



Albany Mutual  
Telephone

# Your Connection

Your insight to Albany Mutual Telephone operations

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**Your Connection**

Your insight to Albany Mutual Telephone operations

*It's All in Your connection*

Winter 2008

### -INSIDE-

35 years celebrated

High Speed DSL speeds increased

Message from the Manager

Holiday Computer special

Increased identity fraud protection

Enter to WIN!

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### Albany Mutual Telephone

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

Online  
[www.albanytel.com](http://www.albanytel.com)

Office Hours  
Monday-Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm



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## 'Thank You' Dave Finken



Congratulations and Thank You to Dave Finken. After 35 years of dedicated service to the cooperative, Dave will soon be moving to the next stage of his life – a welcome retirement.

Throughout the 35 years, Dave has been devoted to the cooperative, seeing enormous changes in the Telecommunications industry. Dave started his career working on overhead telephone lines (usually when it was “20 below zero”), then as technology progressed, he moved to more complex issues with High Speed DSL and Digital TV.

Throughout all of these phases, Dave has kept his focus on customers' needs and has always been willing to do the little things that matter to members – especially being their friend.

Thank you for all of your service and good luck for your future Dave, you will be missed by everyone.

### Check out the new High Speed DSL speeds



With speeds up to 3 Mb in nearly all areas, and up to 10Mb in the Fiber to the Home areas, you're connected at some of the fastest speeds in the country.

There's no download too big, when you're connected at these speeds.

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## Message from the Manager

By Steve Katka,  
General Manager

### 'Thank You'

As we close in on the last couple of months in 2008 I'd like to thank you for your patronage. It may sound amazing but some of you have been members since the cooperative got it start some 57 years ago. This is an extraordinary accomplishment and we are very proud to have served you for all those years and we look forward to serving you and others for many years to come.

On another note, I would like to thank all those members for your patience and for allowing us to deliver our Fiber-optic facilities to your home. Like any construction project we had some messes to clean up, yards to smooth out and shrubs to repair but now Phase I is complete. As I write this column our technicians are in the final stages of testing the new optical network and will soon be installing services to our very first customers. We are also in the planning stages of Phase II of our fiber to the home project and will continue to deploy this cutting edge technology until all of our members have been connected to it. Not only will this technology provide a

super fast highway of unlimited bandwidth but it will also increase the value of our cooperative and your home or business. This optical technology will help to future-proof the company and will allow us to remain financially strong and enable us to meet or beat any competitor.

Finally, as we close the gap on 60 years in business our state telecommunications association - The Minnesota Telecom Alliance - will be celebrating 100 years as a state association. This Centennial celebration extends to over 60 member telephone companies throughout Minnesota.

The MTA provides members with training, lobbying support and legislative assistance as well as the opportunity to share information and resources. This sharing benefits tens of thousands of customers throughout greater Minnesota.

In summary, thank you for your business and for your support. Please consider Albany Mutual Telephone for all of your communications needs and join us in celebrating 100 years of service and support to Minnesota Telephone industry.



## Holiday gift: Family computer



Get your family up to speed with a new computer for the holidays!

There's no question too hard or too simple for our Computer Help Services department. Whether you need more info on security or wonder what type of software you need to put those family photos in your holiday card we'll get you on track.

speed it up. If your machine is at retirement stage, we can set you up with a computer that meets your needs perfectly.

Purchase any new computer before the Holidays, and receive a Free 1 GB flash drive - perfect for backing up your data.

If your current computer is slow, we can -

## Retransmission Consent

October 1st marked the deadline for local TV broadcast stations including KARE, KSAX, KSTC, WCCO etc. to request 'Retransmission Consent' for carriage of their channels. Retransmission Consent is a legal requirement for broadcasters who wish to get paid by cable companies for rebroadcasting their signals.

This year, several broadcasters have broken with the tradition of allowing us to rebroadcast their signals at no cost - they have proposed that we pay them \$.35 to \$.80 per subscriber per month for each channel they own.

We feel that these imposed costs are unfair to all consumers because the signal that we rebroadcasting is the same signal that they broadcast over the air waves to antennas for Free.

We have been fighting hard with your interest in mind to persuade these programmers to remove these unrealistic demands from their contracts. Stay tuned for more information regarding these negotiations. For more info you can check out [www.fcc.gov/mb/facts/cblbdcst.html](http://www.fcc.gov/mb/facts/cblbdcst.html)



Prepare yourself for the Digital conversion - with Digital TV from Albany Mutual Telephone you don't have to worry about February 19th - 90% of Albany Mutual Telephone members can now get Digital TV from Albany Mutual Telephone.

## Enter to WIN!

Complete the following sentence located in the newsletter, and you can win \$20 in Albany or Freeport Chamber Bucks.

"Purchase any new computer before the Holidays, and receive a Free 1 GB \_\_\_\_\_ - perfect for backing up your data."

Enter the drawing several ways:

1. Mail this slip to us
2. Include this slip with your bill
3. Text your answer to 320-241-1676
4. Email to [customersupport@albanytel.com](mailto:customersupport@albanytel.com)

Congratulations to Sharon Wolbeck, the winner of last newsletter's text-to-win entry.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



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