

# GRISWOLD Connections

SUMMER 2020

## We're Here for You During the Pandemic

Griswold Communications continues to make customer service a top priority while we adjust some practices to help protect you and our employees from COVID-19. Our business office is currently closed to the public, and we're limiting in-home visits by our technicians.\* However, our team is still at the office during normal business hours and can take your call at 712-778-2121. You can also visit [griswoldcommunications.com](http://griswoldcommunications.com) to sign up for eBill, Online Bill Pay or Easy Pay.

To help you adjust to changing needs, we continue to waive the fees to change your blueSURGE internet speed or add a movie package to your blueSURGE television service.

*\*Subject to change after this newsletter goes to print.*

## Contact

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**Office Hours**  
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[griswoldcommunications.com](http://griswoldcommunications.com)



## Strike a Pose on National Selfie Day

Start perfecting your smile! National Selfie Day is coming up on June 21. For best results when taking selfies, follow these tips:

### Hold the camera up and your chin down.

This is the first rule of selfies. For the best angles, hold the camera above you and tilt your chin slightly down. You may also want to try tilting your head at an angle.

### Show off your sense of humor.

Have some fun when taking selfies by contorting your face into a strange position or using goofy props.

### Follow the rule of thirds.

In general, try to have your eye line about one-third down from the top of the frame. To improve composition, keep your face to one side rather than putting it in the center.

### Stay close.

Keep your shots tight to your face to avoid distracting backgrounds.

### Choose the right light.

Pick an area with flattering lighting—either outside or inside near a window.

**Don't forget to share the fun using the hashtag #NationalSelfieDay.**



## Enjoy Music for the New Normal

On blueSURGE television, you have new options for finding the soundtrack to your time at home. The rebranded Music Choice: Sounds of the Seasons network offers #Home-ButNotAlone — a unique, timely and exclusive at-home music experience. It features artist content and images from the artists themselves showing how they're adjusting to the new normal, coping with social distancing and making the best of the current situation.

Via Watch TV Everywhere, check out #CouchFest2020, which is available on web/mobile/TV App. What's better than a music festival? The answer is a music festival in the comfort of your own home! Watch Couch Fest 2020 to see videos of your favorite artists' best performances! If you're a blueSURGE television subscriber but don't have Watch TV Everywhere, call us at 712-778-2121 for help getting started.



## 5G Won't Replace Wired Internet Networks Anytime Soon

You may have heard the term 5G mentioned by cellular companies and wondered, "What is 5G?" It's the fifth generation in cellular networks. The first generation began in the 1990s when cellular networks were being established.

The second generation came with the first text messages. The third generation was marked by the first phones that could browse the internet. The current fourth generation features faster, more reliable cellular networks and phones that can stream content like Netflix. The upcoming fifth generation is the latest iteration of cellular technology, engineered to increase the speed and responsiveness of cellular networks. 767-2497

Despite the steps forward 5G will offer once it's fully implemented, wired internet networks (such as Griswold Communication's fiber network) are expected to remain the preferred technology for many internet users due to strong advantages including these:

- **Broader Device Compatibility** – There are billions of devices in use today — including PCs, tablets, TVs, printers, sound systems, and smart home devices — with a built-in preference for Wi-Fi internet delivered via a fiber or coaxial cable network.
- **No Data Caps** – With cellular networks of any generation, subscription and service models are the only option and often include data caps. For this reason, heavy data users are better off with the cap-free structure of a wired internet plan.
- **Better Security** – Wired internet tends to be more secure since data transmitted through wire is more difficult for someone to hack than data that's essentially floating around in the air on a cellular network.
- **Currently Available** – Fast and reliable wired internet service is available now from Griswold Communications, while it may be years before 5G goes mainstream. One reason is that 5G will require the building of many cell towers, since the higher frequencies expected to be used by 5G do not travel as far as the lower frequencies in use today.

To learn more about the fast and reliable internet service offered by Griswold Communication's fiber network, visit [www.griswoldcommunications.com](http://www.griswoldcommunications.com) or call 712-778-2121.



# Feel Free to Check Out These Free Streaming Services

When you think of streaming services, the first names to come to mind might be Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu. While these services offer hundreds of titles—including recent releases and original movies and TV series—they require you to pay a monthly fee. If you're watching your pennies but still want to watch great entertainment, consider free streaming services.

Keep in mind, however, that there are downsides. Most of these free streaming services are supported by ads, provide only regular HD video (not 4K), and will lack the selection of titles offered by paid streaming services.

**Here are some popular options to consider:**

**Crackle** ([crackle.com](http://crackle.com)) hosts a library of mainstream titles, including popular older TV shows and movies. Crackle has also been developing some of its own content.

**Hoopla** ([hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com)) can be your ticket to free movies and more if you have a library card and your local library participates in this system. To get started, go to the site, create an account, then find your local library.

**IMDb TV** ([imdb.com/tv](http://imdb.com/tv)) is Amazon's free, ad-supported streaming service powered by the IMDb movie and TV show database. It focuses on older movies and TV shows, plus IMDb programs such as celebrity interviews, documentaries, and coverage of film festivals and award shows.

**Pluto TV** ([pluto.tv/on-demand](http://pluto.tv/on-demand)) offers an impressive collection of modern movies and earlier-era classics as well as popular TV series.

**Tubi TV** ([tubitv.com](http://tubitv.com)) has more than 12,000 titles, including selections from the libraries of Lionsgate, MGM, and Paramount Pictures, as well as Starz Digital.

**Vudu** ([vudu.com](http://vudu.com)) features a rotating collection of hundreds of popular old movies and TV shows. To access the free content, you need a Vudu account, but you don't have to provide payment information.

**XUMO** ([xumo.com](http://xumo.com)) offers live and on-demand streaming entertainment with over 190 different channels. You'll find options across a wide array of entertainment, lifestyle, news, pop culture, and technology content providers.

**For the best streaming experience, you'll want your internet connection to have ample speed. Call Griswold Communications at 712-778-2121 to find the right internet plan for you.**



## Beware of Scammers Trying to Exploit COVID-19 Fears

Scammers use every opportunity to try and trick you out of money or personal information, and the COVID-19 pandemic is a case in point.

The U.S. Attorney General issued a warning about these coronavirus scams:

- Individuals and businesses are advertising and selling fake cures and vaccines for COVID-19 online and engaging in other forms of fraud.
- Phishing emails are being sent from entities posing as the World Health Organization or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Malicious websites and apps appear to share coronavirus-related information in order to gain access to your devices and lock them until payment is received. 763-4458
- Scammers are seeking donations fraudulently for illegitimate or non-existent charitable organizations.

Other reported scams related to COVID-19 include fake e-commerce sites claiming to sell supplies in high demand such as hand sanitizer, toilet paper, and surgical masks. Scammers will keep your money but never provide the merchandise.

Griswold Communications urges you to watch out for these types of scams, and rely only on reputable sources for the products and information you need.



## Discover fuboTV for Live News, Top Shows and More

Looking for a new streaming service? Griswold Communications is partnered with fuboTV, a separate streaming service from blueSURGE television. You'll find a wide array of popular channels on fuboTV —many, but not all, of the channels we offer plus some that we don't. Depending on your viewing preferences, fuboTV could be an alternative to blueSURGE television or a service you add to enjoy in conjunction with blueSURGE television. 769-2456

**We encourage you to check out fubo tv at [fubotv.com/griswold](http://fubotv.com/griswold) to learn more.**

## 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 31, 2109 to receive a \$5.00 bill credit.

Last newsletter's Hidden Number Contest winner was Lori Oakleaf. Congratulations to you.

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

# Virtual Tours Allow You to Travel Without Leaving Home

Just because you have to spend more time at home doesn't mean you can't explore some amazing tourist destinations. Many entities, from museums to beaches, have taken it upon themselves to offer free virtual tours.

**Museums** – Google Arts and Culture partnered with museums and galleries around the world to offer virtual tours of their spaces. Some of the options include New York's Museum of Modern Art and Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum ([artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en](http://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en)).

**National Parks** – You can surround yourself with nature's wonders while staying in your home — no hiking boots required. Take a virtual tour of Yellowstone National Park ([www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtours.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtours.htm)) and Yosemite National Park ([www.virtualyosemite.org](http://www.virtualyosemite.org)).

**Hawaiian Islands** – You'll practically feel the sand in your toes when you virtually explore Hawaii. You'll see surf boards being made, people enjoying the waves, and much more ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnhZq\\_SF0ec](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnhZq_SF0ec)).

**New York City** – This is the next best thing to being there in person. Check out the hotspots of New York City including the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and Madison Square Garden ([www.youvisit.com/tour/nyc?pl](http://www.youvisit.com/tour/nyc?pl)). 778-2213

**Mars** – In the virtual world, you don't need to limit your travels to planet Earth. NASA partnered with Google to offer a tour of the surface of Mars recorded by NASA's Curiosity rover ([accessmars.withgoogle.com](http://accessmars.withgoogle.com)).

**Zoos and Aquariums** – Animal lovers rejoice! You can enjoy live webcam viewings from the San Diego Zoo ([zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams](http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams)), the Georgia Aquarium ([www.georgiaaquarium.org/webcam/beluga-whale-webcam](http://www.georgiaaquarium.org/webcam/beluga-whale-webcam)), and the Monterey Bay Aquarium ([www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams)).

**Griswold Communications can help you take advantage of the internet's virtually unlimited resources with our fast and reliable internet service. Call 712-778-2121 to learn about available speeds and pricing.**

