



Employee Spotlight

Jay Waage, Network Operations Technician, continued the tradition set by his parents when he started working part-time at JVT in 1986. Both worked in various telecommunications positions, and his mom Rose (pictured above, left) retired from the JVT billing department in 2001.

Jay, a Groton Area High School graduate, went on to Lake Area Technical College and worked for other

telecommunications companies before coming back to JVT twenty years later in 2006.

Jay and his wife, Jonna, live in Groton where they raised their kids, Jackson and Kasey. He enjoys golfing, bowling, hunting, and fishing. Jay also volunteers his time with the Groton Fire Department.

Thank you, Jay, for all your years of dedication!



Grand Giveaway Winner

Congratulations to Terry & Cheryl Geisler, who won a \$200 gift certificate to The Market on the Plaza, in our Grand Giveaway!

Wondering how to register? No problem, because there's no purchase or registration, just winners! Each month we randomly select one of our "grand" residential customers to win. Our next winner could be you!

Aberdeen Area Humane Society Sponsored Pet

Douglas was our June Aberdeen Area Humane Society sponsored pet. He is a two-year-old male domestic shorthair mix that loves to cuddle. If our sponsored pet is adopted in their corresponding month, we will donate \$250 to the AAHS.

As of our printing deadline, Douglas is still available. You can find out more about him and other available pets at anewleashonlife.net or call the AAHS at 605-226-1200 to schedule a time to visit.



Payment Options

More and more people are leaving their wallet behind and embracing their cell phone to check out. A mobile payment app lets you send money from your phone, either to other people or to a payment terminal to purchase something in a store.

Aside from the convenience factor, there are practical reasons to make payments with a mobile device. Security is one of them: Mobile payment tools can provide more security than traditional magnetic-stripe cards, which are susceptible to skimming and data breaches.

If you're new to the world of app-based payments, but want to upgrade from the old cash and cards approach, it's easier than you might think to get set up. In fact, you have most of what you'll need already installed on your phone.

You typically need to store payment information in a mobile wallet in order to use it to make purchases. To do so, enter your credit card, debit card, or bank account information into the wallet (by typing it in or taking a photo of the card).

Google Pay is compatible with both Android and iOS, so it's possibly the most flexible payment option. There are no fees, and you can use it to make purchases as well as person-to-person transactions. Online rummage sale shopping just got easier!

Samsung Pay, despite the name works on any modern Android phone, not just Samsung devices. You can also install it on Samsung smartwatches. Once you've added the Samsung Pay app to your device, add your cards within the app. When it comes time to pay, simply unlock your phone and

then hold your phone against the terminal to use your card.

Samsung Pay does have the advantage over Apple Pay and Google Pay because it works almost anywhere, even on old terminals that haven't been updated to work with Google or Apple Pay.

You may be wondering about paying a friend or co-worker back. Paypal can be used for personal money transfers as well as online purchases and e-commerce. Once you've created a PayPal account, you can send and request money by searching for another user's name, email or phone number and then filling out the amount you want to send or request.

Venmo offers most of the same services as Paypal, but also allows for a debit card to spend from the users Venmo balance.

No matter which app you try, we do recommend you have a lock on your phone whether the app requires it or not.



Safe Harbor Purse with a Purpose

NVC was happy to help sponsor Safe Harbor's "Purse with a Purpose" Fundraiser recently. Raffle tickets were sold for a chance to win one of ten purses. Proceeds went to Safe Harbor in Aberdeen.

As if sponsoring such a great cause wasn't enough, we also got to enjoy Brent model a tiny purse yet again.



NVC Tent at Brown County Fair

Make sure to stop at the NVC tent during the Brown County Fair August 15-21. The NVC tent will be located just southwest of the Home Arts Building and will feature various forms of entertainment.

Acts and artists like the stick horse rodeo, a hypnotist, Apollo's Beacon, and Drive On Military Band will be featured, and there will be a meet and greet with the Aberdeen Area Humane Society.

Stay tuned to this newsletter and our Facebook page for more updates. Also, watch for the Brown County Fair program this month for a final schedule.



10-Digit Dialing Now Mandatory

As a reminder, 10-digit dialing is now required in our network. Ten-digit dialing became mandatory for our network on July 6, 2022, and all affected providers must comply by July 15, 2022. Beginning July 16, 2022, dialing "988" will route calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted 988 as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.

In order for 988 to work in the 605 area code, 10-digit

local dialing must first be implemented. To complete local calls, all customers in the 605 area code will need to dial the area code followed by the seven-digit telephone number.

This affects both landlines and cell phones. If you have programmed seven-digit phone numbers into speed dial functions or cellphone contact lists, you will need to reprogram those as 10-digit numbers in order to make a phone call after that point.

You can visit <https://www.fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline> for more information.

Upgrade or Replace Old Technology

As of June 15, 2022, Internet Explorer is officially retired. That means you can no longer download the browser, Microsoft won't release updates for it, and you really should move on to a different browser.

Internet Explorer was the default web browser for millions throughout the late '90s and peaked around 2003. Then Google's Chrome came along in 2008 and slowly but surely chipped away until it became the market leader.

There are other outdated devices and programs you should avoid as well. As devices age, hackers learn the best ways to use them against you.

The first-generation Amazon Echo smart speaker is an example of hackers learning how to control something over time. They can take control of the speaker by exploiting a pre-existing vulnerability and listen to your conversations.

The same goes for an early version of Google Nest Hello video doorbell. Hackers have learned how to launch an attack that disables the recording function.

Some devices work well beyond their intended shelf-life. Count surge protectors and outlet extenders among them. But over the years, the amount of power they can handle drops and that can pose a fire risk if you have too much plugged in. Malfunctioning surge protectors can also ruin your gadgets if there's a power spike. A good rule of thumb is to swap out surge protectors every five years or so. If you notice even one burned-out plug, toss out the entire thing.

Other things to look at are hard drives and cordless phones. If you're still using a spinning disk for storage, it's probably approaching end of life. Make a digital back up of your hard drive before getting rid of it though. Old cordless phones (ones that run on 2.4GHz or 5.8GHz) can cause interference with WiFi signals. Upgrade to one that runs on 1.9GHz band instead.

Sometimes just upgrading the software on a gadget is enough. Set a schedule to go through them once or twice a year and see what needs to be upgraded and what should be replaced.



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