



BUSYLINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

Volume 33, Number 1 • January 2007 • www.mdtc.net

Save Money with Online Bill Viewing and AutoDebit

Roll out the red carpet! We're launching our newest time-saving, convenient customer service – online bill viewing and payment.

Detailed billing information will be available online the day after billing – usually the 22nd. You'll receive an email 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 <small>(New ACH subscribers only)</small>
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. We'll ask for your telephone number and email address. We'll also ask if you want to continue receiving a paper bill in the mail. The next morning you'll receive an email notification with your password. Your username is your 10-digit phone number.

If you look at our new website, you'll notice a button on the homepage 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. Can't remember to whom a particular number belongs? Click on the phone number and you'll automatically be taken to Anywho.com where a reverse number lookup will be done.

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. You'll still be able to get detailed information about your bill, either on paper or online. On the bill due date, deduct the total from your checkbook, and your work is through.

Make your life easier and get rid of the paper clutter. Sign up for online bill access and AutoDebit payment and reap the benefits. Less work, greater convenience and a monthly cash reward – it's a great deal!

A New Year's Message

When a New Year rolls around, people take a shot at self-improvement by making a list of resolutions. MDTC makes an annual list of resolutions, too. We start the New Year with plans and projects to improve the cooperative.

Our major operation will be designing a Fiber to the Home (FTTH) project to test the market and to determine actual costs and benefits. FTTH will provide a way to bring more bandwidth to the customer premise for more "real time" applications.

I plan to develop an Information Technology (IT) Department to develop some internal processes for the cooperative as well as to assist members and member businesses with their IT needs. The IT department would also design classes on basic computer applications for our members.

I hope to see our website become more developed and interactive. I'd like to add an INTRANet for our employees and directors.

We will be evaluating the possibility of expanding into new market areas as well as expanding the services we offer in our current market areas.

Finally, we will be ramping up our Local Channel in order to broadcast local events and information.

Thank you for your continued support. Best wishes in the New Year!

~ Bill Buchanan, General Manager



McDonough Telephone Cooperative

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

Coloring Contest Winners Chosen

We broke tradition for our directory cover contest this year. Instead of having the usual photo contest for the 2007 directory cover, we opted for a coloring contest. Grades K-4 were eligible to participate. The theme was "How McDonough Telephone Helps My Family."

Linetta Null, third grade teacher at West Prairie North Elementary School in Good Hope, made the contest a class project. Two of the winners were from her class.

- **1st Place:** Brandon Wolfe, West Prairie North Elementary
- **2nd Place:** Maranda Countryman, LaHarpe Elementary
- **3rd Place:** Jacob Barnett, West Prairie North Elementary

For having the first place entry, Brandon received a \$100 check and will see his drawing on the cover of our 2007 directory. Maranda was awarded a \$75 check, and Jacob's prize was a \$50 check. We hope to find other places in the directory to display Maranda and Jacob's drawings.

Congratulations are extended to our three winners. We hope to see more work from these young Picassos in the future.



▲ Third grade teacher Linneta Null (left rear) and Principal Paula Markey congratulate 3rd place winner Jacob Barnett (left) and 1st place winner Brandon Wolfe.

◀ Maranda Countryman of Lomax took 2nd place honors.

Lunchtime Exchange – Good Hope is Great!



A group enjoys a meal and pleasant company at the Good Hope Lunchtime Exchange

Our most recent outing was a Lunchtime Exchange in Good Hope at the offices of Midwest Oil. Jerry Lewis, owner, let us use his newly finished warehouse. He set up the tables and chairs, and we provided the food.

Approximately 55 people joined us for an enjoyable visit and lunch. We'll be hibernating for a couple of months and will resume our Exchanges in February.

Merry Christmas!

Take a look at your January phone bill. If it seems lower than usual, there's a good reason. The board of directors voted to give a \$25 holiday credit for every line in service.

The continued patronage and loyalty of all of our members have kept the cooperative strong. To express our appreciation, we are sharing the success of the cooperative with you.

We hope you enjoy this holiday gift.

Happy New Year!

The offices of McDonough Telephone will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2007, in celebration of the New Year's holiday. 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 Ad Sales

Our publisher, Directory Publishing Solutions (DPS) will continue to sell ad space in our 2007 directory through the middle of January. We don't want anyone to be left out. If you haven't been contacted, you can either notify our office or call DPS directly at 866-221-4300.

Website Revamped

Have you taken a look at our website lately? If you do, you might not recognize it. It has a whole new look and a lot more information. Check it out.

If you have any suggestions for other information that could be included, we'll be glad to hear them.

Directory Additions

- Bross Photography 755-4370
- Cantrell, Garnett 449-3781
- Collins, Ina & Randy 257-2599
- Dodds, R. 652-3873
- Feld, Lonnie & Rosa 652-3761
- Gibb, Kerry 746-6241
- Herndon Farm, Jim 653-2586
- Jackson, Gary & Shannon 776-3538
- Johnston, Michael & Jane 254-3367
- Kitch, Ron 769-5467
- Lessen, Dan & Melanie 653-2562
- Long, Jack & Rosemary 769-5407
- McCourt, Don & Cathy 776-3724
- Ortega, Sandra 653-2606
- Parker-Nollen, Tracy 776-3343
- Teel, Margaret 769-5517
- Weaver, Gunther & Nicole 776-3773

Lomax Office Schedule JANUARY 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	A HAPPY New Year!	2	3	4	3	4
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.
Jan. 15 - Bills Due • Jan. 25 - Disconnect
Closed Jan. 1 - Happy New Year!