

# InTouch

MARCH 2013

## Happy St. Patrick's Day From Our Family To Yours

Here's an Irish Blessing  
for all our customers:

*May love and laughter light  
your days, and warm your heart  
and home.*

*May good and faithful friends be  
yours, wherever you may roam.*

*May peace and plenty bless your  
world with joy that long endures.*

*May all life's passing seasons bring  
the best to you and yours!*

Happy St. Patrick's Day from  
Albany Mutual Telephone!



### Contact

Albany Mutual Telephone  
131 6th Street  
Albany, MN 56307  
Phone: 320.845.2101

Office Hours  
M-F 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Email  
customersupport@albanytel.com

Visit Albany Mutual Telephone Online  
www.albanytel.com



**Albany Mutual  
Telephone**



## STRIKE GOLD WITH THE COLORFUL CLARITY OF HD

High-Definition (HD) service from Albany Mutual Telephone offers you up to six times the resolution of traditional TV images. You'll get an incredibly lifelike picture with truer colors and sharper details. Plus you'll enjoy this crystal-clear rainbow of wonderfulness when you watch the more than 40 HD channels on our lineup including FS North, Lifetime, and Food Network.

Sign up for HD service now,  
and get this St. Patrick's Day deal:  
Your first 3 months for just \$1/month\*



**CALL 320.845.2101 TO SAVE SOME GREEN!**

\*Service availability may vary. Offer ends Friday, March 29, 2013. Two-year agreement required. Contact us for complete details.



## Tornado Safety: Know Where to Go

Tornadoes are capable of completely destroying well-made structures, uprooting trees, and hurling objects through the air like deadly missiles. Although severe tornadoes are more common in the Plains States, tornadoes have been reported in every state. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible.

For safety's sake, it's imperative to prepare in advance so you know what to do:

- Go immediately to an underground shelter or basement. Stay away from windows.
- If no underground room is available, go to a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level.
- Cover yourself with a sleeping bag or thick blanket. A bicycle helmet offers additional head protection.
- If you're caught outside with no building nearby, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can; they may be blown onto you in a tornado.

Visit [www.ready.gov/tornadoes](http://www.ready.gov/tornadoes) for more information.

## Landlines are Lifelines

All phone services are not created equal. In particular, Internet-based VoIP and wireless phone services simply cannot match the performance of landline service during severe weather and other emergency situations. Albany Mutual Telephone wants to make sure your family is able to maintain phone communications in the event of a crisis.

VoIP and wireless services can fail to perform as needed during power outages and 911 calls. Landline connections are still far superior for emergency needs, and we strongly encourage people to stay with, or return to, landline phone service for safety and reliability.

### Power Outages

Even when power goes out, your family can count on phone service with a corded landline phone that has no dependency on the power supply. By contrast, VoIP phone service relies on electrically powered equipment such as a modem, phone adapters, and routers. If there's no electricity, there's no VoIP phone service. Similarly, battery-powered cordless phones and wireless phones will eventually cease to work during a power outage when batteries wear out and cannot be recharged. For these reasons, every household should consider maintaining at least one corded landline phone.

### 911 Calls

The nation's 911 emergency response system, built in 1967, was based on the expectation that calls for help would come from landline phones. When you call 911 from a landline, your address is automatically displayed and operators can instantly send help to that exact location. The same cannot always be said of VoIP and wireless phone services.

VoIP calling services are not always in sync with city or county 911 locator systems. This can result in emergency operators being unable to see home addresses if users make an emergency call for assistance and are unable to talk or become disconnected.

Wireless phones also present potential problems for emergency response personnel, since they're not associated with one fixed address. While the location of the cell site closest to the caller may provide a general indication of the caller's location, that information is not always specific enough to deliver assistance in a timely manner.

**For safety's sake, we urge you to include landline phone service as a part of your communications mix. For more information, call 320.845.2101.**





## Recycle Your Phone Books

Phone books are a valuable source of information and you probably use yours many times each week. But what do you do with your old phone books when the new ones arrive? Recycle them, of course.

Phone book paper is made from recycled paper waste and wood fiber waste such as sawdust and wood chips that would otherwise go unused. Recycled phone books are made into useful products such as animal bedding, home insulation, bathroom tissue, cereal boxes, roofing shingles, and last but not least, new phone books. So there's no point in leaving your old phone books on the shelf when they can be recycled and put to good use.



Once your new copies of the Albany Mutual Telephone Directory are delivered, it's time to recycle. Simply bring last year's phone books to our office and place them in the container marked for this purpose. We thank you for your participation in this important earth-friendly effort.

## Wish Your Home Was a Hotspot?

Having a wireless network in your home is a great way to expand your freedom. Family members will be able to get online anywhere—from the bedrooms to the backyard—with their laptops or tablets. And visiting friends and relatives will appreciate the convenience as well.

To make your home a hotspot, simply bring in the experts from Albany Mutual Telephone. We offer a wireless networking service that includes setup and configuration of a wireless router along with wireless security and encryption features. This service is available for just \$104 and our experts handle everything. All you have to do is call 320.845.2101 to schedule your appointment.



## Who Was St. Patrick?

You may wear green clothes, drink green beer, or attend a parade each March 17, but do you know why St. Patrick's Day is celebrated? Not surprisingly, St. Patrick's Day began as a religious holiday. In his time—early in the 5th century—St. Patrick journeyed throughout Ireland converting many Irish to Christianity. He established monasteries, schools, and churches to help with the conversion process. St. Patrick was repeatedly arrested for his efforts, but these arrests just prompted him to continue his mission with added zeal. Still, he understood the political realities of the time and, in response, incorporated many pagan rituals, myths, and beliefs into his teachings.

St. Patrick is thought to have died on March 17 and the anniversary of his death began as a holy holiday in Ireland. Over a period of several centuries, it developed into the Irish national day of pride that is still celebrated today in many countries throughout the world.

## Commercials to be Quieter Thanks to the CALM Act

If for years you've been thinking that commercials were louder than TV programs, you weren't imagining things. COMMERCIALS OFTEN WERE LOUDER. In fact, enough people complained about this annoying practice that action was taken.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules now require commercials to have the same average volume as the programs they accompany. In the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act, Congress directed the FCC to establish these rules, and they went into effect on December 13, 2012. Hopefully, this means you won't have to grab the remote to lower the volume every time a commercial comes on.

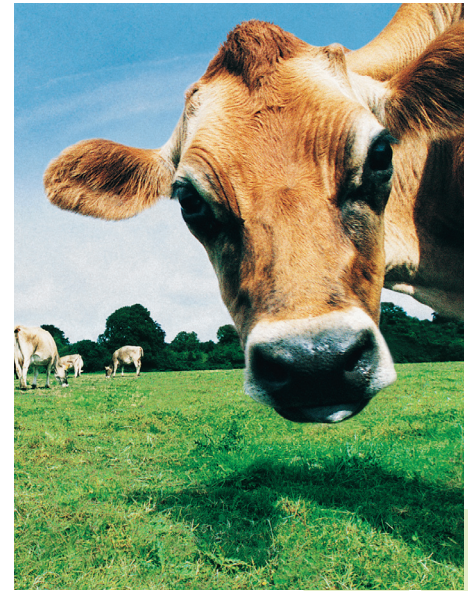
**But if you continue to hear commercials that seem overly loud, you can file a complaint with the FCC's Consumer Call Center at 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322).**



## Celebrate National Ag Day

National Ag Day, sponsored by the Agriculture Council of America (ACA), celebrates and recognizes the contributions of agriculture in our daily lives. In 2013, National Ag Day falls on March 19. This is during National Ag Week, which takes place March 17-23.

National Ag Day is acknowledged by producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, and government agencies; the ACA encourages people in these and other organizations to create local Ag Day events. Event ideas include breakfasts, pizza parties, fairs, farmers' markets, petting zoos, displays at local malls or libraries, and field trips to local farms.



### These events serve several purposes:

- Show the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy
- Help people understand how food and fiber products are produced
- Help people appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, affordable products
- Encourage young people to consider career opportunities in agriculture

*Albany Mutual Telephone salutes National Ag Day, and says thanks to all those in our community who work so hard to bring us the food and fiber products our country needs.*

## How to Go Green With Electronics

### 1. Go rechargeable

Of the 15 billion batteries sold each year, most of them are disposable alkaline batteries and only a fraction of those are recycled. Look for electronics that are rechargeable.

### 2. Reduce "phantom" loads

Turn off televisions, stereos, computers, and cellphone adapters when not in use. They continue to draw a small amount of power even when switched off.

### 3. Buy with energy in mind

Doing research on different technologies and their respective energy consumption

can save you a lot in the long run. The ENERGY STAR® site will help you identify energy-saving electronic devices including cordless phones, stereo systems, TVs, DVD players, and battery chargers.

### 4. Recycle responsibly

There are plenty of organizations and charities that recycle and reuse old electronics. If you want a return on your old gadgets, try selling them on an online auction site. Also keep in mind that a growing number of computer manufacturers are adopting take-back programs.