



CONNECTIONS

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MAY YOU FIND JOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Despite the challenges of 2020, OmniTel Communications hopes you're able to end this year on a peaceful note, recognizing and celebrating the blessings in your life. May you strengthen connections with loved ones and help spread hope throughout the community.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and thank you for supporting our company. Here's to better days ahead in 2021!

Nora Springs Location

608 E Congress St.
641-749-2531

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday
7:00 am to 6:00 pm

Rudd Location

510 Chickasaw St.
641-395-2531

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday
7:00 am to 6:00 pm

Truro Location

105 N. West St.
641-765-4201

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday
7:00 am to 6:00 pm

Visit Us Online: www.omnitel.biz

Email: question@omnitel.biz




Make Merry Memories
WITH VIDEO CALLS

When you can't be together in person this holiday season, gather virtually instead. With our high-speed internet, group video calls will go more smoothly and feel more festive. You'll also enjoy merrier online shopping, gaming, learning, streaming, and more.



**SIGN UP FOR NEW
OR UPGRADED INTERNET
CALL 641-749-2531**

Give your family the gift of faster internet!

Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Certain restrictions apply. Contact us for details.

ALL BUT THE TINIEST HOUSES NEED BIG INTERNET SPEEDS

Houses made of gingerbread, frosting, and candies can get by on their sweet looks alone. But the houses we actually live in are filled with all kinds of technology requiring big internet speeds.

To help determine if your house could use an internet speed upgrade, consider these factors:

- **Number of internet users in the household** — Include not only your family members but frequent house guests if applicable.
- **Typical online activities** — For each user, note their online activities including social media, streaming music, streaming video, file download and storage, online gaming, and online video chat. How many activities occur simultaneously on an average day?
- **Number of internet-connected devices** — Add up the number of computers, tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles, TV receivers, smart appliance, smart home devices, home security equipment, and so on.

After you've looked closely at your current internet usage, visit our website www.omnitel.biz or call us at 641.749.2531 for help picking the right internet speed.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT TiNik, INC

TiNik was founded in 2008, and the company initially focused on the supply of truck bodies and truck equipment. Since then, they have broadened their supply chain to encompass all aspects of truck-mounted equipment—ranging from small items such as safety kits and toolboxes to over the road truck-mounted cranes. In addition to selling equipment, TiNik also provides upfitted vehicles for national fleets across the country, accomplished through TiNik's large network of installers and product suppliers.

At its headquarters in Oakland, Iowa, TiNik's owners and employees stay connected with the help of 125 Mbps internet from OmniTel Communications. This location is also home to sister company Weightless IT, which offers a variety of IT services focusing on, "Taking the weight of IT off small businesses with solutions that defy gravity."

How well does our internet perform compared to the service from TiNik's previous providers? Justin Craft, Director of IT & Customer Relations, replied, "Our internet from OmniTel Communications gives us rock solid reliability. We previously had DSL for our primary internet and fixed wireless for our backup connection. Neither was very fast. The DSL constantly had issues, so we often had to rely on the fixed wireless connection, which had limitations in regard to speed and latency. We've replaced the DSL connection with the 125 Mbps internet from OmniTel. The download speed is 10 times better and the upload speed is over 40 times better than what we had with DSL."

Craft also appreciates the trouble-free experience it's been for TiNik since becoming a customer of OmniTel Communications. "After the initial setup, we haven't had to reach out to OmniTel for anything because everything's been working flawlessly. However, we know if we do have an issue, OmniTel's team will be available for us. It's refreshing to be able to work with a local ISP that truly cares about its customers instead of the big ISPs that don't seem to care and make you jump through hoops to get help. We will continue to recommend OmniTel to everyone in our community."

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

MILKHOUSE CANDLE CO.

The Midwest upbringing of Milkhouse Candle Co. founders, Eric and Janet Sparrow, inspired the creation of a cleaner, healthier candle experience. They began making candles in 2002 as a hobby, using canning jars bought at local auctions. After sharing their creations with friends, family, and co-workers, the couple started getting more requests for candles, and their hobby turned into a thriving business now located in Saint Ansgar, Iowa.

Milkhouse Candle Co. uses a unique blend of waxes—pure beeswax and natural soy wax from soybeans grown in the Midwest. This blend offers a safe and clean-burning alternative to paraffin candles. In addition, no artificial dyes are added to Milkhouse Candle Co. candles, and there is no lead in the wicks.

Depending on design preferences, customers can choose from these candle collections: Butter Jar, Painted Jar, Farmhouse Apothecary Jar, Cream Jar, and Fragrance Melts. Milkhouse Candle Co. also offers a wide variety of fragrances including Holiday Home, Balsam & Cedar, Silver Birch, Cranapple Punch, and Coffee Break. While the candles are made to burn slowly, the pace at Milkhouse Candle Co. is anything but slow. So to help its employees work efficiently and productively, the business gets 50 Mbps internet from OmniTel Communications.

Ryan Horgen, Head of Business Development, noted, “The reliability of our internet has been fantastic! This is important to Milkhouse Candle Co, since communication with our customers through our multiple selling platforms, email, and social media is vital to our business. We love being in the Midwest, out ‘in the middle of nowhere,’ but still able to compete with anyone in the world with our products and services.”

Horgen added, “We appreciate OmniTel’s local touch. We know the sales and service folks on a personal level, and they’ve always done everything in their power to help us with setup and any needed improvements. And speaking of local, I invite everyone to check out Milkhouse Candles at your local gift shop. Go to www.milkhousecandles.com/stores to find a store near you!”



VIDEO CHATS CAN HELP YOU FEEL CLOSER DURING THE HOLIDAYS

In a perfect world, families would all be together in one place to celebrate the holidays. But as families grow and spread to different cities, it’s often not feasible for everyone to attend holiday events in person. Fortunately, video chats—via services such as Skype, FaceTime, and Google Hangouts—allow faraway family members to make a virtual appearance and participate in activities remotely. To quote the vintage commercial for long distance, “It’s the next best thing to being there.”

While you can use a variety of devices for video chats, you may find using a tablet to be the most practical option. Some families set a tablet at the empty spot around the dining room table so the person who’s away can participate in the conversation. Or you could pass around a tablet to family gathered for the gift exchange so the person being streamed into the room can share in the excitement as each gift is unwrapped.

You don’t have to limit video chatting to major holiday events either. A quick, spontaneous chat can be a fun way to stay connected at any time of the year.

OMNITEL COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS GRANTS

Giving back to others has always been an important part of who we are at OmniTel Communications. OmniTel's Charity Grant Program was established to positively impact the quality of life in the communities which we serve.

During the second quarter of 2020, the Board of Directors of OmniTel Communications awarded grants to the following organizations:

Riceville Food Pantry, Riceville Activity Center, Riceville Youth Athletic Program, SOAR-Schools out at Rockford, City of St. Ansgar, St. Ansgar Rescue, St. Ansgar Fire Department, Nora Springs Park and Recreation Board, St. Charles Old Settlers, and St. Charles Old Settlers 5K.

We invite public and private nonprofit organizations to submit applications for funding to help with specific projects and events in your community. Greatest consideration is given to the projects and events that benefit the most people.

Grant applications can be found at www.omnitel.biz. All applications are reviewed at the first board meeting of each quarter. Completed applications may be submitted at any time during the year.



While owning a large home provides many advantages—including having plenty of room for everyone in the family to spread out with their respective devices—it can also result in frustrating Wi-Fi issues. Here are some of the challenges:

- **Building materials** – Heavy walls and flooring can reduce Wi-Fi signal strength, especially if they are brick or concrete.
- **Square footage** – The higher the square footage, the more Wi-Fi signal strength you'll need. In a large home, it's unlikely that a single router or access point will be able to send a signal that can cover multiple users in different rooms on two or three levels.
- **Room furnishings** – Common causes of Wi-Fi interference include fluorescent lights, compact fluorescent light bulbs, metal, mirrors, appliances, and radiant floor heat.
- **Limitations of consumer-grade access points** – Let's say you have three floors in your house with a wireless access point on each floor. The wireless signals emitted from these points are not controller based; they do not "talk to each other" and instead fight over your device. Which means when you move between floors, the access points have a difficult time "letting your device go" to the next signal.

If you're a techie with a do-it-yourself attitude, you might enjoy the big job of planning, setting up, and maintaining the Wi-Fi network in your large home. However, if you'd rather be doing something else, consider Omni-Fi Premium Wi-Fi service from OmniTel Communications.

For a small monthly fee, we'll handle all the Wi-Fi work for you. One of our technicians will perform a site survey on your house to assess the building materials and identify the potential issues for the wireless signal. Then we'll install professional-grade equipment to make sure you have the Wi-Fi signal you need throughout your home. With Omni-Fi Premium Wi-Fi service, you can add additional service nodes to provide a seamless Wi-Fi signal in larger homes with areas that are difficult to reach.

For more details on the convenience of Omni-Fi Premium Wi-Fi service, visit www.omnitel.biz or call your local OmniTel office.