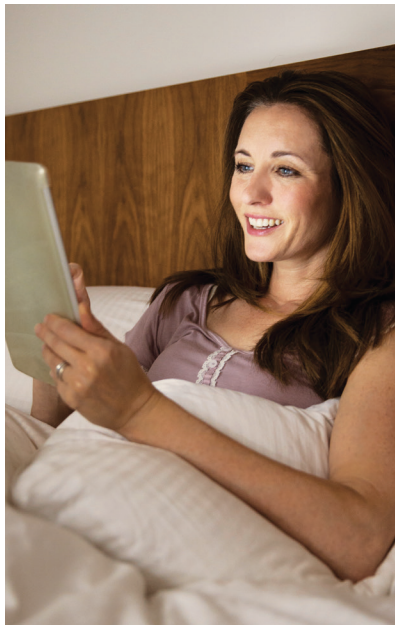


10 Reasons Why Streaming Services are So Popular

Streaming services — such as Hulu, Netflix, and YouTube TV — offer many advantages compared to traditional TV plans like satellite or cable. They include:

- 1. Cost Savings** – Subscribing to a few streaming services usually ends up costing much less than paying for satellite or cable TV.
- 2. Bigger Variety of Content** – Streaming services maintain huge libraries of TV shows and movies from which to choose.
- 3. More Original Content** – Some streaming services pride themselves on their award-winning original content that's not available with any other streaming service or on network TV.
- 4. Less Mindless TV Viewing** – Instead of turning on the TV to watch whatever is on or engage in aimless channel surfing, users of streaming services tend to turn it on to intentionally watch a specific show or movie.
- 5. Lack of Weather Issues** – If you now have satellite TV and struggle with spotty service during high winds or heavy rains, you'll appreciate the fact that streaming services won't have those issues.
- 6. Added Convenience** – You can watch your programs on any device, whenever and wherever you want.
- 7. Scalability** – Many streaming services allow you to choose the features and functions you want.
- 8. Personalized Recommendations** – You can get viewing ideas based on your profile and interests.
- 9. Ad-Free Entertainment** – With traditional television, a good third of the viewing time tends to be consumed by ads.
- 10. Simplified Binge-Watching** – You can easily binge-watch an entire season of a series, pausing an episode whenever you want and returning at a later time.

An essential companion to streaming services is a fast and reliable internet connection. Huxley Communications offers internet plans with download speeds up to 1Gbps. For details on availability and pricing, call 515-597-2281.



HUXLEY HAPPENINGS



Monday, May 27
Memorial Day-Office Closed

Thursday, July 4
Independence Day-Office Closed

CONTACT INFORMATION

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
515-597-HELP (4357) • Available 24/7

Report an Outage
515-597-2281

Call Before You Dig
Iowa One Call • 800-292-8989

Gary Clark
General Manager

Connie Patrick
Business Office Manager

Terry Ferguson
Director of Operations

Brant Strumpfer
Plant Manager

SPRING 2019

Annual Meeting Recap

Our Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, March 28 at the Ballard Middle School Auditorium. The ongoing renovation at the middle school did not deter nearly 100 members, board members, and employees from attending. They heard exciting updates on Huxley Communications from both Board President Scott DeTar and General Manager Gary Clark. An election was held and Todd Petersen was re-elected to the board of directors for a four-year term.

Gary presented the financial statements, which showed positive net margins for 2018. Nearly 85 percent of those net margins have been disbursed to members as allocation checks — certainly the highlight of the evening.

It was also announced that General Manager Gary Clark will be retiring at the end of 2019.

We thank all the members who were in attendance. It is the pleasure of our employees and board of directors to continue to serve our member-customers!

Reminder: 2018 allocation checks can be picked up at the Huxley Communications office through July 1, 2019. A photo ID may be required to receive your check.



Pictured are several members who were among the first to receive their 2018 allocation checks.

Understanding the TV Requirements for Streaming

All TVs are not created equal. In addition to screen size, picture quality, and sound quality, you also need to consider a TV's streaming capabilities. To help you navigate today's TV landscape, we've gathered some common questions and their answers.

What is a smart TV?

A smart TV is one that incorporates an operating system/platform that allows you to access, manage, and view online and network-based media content without the need to connect to an additional box (such as a Roku or Firestick).

How do smart TVs work?

Smart TVs access online content by connecting to the same broadband router and Ethernet or Wi-Fi network that you use to connect your computer to the internet.



Do I need a smart TV to use a streaming media player?

No. A smart TV is one that can connect to the internet directly to access content from it. Since that's what a streaming media player does, you could say it turns a regular TV into a smart TV.

Can I use a streaming media player with an older TV?

Whether a TV can work with a streaming media player depends on what kind of connection ports it has. If it has an HDMI port, then it will work with most players. If it doesn't have an HDMI port but it has RCA ports (red/white/yellow), then you can get a Roku Express+, which includes composite audio and video connectors (and cable) found on most older televisions as well as an HDMI connection.

What are the general "rules of thumb" for TVs and streaming?

- If you're buying a new TV and don't have any other devices that provide access to internet streaming content, get a smart TV.
- If you already have a smart TV that doesn't provide access to the number or type of streaming channels you would like, consider adding an external media streamer, streaming stick, or internet-enabled Blu-ray disc player rather than buying a new smart TV.
- If you already own a TV without smart features but are satisfied with its picture quality and other features, you don't need to buy a smart TV. Just add a media streamer, streaming stick, or internet-enabled Blu-ray disc player to your current setup.

You may want to upgrade to a faster internet plan to better accommodate streaming. Check out our internet speeds at www.huxcomm.net.



5G Won't Replace Wired Internet Networks Anytime Soon

You may have heard the term 5G mentioned by cellular companies and wondered, “What is 5G?” It’s the fifth generation in cellular networks. The first generation began in the 1990s when cellular networks were being established. The second generation came with the first text messages. The third generation was marked by the first phones that could browse the internet. The current fourth generation features faster, more reliable cellular networks and phones that can stream content like Netflix. The upcoming fifth generation is the latest iteration of cellular technology, engineered to increase the speed and responsiveness of cellular networks.

Despite the steps forward 5G will offer once it's fully implemented, wired internet networks (such as Huxley Communications' fiber network) are expected to remain the preferred technology for many internet users due to strong advantages including these:

Broader Device Compatibility – There are billions of devices in use today — including PCs, tablets, TVs, printers, sound systems, and smart home devices — with a built-in preference for Wi-Fi internet delivered via a fiber or coaxial cable network.

No Data Caps – With cellular networks of any generation, subscription and service models are the only option and often include data caps. For this reason, heavy data users are better off with the cap-free structure of a wired internet plan.

Better Security – Wired internet tends to be more secure since data transmitted through wire is more difficult for someone to hack than data that’s essentially floating around in the air on a cellular network.

Currently Available – Fast and reliable wired internet service is available now from Huxley Communications, while it may be years before 5G goes mainstream. One reason is that 5G will require the building of many cell towers, since the higher frequencies expected to be used by 5G do not travel as far as the lower frequencies in use today.

To learn more about the fast and reliable internet service offered by Huxley Communications' fiber network, visit www.huxcomm.net or call 515-597-2281.

Buying Local is a Win-Win Decision

Huxley Communications thanks you for supporting us as the local provider and encourages you to buy local whenever possible. According to the American Independent Business Alliance, every dollar spent at independent businesses returns three times more money to the community than a dollar spent at a national chain store.

Reduce the Risk of Email Hacking

Are you still using your original or default password on your huxcomm.net email account? Or are you now using a different email account and seldom checking your huxcomm.net email? If you answered “yes” to either of these questions, your email account with us could be in danger of being hacked.

Weak and common passwords are easy for hackers to guess, and this opens the door to reading your email, spoofing your information, and gaining access to your other online accounts such as banking and credit cards. You need long and strong passwords to protect yourself online. It’s also important not to use the same password for multiple online accounts, because if that password is cracked, your exposure to damage would be increased.

Call us at 515-597-2281 if you have any questions about managing the security of your huxcomm.net email account. Also, if you have a huxcomm.net email account you are not using, please let us know and we will delete the account.



Lifeline Helps Make Phone Service More Affordable

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides a discount on monthly phone service (wireline or wireless) for eligible low-income subscribers. This helps ensure they have a phone to find jobs, access health care services, connect with family and their children's schools, and call for help in an emergency.

The current Lifeline discount is set at \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income subscribers from receiving more than one Lifeline service per household. That is, eligible low-income subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a Lifeline discount on both services at the same time. Additionally, only one Lifeline service may be obtained per household.

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- State assistance programs (if applicable)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

To see if you are eligible, use the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at www.lifelinesupport.org. You can also visit the Huxley Communications office for more information.



Know the 5 Steps in the 811 Process

Any type of digging on your property requires a call to 811 to have underground utility lines marked. This prevents you from unintentionally damaging lines and causing service outages in the neighborhood.

- 1. Notify** your local one-call center by calling 811. The one-call center will transmit information to affected utility operators.
- 2. Wait** 2-3 days for affected utility operators to respond to your request. On average, between 7-8 utility operators are notified for each request.
- 3. Confirm** that all affected utility operators have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the one-call center notified.
- 4. Respect the marks (flags or paint)** provided by the affected utility operators. They're your guide for the duration of your project.
- 5. Dig carefully.** Avoid digging near the marks and remember that some utility lines may be buried at a shallow depth. You may need to move your project to another part of the yard.

Huxley Communications thanks you in advance for your cooperation. To learn more, visit call811.com/before-you-dig.