

# SKT

# Connection

SPRING 2017



## SKT is Bringing FIBER to Clearwater

SKT is preparing to install Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) to the City of Clearwater. This fiber optic technology is the most advanced available and will replace the current copper wire infrastructure. FTTP allows customers to receive phone and Internet services over the same fiber optic line and will greatly enhance the quality and performance of both. Customers can look forward to greater bandwidth capacity, enhanced service reliability, and future flexibility.

SKT is pleased to bring this next generation of communications technology to the area.

### Contact

SKT  
112 S. Lee, Clearwater, KS 67026  
620.584.2255 or toll-free 888.758.8976  
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For help with service problems during non-business hours, please call 888.758.8976.

24/7 Internet Help Desk  
800.968.1855

Visit Us Online  
[www.SKTMainstreet.com](http://www.SKTMainstreet.com)



ARE DEVICES  
MULTIPLYING  
LIKE RABBITS  
IN YOUR  
HOME?

Every time you turn around, it may seem like another Internet-connected device shows up. When devices are multiplying, you need to start adding—to your Internet speeds, that is. **Switch to a faster plan now and pay just your current rate for the FIRST THREE MONTHS.\***



HOP TO IT AND CALL  
**888.758.8976**

*\*Service availability and Internet speeds will depend on location. Call us for complete details.*



## Check Out the Elk Falls Library

It just opened on the 9th of January, offers free coffee, and has already welcomed over 130 visitors. What is it? The Elk Falls Library! Located in the Elk Falls Senior Center, the library is open six days a week from 9-11 a.m., and by appointment—anytime. It features a rotating selection of books and magazines, plus patrons can get just about any resource they desire through the library's membership with the Kansas State Interlibrary Loan service.

Librarian Paul Eck, an Elk Falls resident since 1979, has an undergraduate degree in library science and a passion for reading. His assistant librarian is a four-pound Chihuahua named Lily who is very friendly and makes it a point to welcome everyone. Seriously, Paul and his wife, Beki, are thankful for the phone (620.329.4400) and Internet services provided by SKT, and they, in turn, offer free Internet to library patrons, who (for now) must bring their own laptops. But a donated computer is on its way!

It's been 75 years since there was a library in Elk Falls, and we are all really excited about it.

# Consumer Alerts from the IRS About Tax Scams

In recent years, thousands of people have been victims of tax scams and fake IRS communication. As a result, they've had personal information and money stolen.

One of the most common methods is called the IRS-Impersonation Telephone Scam. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, but are not. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.



Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation, or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

In a variation of this scam, victims may be told they have a tax refund due from the IRS to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

Scammers can also try to trick taxpayers by sending emails designed to look like official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry such as tax software companies. These emails can seek information related to refunds or filing status, or ask for confirmation of personal information including a PIN.

### **Note that the IRS will never:**

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card, or wire transfer.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

**To learn more about tax scams and how to avoid them, visit [www.irs.gov/uac/tax-scams-consumer-alerts](http://www.irs.gov/uac/tax-scams-consumer-alerts).**

# Home Automation Has Turned Science Fiction Into Reality

Remember the TV show, *The Jetsons*, featuring a futuristic family with all kinds of automated gadgets? Thanks to today's home automation, we can enjoy some of that convenience today.

Home automation refers to technology that lets you program things in your home to function automatically or control them remotely with the push of a button. The possibilities in home automation are varied and growing all the time. Popular categories now include:

- Home control hubs
- Lighting control
- Door and window sensors
- Appliance control
- Smoke sensors
- Customer-monitored cameras
- Motion detection
- Thermostat control
- Door access
- Leak detection

A big benefit of this technology is simply making your life a little easier.

Other benefits of home automation include cost savings through better management of your home's energy use and enhanced safety and security. An automated thermostat allows you to schedule your heat to be turned down when you leave for the day and back up again just before you arrive home. A surveillance camera can let you know who is at the front door by sending a picture or video right to your smartphone.

The best way to begin with home automation may be to keep it simple. Think about what items you regularly turn on and off or adjust; these are often the best candidates for home automation.

**To learn more about all the home automation and security monitoring devices offered by SKT, call 888.758.8976.**



## Follow the New Mini-Barn-Quilt Trail in Dexter

Students at Dexter High School recently added a mini-barn-quilt trail at the Dexter Helium Park, expanding the quilt trail in this eastern Cowley County community. With a generous donation from SKT, the students were able to design and paint 16 barn quilts and install them at the park, which commemorates the discovery of helium in Dexter in 1903. The quilts line the park walkway leading to the old helium well.

The barn quilt idea has really caught on in Dexter, thanks to Cowley First (Cowley County Economic Development). Steve Joyce, social studies instructor at the high school and Dexter's mayor, has held workshops in which more than 45 quilts have been painted – mostly by Dexter students. In the process, the students have learned to appreciate and take pride in their small community. Joyce offered his appreciation for SKT. "All it takes is one phone call when we need a donation or help with a project," he said. "The barn quilts in our helium park are proof of that."

**A map of the barn quilts in Dexter, as well as all of Cowley County, is available at [www.cowleycounty.org/barn-quilt-trail](http://www.cowleycounty.org/barn-quilt-trail). For more information, call Cowley First at 620.221.9951.**



# Play Our Free COLLEGE BASKETBALL CONTEST!

Fill out your bracket and enjoy friendly competition. It's easy to enter and fun to play. Plus, SKT participants have an opportunity to win one of our great cash prizes! *Enter by March 16th*



Sign up and play at:  
[www.SKTMainstreet.com](http://www.SKTMainstreet.com)



112 S. Lee  
Clearwater, KS 67026  
888.758.8976

[www.SKTMainstreet.com](http://www.SKTMainstreet.com)

**"TRAILS OF TULIPS"**  
**32nd Annual Tulip Time Festival**  
**April 8 & 9 in Belle Plaine, KS**

## How Technology is Helping Seniors Live Independently

Given the comforting familiarity and fond memories of home, it's no surprise that home is where many seniors prefer to spend their golden years. Yet declines in physical abilities or cognitive function can make living alone an unsafe option. Thankfully, new technology is enabling more seniors to stay in their homes and age in place. It includes:

- **Smart Detection Devices** – There are smart stove alarms to alert older adults to potentially dangerous situations and smart bath monitors to detect potential overflow issues and shut off water before the bathtub overfills.
- **Smart Medication Reminders** – Since seniors often take multiple medications, making sure the correct medication is taken at the correct time is a worrisome issue for many families. To address it, smart medication pillboxes offer audible or visual cues to prompt users to take their meds and can also send remote alerts to caregivers.

- **Smart Doorbells** – By providing a video picture of visitors, these devices help older adults decide whether or not to answer the door to a stranger.
- **Smart Home Security Systems** – These can be programmed to automatically lock doors, arm security systems, and alert homeowners and caregivers remotely if issues arise.

In addition, personal emergency response systems (PERS) provide seniors with a personal help button that's worn around the neck or wrist. Even in cases where an individual is unable to push the button, these devices are designed to sense a fall and connect automatically to a response center. There are also mobile PERS devices with GPS satellite tracking ability to alert the family of a senior's location. Other assistive devices include phones with large buttons that are easy for stiff fingers to use, and curtains or blinds that can be operated with remote controls.

**SKT offers a variety of smart home devices, as well as the Guardian personal emergency response system. Contact us for more information.**