

# In Touch

SUMMER 2015

## Mark Your Calendar

### Annual Meeting

The 2015 Annual Meeting for Albany Mutual Telephone will be held Wednesday, June 3rd. The meeting will begin at 8:00 pm at the Seven Dolors Parish Gathering Center.

### Summer Hours

Beginning June 1 through September 4th, our office will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm and on Friday 7:30 am to 11:30 am.



## Contact

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

### Office Hours

M-TH: 7:30 am to 5:00 pm  
F: 7:30 am to 11:30 am

### Email

customersupport@albanytel.com

Visit Albany Mutual Telephone Online  
www.albanytel.com



Technology. All the Way Home.



## GET YOUR HANDS ON FASTER INTERNET

Your whole family will jump for joy after a major speed upgrade. (That is, once they put down their laptops, tablets, smartphones, controllers, and remotes.)

Upgrade to 60 Mbps download for only  
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\*Mention promo code FamilyAd when you call. Service availability and Internet speeds will depend on location. Plan featured is 5 Mbps upload. Prices are subject to change. Call for details. Offer good through June 30th, 2015.

## Top 3 Benefits of High-Speed Internet

When you choose high-speed Internet, you can do what you've always done online—but so much faster. There are many advantages to having faster Internet. Here are the three most important:

- 1. Faster load time.** With high-speed Internet, webpages will load faster than the average speed – even when you have multiple tabs open, and even if there are videos or photos present on the pages.
- 2. Continuous streaming.** Stream TV shows, movies, and music without interruption when you have high-speed Internet. Buffering is a thing of the past!
- 3. Support for multiple users.** If more than one person in your household is using the Internet, you may experience a slow connection without a high-speed connection. For the modern family, faster Internet isn't a luxury anymore—it's a necessity.

High-speed Internet means faster social networking, faster video streaming, and faster multi-player online gaming—not just for you, but for the whole family. To sign up for faster Internet speeds with Albany Mutual Telephone, call 320.845.2101.



## 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.

### 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>.