



## Two basic services, one affordable package. Introducing the Essential Pack!

The Essential Pack from Huxley Communications provides you with the most vital telecommunications services including a residential landline and basic high speed Internet. We understand that in tough economic times, many people look for ways to reduce monthly expenses, but we don't want you to go without critical services like home phone service and Internet. With the Essential Pack, you can stay connected with your network of friends and family without breaking your budget. With landline phone service you can be confident your family will always be able to call 911 if there is ever an emergency. Also a landline can help you save on cell phone expenses. Use your home phone more for quick calls to relatives or friends across town, and save anytime minutes for when you really need them. And remember there is never a charge for incoming minutes to your home phone!

### The Essential Pack Includes:

- Residential Phone Service
- Unlimited local calling
- Unlimited incoming calls
- Reliable access to 911 service
- High Speed Internet Basic (512K)
- SecureIT Plus

**ONLY \$35.00 PER MONTH\***

*\*Monthly fee does not include taxes or regulatory fees.  
Customer will receive standard modem or Internet service.*



## HUXLEY HAPPENINGS

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### May 12

Classes held at Huxley office

- Internet Training Class - Internet Fraud, 6 P.M.
- A Parent's Guide to the Internet & Child Safety, 7 P.M.

### June 12-13

Cambridge Jubilee Days Celebration

### July 18

Elkhart Fire Department Hog & Lamb Roast

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### Huxley Communications

P.O. Box 36 • Huxley, IA 50124  
515-597-2281 or 800-231-4922  
www.huxcomm.net  
huxtel@huxcomm.net

### Free Internet Tech Support

597-HELP (4357) • Available 24/7

### Report an Outage

515-597-2281

### Call Before You Dig

Iowa One Call • 800-292-8989

### Bill Hotchkiss

*General Manager*

### Gary Clark

*Chief Financial Officer*

### Connie Patrick

*Customer Care Supervisor*

### Terry Ferguson

*Director of Operations*

### Brant Strumpfer

*Plant Manager*

# SPRING 2009

## Annual Meeting 2009

“We don’t hide behind fine print” was the prevailing message delivered by board of directors president Scott DeTar at this year’s annual meeting. On Saturday March 21, over 150 members, employees, and board members attended the annual meeting which was held at the Ballard High School Auditorium in Huxley. Scott along with Bill Hotchkiss, general manager, delivered their yearly reports detailing some of the most critical and promising issues facing the cooperative. Scott focused mostly on the competitive advantage that Huxley Communications has over other area telecommunications and cable providers including how our competitors frequently use misleading advertising and fine print

when selling similar services. One of the key moments of the morning’s presentation was when Bill publicly announced his upcoming retirement after 35 years with the cooperative, where he served 29 years as the General Manager. He plans to retire, as general manager, at the end of 2009. Gary Clark, CFO of Huxley Communications, also presented the consolidated financial statements and three board members were elected. The elected board members are Greg Dunlap of Cambridge, Kenny Kling of Kelley, and Steven Kovarik of Cambridge.

Prize winners were Charles Jones, Playstation 3; Bill Frederick, iPod; Betty Buland, digital camera; and Leo Richardson, Tom-Tom GPS.



*Bill Hotchkiss announces his upcoming retirement.*



*Playstation 3 winner Charles Jones.*

## Keep Your Wireless Network Secure

Installing a wireless router at your home is getting easier, even for technophobes. But it’s important to remember that securing your wireless network is a critical step.

Hackers can easily obtain software that will allow them to use your network without your knowledge, just by being in close proximity to your location. This may not seem like a serious problem, but it can be. Unauthorized users can potentially use your

system for illegal activity, which would ultimately be traced back to you as the owner of the network. Or your own personal information could be used for identity theft purposes.

### **Here are a few tips for making your wireless network more secure:**

1. Wireless routers today are typically shipped with some form of network security. However, by default, these security mecha-

nisms are not activated. Refer to your router’s instruction manual to learn how to enable these protective systems.

2. Put the network’s router or access points in the center of your home. Typical wireless networks transmit radio signals about 300 feet. Keeping these devices away from windows limits the opportunity for bandwidth theft.

3. Change your login and username as soon as the network is up and running. Hackers often try well-known default logins and usernames to attempt access to wireless networks. Make your password stronger by using a letter and number combination that can’t be easily guessed.

For details on added security, such as WPA (Wi-Fi Protected Access) encryption, talk to your electronics retailer. If you received the wireless router from Huxley Communications, contact us to get specific instructions on how to secure your wireless network.





## How to Weigh Websites

Who's in charge of evaluating Internet content? You are. Since you can't automatically trust everything you see online, websites should be viewed with some skepticism until you have judged their credibility, accuracy, and timeliness. Here are some basic tips:

### 1. Evaluate the URL (website address).

Is the site associated with a known company or institution? Or is it a personal site? In addition, you can check the letters after the last period in the URL to see if the site originates from an educational institution (.edu), government (.gov), or foreign country (.au for Australia).

### 2. Does it start with http or https?

Whenever you're asked to enter personal or financial information on a site, make sure that the URL starts with "https://"—this stands for HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure. The word "secure" refers to the fact that a secure socket layer (SSL) is used for security purposes when transferring data.

### 3. Find out more about the source.

Read the webpages titled "About Us," "Background," or "Philosophy" to determine any potential biases of the site. Another resource is Alexa.com, which will allow you to review the historical details of a site. Alexa.com shows the owner, how often the site is visited, a list of other sites that link to it, and a visual history of webpages.

### 4. Look for indicators of quality information.

Are the facts documented with authors, footnotes, or links to original sources? When was the information last updated? Are there links to sites that you know are reputable?

In addition to websites, e-mails can also require some "detective work" on your part. When you receive one containing a story or offer that seems questionable, you can check out its credibility on **Snopes.com**. This site tells the truth about widely circulated e-mails.

## Group E-mail Etiquette

If you frequently need to send the same e-mail message to many people (such as friends, family, or club members), it saves time to use the e-mail group function. But sending e-mails to groups requires additional care and caution. Consider these etiquette pointers before sending a group message:

- Add the name of the group to the blind carbon copy (BCC:) field of the e-mail message. This will ensure that e-mail addresses remain private, an important way to protect your recipients' e-mail addresses from falling into the hands of spammers. You'll need to add your e-mail address to the "TO:" field to send the message.
- Create a descriptive subject line to help recipients review and sort their e-mails. Instead of "Girl Scouts" use "Reminder: Girl Scout Meeting on Nov 10."
- Avoid overloading community or work groups with humorous or political messages. Instead, create a separate group containing the e-mail addresses of those you know enjoy receiving such e-mails.



## DVR Service Puts You in Control

You don't have to be a slave to the TV schedule anymore. DVR (Digital Video Recorder) service from Huxley Communications lets you watch what you want, when you want. With DVR service, you can keep up with all of your activities and still not miss your favorite shows. It makes it quick and easy to automatically record any show that airs on Huxley Communications' cable service. Then whenever it's a good time to watch, these programs will be waiting for you to enjoy. Record one episode or an entire season—it's up to you.

### DVR service also enables you to:

- Pause, rewind, and slow-motion instant replay the action during live telecasts such as

sporting events.

- Watch one show while recording another. For example, you can watch the big game as it happens while recording the season finale of a TV drama to watch later.

- Pause live TV to answer the phone or go to the door to get the pizza you ordered.

- Save time by fast-forwarding through recorded programming that doesn't interest you.

Make TV viewing much more fun and more convenient. Add DVR service to your Huxley Communications' cable subscription for a nominal monthly rate. For complete details, call Huxley Communications at 515-597-2281 or visit [www.huxcomm.net](http://www.huxcomm.net)

## What about the 2009 DTV conversion?

As of June 12, 2009, full-power analog broadcasting will have ended and analog-only televisions may be unable to display full-power broadcast programming unless the viewer takes action.

The change only affects customers previously using over-the-air signals to watch TV. If you're getting your TV signal through rabbit-ears or outdoor antennas, and if you have an older, analog TV, you may need to purchase a converter box to receive over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before with cable and satellite services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players and similar products.

The easiest fix will be to sign up for cable TV service. Huxley Communications offers a variety of quality cable TV packages to suit your viewing preferences and budget.

Otherwise, you can purchase a digital-to-analog converter box using a government coupon worth \$40 toward that purchase. These boxes will be available at participating retailers while supplies last.

For more details, visit [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov) and [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov).

## Keeping Electronics Clean

With so many electronics throughout our homes—from TVs to phones to computers—one of the most nagging problems some of us experience is just how to keep everything clean. Dust collects quickly, and it's hard to know for sure what cleaning products can or cannot be used. Here are a few guidelines:

### TVs and Computer Monitors

You can use a static duster or a soft, dry cloth (like an electrostatic cloth or a small bath towel) to clean most TVs. Electronics spray or plain water can be used as well, but don't put these directly onto the TV. Instead, dampen your rag slightly with the cleaner, then wipe down the TV. The same process can be used for LCD computer monitors. Do not use paper towels, as they can scratch the screen.

### Computer Hardware

To wipe down your computer itself, use a clean, soft, dry cloth. Focus on keeping fan vents clean, as the fans help prevent overheating due to dust build-up. Compressed air can help get dust out of small crevices as well.

### DVD Players

A dry cloth is best for the outside of your DVD player. To clean the inside, get a DVD disc cleaning kit from your local electronics shop.

### Cell Phones & MP3 Players

Again, a soft, dry cloth is the best place to start. Headphones and cords may need to be cleaned periodically as well. If screens become scratched, a scratch repair kit can help.

And remember—whatever electronics you own, it's always a good idea to refer to your owner's manual for specific instructions related to your particular model.

