



# BUSY LINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

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## The Facts About All-Digital TV

Are you confused by all you've been hearing about the upcoming shift to digital broadcasting? If you are, you're certainly not alone. Many people have misconceptions of what this changeover means and could end up spending a lot of money unnecessarily.

On February 17, 2009, federal law requires that all full-power broadcast stations broadcast only in digital format. For those consumers who receive their televisions signals from an IP, cable or satellite TV company or who have a digital television, nothing will change. The purchase of new equipment will not be necessary. Both analog and digital televisions will be able to receive the digital signal.

If you receive only free over-the-air television programming via an antenna, the type of TV you own, either analog or digital, is very important. If you have a digital television, the only additional equipment you'll need to receive digital programming is a regular antenna. If you have an analog television, you will have to purchase a digital-to-analog set top converter box to be able to watch over-the-air digital programming.

There is some good news for those of you who will need to purchase the converter boxes. Between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, all U.S. households will

be able to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the future purchase of eligible digital-to-analog converter boxes. The converter boxes are for the use of households with analog televisions who receive their TV signal via antenna. Analog televisions receiving a signal via cable or satellite will not need these boxes.

### To request a coupon or coupons, you can:

- Apply online at [www.dtv2009.gov/ApplyCoupon.aspx](http://www.dtv2009.gov/ApplyCoupon.aspx)
- Call the Coupon Program 24-hour hotline 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009). Hearing-impaired consumers can use the TTY service by calling: 1-877-530-2634 (English/TTY) or 1-866-495-1161 (Spanish/TTY)
- Mail a coupon application to: PO BOX 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000. Download a Coupon Application at [www.dtv2009.gov/docs/Coupon\\_Program\\_App\\_en.pdf](http://www.dtv2009.gov/docs/Coupon_Program_App_en.pdf)
- Fax a coupon application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632)

MTC-TV delivers all of its programming in digital format. Subscribers to MTC-TV will not need to purchase new equipment for the digital transition. If you're in the market for a new television anyway, be sure to get one that has a digital tuner.



## Get in the game with digital TV from MTC-TV!

Digital TV is like a season pass to your favorite games. Be part of the heart-pounding action with our all-star sports roster including ESPN, Big Ten Network, and Fox Sports Network. When you're ready for a timeout from sports, choose from MTC-TV's 100+ other channels included in the basic package. You can also select from 4 premium channel packages. To order, call 1-888-640-4334.

## Do-Not-Call Notification

A national Do-Not-Call Registry has been established to address unwelcome telemarketing calls. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) are now sharing responsibility for enforcing the list. The FCC requires an annual notification to subscribers of their right, by way of the national do-not-call registry, "to give or revoke an objection to receiving telephone solicitations."

The registry applies to all telemarketers, with the exception of businesses with whom you have an existing relationship and certain non-profit and political organizations. Commercial telemarketers are not allowed to call you if your number is listed on the registry.

Consumers may register their residential telephone number, including wireless numbers, on the national Do-Not-Call Registry at no cost, either by telephone or via the Internet. To register by telephone, call 1-888-382-1222. For TTY, call 1-866-290-4236.

If registering by telephone, you must call from the telephone number you wish to register. You also may register, or obtain additional information about the registry, on the Internet at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). Inclusion of your telephone number on the national Do-Not Call Registry will be effective one month following your registration. You can remove your name from the list at any time.

Your number remains on the registry for five years. The Registry went into effect in June 2003 so the five year mark is coming up for the millions of people who signed up at the outset.



McDonough Telephone Cooperative

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

# IRS Warns of Rebate Scams

The checks aren't even in the mail yet and the Internal Revenue Service is warning consumers that identity thieves are on the prowl. Using promises of tax rebates, they are tricking people into revealing financial and personal data.

Under one scheme, the IRS said, people are receiving phone calls telling them they can only receive a rebate if they provide bank account information for a direct deposit. If the target refuses, he is told that he cannot receive the rebate.

The IRS stressed that it never collects information over the phone nor does it force taxpayers to use direct deposit. A taxpayer who opts to use direct deposit does so by completing the appropriate section of their tax return, with bank routing and account information, when they file.

Several variations of a refund-related email scam have been circulating. A bogus email, purportedly coming from the IRS, tells the recipient that he or she is eligible

for a tax refund for a certain amount. The taxpayer is instructed to click on a link in the email to access a refund claim form. The form then asks the recipient to enter personal information which the scam artists can then use to access credit card or bank accounts. Tax-exempt organizations as well as individuals are being targeted.

Another email scam – sure to get anyone's attention – notifies the recipient that his or her tax return is going to be audited. The recipient is then instructed to follow certain links to complete forms with personal and bank information. This email is especially believable because the scammers use the recipient's name in the body of the email.

If you receive an email claiming to be from the IRS that you believe is suspicious, you can forward it to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). You can also use this mailbox to report any telephone calls, supposedly from the IRS, that appear to be questionable.

# What's Happening

**Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

## 11th Annual Craft Show, Bake Sale and Luncheon Fundraiser

West Prairie High School, 18575 E. 800th St., luncheon served from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sponsored by the West Prairie Class of 2010 After-Prom Committee so students can enjoy a safe, fun after-prom program. Lots of crafts, lots of delicious baked goods and a free gift for everyone who attends. For more information, contact Janice Wisslead, 309-456-3642.

**Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

## Western Illinois Home and Lifestyle Show

Western Illinois University, Western Hall – This show features over 120 exhibitors demonstrating a vast array of services and products. Entertainers will be performing throughout the day. McDonough Telephone is participating in this event – stop by our booth to say hello.

# Closed for Good Friday

The cooperative's business office will be closed on Friday, March 21, in observance of Good Friday. Members should dial 611 in the event of service problems. If calling from a cellular phone or from outside of our service area, dial 1-309-776-3214. Other requests or questions regarding billing issues may be left on our voice mail.

We wish you and yours peace, love and joy this Easter season and throughout the year.



## We're Coming To YOU!

### McDonough Telephone Morning Exchange

Dew's II


112 E. State St. • Smithshire, IL  
Wed., March 19th • 7 to 9 a.m.  
FREE Breakfast from 7-8 a.m.

We hope you'll join us!

# Directory Additions

Avery, Dakota	776-4027
Barber, Glen & Julie	774-4208
Barenz, Christopher	652-3652
Chicago Securities Ltd.	254-3535
Clark, Doug	449-3412
Collins, Randy Sr. & Ina	254-3626
Dobrovolny, Tiffany	769-5228
Grandma Lula's Thrift Store	776-3878
Haines, Seth & Tanya	746-6171
Hunter Family Ventures LLC	755-4366
Kelley, Randy	776-3876
Midwest Bridge & Crane	456-3430
Munson, Kevin	325-7202
Osborne, Vickie	652-3857
Paul, Herbert	776-4730
Quinn, Aubrey	254-3221
Schwerer, Doug & Kayla	652-3437
T.A. Equipment	652-3511
Terry, Scott	257-2379
Ungashick, Ryan	254-3392
Wayland, Laura	774-4249

## Lomax Office Schedule MARCH 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	Closed Good Friday	22
	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. - noon  
March 17 - Bills Due • March 25 - Disconnect Day