

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JUNE 1, 2012**

Company: Valley Telephone Company  
Address: Browns Valley, MN 56219  
Telephone number: (218) 695-2111  
Company contact: Kim Olson  
Study Area Code: 361495

Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities

- Advertise in media of general distribution.\* (See attached Valley Newspaper.)
- Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Link Up.\* (See attached Newsletter.)
- Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory.
- Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website. (www.parkregion.com)
- Company's information posted on USAC website.
- Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* Required

## ABOUT MINNESOTA RELAY

Minnesota Relay is a free service providing full telephone accessibility to persons who are deaf, deaf/blind, hard-of-hearing, or speech-disabled. A specially trained communication assistant (CA) facilitates the telephone conversation between a person who has hearing loss or a speech disability and a hearing person. Calls can be made to anywhere in the world (long distance charges apply), 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with no restrictions on the number, length or type of calls. All calls are strictly confidential and no records of any conversations are maintained.

Minnesota Relay is administered by the Telecommunication Access Minnesota (TAM) program within the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The Minnesota Relay center is located in Moorhead, MN. Minnesota Relay and associated outreach services are provided to the state under contract with Communication Service for the Deaf.

Minnesota Relay is funded through a monthly surcharge on each wired and wireless telephone access line in the state.

For specific instructions on placing or receiving a Minnesota Relay call, please see the instructions on page 9 of this directory or visit the Minnesota Relay website at [www.mnrelay.org](http://www.mnrelay.org).

### Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan

The Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) may provide eligible persons with a credit of up to \$1.75 per month on their phone bills. You are eligible for the assistance if participating in one or more of the following programs:

- \* Medical Assistance (MA)
- \* Food Support (food stamps)
- \* Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- \* Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- \* Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- \* Federal Public Housing Assistance
- \* Under 135% of Federal Poverty level

If you do not qualify under the above criteria, but live on a federally recognized reservation, you can also qualify if you participate in one of the following:

- \* Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- \* Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- \* Head Start (only for those meeting the income qualifying standard)
- \* National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

If you are participating in one or more of these programs, you may certify eligibility by completing an application, providing proof of eligibility for benefit, and submitting it to our business office. Please contact our business office for an application.

### Federal Lifeline Plan

You may qualify for a monthly federal Lifeline credit on your telephone bill if you are receiving benefits under one or more of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

If you are participating in one or more of these programs, you may certify eligibility by completing an application, providing proof of eligibility for benefit, and submitting it to our business office. Please contact our business office for an application.

### For Lifeline Information and applications:

Farmers Mutual  
Telephone Company  
Customers  
Call 1-800-692-0021

Federated Telephone  
Customers  
Call 1-800-374-7133

Valley Telephone  
Company Customers  
Call 1-866-290-1729

## You Need Your Landline Phone



People may have thought about giving up their landline phone for a cell phone or an internet-based phone such as a cordless phone or VOIP. Before you make a decision, you should know that a landline phone is the most reliable device on the market today and has many advantages over a cell phone or digital phone. Here are a few reasons you need your landline phone:

- Provides security in an emergency with accurate and reliable 911 service
- Superior quality of sound and clarity
- Works in a power outage, never needs charging
- Provides unlimited local calling
- Not subject to dropped calls, always a strong signal
- Cannot be hacked
- Provides you with a directory listing
- You don't have to access and pay for the Internet to use the phone
- Operated by a local company with local employees in a local office

## Secure Your Wireless Router

A wireless router is used to access the Internet or a computer network without the need for a cabled connection. You can be in any room in your house and be connected to the Internet wirelessly. The wireless router is a great thing, however, it can allow you to enter into a world of problems.

If your wireless router is not secured, anyone in the range of your wireless network can get an internet connection causing you to lose speed or connection. If someone hacks into your router, they can perform illegal activities for which you could be liable. It is also possible to access your personal information, such as websites visited, banking information and credit card numbers. You can be unknowingly get or spread viruses. Avoid this by securing your router. We can help with

## Telephone FYI

### Having trouble using the telephone?



Minnesota Relay provides free and full telephone accessibility to anyone who is hard of hearing, deaf or speech disabled.

To make a relay call dial 711 or 800-627-3529

For more information on the variety of services offered through Minnesota Relay: 651-602-9005 or 800-657-3775 (voice/TTY) [www.commerce.state.mn.us](http://www.commerce.state.mn.us)



### Lifeline Link-Up Program

You may qualify for discounted telephone service if your income level falls below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if you are currently receiving benefits under one or more of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. For more information about the FCC Lifeline/Link-Up Program, call one of the following numbers:

Otter Tail Telecom customers: 1-866-290-1730

Park Region Telephone customers: 1-866-290-1721

Valley Telephone customers: 1-866-290-1729

### Telephone Equipment Distribution Program

The Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program provides free assistive phone equipment such as amplified phones, TTYs (text-telephones), TTYs with telebraille or large visual displays, speaker phones, hands-free dialing equipment, and signaling devices to income eligible persons who have difficulty using the phone due to hearing, speech, vision or physical disabilities.

For more information: 800-657-3663  
TTY: 800-657-3513  
[ted.program@state.mn.us](mailto:ted.program@state.mn.us)  
[www.tedprogram.org](http://www.tedprogram.org)

Minnesota Relay and the Telephone Equipment Distribution Program are administered by the Minnesota Department of Commerce Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM) and funded by a telephone surcharge.



thus not left out in the cold as Judy and her husband, Steve, prepare to leave for new jobs and lives in Philadelphia; Summer begins grad school in Chicago while boyfriend Jeremy's graduate work keeps him near Elm Creek Manor; Sarah discovers she's expecting twins; Bonnie isn't sure she wants to reinvent the quilt shop destroyed by vandals; and newcomers Gretchen Hartley and Anna Del Maso join the staff of the quilting camp. The section dealing with Gwen's detective work

keep coming in. We are in need of any kind of musical instrument, accessories and packing supplies, as well as funds for postage and printing.

For more information:

Website:

[www.operationhappynote.com](http://www.operationhappynote.com).

Contact: Operation Happy Note

Address: 122 E. Lincoln Ave.,

Fergus Falls, MN 56537

E-mail:

[info@operationhappynote.com](mailto:info@operationhappynote.com)

Phone: 218.736.5541

**Q:** Snakes occasionally can be spotted sunning themselves on driveways. Should property owners be concerned?

**A:** The most numerous snake in Minnesota is the common garter snake, which is harmless. The appearance of unwanted snakes is usually due to cracks or holes in concrete structures. These spaces provide warm places for the snake to spend the winter. When spring returns, the snakes reappear outside. Since snakes cannot regulate their own body temperature, they rely on their surroundings, such as rocks or concrete, to warm their bodies. If the presence of these snakes is a concern for homeowners, a few simple solutions are to fill the holes or cracks in the concrete; make their yards unattractive to snakes by removing yard or other debris piles and keeping shrubs and trees trimmed, and the grass mowed; and eliminate what snakes eat - mice.

- Lori Naumann, DNR Nongame Wildlife Program

## Lifeline Link-Up Program

As a Valley Telephone customer, you may qualify for discounted telephone service if your income level falls below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if you are currently receiving benefits under or more of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. For more information about the FCC Lifeline Link-Up Program or to certify eligibility, call 1-866-290-1729.



Valley Telephone Company  
The Local Choice. The Better Choice.

# Casino Lake