

General Manager Gary Clark to Retire at End of Year

Gary Clark has provided valuable insight, experience, and general leadership for Huxley Communications over the years, all key to the operation of the cooperative.

He started working for Huxley Communications as the CFO in 1997 after nearly 20 years as an auditor and consultant with Kiesling Associates. Gary became General Manager in 2010 after then longtime manager Bill Hotchkiss retired.

"The team of employees at Huxley Communications has a desire to provide all our customers with the best products and services we have available. I will greatly miss seeing all the employees and customers every day," Gary said.



During his career at Huxley Communications, he had the opportunity to serve on various industry boards and committees and found those experiences very rewarding. He noted, "The experiences I gained by serving on committees within the Iowa Communications Alliance and Iowa Telecommunications Association helped me bring a great deal of insight to the leadership position here. I am happy the Board allowed me these accomplishments."

Dramatic changes have taken place in the industry since Gary first began working in it — from the breakup of the Bell System of companies to the exponential growth of the internet. He said, "No one could have predicted this progression back in the early days of my career."

It has been increasingly difficult to find revenue sources as the industry becomes more and more competitive and deregulated. Gary added, "Through long-term consistent leadership, and an incredible Board of Directors in place, we as a company continue to grow and be successful. As my time with Huxley Communications comes to a close, I am very proud that the Cooperative remains as strong as ever,"

After retirement, Gary looks forward to traveling more and spending additional time with his wife Julie and their three children and four grandchildren. We wish Gary the best of luck on his new adventure!

Please join us for an open house to celebrate Gary's retirement on Friday, December 6 from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. at the Ballard Golf and Country Club in Huxley.

HUXLEY HAPPENINGS



Thursday, December 19

Huxley Communications
Holiday Open House

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve – Office Closed

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day – Office Closed

Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Eve – 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

FALL 2019



We Wish You Joy and Peace This Holiday Season

Happy Holidays from all of us at Huxley Communications. We hope you experience the joy that comes from time with people you love and the peace that comes from gratitude for nature's beauty.

It's been our privilege to help connect you to the world through our communications services. We look forward to the coming year and the new opportunities it will bring.

Annual Cooperative Members BBQ

Huxley Communications hosted its annual cooperative members BBQ on Friday, October 18. Over 500 members and family attended and enjoyed a free meal prepared by Huxley Communications staff and members of the board. It included delicious pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, chips, and cookies. Attendees also stopped by the promotions table to grab some other goodies and visit with customer care staff about their services. It was a fantastic event and our way of thanking members of Huxley Communications Cooperative for their continued patronage in 2019 and beyond.

Here's What Happens in an Internet Minute

It's fascinating to see how much online activity takes place every minute of every day. According to *Social Media Today*, here are the 2019 statistics as compiled by Domo, an operating system company:¹

#LOVE is posted 23,211 times

GIPHY serves up 4,800,000 GIFS

NETFLIX users stream
694,444 hours of video

GRUBHUB receives 8,683 orders

INSTAGRAM users post 277,777 stories

YOUTUBE users watch 4,500,000 videos

TWITTER users send 511,200 tweets

EMAILS totaling 188,000,000 are sent

SKYPE users make 231,840 calls

INSTAGRAM users post 55,140 photos

AMERICANS use 4,416,720 GB
of internet data

AIRBNB books 1,389 reservations

UBER users take 9,772 rides

VENMO processes \$162,037 in
transactions

TINDER users swipe 1,400,000 times

GOOGLE conducts 4,497,420 searches

TEXTS totaling 18,100,000 are sent

APPS are downloaded 390,030 times

TUMBLR users publish 92,340 posts

TWITCH users view 1,000,000 videos

These numbers are sure to increase since the world's internet population is growing significantly year-over-year. As of January 2019, the internet reaches 56.1% of the world's population and now represents 4.39 billion people – a 9% increase from January 2018.

Approximately how much time do you spend each day online? What applications do you use most often? If your home's internet speeds are not providing the experience you'd like, call us at 515-597-2281 to discuss an internet upgrade.

¹ www.socialmediatoday.com/news/what-happens-on-the-internet-every-minute-2019-version-infographic/558793





Great Reasons to Add a Smart Speaker to Your Home

If you haven't yet jumped on the smart speaker bandwagon, you may be wondering what you could do with one. Well, the short answer is this: You can do a lot!

There are many brands of smart speakers on the market, each with a voice assistance platform. Some of the most popular ones are Amazon Echo (Alexa), Google Home (Google Assistant), and Apple HomePod (Siri). Do your research to find the smart speaker that would best meet your needs.

These internet-connected devices will perform a variety of convenient, time-saving functions for you and your family members. All you have to do to speak to your "friend" Alexa (or Google Assistant or Siri) to get things done.

Here are some functions you may find particularly useful:

- 1) **Play music.** You can tell your smart speaker to play your favorite radio station. It can also play music from apps (called "skills") like Pandora or Spotify.
- 2) **Get weather forecast or news updates.** Just ask your speaker to tell you the weather forecast or news headlines, and it will do exactly that.
- 3) **Perform voice searches.** This action is similar to doing a Google search on your computer, only you use your voice and get a voice response back. For example, you could ask how to spell a difficult word or who stars in a particular movie.
- 4) **Get cooking ideas and tips.** No, your smart speaker can't cook for you, but it can be helpful in the kitchen. You can get conversions (How many tablespoons are in a quarter cup?), ask for recipes, and set a timer.
- 5) **Play games.** Some of the skills include fun games like Jeopardy! or Twenty Questions.
- 6) **Operate your smart home.** Connect smart appliances, light bulbs, thermostats, and other items in your home to your smart device, then use your voice to command them.
- 7) **Make phone calls.** Different smart speakers offer their own ways for you to call people and enjoy hands-free conversations.

As your home becomes filled with more devices, you may need more internet speed. Call 515-597-2281 and ask about the internet plans currently available in your area.

Legally Download Movies, Music, and TV Shows

With so many options out there for accessing digital entertainment, it can be confusing to determine what's legal and what's not. However, it's important to be informed so you stay within legal parameters and don't engage in copyright infringement. As a start, review these guidelines:

- **Watch for titles that are "too new to be true."** Movies that have yet to be released in theaters, or which are still out in theaters, are not legally available online.
- **Trust your eyes and ears.** In many cases, the quality of illegal copies is inferior, with poor sound and can appear blurry or shaky.
- **Be cautious when websites make offers that are "too good to be true."** Be wary of "free" content when searching for and purchasing downloads from unfamiliar sites; they typically indicate pirated product. Look out for terms like "Unlimited Movie Downloads," "100% legal," and "Millions of Files Shared."

Stay entertained, but stay informed!



Relay Iowa Helps People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

What is Relay Iowa?

The State of Iowa offers an important public service called Relay Iowa. It serves the thousands of people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech impaired. Relay Iowa is a program of the Iowa Utilities Board and ensures that all citizens have access to convenient, reliable services for communicating by telephone.

How does Relay Iowa work?

Dial 7-1-1 from any phone in Iowa or the appropriate toll-free number at the end of this article to connect to Relay Iowa. Give the Communications Assistant (CA) the area code and number that you are calling from. During the relay call, the CA will voice everything typed by the TTY (TeleTYpewriter) user and type everything said by the telephone user. Calls handled by Relay Iowa are strictly confidential.

What is CapTel?

CapTel is ideal for people with some degree of hearing loss, but who can speak clearly. CapTel works like any other telephone with one important addition: It displays every word the caller says throughout the conversation. CapTel users can listen to the caller and read the captions on the display window built into the CapTel phone.

How do I apply for special equipment?

The Iowa Equipment Distribution Program is called Telecommunication Access Iowa (TAI) and it helps pay for special equipment for residents who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. Qualified individuals can receive a voucher for approximately 95% of the average cost of special telephone equipment. To apply online, go to www.relay-iowa.com/tai/ or call 1-800-606-5099 V/TTY.

Dial 7-1-1 OR

TTY: 1-800-735-2942

Voice: 1-800-735-2943

VCO: 1-800-735-4313

Speech to Speech: 1-877-735-1007

Spanish: 1-800-264-7190



20 Reasons to Have a Home Phone in 2020

When you ring in the New Year, make sure some of the ringing is coming from a home phone! You'll get these benefits:

1. 911 operator knows your address.
2. Better sound quality and clarity.
3. Consistent signal strength.
4. Works during electrical outage.
5. No need to charge battery.
6. Unlimited local calling.
7. Never drops your calls.
8. Can't be hacked.
9. Saves money with a bundle.
10. Provides a directory listing.
11. Offers better security.
12. Serves as cell phone backup.
13. Won't get lost at home.
14. No searching when it rings.
15. Easier for children to use.
16. Keeps you reachable when cell phone silenced.
17. Streamlined dialing.
18. No worries about dead battery.
19. Durable even if dropped.
20. No software upgrades needed.

Call 515-597-2281 to ask about our affordable options for home phone service.