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Telephone

Your Connection

Your insight to Albany Mutual Telephone operations

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It's All in Your connection

Spring 2009

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Big Ten Network adds excitement

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Lifeline/Linkup assistance available

Are your kids prepared to call 911?

New Digital Transition date

Enter to WIN!



Big Ten Network added to your Digital TV bundle

As the Digital TV service expands to the rural areas, another great channel has been added – The Big Ten Network.

After several requests for the network, it was added recently to the Expanded package on channel 155.

The Big Ten Network has grown in popularity throughout the last year, and is famous for their coverage of the Big Ten Conference, of which the Golden Gophers are part of.

Men's and Women's sports games and analysis, Academics, and Art & Science shows are intermixed with live and taped games from each of the 11 schools in the Big Ten Conference.

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



**Albany Mutual
Telephone**

2009 Fiber to the Home project heads North of Freeport



Initial home visits have started for the 2009 Fiber to the Home project.

This year's project will include approximately 500 homes North of Freeport - this new technology will allow for faster Internet, and a better TV experience, as well as reliable phone service.

Your Connection



Phone assistance available

Lifeline assistance reduces the cost of local telephone service by up to \$10 each month.

Getting new phone service? **Link Up** support provides a 50% discount (up to \$30) off the installation or activation fee for new service or transferring service to a new address.

Toll Limitation Service allows consumers to avoid large long distance bills by choosing either toll blocking or toll control.

You may be eligible if you currently receive assistance from one of these programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Food Stamps
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Medicaid
- National School Lunch (NSL) Program's free lunch program
- Supplemental Security Income
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

You may also be eligible if your total household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

For more information and to verify your eligibility, please contact us. 320.845.2101



'Thank You'

Greetings Co-op patrons, it's always a pleasure to take this opportunity to say hello to each and every one of you through our quarterly newsletter.

As you read through this issue you'll notice a couple of articles that should be of interest to you.

In response to your many requests, the Big Ten Network has been added and will be a great addition to your lineup. I hope you enjoy the channel and by all means pass on the good news to all your family and friends. And if they're currently subscribing to a different service, be sure you recommend them to switch to a Digital TV bundle – it helps everyone's Capital Credits.

The other news I wanted to point out is our fiber to the home project. This year we decided to continue with phase II and take our project to the northern segment of our Freeport exchange. Once the project is complete, over 500 customers in that area will have unlimited access to great bundles including Unlimited Digital TV with on screen caller ID, High speed Internet up to 10 Mbps, and local and long distance tele

Message from the Manager

By Steve Katka,
General Manager

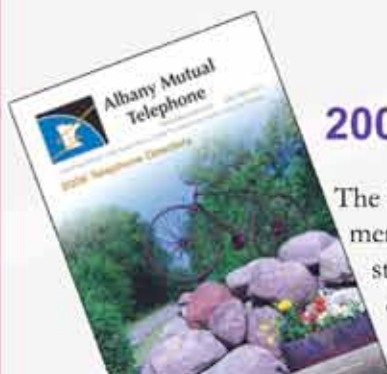
phone service with advanced calling features.

Access to Fiber Optic facilities to individual homes is rare, not only in Minnesota but throughout the United States. Albany Mutual Telephone is fortunate that it can make the capital investment and continue to provide these services which will only help to increase the value of the company and the value of your home as well.

We are in a tough economy right now, and everyone is evaluating their monthly spending. Please be sure to check our bundles – they make your life easy and save money. Also, please know that there are no costs to change any of your plans, whether you increase your usage or decrease your usage – it makes your life easier, and it's something the national providers can't do.

While challenging, you can be assured your board of directors and the employees of Albany Mutual Telephone work hard every day at keeping the company successful.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to say hello. We appreciate your business and **Thank you** for being a member of Albany Mutual Telephone Association.



2009 Directory released

The 2009 directories were recently mailed to all members. Should you need additional copies, please stop by our office. If you have old copies, you may drop them off to be recycled.

Are your kids prepared to call 911?

Do they know where the phone is?

Calling 911 is something many of us haven't done, but we are ready to at a moment's notice, but children, even those very young should be taught how and when to dial 911.



Only a Landline Telephone provides your location even if you or your children can't speak and it's always accessible.

Cell phones aren't always easy to find if they are in purses or pockets, especially if your children are home alone, or need to call on your behalf.

In Fires and Medical Emergencies, seconds count – be sure your family is safe, be sure your corded landline phone is easy to find, and be sure your children and grandchildren know how to call 911. Visit www.nena.org for more info.

Emergency 911 Tips

Is A Person Hurt Or In Danger? Do You Need The Police, Fire Or Ambulance? If so, call 9-1-1

If You Do Call 9-1-1, Even By Mistake, Do Not Hang Up The Phone.

When Calling 9-1-1 Do Your Best To Stay Calm And Answer All Questions.

Help The 9-1-1 Call Taker Help You.

Know The Location Of The Emergency.

Teach Your Children How To Call 9-1-1.

Prank Calls To 9-1-1 Waste Time And Are Considered To Be Illegal In Most States.

Post Your Address Clearly And Prominently At Your Entrance And On Your Home.

Enter to WIN!

Answer the following question and you can win \$20 in Albany or Freeport Chamber Bucks.

Which is your favorite Digital TV channel? _____

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

Congratulations to Bernie Laing, the winner of last newsletter's entry.

Thank you for all the entries we received.

Name: _____

Phone: _____



Albany Mutual Telephone



The Digital TV Transition has been extended to June 12th 2009. If you use an antenna for your TV now, you will need a converter box, or a TV with a digital tuner built in. For more info: www.dtv.gov. Remember, Digital TV from Albany Mutual Telephone has always been 100% digital.