



BUSYLINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

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2011 Directory Now Available

Most subscribers should have already received their 2011 McDonough Telephone Cooperative Directory. Please recycle your old directories with other recyclable papers. The 2011 directory boasts all of the usual great features: easy to read listings, colorful and informative preliminary pages, a handy reverse telephone number-to-name lookup and the blue-tabbed government section. For your convenience, we include a section of video troubleshooting hints and set top box diagrams in the preliminary pages.

Our book is also available in its entirety online at www.411mdtc.com. White page listings can be searched by clicking on the first letter of the last name and narrowing the search from there. The yellow pages offer more bang



than ever to advertisers. Click on a message that says "See Our Display Ad," and the ad opens up in a separate window. If a business lists a website in its ad, you just click and you're there! Some businesses also list their email addresses for easy contact.

We're always eager to get your input about the directory. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact us.

Calling JULIE Has Never Been Easier

Spring is here, and you're anxious to launch all of those outdoor projects you've been planning over the winter. If you're doing anything that involves digging, the first item on your project plan should be to call JULIE.

JULIE, the "Illinois One-Call System," is a member of the Common Ground Alliance which works to produce strategies for damage prevention. One of the results of this collaboration is the designation of a national 811 "Call Before You Dig" number. By developing a single number—811—that can be used anywhere in the country, contractors and homeowners will have an easy job of it when they need to place a call.

When you call JULIE, be prepared to provide your contact information as well as specific locational data regarding the site of the dig.

Locating services are free, but the price can be high if you don't call first to report a dig. It's safe, it's smart, it's simple—call JULIE at 811. More information is available at www.illinois1call.com.



Stay Safe During Spring Storms

Spring is here, and with it will undoubtedly come another wave of thunderstorms. Remember—a lightning bolt can carry billions of watts of electricity. If a strike occurs near your home, it can send a powerful surge that could damage your electronics and potentially injure you.

To help stay safe and protect your electronic investments, be sure to unplug your computers, televisions, modems, fax machines, VCRs, cable outlets, and telephones before bad weather hits, so you're not in contact with these items during the storm. In addition, avoid contact with metallic items and plumbing, including faucets and bathtubs, until the storm is over.

Of course, a storm can strike any time, and you may not be home to prepare adequately. With that in mind, it's a good idea to have a surge protector with a built-in phone line. It won't provide 100% protection, but it will help. And while you're at it, you may want to ask your insurance provider what's covered under your homeowners policy in the event of storm damage.

For more tips on staying safe this season, and throughout the year, visit the Electrical Safety Foundation website at www.esfi.org.



Colchester: 309-776-3211 or 888-640-4334

Tips for Buying a Laptop Battery

Your laptop battery has kicked the bucket, and you're in the market for a new one. Where to begin??

The first thing to consider is the quality of the battery. Usually a product made by the manufacturer of your laptop is a quality product. However, you can save some money by buying a battery from a third party manufacturer. The main consideration here is the warranty. Never buy a battery with a warranty period of less than one year.

Next, look for the type of battery. For laptops, there are four main types: Ni-Cad, Ni-MH, Lithium Ion, and Lithium Poly. Ni-Cads are an old and primitive type of power and are no longer manufactured. Ni-MH is newer but is not as good as the two Lithium varieties. Ni-MH batteries weigh more and

produce less current. Lithium Ion and Lithium Poly are the most advanced batteries on the market now, and if possible, choose one of these types.

Lastly check out the power rating of the item you're buying by comparing the Watt-Hours. The term Watt-Hour signifies the energy needed to power one watt for one hour. If, for example, a battery can power 52 watts for one hour and your laptop runs at 26 watts per hour, the battery will power the laptop for two hours. Look for the battery with the highest Watt-Hours.

One more thing—unless you rarely use your laptop, steer clear of used or refurbished batteries. A second-hand battery doesn't hold a charge as long and can quit at any time since you don't really know how old it is.

Do you want to be able to:

- Get messages even if your line is busy or the power is out?
- Have voice mail messages forwarded to your email account?
- Access your messages 24/7 from any touchtone phone?
- Stop replacing the answering machine every time there's an electrical storm?



Sign up for voice mail during the month of April and get the first two months of service FREE!

Coming to VOD for April

Title	Genre	Rating	Start Date
Little Fockers	Comedy	PG-13	4/5/11
Tron: Legacy	Action	PG	4/5/11
Country Strong	Drama	PG-13	4/12/11
Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows: Part 1	Adventure	PG-13	4/15/11
The King's Speech	Drama	R	4/19/11
Gulliver's Travels	Adventure	PG	4/19/11
The Chronicles of Narnia	Fantasy	PG	4/22/11

B4 = Title is available prior to Netflix and/or Redbox

We're Coming To YOU!
McDonough Telephone
Morning Exchange

Route 67 Café

205 N. Monmouth St. (Rt. 67)
 Good Hope, IL

Wednesday, April 13 • 7-8:30 a.m.
FREE Breakfast
We hope you'll join us!

Reminder: Dial Up to Be Discontinued

Effective May 30, 2011, WINS will cease offering dial up Internet service. If you're still using dial up, please contact our office as soon as possible to get information about MTC Communications' five high speed Internet (HSI) packages. The entry level HSI package is only \$22.95, just \$3.00 more than you're currently paying for dial up! Make the switch today—you'll be glad you did.

Sign up for service from MiCellular during April, and get your choice of an accessory FREE!

(Extra batteries are excluded.)

MiCellular has single and family plans, texting packages and data plans—make the choices that fit your lifestyle.



Directory Additions

Beck, Mark	776-3735
Blann, Craig	254-3796
Bray, Randy	776-4565
Corbin, Tyler & Britney	653-2465
Cowin, Kevin & Carol	254-3345
Davis, Margaret C.	325-7219
Gipe, Jessica	746-6272
Kelley, Randy	776-3876
Porter, Jennifer	776-3639
Robinson, Brian & Amy	769-5530
Smith, Ashley	769-5206