

McDonough Telephone Cooperative BUSY LINE



Colchester, IL

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Keep an Eye on Your Farm— From Anywhere with Cameras!

Your farm doesn't stop at the front door. Barns, equipment sheds, grain bins, and other outbuildings are just as important to keep an eye on.

With today's connected camera systems, you can check on your property anytime right from your phone. Cameras are a great way to monitor livestock, keep watch over equipment, see who's coming down the driveway, or check buildings when you're away.

Camera systems are especially helpful for:

- Monitoring barns, livestock areas, or calving pens
- Keeping watch over expensive equipment or fuel tanks
- Seeing deliveries or visitors on your property
- Checking buildings during storms or when traveling

➔ MTC offers professionally installed camera systems designed to help you stay connected to your home, farm, or business.

Want to learn more? Call us at 309-776-3211 to explore your options.



What's HAPPENING



We will be closed for
**Good Friday, Friday,
April 3.**



Happy Easter!
Easter Sunday is
April 5th.



811: Call Julie!
Know what's below!



24/7 Pay by phone!
1-855-940-3852

Our Board of DIRECTORS

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April is National Safe Digging Month!

April is the month when outdoor digging projects begin in earnest. From small do-it-yourself tasks to large construction jobs, every digging project requires a call to JULIE – it's quick, easy, and provides for the safety of excavators and homeowners. Simply call JULIE at 8-1-1 or 1-800-892-0123. You can also enter your locate request via www.illinois1call.com.

Tips for safe digging:



Know What's Below: Call 811 or make an online request at least 48 hours before digging to have underground lines marked.



Projects Large and Small Require a Call: This includes activities such as planting trees, building decks, and installing a fence or mailbox.



Dig with Care: The horizontal location of underground utilities will be marked, but their depth will not be. Any time you suspect unmarked hazards or if you must dig near a marked utility line, hand dig the area carefully. Backfill the soil gently to avoid damaging any utilities.

If an underground facility is struck:

Leave the area immediately and tell others to stay away. Call 911 and then call 811 to report the incident. Report even minor damage; what looks harmless can cause big trouble.

illinois1call.com
It's a FREE service.

Red Electric	Yellow Gas, oil or petroleum	Orange Communications	Blue Potable Water	Purple Reclaimed Water, Irrigation	Green Sewer	White Proposed Excavation	Pink Temporary Survey
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- 4/1-30: **Prairie Egg Hunt**, 9am-6pm, Lakeview Nature Center
- 4/1: **Crafternoon**, 1-4pm, The Arthouse Folk School
- 4/1: **Wednesday Wine Walk/Run (Every Wed.)**, 6-8pm, The Wine Sellers
- 4/3: **First Fridays**, 9am-2pm, Lakeview Nature Center
- 4/3: **Adult Egg Hunt**, 6-9pm, Newman Center
- 4/7: **Trivia Night (Every Tues.)**, 6:30-8:30pm, Sports Corner @124
- 4/8: **Get Hooked: Peep Plushie**, 4:30-6pm, Macomb Park District
- 4/10-12: **Field Chuck Wagon at Farm King**, Farm King
- 4/11: **2026 Windfest**, 8:30am-4pm, WIU COFAC Recital Hall
- 4/11 & 25: **Spring Wildflower Hikes**, 10-11:30am, Argyle Lake State Park
- 4/13: **Conservation Book Club**, 6-8pm, The Wine Sellers
- 4/16: **Wine & Wax!**, 5:30-8pm, The Wine Sellers
- 4/18: **Bloom & Grow Gala**, 6-8pm, The Penny26
- 4/24: **Noticing Nature: A Curious Guide for Sprouts**, 4-5pm, Lakeview Nature Center
- 4/25: **Nature Makers: Mixed Media Bird Nest**, 12-1:30pm, Lakeview Nature Center
- 4/25: **Decade of Decadence - The Ultimate 80's Rock Party!**, 8-11pm, Bushnell Recreation & Cultural Center
- 4/27: **Spring Guided Tour**, 10:30am, Lakeview Nature Center
- 4/29: **Post 6 BIG Band**, 7-9pm, Park Place
- 4/30: **Bubbling Garden Fountain**, 5:30-7:30pm, Macomb Park District Ceramic Studio

For more events or details, visit macomb.com/events/

Recipe Of The Month

Recipe: One Pot Cajun Ranch Chicken Pasta

Ingredients:

2 Tbls. salted butter
1 lb. boneless chicken breasts or thighs, cubed
2 tsp cajun seasoning
1 yellow onion sliced
2 poblano peppers, chopped
3 cloves garlic, chopped
3-4 tsp. cajun seasoning
1 lb. short cut pasta
½ cup fresh parsley chopped
chili flakes to taste
2 cups milk
2 ounces cream cheese
½ cup ranch dressing
1 cup grated parmesan cheese

Directions:

In a large pot set over medium-high heat, cook the butter with the chicken and 2 teaspoons Cajun seasoning. Cook for 5 minutes until the chicken is cooked through. Scoop the chicken out of the pot and set aside. Add the onions, peppers, garlic, and 2-3 teaspoons of Cajun seasoning. Cook until the veggies are soft. Add the pasta, parsley, and 2 cups of water. Cook, stirring often, until the pasta is al dente, about 8 minutes. Stir in the milk, cream cheese, ranch dressing, and parmesan. Mix until creamy. Add the chicken to the pasta and gently mix. Serve the pasta immediately with fresh parmesan and parsley. Enjoy!

Homemade Cajun Seasoning: mix 2 ½ Tbls. smoked paprika, 2 Tbls. garlic powder, 1 Tbls. onion powder, 1 Tbls. dried oregano, 1 Tbls. dried thyme, 1 Tbls. chili powder, 2 tsp. chipotle chili powder, 1-2 tsp. cayenne pepper, 1 ½ Tbls. salt, and 1 Tbls. black pepper. Makes ¾ cup.

