



BUSYLINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

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Photo Contest Winners Selected

Every year I comment that selecting the winner of our photo contest gets harder and harder, and this year was no exception. Our staff agreed that the quality of this year's entries was exceptional. Eighteen photographers submitted a total of 30 entries.

First place was awarded to Cindy Ford of Bardolph. Cindy's photo of her three blond-headed grandsons eating watermelon in front of an oversized flag was as All-American as a Norman Rockwell painting. Cindy will receive \$100 for her efforts and her photo will be displayed on the cover of the 2009 directory.

The second place prize of \$75

was awarded to Sauni Mourning of Colchester. Sauni submitted a photo of a doe standing at alert in the Mourning's lush green yard. Third prize winner was Maddie Link of Sciota who captured an intriguing shot of railroad tracks disappearing into the distance. Maddie's prize was \$50.

Six photographers were awarded Honorable Mention prizes of \$10 for their photos: Jim Morrison, Burnside; Linda Wilson, Colusa; John W. King, Good Hope; Jacquie Brattain, Colchester; Jan Shoemaker, Blandinsville; and Kevin Swanson, Sciota.

Congratulations to all entrants!

Enjoy Movies On Demand

Why drive to get a movie when you can stay home and rent the latest flicks with just a few clicks? MTC-TV's digital TV service includes Video on Demand (VOD), so you and your family can enjoy movies whenever you'd like. VOD gives you:

- Your choice of hundreds of titles
- Access to the same new movie releases that DVD rental stores offer
- The ability to rent movies without leaving home and without worrying about late fees
- A 24-hour to 72-hour viewing period (depending on the movie), so you can watch your movie as many times as you'd like, or stop and restart it at your convenience
- Most movies cost \$2.99 - \$4.99
- Parents can easily set up rating controls to restrict the movies their children can watch

Plus, Video on Demand is easy to use. Just press the "Movies" button on your remote and scroll through a menu of available titles. Find the one you



want to watch, and click "Select." Then enter your PIN and press "Play" to start watching!

For a complete list of the movie titles offered through our VOD feature, visit www.mdtc.net. If you don't have MTC-TV's digital cable TV service yet, call 309-776-3211 or 888-640-4334 today to sign up. Then relax and start popping the popcorn.

A Message From Our President

The start of a new year is traditionally the time to take a look at the successes and shortfalls of the previous year and to make plans and goals for the year ahead.



2008 saw us bringing fiber-to-the-home technology to those members who previously didn't have access to some broadband services. We placed fiber in areas of Macomb to allow for expansion there. Video on Demand was added to our menu of video services.

2009 will bring more growth in services. Look for a greater choice in DSL packages, including a lower speed package as well as higher speed packages. Changes are being made in the video lineup, in some cases to meet your requests and in others to comply with the contractual requirements of the programmers.

McDonough Telephone and Infobahn Outfitters spent the past year becoming better acquainted. Due to the sharing of resources and personnel, an overall decrease in costs has been realized. This year we'll continue looking at ways to most economically maximize our productivity.

Today, advances in technology offer a constant series of exciting challenges. We're up to meeting the challenges in order to bring you the newest, most innovative services.

Best wishes for the New Year, and may this year be better than all the others.

— Bill Buchanan



McDonough Telephone Cooperative

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

Go Green! Choose Online Bill Access & ACH

Would you like to help the environment and make a few bucks every month? We've got the perfect solution – sign up for paperless billing and AutoDebit.

With online bill viewing you can see how much your bill is the day after billing – usually the 22nd – instead of waiting until the first of the month. An email is sent notifying you that your bill statement is available for online viewing and paying. At this point, you have a number of options ... and several ways to save some money.

BILL VIEWING AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

	Receive Paper Bill in Mail	No Paper Bill Online View Only	Pay By Check Cash or Credit Card	Pay by AutoDebit (ACH)
One-Time Credit	None	\$5.00	None	\$5.00 (New ACH subscribers only)
Recurring Monthly Credit	None	\$2.00	None	\$1.00

So, someone who switches over to AutoDebit for payment and chooses to no longer receive a paper bill in the mail would get a one-time credit of \$10.00 (\$5.00 + \$5.00) and an ongoing credit every month for \$3.00 (\$2.00 + \$1.00). This is a pretty easy way to keep a few extra dollars in your pocket each month.

To sign up for online access to your account, call our business office. You'll be sent an email notification with your password. Your username is your 10-digit phone number.

On our website homepage (www.mdtc.net) you'll find a button saying "Online Bill View/Payment." Once you've received your password, click on this button, and you'll be taken to the log on screen. Enter your username and password and you can look at your bill, make payments and check toll calls that haven't yet been billed.

To become an AutoDebit payment user, a form with your name, phone number and banking information has to be completed and returned to us with a blank, voided check. We can send you an application or you can print one out from the Online Bill View/Pay site. On the bill due date, deduct the total from your checkbook, and your work is through.

So, get rid of the paper clutter and save a tree. Sign up for online bill access and AutoDebit payment and do yourself – and the environment – a favor.

Reminder: Digital TV Transition Next Month

On February 17, 2009, full-power analog television broadcasts will cease and many TV sets will no longer be able to receive over-the-air signals. That date will mark the completion of a transition to digital TV, or DTV, mandated by Congress. DTV is an advanced technology that allows broadcasters to provide higher quality pictures and sound, as well as advanced services such as transmission of multiple video streams or other data over a single channel. DTV also makes more efficient use of the airwaves, and the Federal Communications



Commission will make the airwaves that are freed up by this transition available for advanced communications services for commercial and public safety use.

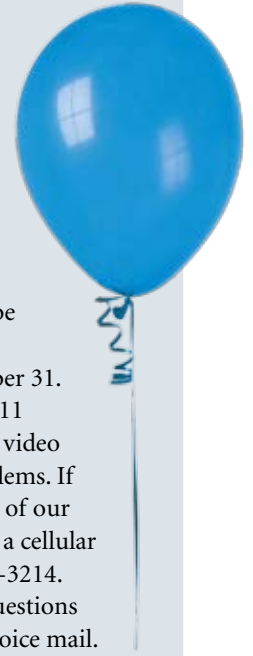
If you have an analog TV and receive your signal with an antenna, you will need a converter box to receive over-the-air broadcasts. The government has instituted a coupon program to help with the cost of the converter boxes.

For more information about the digital conversion and the coupon program, visit www.dtv.gov and www.dtv2009.gov.

Happy New Year

The offices of McDonough Telephone will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2009, in celebration of the New Year's holiday. The office will also be closing at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31. Members may call 611 to report telephone, video or DSL service problems. If calling from outside of our service area or from a cellular phone, dial 309-776-3214. Other requests or questions may be left on our voice mail.

A new year is a reminder to celebrate all of the things that are good in your world. We wish you a year full of happy days



Directory Additions

Christofferson, Scotti	449-3427
Clarke, James	254-3626
Gallagher, Keith	769-5497
Green, Franklin	776-3026
Hill, Tammy	257-2556
Joyslin, Justin	774-4179
Korsmeyer, Tracey	257-2347
Martin, D.	653-2476
Pulse, Francis L.	774-4168
Raleigh, Mike	652-3569
Thomas, Thomas & Jessyca	776-4319

Lomax Office Schedule JANUARY 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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 11:30 a.m. to noon for Lunch.
Jan. 15 - Bills Due • Jan. 26 - Disconnect Day
Closed January 1 - Happy New Year!