



GRAND MOUND PHONET NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter Published for our Customers

July 2002

LOW-INCOME IOWANS MAY QUALIFY FOR TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

Low-income telephone assistance is available to qualifying low-income Iowans as part of two federal support programs. These programs, "Lifeline Assistance" and "Link-Up," are available through Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association.

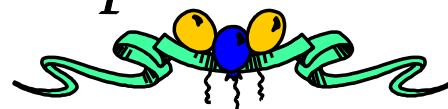
- "Lifeline" is a plan that assists qualified low-income Iowans by providing a monthly credit on their telephone bill.
- "Link-Up" is an assistance plan that helps qualified low-income Iowans pay for the installation of basic telephone service by reducing connection charges by 50 percent, or \$30, whichever is less.

Another feature of the Lifeline program enables qualified applicants to avoid paying a service deposit if they voluntarily agree to have long distance calling blocked from their telephone.

Iowans who participate in one or more of the following programs are eligible for telephone assistance: Medicaid; Food Stamps; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance; or Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP).

To apply for either or both of these low-income telephone assistance plans, applicants should submit an application to Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association. Application forms can be obtained from Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association at 705 Clinton Street, Grand Mound, IA or at the Iowa East Central T.R.A.I.N. office at 1415B 11th Street, DeWitt, IA. This application is also available on the Iowa Utilities Board website at www.state.ia.us/iub. Individuals simply self certify that they are eligible for assistance. No other certification is required. Eligible Iowans are encouraged to submit their application.

*You're Invited
to our
Open House.*



Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association is celebrating their 55th year and Grand Mound Communications Company is celebrating their 5th year in business. We will be holding an Open House on Wednesday, September 11, 2002 at the Grand Mound Community Center. More information about the Open House will follow later in your August bill.



CONSUMER TIPS

Pay Per Call Service Information

What are "900" Numbers

Private companies offer a variety of informational programs using phone numbers that begin with "900." There is a charge for calls to these numbers. Charges for "900" calls appear on the Interexchange Carrier page of your bill. "900" calls contain an introductory disclosure message specifying types of charges, time necessary to complete the call, and an option to disconnect without charge at the end of the introductory message. The price and content of "900" services are the responsibility of the companies that provide the information.

How to Block Calls to "900" Numbers

Your telephone company will assist you in blocking calls from your line to "900" numbers.

Other Questions About "900" Numbers

If you have a complaint or dispute about the "900" service, call the interexchange carrier. Services that contain illegal or sexually explicit materials are not allowed. Nor is your telephone service disconnected for disputes about payment of "900" charges.

Internet and Kids

We have come to that time of the year when kids have more free time and they may spend more time on the Internet. Here are some safety tips and some safe surfing sites that you may find helpful.

The Internet is like any other large public place. Just as you would give your kids guidelines before going into a large mall, it is important to go over safety and privacy rules before you let them use the net. That way they will know the standards of behavior that are acceptable. There are lots of positive things on the Internet that will benefit kids. We want to point them to those things. Here are a number of good sites that will give guidelines to use with your kids. You will find that many of the guidelines at these different sites have the same themes. Some of them also have kid-safe links for surfing.

<http://www.netparents.org>

<http://www.safekids.com>

<http://www.disney.go.com/cybersafety>

Below are listed some websites for great places for kids to explore. Each of these sites has many links to other good resources and they have criteria to judge the validity and quality of sites before linking to them. A kid could start at these sites and spend the whole summer exploring the links!

<http://www.biqchalk.com> opens a world of information to teachers, students, and parents – enhancing learning, helping with homework, and offering limitless paths of exploration.

<http://www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites/> 700 amazing, spectacular, mysterious, wonderful, web sites for kids and the adults that care about them.

<http://www.ipl.org> The Internet Public Library is the first public library of the Internet providing services for the Internet community with an awareness of the different needs of young people.

<http://lycoszone.lycos.com/> contains fun, games, comics, stories & homework help.

<http://www.yahooligans.com/> the web guide for kids.

NEW DIRECTORY LISTINGS AND UPDATES

-F-

Frick, Brian & Janet.....847-1131

-R-

Ron's Barn, Inc.....847-3600

-G-

Gregoire, Jonathan.....847-3388

-W-

Weidner, Neal G. (Fax Line)...847-1257

-H-

Hilsenbeck, Ron & Corinne....847-3600

Holmes, Jason & Tammy.....847-1405



Published quarterly for
customers of

**Grand Mound Coop.
Telephone Assn.
and
Grand Mound
Communications Co.**

providing local
telephone service for the
Grand Mound area, PCS
Wireless, Voice Mail,
Paging Services, travel
calling cards, data and
fax services, CATV,
Internet, and DSL.

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