

# In Touch

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023



## Make the Shortest Month Long on Fun

February can be a challenging month as the cold and darkness of winter drags on. To add more fun to its 28 days, consider activities like these: Make snow ice cream. Build a snowman (or snowwoman or snowpet). Take a walk in the dark with headlamps or flashlights. Enjoy an indoor picnic. Or explore a new creative hobby.

### Contact

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Technology. All the Way Home.

# LOVE STREAMING MOVIES?

**YOU'LL LOVE OUR INTERNET!** What's not to love about streaming movies at home? You get to pop some popcorn, cuddle up on the couch, and watch whatever your heart desires — whether that's drama, comedy, action, fantasy, adventure, sci-fi, or romance.

The last thing you need as a movie buff is buffering. To avoid the dreaded buffering wheel showing up on the screen, switch to super-fast and reliable internet from Albany Mutual Telephone.

CALL 320.845.2101  
FOR FASTER SPEEDS

# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



## Predictions on the Internet's Future

The internet was born on October 29, 1969, when the world's first message transmitted via an interconnected computer network was sent from a room at UCLA to a Stanford Research Institute computer console. In the 50+ years since, the internet has grown exponentially. What will it look like in another 50 years?

Futurologists believe we'll be living in an increasingly virtual world. Our digital presence will not be separate from the physical world but ingrained in it. Virtual Reality (VR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) will pave the way for a more streamlined online experience.

In the beginning, keyboard-based devices were the primary way of communicating with a computer and accessing the internet. Today, natural-language virtual assistants, such as Alexa and Siri, are becoming the norm and more people are using conversational methods to communicate with their devices. The next evolution will be using augmented reality glasses to access information.

**No matter what the future brings, Albany Mutual Telephone will be ready. Call 320.845.2101 if you have questions about your internet service.**



## FAQ on Wireless Emergency Alerts from the National Weather Service

America's wireless industry is helping to build a Weather-Ready Nation through a nationwide text emergency alert system, called Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), which will warn you on your mobile device when severe weather threatens.

### What are WEA messages?

They're emergency messages sent by authorized government authorities through your mobile carrier. Government partners include local and state public safety agencies, FEMA, the FCC, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Weather Service. No signup is required. Alerts are sent automatically to WEA-capable phones during an emergency.

### Why are these alerts important?

Alerts received at the right time can help keep you safe during an emergency. With WEA, alerts can be sent to your mobile device when you may be in harm's way, without need to download an app or subscribe to a service.

### What does a WEA message look like?

WEA will look like a text message. The WEA message will typically show the type and time of the alert, any action you should take, and the agency issuing the alert. The length and language of the message received on a particular device will be dependent on the wireless network and the language setting of the device.

### How will I know the difference between WEA and a regular text message?

WEA messages include a special tone and vibration, both repeated twice.

### What types of WEA messages will the National Weather Service send?

Warnings for a Tsunami, Tornado, Severe Thunderstorm (only when the damage threat is destructive), Flash Flood (only when the damage threat is considerable or catastrophic), Hurricane, Typhoon, Storm Surge, Extreme Wind, Dust Storm, and Snow Squall.

### What should I do when I receive a WEA message?

Follow any action advised by the emergency message. Seek more details from your favorite TV or radio station, NOAA Weather Radio, news website, desktop application, mobile application, or other trusted source of information.

**For more information on the National Weather Service alerts, visit [www.weather.gov/wrn/wea](http://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea).**