

OmniTel *Connections*

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

Winter 2011

These are exciting times for the telecommunications industry. In what seems like the blink of an eye, we've seen the way we communicate and receive information transform; with the Internet and SmartPhones changing the way we work and play. Just last year, SmartPhone sales surged 72%. According to the International Data Corporation, more than 100 million of these phones were sold in the fourth quarter of 2010, allowing them to surpass personal computer sales for the first time ever.

At **OmniTel**, our mission is to make these tools available to our customers the same time they're available to the rest of the country and the world. That requires providing faster Internet speeds, broader bandwidth of 15MB and 3G networks. Not sure what these are? Just keep reading. We've made them simple to understand

in the following pages. After all, that's our goal at **OmniTel**: to bring you state of the art technology that helps make your day easier and more fulfilling.

Attention OmniTel Internet Customers:

omnitel.com is changing to **myomnitel.com**

If you are an **OmniTel** Internet customer, please contact Tech support at 1-877-666-4932 for help in converting your email address to **myomnitel.com** or go online to <http://esupport.myomnitel.com> and select **Setup your email program**.

Congratulations to our Fall 2010 **Reader's Contest** winners; Linda Brandau and Helen Bunting of Rudd, Curtis Clifford of Nora Springs, Eldon Groth and Esther Moore of Riceville, Harvey Hemann of Stacyville, Allan Jacobson of Greene, Steven King of Marble Rock, Marge Salz of St Ansgar, and Mary Sorbo of Rock Falls. Each won a \$20 gift certificate. You will find this quarter's **Reader's Contest** on the back of this newsletter or online @ www.omnitel.biz. Also, find details on how friends and family members from around the globe can participate in this contest posted on the 'Wall' of our Facebook page.

*Making your life
more efficient, safe
and a heck of a lot more fun!*



Community *Connections*

At **OmniTel**, making and maintaining strong connections is our mainstay - in both our business and in the communities we serve. Through our Charity Grants program, we uphold these connections by supporting projects and programs that positively impact the quality of life in the towns and rural areas we serve. As we invest in an advanced telecommunications infrastructure, we continue this commitment and look forward to a vibrant future together.

The next grants will be awarded in March. Grant applications can be found at www.omnitel.biz

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

Charity Grant Recipients for the 4th quarter of 2010:

Butler County Fair

City of Rockford

Marble Rock First Responders

Nora Springs Cub Scout Pack 4022

Riceville Community Preschool

Riceville Dollars for Scholars

St Ansgar Senior Saints Center



Our Internet Speeds just got Faster

During the last few years, we have been upgrading our carrier Ethernet transport system. This involves increasing our bandwidth infrastructure, so we can support not only faster Internet speeds, but also more Internet usage and hopefully eliminate the potential of bandwidth 'bottleneck'. You see, we understand that over the next 5 years, how all of us use the Internet (more importantly, how much bandwidth we use) is going to change.

Until recently, for most of us, Internet usage primarily consisted of reading and writing emails and viewing web pages. Today, because more industries are using the Internet as their delivery system, (we share photos, listen to the radio, watch television shows and full-length movies, all from the comfort of our PC or laptop); the need for faster Internet speeds and more bandwidth has grown. Still, whether you need 5 MB or 15 MB, isn't really determined by how many of these activities you will be doing, but rather how many devices in your household will be sharing this bandwidth at the same time.

In other words, a household with a PC, a laptop, a game console and a SmartPhone, will probably need more megabytes to deliver better service. *I experienced this personally over Christmas break when three college students came home with three laptops and two SmartPhones. For the purposes of this story, and because I think the analogy will help explain the concept of bandwidth and the value of 5, 10 and 15MB, I am going to refer to the college students and their devices as the 'visiting team'. The devices already in our home (our PC, laptop and game console) will be referred to as the 'home team'. (Story to the right titled 'The Home Team Advantage'.)*

Let's Talk Technology.*

The 'Home Team' Advantage

From the moment the **visiting team** arrived, there were complaints of slow and intermittent Internet service. There was one moment when no one from the **visiting team** could get online. Their SmartPhones actually displayed the message NO SERVICE AVAILABLE. Everyone knew this was false, because those on the **home team** were at that moment actively playing an Internet game and searching online. Those of us on the **home team** shrugged our shoulders and said, 'Don't ask us, we're not having problems.'

Until that moment there had never been a complaint about slow Internet service in this house. And it seemed odd that only the **visiting team** was experiencing intermittent service. It was as if the bandwidth in our home had established a protocol and was pushing the appropriate amount of bandwidth to the **home team** devices and giving the **visitors** whatever was left. I believe for that moment in time, I was experiencing what it meant to have the **'home team advantage'**.

When I got back to the office, I asked our IT guy, Josh Eckert, (official title Network Administrator) if the bandwidth had established a protocol. He said, "Sort of. Bandwidth works like a traffic cop. It will try to keep the Internet traffic flowing smoothly. To do this, from time to time, it will slow some devices down for a few seconds, while it lets others pass through the intersection." Hmmm, very interesting.

How fast is OmniinterNet?

| | 5MB | 10MB | 15MB |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Downloading Photographs <small>(Large, high-quality photograph - approx. 1.5 MB)</small> | 2 seconds | 1 second | less than 1 second |
| Receiving emails with attachments <small>(When combined attachments equal 3 MB)</small> | 4 seconds | 2 seconds | 1 second |
| Downloading an album <small>(When file size is 100 MB)</small> | 3 minutes, 26 seconds | 1 minute, 43 seconds | 1 minute, 8 seconds |
| Downloading a game <small>(*Need for Speed: Underground* - File size 57 MB)</small> | 1 minute, 31 seconds | 43 seconds | 30 seconds |
| Downloading a movie <small>(*Social Network* off iTunes 1.72 GB)</small> | 46 minutes, 58 seconds | 23 minutes, 29 seconds | 15 minutes, 39 seconds |
| Downloading a high-def movie <small>(*Social Network in HD* off iTunes 3.62 GB)</small> | 1 hour, 38 minutes, 51 seconds | 49 minutes, 25 seconds | 32 minutes, 57 seconds |

Many factors affect download speeds such as Internet traffic at individual sites being accessed. Actual speeds may vary and are not guaranteed.



3G and beyond is here for Nora Springs and Osage

You've no doubt heard the latest technological buzzword, '3G'. But what is it? It's simple, really. **3G** stands for Third Generation. It's one of the latest forms of wireless technology that basically combines your mobile phone, the Internet and video all into one.

Up until **3G**, 2.5G offered phone calls, fax, text, voice mail, sending and receiving large email messages, web browsing and navigation/maps. Now with **3G**, you get these *plus* global roaming, high-speed Internet, videoconferencing and video streaming.

It's a valuable tool for today's on-the-go workforce. An emergency responder can videoconference with doctors at a hospital, accountants can carry out audits from their client's premises, and a farmer can talk face to face with a banker from the combine.

Nora Springs and Osage are the first markets of this size to which **i wireless** is offering **3G** coverage. Other **i wireless 3G** markets are Quad Cities, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Waterloo, as well as in areas where T-Mobile provides **3G** service.

Currently, T-Mobile **3G** coverage is available to more than 206 million people in the U.S.

Our Bundles just got Better

With bundles that will meet your needs and save you money! Choosing an **OmniTel** Bundle is simple. Call us at 749-2531 or 1-877-OmniTel, and we'll help you figure out which bundle is right for you and your family.

OmniTelNetTv15x \$12595*
(saving over \$676/yr)

TNT15x includes:
Local Voice Service
100 Minutes of Nationwide Long Distance
Telephone Calling Features:
Caller ID, Call Waiting
3-Way Calling, Call Forwarding
Call Waiting/Caller ID

High-speed Internet (15MB)
OmniTelevision + (145+ channels)
One Premium Movie Package
FREE Data Storage



* Must sign up by June 30, 2011 to have your name put in the drawing for a new iPad. Only those signing up for OmniTelNetTv15x, OmniTelNetTv15 or OmniTelNetTv10 are eligible for the drawing. All bundles require a two-year agreement. For more details call customer service at 749.2531 or 1-877-OmniTel

OmniTelNetTv15 \$11695*
(saving over \$550/yr)

TNT15 includes:
Local Voice Service
100 Minutes of Nationwide Long Distance
Telephone Calling Features:
Caller ID, Call Waiting
3-Way Calling, Call Forwarding
Call Waiting/Caller ID

High-speed Internet (15MB)
OmniTelevision + (145+ channels)

OmniTelNetTv10 \$10595*
(saving over \$442/yr)

TNT10 includes:
Local Voice Service
100 Minutes of Nationwide Long Distance
Telephone Calling Features:
Caller ID, Call Waiting
3-Way Calling, Call Forwarding
Call Waiting/Caller ID

High-speed Internet (10MB)
OmniTelevision + (145+ channels)

OmniTel's Security Corner

"This time of year is typically the busiest time for the personal emergency response industry," says Scott Ennis,

OmniTel's Residential Systems Technician. "Families have



finished gathering for the holidays and noticed that Mom, Dad, Grandparents or maybe Aunt Mildred aren't doing as well as the previous year. By late February, they're looking for some home care solutions."

If you find yourself or someone you love in a situation where you question if living at home independently is safe, consider **OmniTel's Personal Emergency Response System. OmniTel's PERS** gives you peace of mind knowing that with the touch of a button you or your loved one can be connected to a trained professional, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Compare and save with **OmniTel's PERS**. Our \$19.95/month includes 24-hour monitoring and the equipment lease with a one-time delivery, set up, installation and training charge of \$75.00. **Sign up for OmniTel's PERS, by March 31 and get two months FREE!**

OmniTelNetTv5 \$9195*
(saving over \$370/yr)

TNT5 includes:
Local Voice Service
100 Minutes of Nationwide Long Distance
Telephone Calling Features:
Caller ID, Call Waiting
3-Way Calling, Call Forwarding
Call Waiting/Caller ID

High-speed Internet (5MB)
OmniTelevision (65+ channels)

OmniTelNet5 \$5895*
(saving over \$268/yr)

Net5 includes:
Local Voice Service
100 Minutes of Nationwide Long Distance
Telephone Calling Features:
Caller ID, Call Waiting
3-Way Calling, Call Forwarding
Call Waiting/Caller ID

High-speed Internet (5MB)



Join **OmniTel's** Facebook
Community and join the fun!



Reader'sContest

**Enter to win
FREE gas!**

Complete the sentences below correctly and we will enter your name in a drawing to win FREE gas (\$50 in ethanol certificates). Each sentence can be found in this newsletter. Two winners will be selected. Entries must be received by Wednesday, March 23, at 5 p.m. in our Nora Springs office. Mail your answers to **OmniTel** Communications, 608 East Congress, P.O. Box 518, Nora Springs, IA 50458. Or play online at www.omnitel.biz. Please print legibly. *Good luck!*

Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

1. If you are an **OmniTel** Internet customer, please contact _____ at 1-877-666-4932 for help in converting your email address to **myomnitel.com** or go online to <http://esupport.myomnitel.com> and select **Setup your email program**.
2. Now with **3G**, you get these *plus* global roaming, _____ - _____ Internet, videoconferencing and video streaming.
3. Still, whether you need 5 MB or 15 MB, isn't really determined by how many of these activities you will be doing, but rather how many devices in your household will be sharing this _____ at the same time.

*Entries must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2011.
OmniTel reserves the right to publish the names of the winners.*