

Working to bring you

Tomorrow's Technology Today.

What does this mean?

For over 100 years, the mission of **OmniTel** Communications has been to bring tomorrow's technology to the communities in which we live and serve. Of course 100 years ago, that technology was only the telephone; today it is the telephone, Internet, cable TV and wireless telephone service.

Isn't it amazing how much our lives have changed since the introduction of these new technologies? Who would have thought that you could take pictures with your cell phone or use your computer to stay in touch with family and friends all over the world for only the cost of your Internet service or buy and sell things on eBay? While having all this new technology is cool, **OmniTel** understands that there really is more to it.

"Broadband technology is a key driver of economic growth. The ability to share increasing amounts of information, at greater and greater speeds, increases productivity, facilitates interstate commerce, and helps drive innovation...." FCC Chairman Kevin Martin said.

In fact, bringing the "information highway" to our rural communities isn't a whole lot different from how it was 200 years ago, when the railroad was the 'highway' that brought prosperity to the towns and communities it connected.

Think about it.

Two hundred years ago, before the transcontinental rail system was built, the success of a commu-

nity was tied to how close it was to the nearest city. The closer it was to a city, the more the community prospered. However, this created fear that the rural community was going to die off. Enter the railroad - with the ability to transport goods and services in and out of these communities. This had such an economic effect on the area that in the end, communities that were close to or connected to the rail system flourished and those that were not slowly died off.

Over the past 20 years, OmniTel's continued commitment to bring technology to your doorstep hasn't only been because we like having all the latest and greatest gadgets

(although it's hard to beat some of these comforts):

- DSL speeds of up to 1.5 Mbps
- Digital Cable TV with over 175 channels
- High Definition Television (HDTV) with clearer and more lifelike pictures and better digital sound
- DVRs with the ability to stop and replay live TV
- i wireless with voice, messaging, and data services capable of reaching over 268 million Americans where they live, work, and play.

.... the true value in bringing Tomorrow's Technology to our rural communities is in the economic value.

(a broadband and wireless infrastructure in a community will):

- increase the value of homes
- increase economic opportunities via interstate and global commerce
- increase job opportunities - advanced technologies makes working at home possible and can bring the type of high-level jobs that were once only available in urban cities to smaller communities and rural areas.

So just as the railroad brought big city luxuries to the rancher's family 200 years ago, the real value in the rail system was in the positive effect it had on the economic strength of the community. This is what "Working to bring you Tomorrow's Technology Today" means to **OmniTel**. It is our commitment to you today and to your community in the future.

What does **OmniTel** have planned for the future? Eighteen more channels of High Definition TV and we're building a 10 Gigabit network to better serve you today and in the future.

It means that at OmniTel, we are Working hard to bring you Tomorrow's Technology Today.

The digital TV transition:

Just a reminder - the digital TV (DTV) transition will occur on February 17, 2009. For most **OmniTel** customers who already have basic or digital cable, the transition will not affect you at all. In fact, if you already have cable service, satellite TV, or have recently purchased a new digital TV, you won't notice any interruption in service. It'll be TV viewing like normal.

However, if you have an older "analog" TV tucked away in a workshop, garage or camper, (including any TV that receives a signal via a rooftop antenna or through rabbit ears), you will need to take steps before February 17 to enable these sets to receive the new digital signal. A few possible solutions include:

- subscribe to cable or satellite service
- purchase a digital converter box
- upgrade to a new digital TV with a digital tuner

For more information about the coupon program, visit www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon. Or call **OmniTel** at 749.2531, and we will gladly answer your questions.

What? You don't already subscribe to **OmniTel** Cable TV? Don't worry, because today's the time to start. Now through December 31, 2008, we will offer FREE Cable TV installation! Best of all, our basic cable package comes with more than 65 channels for only \$39.95 and includes the BigTen Network and four ESPN channels.

Although DTV (or 'digital TV') sounds similar to HDTV (or 'High Definition TV'), they are not. The best way to understand the differences between them is to know what they do.

Digital means the TV is no longer transmitted by antenna (meaning analog); it is now transmitted digitally. Digital television provides better quality pictures and sound.

HDTV or High Definition Television just means a much better grade of digital television. The quality of sound and picture are now in 'high-definition', which means they are more lifelike. So while the quality of digital is good, the quality of High Definition is much better. But you must first have digital television (DTV) before you can upgrade to High Definition Television (HDTV). Also, the television program itself must be available in 'high-definition' and your television must be HDTV compatible.

OmniTel's Security Corner

Don't help the robbers!

Clear your yard of anything that might help people get to the upstairs bedrooms, such as ladders; or anything that might aid in breaking and entering, such as gardening tools. Keep your yard as clear as possible, so you aren't inviting people to come in and start snooping around.

Of course, when it comes to security at home, **OmniTel** Communications brings you three services to help give you peace of mind.

- SecuritySystems** - 24-hour monitored protection for your home, family & personal belongings
- PERS** (personal emergency reporting system) - a 24-hour monitored system for someone with health concerns or living alone
- SecureITplus** - guaranteed computer protection for your home computer

For more information, call Customer Service at 749.2531 or go to <http://www.omnitel.biz/securityhome.shtml>.



| | Monday, November 24 | Course Name | Course Description |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. | Introduction to Microsoft Word | This one-hour class is truly an introduction to Word processors as a whole. Participants will learn the basics of Microsoft Word, including how to format a document, manipulate text, use Spell Check, and learn keyboard shortcuts. We will end the class with a question and answer period. This class is appropriate for beginning computer users, but open to all skill levels. |
| | 2:45 p.m. & 7:45 p.m. | Introduction to Microsoft Excel | This one-hour class introduces the process of creating a workbook to make your calculations easier than ever. Participants learn how to enter, format, sort, chart, and create calculations from their data in useful and effective ways. This class is appropriate for beginning computer users, but open to all skill levels. |



Courses offered at **OmniTel** Communications in Nora Springs at 608 East Congress. Courses are **FREE** but require registration. Call 749.2531 to register or send an email to classes@omnitel.biz

1900 855,900 telephones in the Bell System
1903 Pay telephones introduced in New York
1904 Farmer's Mutual Telephone Co. founded (today known as **OmniTel** Communications)



1929 First public demonstration of television

1940 Broadband carriers introduced



1955 First Transatlantic telephone service

"Yes we do."



"Hello Britain, do you have Prince Albert in a can?"

"You'd better let him out."

1960 640 Cable TV Systems in United States

1971 80,000 Cable TV subscribers in New York



1981 IBM introduces first Personal Computer



1990 **OmniTel** starts to upgrade network with fiber
1991 **OmniTel** begins offering Cable TV (34 channels)



1993 All **OmniTel** exchanges networked together
1995 **OmniTel** offers more cable TV choices (Basic Cable and Expanded Basic Cable)
1996 **OmniTel** begins offering Dial up Internet



2000 **OmniTel** offers Digital Cable (Basic Cable grows to 70 channels, Digital has over 130 channels)
2002 **OmniTel** begins offering High-speed Internet



2005 **OmniTel** begins offering i wireless
2006 **OmniTel** offers HDTV & DVRs
OmniTel begins offering several wireless High-speed Internet options for rural areas
2008 **OmniTel** increases tower capacity
OmniTel increases DSL to 1.5 Mbps*



* DSL is a distance-restricted service and some DSL rural customers may not be able to get 1.5 Mbps

