

McDonough Telephone Cooperative BUSY LINE



Colchester, IL

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MTC Sending Two Students to Washington, D.C.

For more than 60 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials. On March 25, 168 high school students from across rural Illinois—representing 24 cooperatives—gathered at the Illinois State Capitol for Youth Day, including students sponsored by McDonough Telephone (MTC).

"Youth Day offers students a firsthand experience of democracy in action as they engage with their elected representatives in Springfield," said Kelly Hamm, energy services manager at McDonough Power Cooperative and facilitator of its youth programs.

Students representing MTC included Cruz Castillo and Deacon Zaehring (Illini West), Jude Eveland and Mi-Colette Mbula (Rushville-Industry), and Lillian Sheffler and West Markham (West Prairie).



State Senator Neil Anderson met with the students during their visit. In addition to meeting elected officials, students also learned more about their cooperative's role in their communities and had the opportunity to tour the Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students, encouraging them to pursue their passions, stay engaged, and commit to lifelong learning.

At the end of the day, attendees were interviewed for the chance to participate in FRS's Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by MTC. This year's MTC Youth Tour winners are Deacon Zaehring and Lilly Sheffler, with West Markham selected as the alternate.

What's HAPPENING



Happy Memorial Day! Our office will be closed **Monday, May 25th.**



Congratulations Class of 2026!



Happy Mother's Day! Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11th.



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

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Welcome Hayden Wood!

McDonough Telephone Cooperative would like to welcome our new employee, Hayden Wood to the team! Hayden joins MTC as a Residential Sales Representative.

Hayden is from Carthage, Illinois, and comes from a close-knit family with three sisters. In his free time, he enjoys working out, golfing, and traveling whenever he gets the chance. He also loves a good side adventure and is always willing to try something new.

We are happy to welcome Hayden to the MTC team!

Low Income - Lifeline Program Credit

McDonough Telephone participates in two programs for low-income customers to help offset the cost of telephone and broadband service. Link-Up Assistance provides a one-time credit towards installation of residential phone or broadband service. Lifeline assistance provides a monthly credit on the subscriber's phone/broadband bill. Eligible customers must reside in a household with either a residential phone line or internet service and receive benefits from one of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefits Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Household annual income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

For information about qualification, visit:

<https://www.fcc.gov/general/lifeline-program-low-income-consumers>

There are several options to apply for Lifeline. You may apply directly through the Lifeline program's National Verifier online portal (<https://www.lifelinesupport.org/>). You may also apply for the program by working with a Lifeline service provider either in-person at a store location or online via the service provider's website, if they support that option. To locate a Lifeline provider in your state, go to: <https://cnm.universalservice.org>.

For any questions regarding the Lifeline application process, call USAC's toll-free number for the Lifeline Support Center at 1 (800) 234-9473, or email: LifelineSupport@usac.org.

To find out more about how to apply on your own, go to: <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/get-started/>

- 5/1: **First Fridays**, 9am-2pm, Lakeview Nature Center
- 5/1: **Park N' Cruise**, 5-8pm, Chandler Park
- 5/2: **10th Annual Flapjack 5K & 1 Mile Walk/Run**, 7:30-10am, St. Paul School
- 5/2: **2025 Performing Arts Society Gala**, 5:30-10pm, WIU University Union
- 5/3: **Crafternoon**, 1-4pm, The Arthouse Folk School
- 5/5: **Trivia Night (Every Tues.)**, 6:30-8:30pm, Sports Corner @124
- 5/6: **Wednesday Wine Walk/Run (Every Wed.)**, 6-8pm, The Wine Sellers
- 5/8: **Spring Volunteer Event**, 10:30am-1:30pm, Lakeview Nature Center
- 5/9: **Spring Market**, 10am-4pm, 309 Marketplace
- 5/11: **Conservation Book Club**, 6-8pm, The Wine Sellers
- 5/13: **Get Hooked: Tulip Headband/Bookmark**, 4:30pm, Macomb Park District
- 5/14: **Bird Walk**, 1-3pm, Wigwam Hollow Bird Sanctuary
- 5/15: **Noticing Nature: A Curious Guide for Sprouts**, 4-5pm, Lakeview Nature Center
- 5/15 & 16: **WIU Spring Commencement Ceremonies**, Western Hall
- 5/16: **Nature Makers: Clover Printed Note Cards**, 12-1:30pm, Lakeview Nature Center
- 5/21: **Wine & Wax!**, 5:30-8pm, The Wine Sellers
- 5/23: **Bike Pop-Up**, 10am-2pm, Patton Park
- 5/23: **Spring Exotic Plant Removal Workday**, 1:30-3:30pm, Argyle Lake State Park
- 5/31: **Alpaca Beach Party**, 1-5pm, Little Creek Alpacas

Recipe Of The Month

Recipe: Sheet Pan Hawaiian Chicken

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ lbs chicken breasts, 1-inch pieces
- 2 red or yellow bell peppers, chopped
- 1 small red onion, cut into wedges
- 1 ½ cups pineapple chunks
- 2 Tbls. olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. black pepper
- ½ tsp. paprika
- ¼ tsp. chili flakes optional
- ½ cup low-sodium soy sauce
- ¼ cup pineapple juice
- 3 Tbls. honey or brown sugar
- 2 Tbls. rice or apple cider vinegar
- 1 Tbls. cornstarch + 2 Tbls. water

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a large sheet pan with parchment paper or lightly grease.

On the pan, spread chicken, bell peppers, onion, and pineapple. Drizzle with olive oil, garlic, salt, pepper, paprika, and chili flakes. Toss to coat evenly. Roast for 20-25 minutes, flipping halfway, until chicken is fully cooked.

While baking, whisk soy sauce, pineapple juice, honey, and vinegar in a saucepan. Simmer 3-4 minutes. To thicken, make a slurry by mixing the cornstarch and water in a small bowl. Add to saucepan and cook until glossy.

Once chicken and veggies are done, drizzle sauce over top (or serve on the side for dipping). Garnish with sesame seeds or sliced green onions if desired.

