A newsletter for customers of Park Region Telephone, Otter Tail Telcom, Valley Telephone Company and Rothsay Telephone Company.

# the progress NEWSLETTER

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# **Park Region Telephone**

PO Box 277 100 Main St. Underwood, MN 56586

218.826.6161 800.247.2706

Office Hours M-F 8:00 AM-5:00 PM



#### **Otter Tail Telcom**

230 West Lincoln Fergus Falls, MN 56537

218.998.2000

888.716.8837

Office Hours M-F 8:00 AM-5:30 PM

### **Valley Telephone**

Browns Valley, MN 56219

## **Rothsay Telephone Company**

Rothsay, MN 56579 Call 800.247.2706

for 24 hour service.

simply dial 611 to reach your local office!

www.parkregion.com

# **Medallion Hunt**

With summer rapidly approaching and summer activities beginning, we invite you to join us in celebrating the season by participating in a quest to find a hidden treasure. As part of this year's SummerFest celebration held June 9th & 10th, Park Region Telephone/Otter Tail Telcom are sponsoring a medallion hunt. A series of clues leading you to the treasure will be released during the week prior to SummerFest. For details, watch our facebook and web pages and listen to 97.7 FM, Leighton Broadcasting's newest radio station.

# **Customer Connection**

River Oaks Landing, an apartment complex for adults 55 and up, is set on the picturesque Otter Tail River in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This beautiful facility offers many advantages including:

# **Apartments**

- Spacious rooms with 9 foot ceilings and roomy closets
- Brand new kitchen with stainless steel energy-efficient appliances
- Outdoor patio or balcony with scenic views of river, forest and prairie

# Building

- · Large community room and kitchen, outdoor grilling patio for entertaining
- Heated parking facility
- Elevator

### Grounds

- Attractive walking paths and nature trails
- Riverside dock

# **Building**

- · Large community room and kitchen, outdoor grilling patio for entertaining
- Heated parking facility
- Elevator



This unparalleled setting and state-ofthe-art facility create a one-of-a-kind living experience. Consider River Oaks Landing as your new home, and reserve your apartment today by contacting Gary Thompson at 998-1234.

Welcome River Oaks Landing. We are glad to be your service provider!

# **Annual Meeting Wrap Up**

Over 400 people gathered at the Park Region Telephone Company Annual Meeting and Customer Appreciation Event held on April 20th at the Underwood School. This year's theme was "Share the Vision." The Underwood Lions served their



famous pork chops, followed by coffee and cookies in gym, served by the board of directors. Kids enjoyed popcorn and a movie while the adults attended the annual meeting. General Manager and CEO Dave Bickett gave a recap of the company's activities in 2016 and previewed the plans for the coming year. Incumbents Paul Beckman, Eugene Ouren and Dan Barry were re-elected to the Board of Directors.



# Planning on Doing Some Digging?

Protect yourselves and your property against underground utility damage and liability. Find out where the



underground utility lines are buried before you dig. In Minnesota, the person doing the work/digging is responsible for calling Gopher State One Call.

Call 811 before you dig. It's the law!

# **Q&A to TV Price Increases**

Q: If you are trying to control costs, why does my bill seem to go up every year?

A: While we pledge to hold prices as low as possible, annual adjustments are necessary because of the rising cost of Network fees and other factors. In fact, Network fees have increased at 3½ times the rate of inflation over the past 15 years. As your Local TV provider, we absorb a portion of those increases and pass along a portion to our customers.

Q: I keep hearing how sports networks are a big portion of my total monthly bill. How can just a few networks make such an impact?

A: It's because many leagues, conferences, teams and college sports have their own Networks – each with its own high fee, yet offering little or no additional games. And they insist that it be carried in packages that reach most of our customers, instead of sports packages – making even non-fans pay.

Q: Why have my local stations sometimes been pulled from my lineup? Can't I get them free with an antenna?

A: All TV providers negotiate with broadcast station owners for the right to offer their stations to our customers as a convenience. And although these stations are indeed available free over the air with a digital antenna, these stations still collect fees from all TV providers each month, called retrans fees. Retrans fees are climbing out of control: In 2006, they were only 6¢ of the average customer's monthly bill, and are expected to soar to \$7.40 per month by 2020.

When TV stations don't get TV providers to meet their demands for increased retrans fees, they threaten viewers with blackouts to get them to complain to their TV provider, leaving you without your favorite stations indefinitely. And when those demands are met, it results in higher prices for you.



# Dollars for Scholars

Andrew Christenson of Fergus Falls High School was the recipient of the Park Region Telephone/ Otter Tail Telcom Scholarship awarded at the Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars luncheon held in April. The scholarship is geared toward students with an interest in telecommunications and technology.



Congratulations,
Andrew! We wish
you the best as
you pursue your
degree in
Computer
Engineering.

# **Movies in the Park**

Summer is almost here and it's time for us to get out and enjoy the warmer weather. Park Region Telephone & Otter Tail Telcom would like to invite you to join us for some fun under the stars at Movies in the Park! This summer we will be showing twelve different movies on eighteen separate evenings in five different communities!

On average, 200 people gather on a Thursday evening at Roosevelt Park in Fergus Falls to enjoy a wonderful evening watching a movie in the park. We use a state-ofthe-art projector on our inflatable screen with a 9'x16' viewing area. Fresh popped popcorn is available, adding to the flavor of the evening. And for those of you who like to multitask, free wireless internet is available at Roosevelt Park during the movie.

Live music sponsored by A Center for the Arts starts at 6:30pm. A food vendor will also be available. Movie starts at 9pm.

Park Region sponsors Movies in the Park as our way of giving back to the communities we serve. We will be showing movies in Fergus Falls, Erhard, Battle Lake, Rothsay and Browns Valley. Typically a movie runs anywhere from \$250-\$350 per title for the movie rights, depending on how popular the movie is. And although we have requests, we are not able to rent out our equipment.

We hope to see you and your family this summer at Movies in the Park, get out and enjoy the show!



#### DATE MOVIE RATING June 15 A Dog's Purpose PG June 22 The Notebook PG-13 June 29 **Grown Ups** PG-13 July 6 Jurassic Park PG-13 July 13 Moana (Showing at FF City Hall Park) PG July 20 Rogue One: A Star Wars Story PG-13 July 27 **Dirty Dancing** PG-13 **Finding Dory** August 3 PG August 10 ПÞ PG August 17 **Guardians of the Galaxy** PG-13 August 24 Hook

# MORE OUTDOOR MOVIE OPPORTUNITIES Friday nights at 9pm

ı	DATE	CITY	MOVIE	RATING
	June 9	FF SummerFest at Kirkbride	The Secret Life of Pets	PG
	June 16	Battle Lake	A Dog's Purpose	PG
	June 23	Browns Valley	A Dog's Purpose	PG
	July 14	Rothsay	Moana	PG
	July 21	Battle Lake	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story	PG-13
	August 4	Erhard	Finding Dory	PG
	August 11	Battle Lake	UP	PG



PO Box 277 100 Main St. Underwood, MN 56586

# New Listings

### **ASHBY**

Saxton, Sean747	7-2614
Smith, Savannah747	7-2299
Strand, Virginia747	7-2260
Welch, Janet747	7-2187
Youngblood, Mike747	7-2190

### **DALTON**

Fresonke, K	589-7035
Nordick, Kory	589-7038
Petersen, Roger	589-7047
Solheim, Breanna	589-7107

## **ERHARD**

Dornbusch, Jared	842-5183
Morrow, S	842-5193
Tollefson, Char	842-5206
Wahlstrom, Cody	842-5220

# **FERGUS FALLS**

Anderson, Carolyn L	998-2464
Evrist, S	998-4796
Ferber, M	998-4797
Great Clips	998-1777
Hiedeman, Shawn	998-0192
lvie, Harriet	998-3745
Jorud Law Office	998-6288
Keilen, Joshua & Brenda	998-0079
Klecan, Samantha	998-0078
Lott, Joshua & Sara	998-0068
SCR Solutions	998-1990

### **MAINE**

Hanson, Susan	495-2065
Peterson, Dan	495-2134
Roehl, Jason	495-2081

## **ROTHSAY**

Hendrickson, Rick & Pam86
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# **UNDERWOOD**

Hanson, Terry & Cindy.	826-6413
Pederson, Dan	826-6640
Samuelson Plumbing	826-6685