

In Touch

SPRING 2015



Spring Forward With New Technology

March is when we "spring forward" and set our clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Savings Time. This got us thinking—in what other ways might you want to "spring forward" this month?

Perhaps it's time for an Internet speed increase to keep pace with your household's usage. Maybe you need to replace an older computer before problems develop or get a tablet to expand your options for enjoying online content.

To get help moving forward with these types of updates, contact us at Albany Mutual Telephone.

Contact

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131 6th Street
Albany, MN 56307
Phone: 320.845.2101

Office Hours
M-TH: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Email
customersupport@albanytel.com

Visit Albany Mutual Telephone Online
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A Bit o' Trivia About St. Patrick's Day

You may think of St. Patrick's Day as simply a time to wear green and dine on corned beef and cabbage. But how much do you really know about St. Patrick and the holiday that honors him? Here's a list of some interesting trivia:

- St. Patrick was known as the Apostle to the Irish, for converting the nation to Christianity.
- The Catholic Church has never officially canonized Patrick as an actual Saint.
- The largest St. Patrick's Day parade does not take place in Ireland, but rather in New York City, where about two million spectators turn out each year.
- Guinness is the most popular Irish beer consumed on St. Patrick's Day.
- Congress proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month in 1955.
- Every year, the Chicago River is dyed green for the city's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Speaking of green, you can save green on bill paying by not using checks and stamps. Sign up for eBilling with Albany Mutual Telephone at www.albanytel.com.



How to Go Green With Electronics

1. Go rechargeable

Of the 15 billion batteries sold each year, most of them are disposable alkaline batteries and only a fraction of those are recycled. Look for electronics that are rechargeable. For removable batteries, lithium-ion (Li-Ion) and nickel metal hydride (NiMH) are cost-effective, green alternatives.

2. Reduce "phantom" loads

Turn off televisions, stereos, computers, and cell phone adapters when not in use. They continue to draw a small amount of power even when switched off.

3. Buy with energy in mind

Doing research on different technologies and their respective energy consumption can save you a lot in the long run. The ENERGY STAR® site will help you identify energy-saving electronic devices including cordless phones, stereo systems, TVs, DVD players, and battery chargers.

4. Recycle responsibly

Let's say you just bought a new device. What should you do with the old one? Whatever you do, don't just throw it in the trash—this risks releasing chemicals into the ecosystem. There are plenty of organizations and charities that recycle and reuse old electronics, and a growing number of computer manufacturers and retailers now have take-back programs. You can also try selling them on an online auction site.



Mommy, Where's the Phone?

Picture this scenario: An emergency happens in your home—let's say you're choking or experiencing another medical crisis—and your young child needs to call 911. If there's no landline, your child will have to locate your cell phone (which could be anywhere), unlock it, enter a passcode or tap on the word "Emergency," find the phone icon, get to the keypad, enter 911, and then tap on Call or Send. That's a long list of steps for a child, especially during the stress of an emergency situation.

By contrast, when your home has a landline in a set location, your child can get to it easily without searching. Calling is much easier as well, since he or she just needs to pick up the receiver and punch in 911. A landline phone can also be a lifesaver if your child can't provide your home's address. By calling 911 from a landline phone, the dispatcher can more quickly locate your home's exact location.

To learn how affordable a landline can be, call Albany Mutual Telephone at 320.845.2101.

