



# BU S Y L I N E

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

Volume 36, Number 7 • July 2010 • www.mdtc.net



Tharp Brothers work on the fiber optic route outside of Colchester.

## MDTC Running Fiber to the Home

Lately you may have noticed big yellow plows placing orange and blue tubing in the ground in the southeast portion of the Colchester exchange. This is part of the McDonough Telephone Fiber to the Home (FTTH) project. The tubing serves as protection for the fiber optic cable which is inserted into the innerduct. The fiber route is being built by Tharp Brothers Underground of Oquawka.

What is Fiber to the Home? FTTH is the installation and use of fiber optic cables to carry digital information directly to homes and businesses. The cables are made up of many thin strands of pure glass about the diameter of human hair and carry voice and data signals by

using laser-generated pulses of light to transmit them.

FTTH has many benefits. Fiber has the capability to transport virtually unlimited bandwidth. Fiber optic cables are more reliable and less susceptible to electrical interference and inclement weather than copper. FTTH also offers the flexibility to deliver additional services in the years to come.

MDTC is investing in FTTH, the next generation of communications technology, as part of our commitment to provide you the best in services. FTTH will offer many advantages today, and prepare you to enjoy an even greater selection of options in the future.

## Allocation Ratio for 2009 Announced

Each year, according to its bylaws, the cooperative allocates all member revenue in excess of operating costs and expenses to the membership. The allocation figure is arrived at by dividing member operating margins by total payments received. For 2009, the allocation ratio is .321805. To determine each member's capital credit allocation, the dollar amount the member paid to McDonough Telephone for services in 2009 has been multiplied by the allocation ratio. Allocation notices were mailed in June. If you didn't receive your notice, contact our office.

## 2011 Photo Contest Guidelines

It's time to bring out the cameras and start clicking. Summer offers 101 photo opportunities from beautiful gardens, kids playing baseball, an afternoon fishing at Lake Argyle or crops growing in a field. There are some other interesting ways you can exercise your photographic skills. Pictures of family or friends using any of our services – landline, cell phone, Internet or video – or pictures of our crews at work in the community would both be welcome submissions. The deadline for entries to the directory cover photo contest is November 19, 2010. Three prizes will be awarded: First Place - \$100 plus photo will be featured on the front cover of the 2011 directory; Second Place - \$75; and Third Place - \$50. Here's a rundown of the rules:

- Submit up to two photographs (either prints or high-resolution digital files) of a person, place or thing in the McDonough Telephone directory coverage area.
- All entrants must be MDTC members or the children of members and reside within our service area. The contest is limited to amateur photographers only and is not open to cooperative employees, directors or their immediate families.
- Photograph(s) and negative(s) become the property of MDTC.
- Send all entries to: Karen Proulx; McDonough Telephone Cooperative; PO Box 359; Colchester, IL 62326. Include your name, address, phone number and background information about the photograph. You can also email entries to karen@mdtc.net.



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

# FCC Broadband Plan Shorts Rural Americans

What would happen if the federal government decided that the roads, bridges, and infrastructure in cities should be better constructed and more efficient than the roads in rural America? What if policy makers determined that urban consumers should be able to get where they're going and get what they need faster than rural consumers? A new government plan intends to make that true of our nation's information superhighway—the Internet. And while it's not the highway we drive on, rural consumers should still be very concerned.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has crafted a plan to make broadband Internet access universally available. Reliable, high speed broadband has become the essential service of today, like electricity and telephone service were decades ago. Broadband can improve the lives of all consumers, but access is especially important for those of us living in rural America. The Internet enables farmers to monitor weather patterns and ranchers to buy and sell livestock in markets far from home. It also gives small businesses the opportunity to reach customers nationwide, offers local students the chance to take classes online, and allows doctors to remotely

diagnose patients and even offer remote emergency care.

The many benefits of broadband are clear, and we applaud the government's efforts to make affordable, reliable Internet connections a reality for all Americans. But the FCC's plan will make rural Americans second class citizens in the new broadband world, because it establishes a speed goal for rural areas that is **twenty five times slower** than for urban areas. Shouldn't rural communities have access to the same broadband services as our larger towns and cities?

Years ago, Congress established a universal service policy for telephone service. It required that those living in rural areas have access to communications services at prices that are affordable and reasonably comparable to those available in urban areas. Rather than support this same universal service philosophy for broadband, the FCC's plan offers faster, better service to some Americans while guaranteeing lesser service to others.

Don't let the FCC keep our rural community on the slow side of the broadband digital divide. Contact your congressional representatives and urge them to support regulatory action that ensures equal access to broadband for **all** Americans.

## Coming to VOD for July

Title	Genre	Rating	Start Date
Greenberg	Comedy	R	07/01/10
The Bounty Hunter	Comedy	PG-13	07/13/10
The Craziest	Drama	R	07/13/10
Our Family Wedding	Comedy	PG-13	07/13/10
Brooklyn's Finest	Thriller	R	07/20/10
Cop Out	Comedy	R	07/20/10
The Losers	Action	PG-13	07/20/10
Repo Men	Action	R	07/27/10
Clash of the Titans	Action	PG-13	07/27/10

## Attention Lifeline and Monitor Users

If you are a Lifeline user or are monitoring an at-risk baby, please notify our plant department by dialing 611. In the event of an outage, persons with Lifeline or a monitoring system are given priority status in having their service restored so it is vital our subscribers keep us informed of such special circumstances. Our records will then accurately indicate the households where an outage might result in an emergency situation. New Lifeline and monitor users will be asked for certification from a physician.

We also request you inform us when a Lifeline or baby monitor is taken out of service so we can update our records. Your assistance will help us to serve you better. Thank you!

## Directory Additions

Allen, Kyle	254-3783
Hope, Clinton & Megan	774-4297
Rowland, Vincent & Desiree	776-3839
Scott, Richard & Kathleen	755-4329
Sullivan, John A.	254-3404
Willdrick, Krista	449-3852
Williams, Dottie	746-6296

## Happy 4th of July

Our business office will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day. As you gather with your family and friends this year, we hope you celebrate the many freedoms we enjoy in the United States.

## Lomax Office Schedule JULY 2010

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
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Days Open in Red • Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
 Closed for Lunch 11:30 a.m. to noon  
 July 15 – Bills Due • July 26 – Disconnect Day  
 Closed July 5 for Independence Day Holiday