



Always Call 811 Before You Dig

All kinds of utility lines could be buried underground on your property. So, before you dig into outdoor projects that involve digging—from installing a new mailbox to planting trees and shrubs—call 811 first. That way, the utility lines in the project area can be located and marked, preventing accidental damage. Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Contact

Jefferson Telecom
105 West Harrison Street/PO Box 269
Jefferson, IA 50129
Phone: 515-386-4141
Hours: Mon: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tues-Fri: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

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www.jeffersontelecom.com

Office Closures

July 4, 2023
September 4, 2023

Scammers are Using Frighteningly Effective Voice-Cloning Technology

You get a call with a panicked voice on the line that sounds exactly like your grandson. He says he's in deep trouble—he wrecked his car and landed in jail—and needs you to send him money right away. Don't do it!

The Federal Trade Commission is warning consumers to beware of scammers who use artificial intelligence (AI) to clone voices, then call that person's relatives to claim there's an emergency and ask for money.

With voice-cloning technology, such as ElevenLabs' AI speech software VoiceLab, all scammers need to create a convincing impersonation is a short audio clip of a person's voice, which they could get from a video posted to Facebook, Instagram, or other social media platforms. They can even use a voice mailbox recording or call the targeted person to record their voice.

If a scammer calls you using this technology, it can sound just like your loved one. When you ask questions during the call, the scammer can type out whatever the person's responses should be, and they'll be spoken in the impersonated voice. Adding to the concern is the fact that anyone can use voice-cloning technology. It's like downloading any other app. Plus, there are easily available ways to spoof phone numbers on Caller ID.

How can you prevent becoming a victim? If something seems a little off, and you're not sure it's a friend or relative calling, hang up and call them using a phone number you know is theirs.

The Federal Trade Commission says you can no longer trust voices that sound identical to those of your friends and family members. You should also be suspicious if the caller wants to be paid via a wire transfer, cryptocurrency, or a gift card. These methods of payment are red flags, since they make it difficult to get your money back.



intouch



Want Your Wi-Fi to Extend Outside?

When the weather is nice, you probably spend more time in your home's outdoor spaces—such as the porch, patio, and deck—not to mention the garage. Wouldn't it be nice to have Wi-Fi signals in those areas that are as strong as the ones inside?

To expand your home's Wi-Fi network, you may be able to add a Wi-Fi extender, which takes your Wi-Fi signal and broadcasts it to a wider area. Another option is a mesh Wi-Fi system, which plugs "nodes" into multiple points around your home.

Don't want to deal with Wi-Fi equipment yourself? We'll install an eero system in your home and provide Wi-Fi Management. Visit www.jeffersontelecom.com/eero.

Win a \$20 Credit on Your Jefferson Telecom Bill

\$20

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill or email info@jeffersontelecom.com for a chance to win a \$20 credit to your account. Return it by July 20, 2023 to be eligible. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

☐ Yes, please use my email for communication purposes.

Congratulations to our last "Winner of a \$20 Credit," Alicia Paup of Jefferson.



There's a Simple Solution to Much Simpler Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi doesn't need to be complicated. So, if you find yourself having to think about your home's Wi-Fi network more than you'd like, we suggest you simplify things a bit and get Wi-Fi Management.

This monthly service takes the hassles of Wi-Fi troubleshooting (and more) off your hands in exchange for a small monthly fee. Once you sign up for Wi-Fi Management, Jefferson Telecom will handle a variety of Wi-Fi tasks for you at no additional cost:

- Installation of an eero mesh router
- Selection of the best location for your eero in your home for optimal coverage and signal strength from room to room
- Connection of your devices at the point of installation for free — such as laptops, tablets, phones, and printer — to the Wi-Fi network
- Automatic software upgrades for optimal performance
- Remote support should a Wi-Fi issue arise

Keep this in mind: If you don't have Wi-Fi Management and need in-home help with a router you purchased on your own, you'll have to pay the hourly fee for a service call by one of our technicians. This can get pricey if you end up with a series of Wi-Fi issues.

It really boils down to a simple choice. Do you want to spend your time doing all the necessary Wi-Fi network setup, maintenance, and troubleshooting? Or would you rather leave all that to us and just enjoy using your Wi-Fi with all your home's connected devices?

Jefferson Telecom offers Wi-Fi Management starting at \$9.95/month. To learn more about its features and to sign up for service, visit www.jeffersontelecom.com/eero or call 515-386-4141. Ask about getting your first month FREE.



Answers to Your Questions About Live TV Streaming

Live TV streaming services — such as YouTube TV, fuboTV, Hulu + Live TV, Philo, and Sling TV — deliver prime-time network shows and sports over your Internet connection. That's why they're often referred to as cable replacements.

If you're thinking about switching from Jefferson Telecom TV to a live TV streaming service, you'll want to do your homework to select the service that will provide the channels you most want to watch. To help you get started, here are the answers to frequently asked questions:

What channels are available through live TV streaming services?

Each service offers a different number and variety of channels. To compare, you can visit www.gostreamnow.com/jefferson.

Which devices can I use to stream live TV?

Live TV streaming services work with smartphones, tablets, computers, and streaming devices like Roku, Fire TV, Chromecast, and Apple TV. Jefferson Telecom does have Roku devices for sale in our office.

How much does a live TV streaming service cost?

The price varies from service to service, but most cost between \$25 and \$75 per month. This makes live TV services a less expensive alternative to cable.

Can I get a free trial for a live TV streaming service?

Yes, many of these services offer free trials. Check their websites for details on current offers.



After I subscribe, how many people in my family can watch a live TV streaming service at the same time?

Most services offer subscribers the ability to stream to two or three devices simultaneously.

Will I be locked in a contract?

No. Live TV streaming services are all month-to-month with no commitment. You can cancel at any time without penalty.

For the best experience while watching a live TV streaming service, we recommend an Internet speed of at least 100 Mbps. Call 515-386-4141 to ask about the speeds and prices of our current selection of Internet plans.



Understanding the Two Main Types of Streaming Services

There are 200+ streaming services now available, which can be overwhelming. However, it simplifies things to remember there are only two main types — live streaming services and on-demand streaming services.

Live streaming services enable you to watch content online in real time. They promise to replicate the cable TV experience but with lower monthly bills. Most live streaming services provide at least a few live local channels as well as an assortment of cable networks, concerts, sporting events, comedy specials, and gaming events. Examples of live streaming services are YouTube TV, Sling TV, FuboTV, Hulu + Live TV, and Philo.

On-demand streaming services offer extensive libraries of TV series, movies, and documentaries to subscribers for a monthly fee. Content can be watched on your own schedule and on any device. It's easy to set up an account, and in most cases, you can start a free trial and cancel at any time. Popular on-demand streaming services include Netflix, Hulu, Apple TV+, Prime Video, Disney+, Discovery+, and Max.

Visit www.gostreamnow.com/jefferson for help navigating through the many streaming options, devices, and services.



Internet Discounts Available from ACP

The FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helps connect families and households struggling to afford Internet service. It provides a monthly Internet discount of up to \$30.

A household is eligible for the ACP discount if a member meets at least one of these criteria:

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines;
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income program.

Visit www.jeffersontelecom.com/acp to learn more or call Jefferson Telecom at 515-386-4141.

New Listings

Chirp Coffee	515-386-2299
Harvilcz, Rob	515-386-2108
Marlow, Dixie	515-386-2109
Midwest Mission	
Distribution Center	515-386-2236
Paup, Alicia	515-386-2002
Sessions, Lloyd	
& Amy	515-386-2146
Stream, Richard	
& Priscilla	515-386-2015
The Funky Zebras	
Boutique	515-386-3659

Shirley Griffin Retires After 36 Years at Jefferson Telecom



Shirley Griffin is retiring after 36 years of service at Jefferson Telecom. She said, "Working for a small business gave me the opportunity to have a wide variety of job responsibilities over the years. When I began my career at Jefferson Telecom, only telephone service was available. In subsequent years, Internet, cellular, and TV services were added. There were many challenges rolling out each new service."

After retirement, Shirley plans on spending time with family and friends, reading, sewing, and making quilts for missions with her Trinity Lutheran Church quilt group.

She said, "I would like to thank Jefferson Telecom and the Daubendiek family for the opportunity to work here. I have always appreciated the many ways Jefferson Telecom has supported the community. Technology is vital for a community's development, and Jefferson Telecom has been a technology leader, helping many families and businesses in our area achieve their goals."



With eBilling, You Can Pay It Your Way

We're all looking for ways to make life a little easier, and one way Jefferson Telecom does that is by offering you free eBilling. With eBilling, you save time and money:

- No check writing or postage is necessary.
- View your current or past bills online anytime you want.
- Pay online in seconds with your credit or debit card.
- Enjoy security protections via your account number and password.
- No need to worry about lost or stolen paper statements.

In addition to eBilling, we also offer other convenient payment options so you can "pay it your way." Choose Automatic Payment to have your Jefferson Telecom bill amount automatically deducted from your chosen bank account each month — you don't have to do a thing!

To sign up for eBilling or get details on any of our bill payment options, visit www.jeffersontelecom.com/bill or call 515-386-4141.