

GRISWOLD Connections

SUMMER 2015

Summer Office Hours

Griswold Communications has begun summer office hours. We open at 7:30 am, close for lunch from 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm, and close for the day at 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. After 4:00 pm, you can continue to report any telephone issues on our voice mail. Please report Internet and TV issues to tech support at 1-800-205-1110. The office will be closed Friday, July 3 for the July 4 holiday. Have a great summer!



Contact

Griswold Communications
607 Main Street / PO Box 640
Griswold, IA 51535
Phone: 712-778-2121

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:30 am to 12:30 pm and
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Email us at gctc@netins.net

Visit us online at www.griswoldtelco.com



BROADBAND NETWORK EVOLUTION PROJECT:

Fiber to the Home Update

The job of converting customers to fiber for the Griswold exchange Fiber to the Home project is nearing completion. **A majority of subscribers have been converted; remaining subscribers are asked to schedule an appointment with us.** Fiber to the Home allows higher Internet speeds, more television options, television to rural areas, and more. **Each home and business in the Griswold exchange has been or will be contacted by Griswold Communications to discuss services and schedule an appointment for the fiber to be hooked up, which is the final step in fiber installation.** Your services are not on fiber until you've had your conversion appointment. Eventually, services remaining on copper will be discontinued.

All areas of the Griswold exchange are ready to be converted to fiber. If we have left you a message, you've seen that we called on your caller ID, or if you haven't heard from us, please call us back at 712-778-2121.

Griswold Communications employees will convert remaining subscribers to fiber as quickly as possible. If you have any questions or concerns about the Griswold exchange Fiber to the Home project, stop in the office at 607 Main St. in Griswold, call us at 712-778-2121, or check our website at www.griswoldtelco.com for more information. **We thank you for your patience during this conversion and hope that you will or are enjoying the benefits of Fiber to the Home.**



If you have not been converted to fiber yet, 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 when the fiber is hooked up and then the box will be secured. We ask that you be more cautious than ever when digging, as underground fiber cables to homes not yet converted will not be live. That makes them more difficult to locate and more costly and time-consuming to repair. Call Iowa One Call at 811 to locate underground cables.

9 Leading Sites for Instructional Videos

Thanks to the Internet, you can easily access experts to find out about any subject—anytime, anywhere. Whether you want to learn how to build a birdhouse or need a lesson on landscaping, online videos let you watch and learn whenever it's most convenient for you. Here's a list of some popular sites to check out:

www.bigthink.com

Video interviews with 600+ thought leaders in a range of fields

www.brightstorm.com

Short-form online video lessons by professional educators

www.mathtv.com

Professional video lessons in mathematics covering basic math through calculus

www.howcast.com

Professional and user-generated how-to videos, including belly dancing and photography

www.archive.org

Collection of more than 2 million free historical videos, book and text downloads and more

www.cosmolearning.com

Video lessons and documentaries on everything from computer programming to how gas is made

www.pbs.org/video

Free videos from your favorite PBS programs, including NOVA and Frontline

www.wonderhowto.com

How-to videos for all kinds of tasks, from food presentation to tech tips

www.youtube.com/education

Free, short lectures on topics like art, engineering, business, science and more



Use the ManageMyTVs app to turn your iPad or Android Device into a Remote Control...

- ~ Perform Remote Control functions including changing the channel
- ~ View and Search the TV Guide Remotely
- ~ Filter Channels on the TV Guide
- ~ Manage Recordings
- ~ Access What's Hot content
- ~ Set Recordings

Available on the Google Play and Apple App Store.

ManageMyTVs Web Portal and Mobile App

ManageMyTVs is a web portal and mobile app that enhances your blueSURGE television service when you're away from your television, as well as while you're watching. Access the web portal via mytv.griswoldtelco.com. Microsoft Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox browsers are recommended. Access the mobile app for your iPad, iPhone or Android device via the Apple App Store or Google Play. 763-4369

Whether you're using the web portal or the mobile app, you'll be able to:

- View and search the TV guide remotely
- Filter channels on the TV guide
- Manage recordings
- Set recordings

In addition, the mobile app can:

- Perform remote control functions including changing the channel
- Access "What's Hot" content



ManageMyTVs is FREE to blueSURGE television subscribers! Contact Griswold Communications at 712-778-2121 to set up a username and password to access the web portal and/or the mobile app.

Powered by Griswold Communications

blueSURGE Internet and blueSURGE television has more to offer Griswold Communications subscribers than ever before. Delivering these services through a fiber optic connection brings increased Internet speeds, ranging from 4Mb to 25Mb, and expands television capability to all communities we serve, including the rural areas.

Whether you're looking to enhance current Griswold Communications' services or to subscribe, check out what Griswold Communications offers at www.griswoldtelco.com or call us at 712-778-2121.

Two Screens Are Better Than One

Multitasking, it seems, has become an art form. And you need look no farther than the family room to find this in action, as the TV and laptop are increasingly being used simultaneously. In the last couple of years, TV viewership has risen, according to The Nielsen Company, a global leader in media measurement and information. This comes as a big surprise to some, who thought computers and the Internet might cannibalize TV watching, but the opposite seems to be true.

Now, along with snacks and the remote, people are keeping their laptops handy while watching TV. In fact, a recent Nielsen report says nearly 60 percent of all American viewers (134 million people) are using the Internet once a month while watching TV, for an average of 3.5 hours a month. Women spend more time with this TV/Web combination than men, and viewers in their twenties are more likely than other age groups to do these activities simultaneously.

**Have you jumped on the bandwagon yet?
If not, here are some ideas to get you started:**

- **Show your support.** You see a documentary about a cause you believe in, so you post a message about it on your Facebook page and encourage others to take a look.
- **Share your opinion.** A talk show host polls viewers online to predict the outcome of a local election, and you decide to participate. Or you have a friendly discussion online over which singer is best in a TV talent competition.
- **Get information.** During a TV special on alligators, your kids decide to go online and research exactly how big they get and what they eat.
- **Shop and buy.** You didn't catch the 800-number for the latest hair accessory during the TV commercial, so you look it up online. Or you find sheet music online for a movie's theme song, then e-mail it to your fellow band members.
- **Multitask.** If the TV movie is dragging a bit, you play an online game or chat to pass the time. Or you look up tomorrow's school lunch menu and a dinner recipe while watching the news. 778-2144

The blending of the Internet with television has forever changed the way we enjoy media, adding new layers of engagement and opening the door to new experiences. When it comes to screens, it appears to be, "The more, the merrier."



Griswold employee Amy Carlisle, on left, is happy to award Lyn a new Fitbit, which she won in our Facebook contest.

Congratulations Lyn, Winner of our Fitbit!

Like us on Facebook! We post fun facts, informative information, have giveaway contests, promotions and more. We just awarded our Facebook friend, Lyn, a new Fitbit! 767-2272

Plus, check out our website at www.griswoldtelco.com. We recently updated it with the Griswold Communications name and we are excited about the fresh look! The website provides information for Griswold Communications services, promotions, regulatory information, Griswold Connections quarterly newsletter, along with archived editions, and Website Compass Magazine, the world's #1 quarterly Internet magazine.

We offer these multiple methods of communication to keep customers informed of Griswold Communications happenings.





Griswold Communications' Photo Lab

Are the pictures that you need to print stacking up on you? Stop in at 607 Main St. in Griswold and print them with Griswold Communications' photo lab. Choose sizes from 4x6, 5x7, 8x10 and more. Print from your memory card, smartphone or USB drive. We offer convenient, reasonably priced, quality prints and you'll have them right away!

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 June 30 to receive a \$5.00 bill credit. Last newsletter's Hidden Number Contest winners were Duane and Norma Liddell. *Good luck and happy reading!*

What is Open Internet and What Does It Mean For Rural Broadband?

You've probably heard the term Open Internet (or Net Neutrality) used in news reports. The FCC recently voted to impose strong, specific rules related to an Open Internet, and it's become a hotly contested issue. NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association put together a fact sheet and we share highlights of it with you here.



Q. What is an Open Internet?

A. The basic premise is that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) should not interfere with a consumer's access to content or data of his or her choosing. 769-2280

Q. Was the Internet closed before these FCC rules were adopted?

A. No. There are very few instances of ISPs being accused of blocking or throttling data on their networks, and most of these examples are years old and involve larger ISPs in disputes with specific content providers. The FCC's order appears to be more about preventing potential bad behavior than it is about correcting bad behavior in the past.

Q. Will a consumer see any change in his or her Internet service as a result of this order?

A. No, at least not immediately. The order shouldn't result in near-term changes in terms of what content a consumer can see on the Internet or the speeds at which content is delivered. But it's still possible that some of the rules could, over time, have unforeseen effects on ISPs, their networks, and/or the consumer experience.

Q. Is there anything in this order that might be of special interest to rural broadband consumers?

A. In the near term, the order appears to treat all consumers — rural and urban — largely the same in terms of the policies being adopted. But some of the reasoning used by the FCC to reach its decision could affect future debates that are important to rural consumers. Specifically, small rural ISPs often depend upon interconnection with larger providers to take data "to and from the Internet," and they also rely upon universal service support to deploy and operate the broadband-capable networks that make Internet access possible in rural areas. While the FCC's order may not directly address these issues, it appears to provide at least a foundation for future action that could promote the affordability and sustainability of rural broadband.

To learn more, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/openinternet>.