

OmniTel *Connections*

A quarterly publication for the *valued* customers of **OmniTel** Communications

Winter 2009

The new year is upon us, and we're confident you're keeping to all the resolutions you've set, right?

To help launch our new home security product, we are bringing security veteran Bob Meshot to the North Iowa area. Bob is being sponsored through **OmniTel/U**, our series of FREE technology-based courses designed to help you learn how to use technology so that it can make your life more efficient, safe and *a heck of a lot more fun!* With two classes scheduled for **OmniTel** customers only, Meshot's interesting personal stories and extensive knowledge of the security industry will be an hour of entertainment and information you won't want to miss.



Be sure to check out who our Reader's Contest winners were from our last contest, and find out what you might win with this issue's contest – and remember, you can now enter the contest online at www.omnitel.biz.

OmniTel is proud to continue our Charity Grant program, in which our goal is to positively impact the communities we serve. Individuals and organizations have joined us in this program, and will look forward to continuing to improve the quality of life with you as our partner.

And last but certainly not least, 2009 brings with it the February 17 Digital Transition (as if you haven't heard enough about this). According to surveys, while 90 percent of the nation is aware of the transition, many people in the industry believe that the switch will leave millions of Americans bewildered when their TVs stop working on February 17 because of misinformation and procrastination. Don't be a statistic, if you are unsure how or if the digital conversion will affect you, call our office and we will try to determine what you need to do to be ready for ~~Y2K~~, ooops, we mean DTV.

*From everyone at **OmniTel**,
happy reading and even more enjoyable viewing!*



OmniTel Communications invites public and private non-profit organizations to submit applications for funding to help with specific projects and events in your community. The purpose of **OmniTel's** Charity Grant program is to positively impact the quality of life in the communities which we serve. Greatest consideration is given to the projects and events that benefit the most people. No Charity Grant will be awarded to individuals for personal gain (i.e. pageants, school trips, etc.). All applications are reviewed at the first board meeting of each quarter. Completed applications may be submitted at anytime during the year. Civic organizations may request up to \$1,000, non-civic related organizations may request up to \$500, school activities and summer youth programs may request up to \$250.

The following businesses were awarded Charity Grants for the 2008 third quarter:

*Floyd County Fair Horse Barn Project
Elf Shop
Nora Springs Development Group
Riceville Fire Station
Rockford Vision After School Program
RRMR Youth Tackle Football
Spring Harbor Organization
Sunset Generation—Meals On Wheels*

The next grants will be awarded in April. Grant applications can be found at www.omnitel.biz/charity.shtml

Let's talk Home Security with Bob Meshot.



Learn new and valuable ways to protect your home, family and belongings from theft, fire, and personal injury when security professional Bob Meshot presents statistical data and personal experiences at **OmniTel**/U, Thursday, February 26 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Meshot's discussion will be held in Nora Springs at **OmniTel** Communications.

Meshot brings an informative look at the interesting and important statistics that affect many families when it comes to home and business security.

"Many people and businesses do not realize how vulnerable they are to theft," Meshot says, adding that a person's chances of being burglarized are at least once in a 20-year span.

Meshot will discuss techniques used by burglars, the types of consumers that are the most vulnerable to theft, and the importance of implementing safety precautions in your home, even if you don't invest in a home security system. However, Meshot does point out the fact that homes without security systems are three times more likely to be targeted by a thief.

"The average loss is \$1834 per event," he says, and since the average burglar takes less than a minute to break into a home or business, its important for all consumers to safeguard themselves both

on their property and throughout their neighborhood. Meshot's presentation will include useful security "points of interest" home owners should be aware of, including the effectiveness of a neighborhood watch program.

Meshot also addresses the high volume of employee theft that businesses encounter, citing that over \$1 billion is lost through this type of crime. "Eighty-seven percent of business thefts are unsolved because the majority are conducted by employees," he says.

The presentation will also include interesting information on home security systems, including statistics that show the high percentage of false alarms and what causes them (e.g. pets, weather, improper entry/exit). Meshot will also briefly discuss the average cost of a home security system, and new improvements in wireless equipment.

Bob Meshot retired from the Air Force in 1997 and has 22 years of selling and recruiting experience. He has worked in the residential and commercial security industry for over 10 years, and is currently the director of Dealer Development and Training for Comporium.

As with all **OmniTel**/University courses, this class is FREE to **OmniTel** customers, but requires registration. To register call 749.2531 or send an email to classes@omnitel.biz

Are you ready for the Digital TV Transition?

As your communications company, we wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't remind you one more time: On February 17, 2009 all full-power broadcast television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. Digital broadcasting will allow stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and additional channels.

Subscribing to **OmniTel's** CableTV will insure that you continue to get programming. Other ways to insure that a consumer will get programming are to subscribe to satellite service, purchase a digital-to-analog converter box (for each television set) or to upgrade to a new digital TV with a digital tuner. At **OmniTel**, we are concerned that even though most of the households in our service area receive the signal to their main television sets via cable or satellite service, they may also have other older television sets - in spare bedrooms, workshops, rental units, etc. - that are being overlooked. These TVs possibly use an analog signal or antenna, which will not work after the digital conversion. In this case, those customers with cable or satellite service may also need digital-to-analog converter boxes for television sets that are not hooked up to cable. To help reduce the expense of acquiring the converter boxes, which cost about \$50 for basic models, consumers can get two government rebate vouchers worth \$40 a box. (Available at www.dtv2009.gov or call 888-388-2009.)

Our advice to you is to sit back for a minute and give this digital conversion some serious consideration. If you decide you need to buy a DTV converter box, do it now. On average it takes about six weeks to receive the government coupons/rebate vouchers; and it's not clear how long after February 17 the federal government will be offering them. Also, as soon as you get your voucher(s), redeem them because they expire after 90 days. And households are not allowed to reapply for vouchers.

OmniTel's Security Corner

Security Tip:

With the digital transition almost here, many home owners are using this event as an opportunity to upgrade their TVs. Getting a new plasma or flat screen TV with Hi Definition is exciting for the whole family, but make sure you keep it to yourselves - literally.

Here are two security tips to keep in mind:

- Don't leave the boxes by the curb to announce your valuable acquisitions--break boxes down and hide them in your trash/recycling bin.
- Don't display your valuables conspicuously (i.e. huge plasma TV on a wall that is visible from the street), as this only tempts thieves.

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>.



Working to bring you

Tomorrow's Technology Today.

Thursday, February 26	Course Name	Course Description
3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Let's talk Home Security with Bob Meshot	OmniTel is bringing Bob Meshot, a veteran in the Security industry, to our area. Bob will entertain and educate us with his personal experiences, tips and current data on how you can protect your home, family and belongings from the threat of theft, fire, personal injury and more. This one-hour presentation is appropriate for all OmniTel customers.



This class is offered at **OmniTel** Communications in Nora Springs at 608 East Congress. As always, **OmniTel**/University courses are **FREE** but require registration. Call 749.2531 to register or send an email to classes@omnitel.biz

What's the difference between DTV and HDTV?



For an unbelievable experience

Get HDTV
High Definition Television

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).

There are several variables that must happen before you can get HDTV:

First the television program itself must be available in 'high definition'

You must have:

- a digital signal
- a television set with high-definition capabilities
- a cable or satellite provider that offers HDTV

The good news is - if you are an **OmniTel** Cable TV subscriber and you have a television set with high-definition capabilities, you can get HDTV.

OmniTel offers 28 channels of High Definition Television (HDTV):

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 403 - (CBS) KIMT HD* | 446 - Discovery HD |
| 406 - (ABC) KAAL HD* | 451 - Lifetime Movie Network HD |
| 408 - (FOX) KXLT HD* | 452 - Animal Planet HD |
| 410 - (NBC) KTTC HD* | 453 - Discovery HD Theater |
| 414 - HBO HD | 455 - History HD |
| 419 - Starz HD | 456 - HGTV HD |
| 421 - HD Net | 457 - Outdoor Channel HD |
| 422 - HD Net Movies | 458 - Food Network HD |
| 423 - ESPN HD | 462 - Fox News HD |
| 424 - EXPN2 HD | 464 - Speed Channel HD |
| 440 - Disney HD | 473 - Travel Channel HD |
| 441 - ABCFamily HD | 474 - National Geographic HD |
| 442 - FX HD | 475 - Science Channel HD |
| 445 - A&E HD | |

* Not all programs on these channels are in high definition.



Reader's Contest

Enter to win
\$50 in
FREE Gas!

Fill in the missing words from the sentences below – the answers are found in this newsletter. The contest is also available online at www.omnitel.biz. If all answers are correct, we will put your name in a drawing and two winners will win \$50 in ethanol certificates.

Please print all information legibly. This month you can enter online at www.omnitel.biz, or mail or deliver your entry to **OmniTel** Communications 608 E. Congress, PO Box 518, Nora Springs, IA 50458. Entries must be received by Wednesday, February 18, at 5 p.m. *Good luck.*

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

1. **OmniTel** is proud to continue our Charity Grant program, in which our _____ is to positively impact the communities we serve.
2. "Many people and businesses do not realize how vulnerable they are to _____," Meshot says, adding that a person's chances of being burglarized are at least once in a 20-year span.
3. Our advice to you is to sit back for a minute and give this _____ conversion some serious consideration.
4. The good news is - if you are an **OmniTel** Cable TV subscriber and you have a _____ set with high-definition capabilities, you can get HDTV.

OmniTel reserves the right to publish the names of the winners.



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READERS' CONTEST WINNERS

What a contest! And what a response! Last quarter, 72 people responded to our Online readers' contest. Each winner received a \$20 gift card for FREE Turkey! Congratulations go out to:

Joel Cannon of Rockford
 Karen Woodhouse of Nora Springs
 Pat Mathre of Nora Springs
 Doug Waychus of Nora Springs
 Johna Birchem of Riceville
 Gordon Jensson of Riceville
 Delores Trettin of St. Ansgar
 Patterson Seeds of St Ansgar
 Todd Thompson of Greene
 Jolene Edwards of Greene