and what types of programs are “must haves” for you. Are there other ways for you to watch those programs? For example, if you're a news junkie, services including Pluto, ABC News Live, and CBSN stream live news for free.

Another option to consider is using an indoor antenna to access local TV stations. You can find antennas for as little as \$20.

2. Rotate subscriptions.

Instead of subscribing to multiple streaming services simultaneously, you could choose just one, catch up on all your favorite shows there, then cancel and move on to another service. You may want to subscribe to a different service each month or quarter, depending on your viewing habits. If you subscribed to a service because of one specific show, cancel that subscription after you've watched the season and resume it when it comes back — usually a year or more later.

3. Choose basic, nonpremium subscriptions.

While watching commercials probably isn't your favorite thing to do, it can save you money. Some streaming services offer lower-priced subscriptions for their ad-supported tiers. Use that commercial time like people did in the old days: Grab a snack or use the bathroom.



4. Take advantage of free trials.

Many major streaming services offer a free trial, meaning if you plan your viewing wisely, you might be able to binge a series or two without paying a dime. Just make sure to mark your calendar with a cancellation reminder, or you'll start getting billed after your trial expires.

For the best streaming experience, you need an internet connection fast enough to avoid hassles like buffering. Call us at 507-634-2511 for details on our fast yet affordably priced internet plans.



There's a Simple Solution to Much Simpler Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi doesn't need to be complicated. So, if you find yourself having to think about your home's Wi-Fi network more than you'd like, we suggest you simplify things a bit and get Managed Wi-Fi.

This monthly service takes the hassles of Wi-Fi troubleshooting (and more) off your hands in exchange for a small monthly fee. Once you sign up for Managed Wi-Fi, KMTelcom will handle a variety of Wi-Fi tasks for you at no additional cost:

- Installation of a next-generation router with powerful Wi-Fi 6
- Selection of the best router location in your home for optimal coverage and signal strength from room to room
- Setup of your Wi-Fi security password to avoid others using your Wi-Fi network without your permission
- Connection of your devices — such as laptops, tablets, phones, and printer — to the Wi-Fi network
- Ongoing maintenance including router software upgrades for optimal performance
- Remote support should a Wi-Fi issue arise
- Repair or replacement of our router when needed

Keep this in mind: If you don't have Managed Wi-Fi and need in-home help with a router you purchased on your own, you'll have to pay the hourly fee for a service call by one of our technicians. This can get pricey if you end up with a series of Wi-Fi issues.

It really boils down to a simple choice. Do you want to spend your time doing all the necessary Wi-Fi network setup, maintenance, and troubleshooting? Or would you rather leave all that to us and just enjoy using your Wi-Fi with all your home's connected devices?

KMTelcom offers Managed Wi-Fi for just \$6.99/month. To learn more about its features and to sign up for service, visit www.kmtel.com or call 507-634-2511.

Real Service from Real People

While KMTelcom offers modern communications technology, we take a somewhat old-fashioned approach to customer service. For example, a real person answers the phone when you call. You receive real help when you walk into our office with questions. And our technicians take a real interest in resolving issues really fast.

Go Green for St. Patrick's Day

The obvious way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17 is to wear green. But why stop there? For extra fun, plan your meals to feature green food.

Speaking of green, you'll save green with our Paperless Billing. Sign up today and get a one-time \$10 credit on your next bill. Visit www.kmtel.com and click on "Bill Pay" for details.



\$25

Win a \$25 Credit on Your KMTelcom Bill

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill by March 31st, 2023 for a chance to win a **\$25 credit** to your account. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Congratulations to our December 2022 winners, Chuck & Melanie Willette, Dodge Center.

Are You Having Trouble Using the Telephone Due to a Hearing or Speech Disability?

Minnesota Relay is a free telephone service that uses specially trained communications assistants to facilitate telephone calls between people with hearing and speech disabilities and other individuals. Calls can be made to anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are completely confidential. To make a relay call dial 7-1-1. Once connected to the relay service, tell the communications assistant the type of relay call you wish to make. Or, you may dial the specific toll-free number for the type of relay service.

Types of Relay Services

Captioned Telephone Service (CTS)

CTS uses a special telephone with a text display screen so that a person who is hard of hearing can listen to and read captions of everything the other person on the call says. You speak directly to the other person on the call, and a relay communications assistant transcribes everything the other person says into captions, which appear on the display screen of your CTS phone.

Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS)

Internet-based forms of CTS are available for those who would like to use CTS on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Go to: www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/internet-protocol-ip-captioned-telephone-service.

Computer (ASCII): 1-800-627-3529

Computer users can access Minnesota Relay. Set your communications software to the following protocols: speeds ranging from 300 to 2400; 8 Bits; No Parity; 1 Stop Bit; Full Duplex. When calling at a rate of 300 or below, follow the above using Half Duplex.

Hearing Carry Over (HCO): 1-800-627-3529

HCO allows a person who can hear clearly but who has very limited or no speech capability to make phone calls. Using a special text telephone, you type your conversation for the relay communications assistant to read to the other person, and listen directly to the other person's response.

Hearing User: 1-800-627-3529

A hearing person may use a standard telephone or mobile phone to place a relay call and speak with a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled.

Internet Protocol (IP) Relay

IP Relay combines text-based relay service

with the ease of the Internet—no need for a TTY. You can make your relay call using a computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Go to: www.tmobileaccess.com/services/iprelayinfo.

Spanish Relay: 1-877-627-5448

Spanish speaking persons with a hearing or speech disability can make relay calls. This is not a translation service—both parties must speak Spanish, and at least one party must have a hearing or speech disability.

Speech-to-Speech (STS): 1-877-627-3848

STS allows a person who has difficulty speaking or being understood on the phone to communicate using his or her own voice or voice synthesizer. The communications assistant revoices your words so that the other person on the call can understand them, and the other person speaks directly to you.

Text Telephone (TTY): 1-800-627-3529

This service allows a person who is deaf, deafblind, or speech disabled to use a TTY to communicate with the other person on the call.

Video Relay Service (VRS)

VRS allows a person who uses American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate over the phone. The VRS user connects to the relay communications assistant via an internet-enabled device with a video camera. The communications assistant relays the conversation back and forth between the parties—in ASL with the VRS user and by voice with the called party. Go to: www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/video-relay-services.

Voice Carry Over (VCO): 1-877-627-3024

VCO allows a person with a hearing disability, but who wants to use his or her own voice, to speak directly to the other party. The communications assistant then types the other party's response, which is displayed on the VCO user's text telephone.

For More Information on Minnesota Relay Services

www.mnrelay.org
1-800-657-3775

Emergency Assistance

TTY callers should dial 9-1-1 directly in an emergency. All 9-1-1 centers are equipped to handle TTY calls. Minnesota Relay can process emergency calls, but this may delay the response to your call.

To File a Complaint Regarding Minnesota Relay

1-800-657-3775
Email: mn.relay@state.mn.us

You will need to provide: the date and time of the relay call, the calling from and to phone numbers, the CA's identification number, and the nature of your complaint.

You may also file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission:

consumercomplaints.fcc.gov
Voice: 1-888-225-5322
TTY: 1-888-835-5322
ASL via VP: 1-844-432-2275

Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program

The TED Program provides free specialized telecommunications equipment to income eligible Minnesotans who are having trouble using the telephone due to a hearing, speech, or physical disability.

mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing
Voice: 1-800-657-3663
ASL via VP: 651-964-1514