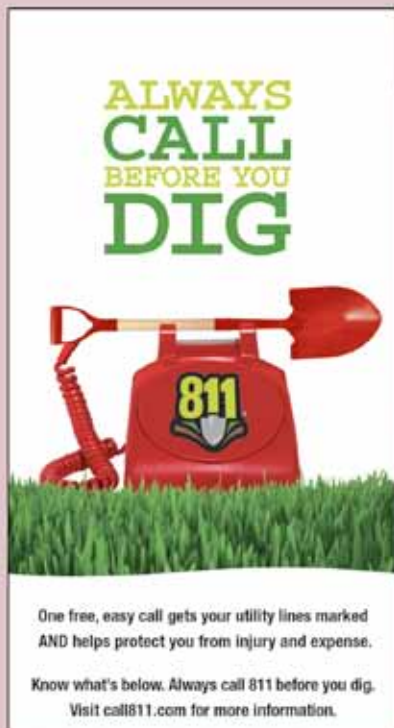


Your Connection



Enclosed:



In this edition you'll find a decal for your computer, place it on your computer so you have easy access for help! (it's movable if you change computers).



Message from the Manager

By Steve Katka,
General Manager

What is 'Bandwidth'?

Bandwidth is a general term used to describe how much data a network can move in a specific amount of time, for example a 768Kbps internet connection moves 768,000 bits of data per second.

When you are surfing the Internet or sending emails, the amount of data you receive every second is 768,000 bits per second.

If you are receiving a short email, it takes only a fraction of a second for it to download, however, if you are downloading a movie, it takes minutes for all the data to be downloaded.

For example a regular High Speed DSL connection is anywhere from 384Kbps to 3Mbps, however, to deliver one channel of Digital TV, it takes approximately 4Mbps.

What does this all mean? It means as technology changes, and society changes, we need more bandwidth to do what we want to do.

Since streaming video or TV is really a stream of pictures one after another, it takes a lot of bandwidth to allow all the pictures to travel fast enough so that the images change smoothly. Just as comparing a garden hose to a fire hose, you get much more data through a big pipe rather than a small one.

In the 1990s as the Internet began going

mainstream, a 56Kbps dial up (garden-hose) connection had enough bandwidth to handle what most computer users did on the Internet, mostly sending emails. Today, we are watching videos, sending pictures, and viewing more graphical intense websites.

These new Internet uses require much more bandwidth to have a rewarding experience (fire hose).

As our Digital TV service expands with High Definition channels soon to be added, this again requires more bandwidth because there is more data for the sharper and clearer picture that High Definition brings.

So, what does this mean for you? This means that much of our planning these days is focused on providing more bandwidth to you so you can have a more rewarding experience with your services, whether it be faster Internet speeds or High Definition Digital TV service.

This is a big part of the reason for the Fiber to the Home project we are undertaking, we understand this affects many people, and we are making a substantial investment in the company to deploy these Fiber-Optic cables that can handle hundreds of times more bandwidth than the existing copper phone lines.

It's like upgrading our system from a garden hose to a fire hose.

Computer privacy notes

Spyware and viruses are both forms of unwanted or malicious software, sometimes called "malware." You need to protect yourself from both.

What's the difference?

- Spyware (sometimes called adware) collects information about you without appropriate notice and consent.
- A computer virus spreads software, usually malicious in nature, from computer to computer.

Spyware can get installed on your computer in a number of ways. One way is through a virus. Another way is for it to be secretly downloaded and installed with other software you've chosen to install.

In short, spyware is a specific type of unwanted software that secretly collects your information.

A virus is a specific way software can be secretly distributed, often by e-mail or instant messaging.

Both spyware and viruses can cause damage to your computer or cause you to lose important data.

If you have questions about any computer issue, be sure to call our office, we can answer any computer question you have, and we can fix any computer problem, especially virus issues.

Attach the enclosed sticker to your computer so you have easy access to help for your computer.



Don't be left in the dark in Feb.

If you currently use an antenna for your TV signal now is your time to upgrade to more channels, and a better picture.

Switch to Digital TV from Albany Mutual Telephone, and you have access to 150+ channels, from locals, to sports to movie channels, you will have a clear digital picture without the worries of the signal going dark in February of 2009.

Because of our distance from the Twin Cities, you may lose some channels if you use an antenna once the signal is converted to digital in February of 2009.

Digital TV from Albany Mutual Telephone is cable TV over the phone line you already have, so you don't need a dish, plus you have lots of channel options.

Best of all Digital TV is part of a money-saving bundle with just one point of contact for all of your services.

Enter (Text) to WIN!

Send a text message to 320-241-1676 with the answer to the following question and you will be entered into a drawing for \$20 in Albany or Freeport Chamber bucks... if you are a Nationwide Cellular customer you will receive \$40 in chamber bucks.

Be sure to include your name and the answer in your text message.

What is the dollar amount of the new Cellular gas card promotion? _____



**Albany Mutual
Telephone**

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in FREE GAS!

**Summertime is Travel time
You provide the fun; we'll keep you
connected and provide the gas.**

Stop in, or see your many options at:

Albany Mutual Telephone

131 6th St
PO Box 570
Albany, MN 56307
320.845.2101

[Online](#)
www.albanytel.com

[Office Hours](#)
Monday-Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm

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Fiber to the home

Construction crews are in the process of laying fiber optic lines to the residents East and Northeast of Albany for housing additions.

Shortly, the drop lines which connect the main lines to the homes will be plowed to customers' homes which will be installed.

Using a proactive approach, Albany Mutual Telephone visited each home affected to explain the project and identify where the new lines should be installed. This makes the most sense for the homeowner.

Once all the fiber-optic lines have been installed, the existing copper phone lines will be disconnected.

These new fiber-optic lines can handle voice, data, and video. Digital TV and allows for more services in the future such as High Definition TV, fast download services, and on-demand services.

