

In Touch

SPRING 2016



Put More Zing in Your Spring

Happy start of the spring season from Albany Mutual Telephone. We're all looking forward to longer days, warmer temperatures, and greener landscapes. When spring fever hits, you may be inspired to pick up the pace with your outdoor activities. Perhaps there's a 5K race in your future?

Speaking of picking up the pace, don't forget about your Internet connection. Call 320.845.2101 to ask about upgrading to a faster Internet plan that's more in step with today's applications.

Contact

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Phone: 320.845.2101

Office Hours

M– F: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Email

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Visit Albany Mutual

Telephone Online

www.albanytel.com



Technology. All the Way Home.

BIGGER IS BETTER

WITH INTERNET SPEEDS, TOO

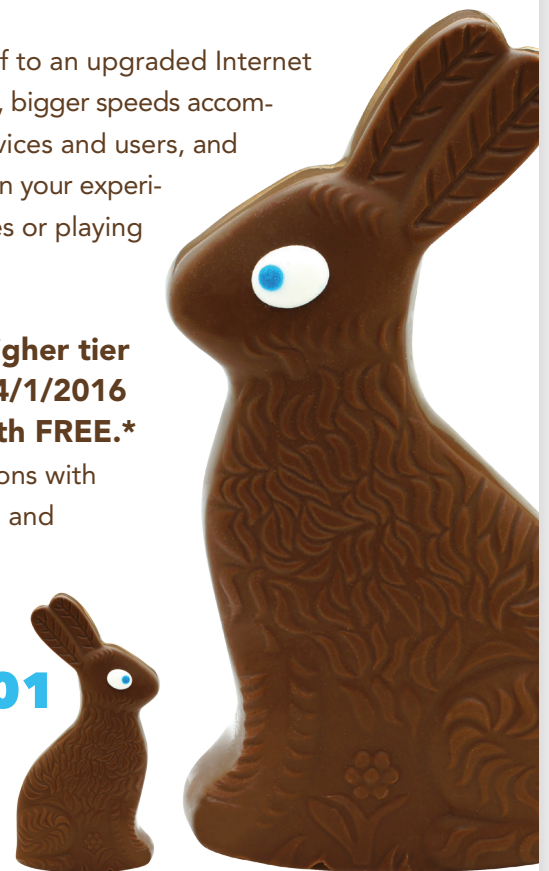
Go ahead and treat yourself to an upgraded Internet plan for your home. After all, bigger speeds accommodate a big number of devices and users, and provide a big improvement in your experience when streaming movies or playing online games.

Upgrade to the next higher tier of Internet speeds by 4/1/2016 and get your first month FREE.*

We offer lots of speed options with plans up to 1 GB download and 100 Mbps upload.

**Call
320.845.2101
now.**

MENTION PROMO CODE
BUNNYAD WHEN YOU CALL.



**Service availability and Internet speeds will depend on location. Offer good with one-year agreement. Contact us for details.*

Spring Equinox May Affect Your TV Picture

If your TV picture momentarily turns snowy or blurry on March 20, the date of the spring equinox, it's probably from a sun outage. This is a natural phenomenon which occurs twice a year (in the spring and fall), when the sun appears to pass directly behind the satellite, as seen from the receive antenna.

During these brief "eclipse" periods — when the receive antenna on the earth, the satellite, and the sun are in direct alignment—the sun's focused "noise" energy overwhelms the video signal from the satellite. Reception becomes degraded and eventually impossible for a brief period of time, usually less than 15 minutes. All communications providers using satellites experience this effect.

There is nothing that can be done from a technical standpoint to prevent the sun outage effects. Fortunately, however, sun outages are a short-term problem and end when the equinox is over.



Best Internet Speed Depends on Devices, Uses, and Expectations

“How much Internet speed do I need?” Albany Mutual Telephone hears this question a lot from customers, and there's no single right answer. For some customers, a download speed of up to 5 Mbps may work fine. Other households may need a download speed of up to 40 Mbps or more to keep everybody in the family happy.

To select the best Internet speed for your household, it's important to consider these factors:

How many devices do you have in your home?

Take a look around and add up all the Internet-connected devices you own including computers, tablets, smartphones, smart TVs, Blu-ray disc players, video game consoles, and streaming media set-top boxes. The NPD Group surveyed more than 4,000 consumers and the average number of devices per U.S. household with Internet service is now 5.7, and that number is expected to keep rising. The more devices you have, the more speed you need.

How do you use the Internet?

If you only have a desktop computer that's used to check email and surf the net, then a relatively slow Internet connection may suffice. However, if you have a family of people simultaneously using your Internet connection for data-intensive activities—such as streaming HD video and music, online gaming, sharing photos and videos online, video chat, and cloud storage—then you're only going to be happy with an upper-level speed.

What are your performance expectations?

If you only occasionally watch videos online, you may be willing to tolerate slow load times and buffering. But if streaming HD movies is a cherished part of your routine, you'll be frustrated by slow speeds and the annoying lag that comes with them. Make sure the Internet speed you choose is in line with the value you place on Internet performance quality.

To learn more about the range of Internet speeds we offer, call us today at 320.845.2101.

