



# BUSYLINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

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Newly elected officers Rose Marie Lynn, Mitchell Welsh and Roger Barclay (left to right) gather around a piece of MDTC telephone memorabilia. Not pictured: Steve Hunt.

## MDTC Board Elects Officers

At its September meeting, the McDonough Telephone board of directors held elections for officers for the 2008-2009 business year.

Roger Barclay, director from the Industry exchange, was elected to fill the position of chairman. He has served on the board for 22 years.

Mitchell Welsh, representing the Blandinsville exchange, was elected to

the office of vice-chairman. Welsh has been a board member for 24 years.

The office of treasurer was filled by incumbent R. Stephen Hunt, a representative of the Colchester exchange. Hunt is a 31-year board veteran.

Rose Marie Lynn, serving her fourteenth year on the board as the representative of the Bardolph and Adair exchanges, retained the position of secretary.

## Red Flag Rules Protect Identity

Identity thieves use people's personally identifying information to open new accounts and misuse existing accounts, creating havoc for consumers and businesses. The Federal Trade Commission has established new Red Flag Rules which require financial institutions and creditors to assist consumers in preventing and alleviating identity theft. Based on the FTC definition of "creditor," telecommunications providers were brought under the umbrella of these rules. The rules went into effect on November 1, 2008.

"Red Flag" means a pattern, practice or specific activity that indicates the possible existence of identity theft. Some examples of Red Flags would be an alert in a consumer report, an address discrepancy in a consumer report, forged or altered

identification documents or unusual account activity such as nonpayment when there is no history of late or missed payments.

MDTC has always protected its members' accounts and the personal information contained therein. These new rules simply reinforce the security process with specific guidelines to follow. We've developed a written program that identifies and detects the relevant warning signs – or "red flags" – of identity theft. The program also describes the responses that would be taken by our staff if a red flag appeared.

At MDTC we are committed to protecting the confidentiality of personal information you provide to us. The Red Flag Rules are just another safeguard in protecting your privacy and your identity.

## Business Office to Close for Holidays

McDonough Telephone business office will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, in commemoration of Veterans Day and on Thursday, November 27, for Thanksgiving Day. To report a service problem from any of our exchanges, dial 611. From outside of our service area or from a cell phone, dial 309-776-3214.



## Join In • Stop By Help Out

We will be holding a food drive for local food pantries throughout the month of November. The food drive will wrap up on Friday, December 5, with our Holiday Open house. Non-perishable food items may be dropped off at our Colchester and Lomax business offices, Infobahn Outfitters in Macomb, the Raritan State Bank, the Industry State Bank and at the Main Street Salon in Blandinsville. Thanks for your help, and we'll see you December 5!



 **MDTC**  
McDonough Telephone Cooperative

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

# The 2009 Digital Television Transition

The Digital Television Transition will go into effect on February 19, 2009. Are you prepared?

If you have an analog TV and receive you signal with an antenna, you will need a converter box to receive over-the-air broadcasts. The government has coupons available which will pay \$40 each toward the purchase of up to two boxes. For more information about the DTV transition and the coupon, visit [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov) and [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov).

If you subscribe to an IP, cable or satellite TV service, nothing will change. You'll continue to receive a clear digital picture. MTC-TV delivers all of its programming in digital format.

Some confusion arises when talking about Digital TV (DTV) and High Definition TV (HDTV). Just because someone is transmitting a digital signal does not mean that the picture you see will be in High Definition. DTV is the method that television stations, cable, and satellite systems use to send pictures to your home. HDTV describes a picture as being in High Definition (a very clear picture). Digital and HDTV are not the same thing. If a sales person tells you that digital and HDTV are the same thing, then you need

a different sales person (probably at a different retailer).

Any television can broadcast digital programming as long as the TV is used with a cable or satellite service, has a digital tuner or is hooked up to a converter box. HDTV, on the other hand, requires an HDTV-ready set and a separate subscription for HDTV service from your video provider.



# An Important Illinois Relay Message

People who are deaf, hard-of-hearing of speech disabled and use a teletypewriter (TTY) to communicate with hearing people who use a standard telephone can take advantage of an easy-to-use service offered by Illinois local exchange telephone companies like McDonough Telephone. The service is called Illinois Relay which is administered by the Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC) and is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Illinois Relay's trained operators type the hearing caller's spoken words to the TTY caller and speak the typed words of the TTY caller to the hearing person. There is not charge for the use of Illinois Relay. Calls are billed at regular telephone company rates. ITAC also distributes TTYs at no charge to qualified Illinois residents.

For more information or to apply for Illinois Relay service, call the ITAC at 1-800-841-6167. You can also visit the ITAC website at [www.itactty.org](http://www.itactty.org).

To place a call using Illinois Relay, dial 711. Or, use one of these 10-digit numbers:

- 1-800-526-0844 TTY Users
- 1-800-526-0857 Voice Users
- 1-800-501-0864 TTY Spanish
- 1-800-501-0865 Voice Spanish
- 1-877-526-1130 VCO Users
- 1-877-526-6670 Telebraille Users
- 1-877-526-6680 ASCII Users
- 1-877-526-6690 Speech to Speech

**For quickest response in an emergency, dial 911 directly rather than using the relay service to complete the emergency call.**

## Last Chance ... MDTC Photo Contest

The deadline for the MDTC 2009 Directory Cover contest is November 21. Prizes are: 1st - \$100; 2nd - \$75; and 3rd - \$50. The winning photo will be used on the cover of the 2009 Directory. Here's what to do:

1. Submit up to two photos (either prints or high resolution digital files) of a scene in the McDonough Telephone directory coverage area. This includes all of the towns listed on the front of the directory.

2. All entrants must be McDonough Telephone members or the children of members and reside within our service area.

3. Drop your entries off at our office, mail them to MDTC, % Karen Proulx, PO Box 359, Colchester, IL 62326 or email them to [karen@mdtc.net](mailto:karen@mdtc.net). Be sure to include your name, phone number and some information about the photo(s).

## Directory Additions

- DeBlase, William 769-5241
- Friday, Doug 776-3433
- Herndon, Christine 776-3382
- Macey, Ashley 449-3497
- Martin, Cheryl 776-3533
- Messer, Marilyn T. 774-4144
- Metcalfe, Dennis 456-3523
- Moss, Hannah & Wes 755-4301
- Norris, C.E. 776-3445
- Parker, Scott 254-3245
- Payne, Mark 776-4528
- Pursell, T. 652-3498
- Thompson, Juliana 449-3703

## Lomax Office Schedule NOVEMBER 2008

| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|          |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2        | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9        | 10 |    | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16       | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23<br>30 | 24 | 25 | 26 |    | 28 | 29 |

Days Open in Red • Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 Closed for Lunch 11:30 a.m. to noon  
 Nov. 17 - Bills Due • Nov. 25 - Disconnect Day  
 Closed November 27 for Thanksgiving