



GRAND MOUND PHONET NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter Published for our Customers

March 2004

511 Service Offers Enhanced Features

The Iowa DOT and Iowa State Patrol have enhanced the traveler information and safety in Iowa.

Travelers can dial 511 and find out about road conditions along their route using a voice-recognition system.

Last November 15, 2003, the 511 service added roadway incidents reported by the highway patrol and Amber Alerts.

From January to August 2003, the service received more than 218,000 phone calls.

The Iowa DOT and State Patrol have extended their thanks to the numerous independent telcos who offer 511 to their customers as a public service.

NEW DIRECTORY LISTINGS AND UPDATES

-M-

McDevitt, Paul (Joe) & Carol....847-1150

-S-

Shadle, Joseph & Kelly.....847-1553

Sheehan, Richard & Yvonne.....847-1015

TECH TIP

When burning or mowing ditches, be aware of telephone pedestals and equipment. You may not only damage the equipment and cables, but vital emergency services could be cut off to your neighbors or yourself.

GMCTA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET FOR MARCH 13, 2004

The Annual Meeting of the members of Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association will be on March 13, 2004.

The meeting will be held at the Grand Mound Community Center beginning with a 12:00 noon luncheon followed by the business meeting at 1:00 p.m.

The business meeting will be for the purpose of electing directors and transacting other business as necessary.

The official notice of the meeting will be mailed to the members of GMCTA on March 1, 2004.



SOLAR INTERFERENCE

During the month of March, we will be experiencing solar interference during which degradation or loss of Satellite signal will occur on our CATV system. This will occur between the hours of 2:00-4:00 p.m. for approximately 10 days.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!



Call Before You Dig!
1-800-292-8989

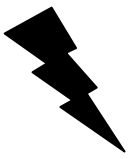
Notification service for locating underground

Spring and summer are just around the corner. Of course, that means the digging season is knocking at our door.

Please call Iowa One Call at
1-800-292-8989

to have the underground facilities located and marked. Call 48 hours in advance of digging and remember that

IT'S THE LAW!



THUNDERSTORMS.....



...AND COMPUTERS

Spring is here and summer is fast approaching. We know from past experience that we are fast approaching the thunderstorm season. As an important reminder to you, during a thunderstorm, it would be wise to unplug your modem from the power and phone line. This is a good practice to keep you connected and trouble-free rather than getting fried with unnecessary repairs.



...AND TELEPHONES

Phones dead after a storm? Before calling the telephone office to generate a trouble ticket, you can do some simple checks of your own. Unplug your answering machine, cordless phone, computer modem, fax machine or regular phones one at a time from the phone jack. When plugging back in one at a time, check to see if you get a dial tone, if not, then you have found the equipment with the short. If no such luck, then call the telephone office. Remember, you can save us time and yourself money.

809 Area Code Scam

Beware of callers asking you to dial an "809" area code. This scam has been identified by the National Fraud Information Center and can cost victims a lot of money. The 809 area code is located in the British Virgin Islands (The Bahamas) and can be used as a "pay-per-call" number, similar to 900 numbers in the U.S. Since 809 is not in the U.S., it is not covered by U.S. regulations of 900 numbers, which require customers to be notified and warned of charges and rates involved when calling a "pay-per-call" number. Oftentimes, 809 calls charge several dollars per minute. 809 calls do not need to provide a time period during which the customer may terminate the call without begin charged, and 900 number blocking does not work in preventing calls to the 809 area code. It is recommended that if you are asked to call a number with an 809 area code that you do not recognize, disregard the message and do not make the call.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU CLICK ON WHILE SURFING THE INTERNET!

Links on web pages are there to be clicked on, right? Well, yes, but, you might want to think twice before clicking on links to things other than web pages, such as files with unfamiliar extensions such as *EXE* (PC executable files). This is because your browser might try to automatically bring up the associated helper application in order to read/view/print the file you clicked on, even when you want to just download and read it. For example, clicking on an *EXE* file might cause your browser to first download it and then automatically execute it (and by doing so possibly infect your computer with a computer virus).

If you're not sure what you're about to click on, try *Right Clicking* on that link and selecting "Save as..." (or a similar action). This way you'll simply download the file without executing it or bringing in it's default viewer.



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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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