



# GRAND MOUND PHONET NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter Published for our Customers

December 2004



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

We will be closed for  
the Holidays on:

Friday, December 24  
Monday, December 27  
Friday, December 31



**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 front door.

## NEW DIRECTORY LISTINGS AND UPDATES

	-D-	
Dascher, Ellsworth & Tamra.....		847-1547
	-G-	
Green, Charlie & Amy.....		847-1158
	-P-	
Petersen, Elmer L.....		847-1022
	-R-	
Roling, Greg.....		847-1508
	-S-	
Simonson, Brian & Ronda.....		847-1057

## Christmas Web Sites

Christmas is a time for family gatherings and holiday meals. Listed below for your entertainment are some fun holiday things for you and your family. There are stories of Christmas, holiday music for singing along, tasty holiday recipes, holiday pictures & games for the kids, plus many more activities for everyone to enjoy.

<http://www.claus.com>  
<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/xmas>  
<http://www.santa.net>  
<http://www.christmas.com>  
<http://www.northpole.com>  
<http://www.holidays.net/christmas>  
<http://merry-christmas.com>  
<http://santaland.com>  
<http://santaclaus.com>  
<http://santa.com>  
<http://nightingale.vsb.bc.ca/christmas>  
<http://christmasfreebies.com>  
<http://billybear4kids.com/holidays/christmas/christms.htm>



### **Sending/Forwarding Emails To Several Email Addresses:**

There are times that you may wish to send an email to several people but do not wish to expose all

email addresses to all recipients. Some folks feel that their email address is as sacred as their phone number. If you are going to send out or forward emails to a mailing list or even just a few people, you should make sure you hide the email addresses from everyone on the list by using the Blind Carbon Copy (Bcc:) field. When composing/forwarding a new message, click **View** from the toolbar and select either **All Headers** or **Bcc: Field** from the menu, depending on which email program you are using. Now simply list your recipients addresses in the Bcc: field and yours in the To: field. Also, when forwarding email messages to other recipients, clean up the message being forwarded by highlighting and deleting all of the extra names and email addresses on it. This protects the identity of your recipients and protects spammers from getting everyone else's email addresses.



Iowa

## Low-Income Telephone Assistance Programs

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 in an amount of \$8.25.
- "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, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF) or the National School Lunch Program (NSL).

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 11<sup>th</sup> Street, DeWitt, IA. This application is also available on the Iowa Utilities Board website at [www.state.ia.is/iub](http://www.state.ia.is/iub). Individuals simply self certify that they are eligible for assistance. No other certification is required. Eligible Iowans are encouraged to submit their application.



## 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. Your local telephone company has not imposed this surcharge.



### Did you know.....

that on February 14, 1876, both Alexander Bell and Elisha Gray filed for a patent on their telephone designs at the New York patent office with Bell beating Gray by only two hours!!



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.

**(563) 847-3000**

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

#### **Email**

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

#### **Websites**

[www.gmcta.coop](http://www.gmcta.coop)  
[www.gmtel.net](http://www.gmtel.net)

#### **Business Office Hours**

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

**General Manager**  
Mark Harvey

**Office Manager**  
Terri Bumann

**Office Assistant**  
Dee Dee Banowetz

**Communications Technician**  
Chris Beuthien

#### **Board of Directors**

Dennis Campbell  
Joe Dierickx  
Roger Green  
Rick Mineck  
Ruth Schroeder  
Harry Slaymaker  
Wayne Whitman

