

GRISWOLD Connections

WINTER 2012

Dividend Checks Mailed

Dividend checks were mailed December 3, 2012, so customers should have received them by now. Dividends are paid 10 years in arrears; therefore, the checks were for services from 2002. If you did not get your dividend check or if you have questions, call our business office at 712-778-2121.



Contact

Griswold Cooperative Telephone Co.
607 Main Street / PO Box 640
Griswold, IA 51535
Phone: 712-778-2121

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 am to 12:00 pm and
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Email us at gctc@netins.net

Visit us online at www.griswoldtelco.com



BROADBAND NETWORK EVOLUTION PROJECT: Fiber to the Home Update

In October, North Central Service construction crews finished placing ducts and pulling fiber in the towns of Elliott and Grant. Crews moved to rural Elliott, burying fiber in the rural areas; towards the end of October, they moved on to rural Grant. Rural Grant construction finished



up towards the end of November. Installation of new service boxes on the side of homes or businesses finished in Elliott and continued out to rural Elliott and all of the Grant exchange. Please be aware that the new service box installed on the side of your home or business may appear to be loose but further work will take place later and then the box will be secured.

Fiber splicing and battery installs continue in all of Elliott as well as Grant. We ask that you be more cautious than ever when digging. The new fiber is not live yet and will be more difficult to locate until it is in service, plus more costly and time consuming to repair. Call Iowa One Call by dialing 811.

Griswold Telephone would like to thank Elliott and Grant residents for their patience during our construction project! Remaining clean-up activities will continue as dirt starts to settle, and reseeded will take place as weather conditions are more favorable for germination.

Griswold Telephone wants to keep customers up to date and informed as we progress on the Fiber to the Home (FTTH) project. Lewis residents may soon begin to see representatives from RVW, our engineering firm, staking out the Lewis exchange. Staking is the beginning/engineering design process for the construction phase. A FTTH event will be planned for Lewis subscribers to provide more information. We'll keep you posted. But as always, if you have any questions, please contact the business office at 712-778-2121.

"We are well positioned to meet your communications needs in 2012 and beyond."



New Look, New Convenience: www.griswoldtelco.com

In order to make our website an even more valuable tool for you, Griswold Cooperative Telephone Company has developed a new design along with improved features, while at the same time retaining some familiarity to keep it comfortable for you to navigate. 769-2684

There's a lot to discover at www.griswoldtelco.com including:

- Descriptions of the services Griswold Telephone offers
- Latest issue of quarterly *Website Compass*, the world's #1 Internet magazine
- All *Griswold Connections* quarterly newsletters
- Customer updates on Griswold Telephone news, projects, specials, and more
- Important regulatory information that could affect services
- Online bill pay
- Griswold IPTV Video channel line-up
- Documents and printable forms

Check out www.griswoldtelco.com today! If you don't find what you need or you have suggestions, please let us know.



Tech the Halls WITH A FASTER INTERNET CONNECTION

FASTER SPEEDS AT LOWER PRICES

Think of it as our holiday gift to you! Griswold Telephone is pleased to now provide faster Internet speeds at lower prices. As of December 1, the following speeds and prices went into effect for all current High Speed Internet customers:

1Mb / 768Kb – Price decreased from \$44.95/mo. to \$39.95/mo.*

3Mb or 4Mb / 1Mb – Price decreased from \$69.95/mo. to \$49.95/mo.*

MORE BANDWIDTH FOR FIBER CUSTOMERS

Soon, Fiber to the Home will be hooked up for Elliott and Grant subscribers. One of the many benefits of fiber is access to more bandwidth and the following speeds and prices will be available to fiber customers:

1Mb / 768Kb – \$39.95/mo.* **4Mb / 1Mb** – \$49.95/mo.*

7Mb / 3Mb – \$59.95/mo.* **10Mb / 5Mb** – \$69.95*/mo.

2 MONTHS OF FREE SERVICE

New customers to High Speed Internet during December 2012 will receive 2 months FREE!** A 12-month agreement waives the installation fee. Call 712-778-2121 now to take advantage of this limited time offer.

*All speeds are "up to" the speed listed. Speed pairings are listed as download first and upload second. Certain restrictions do apply. User experience is influenced by devices being used and performance capability of those devices. A one-time fee may apply when changing speeds.

**Agreement required. You may not have had Internet service from us within the last 12 months to qualify for promotion.

Please Stay Safe Online

At this point, we all know (hopefully) not to send our bank account information to the wealthy foreigner who needs our help moving his fortune to the United States. But digital threats range from viruses and spyware to fake software and phishing, and they are not always as easy to detect as a Nigerian official. With all of this out there, it pays to be reminded to protect yourself.

Let's say you get an infection on your computer and as a result, your surfing speed drops significantly. You're going to be frustrated and you're going to call us. Worse yet is when you just put up with the slow speeds and attribute it to the service. We don't want that and we're sure you don't either.



Trying to help keep you informed when it comes to staying safe online is a continuous challenge. Many variables come into play. And now, staying safe is no longer limited to just your desktop. 778-4168 According to the Pew Research Center, smartphone ownership is at 68% for adults, and mobile hackers are taking advantage of the rapidly growing market.

Following are the top five Internet security tips to keep you safe (and happy):

- 1. Be sure your computer and mobile devices are running the latest operating systems (OS).** Malware creators are always adapting, and so are OS developers. If a vulnerability is identified, developers will fix it in the next update, so you want to be sure you have it.
- 2. Install antivirus software on all Internet-connected devices and be sure it is up to date.** Attacks become more sneaky and sophisticated every day, so the best programs are always adapting to combat the latest threats. Be sure you are up to date for the best protection. Griswold Telephone does offer SecureIT Plus antivirus service for computers if you are in need of antivirus software.
- 3. Use caution when opening emails with links or attachments.** Look for misspellings, unsolicited offers or prizes, and requests for personal or financial information. Some scammers try to mimic a reputable company, so be wary, and call the company directly if you're suspicious. 767-2220
- 4. Only download software from reputable sites or stores.** Sneaky bad guys tuck malicious code into fake versions of the programs and apps that you want. The best way to avoid a phony is to stick to official company websites and app stores.
- 5. Use long, complex passwords that are unique to each account.** Your password is the key to your digital kingdom, so make it strong. Use upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols, and be sure it is at least 14 characters long. Also make it unique. According to Microsoft, the average user has 25 password-protected accounts and uses just 6 passwords. You might not care if an old, dormant email account is compromised, but if your bank uses the same password, you're in trouble.



Griswold Coop IPTV Video is Great Value

Griswold Coop IPTV Video is a reliable, local video service. Current video customers in the towns of Griswold, Elliott, Lewis, Lyman and Grant have been converted to our new system. We are excited to be welcoming new customers, and look forward to expanding our customer base to rural Elliott and Grant once fiber is hooked up to residences in these areas.

Our new Advantage IPTV Video service is just \$44.95/mo., which includes your first standard box. Additional standard box prices are \$4.99/mo. per box. A whole-home DVR (Digital Video Recorder) box offers you a whole lot more viewing convenience for just \$7.99/mo. For the ultimate in viewing clarity, add HD (High Definition) that gives you 18 HD channels for a \$3.00/mo. equipment fee.

What's more, we've recently added a few new channels and on-screen caller ID capability is now available. With a 12-month agreement, we'll give you FREE installation!

Get hooked up to reliable, local, and entertaining service. Call 712-778-2121 or stop by 607 Main St. in Griswold for more information.

**Based on quantity of boxes and services subscribed to; certain restrictions do apply. However, as fiber is installed throughout Elliott, Grant, Lewis, and Griswold, these restrictions will not apply.*



Save on Holiday Cards and Photo Prints

Turn your favorite digital photos into printed items to share and display at Griswold Telephone's digital photo lab. **Now through December 31, 2012, save \$2.00 on our 4x8 holiday greeting cards.** We'll print 12 for \$7.95 or 24 for \$15.95 — right on the spot!

We can also print photos in your choice of sizes—4x6, 5x7, 8x10, and wallets—or produce a photo CD, portrait package, or collage. Simply bring in your camera memory card, flash drive, or pictures you'd like to scan and we'll take it from there. You can count on quality for an affordable price!

Happy Holidays to You

Griswold Cooperative Telephone's Holiday Open House was held November 27, 2012. We enjoyed visiting with customers and appreciate them stopping by to celebrate the holiday season!

Griswold Cooperative Telephone employees and board members wish you and your family a very happy holiday season. We'd like to thank you for your business during the past year. It is a pleasure to serve you and help you with all of your communication needs. We look forward to serving you in 2013.



Cuts Threaten Rural Consumers and Violate Statutory Obligations

The following press release was provided by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), of which Griswold Telephone is a member.



Certain cuts, caps and constraints adopted by the FCC last fall threaten the viability of rural communications services and violate statutory requirements governing Universal Service Fund (USF) and intercarrier compensation (ICC) cost recovery mechanisms, NTCA and other challengers of the commission's USF/ICC reform order recently said in court filings. 763-4333

In their first substantive briefs in a joint challenge of the 2011 order with the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, NTCA and other petitioners argued that the FCC ignored its statutory obligations to ensure that services in high-cost areas are reasonably comparable to those available in more densely populated areas and also that sufficient and predictable support is available to achieve that objective. NTCA and other petitioners further asserted that the new rules unlawfully deprive carriers of a reasonable opportunity to recover the costs of rural network investments, including retroactive limits on recovery of investments made years prior to the recent rule changes.

In a separate brief addressing ICC reforms, NTCA and the other petitioners stated, among other things, that the commission violated requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 by setting transitional prices and mandating an ultimate price of zero for ICC rates. "The FCC's capping and reduction of support levels is inconsistent with the underlying statutory principles of universal service, and its effort to dictate and ultimately eliminate intercarrier compensation rates exceeds the limits of its statutory authority," said Michael Romano, NTCA senior vice president of policy. "This appeal seeks to correct the most glaring legal shortcomings of the FCC's order, and we hope that these appellate efforts will work in parallel with our other advocacy efforts to result in a reform plan that truly solves the challenges of rural broadband consistent with the fundamental mandates of universal service."

NTCA filed a petition for review of the transformation order with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit on December 9, 2011. That petition and others filed by a variety of interested parties were consolidated in the 10th Circuit.



Hidden Number Contest

We have hidden randomly selected phone numbers throughout this newsletter. If you find your phone number in *italics* anywhere in this newsletter, please call our office at 712-778-2121 by December 28, 2012 to receive a \$5.00 bill credit.

Good luck and happy reading!