

MAY - JUNE 2017



NineStar CONNECTION

VOLUME 6
ISSUE 2

NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

NineStar's Annual Meeting
selected two new board
members on March 24th.

INSIDE

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

See who was announced as
the 2017 winners.

INSIDE

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREENFIELD, IN
PERMIT NO. 220

SEE PAGE 4

MANAGED WI-FI

Personalized tech support that does not invade your privacy

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CONNECT
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NINESTAR LOCAL CABLE STATION - CHANNEL 9

Over the last couple of years, NineStar Films has been slowly building a library of local TV programming that airs on NineStar Cable Channel 9. These shows are produced, filmed and edited locally — and highlight our local community!

In addition to airing some of our local high school sporting events (we film football, basketball, and baseball/softball), we also have monthly shows featuring 5 local High School Athletic Directors — that highlight their school's current sporting news.

NineStar Channel 9 also airs these local wonders:

- “Renaissance Chef” hosted by Ian Harrison (owner/chef of Carnegie’s).
- “CREATE: local” hosted by Alyse Vail — featuring local artists/musicians/makers
- “Step Back in Time” hosted by local historian Joe Skvarenina
- “NineStar Newsroom” hosted by Dave Hill and features local news
- “Those Who Serve” highlighting our local military veterans
- “Inside Mt. Vernon” produced by MVHS TV students
- “Cougar Creation” produced by G-CHS TV students

We are always looking for show ideas and new things going on in our viewing area! If you know of:

- A veteran willing to share their story
- An ‘artsy’ group or initiative
- A newsworthy item that our community would find interesting.....

THEN let us know! Please email Liz Rusche, lrusche@ninestarconnect.com with details. Thanks — and Stay Tuned to Channel 9 for local programming!



OUR EMPLOYEES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. HERE'S A CUSTOMER REVIEW FOR NICK.

“NICK IS A PHENOMENAL GUY AND WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND ON CORRECTING PRIOR ISSUES. I AM AN EXTREMELY HAPPY CUSTOMER.”



- THOMAS

Customer service is at the tips of your fingers. NineStar Connect's tech support call center is open around the clock. **317-326-help** ninestarconnect.com

STORY IDEA?

Contact David Spencer at dspencer@ninestarconnect.com

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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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NineStar Connection

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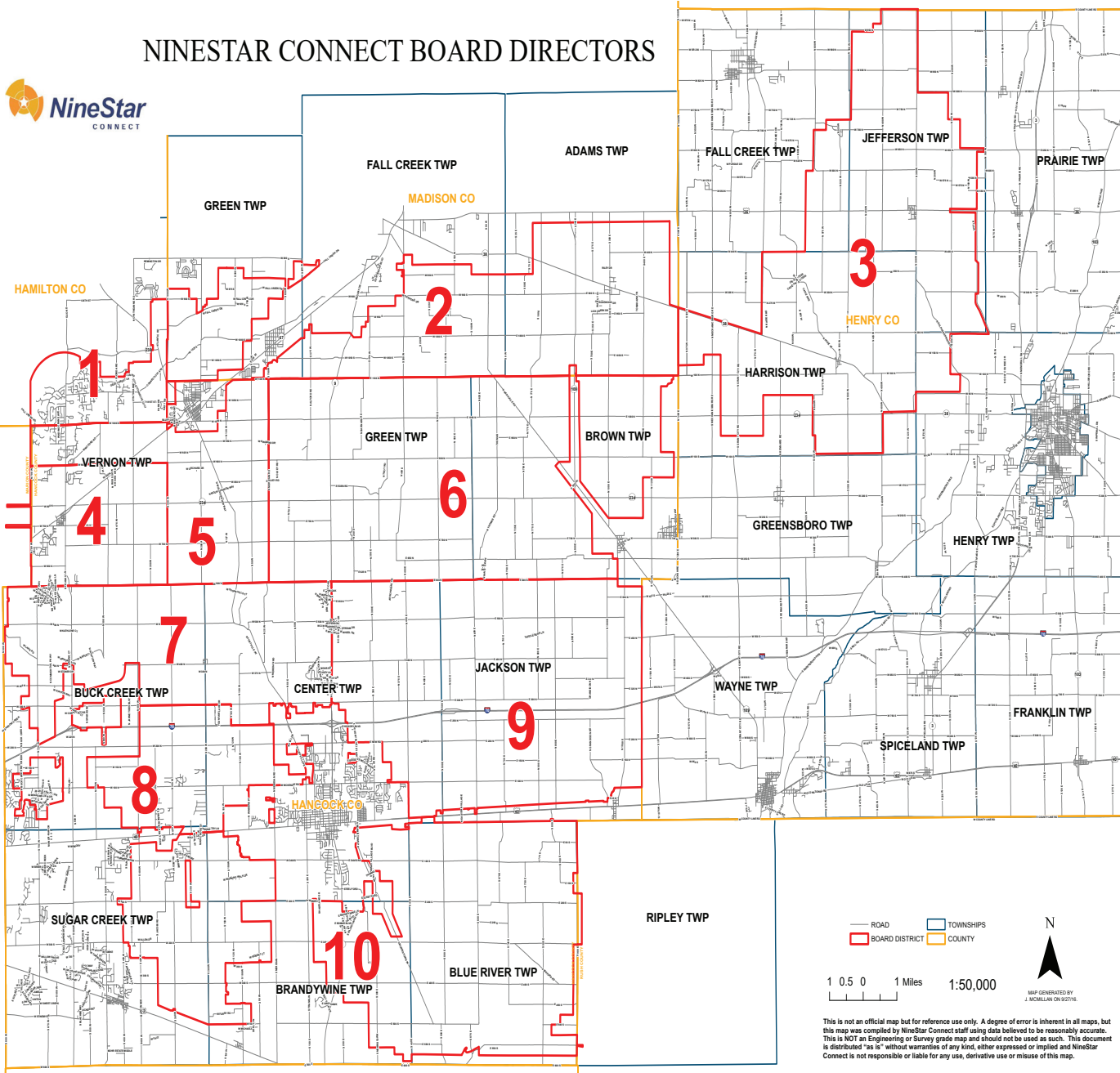


RAYMOND KERKHOF

DISTRICT 10



SHELLY KLEIMAN



AT LARGE



KIM CRONK



JAMES E. CHERRY



PHILIP M. HAYES



RONNIE MOHR

AT LARGE

MANAGED WI-FI

Personalized tech support that does not invade your privacy

Remember the “good ole’ days” when you had to purchase your wireless router at the big box store, install it yourself, then hope and pray that you’d get the speed and performance it promised on its packaging? OK...it’s not that long ago, but good news, now you don’t have to go to all that trouble thanks to NineStar Connect’s new managed Wi-Fi service.

NineStar’s managed Wi-Fi service, which was launched on May 1st, is an opportunity for members to rent a wireless router directly from the co-op and enjoy the peace of mind that comes from knowing they are getting the proper speed for their needs and, if there is a problem, NineStar is there to help.

“With this service, we can see what is going on inside of your house in order to minimize interference and maximize connectivity

WRITTEN BY

**JULIE
YOUNG**

and speed,” says Ross Ferson, NineStar’s chief technology officer. “We can also replace your router if something goes wrong with it. We are always looking for ways to offer new products to our members as well as the broader community and this is the perfect place to diversify our options.”

A good, high-speed, wireless router is a must have for anyone who gets online, but especially those who use streaming services

on their mobile devices such as Netflix and Hulu. Unfortunately, members do not always know what product they need and end up buying something that is expensive, ineffective and does not meet their connectivity requirements. The result is a lot of frustration and at least one expensive service call only for a technician to tell them what they already know – they bought the wrong thing.

With NineStar’s managed Wi-Fi service, all that is taken care of. For \$12 a month, you can have a high quality product installed in your home and the service and support you need when something goes awry.

“This new service can help us diagnose the reasons why your Internet connection may be dropping, how many devices are currently logged in or if there is another nearby router interfering with ours,” says Regina Bever, director of

administration. “We want all of our members to have the appropriate speed for their need and with this service, this can be accomplished.”

It is important to note what this service does not do. NineStar’s managed Wi-Fi service does not allow the co-op to hack your privacy, monitor your Internet usage or see what sites you are visiting. It does not keep track of how many times you watched “The Force Awakens,” checked your bank balance or how long you were logged into your social media accounts. What it can tell you is how many devices are logged into your system at any given time, which can be important to know if a neighbor is “borrowing” your network to get online. The service is not designed to act as “Big Brother” but rather, optimize your hardware capability from a remote location.

Another interesting feature to this service is that it does allow parents to be in control of the Internet usage in the home. Ferson says there is an app that can be installed on your cell phone in order to monitor which devices are online at any given time. You can also schedule accessibility times so that your children can only be online when you are home and see the top sites that are visited. This feature is only available on the app and does not transfer to the technicians at the NineStar support center.

“Parents are in complete control of monitoring their own and their children’s Internet usage, not us,” Ferson says. “They are in total control. An added feature is that anyone in the coverage area can purchase the managed Wi-Fi service, even if they are not our customers. You can rent a router through us and allow us to monitor it so that you can get the best signal from your service provider as possible, even if you are not a NineStar member.”

Charley Nichols, a support center supervisor says for those who are tech-savvy, they will love this new

service. Nine times out of ten, when something goes wrong with the Internet, the service provider is the first place one calls. Not only that but the tech-savvy person might not be home when the problem arises and it is nice to have backup support.

“It’s still a new product, so we are hoping more members start taking advantage of it soon, but it is a great way for us to analyze wireless problems without needing a password and without even having to turn a computer on. We can tell them about their signal strength without anyone feeling uncomfortable about what we have access to and what we don’t. Although there are some people out there who are pretty ‘techie,’ the majority are happy to have an affordable option that enables someone to do it for them.”

NineStar takes customer privacy very serious and has a long history of protecting customer’s personal information and data. This history goes back before our merger when we were known as Hancock Telecom. At that time, our Board of Directors put in place a specific policy which deals with customer privacy and data. The policy concerning customer privacy reads in part; unless specifically required to do so by law or order of a court or other governmental agency with appropriate jurisdiction, no CPNI (customer information) will be given to any third parties nor provided to any person or entity without proper identity authentication. To be clear, NineStar Connect does not collect customer’s data nor do we sell the information to third parties. If you have any questions about this policy please contact our Chief Technology Officer Ross Ferson. He can be reached at 317-326-3131.

NINESTAR'S ANNUAL MEETING AND CELEBRATION

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

NineStar's Annual Meeting and Celebration was held on Friday, March 24th at Greenfield-Central High School. NineStar members came to the event and enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Jonathan Byrd's along with learning more about NineStar services, including attending workshops on "PowerShift" and "Streaming TV". At the meeting, we announced the 2017 scholarship winners, voted and announced new term Directors of the Board, members played the famous Plinko game, learned more about virtual reality and 3-D printing and of course, we can't forget the ever popular door prizes that were given away. Free child care was also provided which included face painting, and new this year, an exotic animal presentation given by Hedgehog Hannah. Kids got to see and pet a wallaby, artic fox, snake, hedgehog and much more!

Lucky winners of the night were:

\$500 — Shane David and Thomas Tucker

\$300 — John Balakin, Chris Dahlquist, James Doty, John Estell, Emma Farms, Eugene Gann, Robert Prickett, Richard Strough, Tara Tague, Sharon Weese

\$100 — Robert Andry, Bryan Brooks, Jenny Burris, Marry Cain, Richard Cathcart, Richard Clark, David Jackson, Glenn Jordan, Christina Sweet, Anna Wallace

Also at the meeting, we acknowledged those employees with service recognition awards:

5 years — Bryan Shell, Christa Riggs, Cody Veerkamp, Eric Meyer, Eric Walter, Walter Hestand

10 years — Brenda Bell, Brett Molinder, Brian Potts, Don Dillahay, Kellee Johnson, Tommy Nance

15 years — George Plisinski, Suzy Smith, James Cherry

20 years — Christa Meadors, Kim Cronk, Philip Hayes

30 years — Tom Cash

Finally, we heard from President & CEO, Mike Burrow, CFO Scott Hiatt, Chairman of the Board, James Cherry and a report and summary of donations from the Operation Round Up Committee.

Thank you to all who joined us and we look forward to seeing you again next year!!

LOCAL 4-H CLUB VISITS NINESTAR



On April 18th, local 4-H Club, The Country Kritters, held their monthly meeting at NineStar. The group met at the company's north campus in Maxwell. Before the regular business meeting was held, they learned what NineStar does in their community and received a tour of the facility. After the meeting the kids had snacks. NineStar would like to wish the Country Kritters and all 4-H Clubs good luck with their projects as they approach the Hancock County Fair in June.



2017 NINESTAR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED



BEAU ANDREWS



PAIGE ARROWOOD



KYLEE BROADWATER



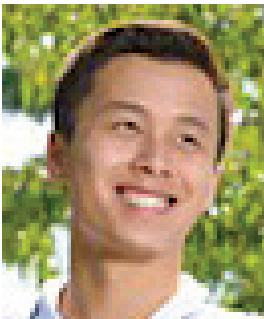
DANIELLE CLARK



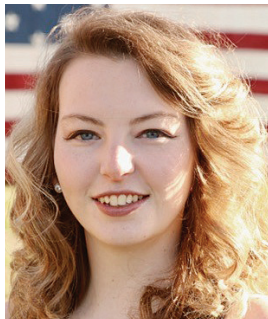
CARLIE DAHLQUIST



BREANNA DEYOUNG



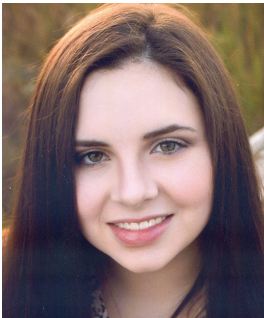
NATHANIEL LEE



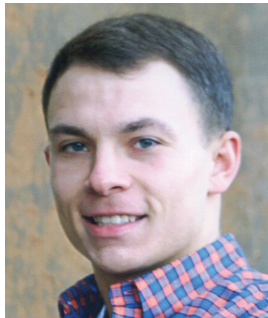
CHADSEY MATLOCK



CASEY MCDANIEL



LINDSEY MCDANIEL



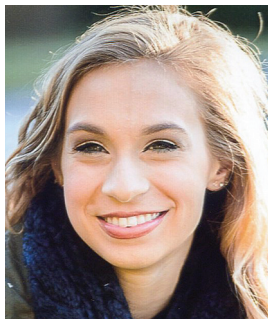
JOSHUA MUNDELL



GARRETT REDD



ABIGAIL ROEDER



MEG SCHLEITER



WAYDE STIERS

At this year's Annual Meeting, 15 names were announced for the 2017 Scholarship program for children of NineStar Connect's members. The students have to be a 2017 graduating high school senior 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 received \$1000.00.

Here are the names of this year's winners:

1. Beau Andrews, Scecina High School (son of Todd & Anne Andrews)
2. Paige Arrowood, Greenfield Central High School (daughter of Brian & Michelle Arrowood)
3. Kylee Broadwater, Eastern Hancock High School (daughter of Carrie Broadwater)
4. Danielle Clark, Horizon Christian School (daughter of Nathaniel & Beth Clark)
5. Carlie Dahlquist, Greenfield Central High School (daughter of Chris & Tera Dahlquist)
6. Breanna DeYoung, Shenandoah High School (daughter of Randy & Stephanie DeYoung)
7. Nathaniel Lee, Cathedral High School (son of D. Anthony Lee)
8. Chadsey Matlock, Eastern Hancock High School (daughter of Matthew & Shirley Matlock)
9. Casey McDaniel, Greenfield Central High School (daughter of Michael & Dawn McDaniel)
10. Lindsey McDaniel, Eastern Hancock High School (daughter of Mark & Jenni McDaniel)
11. Joshua Mundell, Greenfield Central High School (son of Joseph & Brenda Mundell)
12. Garrett Redd, Morristown High School (son of Jason & Angie Redd)
13. Abigail Roeder, Shenandoah High School (daughter of Michael & Amy Roeder)
14. Meg Schleiter, Mt. Vernon High School (daughter of Kurt & Peggy Schleiter)
15. Wayde Stiers, Shenandoah High School (son of Bryan and Susan Stiers)

NineStar Connect strongly supports the youth of our community and is thrilled to sponsor and offer scholarships for the next generation of professionals. Congratulations to all graduates of 2017!





4-H FAIR QUEEN CONTESTANTS



ABBY ANDERSON



EMMA CARMICHAEL



SAVANNAH COE

For years, NineStar Connect has sponsored the Hancock County 4-H Queen Contest during the Hancock County Fair. It has been an honor and privilege to carry on this tradition. This year is no different. As the fair approaches (June 23-30), eighteen girls are vying for the top spot of Miss Hancock County. The winner will also go on to compete at state level at the Miss Indiana State Fair pageant held in January. We wish all girls “Good Luck” as a lot goes into this competition each year.



ERIN DUNN



LAURIE EELS



GRACIE JOHNSON



CASSONDRA JONES



EMILY JONES



MADISON KINDRED



SKYLAR KNAPP



ANNE MCCAIN



DELANIE MELTON



CALISTA OVERMAN



REBECCA POPE



HANNAH ROSE



KATHLEEN SMITH



ANN WAITT



PEYTON WEST



OPERATION ROUND-UP

NineStar Connect's Operation Round-Up Committee meeting was held on May 4th at the company's headquarters. Here are some organizations that benefited from the ORU fund this past quarter:



GREENFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOLS

GREENFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOLS
One of four school corporations that is located in Hancock County and serves more than 4500 students in all of their eight schools. Greenfield Central has fantastic programming for high ability students, students at grade level, and students with extensive academic needs. With four elementary schools, two intermediate schools, a junior high and high school; at Greenfield-Central, it is expected of their students to imagine more, explore more, and achieve more. With the \$1000 that was donated from ORU, they will be using it for their Camp Intervention program.



SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN
"Safe Families for Children is a non-profit, faith based organization providing temporary placement of children for families in crisis." They are located in Greenfield. With the \$7500 that was donated from ORU, they will be using it to help the host families and for a part-time Family Coach.



SHENANDOAH MEDIA CENTER

SHENANDOAH MEDIA CENTER
"Shenandoah schools provide a safe and secure environment for the intellectual, academic, emotional, social, technical & vocational development of all students." This quarter, Operation Round Up gave \$2000 to the Shenandoah Media Center. The newly built media center is intended to provide resources to students who have questions about serious issues. The funds awarded will be spent to expand, update and diversify their non-fiction collection to help with aforementioned questions/issues.



MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERS OF HANCOCK COUNTY

MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERS OF HANCOCK COUNTY
"Mental Health Partners of Hancock County provides several programs (QPR (Suicide Prevention Training), Heroin Protocol (working with the Probation Office), Grief and other Counseling, Referrals, etc.) that are in place to serve the individuals of Hancock County with various mental health disorders. Their job at MHP is to help you find hope where you don't think hope exists anymore. The money awarded to them from ORU was \$6400 which will assist MHP with their Suicide Prevention Training. This training provides knowledge to help teach community members, churches, schools how to prevent one to take their life when suicidal tendencies are prevalent.

GREENFIELD VETERANS GUARD
"is a small group of veterans who travel to local destinations to carry out a 21-gun salute, bugler and a formal presentation of the flag along with the empty shell

casings from the volley to the next of kin at a former veteran's funeral. They also perform ceremonial appearances at numerous special occasions including parades, programs at schools and annual flag raisings to name a few. This quarter, ORU awarded them \$1000.

HANCOCK COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S MEMORIAL
Greenfield Fire Territory serves all of Hancock County. They are working to raise funds to provide memorials (granite monuments) at their new Hancock County Firefighters' Memorial. ORU funded their program \$2000 this quarter.

HANCOCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, K9
This organization was given \$5000 to be used for the purchase of heat alarms for each K-9 officer's vehicle. The Hancock County Sheriff's K9 division consists of five K9's on its force.

MEALS ON WHEELS OF HANCOCK COUNTY
Meals on Wheels mission is to "help the citizens of Hancock County maintain an independent lifestyle through the delivery of nutritious meals in accordance with prescribed dietary needs and provide a point of personal contact with the community." They were handed a check of \$5000 from ORU to assist with the meals they serve.

For ones that want to send in an application for Operation Round-up dollars, the next application deadline is July 13. Applications can be downloaded from our website at www.ninestarconnect.com under the Community tab.

Attention Sulphur Springs and Knightstown NineStar members: we are looking for you!!! The Operation Round-Up Board of Trustees currently has 15 members that help decide who the Operation Round Up funds are distributed to each quarter. We are actively looking for someone in the Sulphur Springs and Knightstown areas to help with deciding where these funds are dispersed. We believe that a well-rounded, diverse group of people is key in helping give a fair opinion and assessment of the donations that are rewarded. So to have ORU Trustees represented throughout our NineStar territory is important to us. If you live in either area and are interested in helping with this community outreach program, we would love to hear from you! Please call 317-326-3131 or email Monica Sexton (msexton@ninestarconnect.com) or Christa Riggs (criggs@ninestarconnect.com).



GREENFIELD VETERANS GUARD



HANCOCK COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S MEMORIAL



HANCOCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, K9



MEALS ON WHEELS OF HANCOCK COUNTY

POWER MOVES REBATE PROGRAM

NineStar Connect's Energy Advisor, Matt Strahl, presents a Power Moves rebate check to Ron Parker at S. Abraham & Sons Inc. Over 400 new LED light fixtures were installed at their facility located in the Mt. Comfort business park. The new lighting has not only reduced electricity costs but has improved the lighting output as well. The employees are very pleased with how well the new lights illuminate their work areas. "Some areas of the building were very dark. The improvement is amazing. We couldn't be happier and we appreciate the rebate from NineStar to help cover the cost of the project. The company now plans to complete similar lighting projects at their other facilities" said Ron.

The Power Moves rebate program is available to all NineStar Connect electric members. If you are a business owner and you are considering an energy efficiency project or if you are a homeowner and thinking about reducing your energy costs then the Power Moves rebate program may have incentives available for you. Program details and applications are available by visiting www.PowerMoves.com.

You can also contact NineStar Connect's Energy Advisor at 317-323-2042 or mstrahl@ninestarconnect.com to discuss your project. Matt is here to explain the programs, help you review your project and offer energy efficiency advice to all of NineStar's members.



S. ABRAHAM & SONS INC.



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Go to PowerMoves.com/LED to start saving now.

*Offer good for up to 30 Energy Star®-certified LED bulbs per member, through December 31, 2017.

POWER MOVES®

Energy Efficiency Programs from Your Electric Cooperative

HANCOCK COUNTY NAMED INDIANA HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Hancock County was one of two counties in the state named an Indiana Healthy Community, a designation from the Wellness Council of Indiana. Last month, Hancock Regional Hospital recognized six local businesses that have earned a star rating for the wellness programs within their company. NineStar Connect was named one of the six. A big “Thank You” to Payroll & Benefits Administrator, Julie Beauchat, Administration & Compliance Manager, Kim Gerard and HR Manager, Danielle Daugherty who work hard to continuously implement new ways to keep health and wellness in the front of NineStar employee’s minds. With walking and weight loss challenges, “Fruity Tuesday’s” (fruit delivered to all 4 campuses), monthly wellness newsletters distributed to employee’s mailboxes, and keeping employees aware of local events highlighting health and exercise, NineStar employees are grateful to have such an amazing team working to keep them healthy!



JULIE BEAUCHAT (FAR LEFT), KIM GERARD (4TH FROM THE LEFT) AND DANIELLE DAUGHERTY (3RD FROM THE RIGHT)

Fruity Tuesday's



DIRECTOR OF INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE VISITS NINESTAR

Recently, NineStar had the honor to host Ted McKinney, Director of Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), and Connie Neininger, Director of Economic Development with ISDA. Their visit included a brief tour of the company’s North Campus, which included a demonstration on the 3D Printer as well as learning about virtual reality. Their meeting included learning about various projects such as fiber deployment and smart meters. The meeting concluded with the two being briefed more on the company’s plans to deploy and build out their water and sewer divisions which will help drive economic development, in and around the territory.



PAPERLESS BILLING

Congratulations to March’s winner (Aaron Long), April’s winner (Cynthia Hutchins) and May’s winner (Christopher Weir) for each winning a \$50 Netflix Gift Card for going Paperless Billing!! Each month we pick a new winner for just choosing to get your billing statement electronically. If you are drawn as a lucky winner, you have the option of choosing a \$50 Netflix Gift Card, \$50 Hulu Gift Card or a Roku.

Paperless Billing is the easiest, cheapest way of paying your bill each month. Please feel free to give one of our Residential Service Consultants a call at 317-326-3131 to help you set up if needed. It will be a call you are glad you made!

Enroll in Paperless Billing Today and you could be our **NEXT BIG WINNER!**

*Enroll in Paperless Billing for a chance to win a Roku, \$50 Netflix or \$50 Hulu gift card!



*Drawings Monthly



4-H ELECTRIC WORKSHOP

Activities for the 2017 Hancock County 4-H Fair are well underway 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 at the NineStar Conference Center. A handful of NineStar employees volunteered to help with the 4-Her's work on their electric projects. 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.

Many of the electric judges are electric cooperative

employees that offer their time and expertise to judge the projects. They trade their volunteer time to visit various county fairs to help with judging. Many of the same employees also provide judging for the state fair electric projects as well.

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



PICTURED IS NINESTAR LINEMAN, JEFF JONES, WHO IS ASSISTING A YOUNG 4-HER WITH HER ELECTRIC CIRCUIT BOARD.

NINESTAR NERD NIGHT



On April 19th, The NineStar Nerds held another Nerds Night Out this time featuring information on "Keeping your PC Healthy" along with "Service Troubleshooting Tips: Video, Internet & WiFi". Dinner was served by Subway and those who brought in a pet toy or pet treats to donate to the Hancock County Humane Society were entered into a drawing to win either a \$50 or \$100 Visa Gift Card. We had a great turn out and for those that attended, we hope they learned something new about their computer because we all know, a healthy computer is a happy computer!

NINESTAR CONNECT'S EMPLOYEE EMPOWERS A GLOBAL COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

NineStar Connect, Director of Engineering, Jamie Bell, joined a crew of 15 other Indiana electric cooperative linemen on a trip to a developing area of Guatemala this past March as part of an international initiative to bring electricity to the region.

"Project Indiana: Empowering Global Communities for a Better Tomorrow" electrified a part of the Central American country where none was available. The crew spent the second half of March electrifying the village of El Zapotillo in Huehuetenango. The team electrified 60 homes, a school, a church and a clinic with 4 miles of primary line, 27 miles of secondary line, 36 anchors and 6 transformers – all by hand and without the aid of modern conveniences, such as bucket trucks.

To be able to make a difference in the lives of present and future generations in a village of El Zapotillo was eye opening; especially seeing how thankful they were to finally have electricity." commented Bell. "Their lives will be completely transformed and I'm so happy that I could be part of a great group of

people from other co-ops in the state of Indiana, along with local people from Guatemala to make this happen."

This was the Indiana electric cooperatives' third trip to Guatemala. In August 2012, 28 Hoosier lineworkers from 17 of Indiana's electric cooperatives, spent four weeks working across the mountainous terrain to construct more than 20 miles of power lines and bring electricity to three villages. In April 2015, 14 lineworkers battled extreme heat and the rugged land to string 11 miles

of wire to connect 76 poles across 2,500 feet of mountains.

"It would be hard for us to understand what it would be like to go back in time to the mid 1930's and not have all the luxury's that we have today. That is what it is like in the village. Just to see their appreciation for the littlest things was really humbling" said Jamie. "This was most certainly an opportunity of a lifetime. We were told it would be the hardest job you will ever have but the most rewarding and it was just that....a life changing gift."



MEET & GREET

NINESTAR'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

At the NineStar Connect Annual Meeting and Celebration, held on March 24th, two new board members were elected by the membership. Information on these two can be found below. We welcome Chris and Ray to the board and we look forward to working with both of them.

DISTRICT 1 CHRIS JETER

Chris Jeter has been a cooperative member since 2014. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and then obtained

his law degree from The George Washington University. Mr. Jeter is the founder/partner of Massillamany & Jeter, LLP, a small firm in downtown Fishers. He previously was an attorney with Barnes & Thornburg, LLP. Prior to private practice, Mr. Jeter spent seven years as an active duty JAG Officer in the United States Navy. He serves as secre-

tary of both the Hamilton East Public Library Board and the Fishers Economic Development Commission. He also is a member of the Indiana State Bar Association Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Chris was born and raised in Hamilton County, moving to Fishers in 1980. His law firm has grown to seven employees and is located in the every-changing downtown Fishers. In 2012, he was released from active duty in the Navy and returned to his hometown. Chris and his wife Karen have an eighteen-month-old daughter, Macelyn "Macy," and currently reside in Fishers.

DISTRICT 9 RAYMOND KERKHOF

Raymond Kerkhof has been a cooperative member since 1975. He graduated from Greenfield-Central High School and then received his Bachelor's

Degree from Purdue University. He has been through management and

leadership training in the cooperative system and is employed with Harvestland Co-op as an Ag Center Manager. He also is a shareholder and President of 3-K Farms Inc. (the family farming operation), where he has worked since graduating from Purdue. Ray also serves on the Farm Credit Nominating Committee for Indiana. Mr. Kerkhof is a member of Trinity Park United Methodist Church, Hancock County Farm Bureau, and has served on Greenfield-Central's School Board, Hancock Regional Hospital Foundation and Hancock County Extension Board. Ray and his wife Pam live just outside of Greenfield and have two sons; Chad and Nick and one daughter, Brandi.

NINESTAR WINS NATIONAL MARKETING AWARD



David Spencer & Christa Riggs recently traveled to San Diego, California where they accepted two awards for their marketing creativity. The awards, presented by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), are part of the annual TeleChoice Marketing Awards.

NineStar received one award for its 2016 Annual Report. The report tied the annual meeting & celebration together with Indiana's Bicentennial. The second award presented at the awards luncheon was for NineStar's Complete Marketing Campaign which promoted the company's Gig E speed broadband service. The campaign featured actual customer testimonials and was marketed through social media, newspaper, commercials, direct mail and billboards.

The competition was fierce, in that dozens of nominations were made across seven marketing categories. The awards were voted on by Washington, DC based marketing firms NTCA, "the rural broadband association," is the premiere non-profit association representing over 600 rural telephone cooperatives and commercial companies across America. The association offers an array of member services, including a highly effective government affairs program; expert legal and industry representation; a broad range of educational services; a comprehensive assortment of regular and special publications and public relations programs.