



MARCH 2026 • VOLUME 32, ISSUE 1

A quarterly newsletter from your friends at KMTelecom

\$1 Boogie Breakfast

Join us at Dodge County Expo on March 28th, 8 am – 2 pm, at Triton High School in Dodge Center, MN.

KMTelecom is sponsoring the Boogie Breakfast for \$1, serving from 8 am until food runs out. The money raised will go to the Gerry Fahning Scholarship fund to help local FFA students. Bring the family! Boogie will be there.



Business Office Closed

Monday, May 25th, 2026
Memorial Day

KMTelecom

18 Second Avenue NW
Kasson, MN 55944-1491
507-634-2511

Local call for KMTelecom customers in Kasson, Mantorville, Rock Dell and Dodge Center

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm
For help with service problems during non-business hours, please call 507-634-2505.

24/7 Internet Help Desk

Kasson, Mantorville Area 507-634-2575
Rock Dell Area 507-634-2575 (FREE call)
Dodge Center Area 507-633-2575

Visit Us Online

www.kmtel.com

Stay Up to Date

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A Year to Refresh and Celebrate

This year is shaping up to be a time to both refresh and celebrate at KMTelecom. In 2026, we'll mark a major milestone – **125 years in business** – and we look forward to sharing more details as plans come together.

As part of this exciting chapter, we've also refreshed our brand with an updated logo and a more modern look and feel. You'll start noticing these changes around our office and throughout the communities we serve.

One place you'll see this right away is in our **front lobby**. Our new wall design highlights the values and characteristics that define our service area – small towns, hard work, local connections, and Minnesota culture – all brought together through our fiber network.

You may also notice our **trucks around town** sporting a refreshed look as we roll out our updated branding.

To stay updated on these changes – and to be among the first to hear more about our upcoming anniversary celebration – be sure to follow us on **Facebook and Instagram**. We're sharing progress, behind-the-scenes looks, and community highlights, and we'd love for you to join us.



FCC Adopts Rule to Combat Foreign Robocalls

The FCC wants to give consumers more caller ID data to help combat a rising number of robocalls, particularly from overseas. A rule adopted in late 2025 will:

- Broaden the definition of “caller identity information.”
- Implement new requirements for service providers.
- Mandate that providers alert consumers when calls are coming from overseas.
- Block the use of U.S. area codes for calls that originate in foreign countries.
- Require voice providers to verify that caller name and other information transmitted to consumers is accurate.

Robocalls are the top consumer complaint to the FCC. Under the new rule, providers will not only be required to display a verified caller name but also other useful data like a brand logo or the reason for a call.

FCC Chair Brendan Carr said, “With more information, people can stop guessing and start making better informed decisions. We focused some of the new rulemaking on foreign originated robocalls because a large number of fraudulent calls come from overseas.”



Check Out Google's Be Scam Ready Game

Be Scam Ready is a hands-on game from Google that immerses you in common scam and fraud scenarios in a safe, interactive setting. Its goal is to help you build the gut instinct to identify and avoid fraud in the real world.

Things begin with a warm-up challenge that involves identifying scams from the given scenarios. The next Be Scam Ready sections are all set against a timer to simulate the kind of urgency and pressure that actual scammers place you under. You select one of four characters and are walked through their life. Scams can be difficult to spot these days, given their increasing sophistication, so gaining practice doing that is well worth your time. (You can play the game repeatedly to be exposed to new scenarios and keep getting better at recognizing scam tactics.)

Before you begin, review the fundamentals of how to recognize the red flags and protect yourself against scammers:

- **Choose your own path.** Scammers often manipulate our perceptions by using techniques, such as fake testimonials, to make things seem popular or trustworthy.
- **It's okay to say no.** The messages often begin with small requests that seem harmless. But these are just the first steps in a plan to slowly ask for more, drawing you into a bad situation.
- **Slow down and take your time.** Scammers try to pressure you into making quick decisions by creating fake urgency, like limited-time offers or emergencies. These tactics are designed to trigger strong emotions such as fear, excitement, or sadness, making it harder to think clearly.
- **Stop and verify.** The Be Scam Ready game features situations where scammers impersonate authority figures – such as bank officials, government representatives, or even family members – to gain trust and coerce action. When someone claims to be from a position of authority, always be suspicious.

Curious to find out how you'll do at the Be Scam Ready game? Try it today at bescamready.withgoogle.com/intl/en/play

Gig Speeds Are Fast Becoming More Common

Over the past few years, internet plans offering speeds of up to 1 Gig have rapidly moved from being a luxury to a realistic option for many households. (For reference, 1 Gig refers to 1 Gbps or gigabit per second, which is equal to 1,000 Mbps.)

Previously limited to major cities or business districts, Gig speeds are now increasingly available in suburban and even rural areas, thanks to expanded fiber-optic networks, government broadband initiatives, and competition among internet service providers. Data from the Fiber Broadband Association shows that fiber now passes 56.5% of U.S. households, and this technology provides access to internet connections with Gig speeds.

The growing demand for this level of speed reflects how much internet use has evolved. Households today often have dozens of connected devices – from laptops and smartphones to smart TVs, security cameras, and thermostats – all competing for bandwidth. Streaming 4K or even 8K video, participating in online gaming, or joining high-resolution video calls can strain slower internet connections, especially when several people are online at once. With Gig speeds, a household's internet service can easily support multiple heavy users simultaneously without lag or buffering.

Another driver is the rise of people working from home. Upload speeds are just as important as downloads when sharing large files, backing up data to the cloud, or attending virtual meetings. Since Gig internet offers symmetrical upload and download speeds on many fiber networks, it helps make home offices as technologically capable as an office building.

While not every family may require Gig speeds today, it's important to look ahead to the future. As virtual reality, smart home automation, and cloud-based applications continue to expand, faster and more reliable internet will be essential. Gig speeds will help ensure that families are ready for these emerging technologies.

KMTelecom offers Gig speeds. To discuss which of our fiber internet plans would work best for your household, call 507-634-2511.



Go Paperless (and Get \$10!)

Ditch the paper and make bill paying a breeze! Set up auto-pay online and receive your KMTelecom bill electronically – it's quick, easy, and good for the planet. As a thank-you, we'll give you a **one-time \$10 bill credit** just for going paperless.

Simply visit www.kmtel.com, click "Bill Pay" in the top right corner, register as a new user, and switch your invoice preference to "web bill only." No paper, no hassle.

It really is that simple ... and who couldn't use an extra \$10?

\$25

Win a \$25 Credit on Your KMTelecom Bill

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill by March 31, 2026, for a chance to win a \$25 credit to your account. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Are you following KMTelecom on Facebook and Instagram? Watch for updates through social media!

Congratulations to our December 2025 winner, Robert Kern, Kasson, MN.



Plan for Connectivity When You Build or Remodel

Before construction begins on a new build or remodel, plans are made for electrical wiring, plumbing, and HVAC. Yet builders, contractors, and homeowners sometimes forget to also plan for internet connectivity, which is as essential to a home as electricity, running water, and temperature control.

As your local internet service provider, KMTelecom reminds you not to wait until the drywall goes up to decide where your network cables should go. Remember, you only get one chance to run cables inside your walls without drywall destruction.

Here's what can happen if you don't plan ahead for connectivity:

- If no wiring was run to the ideal location in the home for a router, the router ends up being installed in a poor location – typically in a basement – which reduces Wi-Fi coverage and can create dead zones. To improve Wi-Fi performance, extenders must be added, which could have been eliminated with proper router placement.
- Homeowners may later want to add smart thermostats, cameras, doorbells, or lighting systems. Without wiring or network planning, poor router placement can leave these devices struggling with weak signals and dropped connections, which may require additional unsightly Wi-Fi equipment to improve coverage.
- Homes with weak Wi-Fi coverage can have “blind spots” for security cameras. Homeowners often don't realize this until after move-in, when retrofitting is far more difficult.
- People often set up a TV or gaming systems in a room far from the router. If wiring isn't in place, streaming 4K video or online gaming may stutter or lag, forcing them to rely on wireless fixes instead of a clean wired solution.

By anticipating the network needs of a home earlier in the process, you can gain stronger connections, experience fewer headaches, and save money. Before wiring for electrical, please call KMTelecom at 507-634-2511 to discuss connectivity concerns.



We're Proud to Boost the Local Economy

KMTelecom does more than keep our customers connected with internet and related services. We also help boost the local economy by making direct economic contributions, enhancing business growth, and supporting community organizations and events.

Our direct economic contributions include hiring local residents for technical, customer service, and administrative jobs. We also purchase supplies, fuel, and services from other local businesses to keep money circulating locally, as well as pay local property and business taxes to help fund community services.

Local business growth is aided by our fast and reliable fiber internet. It makes our communities more appealing to new businesses and remote workers, boosts property values and tax revenue, and enables local entrepreneurs and creators to thrive.

To thrive, every community must be an enjoyable place to live and offer the activities that increase quality of life. That's why we regularly sponsor local events, sports teams, schools, and nonprofits.

To learn more about our community involvement, visit www.kmtel.com/community-support.