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By NORTHWEST HERALD

Telephone clinic planned

CRYSTAL LAKE – The Citizens Utility Board is conducting a free clinic to give consumers tips about telephone service that could cut their calling costs by hundreds of dollars a year.

CUB's "phone-bill clinics" have been showing consumers across the state how to cut their local and long-distance bills by an average of \$200 a year.

The next one will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 25 at Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 Paddock St. Space is limited, so register with the library online at www.crystallakelibrary.org or by calling 815-459-1687. Attendees should bring their phone bills so CUB experts can analyze them and give tips on how to cut them. The clinic is part of CUB's statewide "Right Call Campaign" to help consumers rein in telephone bills. CUB recently released a report showing that Illinois callers are overpaying by more than \$1 billion a year.

"Most people are paying too much for phone service," CUB Executive Director David Kolata said in a news release. "However, CUB has been showing consumers how to save an average of about \$20 a month on their local and long-distance bills. Plus, we have a new online tool that has been teaching consumers how to slash cell-phone bills by a monthly average of \$25. You just can't get a free service like this anywhere else."

At CUB's clinics, consumers will receive tips about:

- The CUB Cellphone Saver, a state-of-the-art online tool that analyzes individual wireless bills. It has been showing consumers how to cut their cell-phone bills by an average of \$300 a year.
- The CUB-designed Consumer's Choice local-calling plans that AT&T is forced to offer under a legal settlement. Unlike AT&T's other plans, these plans are designed to save most consumers money.
- Illinois' best long-distance plans, including how to get an automatic \$20 credit that CUB negotiated. That amounts to almost 11 hours of free calls.

CUB is Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog organization. It was created by the Illinois Legislature in 1983 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers.

For information, call CUB's Consumer Hot Line at 800-669-5556, or visit www.citizensutilityboard.org.

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