



# GRAND MOUND PHONET NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter Published for our Customers

December 2009



From our staff to all of you,  
we want to wish everyone a  
Happy Holiday Season &  
a Prosperous New Year!

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We will be closed for the Holidays on:

Thursday, December 24  
Friday, December 25  
Friday, January 1

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## WIRELESS INTERNET CUSTOMER REFERRALS

### **WANT TO LOWER YOUR MONTHLY WIRELESS HIGH SPEED INTERNET BILL???**

After you're a Wireless High Speed Internet customer of Grand Mound Communications Company, all you need to do is refer a new Wireless High Speed Internet customer to us.

Once the new customer's (your referral) Wireless High Speed Internet service has been installed, we will then credit your account \$20.00 for each new referral you give us. There is no limit on the number of referrals.

Just have your referral mention your name when they sign up with us.



**REMINDER:** For your convenience, if you need to make a payment after hours or on weekends, we have a drop box located at our office at 705 Clinton Street on the right-hand side of the west front door.

## KEEP YOUR CONNECTION!

Your corded landline phone is the most reliable device on the market today. But there are other reasons why you should make it a necessity in your home.

### WHY YOU NEED A CORDED LANDLINE PHONE:

1. Provides security in an emergency with reliable 911.
2. Provides superior quality of sound and clarity.
3. Works in a power outage.
4. Provides unlimited local calling.
5. Can handle massive call demands.
6. Reliable and consistent service.
7. No dropped calls. Always a strong signal.
8. Can't be "hacked". Landlines are secure.
9. Provides you with a directory.
10. Provided by a local company with local employees in a local office.

### Dial 511: Travel Information

Planning to travel over the holidays? Be sure to dial 511 before heading out.

The statewide travel hotline, 511, provides you with updated weather information and road condition updates.

## 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 its default viewer.

## 10 WAYS TO SPOT AN E-MAIL SCAM

### 1. Requests for personal information.

No legitimate organization will ask for your social security, bank account or PIN number via e-mail – and none will include a link, sending you to a form to enter it. No matter how authentic these emails may look, ignore them.

### 2. Watch for typos or spelling mistakes.

Scam artists are street smart, but many flunked basic grammar (or barely speak English). Look for mistakes like inappropriate hyphens or confusing “your” and “you’re.” If the note has multiple typos or grammatical errors, odds are it’s not legitimate.

### 3. Clickable Web links in e-mails.

Don’t trust links to Web sites in e-mails. What might look like a legitimate address is often linked to a third-party site that looks official, but is actually run by thieves and scammers. These are the fast track to identity and financial theft.

### 4. ‘Market research’ or surveys that ask you for personal information.

Disguising scam e-mails as marketing is a classic ploy. You’ll be asked to fill out a survey or enter a contest – requiring you to give personal information or “log on” to your account. Once you’ve done so, the scammers can use it themselves.

### 5. Stock tips from random people or companies.

Got a “hot stock tip” via e-mail? It’s probably a “pump and dump” scheme. The sender already owns shares – and when you and others act on the “tip,” the stock price soars and he sells fast – leaving you with virtually worthless shares.

### 6. Attachments in e-mails from anyone you don’t know.

It should be common sense, but just in case, we’ll remind you again: Don’t open an attachment from someone you don’t know – even if it appears to be your bank or credit card company. It’s almost always a virus or spyware meant to steal your personal information.

### 7. Wordless e-mails.

Some legitimate looking “e-mails” are actually just images. The danger with these is that clicking anywhere in the body takes you to a suspect Web site – where you may be fooled into entering personal information, or the scammer may slip spyware onto your machine.

### 8. Outdated information.

Some scammers like to pose as technical- or customer support from a company you associate with – but fail to keep up with current events. For example, if the scammer forgets when one company buys out another company but sends you an e-mail from the old company anyway.

### 9. Red-flag phrases.

If you see the phrases “verify your account,” “you have won the lottery” or “if you don’t respond within XX hours, your account will be closed,” it’s a scam – every time. Hit the delete button and don’t look back.

### 10. Generic Greetings

While you can’t trust every e-mail that knows your name, you can definitely ignore the ones that start “Dear member” or “Hello friend.” If your bank or credit card company is writing you, it knows who you are. So do your friends.



**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.

**(563) 847-3000**

705 Clinton Street  
P.O. Box 316  
Grand Mound, IA 52751

[grmd@gmcta.coop](mailto:grmd@gmcta.coop)

### **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

### **Plant Technician**

Nick Wichtoski

### **Part-time Technician**

Harry Slaymaker

### **Board of Directors**

Dennis Campbell

Kurt Crosthwaite

Paul Rock

David Schnack

Ruth Schroeder

Harry Slaymaker

Wayne Whitman



## NEW DIRECTORY LISTINGS AND UPDATES

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Whitman Farms Shop  
2564 215 Ave Grand Mound.....847-6810

## HOLIDAY EXPO WINNER

The lucky winner of our \$25.00 door prize drawing during the DeWitt Chamber of Commerce Holiday Expo held on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> was **Maxine McKillip** from DeWitt.