



THE ORIGINS OF THE EASTER BUNNY AND DOES HE HAVE A TELEPHONE NUMBER?

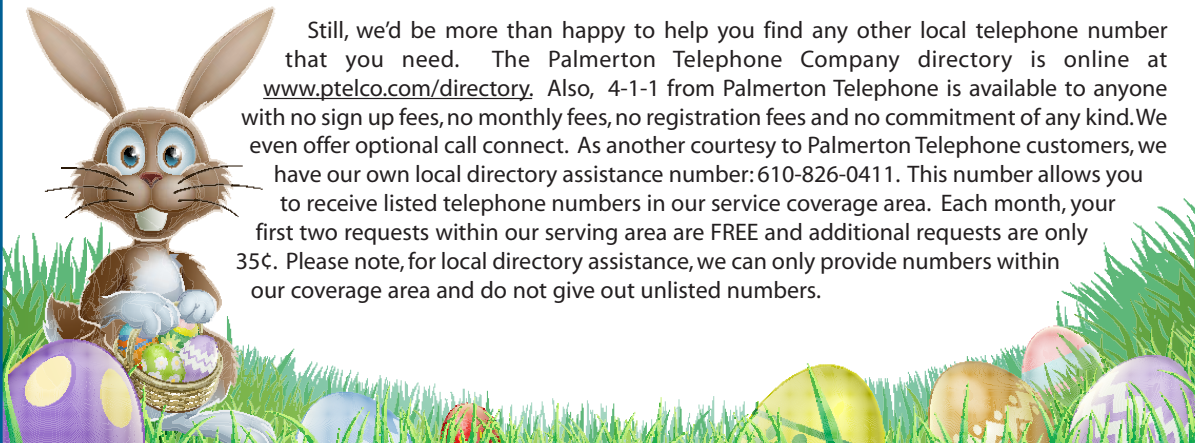
THE EASTER BUNNY'S ORIGINS BEGAN IN PRE-CHRISTIAN LORE. THE HARE AND THE RABBIT WERE THE MOST FERTILE ANIMALS KNOWN AND SERVED AS SYMBOLS OF NEW LIFE DURING THE SPRING SEASON. EARLIEST WRITTEN RECORDS DATE BACK TO ANCIENT EGYPT, WHEN RABBITS OR HARES AND EGGS WERE COMMON FERTILITY SYMBOLS IN THE SPRING FESTIVALS OF REGENERATION AND RENEWAL CELEBRATED BY CIVILIANS ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

The Easter Bunny was introduced to American folklore in the 1700s, by German settlers who arrived in the Pennsylvania Dutch country. "Oschter Haw," as the bunny (hare) was known, was second only to Santa Claus, and left gifts of colored eggs around the homes of well-behaved children on the eve of Easter. Bakers started shaping breads into a hare laying an egg—with an actual egg pushed into the dough and baked with the loaf. The children would create nests, usually out of bonnets or caps, in a secluded part of their home, and hoped for the sugary pasty eggs. Some families would leave children's shoes out for the Easter Bunny to fill, but those didn't offer much room for treats. Eventually, as the tradition spread throughout the country, hats and shoes became baskets that were brimming with goodies!

Today's interpretations of the Easter Bunny vary by region. In the United States, the story of Peter Cottontail hopping down the bunny trail has given a name and personality to the iconic figure. In Australia, an abundance of rabbits became a nuisance and has symbolically been replaced by the endangered bilby, who looks similar to a bunny. Germany's version of the Easter Bunny was influenced by folklorist Jakob Grimm's stories on traditional Easter rituals.

Although we know quite a bit about this famous and loved rabbit, one thing still remains a mystery. We've searched and searched, and can't seem to find a listed phone number for him. Perhaps it's because he is just so busy painting eggs and making candy to take phone calls from the millions of children awaiting his visit this month.

Still, we'd be more than happy to help you find any other local telephone number that you need. The Palmerton Telephone Company directory is online at www.ptelco.com/directory. Also, 4-1-1 from Palmerton Telephone is available to anyone with no sign up fees, no monthly fees, no registration fees and no commitment of any kind. We even offer optional call connect. As another courtesy to Palmerton Telephone customers, we have our own local directory assistance number: 610-826-0411. This number allows you to receive listed telephone numbers in our service coverage area. Each month, your first two requests within our serving area are FREE and additional requests are only 35¢. Please note, for local directory assistance, we can only provide numbers within our coverage area and do not give out unlisted numbers.



SERVING THIS AREA SINCE 1900

Phone Numbers

Customer Service
610-826-6650

Business Office
610-826-2115

Repair Service
610-826-3444

Gilbert Office
610-826-9321

*Do you know that
Palmerton Telephone
has been serving the
area since 1900?*

NOTICE:
Palmerton
Telephone
Company now
charges a fee
of \$20.00 for
returned
checks.

From the Manager's Desk...

SPRING IS HERE, NOW WHAT?

Due to publishing and printing deadlines, I'm writing this in late February when there is about two feet of snow on the ground in most places, so if your snow isn't gone yet, please bear with me.

Now that the nice weather is here and the snow is gone, it's time to think about yard work, landscaping and those spring and summer projects that need to be done around the house. The ground should be thawed by now so we just need to get out those shovels and forks and go to work on that garden, right? Not so fast! Do you know what's under the ground in the spot where you plan to dig? Let's see, the pedestal is over there at the corner of the lot and the meter is here on the corner of the house so the wires run in a straight line between them, right? And they are buried about three feet deep so I can't possibly hit anything with my garden fork, can I? Well, first of all, the trench between your electric meter and the pedestal may not go in such a straight line. There may have been a big rock or

some other obstacle that the excavator had to go around. While the trench may have been dug down three to four feet, do you know how much grading has been done on your lot since then? Can you be sure just how deep the wire is now? This is why Pennsylvania law requires anyone planning an excavation to call 811 at least three business days before digging. While it is true that the law only applies to excavations done with machinery, would you really like to find out what would happen if you stuck your garden fork into a 12,000 volt electric primary cable? Be safe; be sure, it doesn't cost you a cent to call. Please call 811 before you dig for any reason and have a safe and prosperous spring season.

Sincerely,

Tom Lager

General Manager
Palmerton Telephone Company

LOWER TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES AVAILABLE FOR LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS

PALMERTON TELEPHONE OFFERS A PROGRAM TO HELP OUR LOW INCOME RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS KEEP THEIR TELEPHONE SERVICE.

This Federal program is called Lifeline 135 Service. If you are a low-income residential customer, you may qualify. Please see our insert in this month's billing statement for more information.

Recipe April 2014

Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Mushrooms

Ingredients

- > 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- > 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- > 20 fresh mushrooms, stems removed
- > 1 pound sliced bacon, cut in half

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F

In a medium bowl, mix together the green onions and cream cheese. Stuff mushroom caps with the cheese mixture. Wrap each mushroom with a half-slice of bacon, and secure with toothpicks. Place on a baking sheet.

Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, until the bacon is cooked through.

FEATURED FEATURE:

CAN YOUR CORDLESS LANDLINE PHONE HELP YOUR CELL PHONE?

LANDLINE PHONES PROVIDE BETTER VOICE QUALITY THAN CELLULAR PHONES, SO HERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO ENJOY YOUR CONVERSATIONS EVEN MORE. Assuming your cell phone works somewhere in your home, you can use a cordless phone system with Bluetooth capabilities to place and receive cell-phone calls on cordless handsets throughout your home. Like any cordless phones, those systems also connect to your landline service. With both services connected, you can pick and choose between placing calls on the landline or your cell service. When calls come in, you can see which service they're on. The phone will also work with cell service alone, though for safety reasons we recommend keeping landline service in your home. This will allow you to use one handset for all of your calls and may even help with areas of your home that do not pick up

good cellular reception. Certain models take that Bluetooth connection even further by notifying you on a cordless handset of incoming texts on your cell phone.

Perhaps the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) summed it up best in a recent report stating, **"A balanced choice is often the best one—a combination of landline and wireless phone use may be the right choice for you."** If you refer a new customer (a friend, family member or neighbor) to Palmerton Telephone for landline or DSL service, please have them tell us that you sent them! After their installation, **YOU'LL BE ENTERED TO WIN FOUR TICKETS TO SEE THE LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS AT COCA-COLA PARK, WITH A SOUVENIR IRONPIGS T-SHIRT AND HAT TOO! THE RANDOM DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 30, 2014.**

*Do you know that
Palmerton Telephone
copper wires, connected
end to end, circle the
earth 4 times at the
equator?*

CREDIT CARD FRAUD AND YOU: HOW TO AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM

IT'S NO SECRET: CYBERCRIMINALS CONTINUE TO BE A THREAT TO INFORMATION THAT WAS ONCE CONSIDERED PRIVATE. WHETHER THE THREAT IS FROM A GROUP OR WITHIN AN ORGANIZATION, BREACHES ARE NO LONGER A MATTER OF "IF," BUT RATHER "WHEN"

According to the Trustwave® 2013 Global Security Report, here is what cybercriminals targeted most in 2013:

1. Customer Records (Payment Card Data, Personally Identifiable Information, E-Mail Addresses) – 96%
2. Confidential Information & Intellectual Property – 2%
3. Electronic Protected Health Information – 1%
4. Business Financial Account Numbers – 1%

The primary data type targeted by attackers was cardholder data. There is a well-established underground marketplace for stolen credit card data and numbers can be bought, sold, and used very quickly. So what does this mean to you, as an individual, and what can you do to avoid becoming a victim of credit card fraud? Don't be paranoid, but be aware. Here are some other helpful tips:

1. Shop with companies that you know and that have a solid reputation. Always determine the company's return and refund policy before you place an order.
2. Create strong passwords.
3. Never give your credit card information via email. It will not be secure.
4. Never lend credit cards to someone else or write down the numbers on a piece of paper.
5. Never give a credit card number over the telephone, unless you have initiated the transaction and know without a doubt that the business you have called is reputable.
6. Never sign a blank receipt. Draw a line through any blank spaces above the total and keep copies of your receipts to compare with the transactions on your monthly billing statements.
7. Review credit card statements every month. Contact your creditor in writing about any questionable charges as soon as you notice them.
8. Be cautious if you're asked to provide personal information, such as your Social Security Number. It is rarely necessary and should raise a red flag.
9. When making a payment over the Internet, use only a secure web browser. Watch for the lock icon and/or "https" in the address bar. These can indicate that your payment information will be encrypted (scrambled) in transit.
10. Keep your eye out for scams. If something doesn't seem right, trust your instincts.

Brain Teaser February 2014 Winner!

**Congratulations to
Bonnie Snyder
of Palmerton, Pa.
Bonnie was the
winner of a \$25 Gift
Card to Roadies
Restaurant and Bar
at Penn's Peak in Jim
Thorpe, Pa.**

Where does
Valentine's Day
come after Easter?

*Answer:
In the Dictionary*

Fun Facts

If the Earth's axis was not tilted, there would be 12-hour days everywhere, and no seasons. At the poles, the sun would always be on the horizon.

The little metal ring or cap attached to or near the end of a cane or wooden handle (such as on a paint brush) to prevent splitting is called a ferrule. Its name was derived from the Latin "viriola," meaning "little bracelet."

Humans, if they are very sensitive, can detect sweetness in a solution of 1 part sugar to 200 parts water. Some moths and butterflies can detect sweetness when the ratio is 1 to 300,000.

As each and every cut and polished diamond is the result of the meticulous work of skilled masters, only one polished diamond in a thousand weighs more than a carat.

There are earthworms as short as one-twenty-fifth of an inch and earthworms as long as 11 feet. The earthworm has no lungs; it breathes through its skin. Some earthworms have as many as ten hearts.

Next to wood, coal is the oldest of fuels. The Chinese mined it as long ago as 1000 B.C. and used it to smelt iron and copper.

On August 18, 1982, the longest baseball game played at Chicago's Wrigley Field went 22 innings before the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Cubs, 2-1. The game had started the previous day and had been postponed after 17 innings because of darkness.

The Coast Guard Academy in July of 1976 was the first U.S. service academy to admit women.

In Thailand, the left hand is considered unclean, so you should not eat with it. Also, pointing with one finger is considered rude and is only done when pointing to objects or animals, never humans.

DSL

How Can DSL Benefit You?

DSL service offers you a constant, always-on high-speed connection to the Internet that doesn't tie up your telephone line, and you'll never get a busy signal. Just turn on your computer, log in, and you're online!

At Palmerton Telephone, we offer DSL packages as low as **\$19.95 a month**, speeds **up to 10 Mbps**, **five e-mailboxes per customer** with 2 GB of storage per mailbox **and FREE access to any PenTeleData Unleashed Wi-Fi Hot Spot location.**

Why choose Palmerton Telephone over another provider? Some Internet companies advertise speeds that aren't quite what you receive. We don't. In fact, we test every DSL connection on-site to make sure that the speed package you choose is actually available to your home or business. If it's not, we'll change your package to a lower priced one that represents the actual speed that is available. (Although your speed will only be as fast as the slowest connection – website variables are beyond our control.)

Are you a Val-YOU Package customer? If so, you'll automatically save \$10/month Accelerate 5.0 and Accelerate 10.0 plans!

Still not sure? The time to call is now.

That's because if you call us at (610)826-6650 before April 30, 2014 to schedule DSL installation for your home, you'll *get free installation and service for \$10 off each month (any speed) for the first three months!*

Can you beat this **BRAIN TEASER?**

Palmerton Telephone is giving away a \$25 Gift Card to Roadies Restaurant and Bar at Penn's Peak in Jim Thorpe, Pa.

To enter, e-mail the correct answer to ptelco@ptd.net or send a 3" x 5" index card to 465 Delaware Ave. Palmerton, PA 18071. Please include your name, address, daytime telephone number (to call only if you win), and the Brain Teaser answer. All entries must be received by **4/20/14**.

Good Luck! Palmerton Telephone

Brain Teaser

Can February March?

