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## Phone bill too high? CUB offers several solutions

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March 4, 2009

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ROMEOVILLE -- The Citizens Utility Board helped dozens of visitors save money on their phone bills during a Monday clinic hosted by state Rep. Emily McAsey.

Bryan McDaniel was one of several board staffers who examined people's bills and suggested savings strategies during the clinic at the Romeoville Recreation Center.

Around 50 people signed in for the event, which also was hosted by the board, known as CUB, and the village of Romeoville, said McAsey, D-Lockport. Romeoville Mayor John Noak attended the clinic.

CUB made recommendations on regular landline bills and cell phone bills, McDaniel said. The board advises landline consumers to use AT&T's Consumer Choice plan for local calls, between 0 and 15 miles; and Maine-based Pioneer Telephone for local toll calls, between 15 to 40 miles, and for long-distance calls, more than 40 miles.

CUB found that Pioneer offered cheaper service in those two categories, called the company, and said it would be recommending the plans, McDaniel said.

As a result, new customers get a \$20 credit if they tell Pioneer they were referred by CUB.

### Other savings strategies

Regarding cell phone service, CUB's Web site examines bills and recommends the cheaper plan from a consumer's current carrier and with other carriers, McDaniel said.

Also, CUB recommended savings strategies for dialing information. For instance, by calling 800-INFO-FAST, a consumer can talk to a live operator and get free information service after listening to a short advertisement.

If consumers have high-speed Internet service, CUB advises them to consider saving money by using Voice Over Internet Protocol for phone calls.

"I hope that the event was the first of many events that I will be having in the district on a variety of different topics, reaching out to people and helping them to learn about resources that are available to them," said McAsey, who represents the 85th District, including Romeoville, Lockport, Crest Hill and Bolingbrook.

If you're interested in getting CUB's recommendations on saving on phone bills, you can:

- attend a future phone bill clinic

- send your phone bill to CUB, 309 W. Washington, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606
- call 866-688-4282
- visit [www.citizensutilityboard.org](http://www.citizensutilityboard.org).

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