

Interstate Telecommunications
Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 920
112 4th Street West
Clear Lake, South Dakota 57226

INTERSTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.



Phone: 605.874.2
1.800.417.86
Fax: 605.874.2
E-mail: info@itctel.c
www.itc-web.c

TC05-058

6/13/05

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RECEIVED
JUN 14 2005
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

RE: Requirement for Lifeline and Link-Up Programs

I apologize for not having sent this to the PUC as I never received any notification that it was a requirement.

I have enclosed a copy of the forms that we used to send to our Linline/Link-Up customers on April 1st giving them the sixty days to respond. This is a real learning experience for the older generation. We have had about sixty percent of the customers respond at all. We are sending out the second letter to those customers June 15th giving them the addition sixty days to respond before we can remove the credit from their phone bill. We have all the returned applications on file with carrier certification, program or income documentation, and our yearly advertisement in our bellringer. New customers receive the Lifeline/Linkup Assistance Application at the time they are signing up for service.

A Letter of Verification of Consumer's Continued Eligibility for Lifeline was sent to USAC on June 13, 2005.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (605)874-8306 or mstava@itctel.com.

Sincerely,

INTERSTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOP

Margery Stava
Margery Stava
CSR Supervisor

enclosures



4/01/05

Dear Customer:

You currently participate in Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative's Lifeline assistance program. Federal Communications Commission guidelines require telephone companies like ours to annually verify a sample of Lifeline customers' continued eligibility.

Lifeline assistance is available to participants in one or more of the following programs: Medicaid; Food Stamps; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance; Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF); or the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program. Individuals whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are also eligible for Lifeline assistance. If you are still eligible for Lifeline assistance, please complete the enclosed application and provide supporting documentation (such as a copy of your Medicaid card) to us by DATE – 60 DAYS OUT.

Documentation of income eligibility includes a customer's prior year's state or federal tax return, a current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, or other such official documents. If your documentation does not cover an entire year, please provide three consecutive month's worth of the same type of document.

Please note: income is all income actually received by all members of the household. Income includes salary before deductions for taxes, public assistance benefits, social security payments, pensions, unemployment compensation, veteran's benefits, inheritances, alimony, child support payments, worker's compensation benefits, gifts and lottery winnings. The only exceptions are student financial aid, military housing and cost-of-living allowances and irregular income from occasional small jobs such as baby-sitting or lawn mowing.

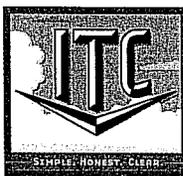
If you qualify based on household income, please come to our office with the required documentation. Our offices are located at: 312 4th St. W in Clear Lake; 1022 Main Ave. S in Brookings; 107 2nd Ave. NW in Clark; and 14 E. 7th Ave. in Webster. All other applicants recertifying are welcome to drop the application and documentation off at one of our offices, or you may mail them back to us in the enclosed return envelope.

Please feel free to call me at 874-8306 with any questions you may have regarding the application or the Lifeline/Link Up programs.

Sincerely,

Margery Stava
Customer Service Supervisor

Enclosures



LIFELINE AND LINK-UP ASSISTANCE APPLICATION
(Please Print)

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)
Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Telephone Number (if existing service): _____ Member # _____
Number where you can be reached or receive messages: _____

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (CHECK APPROPRIATE LINES):

1. I am applying for: _____ Lifeline monthly telephone service discount
(\$8.25 credit)
_____ Link-Up telephone connection charge discount
(1/2 of the service charge up to \$30.00)

NOTE: *Telephone Service must be in applicant's name. Please attach one of the documents.*

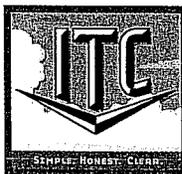
2. I am currently participating in the following program(s): Check all that apply
- _____ Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
 - _____ Food Stamps
 - _____ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - _____ Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
 - _____ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
 - _____ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
 - _____ National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program
3. Or,
- _____ My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (documentation required)

I agree to notify ITC Telecom when I no longer participate in any of the above qualifying public assistance programs.

I certify under penalty of perjury, the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand I must meet the above qualifications to receive Lifeline and/or Link-Up assistance on my primary residential line.

Your Signature Social Security Number Date

"Return filled out form to ITC Telecom"
P.O. Box 920 Clear Lake, SD 57226-0920



**SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR LIFELINE/LINK UP APPLICANTS
QUALIFYING UNDER INCOME -BASED CRITERION**

I, _____, certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify for Lifeline/Link Up assistance based on my household income that is at below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. I further certify under penalty of perjury that there are _____ members in my household and that the supporting income documentation presented to my telecommunications provider accurately represents the annual income of all members of my household.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Telephone # _____ Member # _____

2004 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household At or
Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States & DC
1	\$12,569
2	\$16,862
3	\$21,155
4	\$25,448
5	\$29,741
6	\$34,034
7	\$38,327
8	\$42,620

For each additional person, add \$ 4,293

Interstate Telecommunications
Cooperative, Inc.
24th Street West
P.O. Box 920
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57226

INTERSTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.



Phone: 605.874.2181
1.800.417.8667
Fax: 605.874.2014
E-Mail: info@itc-web.com
www.itc-web.com

CARRIER CERTIFICATION REGARDING VERIFICATION PROCEDURES

I, Donald H Fieber, an officer of Interstate Telecommunications Coop, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that Interstate Telecommunications Coop has established income verification procedures, and further certify, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, that through these procedures the carrier has in reviewing the continued eligibility of a statistically valid sample of its Lifeline subscribers been presented with documentation of household income from those subscribers who have qualified for Lifeline and/or Link-Up based on the income-based criterion (that their household income be at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines).

Signature: Donald H Fieber

Date: 4/20/05



CARRIER CERTIFICATION REGARDING INCOME DOCUMENTATION

I, Donald H Fieber, an officer of Interstate Telecommunications Coop, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that Interstate Telecommunications Coop has established procedures to review income documentation of subscribers that are applying for Lifeline and/or Link-Up assistance, and further certify, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, that through these procedures the carrier has been presented with documentation of household income from those subscribers who have qualified for Lifeline and/or Link-Up based on the income-based criterion (that their household income be at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines).

Signature: Donald H Fieber

Date: 4/20/05



June 13, 2005

Verification of Consumers' Continued Eligibility for Lifeline

Vice President – High Cost and Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

This letter is to certify that Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative Inc, has procedures in place to verify the continued eligibility of a statistically valid random sample of its Lifeline customers. The results are provided in the information below.

To the extent any Lifeline customers qualify based on their income, I certify that my company has income verification procedures in place and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company was presented with corroborating income documentation.

I am an officer of the company names above. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area(s) listed below.

	State	# of Lifeline customers surveyed	# of customers ineligible
Interstate Telephone Cooperative	MN	40	0*
Interstate Telephone Cooperative	SD	250	8*

*Not all customers responded in the first 60 days, and we are required to give them another sixty days before removing the credits on the bill.

Signed,

[Signature of Officer]

[Title of Officer]

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative
PO Box 16
Clear Lake, SD 57226

605-874-2181



Bell Ringer

Volume 39, No 2 Clear Lake, South Dakota 57226

June 2005

FAQ

Welcome To WildBlue

"ITC launches a new satellite based high-speed Internet Service"



Aaah, the peace and quiet...you're miles from everything and everyone, and you like it that way. When it comes to getting the latest technologies, however, distance and being out in the far corners of nowhere may not be such a good thing.

ITC has always worked hard to treat its members fairly. We are committed to providing the same kinds of services to everyone no matter where you live.

One thing we have not been able to control is technology. At this time current technology does not provide services such as high-speed Internet out to the far corners of our service area. Equipment is still limited by distance issues.

That's why ITC is so excited to launch a new nationwide service called WildBlue.

What is it? WildBlue is sat-

ellite speed Internet and is available virtually anywhere in the United States. WildBlue is the perfect solution for those ITC customers who can not currently get our Vroom High-Speed Internet.

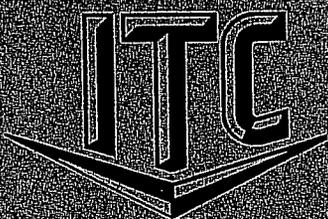
What can it do? WildBlue gives you instant access to the Internet and lightning fast web surfing. With download speeds of up to 1.5 Mbps, you can get music and video in seconds. You can also send and receive pictures of your family and friends without long waits. WildBlue speeds can be more than 30 times faster than dial-up.

What does it cost? ITC offers three package options to meet your needs. These packages are priced similarly to our Vroom High-Speed Internet. Prices include between five and ten mail boxes, 10 MB to 20 MB of web space, spam and virus filtering, and an inexpensive option to purchase additional dial-up access.

What do you need to get started? You will need a WildBlue dish and WildBlue modem. ITC customers who can't receive Vroom High-Speed Internet will have the option of leasing the equipment, with "standard" installation for *NO CHARGE*. Customers outside the ITC service area can also purchase the equipment/service but will have to pay for their equipment. The cost of this equipment is \$299 plus installation costs.

If you are wondering if your computer will work, you can run the same computer qualifier found on our website at www.itc-web.com.

So, what are you waiting for? Call the ITC office today for more information or to have WildBlue installed in your home or business!



Lighting The Way For Safety

Concealite Life Safety Products
Elkton, South Dakota

Concealite distributes across the United States. Right: Jona Willey and Tiffany's Jewelers keep busy during fixtures.



The lights go out and suddenly everything is in total darkness. Maybe its not as frightening if you are familiar with your surroundings, but what if you're not?

Many buildings are governed by the Life Safety Code which includes federal and state regulations.

Tiffany's Jewelry, The Portland Museum, and The Pottery Barns are just three of the numerous stores that utilize emergency lighting from Concealite.

About 15 years ago, owners, Tom and Lisa Gow decided to build a facility in Pipestone, Minnesota. A Southwest MN initiative loan helped them purchase their building in Pipestone. June 1st they relocated to Elkton, South Dakota. The new facility will allow them to expand their product line. They will feature a product showcase with the new office addition.

Concealite makes Life Safety products. They make emergency lighting, pathway lighting, fire alarms, exit signs

and other safety and security products. Tom Gow holds the patents on almost everything they make. Their unique line of emergency lighting fixtures lend form and function to provide the design community with products that allow them to meet existing egress codes. Products are available in custom finishes or special metals. The best part is they are hidden. You can't see them until you need them. The concealed lighting doesn't get dirty and vandalism is greatly reduced.



Controller, Carley Osland shows off one of the special colors they offer

Concealite distributes their lighting all over the United States and Canada. They contract with 92 manufacturers representatives across the country.

The reps primarily work with the architects who design the buildings. These can be any public or private building that requires safety lighting. Some are historic buildings that have to comply with codes but don't want to destroy the history.

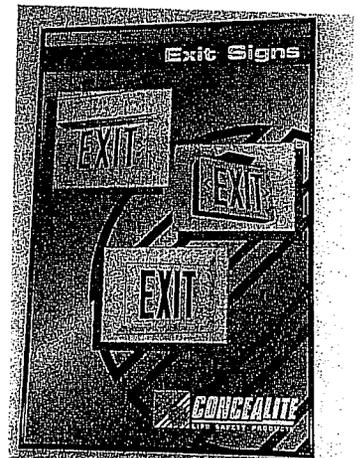
Each year, Concealite products are showcased at major trade shows. This year those trade shows are in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, New York, and Philadelphia.

Concealite is currently working on a new project called Projexit. This is a state-of-the-art LED driven, projected egress signage system. It is housed above the ceiling and the words are projected onto the wall below. The new product can project any word in any color. This new exit sign is at UL (Underwriters Laboratory) for testing and should be ready to release soon.

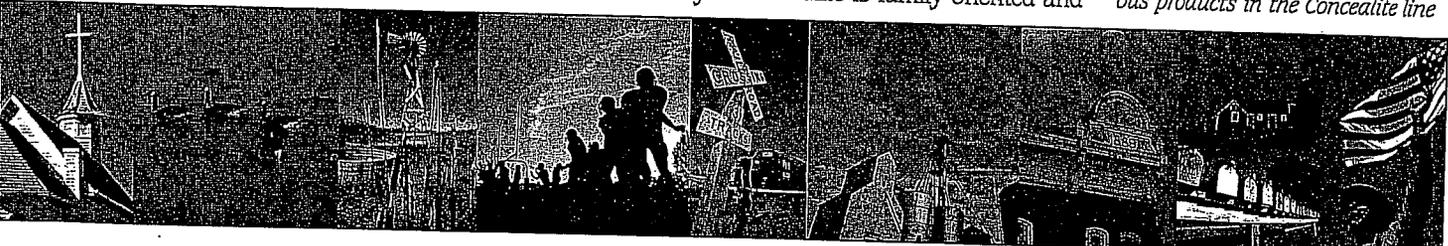
Concealite employs seven full-time workers at their local facility. Carley Osland, controller for the company says they are a good company to work for. Concealite is family oriented and

supports the communities they work in. Everyone works together as a team; when something needs to be done, they all pitch in. Concealite is always looking for the next change; the next innovation. And there is always something new and exciting. As Carley Osland puts it, "Concealite is always seeking ways to better serve our customers and provide the highest quality product."

For more information, contact Concealite Life Safety Products at (888) 542-4480 or at www.concealite.com.



Exit signs are just one of the numerous products in the Concealite line



Check It Out!

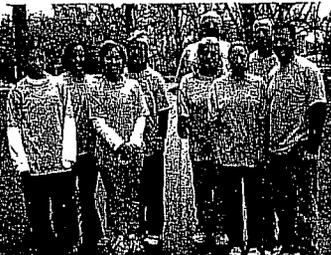
In June, ITC will be launching its new web site. The site will include more information about ITC and the services it offers to its members. The address will remain www.itcweb.com. So make it your new home page or add it to your favorites. All the information you will need about your local telecommunications cooperative is just a click away!



ITC Offices will be closed July 4, to observe Independence Day!



Walk America



ITC employees and families participated in the March of Dimes walk in Brookings on April 16. Above: Dara Weitala, Carrie Meehan, Angie Settje, Kathy Weitala, Jack Tolk, Linda Tolk, Anya Hartpence, Rick Bauer, and Jeff Rogers.

Upcoming District Elections

Just a reminder - if you are in Districts One, Three, Five, or Six, there will be openings for ITC Board Directors. If you are interested in running for a position please contact Todd Morris at ITC.

June 11- Petitions are due to the ITC Headquarters office in Clear Lake.

June 27- Ballots and candidate biographies will be mailed out to districts with candidates running for a director position.

July 7- Ballots are due back to ITC.

Lifeline and Link-up Programs

The Lifeline and Link-up Programs are two federal telephone assistance programs that ITC is authorized to provide. These programs are available to assist with the affordability of telephone service to low-income citizens.

The Lifeline program provides reduced monthly charges to subscribers who qualify. This program provides a monthly credit on the basic service portion of the partici-

To be eligible for these programs the telephone service must be in the applicant's name. The applicant must also participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs: *Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Housing Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance, Temporary Assistance of Needy Families, National Free School Lunch Program, Income Below 135% of Federal*

Attention

Any ITC members who have received Lifeline or Link-up benefits in the past need to be re-qualified by June 11, 2005. Letters were sent to all past recipients of the Lifeline credit. If you did not receive a letter, or have questions, please call Julie Kaspen at 1-800-417-8667. Proof of eligibility will be required.

...pant's phone bill. The credit applies to the main home telephone line.

The Link-up program allows eligible subscribers to receive a reduced connection charge for their basic home telephone service. This program reduction is 50% of the activation charges with the maximum benefit of \$30.00. This program also provides deferred payment of connection charges without interest. Link-up does not cover the cost of wiring in the home.

Priority Guidelines, Minnesota Family Investment Program (MN customers only). These are federal government programs. Each state has its own qualifying guidelines. Check with your local telephone company for specific details to qualify. There is also additional Lifeline and Link-up assistance to qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. If you would like to find out more about these programs call ITC at 1-800-417-8667.

Happy Father's Day!

ITC Directory Photo Contest

ITC will have a photo contest for the cover of the 2006 Telephone Directory. The contest will start on July 1, 2005 and end on September 1, 2005.

The winner will be announced on September 9, 2005. The winners will be chosen by a vote of the ITC Employees with input from the Management and Board of Directors. Prizes

will be awarded to contest winners. First place prize is a \$50 telephone credit. Second place prize is a \$25 telephone credit.

The submission of the photo releases all rights to ownership of the photo and authorizes ITC to publish the photo on the directory cover or to use as we desire allowing proper acknowledgment to the photogra-

pher when submitting the photo.

If you are interested in participating in the photo contest, contact Linda Tolk or Kathy Weitala at 1-800-417-8667 for eligibility requirements and contest rules.



Did You Call?

Having a problem, or maybe even a question about your Internet or digital TV from ITC?

At ITC we offer our subscribers a FREE 24/7 Help Desk service. You can call or e-mail the Help Desk 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They provide well-trained technicians to help you with your issues. Soon you will be able to participate in a live chat directly with a Help Desk technician from the ITC web site.

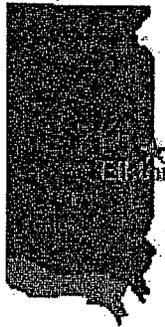
So, before you call ITC call the Help Desk. They are there any time of the day, every day, waiting to help you.

Best Seat Help Desk
1-800-455-5958
Internet Help Desk
1-888-217-5718

Community Connection ITC

Building a Partnership For Our Future

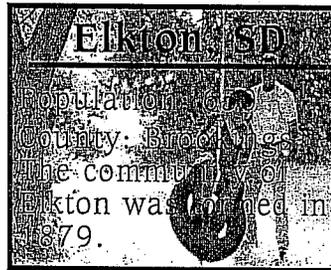
June's featured Community
Elkton



In 1879 the township of Elkton was formed. The railroad was completed as far as Volga that year and helped bring settlers to the area. The first post office was opened in the fall of 1880 and was named Ivanhoe, but in the spring of 1881 the name was changed to Elkton. In 2004, Elkton celebrated their 125th anniversary. The year was filled with many events including a parade, All-School Reunion, Octoberfest, the creation of a time-capsule, and many exciting activities.

The City of Elkton is located east of Brookings approximately 20 minutes.

There are about 650 people in the community. They are a strong community and also have a variety of civic organizations for people to get involved with. They have a volunteer fire department and ambulance service. Their Park and Recreational department has a lot of activities all year long to keep people busy. In the City of Elkton they have several locally owned businesses, which include a bank, res-



taurant, and many more. In 1984 Elkton was the first school/community com-

bined library in South Dakota. They have a strong school system both academically and in athletics. The Elkton Boys Basketball team is the 2005 State "B" Boys Basketball Champions.

Doug Freidel, the mayor of Elkton, had this to say about the community, "It is an exciting time to be living in Elkton, SD. We are into the first year of a five year economic development plan that will help shape the future of Elkton for years to come. We are a progressive, forward thinking community with a desire to grow in a positive and healthy way. I am excited about providing leadership and vision that will take us into the 21st century." To learn more about the City of Elkton visit their website at elkton.govoffice.com.



Cooperatively Speaking

By Angela Settle,
 Marketing Communication Specialist

Working Together

"Statewide Branding for Telcos"

In the Midwest working together is something we are all familiar with. South Dakota's telecommunications companies are no exception. We are a family of telecommunications companies that many of you grew up with in South Dakota. We work together to bring you the best possible

service and latest technologies. Many of our customers and members do not realize the efforts or effect of this teamwork. So the South Dakota Telecommunications Association, SDTA, developed the Clear Connections campaign to show everyone what we are all about. Four years

ago SDTA, put together the Clear Connections television campaign that appeared after the Sunday night news on KELOLAND. Since the television campaign ended, a new campaign has been developed to take the next step to show South Dakota what SDTA stands for.

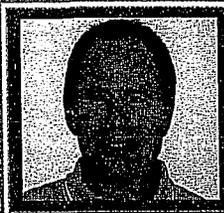
The Clear Connections campaign has a new logo and unified advertising efforts. These efforts include new billboards at various locations throughout the state, newspaper ads, inserts in several daily newspapers, and direct

mailers to lawmakers. The slogan is Clear Connections. Then. Now. Whatever's Next.

SDTA Legislative Director, Greg Dean, will steer the campaign with a committee of marketing directors from several companies. ITC, along with many other companies, will begin using the logo and "Clear Connections" brand in their marketing. This campaign is a chance to bring recognition to South Dakota's Telecommunications companies. After all, each one of us has the same goal and that is your satisfaction.



ClearConnections
 COMMUNICATIONS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



Free Anti-Virus Options

Do not connect to the Internet without anti-virus protection!

Protecting your computer and your data should be the first order of business when connecting to the Internet. The anti-virus program that came pre-installed on the computer was just a demo, and if you've never registered or updated it, it's pretty much worthless today. There are plenty of alternative programs, and some of them won't cost you a dime!

A Variety of Anti Virus Available

You're not limited to using the anti-virus program that came with your computer, nor are you limited to running only one anti-virus program. If you've registered the original program and have kept it updated, that's great. Many users mistakenly believe that their new machine is permanently protected because it says right on the box that Norton or McAfee anti-virus is pre-installed. What's missing on the box is the fact that the new owner must register the product by purchasing it online (and renew the registration each year) in order for it to be effective. Often, it's the online purchase that scares newcomers away from taking this action.

McAfee & Norton—the "Big Two" leaders in the industry—offer excellent support and higher-level utilities in their product suites for about \$30-\$70. If you're hesitant to spend the money, there are other options that are free, yet with fewer frills. Let's take a look at some of these, where to get them, and how to properly set them up.

AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition

<http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php>

AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition is available for "private, non-commercial, single home com-

puter use only," according to the Web site of the product's parent company Grisoft, an international company based in the Czech Republic. The free edition is capable of performing automatic updates and scheduled scans, among other options. On the Web site, click on the "Get AVG Free" link and then scroll to the installation file to download and install.

AntiVir® PersonalEdition Classic <http://free-av.com>

The AntiVir® anti-virus people are from Denmark, and their *PersonalEdition Classic* is free for "private and individual use." Like the others listed, this is a fully functional and updatable anti-virus program.

avast! Home Edition

http://avast.com/eng/down_home.html

ALWIL Software, from the Czech Republic, is the maker of *avast! Home Edition*, another excellent free anti-virus program intended for "home, non-commercial use."

Downloading & Installing

The installation of each of these programs is similar and straightforward... go to the download area and click the download link, click "Run" to install, "agree" to the license agreement, & follow the prompts.

A Proper Setup

Once the software is installed, the computer is rebooted, and the anti-virus program is ready to run, it's time to configure the scan and update options. Look for these choices under a menu labeled "Options," "Preferences," or

"Configuration," depending on the program.

Set the options to perform as deep a scan as possible, and include the use of *heuristic* scanning. Heuristic scanning looks for known virus signatures *and* files that behave as viruses normally behave that are not listed in the virus database. This may rarely result in a "false positive" (falsely accusing a file of being a virus when it isn't); but on the other hand, it could save some trouble if a newly propagated, unknown virus or Trojan sneaks into your system.

Update, Update, Update!

Staying updated is extremely important in the world of anti-virus programs. If your computer is connected to the Internet most of the time, you can schedule the updates; but that won't work if it's not connected. You should still *manually* check for updated virus definition files at least weekly, even if your auto-update is set to "on".

With no-cost anti-virus programs at your disposal, there is no excuse not to be protected. These programs will help do the job.

Security Info & Free Anti-Virus Web Sites

The SecurityFocus Web site:

<http://securityfocus.com> -Comprehensive source of security info

The SANS Internet Storm Center:

<http://isc.sans.org> -Current internet security threats

AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition:

<http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php>

AntiVir® PersonalEdition Classic:

<http://free-av.com>

avast! Home Edition:

http://avast.com/eng/down_home.html

Remit Top Portion Of Bill With Payment

Important Dates

Periodical Postage Paid At Clear Lake, South Dakota 57226