

MAY-JUNE 2014



# NineStar CONNECTION

VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 3

## GOT FIBER?

New Rushville Industrial Park includes NineStar fiber connectivity.

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## 4-H FAIR ACTIVITIES

NineStar representatives help youth with electric projects.

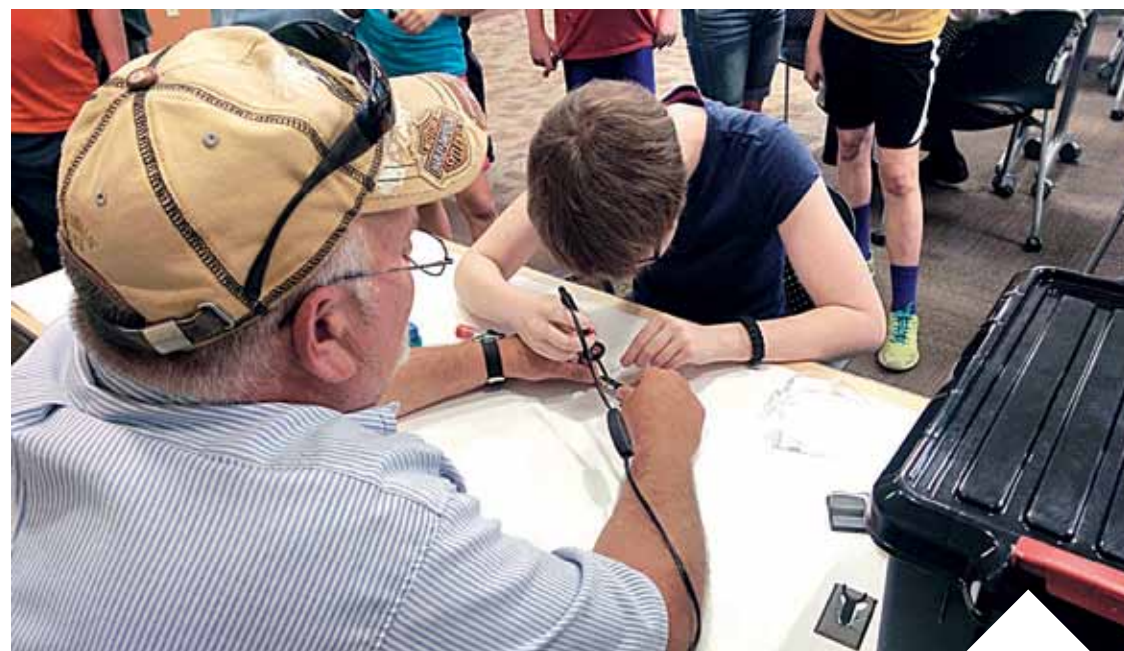
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# HERE COMES THE SUN

NINESTAR CONNECT CONSIDERING  
COMMUNITY SOLAR ARRAY **SEE PAGE 4**





**OUR EMPLOYEES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. HERE'S A CUSTOMER REVIEW FOR AMY BRUCE.**

**I WOULD JUST LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LET YOU KNOW WHAT A GREAT JOB YOU FOLKS DO, ESPECIALLY YOUR TECH SUPPORT PEOPLE FOR US OLDER CHALLENGED COMPUTER FOLKS! THANKS FOR A GREAT JOB!**  
- JIM B.

**HAVE A STORY IDEA?**

Contact **David Spencer** at [dspencer@ninestarconnect.com](mailto:dspencer@ninestarconnect.com)

**COVER STORY**

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NineStar Connect is evaluating the possibility of establishing a solar panel field that members can buy into — and benefit from.

**NINESTAR SCHOLARSHIPS**

**PAGES 6-7**

Fifteen area high school students benefitted from NineStar Connect's 2014 scholarship program that provided funds to member families.

**NEW PRESIDENT**

**PAGE 9**

The NineStar Connect Board of Directors named a new President and CEO of the cooperative — someone who has been with the co-op since 1990.

**ELECTRICITY COST BY STATE**

**PAGE 12**

See how Indiana compares to other states on a chart showing average residential electricity costs across the country.

**CURRENT EVENTS**

NineStar Connect helps advise, judge the annual Hancock County 4-H electric project participants and their creations.

**PAGE 6**

**NINESTAR GRADUATES TWO FROM LEADERSHIP HANCOCK COUNTY**

After more than nine months of camaraderie and learning about Hancock County, Christa Riggs and Earl Shaw were two of 23 graduates of the prestigious Leadership Hancock County program. The graduation ceremonies took place at NineStar Connect's community room and were attended by many leaders in the community.

Each graduate was required to be a part of a capstone project that would help make Hancock County a better place. Christa Riggs was part of a team that worked with the Hancock County Career Success Coalition on a job expo that will take place in September. Earl Shaw's team worked with the Greenfield Parks and Recreation Department on a feasibility study for a new message board in the park that would advertise upcoming events.

Both Riggs and Shaw indicated they learned many things about the community they didn't previously know. In addition, they felt very fortunate to meet and get to know their classmates and look forward to cultivating those relationships and using the connections they have established to benefit their careers and the community.



The *NineStar Connection* is a publication of NineStar Connect servicing retail and residential customers. Nearly 15,000 families and businesses receive this newspaper as part of their membership. *NineStar Connection* provides news, information and features about people, places and issues related to readers.

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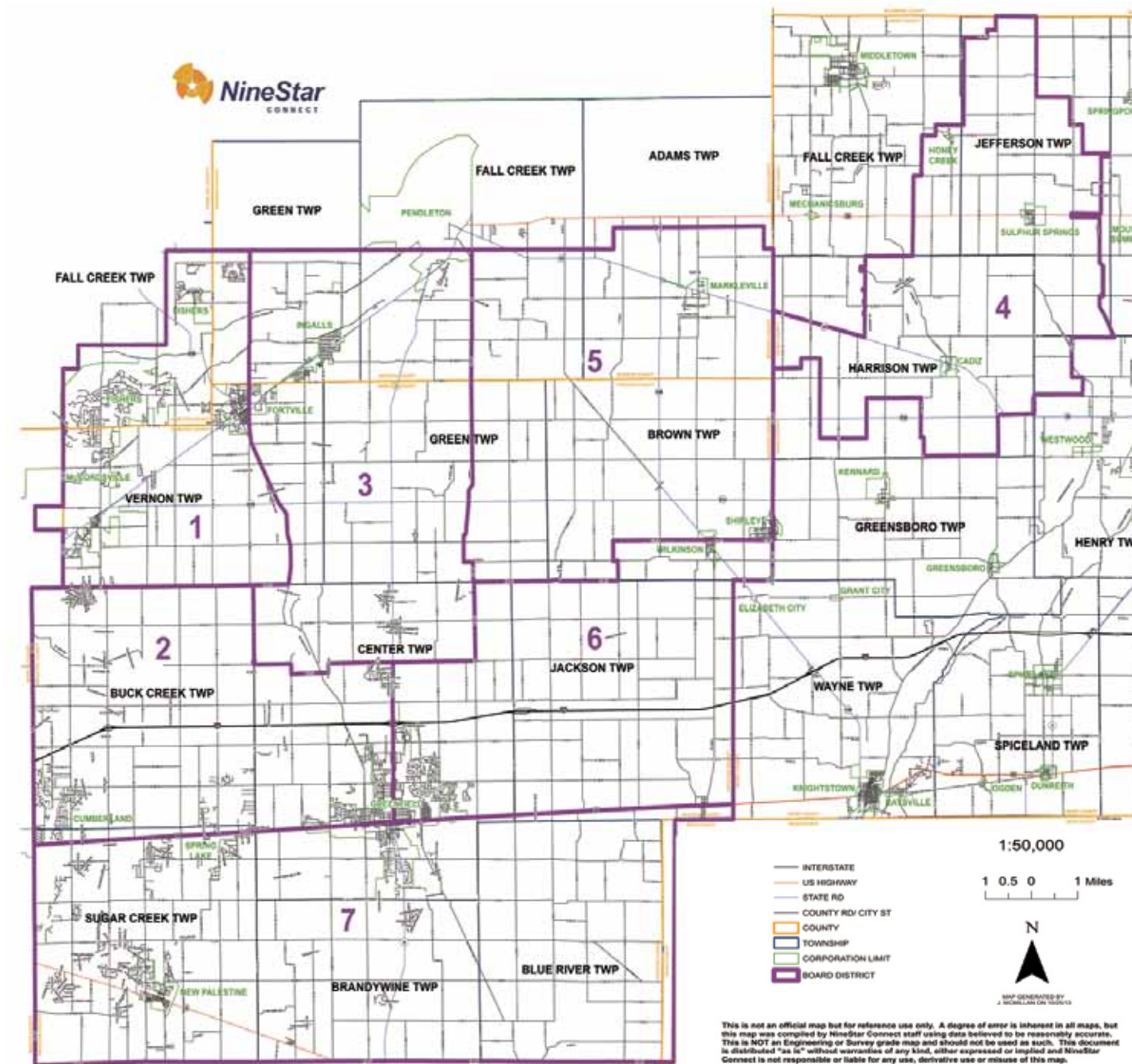
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# HERE COMES THE SUN



## NINESTAR CONNECT CONSIDERING COMMUNITY SOLAR ARRAY

**A**lthough it is still in the planning stages and there is still much to learn, Ninestar Connect continues to explore the possibility of a community solar array in the near future.

After introducing the idea to the membership in a workshop at the Annual Meeting in

April, Ninestar President and CEO Mike Burrow said the response was

encouraging and the Board continues looking into the economics and viability of a solar farm.

“We know from conversations with our members that there is a great deal of interest in solar power and solar energy but it’s not always possible for them to install a unit on their own roof,” he says. “Not only is the equipment very expensive but it’s not always aesthetically pleasing either.”

That is what makes the idea a community solar array such a great option. Members already know the power of purchasing as a group, and this is another way to push that concept forward while branching into renewable energy. In the past few years, a number of European energy co-ops have launched member-owned solar farms, and the trend has definitely made its way across the pond.

The Clean Energy Cooperative was one of the first organizations to offer shares in solar arrays, allowing customers to buy into the panels without having to deal with the installation or maintenance issues. It operates 26 megawatts of solar gardens from Colorado to Vermont and purchases large amounts of equipment at a time to allow its customers to get bulk prices that would be impossible to secure on their own.

Ninestar’s model would allow members to buy shares of the array’s power output and receive a discount on their energy bill based on the panel’s production.

By using simple math, it’s easy to illustrate how the program might work. Let’s say a member buys into one solar panel that generates 600 kwh of energy during the year. The participating member would receive a discount on his or her electric bill equal to the wholesale price for electricity times 566 kwh. (Note: At this point in time the billing credit would be approximately \$45 per panel per year.)

Ryan Bewley, director of engineering, said he is very excited about this new possibility for

Ninestar. He said renewable energy is a great way to diversify their membership options and enable everyone to get in on the renewable energy trend regardless of where they live.

“For some people, buying the equipment themselves isn’t an option. For others, neighborhood covenants prohibit its installation. Others are renters who don’t want to invest in the equipment on a temporary housing situation,” he says. “In this model, they are able to buy in and their ownership will not change no matter where they live.”

Brad Henderson with Ninestar Connect’s member services said he was encouraged by the interest shown at the workshop.

“We introduced the community solar concept at the Annual Meeting,” Henderson said. “About 160 people attended the community solar workshop and they were given the general description of how community solar works and how they might participate. About a third of them filled out the questionnaire saying that they would be interested in learning more about the concept and possibly buying into the solar array’s power output. That response is very encouraging.

However, there is still a lot to learn before going forward. Ninestar not only has to find the best location for the solar array in order to garner maximum exposure, but also determine the best way to install it (whether by themselves or using a third party) and what it will cost potential participants.

“Right now, we have a lot more questions than answers, and it’s always hard to present an idea without a lot of data,” Henderson said. “People are not going to commit to anything or sign a check without having solid numbers and we are working on that.”

Henderson said eventually the data will be presented to the Board, which will ultimately approve or deny the project. They also will decide how best to open it for member investment.

“At some point, there is going to have to be a vote to say yay or nay,” Henderson said.

Burrow is quick to point out that investment in a solar panel is not a get-rich-quick scheme, but rather a long-term investment. He said several years ago, making the investment in solar panels reflected a love of the planet with little chance of a pay off. Today’s models (especially with multiple investors on a single array) make much more sense.

He said at today’s prices, members are probably looking at a 15-20 year return on investment, but that the cooperative feels it’s necessary to look into this option. Research out of Purdue University suggests the Midwest is going to get hit hard with new coal regulations and that consumers may see energy rates go up as a result.

“Because we are a co-op, we aren’t looking to make a profit, so there won’t be a mark up. Perhaps this will be a good way for members to get involved in solar power and reduce their energy bills economically,” he said.

**“IN THIS MODEL, THEY ARE ABLE TO BUY IN AND THEIR OWNERSHIP WILL NOT CHANGE NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE.”**

**RYAN BEWLEY, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING**

## IN ACTION



## ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LEADERS RALLY ON CAPITOL HILL

**N**early 60 leaders from Indiana’s electric cooperatives rallied in Washington, D.C. this week for the annual legislative conference hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The Indiana electric cooperative representatives joined nearly 2,500 other electric cooperative leaders from 42 states.

NineStar Connect was represented by Michael Burrow, President and CEO, as well as board Vice Chairman Phil Hayes. While on Capitol Hill, they met with the following members of Indiana’s congressional delegation and staff about issues affecting electric cooperatives and their member-owners:

- U.S. Senators Dan Coats and Joe Donnelly
- Congressmen Larry Bucshon, Todd Rokita and Marlin Stutzman and Congresswoman Jackie Walorski
- Staff members representing Congressmen Luke Messer and Andre Carson, and Congresswoman Susan Brooks

Cooperative leaders also were briefed on legislative and policy topics including EPA greenhouse gas regulations, the Electrify Africa Act, the Energy Saving and Industrial Competitiveness Act, distributed generation, grid security and grassroots engagement.

The NRECA Legislative Conference takes place each May in Washington, D.C.



## 4-H ELECTRIC PROJECTS

Activities for the 2014 Hancock County Fair are well under way with club meetings and workshops taking up many evenings and weekends as we get closer to fair time. This year's 4-H Electric Project Organizational meeting took place in April followed by workshops in early May for Division I and Division II participants. Attendance was very good at the workshops with more than 90 percent of the registered participants showing up to take part in the workshops. NineStar Connect Energy Advisor Darrin Couch serves as the Hancock County 4-H Electric Project superintendent. This year, Darrin was joined by fellow NineStar employees Brad Henderson, Terry McDonnell, Jamie Bell and Ryan Bewley who volunteered their time and talents to help this year's participants assemble their circuit boards during the Division I workshop and their Shake Flashlights during the Division II workshop. The workshops offer all of the participant's access to the tools they need to assemble their projects and proper instruction on utilizing those tools. Thanks to the NineStar employees who continue to share their talents in support of the 4-H Electric Program; Hancock County's program has one of the highest participation rates in the state. NineStar Connect and the Indiana Statewide Association of Electric Cooperatives help support the 4-H Electric



Program by providing project resources and talented leaders to create and implement the program criteria.

Electric project judging will take place from 9 a.m. to noon June 17. Many of the electric project judges are electric cooperative employees who offer their time and expertise to judge projects. Through a network of cooperative employee volunteers, the judge's trade time with neighboring counties to judge the electric projects prior to the opening of each county fair throughout the summer. Many of these same employees also provide judging for the state fair electric projects.

A visit to this year's Hancock County 4-H Fair would not be complete without a stroll through the 4-H Exhibition Hall, where people will be amazed by the many projects that display not only the talents of the Electric Project participants but of all the 4-H projects created by the talented young people in the 4-H Youth Program.

NineStar Connect would like to wish everyone good luck at this year's 4-H Fair!

## 2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

At this year's Annual Meeting, 15 names were drawn for this year's 2014 scholarship program for children of NineStar Connect members. The students have to be 2014 graduating high school seniors and have a seven semester minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent at the time of the application. Each scholarship winner receives \$1,000.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that Ashley Straut of Hamilton Southeastern High School is the recipient of a \$2,500 college scholarship from NineStar Connect and the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) the philanthropic arm of NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association. The FRS scholarship program awarded more than \$98,000 in scholarships to rural youth across the United States. Out of more than 1,500 applications received this year, 36 scholarships were awarded. The goal of the scholarship program is to help further higher education opportunities among rural high school students. Ashley will be attending Purdue University in the fall and majoring in brain and behavioral science.



**JACOB RILEY ADDINGTON**  
GREENFIELD-CENTRAL  
BALL STATE  
MAJOR - PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY



**RACHEL ANNE BROWN**  
HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN  
IU-BLOOMINGTON  
MAJOR-BIOLOGY



**ALLISON NICOLE DICKEY**  
EASTERN HANCOCK  
BALL STATE  
MAJOR- UNDECIDED



**PHYLISIA BROOKE DONALDSON**  
MT. VERNON  
BALL STATE  
MAJOR-TELECOMMUNICATIONS



**COURTNEY DAWN FLATTER**  
SHENANDOAH  
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY  
MAJOR- ELEMENTARY EDUCATION



**JACOB EUGENE LUKE**  
MT. VERNON  
IU-BLOOMINGTON  
MAJOR-UNDECIDED (POSSIBLY  
HUMAN BIOLOGY OR SCIENCE FIELD)



**KAYLA LYNN MEDARIS**  
NEW PALESTINE  
ANDERSON UNIVERSITY  
MAJOR-EXERCISE SCIENCE



**ANTHONY W. MILES**  
MT. VERNON  
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY  
MAJOR-SPEECH LANGUAGE  
PATHOLOGY



**AIMEE GRACE PATRAS**  
HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN  
IU-BLOOMINGTON  
MAJOR-SECONDARY EDUCATION  
(SPECIALIZATION IN ENGLISH)



**MARY KATHERINE PERKINS**  
EASTERN HANCOCK  
IUPUI  
MAJOR-DENTAL HYGIENE



**EMILY KATHRYN REGER**  
EASTERN HANCOCK  
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY  
MAJOR-SPEECH AND LANGUAGE  
PATHOLOGY, MINOR-SPECIAL ED/  
HEARING IMPAIRED



**NICHOLAS WAYNE REYNOLDS**  
GREENFIELD CENTRAL  
OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY  
MAJOR-BIOLOGY/MINISTRY



**MELISSA MARIE ROBINS**  
CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
PURDUE  
MAJOR-CHEMICAL ENGINEERING



**RACHEL FAYE ROEDER**  
SHENANDOAH  
IU-BLOOMINGTON  
MAJOR-JOURNALISM



**CHRISTINA LAUREN THIBODEAU**  
LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL  
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY  
MAJOR-SPEECH PATHOLOGY



**ASHLEY MARIE STRAUT**  
(FRS WINNER) HAMILTON  
SOUTHEASTERN  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
MAJOR-BRAIN AND BEHAVIORAL  
SCIENCE



## NINESTAR OFFICIALS JOIN OTHER NTCA MEMBERS IN WASHINGTON DC

NineStar members have gathered in Washington DC to discuss stand-alone broadband support with their members of congress. The Rural Broadband Association's 2014 Legislative & Policy Conference was held in early April and hundreds of association members heard from several members of congress in a kickoff breakfast before heading to Capitol Hill for one-on-one meetings with local representatives.

Reps. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) and Bruce Braley (D-Alaska) addressed conference attendees and described the need for broadband services in rural America, as well as the necessity of policy changes that support rural providers and consumers.

Members then headed to congressional offices to meet with senators, representatives and staff in their respective states. They discussed the need for Universal Service Fund reform as well as support for standalone broadband.

Attending the conference representing NineStar were President & CEO Michael Burrow, and board members Steve Vail, Darrell Thomas & Richard Parker.

## UPDATES

### ATTENTION COMMUNICATION CUSTOMERS!

Beginning June 1, please note that your account number will change. If you pay your bill via your bank or a third party bill pay service, you will need to update that information to reflect your new account number. Should you have any questions, please call Customer Service at (317) 326-3131 or (866) 326-9848. Thank you!



## ATTENTION SECURITY CUSTOMERS

It's important to keep you and your family safe and secure. With NineStar Security, we hope that we can help you do that. However, to make sure you are getting the full benefit of your security equipment, it is important and we encourage you to test your systems monthly. Just a quick assessment of your security alarm system could make a big difference when a possible intruder tries to invade your home. So, why not make it a new routine? The first of every month, make it a priority to test your alarm. Be safe not sorry!

## TECH

### MAKING PAYMENTS ONLINE

Attention Electric customers! Did you know we have an online bill payment service to make your life a little easier? Meet NineStar Connect's Smart Hub. The enhanced features of this site include easy bill payments, your billing history and outages in your area. You can also report outages, check and compare usage from the previous year to the current year and much more! Just by a couple of clicks of the mouse, you can see all the basics about your electric bill and usage that will help with energy efficiency and, in return, save you money. It's easy to get started. First time users just need to log onto [www.ninestarconnect.com](http://www.ninestarconnect.com) and click on "My Account" located at the top of the homepage. Then under "Electric," click on "View & Pay Your Bill Online." The following page is a simple tutorial page that will give you instructions on how to set up your username and password. Once those are set up, you have the luxury of logging on and viewing your account at any time. For more help call one of our friendly Customer Service Representatives to assist you at (317) 326-3131.



## KINDERGARTEN CLASS VISITS NINESTAR

May 21 was a special day for some local students. Miss Carla's kindergarten class from Noah's Ark Daycare spent about an

hour at the company's north campus getting a tour of the facility and learning what NineStar does. The group enjoyed snacks and received NineStar Nerds T-shirts. One member of the group was Amara Decker. She is the granddaughter of NineStar employee Janet Decker who works in custom-

er service. She said the entire group had a blast and couldn't stop talking about their visit. NineStar is available for other groups interested in tours or learning more about the company. If you know of a group that might be interested, please contact us at (317) 326-3131.

## ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TO VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Grace Perkins and Jennifer Apple will represent NineStar Connect on the 2014 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 12-19. The high school juniors will gain a personal understanding of American history, their role as citizens and insight into the important role electric cooperatives play in their communities. Indiana's electric cooperatives have been providing this opportunity to young Hoosiers since 1960. According to Mike Burrow, President and CEO of NineStar Connect, the Indiana delegation of about 76 students from throughout the state is selected by the students' local electric cooperatives. More than 1,600 students from 48 states will be in Washington for the week-long conference. "NineStar Connect is pleased to be able to provide this opportunity for our local youth," Burrow said.



"It's a great trip and a wonderful chance to see the sights, make new friends and learn how everyone, even young people, can make a difference in the political process." The Indiana delegation will visit the Flight 93 and Pentagon 9/11 Memorials, the Gettysburg Battlefield, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institution, a night cruise on the Potomac River, the National Mall memorials, the National Museum of the Marine Corps and much more.

The Indiana Youth Tour students also will participate in a youth rally hosted by NRECA, during which they will share their thoughts and opinions on a variety of timely issues. The youth rally will prepare the students for a day on Capitol Hill, where they will have an opportunity to meet with Indiana's congressional delegation. For more information about the 2014 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., contact Christa Riggs at (317) 323-2132. Indiana's electric cooperatives provide electric power to more than 1.3 million Hoosiers in 89 of Indiana's 92 counties, making them collectively Indiana's second-largest electricity provider. For more information on Indiana Statewide and its members, visit [www.isa.coop](http://www.isa.coop).

# BURROW NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NINESTAR

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of NineStar Connect was held in March to formally name Michael R. Burrow, President and CEO of the hybrid utility. Burrow replaced Tim Hills, who recently announced his retirement. Burrow first started working with then Hancock Rural Telephone Corp. in 1990, when he served as outside counsel while a partner at Wolf & Burrow Law Firm in Greenfield. In 1999, he joined the company on a full-time basis serving as General Counsel. Through the years, Burrow has held numerous positions with the company, including a stint as interim President in 2000-01. Most recently, following Hancock Telecom's consolidation with Central Indiana Power, he has served as Vice President & General Counsel of NineStar Connect.

Steve Vail, Chairman of the Board of NineStar summed up the boards feelings by stating, "The Board of Directors of NineStar Connect is excited to announce the hiring of Michael Burrow as our President. His commitment and passion for the difference that our organization can have in the daily lives of the customers we serve will continue to drive us toward a high level of success. His vision of the future in regards to the intersections of the telecommunications and electric industries is truly transformational, and we look forward to the positive impact we can have on our customers and the communities that we serve."

Burrow has served on many committees and is a member of many associations within the rural utility industries. In addition, Burrow has been a speaker at various association meetings on issues relevant to rural elec-



tric, telecommunications and public/private partnerships. He also has been presented several awards, such as Businessman of the Year in 2001 by the Greater Greenfield Chamber of Commerce and Sagamore of the Wabash by the late Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

Burrow has been active in many local civic organizations, including previous service as a past president of the Greenfield Chamber, past president of the Hancock County Bar Association, and on the boards of the Hancock County Community Foundation and Hancock County Unit of the American Cancer Society. He is currently a member of the Greenfield Kiwanis Club. Burrow is a lifelong resident of Hancock County and has resided in Brandywine Township since 1972. He is a 1981 graduate of New Palestine High School, a 1985 graduate of Ball State University and a 1988 graduate of the Indiana University School of Law. Burrow and his wife, Cherie, have three children, Emily, Hannah and Zoe. The family currently lives in a remodeled farmhouse that was originally built in 1885.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# WHEN A DOOR IS SHUT, A WINDOW USUALLY OPENS

I had the pleasure of attending a conference last week in Indianapolis, getting to hear various industry thought leaders discuss their near-term and long-term views on energy. While no one can be 100 percent accurate on predicting the future, there is a growing consensus that the cost of all carbon-based energy will dramatically increase during the coming years as additional EPA clean air regulations come into effect. Those who had hoped the courts might intervene to slow or stop the EPA regulations were dealt a serious blow last month when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the agency's cross-state pollution regulations stating that they were giving deference to the expertise of the agency. More regulations on mercury and carbon emissions are now currently in the pipeline.

Is all lost? Of course not. We need to recognize that the Midwest still enjoys some of the lowest energy costs in the nation. According to a recent study, the average consumer in Indiana pays somewhere around 10.5 cents per kilowatt hour (NineStar's rate is 10.3 cents). By comparison, some California consumers pay as much as 37.5 cents per kilowatt hour. At NineStar, we have made investments and continue to make investments to make our distribution grid "smarter." By making it smarter, it provides our electric members with the tools to actively manage their energy usage and give them some degree of control over their energy costs by taking advantage of new rate offerings, such as NineStar's time of

use rates, which go into effect in August. Consumers who can tailor their energy usage away from peak demand (about 12 percent of a given year) can save significant amounts of money by signing up for time of use rates. Additionally, NineStar is also actively exploring a community solar project for our members. We are researching the total cost associated with the project, but if it is viable, members will be offered the opportunity to purchase a solar panel that is in a centralized "solar farm" and have the kilowatts it generates applied to offset the usage at their homes and reduce their overall electric bill. As the cost per kilowatt increase in coming years, the greater the savings a homeowner receives on his monthly bill.

There are still several items to research, but our hope is to know by September whether we are going to be able to offer this for our members. My mother used to always tell me that when a door is shut, the good Lord always opens a window – you just have to look for it. At NineStar, we are constantly looking for opportunities in both the energy and communications markets to bring better value and increase the overall quality of life for our members. A rising tide lifts all ships, and at NineStar, we recognize that when the community and our member customers thrive, the cooperative thrives. Quite simply, that's just being a good corporate citizen, and we wouldn't have it any other way. I hope all of you have a safe and fun-filled summer. Let us know when we can help.

PRESIDENT & CEO  
**MICHAEL BURROW**



## THE TIME IS NOW TO HELP LOWER ENERGY DEMAND

It was a long, cold and brutal winter, but spring has DEFINITELY arrived. While hard to believe, the scorching heat of summer is almost upon us. And hot afternoons can only mean one thing – lots of central air conditioners and window units running, running, running. If we, your co-op's generation and transmission provider, would have to buy more power on the market because demand necessitates, that cost will be a lot higher because demand is a lot higher. But you can help! Many electric co-ops offer programs locally that help shift the demand of electricity when necessary.

A switch can be installed on an air conditioner, electric water heater, pool pump and/or field irrigator that may be activated when demand is up – typically in the afternoons. The switch is never activated on weekends or holidays. If needed, a signal is transmitted from the local, electric co-op's office and will cycle off the air conditioner, electric water heater, pool pump and/or field irrigator. What's in it for you? Well, besides helping your electric co-op keep costs as low as possible, some participating co-ops offer monthly incentives for allowing them to install a switch on your equipment at home as well as offering other rebates and incentives through the POWER MOVES program. Call NineStar Connect today to ask how you can help participate in lowering the demand for energy this summer.



## UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR OFFICIALS VISIT

Recently officials from the Indiana Office of Utility Counselor (OUCC) visited NineStar Connect. Their visit was set up so the OUCC could learn more about the initiatives NineStar has recently undertaken. Of particular interest – the officials learned about NineStar’s smart meter deployment as well as other smart grid applications upon which the company is on the leading edge in the industry.

The OUCC gives all Indiana consumers a voice when decisions are made that could affect utility rates and services. The office represents the interests of residential, commercial and industrial utility customers in cases before the: Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Indiana Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. The attorneys and technical experts at the OUCC are involved in electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer matters.

Photo Caption: NineStar President and CEO Mike Burrow listens intently to Matthew Klein, the Executive Director of Technical Operations for the Indiana Office of the Utility Consumer Counselor.

## TECH

### INSTANT UPDATES ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER

Power out? No internet or TV? Check NineStar’s Facebook or Twitter page!

So, if you haven’t already, grab your tablet or smart phone and “Like” or “Follow” our Facebook and/or Twitter page. We will do our best to keep you informed and post all the latest details about NineStar Connect news. But don’t forget, we still like to hear your voice! When you need answers fast and need to talk to someone, a phone call to our 24/7/365 Support Center is always just a dial away (317) 326-HELP.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## INDUSTRIAL PARK BODES WELL FOR FUTURE

Economic development officials from Rushville joined Mayor Mike Pavey and Donald Kathan, Area Director for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration to break ground on a new \$3 million industrial park on the north side of the city. The new development is planned for a late-2014 completion.

“This is an exciting step in this process,” Rushville Redevelopment Commission President John McCane said. “This project has been in the works for several years, so there is some genuine exuberance as we move forward.”

According to McCane, the development of the industrial park has come to fruition from the labor of five mayors, six economic development directors, dozens of city councilmen and countless community leaders.

The project is expected to develop complete infrastructure throughout the 80-acre parcel. This will include road construction, extension of water and wastewater lines, and

development of a fiber optic network, retention ponds, storm drainage and lighting.

Cathy Wenning, chairwoman of the Rush County ECDC, said she believes this development will open the door for new economic development opportunities for Rushville and Rush County.

“This is a developer’s dream – this is an economic developer’s dream to be able to have a parcel that is ideal for someone to come in and set up a business. What an ideal location, less than 15 miles to Interstate 70 and 15 miles to Interstate 74. This will be a prime piece of property that will get a lot of looks and hopefully soon will have some buildings going up.”

“I thank the community for the unity they have shown; teamwork and faith they have shown in the project, just genuine persistence,” said Mayor Pavey. I also thank Mayor Bob Bridges, whose administration had the forethought to make the purchase of this property. It was a very progressive process. We were

usually a pretty reactive community, so having the insight to purchase this property allows us to be here today. The city has determined to make a significant financial investment in the economic development of this community.”

In August, 2012, the EDA awarded \$1.66 million to the City of Rushville for the development of the industrial park. The city will match these funds with \$1.66 million of local dollars.

“There is strength, commitment, and diversity of the public and private partners that are involved with a particular project,” EDA Area Director Donald Kathan said. “At EDA, while our grant funds are a small but necessary part, we’re under no illusion to believe or think that that is sufficient to bring a project to fruition and cause success through job creation. We recognize that by leveraging of private sector investment and being able to raise the community, there will be that rising tide to float a lot of boats through that quality-of-life-type of improvement.”

## LOCAL PROGRAM

# GEO THERMAL SAVES ENERGY AT THE GROUND LEVEL

In April, the Power Moves News Crew was on hand at NineStar’s very own Jon Splater’s house filming its new Geothermal commercial. While it was a little chilly outside, the crew filmed in several locations of the house to get the best video and information regarding geothermal and its benefits.

A little information about geothermal – it is the most efficient heating and cooling system available and it’s underground. A geothermal system takes heat from the ground in the winter and transfers heat from your house into the ground during the summer. You never “make” hot or cold air; you just move what’s already there.

Here are some other facts about geothermal systems:

### Why are geothermal systems good for members and our co-op?

- Geothermal systems heat and cool houses using steady underground temperatures (about 55° in our area)
- Because the underground

temperature changes only very slightly, it provides a limitless source of heating and cooling

- They eliminate the need for a separate furnace and air conditioner

- Geothermal systems are designed to be environmentally friendly, using components that will not harm the environment

### How do geothermal systems work?

- They use underground pipes and an environmentally friendly liquid to transfer heat between your home and yard

- During winter, the system circulates its liquid through your pipes, soaking up the warmer underground temperatures and transferring them to the home’s ductwork through a heat exchanger and electric air handler

- In the summer, the system takes heat out of the home’s air and transfers it into the ground, where it dissipates easily

- Some systems use compressor heat to warm the water in your hot water tank for additional efficiency and savings

- They’re several times more efficient than other equipment, such as gas furnaces

- Few moving parts mean greater reliability and longer life

- They do not produce dangerous gases, such as carbon monoxide

- There’s no noisy equipment in the yard

### Do geothermal systems cost the same as other types of systems?

- While it costs more to install a geothermal system, the increased energy savings means they typically pay for themselves in five to 10 years

So if you are building a new home in the future and want to save money down the road, give us a call today! Power Moves offers great rebates for homeowners such as the Splater’s and you get a great tax credit as well! To see the video that was produced, go to NineStar’s facebook page or <http://www.powermoves.com/2014/05/general/why-geothermal-stays-hidden-despite-rebates-and-tax-breaks/>.



## HANCOCK COUNTY



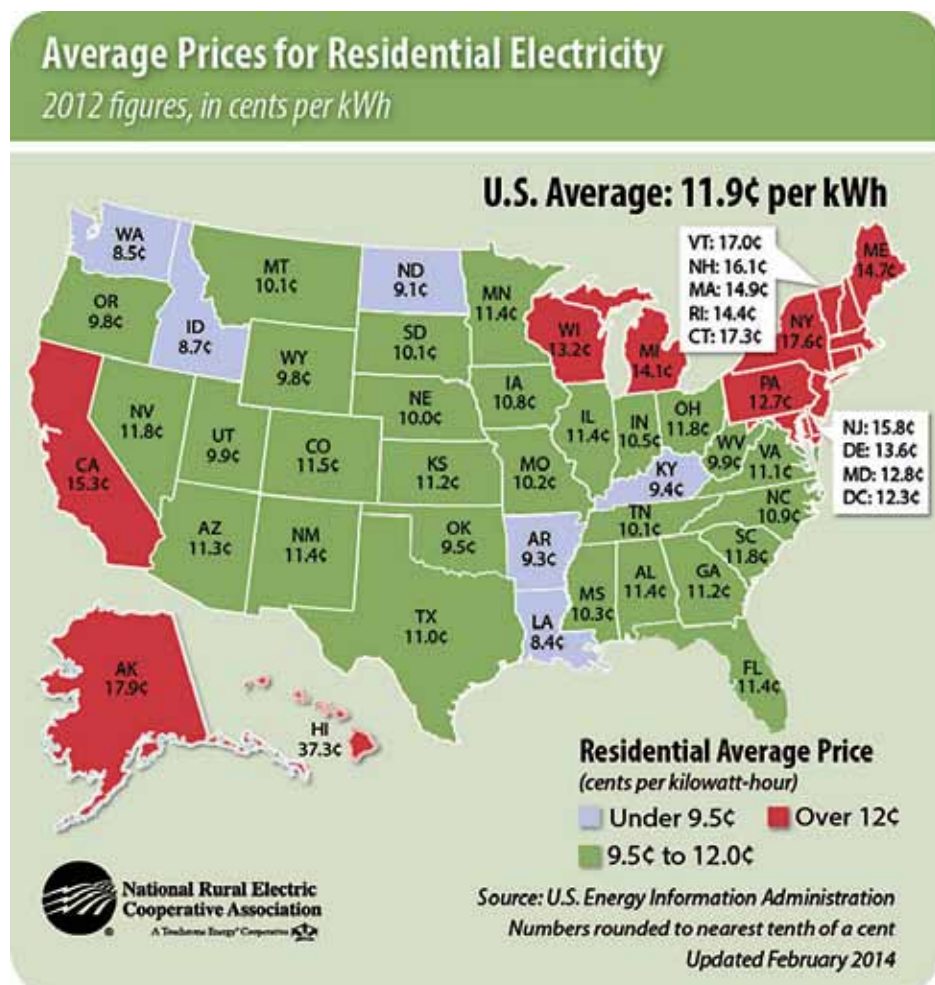
## NINESTAR PROVIDES VOTING CENTER LOCATIONS

Hancock County is venturing into new territory with its voting locations, and 2014 marked the introduction of “voting centers” in lieu of polling places. A total in excess of 700 people cast their ballots at NineStar’s offices on 600N and East Main Street, and that number is expected to be much higher in November. NineStar Connect’s two main office facilities were used as voting centers in May’s primary election and will serve the same purpose during the

general election on Nov. 4.

As can be expected with any major change like this, there was some confusion regarding the voting center concept. Overall, however, the Hancock County Clerk’s office was generally pleased with the turnout and the public’s response to the new voting centers. The fact that this new concept allows any Hancock County citizen to vote in any Hancock County voting center provides convenience for county residents that wasn’t available with the old designated polling places.

Hancock County citizens: Don’t forget that on Nov. 4 you can cast your vote at NineStar Connect’s locations at 2331 E. CR 600N or 2243 E. Main St.



## NINESTAR NOW OFFERING YOU A NEW WAY TO SAVE ON CFLS!

On Tuesday, April 22, we celebrated Earth Day. Events were held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. There is no doubt you could have found an activity in your community that celebrates the Earth and brings awareness to protecting it.

POWER MOVES and NineStar Connect are also doing something to celebrate Earth Day. We have partnered together to offer a New Energy Star Compact fluorescent Lighting (CFL) rebate for residential and small business electric cooperative members.

Right now, receive a \$1.50 rebate per package of Energy Star qualified CFL bulbs purchased between now and the end of the year. Standard, three-way, dimmable and can/reflector bulbs are all applicable. It's easy to apply for the rebate – just go to PowerMoves.com for the application, fill it out, attach a copy of your receipt to the application and mail it to the address provided. You can also contact NineStar Connect for more information. It's just that easy.

How do CFLs work? CFLs produce light differently than incandescent bulbs. In an incandescent, electric

current runs through a wire filament and heats the filament until it starts to glow. In a CFL, an electric current is driven through a tube containing argon and a small amount of mercury vapor. This generates invisible ultraviolet light that excites a florescent coating on the inside of the tube, which then emits visible light.

CFLs need a little more energy when they are first turned on, but once the electricity starts moving, they use about 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. A CFLs ballast helps “kick start” the CFL and then regulates the current once the electricity starts flowing.

This entire process typically takes 30 seconds to three minutes to complete, which is why CFLs take longer than other lights to become fully lit. Older CFLs used large and heavy metallic ballasts that caused a buzzing noise in some bulbs. Most CFLs today – including all Energy Star-qualified CFLs – use electronic ballasts which do not buzz or hum.

How bright do you like it? For brightness, look for lumens, not watts. Lumens indicate light output. Watts indicate energy consumed. Energy Star-certified bulbs provide the same brightness (lumens) with less energy (watts). Here is a chart showing how the watts and the brightness work for old, traditional incandescent bulbs and for Energy Star CFLs:

- Old Bulbs (Watts)
- CFL Brightness (Minimum Lumens)
- 40 W = 450 ML
- 60 W = 800 ML
- 75 W = 1,100 ML
- 100 W = 1,600 ML
- 150 W = 2,600 ML

Appearance does matter when choosing a CFL. Energy Star-certified bulbs are available in a wide range of colors. Light color, or appearance, matches a temperature on the Kelvin scale (K). Lower K means warmer, yellowish light, while higher K means cooler blue light.

Only bulbs that have earned the Energy Star label have been independently certified and undergone extensive testing to assure that they will save energy and perform as promised. Visit your local hardware, home goods or convenience store today and pick up a few CFLs. Apply for the POWER MOVES CFL lighting rebate through NineStar Connect and watch the savings add up! For more information, please visit powermoves.com or call NineStar Connect at (317) 326-3131.

## SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 14 AND/OR JULY 12!

Did you ever wonder if you can control your electric bill by just doing laundry a little later in the day? Or by running the dishwasher in the morning could save you money? Well, it can now!

Beginning Aug. 1 of this year, NineStar Connect will be offering its electric customers a choice. Stay with a fixed flat rate or possibly lower your bill by selecting Time of Use. It's a pretty simple plan – just don't use a lot of electricity during the peak hours! Peak hours usually are between 4 and 8 p.m. and do not include weekends or holidays.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in and you want more information, we are holding two seminars this summer about the Time of Use program. The first seminar is scheduled for Saturday, June 14, at NineStar's North Campus (2331 E. CR 600N, Greenfield) and the second seminar is scheduled for Saturday, July 12, at McCordsville Town Hall (6280 W. CR 800N., McCordsville). Registration for both seminars begins at 8:30 a.m.

Don't delay! Reserve your seat today! To RSVP, please call (317) 323-3663 or email [mbrservices@ninstarconnect.com](mailto:mbrservices@ninstarconnect.com). See you there!

## SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes.

See [ninstarconnect.com](http://ninstarconnect.com) Facebook page for last edition's solution.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | 5 | 6 |   | 9 |   |   |
| 6 |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   | 1 |
|   | 8 | 5 |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   | 7 | 1 |   |   |
| 5 | 9 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |
| 4 |   |   | 6 |   | 5 |   | 8 | 2 |
|   | 3 |   |   | 5 |   | 8 | 7 |   |
|   |   | 1 |   | 2 |   | 4 |   |   |
| 9 |   |   | 3 | 4 | 8 |   |   |   |