



BUSY LINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

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Western Illinois Regional Council Supplies Services to Six Counties

The MEG fund has again been making donations throughout the area to agencies which provide services to those in need. For the next several months, we'll spotlight one of these agencies in each Busy Line.

The Western Illinois Regional Council office is in Macomb, but its impact extends over a six county area. The WIRC has been providing a multitude of services to communities and their residents in the counties of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren for over 30 years.

Communities and local government officials can turn to the WIRC for assistance in grant writing and pursuing community development funds for projects including water and sewer system improvement, housing rehabilitation and economic development improvements. The WIRC has obtained millions of dollars in funds for area communities.

The WIRC has a number of programs to sustain income eligible residents in need. Some of these programs are: transitional housing for homeless individuals and families; emergency services such as food and clothing; Hunters Helping the Hungry providing free venison for families in need; Project Santa to ensure all children have a happy holiday; home maintenance to help the elderly and the disabled remain in their homes; housing rehabilitation; low income energy assistance; assistance in buying a home; and a scholarship fund to help low income residents pursue a field with a high potential for employment.

The WIRC Victim Services Program provides support to the most vulnerable segment of the population. Women and children who have been subjected to do-

mestic violence or sexual abuse will find free, confidential services in a safe environment. Both the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs provide emergency transportation, clothing and food for survivors and their families. The Domestic Violence Program also offers temporary emergency safe shelter. Victim Services mans a 24-Hour Crisis Line at 309-837-5555. Free confidential counseling sessions are available to the victims or their family.

In the face of proposed budget cuts which will have a profound impact on the poor, Suzan Nash, executive director of the WIRC, accepted the MEG donation with gratitude.



MDTC employees Michelle Torrance (left) and Pam Downey (right) present a donation from the MEG fund to WIRC director Suzan Nash.

"We greatly appreciate this wonderful donation through the generosity of the employees and administration of McDonough Telephone," said Nash. "The money will be used to benefit those in need of food assistance, and the clients that we serve through our Victim Services programs."

To find out how you can help the WIRC in its goals of improving our communities and providing support to those in need, call 309-837-3941.

In Brief

• The Federal Universal Service Charge increased April 1 from 10.2% to 11.3%. Residential customers incurred an increase from \$.66/month to \$.94/month. Businesses experienced a monthly increase from \$.73 to \$1.04.

• On the go this summer? Even if you're not at home, you can still keep up with your email correspondence as long as you have access to an active Internet service. Here's how: Go to the WINS homepage at www.winco.net. On the left hand side of the page is a link reading "Check your e-mail." Click on this link and you'll be asked for your username and password. Enter this information and click on "Login." You will be able to see any new messages that you haven't downloaded to your home computer. You can also send outgoing messages from this site.

• Another vacation thought – if you plan to be away for a long time, you can take your phone out on a temporary basis. We will save your phone number for up to a year. There is no charge to disconnect. The service charge to reconnect is \$13 for residential customers and \$15 for business customers.

• **VOD Coming Soon!** MTC-TV will begin offering Video On Demand in June. Movies range from \$2.95 to \$4.95 for a minimum rental period of 24 hours. Over 200 movies in a variety of categories are available.



McDonough Telephone Cooperative

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

A Powerful Message on Internet Safety

On April 1, Tina Meier addressed a crowd at the Macomb High School gymnasium about the dangers of Cyberbullying. Tina is only too painfully aware of the harm online bullies can inflict. Her 13-year-old daughter Megan committed suicide in October 2006 after receiving cruel and abusive emails from, purportedly, a 16-year-old boy named Josh Evans. "Josh Evans" was actually the creation of an adult neighbor of the Meiers, the woman's teenage daughter and an employee of the woman.

We felt that Tina's story is one that every parent, every teenager should hear in full. With the permission of the



Tina Meier, speaker on Cyberbullying

Macomb Online Safety Team (M.O.S.T.) who sponsored the event, we taped the complete presentation and will air it on

local channel 2. The show will be shown at 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to Tina Meier, Sarah Migas, Internet Safety Specialist, High Tech Crimes Bureau, Illinois Attorney General's Office, also spoke on the perils of cyberbullying and the

importance of parents maintaining a dialogue with their kids about the dangers of the Internet.

We hope you'll tune in to channel 2 to view this important message.

Power Outages and Your Phone

Thunderstorm season is here and along with it comes the possibility of power outages. Just because the power is out, you don't have to go without phone service.

During a power outage, McDonough Telephone's communications network remains fully operational due to a backup power system. If a blackout hits, your phone service will continue without interruption.

Here are several tips to keep you connected:

- Make sure you always have at least one working corded telephone handy. While cordless phones are convenient,

they won't work when the power is out.

- Don't count on answering machines during a power outage. McDonough Telephone's Voice Mail service works even if the power is out. For only \$3/month you can be assured that you'll never miss an important message.

- The Call Forwarding feature can be useful in an emergency. If you decide to leave home because of a blackout, your calls can follow you to another location or to a cell phone.

Being in the dark doesn't mean you have to be out of touch with the rest of the world. A few simple precautions will keep you connected.

We Remember

The McDonough Telephone office will be closed on Monday, May 26, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. To report a service problem, dial 611. If you're calling from outside our service area or from a cellular phone, dial 309-776-3214. Other requests or questions may be left on our voice mail.

The Colchester Veterans Memorial Committee will be holding a ceremony on Saturday, May 24, to dedicate the two new extensions on the memorial and to read the newly added names. The VFW and American Legion will participate in the ceremony. Further details will be made available later.

Directory Additions

Boehm, Peter	254-3568
Bruns, Diane	774-4285
Cantrell, Robert	449-3332
Cook, Richard	456-3845
Curless, Keith	257-2304
Flynn, Dianne	776-3424
Freeman, Steven	769-5592
Gibbs, Korey	254-3236
Guarin, Phill	456-3904
Hurst, Kevin & Linda	254-3298
HWH Farms	254-3298
Jones, Fred	449-3380
Mesick, Bill	776-4087
Portmidwest International Inc.	449-3876
Shepler, Cherry	776-4798

Lomax Office Schedule MAY 2008

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.
 May 15 - Bills Due • May 27 - Disconnect Day
 May 26 - Closed for Memorial Day

Customer Appreciation Party

Friday, June 6, 2008 • 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

New Location! Colchester City Park on Rt. 136



- Hot dogs and hamburgers
- Wheel of Fortune giveaways
- Drawing for a digital camera
- Construction equipment display