



BUSY LINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

Volume 32, Number 12 • December 2006 • www.mdtc.net

FRS 2007 Scholarship Program

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) College Scholarship Program is intended to offer young people from rural areas a better chance to receive a higher education. Studies have shown that a large gap exists between college degrees received by rural youth compared to suburban and urban youth. Only 62% of rural high school graduates attend at least one year of college, either part-time or full-time, compared to 73% of non-rural teenagers. Rural Americans are more likely than any other group to cite financial difficulties as one of their major impediments to attending college than any other group. It is the goal of the foundation to help alleviate that obstacle.

Another objective of the foundation's College Scholarship Program is to encourage college graduates to return to rural areas after graduation. More than two-thirds of rural Americans with postsecondary degrees never return to their rural communities. The scholarship selection committee will favor those indicating plans to return to their rural communities after graduation.

In May 2007, FRS will award twenty-five, \$2,500 scholarships to rural high school seniors, totaling \$62,500. Each winner will receive a \$2,500 scholarship, \$2,000 directly from FRS and an additional \$500 from the student's sponsoring company. The scholarships are awarded to one student in each of the 10 regions of the

National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) and one to a student sponsored by an NTCA associate member. The remaining 14 awards will be distributed proportionate to the number of applications received from each NTCA region.

Applicants must:

1. Be a graduating high school senior.
2. Be the child of, or under the guardianship of, a McDonough Telephone Cooperative member and be from a rural area.
3. Be accepted at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.
4. Have at least a C grade point average.
5. Express an interest to work in a rural community following graduation.
6. Be sponsored by a contributor to, or supporter of, the Foundation for Rural Service.

Application forms have been mailed to guidance counselors at all area high schools. They can also be downloaded from the FRS web site at www.frs.org.

Completed applications must be returned to our office by February 25, 2007 so that we can complete the Sponsor Certification and forward the applications to FRS. **DO NOT SEND APPLICATIONS DIRECTLY TO THE FRS!**

If you have any questions, contact Karen Proulx at 776-3211 or 888/640-4334.

Board Votes to Assist Fire, Rescue Squads

At its October meeting, the McDonough Telephone board of directors voted to support all of the fire departments and rescue squads within our service area by giving them free DSL and video at their home bases. The amount of paperwork emergency service agencies are required to complete has increased dramatically,

and much of it must now be submitted via the Internet.

The volunteer departments generally run on a tight budget. We hope that by making broadband services available to them free of charge, the resources they have can be dedicated towards protecting our communities and keeping them safe.

Happy Holidays!

The offices of McDonough Telephone will be closed on Monday, December 25, for the Christmas holiday and on Monday, January 1, to celebrate the New Year. Emergency repair calls will be handled in the normal holiday routine. Members should call 611 in the event of telephone, DSL or video service problems. If calling from out of our service area or from a cell phone, dial 309/776-3214. Other requests or questions regarding billing issues may be left on our voice mail.

The directors and staff of McDonough Telephone wish you a world of peace and a home full of health and happiness this holiday season.

Don't forget to add these things to your Christmas list

DSL, MTC-TV, HBO, Showtime, & Voice Mail

We also have a **20% off sale** in December on phones & answering machines.



McDonough Telephone Cooperative

Colchester: 309-776-3211 or 888-640-4334
Lomax: 217-449-3211

Illinois NEW Identity Theft Hotline

Attorney General Lisa Madigan has created the first-ever Illinois Identity Theft Hotline. The hotline provides Illinoisans who have been victimized by identity theft with one-on-one assistance to take the steps necessary to report the crime to local law enforcement and financial institutions, repair their credit and prevent future problems.

Identity theft occurs when a criminal obtains and uses someone else's personal information – such as credit card numbers, bank account numbers, and social security number – to purchase goods and services fraudulently. Victims of identity theft lose more than money; they lose peace of mind. Victims often spend dozens of hours working with creditors, credit reporting agencies, financial institutions and law enforcement to reclaim their good names and their good credit. The

recovery process may take years.

When you call the Identity Theft Hotline at 1-866-999-5630 (TTY: 1-877-844-5461), you'll be assigned a Consumer Advocate who will help you:

- Dispute a fraudulent debt and clean up your credit report;
- Contact appropriate law enforcement agencies;
- Read through and understand documents related to the crime;
- Determine what to do if your wallet or purse has been stolen; and
- Take steps to prevent yourself from further victimization.

The hotline is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, you can visit the Illinois Attorney General's website at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov.

Customer Appreciation Party Big Success

The weather was perfect and the atmosphere was festive for the McDonough Telephone Customer Appreciation party on October 6. Several hundred people visited our warehouse to get demonstrations of video and DSL, to spin our own MDTC "Wheel of Fortune," to lunch on hot dogs and hamburgers and to visit with their friends and neighbors.

Members line up to take their chance on the Wheel of Fortune. CO technician Alan Cramer is the "wheelmaster."

Daryl Sidwell, Jay Griswold and manager Bill Buchanan show off their grill skills.



Katie Dorethy of rural Colchester was the lucky winner of the portable LCD television in the "Attend a McDonough Telephone Event and You Could Win a Prize" drawing. Katie with granddaughter Emily Bennett

Directory Updates

Listings for the 2007 McDonough Telephone directory will be sent to the publisher at the end of December. If you want to make any changes to your listing, please contact our office as soon as possible.

Sales for yellow page advertising will continue in December. Our publisher is Directory Publishing Solutions (DPS). Since several companies sell directory advertising at virtually the same time, call our office if you question whether a sales person represents us or another company.

Directory Additions

Biggsby, Richard & Tina	456-3893
Brown, David & Shawna	776-3687
Bucy, Steven	776-3006
Edwards Cattle Company	653-2587
Fosdyck, Paul L.	776-3541
Gebhardt, Kerry	456-3410
Herbie's Ice Cream & Stuff	449-3700
Hull, Jawni	653-2547
Leverton, Russell D.	257-2248
Lindsey, Dominiqua	254-3203
Mohr Veterinary Clinic LLC	449-3344
Perry, David & Barb	776-3643
Potter, Brandon	254-3296
Taylor, Jason	774-4269
Woods, M.L.	769-5268

Lomax Office Schedule DECEMBER 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31		26	27	28	29	30

Days Open in Red • Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 15 - Bills Due • Dec. 26 - Disconnect