

Subject: Your Van Buren Telco eNewsletter May 2010
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Conversation: Your Van Buren Telco eNewsletter May 2010



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Spring is here, and this May issue is designed to help you "spring forward" in your Internet knowledge. We start with an overview of the Internet Crime Complaint Center's recently released 2009 Annual Report, which reveals significant increases in both complaints and dollar losses linked to online fraud—a good reminder to remain vigilant with your security precautions. You'll also learn how to write e-mail messages that won't annoy or confuse recipients, and how to rename your Favorites/Bookmarks to streamline your browser's list. Just for fun, check out Great Sites for cures for spring fever from gardening and outdoor recreation resources.

The goal of each of our monthly eNewsletters is to keep our subscribers informed regarding their Internet connection and to improve their Internet experience. We think you'll find this information interesting. If, however, you'd prefer not to receive these bulletins on a monthly basis, click [here](#).

To see what's inside this issue, simply scroll down the eNewsletter or click on the links within the index to the left. Thanks for reading!

- The Van Buren Internet Team

Warning! - Online Fraud Loss More Than Doubles

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), a partnership between the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center, recently released its 2009 Annual Report about fraudulent activity on the Internet. Online crime complaints increased substantially in 2009, according to the report. The IC3 received a total of 336,655 complaints, a 22.3% increase over 2008. And the total dollar loss linked to online fraud was \$559.7 million, up from \$265 million the previous year.

Although the complaints consisted of a variety of fraud



types, the top five scams were:

- E-mail scams using FBI name
- Non-delivered merchandise and/or payment
- Advance fee fraud
- Identity theft
- Overpayment fraud



Peter Trahon, Section Chief of the FBI's Cyber Division, says, "Computer users are encouraged to have up-to-date security protection on their devices and evaluate e-mail solicitations they receive with a healthy skepticism—if something seems too good to be true, it likely is." In addition, be suspicious of any unsolicited e-mail that asks for personal information, and do not follow unsolicited links or respond to unsolicited e-mails.

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Friends Don't Let Friends Text And Drive!!

The new anti-texting law passed by the 2010 Legislature and signed by the Governor has prompted questions about what is allowed and what is not, because so many people use phones, e-mail and texting throughout their busy day. Here is a summary that ITA obtained from the Iowa Bar Association that highlights some of the points of the new law.

What is Prohibited for Adults: Reading, writing or sending a text message or e-mail while driving unless the car is at a complete stop off the roadway.

Exceptions:

- Use of a GPS device.
- Sending text messages using voice commands.
- Entering a number to place a phone call.
- Truckers, bus drivers and emergency personnel may continue using their digital dispatch systems.
- Public safety workers and health care professionals may read text messages while performing official duties.
- Anyone may read a message about safety-related information, such as Amber Alerts and traffic or weather alerts.



Penalties: A violation is a simple misdemeanor with a fine of \$100, including court costs. It is not a moving violation and is not cause to suspend a license. There are heightened penalties if you kill or seriously injure someone in an accident.

Enforcement: Officers may not stop you based only on a texting violation, and they may not confiscate your phone.

The law is more specific and restrictive to teen drivers.

Here is what TEEN drivers with a learner's permit, intermediate license, school license or restricted work license need to know:

What is Prohibited for Teens: Using ANY electronic communication or entertainment device while driving is prohibited unless the car is at a complete stop off the roadway.

Exceptions: Devices that are permanently installed in the vehicle or that are operated through permanently installed equipment are allowed.

Penalties: A violation is a simple misdemeanor with a fine of \$100, including court costs. A violation is not a moving violation, but the Department of Transportation may impose license restrictions and suspend or revoke the license, as with all beginner license violations. There are heightened penalties if you kill or seriously injure someone in an accident.

Enforcement: Officers may stop you if they see you using a phone while driving.

In addition, the new law prevents local jurisdictions from creating different laws on distracted driving. Also, during the first year of the new law, only warnings will be issued by law enforcement officers. Iowa's Transportation and Public Safety departments will work to make Iowans more aware of the dangers of texting while driving during this grace period.

To go to the facebook site to get more input on the dangers of texting while driving, [click here](#).

See the new Iowa law at <http://www.drivinglaws.org/iowa.php>

Friends don't let friends Text and Drive!!

If you ever have questions or concerns please feel free to call us at 293-3187 or e-mail us at vbtelco@netins.net. Visit our website at <http://www.vbtelco.com> and see what we can do to make your life more convenient and keep you connected to family and friends. There is a new format, new links (a new one to our 2010 directory) and we will try to give you updated information on a regular basis on our posts. *Van Buren Telephone Company, Inc. - Where Technology Meets Tradition - Serving the Villages since 1923.*

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This Month's FAQ - Is It Considered Rude To Use Excessive Punctuation In E-mail Messages?

Question: Is it considered rude to use excessive punctuation, such as ????? or !!!!!, in e-mail messages?

Answer: Yes, most "netiquette" experts recommend not over-punctuating since it may seem as though you are shouting or frustrated with the recipient. Depending on the circumstances, communicating in this manner can also come off as demanding and condescending. (Plus, people are busy enough without having to wade through a dozen exclamation marks at the end of a sentence.)

Keep in mind that since e-mail messages lack the clarity and expressiveness of the human voice, they can easily be misinterpreted. For the sake of effective communication, it's best to follow normal punctuation rules when you write e-mail messages, and use the text itself to express emphasis rather than excessive punctuation. Also avoid using no punctuation or capitalization at all (habits you may have developed from instant messaging) as well as acronyms that the recipient might not understand.



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Sites Of The Month - Great Sites To Check Out In May

Explore the Outdoors

<http://wildernet.com/index.cfm> - With spring comes many more outdoor recreational opportunities. If you're looking for new adventures, look no further than this site for all the details. Pick a state on the U.S. map, and you'll find dozens of ideas for trails, state parks, lakes, rivers, scenic byways, and more. You'll get thorough descriptions, trip reports, trip planning resources, and contact information. The site also features a gift center, gear store, bookstore, and custom map service.

20-Minute Meal Recipes

<http://cookinglight.com/food/quick-healthy/> - What's better than fast meals? Superfast meals! If you're looking for great food that can be prepared in 20 minutes or less, check out the wide variety of superfast suppers on the *Cooking Light* magazine site. Each category (pasta, sides, comfort food, pork, summer, seafood, Asian, and more) includes 20 recipes that get changed every two weeks.

Stop Bullying Now

<http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/adults/default.aspx> - Bullying is more than just a nuisance for kids. It's a serious social problem that can produce troubling, or even tragic, results. The Stop Bullying Now site is a resource for learning what constitutes bullying and cyberbullying, the consequences of this behavior, and what kids and adults can do to prevent it. Based on the work of researchers from around the world, the site includes games, webisodes, quizzes, articles, and tip sheets.

Grow a Gorgeous Garden

<http://weekendgardener.net/index.html> - As the weather warms up, are you gearing up for gardening season? If so, the Weekend Gardener may be for you. This comprehensive site offers feature articles, Q&As, how-tos, video tips, and climate zone maps. You'll find monthly to-do lists, gardening club listings, and suggestions for growing specific plants. Still want more? There are landscaping ideas, gardening resource lists, and instructions for controlling pesky garden pests.

Listen to Real-life Stories

<http://storycorps.org> - StoryCorps is a nonprofit organization that helps people share their life stories with friends, family, and the community. Their site features touching tales that have been recorded through the program, as well as instructions for producing your own. Listen to stories in such categories as Angels & Mentors, Friendship, and Wisdom. Or learn how to create a keepsake for Mother's or Father's Day that will be cherished for years to come.

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Short Tutorial - Renaming Your Favorites/Bookmarks

There are times when "short and sweet" is best, and this may apply to the names of your Favorites/Bookmarks. Their names come from webpage titles; if the author gave it a crazy long title, you end up with a crazy long name in your browser's list of Favorites/Bookmarks. You can use a shorter name when you create a new Favorite/Bookmark or you can rename it later by following the steps below.

Renaming Your Favorites/Bookmarks Using ...

Internet Browser: Firefox 3.5

Operating System: Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Mac OS X

1. With Firefox open, click your cursor arrow on the "Bookmarks" menu and select "Organize Bookmarks..." from the resulting drop-down menu.

2. When the Library window opens, you will find a list of bookmark collections in the sidebar along the left side. Select "Bookmarks Menu" and a list of bookmarks will be listed in the larger pane to the right.
3. Select a bookmark you want to rename by clicking on it. The name will now appear in a field at the bottom of the pane.
4. Click in the "Name" field and change its name. Do not change the information in the "Location" field.
5. You can keep changing names of bookmarks by clicking on them and renaming them in the "Name" field. Close the window when you are finished.

Renaming Your Favorites/Bookmarks Using ...

Internet Browser: Safari 4.0

Operating System: Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Mac OS X

1. With Safari open, click your cursor arrow on the "Bookmarks" menu and select "Show All Bookmarks" from the resulting drop-down menu.
2. When the Bookmarks Menu window opens, you will find a list of bookmark collections in the sidebar on the left side. Select "Bookmarks Bar" and the bookmarks in that collection will appear in the main window on the right.
3. Select a bookmark you want to rename by clicking on it. Click on the bookmark name again and type the new name.
4. Rename other bookmarks in the same manner.

Renaming Your Favorites/Bookmarks Using ...

Internet Browser: Internet Explorer 8

Operating System: Windows XP, Windows Vista, and Windows 7

1. With Internet Explorer open, click your cursor arrow on the "Favorites" button located in the upper left corner.
2. When the list of favorites opens, click the down arrow next to "Add to Favorites..." and then select "Organize Favorites..." from the resulting drop-down menu.
3. When the Organize Favorites window opens, select the favorite you want to rename and click on the "Rename" button.
4. The name will now be highlighted in blue. Begin typing the new name for your favorite and press the "Enter" key when you are finished.
5. Rename other favorites in the same manner. Close the window when you are finished.

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We hope you found this newsletter to be informative. It's our way of keeping you posted on the happenings here. If, however, you'd prefer not to receive these bulletins on a monthly basis, click [here](#).

Thanks for your business!

Best regards,

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