



BUSY LINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

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FRS 2009 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. Rural Americans are more likely than any other group to cite financial difficulties as one of their major impediments to attending college. 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. The scholarship selection committee will favor those indicating plans to return to their rural communities after graduation.

In May 2009, FRS will award thirty \$2,500 scholarships to rural high school seniors. 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 19 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. Receive local telecommunications service from McDonough Telephone Cooperative.
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 will be mailed to guidance counselors at all area high schools by the middle of December. They can also be downloaded from the FRS web site at www.frs.org. Completed applications must be postmarked to FRS by March 1, 2009. Prior to mailing to the FRS, the applications must be brought into our office to have the Sponsor Certification completed. Please allow adequate time for us to do the certification.

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

Business Office to Close for Holidays

The offices of McDonough Telephone will be closed at noon on Wed., Dec. 24 and all day on Thurs., Dec. 25, for the Christmas holiday. We will also be closed at 3 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 31, and all day on Thurs., Jan. 1, to celebrate the New Year. 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. The directors and staff of McDonough Telephone wish you good health, much happiness and a world of peace this holiday season.



Join In • Stop By Help Out

On Friday, December 5, we will be holding a holiday open house in our Colchester business office. Enjoy homemade cookies and hot cider and enter the drawing for three \$25 bill credits. In the spirit of the season, we encourage you to bring in canned goods or other non-perishable food items for our MEG food drive to benefit local food pantries. We hope to see you here!



 **MDTC**
McDonough Telephone Cooperative

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

DECEMBER SPECIAL
20% OFF ALL
TELEPHONES &
ANSWERING
MACHINES

See our selection of Corded, Cordless, Big Button, Amplified, and Dual Handset Phones



Enjoy the Holidays
Without Breaking the Bank

Each year, it seems like holiday gift lists get longer and longer—and prices go higher and higher. Between kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, and close friends, there is always pressure to spend more than you should. However, you can change all that. Here are a few ideas to make the most of the season, without feeling stressed about what is (or isn't) left in your wallet:

Give the gift of time.

Real holiday spirit involves putting others first. You can help loved ones and give them a special treat at the same time. Create "coupons" that your family and friends can redeem any time for things like a homemade meal, a car wash, or child care.

Check out thrift stores.

Great deals, and sometimes very unique items from the past, can be found at thrift stores such as books, toys, jewelry, and home décor. Plus, you're participating in recycling at the same time.

Split up gift sets.

Instead of giving each of your friends a set filled with bath salts, lotions,



perfume, and makeup, divide the sets and give each person just one or two of the items. You'll save big, and they'll still appreciate the thoughtful gesture.

Buy only what you really need.

Holiday sales are hard to resist, but they can cause you to overspend in a heartbeat. To avoid buyer's remorse and mounting bills, make a list and stick to it. (That means avoiding buying extras for yourself, as well.)

Think twice about using credit cards.

Every purchase you make with a credit card will end up costing you in interest unless you pay off the balance at the end of the month. Even if your budget is tight, you'll be much more satisfied—and less stressed in January—if you stick to buying things on a cash-only basis.

Remember to establish your budget before you hit the stores, and to keep track of every purchase you make. By shopping within your limits, you'll have a happier and more peaceful holiday.

Directory Updates

Listings for the 2009 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

Bowman, Stacey	325-7108
Bryan, L	769-5492
Bunnell, Travis	776-5218
Craddock, Rona Jean	456-3618
Fugate, Roy	652-3295
Fye, Everett & Lena	746-6248
Haffner, T	776-3044
Hall, Lacy & Brenda	257-2522
Harris, Chris	449-3409
Harris, Walt	449-3405
Illinois Title Loans Inc	449-3777
Kukuk, Regan	755-4327
Martin, P	776-3854
Trias, T S & J V	776-4187
Vileta, S	776-3183
Webster, Derek	776-4308
Williamson, R	746-6141

Season's Greetings

Lomax Office Schedule
DECEMBER 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		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
 Dec. 15 - Bills Due • Dec. 29 - Disconnect Day
 Closed December 25