

# GRISWOLD Connections

SPRING 2023

## Annual Meeting Coming in April

Griswold Communications' Annual Meeting will be held April 5, 2023, at our business office, 607 Main St. in Griswold. 763-4556 Plans are being finalized and details will be mailed to each stockholder.

## Account Updates

Please keep Griswold Communications up to date with your contact information, account authorization, email address, mailing address, and any changes to payment information (such as routing and account numbers for checking, and the expiration date and account number for credit/debit cards).

Call our business office at 712-778-2121 or email [gctc@netins.net](mailto:gctc@netins.net).

## 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](mailto:gctc@netins.net)

Visit us online at  
[griswoldcommunications.com](http://griswoldcommunications.com)

  
griswold  
communications

## KNOW THE 5 STEPS IN THE 811 PROCESS

Any type of digging on your property requires a call to 811 to have underground utility lines marked. This prevents you from unintentionally damaging lines and causing service outages in the neighborhood.

- 1. NOTIFY** your local one-call center by calling 811. The one-call center will transmit information to affected utility operators.
- 2. WAIT** 2-3 days for affected utility operators to respond to your request. On average, between 7-8 utility operators are notified for each request.
- 3. CONFIRM** that all affected utility operators have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the one-call center notified.
- 4. RESPECT** the marks (flags or paint) provided by the affected utility operators. They're your guide for the duration of your project.
- 5. DIG** carefully. Avoid digging near the marks and remember that some utility lines may be buried at a shallow depth. You may need to move your project to another part of the yard.

Griswold Communications thanks you in advance for your cooperation. To learn more, visit [call811.com/before-you-dig](http://call811.com/before-you-dig).



## Now's the Time to Get Organized (GO)

Does this sound familiar? You spend an hour digging through a messy closet to look for something—that you may or may not find—then spend additional time putting everything back.

Getting organized is meant to encourage us to live a more organized life. What are the benefits? Being organized can help you reduce stress as well as save time and money.

Dailymom.com suggests these free home organization apps:

- **Homer** helps you keep track of important papers such as mortgage documents, lease paperwork, and warranties, so you aren't scrambling to find a document when it's needed.
- **Tody** makes it easy to stay on top of housecleaning and other chores. Room by room, you enter the various tasks that need to get done and how often you want to do them. When it's time for a task, Tody will send you a reminder.
- **The Cozi Family Organizer** lets users connect their Google and Apple calendars to this app, so everyone stays updated on family and individual activities.

We hope we've inspired you to GO!



## Binge-Dropped Entire Seasons vs. Weekly Releases of Shows

When the era of streaming began in 2013, Netflix disrupted traditional TV with its binge-dropped model. The entire season of *House of Cards* was released on the same day—a revolutionary strategy since audiences were accustomed to the weekly release of TV episodes. Subscribers could watch *House of Cards* and other early Netflix series in just a day or two, and binge-watching was born.

As the years went by and the number of streaming services grew, some of these services opted to move away from the binge-dropped model and return to the traditional TV experience of weekly releases. There are advantages and disadvantages to each model, for both subscribers and the streaming services.



With a binge drop, subscribers have the option of watching an entire series in a single weekend, which keeps the plot fresh as they move from episode to episode. Younger viewers generally prefer binge drops. However, there's a downside for the streaming services in terms of customer loyalty. 767-2224 People can subscribe to a service, pay for a month, binge-watch the new series, and then cancel their subscription.

By contrast, a weekly release can keep subscribers engaged with a series for a longer period, which discourages cancellations of the streaming service and keeps subscribers paying the monthly rate. Older viewers tend to prefer a weekly release schedule, since they enjoy the familiar feeling of anticipating the next episode of their favorite show and making a weekly appointment to watch it.

Surveys of American audiences suggest that streaming shows released weekly are now more popular than binge releases, and streaming services have taken note. Disney+ and Apple TV+ favor a weekly cadence, while Hulu and HBO Max have used a combination of the two strategies, releasing multiple episodes when a series premieres before shifting to weekly drops.

Even Netflix, the binge-dropping pioneer, has altered its strategy and released some of its shows over the course of several weeks. Streaming services will no doubt continue to experiment in the hopes of finding a sweet spot for their release cadences.

**Do you prefer a binge-dropped season or a weekly release? Whatever your preference, a faster blueSURGE internet connection can enhance your overall streaming experience. Call 712-778-2121 to ask about a speed upgrade.**



The IRS wants to raise awareness of tax-related identity theft, which occurs when someone uses your stolen personal information, including your Social Security number, to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund.

**You could be a victim of tax-related identity theft if any of the following take place:**

- You get a letter from the IRS inquiring about a suspicious tax return that you did not file.
- You can't e-file your tax return because of a duplicate Social Security number.
- You get a tax transcript in the mail that you did not request.
- You get an IRS notice that an online account has been created in your name.
- You get an IRS notice that your existing online account has been accessed or disabled when you took no action.
- You get an IRS notice that you owe additional tax or refund offset, or that you have had collection actions taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return.
- IRS records indicate you received wages or other income from an employer you didn't work for.
- You've been assigned an Employer Identification Number but you did not request an EIN.

Taking steps to protect your personal information can help you avoid tax identity theft. Keep your tax records and Social Security card in a safe place. When you decide to get rid of your tax records, shred them.

It's also important to protect your information from scammers online and on your phone. 769-2280 If you use tax preparation software like TurboTax, TaxAct, or TaxSlayer, use multi-factor authentication, which offers extra security by requiring two or more credentials to log in to your account. Multi-factor authentication makes it harder for scammers to log in to your accounts.

Lastly, don't give your personal information to someone who calls, emails, or texts and says they're with the IRS. It could be a scammer impersonating the IRS to steal your information or money. If you need to contact the IRS, call them at 1-800-829-1040.

## Helping Hands and Kind Hearts Enhance Communities

Griswold Communications feels strongly that it's important for everyone to give back to our community in some way — whether through volunteering, participation in community activities, financial donations, or a combination of the above.

Without such support, our less fortunate neighbors may struggle to access life's necessities for their families, from food and clothing to educational or health care resources. In addition, some of the treasured annual events we enjoy could not continue were it not for the volunteers who step up to the plate and make them happen. Giving back to our community make it a better place for all of us.

If you volunteer for local programs and organizations, you may find yourself working alongside employees of Griswold Communications. This is a reflection of their generosity as individuals as well as our mission as a company. Follow us on Facebook to learn more about community efforts.





## 2023 Boys State Basketball Tournament

The Iowa High School Sports Network (IHSSN) will provide full coverage of the 2023 State Basketball Championships March 6-10, 2023. Visit [IHSSN.com](https://www.ihssn.com) for the full schedule. blueSURGE television subscribers can catch all quarterfinal and semifinal action on IHSSN Games (channel 12 or 412 for HD). Finals will be broadcast on KDSM Des Moines FOX (channel 17 or 417 for HD) or KPTM Omaha FOX (channel 42 or 442 for HD). Action will also be streamed on the [IHSSN.com](https://www.ihssn.com) website and app.

## 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 March 31, 2023 to receive a \$5.00 bill credit.

**Look now to see if your phone number is hiding in any articles. Good luck and happy reading!**

# Paying Bills Online Offers Valuable Advantages

Are you still receiving paper bills and paying them by writing and mailing checks? While you may feel comfortable with this method after using it for many years, consider making a switch to online bill pay.

**Why? Online bill pay provides valuable advantages including these:**

- **You Gain Security** – When you have printed bills and envelopes with checks in your mailbox, sensitive information could be stolen and used for identity theft. But when you receive and pay bills electronically, you communicate with your bank, utility, or other company via a password-protected online portal that uses encryption and other security technologies to keep your information secure.
- **You Save Time and Money** – Why waste time finding a bill, writing a check, looking for a stamp, and walking to the mailbox? With online bill pay, you can pay in seconds or have your bill paid automatically each month through an Auto Pay program. You also won't have to buy as many postage stamps or checks when you use online bill pay.



There are two categories of online bill pay available. You can pay companies individually via their website or mobile app, such as what Griswold Communications offers. Or you can authorize your bank or credit union to pay multiple bills from different companies using its website or mobile app. 778-2170 There's no need to choose one or the other exclusively. You can use either online bill pay method or both, depending on what best suits your financial needs.

Our eBill service lets you receive your monthly bills from Griswold Communications by email and pay them online with your credit card or debit card. You also have the option to choose Easy Pay to have your payment automatically deducted from your chosen bank account each month, so you don't have to worry about forgetting to pay your bill.

**To get started with eBill and set up your account, visit <https://mybill.griswoldtelco.com> or download our eBill mobile app and follow the step-by-step instructions. If you have questions, call 712-778-2121.**