



CONNECTIONS

A bi-monthly publication for the valued customers of OmniTel Communications

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Beautiful
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will be **SO EXCITED**
about **i wireless**
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Protect your **computer** from viruses
and unwanted intruders.

Learn how on page 8!

One Call, One Stop, One Shop!

OmniTel Communications is a leader among Iowa's premier telecommunications companies, providing a single point of contact for all our customers' telecommunications needs. OmniTel is committed to offering the most advanced products and services, providing our customers with the best customer care, product knowledge, technology and repair. OmniTel is always striving to exceed our customers' expectations.

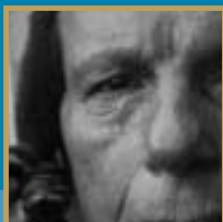
OmniTel Communications
608 E. Congress
Nora Springs, IA 50458

Business Office
749-2531

Out of Local Calling Area
1-877-OMNITEL
After Hours Repair
1-800-417-8685
Tech Support
1-877-666-4932

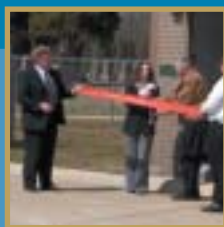
 **OmniTel**
COMMUNICATIONS
Telephone • Cable TV • Internet • Cellular

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OmniTel's new **FLAT RATE** packages

Our Best Value!

**Phone + Digital Cable TV +
High Speed Internet**

*Save hundreds every year
off our standard rates!*

INCLUDES:

- ▶▶ Local phone service
- ▶▶ 30 minutes of nationwide long distance
- ▶▶ Caller ID, Call Waiting, 3-way Calling,
Call Forwarding & Caller ID Call Waiting
- ▶▶ High Speed Internet
- ▶▶ Digital Cable TV (over 175 channels!)
- ▶▶ Your Choice of One Premium Movie Package

Long distance is just 10¢ per minute after your 30
FREE minutes with no extra charges or fees!

Other packages are also available. Call for rates and information or check out our web site at www.omnitel.biz.

OmniTel/Communications to partner with



Keep Iowa Beautiful is a privately funded non-profit charitable organization established in 2001. Co-chairs of the 12-member Board of Directors are former Governor Robert D. Ray and Casey's Chairman Donald F. Lamberti. KIB has 23 affiliates/partners in Iowa working together for a more beautiful and litter-free Iowa. KIB is the 22nd state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, which has over 525 local affiliates.

The focus of Keep Iowa Beautiful is based on the "Broken Window" concept. When a building is left vacant and one of the windows is broken, it must be repaired rather quickly or it sends a message to the public that the rest of the windows are free to break, thus starts the downhill decline of the building and the community. The symbol of a lack of social order can be the "broken window", it can be litter on the street, property that is unkempt, fences in disrepair, debris in a vacant lot or unpainted facilities.

The KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL mission is: Engaging Iowans to take greater responsibility for improving their community environment and enhancing the beauty of their state through litter prevention, reduction and beautification programs. The proliferation and accumulation of litter discarded throughout the state constitutes a public nuisance, is a burden on taxpayers and damages the economy of the state by making it less attractive to tourists, residents and newcomers. The cultural health and economic vitality of a community are dependent on the image that the community presents to both its residents and visitors. A clean and attractive community stimulates a sense of pride in the

citizens and creates a pleasing image in the minds of visitors – one that says that its citizens care for the community.

Keep Iowa Beautiful is an educational and public awareness effort focused on changing behavior patterns in

the younger generation and reinforcing values in the older generation—it is not simply a beautification program. It is focused on instilling and reinforcing "pride".

OmniTel/Communications is reviewing many plans to further the KIB program in our area. If you have any ideas, please contact Kayla Byers, 749-2531.

For a minimum contribution of \$35 you can become an annual supporter of KIB. Your contribution is tax deductible and will help build healthy and vital communities in Iowa.

For more information on Keep Iowa Beautiful, including volunteer opportunities; research, education, public awareness and beautification initiatives; and efforts towards keeping Iowa litter-free--visit the organization's website at www.keeptowabeautiful.com or contact Gerald F. Schnepf at 515-323-6507.

Keep America Beautiful has been working for over 50 years to improve the beauty of our nation. The symbol of the organization is the "tearful Indian" – Iron Eyes Cody, one of the strongest and most powerful recognized public service announcements in American history.



Why we are so excited about i wireless

(Announcement)

Our partnership with i wireless, allows OmniTel Communications to offer the first GSM technology in our area. GSM (Globe System for Mobile communications) technology is the world wide digital standard.

What's a Smart Card?

The Smart Card (or SIM card) is the "brain" of the i wireless digital personal communications service (PCS) phone. It is a plastic card that comes with the i wireless phone, featuring an



What's GSM

GSM's proven feature-rich, dominant digital technology and use of "Smart Card" (SIM cards) provides customers with integrated voice, high speed data, fax, paging and short message capabilities. With full digitally encrypted wireless communications, voice and data calls are kept private and confidential.



State Representative Mark Kuhn, OmniTel Sales Manager Ronnie Pitzen and State Senator Amanda Ragan at the i wireless ribbon cutting.

MEGAtalk

TALK ALL YOU WANT. ALL THE TIME.

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Why YOU will be too!

embedded computer microchip, which can easily be inserted or transferred into other i wireless phones, retaining customers' phonebook and personalized service information.

What is MEGAtalk?

Our pre-paid MEGAtalk plans are unique to any other cellular provider. MEGAtalk is an unlimited minutes program available throughout the entire i wireless coverage area that offers calling to the 319, 309, 563, 515, 641 and portions of the 815 area code. There is unlimited local calling, 24/7. With MEGAtalk, the customer pays for days, and not minutes. This requires no contract or credit check.

Want to know more?

Contact any of our 5 locations.

Five Dealer Locations:

- Nora Springs: Omni Tel Communications office
- Cresco: CPU (Computer Professionals Unlimited)
- Greene: Dralle's Department store
- Charles City: Sisson & Associates, Inc.
- St. Ansgar: St. Ansgar Electric & Refrigeration



OmniTel CEO Ronald Laudner, Product Manager Kayla Byers, Board President Bob Lindsay and Plant Manger Bill Knoop.



How-tooooo!

Helpful tips from the OmniTel Owl to help you learn more about your telecommunications services

How to quickly program up to 8 telephone numbers – local or long distance- into your speed calling list. Then, you can reach those people by dialing just one digit. Great for kids to call you at work or the elderly to reach children or emergency services with just one number!

Speed Calling

How to program your Speed Calling list:

1. **Lift the handset** and listen for the dial tone.
2. **Press *74.**
3. **Listen for the dial tone.**
4. **Dial a one-digit speed code.** (Choose any number, 2 through 9.)
5. **Dial the telephone number** you wish to assign to that speed code (For long distance calls, be sure to include "1" plus the area code.)
6. **Press the # key.**
7. **Listen for the confirmation tone.**

How to call someone on your Speed Calling list:

1. **Lift the handset** and listen for the dial tone.
2. **Dial the one-digit speed code**, then the # key.

How to change your Speed Calling list:

1. **Lift the handset** and listen for the dial tone.
2. **Press *74.**
3. **Listen for the dial tone.**
4. **Dial the one-digit code** you wish to change.
5. **Listen for the cancellation tone**, then the dial tone. Follow steps 4-7 above.

These instructions can also be found on page 24 of your current OmniTel Communications phone book.

OmniTe/Communications wishes

all our customers a
HAPPY Mother's
day

and to prove it - we are offering

10 MINUTES of
free long
distance

To all customers who have our
OMNITEL LONG DISTANCE service.*
so CALL YOUR MOTHER
for FREE on Mother's Day, May 8th!



*Does not apply to any other Long Distance carrier, only those who have OmniTel Communications Long Distance.

Meet our new i wireless dealers

Jeff Dralle of Dralle's Department Store in Greene and Steve Huebsch of St. Ansgar Electric are two of our new i wireless dealers. We recently caught up with Jeff and Steve to find out how services from OmniTel Communications has enhanced their businesses.

1. Please describe your business and how long you have been in the area.

Dralle's Department Store

In the old days we were a General Store. Today, we are a specialty department store featuring solid floor covering and furniture departments. We also stock a complete men's clothing line from work to dress. We continue to do a strong gift business with many name brands. On our balcony we offer a variety of popular fabrics and patterns for quilters and crafters. Our store has been in the same location since 1896--109 years.



St. Ansgar Electric

We are an electrical and refrigeration contractor. We do residential, farm and commercial electrical. We also do commercial refrigeration. Steve Huebsch is the owner and has been in business since 1993.

2. What OmniTel services do you use in your business?

Telephone, High Speed Internet and Cable TV.

Two phone lines with Caller ID, rollover and High Speed Internet.

3. How has technology enhanced your business? Five years ago would your business have been able to function as it does today?

The computer has been the best technological change, from bookkeeping to ordering. Faxes and email have enhanced customer service. Our 256K High Speed Internet plays an important role in saving time.

Five years ago we had two phone lines with one for incoming calls the other for fax and dial-up Internet, so there were times when customers got a busy signal. Now that doesn't happen anymore.

Internet makes running the business much easier. Being able to get online to order inventory or look up the description of an item is great, it also helps doing state and federal quarterlies online and makes office work easier and more efficient.

4. When you talk with others in your field who live in larger cities, how do OmniTel's services compare with the services available to them?

OmniTel offers very comparable services. I think OmniTel is very "customer service" friendly and makes every effort to resolve problems immediately.

I think we have better service and comparable prices, but we also have sales reps and service techs who care about their company and their customers (us).

5. We are excited to have you as an i wireless dealer. How do you feel about this new opportunity?

I'm a third generation Dralle in our family business and I bet G'Pa Henry would be amazed at our product mix today. Being an i wireless dealer will allow our firm to offer another quality product supported by a supplier we can count on to value customer service as we do. I'm excited to partner with OmniTel and i wireless to bring this product and service to our area.

We are very excited to be part of a new and growing service to our area. We have needed a new wireless service in our area for sometime. Before, people only had a couple of choices to compare. What we have to offer is worth checking out. We have some great plans and coverage is only going to get better.

OmniTel is excited to announce that, in addition to i wireless service, our customers can also sign up for ALL OmniTel services including phone, cable TV, long distance and Internet service at either Dralle's or St. Ansgar Electric.

So next time you stop by either Dralle's or St. Ansgar Electric, check out our new i wireless plans and ask about OmniTel's new flat rate packages to see how much money you can save each month!

We covered a lot of material in the last portion so we will try to take it easy this time. Spyware is a general term for a program that surreptitiously monitors your actions. While they are sometimes sinister, like a remote control program used by a hacker, software companies have been known to use spyware to gather data about customers. The practice is generally frowned upon. Some other names for similar programs are malware, adware, and some even call it scumware. There are lots of programs to get rid of. The best place that I have found to get them is <http://www.download.com>. The two that I and others have had the best luck with are SpyBot search and destroy and adaware. The combination of the two get

That brings us to our final topic of software. When you download a free program out there on the net, there is a chance (not 100% of the time) that it is not "alone". It may install other programs as well. At one time weatherbug was considered spyware. It is not spyware but once may have been. The point is that you may download a program run it once and say "That wasn't what I wanted" and not uninstall but never run it again. If you don't use it, get rid of it in add and remove programs. This also goes to say if you don't know what it is, and you remove it, you could break something; so be careful. This practice is a matter of good housekeeping on your computer. Keep it as neat as you can. Another thing to consider is the software that you

Getting the most out of your computer

by Ben Neuman

most anything out there. It seems that these days Microsoft is waking up to this problem and has a beta program (not ready for the general public) also available. I am currently testing this and have had no problems to date, but have heard others that have, so only time (and the final release of the program) will tell.

Getting rid of malware helps a computer quite a bit. Your computer has a limited amount of resources. It can only go so fast, and it can only do so much at once. Each piece of malware asks your computer to do just this little something. If enough of those programs are running, it can seriously slow down a computer. I have personally seen computers that were running hundreds of little programs.

install in the first place. **There is a site dedicated to the very cause of not installing software that may have malware included. I would recommend checking it out frequently for new updates at www.cleansoftware.org.**

So that is about it. We have covered a lot about the care and feeding of your computer(s). I hope that you find this information useful.

Happy (and safe) Surfing!

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