



# BUSYLINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

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## Deadline Nears for 2009 FRS Scholarship Applications

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is currently seeking applications for its 2009 college scholarship program. Thirty scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each will be awarded to rural high school seniors across the country.

McDonough Telephone partners with FRS in making the scholarship program available to high school students in our area, with the FRS awarding \$2,000 and McDonough Telephone adding another \$500 if one of our sponsored students is selected as a scholarship winner. To be sponsored by McDonough Telephone, a student must be the child of, or under the guardianship of, a McDonough Telephone Cooperative member.

Last year we were privileged to have

one of our applicants, Erica Lawver of Industry, selected as a scholarship winner from a field of 1,200 entrants.

Applications and guidelines have been mailed to guidance counselors at all area schools. They can also be downloaded from the FRS website at [www.frs.org](http://www.frs.org). Please read the requirements carefully to see if you qualify. **Completed applications must be postmarked to the FRS office by March 1, 2009.** Prior to mailing to the FRS the applications must be brought to our office to be signed by president Bill Buchanan. Please allow adequate time for us to complete the certification.

If you have any questions, contact Karen Proulx at 776-3211 or 1-888-640-4334.

## Food Drive & Open House Bring Holiday Cheer

The employees and subscribers of McDonough Telephone were able to make the holidays a little happier for some people by making generous donations to the 2nd Annual MEG Food Drive last November and December. Hundreds of non-perishable food items were delivered to our Colchester and Lomax offices as well as to collection spots at Infobahn Outfitters in Macomb, Industry State Bank, Colusa State Bank and Main Street Salon in Blandinsville. The food was taken to the food pantry at the First Christian Church in Colchester.

To cap off the food drive, an open house was held at our Colchester office featuring homemade cookies and other treats and hot cranberry cider. Many of the subscribers who stopped by brought items for the food drive. A drawing was

held for three \$25 bill credits. Winners were Louise Parkins of Colchester, Carol Brooks of Blandinsville and Thomas Trias of Colchester.

The food pantry was very grateful for all of the donations. We want to thank the community for its support and compassion.



## Employees Recognized for Service

Five McDonough Telephone employees and one Infobahn employee achieved notable service anniversaries in 2008. Their combined terms of service totaled 90 years.

Maintenance technician Bob Bisby has served the co-op for 30 years. Vice President of Operations Marsha Livingstone received acknowledgement for 25 years of service. Installation supervisor Kenith Beckner, bookkeeper Diana Lovitt and PR/Marketing manager Karen Proulx were recognized for 10 years of service. Stephanie Foulk, web project manager for Infobahn, received a five year service award.

Congratulations to this dedicated group of people for their loyalty and commitment to a job well done.

**We're Coming To YOU!**  
**McDonough Telephone**  
**Morning Exchange**

**Michelle's**  
**Countryside Café**  
212 W. Campbell  
Tennessee, IL

Wednesday, February 11 • 7-9 a.m.  
FREE Breakfast from 7-8 a.m.  
*We hope you'll join us!*

 **MDTC**  
McDonough Telephone Cooperative

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

## In Brief

• If you disconnect your DSL service temporarily while you travel or relocate to a summer or winter home, MTC now offers a short-term “email only” service. For a flat fee of \$10, MTC will keep your email account active so that you can continue to send and receive emails from any location with Internet access. The “email only” account will be kept active for a maximum of six months.

• For complete television listings and much, much more, you just need to Zap2It. You can access this great site from the video page of the McDonough Telephone website ([www.mdtc.net](http://www.mdtc.net)). Click on the Zap2It icon, and enter your zip code. Select “McDonough Telephone Cooperative” as your video service provider, and

you’ll be able to browse complete listings for the next two weeks of programming. Zap2It also offers entertainment news, movie openings, DVD new releases and reviews, photos of your favorite stars and full length episodes of the most popular TV shows.

• Do you know that anyone using MTC Communications as their long distance carrier can call any other co-op member for free? All calls are still listed individually on your phone bill with a zero charge in the amount column. You still dial the calls as you always have with “1” plus the area code plus the seven digit phone number. McDonough Telephone exchanges are: (217) 449 and 755; (309) 254, 257, 325, 456, 652, 653, 746, 769, 774 and 776.

## Fun & Games

Two months of winter down and at least another month to go ... this is just the time we all start getting a little stir crazy. If you’re sick of solitaire and would like to try your hand at some online games, here are a few sites that will keep you occupied. Since all of these games are free, you do have to put up with some advertising.

**[www.miniclip.com](http://www.miniclip.com)** – Nearly 500 games in the categories of Seasonal, Action Sports, Multiplayer, Shoot ‘Em Up, Puzzle, Motorsports, Platform and Kids. The games aren’t very sophisticated (also connected to the fact that they are free), but they still have plenty of entertainment value.

**[www.pictogame.com](http://www.pictogame.com)** – Like miniclip.com, this site has hundreds of free games.

This site has a different twist in that you can create your own mini-game.

**[www.jigzone.com](http://www.jigzone.com)** – This is the site that has me hooked. Hundreds of great photos can be made into jigsaw puzzles ranging from six pieces to a challenging 247 piece cut. You can also upload your own photos and have them made into puzzles. Your solving time is tracked, and you can compare your time to the average solve time for a particular puzzle.

**[kids.yahoo.com/games](http://kids.yahoo.com/games)** – There is fun for kids of all ages at this site. In addition to many varieties of games, other categories, ranging from Music to Movies to Ask Earl to Jokes to Sports, offer information and entertainment with a youthful perspective.

## Use \*67 to Block Caller ID

McDonough Telephone wishes to remind its members that their telephone numbers will be identified to called parties with Caller ID capabilities. You may protect your privacy and block your number from being transmitted by dialing \*67 on a call-by-call basis. This service is free to all of our subscribers. All telephone numbers, whether published or non-published, will be delivered to a called party unless \*67 is dialed prior to making each and every call.



## Directory Additions

Cremer, Aaron	653-2616
Evans, Dick & Robin	769-5231
Frank, Clayton	776-4771
Hillyer, Ruthi	254-3340
Kreps, Jennifer	769-5583
Link, Michael C.	652-3712
McClure, Roberta	776-4639
O’Connell, Melinda	652-3342
Teel, Linda	776-4765

### Lomax Office Schedule FEBRUARY 2009

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

Days Open in Red • Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Closed for Lunch 11:30 a.m. to noon  
Feb. 16 - Bills Due • Feb. 25 - Disconnect Day



## February 17, 2009 – Digital TV Transition Are You Ready?

Go to [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov) or  
[www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)  
for more information