

Volume 14 Issue 11  
November 2019



## Manager's Moment- Chris Zirpel

Well, another year has pretty much come and gone, and weather-wise what a strange year it was. The rain affected everyone in the area in some way, and Kennebec Telephone was not immune. We had projects get delayed throughout the summer, and our crews are working hard to get them finished up before Old Man Winter comes knocking on our door. We continue to work on our rural fiber-to-the-home project and are on pace to have all our customers switched over by the end of 2020. There are several reasons we are pushing to get this done, but the main reason is we strive to offer our customers the best service we can. Fiber optic cable is the best way to do that. Another reason is the FCC is placing requirements on companies across the nation to offer faster internet speeds. This doesn't mean our customers must subscribe to the faster speeds; it just mandates that we have those speeds available. Right now, we are exceeding the FCC requirements, but we know they will be raising their standards in the future, and we want to stay ahead of them on that. So, our guys are still out plowing in fiber cable and soon our technicians will be splicing and installing service to customers homes. Hopefully the frost stays out of the ground for a while so we can continue to work. Thank you for being a valued customer and have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

The banner features the Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. logo at the top left, which includes the company name and a yellow starburst graphic. Below the logo are four smaller logos for partner companies: Chamberlain &amp; Charley's, KTC Construction, Powercom, and Technology &amp; Communications Specialists. To the right of these logos, the text reads: "We will be closed for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day". The bottom left of the banner shows an American flag with the text "VETERANS DAY" in large, bold letters, followed by "HONORING ALL WHO SERVED" and "Monday, November 11". The bottom right of the banner features a Thanksgiving meal, including a roasted turkey, corn, and cranberries, with the text "Happy Thanksgiving" in a cursive font and "Thursday, November 28th" below it.



# **WANTED ALIVE!**

## **Construction Position**

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. is now taking applications for a year around, full-time construction position that offers excellent pay and benefits. The position consists of such things as underground plumbing, digging, trenching, and operating equipment. Experience preferred but would be willing to train. Position will be open until filled.

## **Electrician Position**

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. is now taking applications for a full-time licensed electrician at any level. This job offers excellent pay and benefits and will be open until filled. Employee duties include installing and maintaining electrical power, communications, locating cables, lighting, and control systems in homes, farms, and businesses.

Please submit resumes to PO Box 158, Kennebec, SD 57544 or [debbiem@kennebectelephone.com](mailto:debbiem@kennebectelephone.com) If you have any questions, call 605-869-2220 and ask for Chaz or Matt.

**REWARD OF  
Up to \$1500.00**

We are opening up an opportunity for you, our customers, to make some extra money!! If you can help us hire for any of our position openings, we would be willing to pay you for it! When you see the various job ads that we post, bring us a qualified candidate to fill the opening, and if we hire your candidate, we will pay you \$1500 the following way:

- \* Upon hiring this person day one we pay you \$300.00
- \* When the person reaches 90 days of employment we pay you another \$300.00
- \* When the person reaches 6 months of employment we pay you another \$300.00
- \* On the one year anniversary of the employee we will pay you \$600.00

This is how you get an extra \$1500.00 over a 12 month period.

We define qualified as someone that has some knowledge and the desire to work in the defined area. They must be able to pass a background check, drug test and be an insurable driver. While we realize you won't know some of this, you will have a vague idea so don't refer someone you know won't meet these qualifications.

*~Send us your friends, relatives, and anyone else, help us find a candidate~*

## How important is Free Wi-Fi to you while away from home?

This illustration from our friends at SDN Communications, may change how you use your laptop when away from home. Maybe the free breakfast is the more important amenity when choosing your lodging!

**PUBLIC WI-FI**  
What you need to know

Although public Wi-Fi has made our life easier, it does pose a security risk.

**UNSECURED**   
Users can connect without a password or login.

**LOG IN**

**SECURED**   
Requires a login and acceptance of legal terms.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**DON'T** Access personal bank accounts or sensitive data on public Wi-Fi.

**DON'T** Shop online when using public Wi-Fi.

**DON'T** Leave your phone or laptop unattended in a public setting.

**DON'T** Leave your Bluetooth on. Hackers can look for open Bluetooth to gain access to your device.

**DO** Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) solution. It will encrypt the data you send and receive.

**DO** Turn off automatic connectivity. It can make your device vulnerable.

**DO** Choose secured over unsecured networks when possible.

**DO** Limit uploads and file sharing.

**DO** Use your cell phone as a hotspot if you have the data to support it.

A public Wi-Fi network is inherently less secure than your personal, private one because you don't know who set it up or who has access to it. The best way to avoid security issues is to avoid public Wi-Fi. If you must use it, take the steps above.

**SDN COMMUNICATIONS.**  
Enjoy the UPYME! | [sdncommunications.com/public-wi-fi](http://sdncommunications.com/public-wi-fi)

## If you use public Wi-Fi, exercise caution to reduce risks

Posted on Monday, October 14, 2019  
SDN Blog written by Rob Swenson

The best way to avoid the security risks of free, public Wi-Fi is simply not to use it. Wait if possible, and go online later in a more secure environment.

If you can't wait, if you have to get online immediately and public Wi-Fi in a coffee shop, hotel lobby, or some other public setting is your only option, take precautions.

If possible, use secured Wi-Fi, which typically requires users to log in. It's more likely to be safe.

Remember that when you use free Wi-Fi, a hacker might be positioned between you and the connection point, gathering data.

"There are risks with public Wi-Fi. The main one is you really don't know what you're connecting to," said Chad Pew, manager of IT at SDN Communications in Sioux Falls. "It could be a rogue access point, and someone is on there capturing all the traffic that goes across."

The most obvious "do not" rule of thumb in accessing public Wi-Fi is this: Don't access personal bank accounts or other sensitive personal information.

Also, do not leave your laptop or phone unattended. Someone might tinker with it.

Don't leave Bluetooth on, either. Hackers can use short-range, wireless connections to gain access to electronic information.

In general, device features such as automatic connectivity and file sharing should be turned off when not in use.

To read the entire post, we've shared it on our Kennebec Telephone Co, Inc Facebook page.



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## KENNEBEC TELEPHONE Co., INC.

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*Our mission is to provide the highest quality telecommunications and information service to our customers at an affordable price.*

*We will strive to offer prompt, friendly, and dependable service along with the latest technology to attain the highest possible customer satisfaction.*

*If you would like more information or have questions about anything in this newsletter, feel free to contact us at 605-869-2220.*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*