

# The Local Connection

## Inside this issue:

<b>Springtime Safety</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Business Spotlight</b> Marne Housing	<b>2</b>
<b>What's Ahead</b> Janell Hansen	<b>3</b>
<b>Employee Spotlight</b> Michelle Jens	<b>3</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Tivoli Schedule</b>	<b>4</b>

## Customer Service Corner

- Directory note: GE Larson Elk-Horn Kimballton Medical Center is now listed under Myrtue Medical Center Elk Horn-Kimballton Clinic. The number is the same—764-4642
- We often are asked, “What should I do if I don’t have dial tone?”
- Start by unplugging anything connected to your phone line, including power cords, and count to 30.
- Then, plug them in one at a time and test for dial tone. Often, one piece may be the cause of the problem. If that doesn’t clear up the issue, contact us to report the problem.

## Come Grow with Us

Spring brings signs of new life and rejuvenation, and this Spring is no different.

While it is true that we’ve been providing quality telephone service since 1903, we continue to grow and evolve as a company. To celebrate, we are kicking off a “Come Grow with Us” promotion—May 1 through June 15th.

The promotion is simple and easy to understand. Any customer signing up for phone, Internet or Cable TV service—before June 15th will receive a \$15 gift card to use at The Petal Pusher in Elk Horn or at Jane’s Greenthumb in Exira.

Use your coupon for cut flowers, gardening plants, hanging baskets or bedding plants—for yourself, a friend or family member.

We encourage you to use your coupon quickly—before

the stores’ inventories get depleted by the Springtime rush.

Over the past 103 years, we’ve added a wide variety of communication services, that even we, at times, take for granted.

The significance of the Internet is easy to recognize. We are fortunate in our area to have the ability to have access to it in our homes and businesses.

Likely more amazing and less appreciated is the ability to pick up the telephone, and press few digits, and in a matter of seconds connect to someone across town or around the world.

We have reported in recent months about our cable TV product and our efforts to expand the HDTV offerings that we provide to our



customers. Those channels and others are in our development pipeline.

In addition to the services offered to our customers, we have also been proud to be actively involved in many community projects to make our collective “home” better for all of us.

We recognize that you may already have one, two or all three of our main services. If that is the case, pass this on to a friend, perhaps they will send their flowers to you to brighten your day.

Please, Come Grow with Us.

## Get more for your DSL \$\$\$

Good news. We are going to be raising the speed of all our DSL products by the second week in May, with NO increase in price. All you have to do is enjoy the increase in SPEED!

256K	\$39.95	(this was 128K)
384K	\$49.95	(this was 256K)
512K	\$69.95	(this was 384K)
768K	\$89.95	(this was 512K)



## Springtime Safety

a dig. Locate requests are taken 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

When you call, you will be given a 9-digit 'dig ticket number' which can be used for reference throughout the project.

If damages occur as a result of a dig and Iowa One Call has not been notified prior to the excavation, the homeowner or excavator may be liable for repair costs, loss of product/services or other related charges.

In addition to digging in the spring, lightning can cause many problems to your home electronics and computers. Make sure to have reliable surge protection and, when in doubt, unplug devices.

Spring is here and construction and digging projects are underway. Remember, there are many underground utilities that may present a problem if disturbed, and unmarked services may be dangerous if hit.

It is important to call Iowa One Call at 800-292-8989 at least 48 business hours in advance so underground services such as gas, water, telephone, electric, cable TV and sewer can be located and marked. METC customers may also dial 811 to report

*“Not only is calling Iowa One Call important, it’s the law”*

### Summary

- For your safety, call Iowa One Call at least 48 business hours before you plan to dig at 1-800-292-8989 or 811 from your METC landline phone.
- Regardless if you are digging a posthole, starting a new garden, doing landscaping or building a fence—you need to call Iowa One Call to have all underground utilities located.
- Unplug your TV, computer and other sensitive electronics during a thunderstorm—even if you have a surge protector.

## Business Spotlight - Marne Housing Project

What started as a desire to raise their town’s population by 51 people by 2010 has landed the town of Marne on local, regional and even national newscasts.

If you have not heard, Marne is giving away two 80 x 120 lots to people that want to move to Marne and build homes.

It is a great idea and one that has received a tremendous response from people all over the country, according to Barb Fischer the Mayor of Marne.

“There have been over 70 applications from people all over the place,” stated Fischer. “We have had inquiries from 46 of the 50 states and from overseas.”

The 70 applications do not begin to address the level of interest that all the publicity has generated for the area.

“The response has been amazing,” said Fischer. “We are trying to work with other communities nearby to accommodate all the inquiries.”

Many have asked about the weather and technology, according to Fischer and she tells people both are just fine.

METC is happy to provide high-speed Internet and many other communication services to the community. We are ready to serve all who make our home—their home.



**METC donates \$7,500 to the Marne Housing project. Front row:** Arnie Jirsa, Randy Baxter, Janell Hansen, & Donna Jirsa. **Back row:** Jerome Peters, Randy Fischer, Devin Moeller, and Kenner Baxter

## What's Ahead — Janell Hansen, General Manager

Come Grow with Us—that theme seems to be springing up all over the Danish Villages these days.

The success that Marne has had with their “Free Lot” campaign has been inspiring to see. Mostly, I suppose, because it is good to hear and see that others desire the lifestyle that we all have come to enjoy.

If you are interested in learning more about the efforts in Marne, see the story at the bottom of page two.

Kimballton and Elk Horn are doing their part to help our region thrive by planning to hold an informational meeting on the Iowa “Main Street” program.

“Main Street” is a community economic development program based



on historic preservation—mostly for downtowns. Interestingly, many of the traits that Main Street advocates

are similar to the actions we already take as communities. Therefore, it makes sense to review the Main Street Approach to see how it can fit into what we currently are doing in our communities.

The meeting is to be held on Thursday, May 11th at 7:00 pm at the Kimballton Town Hall. We hope you make plans to attend.

Tivoli Fest, to be held May 27th & 28th in Elk Horn, gives all of us another good reason to celebrate our community and the heritage that many here share.

This year’s official theme is “Journey

Home,” which dovetails nicely with our “Come Grow with Us” theme.

Then, of course you have our community tourism attractions—of which there are many—that are woven among all these events, campaigns and activities.

So what happens when you pile all these activities together? From my point of view, you have an invitation for people to visit our communities to see what we are all about.

While they are here, we have the chance to tell them about housing, community development, business opportunities and the communications technology that we have in our region.

Ask visitors to come grow with us.

## Employee Spotlight — Michelle Jens, Customer Service Specialist

It is not often that we have the opportunity to spotlight an employee so quickly after they join the METC family. So, we invite you to stop in to welcome Michelle Jens.

Michelle is not new to the area. She and her husband Stan and son Cody have lived in Elk Horn for many years. She is just new to us and we are happy to have her join our office staff.

She started on March 13th and works from 8 to 1. In our office, everyone gets to learn how to do about everything, but initially Michelle’s main duties will be preparing the daily deposit and assisting with accounts receivable. She will also answer the phone and help customers.

Soon, she will start job shadowing all the other employees around the office and she says she’s really looking forward to that opportunity.



Michelle Jens

When she is not at METC, Michelle keeps busy as co-owner of the Egg Krate, an antique store in Elk Horn.

Michelle also enjoys working outside in her yard and garden, to keep it looking nice and neat.

Michelle appreciates the family atmosphere at METC both with her fellow staff members and with all our customers. “It is nice to see familiar faces and I always love connecting with new people.”

Technology is certainly not new to Michelle, who uses it to help sell additional products at the Egg Krate.

“We use Ebay to sell certain things, and working with the process taught me a lot about the Internet community, Ebay and the possibilities that exist in today’s environment.”

She is very excited to learn about all of METC’s products and services and looks forward to the challenges of the future.

Stop in our office to say hello to Michelle the next time you are in the area.



**Marne Elk Horn Telephone Company**

4242 Main Street  
 P.O. Box 120  
 Elk Horn, IA 51531

Phone: 712-764-6161  
 Fax: 712-764-2773  
 Email: metc@metc.net  
 Web: www.metc.net

Your local connection to it all

**We're on the web at  
 www.metc.net**

## Upcoming Events

**May**

- 2 Musical Program at Salem Homes @6:30
- 5 Large group music contest @Harlan
- 11 Main Street Program meeting  
Kimballton Town Hall @7:00 pm
- 14 Mother's Day
- 16 Seniors last day
- 17 Elk Horn Kimballton Baccalaureate at the  
Elk Horn Lutheran Church @7:00
- 18 Elk Horn Kimballton Senior Awards Night
- 19 EHK 8th Grade Class Night
- 21 Elk Horn Kimballton Graduation @2:00
- 24 Last day of school
- 27 Book signing by Danish American Author from  
Stuart, IA at the Museum Gift Shop @1:00
- 27 & 28 Tivoli Fest
- 29 Memorial Day

**June**

- 1 3rd Civil War Reenactment on the Museum  
grounds
- 2 "Senior Shop" for Salem Homes residents and  
community from 2:00-3:30
- 24 Sankt Hans Aften on the Museum grounds

**July**

- 4 Annual 4th of July Celebration in Exira

## Tivoli Fest in Elk Horn—Schedule of Events

**Friday, May 26th**

Prince and Princess Contest, Museum 6:45 pm  
 Teen Dance, Elk Horn City Park Tennis Courts 9:00 pm

**Saturday, May 27th**

Opening Ceremonies, Danish Windmill 8:00 am  
 Mill to Mermaid Fun Run (starts at Windmill) 8:15 am  
 Tivoli Parade 11:00 am  
 Mill Entertainment Stage Hourly starting at noon  
 Fireworks Spectacular 9:30 pm  
 Danish Windmill 8 am—8 pm  
 Danish Immigrant Museum 9 am—5 pm  
 Family History & Genealogy Center—Main St 9 am—5 pm  
 Viking Encampment ongoing  
 Aebleskiver & Medisterpølse—Fire Station 8 am—3 pm  
 Danish Walking Street—food & vendors starts at 9 am  
 Table Settings & Tea Sets—Baptist Church 10 am—4 pm  
 Danish Sandwiches—Town Hall Noon—4 pm  
 Children's activities—City Library Noon—3 pm  
 Craft Show—EH-K School 10 am—4 pm  
 Quilt Show—School Library 10 am—4 pm

**Sunday, May 28th**

Danish Windmill 10 am—7 pm  
 Danish Immigrant Museum 10 am—5 pm  
 Mill Entertainment Stage Hourly starting at 11 am  
 Family History & Genealogy Center—Main St 10 am—5 pm  
 Viking Encampment ongoing  
 Aebleskiver & Medisterpølse—Fire Station 8 am—3 pm  
 Danish Walking Street—food & vendors Noon—4 pm  
 Table Settings & Tea Sets—Baptist Church Noon—3 pm  
 Danish Sandwiches—Town Hall Noon—3 pm  
 Craft Show—EH-K School 10 am—2 pm  
 Quilt Show—School Library 10 am—2 pm  
 Alumni coffee—EH-K School 2 pm—4 pm

**Velkommen!**  
**Tivoli Fest 2006: "Journey Home"**  
**Saturday & Sunday, May 27 & 28, 2006**  
**Our 26th Year**  
**Tivoli Royalty: Al & Sue Hjelle**

**For more information about Tivoli Fest visit [www.elkhorniowa.com](http://www.elkhorniowa.com)**