

BERNARD TELEPHONE & COMMUNICATIONS

October 2026

110 Jess St. Bernard, IA 563-879-3203 www.bernardtelephone.com



SPOOKY SPOOKY SCAMMERS

Phishing is a type of online scam in which cybercriminals send emails that appear to come from trusted companies or organizations. Their goal is to trick recipients into revealing personal information, clicking harmful links, or downloading attachments. Phishing attempts are especially common during the holiday season, with activity increasing from mid-October through December. Stay alert for these warning signs:

- **Emails Creating a Sense of Urgency** – Messages that pressure you to act immediately or threaten negative consequences if you don't respond.
- **Poor Grammar and Spelling** – Obvious spelling mistakes or awkward wording can be signs of a phishing email.
- **Mismatched Email Addresses, Links, or Domain Names** – Always verify that the sender's email address and any links match the legitimate organization's website. If they don't, do not click.
- **Suspicious Attachments** – If an attachment seems unexpected or unusual, don't open it, even if your antivirus software doesn't detect a problem.
- **Requests for Sensitive Information** – Legitimate organizations will not ask you to provide passwords, login credentials, payment details, or other confidential information through email.
- **Offers That Seem Too Good to Be True** – Be cautious of emails promising money, gift cards, prizes, or valuable rewards for little or no effort. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THIS MONTH'S WINNER

**** Ben & Carol Bennett ****

They will receive a **\$10 CREDIT** on their next bill.

WINNERS ARE RANDOMLY DRAWN AND ALL CUSTOMERS ARE ELIGIBLE

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110

Jess Street

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Bernard@bernardtel.net

www.bernardtelephone.com

24/7 Technical Support

1-888-958-0911

Secure IT Plus Customers

877-373-3320

Do Not Call Registry

888-382-1222

Iowa One Call

811 or 800-292-8989

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday

7:30 AM—4:00 PM

Closed 12:00—12:30 PM

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FUSC Update-Federal Universal Service Charge

Effective October 1, 2026 the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) contribution factor will be increasing from 38.8% to 42.0%. The FUSC amount is calculated by multiplying the contribution factor times your interstate service charges. This factor may change

quarterly, depending upon the needs of the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF). The USF is a government mandated program that is designed to help make phone service affordable and available to all Americans, including consumers with low income, those living in areas where the costs of providing telephone service is high, and to schools, libraries, and rural health care providers.

Bernard Telephone proudly provides free internet services at the Bernard Ballpark. Stay connected whether you're cheering on your favorite team, watching a game with family or enjoying a community event!!!

