



Spring Cleaning Safety Tips

- 1) Do not rush because you are tired or in a hurry- take breaks often, drink plenty of water, and rest instead of being unsafe.
- 2) Be Careful Moving Large Items– use proper lifting techniques, keeping back straight and lifting with your legs.
- 3) Be Safe On Ladders and Step Stools– do not lean to far to either side, and always have some spot you and hold the ladder steady.
- 4) Don't Carry Too Much Stuff At Once - do not overload yourself, make sure you can see over the load you are carrying so you do not trip, and if on stairs, keep one hand free to hold on to the railing.
- 5) Always Follow Cleaning Product Safety Labels– the mixing of different cleaning supplies can create toxic fumes, so make sure you get some fresh air by opening windows, turning on exhaust fans, or placing a fan in the room.
- 6) Wear A Mask When Cleaning Dusty Areas– this may seem like overkill, however if you are at all allergic to dust, this tip is very important.
- 7) Put Away All Cleaning Supplies When Done– supplies are an attractive nuisance for children and pets. Put items away in child-proof or pet-proof locations to ensure their safety!

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IT'S THE IRS CALLING... OR IS IT?

Scammers will try anything to get your money, or access to your information. So why would they stop at this time of the year with the idea of being from the IRS... they don't.

Fact is, they are calling lots of people this time of year to see what information you will provide them thinking you are really speaking to an agent. The truth is, the IRS will NEVER contact you via phone. All their correspondence will come in the mail, and look official.

The latest threat has been made to consumers, stating that your taxes have been miscalculated and a payment must be received "today" or you will be subject to fines and / or imprisonment. If you ever receive a call like this, or a letter that looks suspicious, contact the IRS directly to verify the information is correct.

If a call comes in– to help track it, you need to write down the number it came in from, and any pertinent information and report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.consumer.ftc.gov.



FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK...



How is it that Spring seems to already be here, and yet the weather can't decide what it wants to do? I guess that's Colorado for you!

We are planning for the 2015 Fiber Project. We will be upgrading our South Route to Highway 86. Eventually we will be able to get all customers on fiber, and then start adding new speed packages and offerings. This project requires us to start working on the planning so that we have everything ready to go in the future months. We will be doing all the work ourselves, with the help of our equipment and crew for the summer months.

For Prairie Networks, we continue to keep adding customers and allowing them to play around with the new packages we offer. The additional plans have helped people to manage their usage and chose a plan that better fits their budget, but gives them the necessary bandwidth. Our partner- NRTC will be holding a member meeting in Denver this year. We hope this helps us to see the new products, and plans and to hear about up-coming plans, pricing and other offers they have coming our way.

We are also looking into a new partnership with a new anti-virus protection system called Trend Micro. We have had some great results while testing out the products, and are now working with them to determine what our partnership would be able to provide to our customers. More information will come as we get further into this deal.

As a reminder, Agate Mutual Telephone had to change their email provider to Neo Nova effective March 3rd. We have seen several issues pop up with the transfer, but most of the transfer has been completed and without major catastrophic failure. We are still working on the kinks, but don't hesitate to let us know if you are having any problems.

As always, don't forget my door is always open, you can contact me at the office at 764-2578, or danh@amtca.net.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hollembeak

General Manager,
Agate Mutual and Prairie Networks



This Quarter's Giveaway Winners are:

Page & Tyler Turecek

Brad & Mindy Richards

Agate Mutual Telephone

Prairie Networks

If your name is listed above, contact our office at either **719-764-2578** or **anoah@amtca.net** to claim your prize.

THE PROS AND CONS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media and the internet has changed the way that we communicate and interact with one another that we thought we would share some of the pros and cons of social media and its effects on our society.

The Pros

- Increased Criminal Prosecution Because of Social Media - the NYC police department began using Twitter in 2011 track criminals that brag about their crimes. In Canada, when the Vancouver Canucks lost the Stanley Cup in 2011 and their fans took to the streets and rioted, authorities used social media to tag the people involved in the crimes.
- Social Networking Creates New Social Connections - statistics show 70% of adults have used social media to connect with relatives in other states, and 57% of teens have made new friendships on social media sites.
- Social Media As A Source of Employment - jobs have taken a modern twist, and 89% of job recruiters take advantage of LinkedIn when looking to hire potential employees.

The Cons

- Social Media and The News - 27.8% of people get their news information from social media, which is just under the printed news at 28.8%.
- Too Much Misinformation - rumor mills and the spreading of misinformation is a growing trend when it comes to blogs. Just because it is on the Internet does not make it credible or true.
- Students That Spend More Time on Social Media Have Lower Grades— statistics show that students who use social media too often tend to have GPA's of 3.06 and lower, then that of students who do not use social media tend to have GPA's of 3.82 or higher.
- Lost Productivity In The Workplace— social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook are a direct cause for lost productivity at the workplace.
- Face-To-Face Communication Is Less— a study in 2013 showed that families who reported spending less time with one another rose from a level of 8% in 2000 to 32% in 2011.

Everyone has their opinions and concerns about social media, but regardless of what that is, you ultimately have the choice to share your information or not. As long as you use caution on what you post, and what you share, you have many choices and platforms to choose from within the social media realm.





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7:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monday—Thursday



SHORT SHORTS

Secret Service

A preacher was standing at the front door, shaking hands as his parishioners came out. He pulled one man aside and said, “You need to join the Army of the Lord, son!”

“I’m already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor,” he replied.

“How come I only see you at Christmas and Easter?” asked the Pastor.

“Because I’m in his Secret Service, Pastor!”



Irish Father O’Malley’s Quick Wit

Irish Father O’Malley got up one fine spring morning and walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside and noticed there was a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the local police station. The conversation went something like this: “What a grand mornin it is. This is Sgt. Flaherty— How might I help ye?” “This is Irish Father O’Malley at St. Bridget’s. There is a jackass lying dead on me front lawn. Would ye mind sending a couple o’yer lads to take care of the matter?” Sgt. Flaherty considered himself quite a wit so the rest of the conversation proceeded: “Well, now Irish Father, it was always my impression that you people take care of the last rites!” There was dead silence on the line for a moment and then Irish Father O’Malley replies: “Aye, that’s certainly true, but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin”...



F U N F A C T S



Did you know...

- Each year candy manufacturers produce more than 90 million chocolate Easter bunnies for Easter.
- The world’s largest Easter egg was made in Cortenuova, Italy in 2011 weighing in at 8,968 lbs. of dark chocolate and marshmallow.
- 16 Billion Jelly Beans are produced just in the United States each year.
- Studies show 76% of Americans eat the chocolate bunnies ears first.

