



GRAND MOUND PHONET NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter Published for our Customers

September 2008

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF LEDO HILLS & PRAIRIE VIEW

In the next few weeks, Grand Mound Communications Company customers in Ledo Hills and Prairie View additions will see employees of GMCC in their neighborhood.

GMCC will be splicing fiber optic cable to each house in an effort to replace the existing television cable with fiber optic cable.

GMCC will be contacting you both through mail and on our channel 20 to set up an appointment to convert your existing services to fiber.

At that time, it would be a great time to upgrade all of your services to GMCC, your locally owned and operated service provider for all of your telephone, cable TV and high speed Internet needs.

Holiday Closing

Grand Mound Coop. Telephone
&
Grand Mound Communications
will be closed on

Monday, September 1st
for the Labor Day.

We will reopen on
Tuesday, September 2nd
at our normal time.

**Have a Safe & Enjoyable
Labor Day Weekend!**

Fascinating Facts About Fiber Optics

(Known as "Miracle" Technology)

- A single fiber strand is thinner than a human hair and made of glass.
- Pulses of light travel along these thin strands of glass, transmitting "on, off" instructions that the receiving end translates into voice conversation, text and images.
- Fiber is so fast, we could transmit the contents of an entire 24-volume set of encyclopedias across fiber in one second.
- A fiber cable the size of a standard electric cord can carry the same information as a copper cable hundreds of times thicker.
- Taken in bulk, it would take 33 tons of copper to transmit the same amount of information handled by ¼ pound of optical fiber.
- Fiber optics has faster DATA speeds, crystal clear voice services, unmatched network reliability, incredible speed and limitless potential for voice, data and video connections.



Long-Distance Surcharges

Your long-distance bill may list several surcharges. One is a "Universal Connectivity Charge" or "Federal Universal Service Fee." This charge assists with the costs of providing affordable telephone service to customers in rural, high-cost areas and to low-income customers, as well as helping schools, libraries, and rural health care providers obtain advanced telecommunications services. All service providers contribute to the support of these programs.

The other surcharge you may be seeing is the "National Access Fee" or "Federal Carrier Line Charge." some long-distance companies have added this charge to customer's bills, claiming it offsets new fees imposed on them by the local phone companies. We want you to know that this fee is itemized on your bill at the discretion of your long-distance company. This surcharge has not been imposed by your local telephone company.

NEW DIRECTORY LISTINGS AND UPDATES

-G-

Green, Clara
2632 252 Ave DeWitt.....847-5199

Green, Jason & Melissa
2146 220 Ave Grand Mound.....847-2198

-S-

Schneider, Leslie & Kellie
510 Fulton St Grand Mound.....847-1275

Shelton, Luke
904 Sunnyside St Grand Mound.....847-1331

Tips & Warnings to Avoid Spam and E-mail Viruses

The following warnings and tips will help you avoid spam and e-mail viruses.

- WARNING!** Don't open an e-mail or its attachment unless you expected the message and know the sender.
- WARNING!** Never respond directly to a spam e-mail message. This will only validate your e-mail address and you may receive more spam. Forward the spam to an appropriate organization such as the Federal Trade Commission. Visit <http://www.ftc.gov/spam/> for more information.
- WARNING!** Never buy anything from a spam message.
- WARNING!** Don't download files and programs from sources you are not familiar with.
- WARNING!** Never follow the advice within an email 'virus alert' instructing you to remove a virus from your system without first verifying its validity. Many e-mail hoaxes and viruses masquerade as virus alerts.
- TIP** Only give your e-mail address to people you trust.
- TIP** Use the "BBC" (Blind Carbon Copy) feature of your e-mail program when emailing a large list of people. This will help keep everyone's e-mail address private.
- TIP** Use a virus protection program. Be sure to update the program's "virus definitions" as often as possible to help avoid new viruses.
- TIP** Update your software regularly. Software manufacturers such as Microsoft often release patches and software updates to address security problems.
- TIP** Back up your important e-mail and data to minimize the damage a virus can do.
- TIP** Use spam blocking software. GMTel.net uses Postini as their spam blocking software.
- TIP** Never post your e-mail to a newsgroup, chatroom or website. Many spammers use special programs to "harvest" e-mail addresses from the Internet. If possible, use a secondary e-mail address when needed.

Source: WEBSITEcompass, Spring Issue, 2008



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, DSL and Wireless Internet.

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Business Office Hours

Monday to Friday
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

General Manager
Don Robertson

Office Manager
Terri Bumann

Office Assistant
Dee Dee Banowetz

**Combination
Technician**
Chris Beuthien

Board of Directors

Dennis Campbell
Kurt Crosthwaite
Roger Green
David Schnack
Ruth Schroeder
Harry Slaymaker
Wayne Whitman



SOLAR INTERFERENCE

During the month of October, we will be experiencing solar interference during which degradation or loss of satellite signal will occur on our CATV system.

The paths of the sun on satellite transmissions cause these 10 to 20-minute disruptions.

This will occur between the hours of 2:00-5:00 p.m. for approximately 10 days during October.

