



# Bell Ringer

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Clear Lake, South Dakota 57226

## FOCUS ON YOUR BUSINESS

*Let ITC handle the IT*

Running a business takes focus, time, and energy. Whether managing a small local shop or a large organization, ITC's Managed IT Services are designed to keep your technology running smoothly, so you can concentrate on what matters most: your business.

With ITC managing your IT environment, you gain peace of mind knowing your systems are secure, reliable, and always up-to-date. From network protection to cloud-based communication tools, our solutions take the stress out of technology management.

### *How ITC Helps Your Business*

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#### **Hosted Voice**

Stay connected with ITC Hosted Voice, our cloud-based phone system that eliminates the need for costly on-site hardware. We handle the setup, leasing, and management, ensuring clear and dependable communication every day.

#### **IT Support**

Our expert technicians provide hands-on assistance with your technology planning, setup, and maintenance. From hardware to software, ITC keeps your infrastructure performing at its best.

#### **Managed Firewall**

Protect your business from cyber threats with continuous monitoring and customized solutions. Our managed firewalls, switches, and wireless access points provide layers of defense to keep your network safe.

#### **Endpoint & Anti-Virus Protection**

Using Sophos Endpoint Protection, ITC shields your Windows, Mac, and Linux devices from malware and other security threats. It is backed by real-time intelligence from SophosLabs.

#### **ITC Backup**

Safeguard your valuable data with our secure cloud backup services. We offer flexible options for workstations, servers, and databases. You can easily monitor from a user-friendly web dashboard.

### *Why Choose ITC?*

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By partnering with ITC, you can reduce risks, minimize downtime, and improve productivity while letting our experts manage your technology behind the scenes. It's a proactive, cost-effective way to ensure your systems stay secure and your team stays focused.

To learn more about ITC's Managed IT Services, call 1.800.417.8667 or visit [www.itc-web.com/managementservices](http://www.itc-web.com/managementservices).



# STREAM THE RIGHT WAY

*By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician*

Streaming has become the go-to way to enjoy movies, shows, and sports, offering endless entertainment at your fingertips. But with so many devices and unknown sources out there, it's important to know which ones keep you safe, and which can cause real problems for you and your household.

Lately, we've seen more questions about certain streaming devices advertised as "Superboxes" or "free TV boxes." They're often sold as a one-time purchase that gives you access to live TV, movies, and sports without monthly subscriptions. That does sound appealing; however, ITC is unable to assist with the service or support of these "Superboxes".

Beyond legal concerns, some of these boxes can quietly upload unknown files, overload your household's upload capacity, or connect to hidden services without your knowledge. The result can be slow Internet, high latency in gaming, jittery video calls, disrupted streaming, and even impacts on smart home devices. While the specifics vary, the effects range from frustrating performance issues to potential security or privacy risks. For these reasons, sticking with well-known, licensed services and approved streaming devices is always safer.

At ITC, our priority is protecting members' service quality and security. When a device on your network behaves strangely like this with upload spikes, unexplained traffic, or sluggish uploads, it affects everyone in the home. Compromised devices create slower performance, possible privacy exposure, and extra troubleshooting.

The good news is that there are plenty of safe ways to stream. Mainstream services like Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime Video use licensed apps and work reliably on approved devices. In addition, if you want a straightforward option backed by local support, ITC Stream delivers licensed content over ITC's Fiber-Fast Internet with access to local channels, live sports, and cloud DVR options. It's designed to give members a dependable streaming experience without the risks that can come from unknown devices.

If you're unsure about a device or an app, please contact ITC so we can help identify if the box is safe and help protect your connection. Call us at 1.800.417.8667 or visit [www.itc-web.com/stream](http://www.itc-web.com/stream)

*Many streaming boxes, which are often called "Superboxes," are illegal. The boxes are intended to allow you to stream copyrighted material without having a subscription for the programming. That is a violation of copyright laws. If you or anyone in your household streams copyrighted material without a subscription, you may be subject to criminal fines and penalties. You may also be civilly liable to the copyright holders for damages which can be substantial.*

# FACEBOOK

*By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist*

ITC University will teach a "What's New with Facebook" class in November. With this class, you will learn about some of the changes and upgrades Facebook has made in the last two years since we last taught this class. We will cover Facebook security and new AI features.

ITC University teaches FREE Internet classes for our members. We keep the classes small so everyone can get all their questions answered. Consider joining us for November's class in one of the following locations:

- November 12 at 10 AM - Ivanhoe Community Center
- November 19 at 10 AM - Clear Lake Office
- November 20 at 10 AM - Brookings Research Park
- November 25 at 10 AM - Webster Library
- December 3 at 10 AM - Milbank ITC Office

If you see a class date that you want to attend, please scan the QR code with your phone's camera or go to [www.itc-web.com/itcuniversity](http://www.itc-web.com/itcuniversity). There is a form there to fill out. We hope to see you all in class!



# RESPECT THE FLAGS

Before you start any digging project, whether planting trees, installing a fence, or doing construction, it's crucial to know what's buried beneath the ground. Underground utility lines, such as fiber-optic cables, are all part of a complex network that keeps our communities running. Damaging one of these lines can lead to costly repairs, service outages, or serious injury. That's why locating underground cables before you dig is so important.

When you contact ITC (by calling 811), professional locators will visit your property to mark where underground utilities are buried. These small flags may look harmless, but they're doing an important job protecting people, property, and essential infrastructure.

Once your project is complete, you may notice locate flags still standing in the ditch or yard. It's important to understand that removing these flags is not ITC's responsibility. The responsibility belongs to the person who originally requested the locate ticket, typically the homeowner, contractor, or company performing the work. After the digging project is finished and safe, the caller should remove and dispose of the flags properly. This practice helps keep neighborhoods tidy, ensures accurate future locates, and prevents confusion for other contractors or residents.

By respecting the locating flags and understanding your responsibilities, you're helping protect your property, community, and the essential infrastructure we depend on.

