



WIFI IN THE PARK

McCordsville Parks recently received WIFI access points installed by NineStar Connect, providing WIFI to all visitors.

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COOPERATIVE SERVICE DAY!

The 6th Annual NineStar Cooperative Service Day is fast approaching. Let's make a difference in the communities we serve, Friday, October 11th!

PAGE 11

PRESORTED
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SEE PAGE 4

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



DAVID G. HELLER

BEVERLY GARD

NINESTAR BOARD MEMBERS
TO RETIRE

TOWN OF
CUMBERLAND
RIBBON
CUTTING
PAGE 5

NORTH CAMPUS
CHARGING
STATION
PAGE 6





Learn tips for how, you too, can have a homemade Halloween! (See page 12)



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

"I WAS VERY IMPRESSED AND WANTED IT TO BE KNOWN THAT NICK DID A FANTASTIC JOB. I REALLY APPRECIATED THE HARD WORK AND GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE HE PROVIDED"

- CUSTOMER COLLINS



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

COVER STORY PAGE 4
NineStar Board members David G. Heller and Beverly Gard retire.

NINESTAR'S STEVE O'CONNOR RETIRES PAGE 7
Longtime employee Steve O'Connor retires after 33 years of service.

OPERATION ROUND-UP PAGE 9
The purpose of Operation Round-Up is to accumulate and distribute funds for charitable purposes to groups/organizations within the NineStar service territory. See who got a donation this quarter.

NINESTAR FILMS PAGE 10
NineStar Films is back this sports season filming new shows and local area school games. Don't forget to tune in to NineStar's Channel 9 to watch the very latest episodes!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael Burrow shares his thoughts and expresses his thanks to Beverly Gard & David Heller.

PAGES 8



POWER OUT?
NO INTERNET OR TV?




CHECK NINESTAR'S
FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGE!!

Social Media is exploding and if you aren't checking your laptop, tablet or smart phone for the latest and greatest fads, trends and updates.....you are not living in the 21st century! We have found that posting news about NineStar Connect on Facebook and Twitter has been a successful line of communication for all of our social media followers. Once you "like" our page, you will automatically be notified of any post we share whether it's information about an outage, an event we are planning, local Channel 9 broadcasting or energy information to save you money.

Additionally, if you have a question for us, send us a message. We will research and respond to your question as quickly as possible. We don't want to "leave you in the dark" about any issues or inquiries you might have for us. Our Customer Service has always been a significant piece of what we do and giving you the answers you need is imperative to keeping you knowledgeable and satisfied with our service. To add, when there is that unfortunate outage, your communication to us is just as helpful in determining where the problem is and who it is affecting so we encourage you to share your thoughts.

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.



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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DISTRICT 2



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DISTRICT 3



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DISTRICT 4



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DISTRICT 5



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DISTRICT 6



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DISTRICT 7



BEVERLY GARD
RETIRING OCTOBER 2019

DISTRICT 8



DAVID G. HELLER
RETIRING MARCH 2020

DISTRICT 9



RAYMOND KERKHOF

DISTRICT 10



SHELLY KLEIMAN

AT LARGE



KIM CRONK



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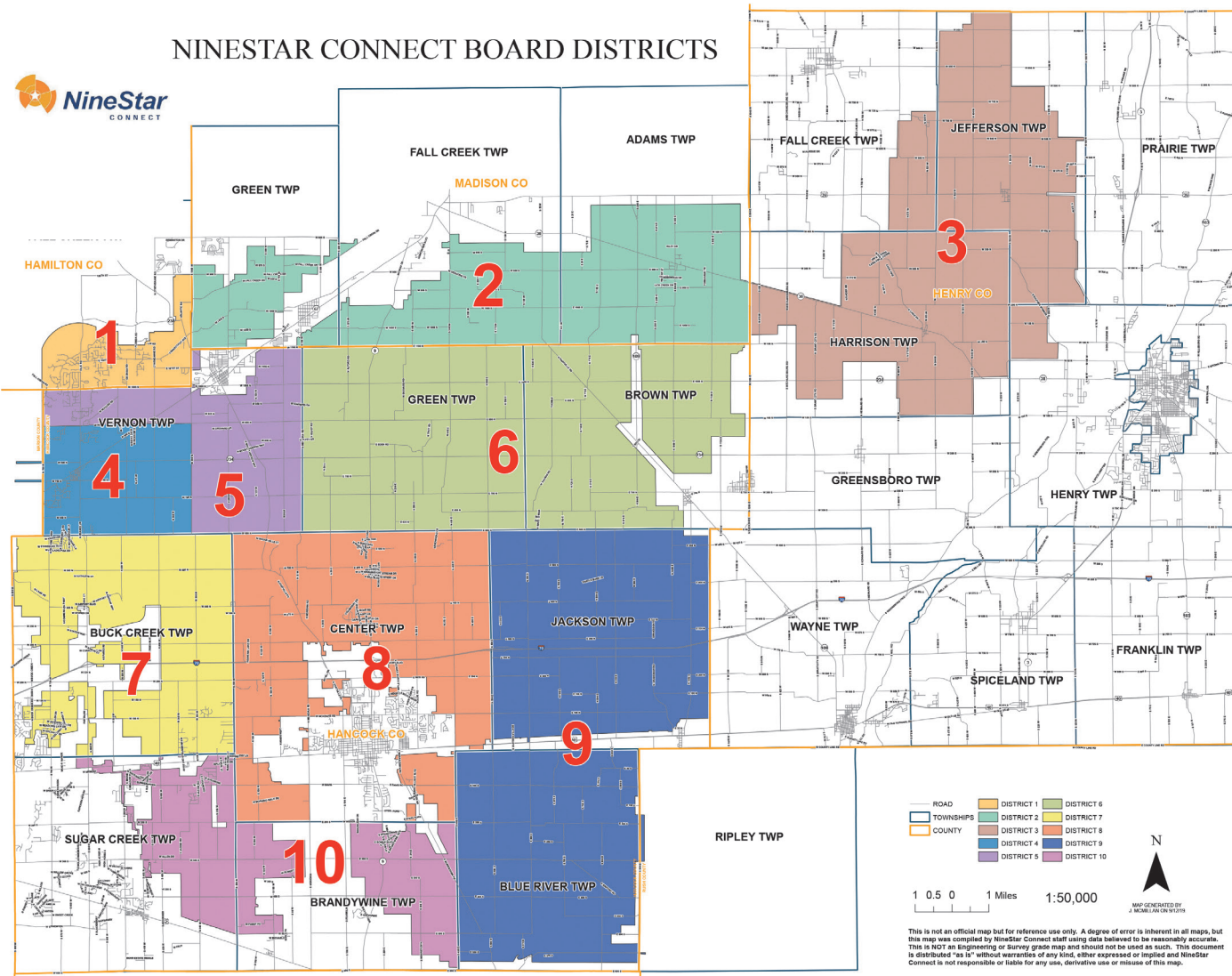
AT LARGE



PHILIP M. HAYES



RONNIE MOHR





THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

NINESTAR BOARD MEMBERS TO RETIRE

By Julie Young

After a combined 65 years of service in both the public and private sector in which they promoted the co-op as well as the membership it represents, NineStar Connect board members Beverly Gard and Dave Heller are stepping down from their duties in favor of other pursuits. In gratitude for their leadership, it is appropriate to look back on their individual contributions and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A REMARKABLE PARTNERSHIP

A North Carolina native who received her degree in chemistry from the University of Tennessee, Gard came to Indiana in order to take a job at Lilly and moved to Hancock County after marrying her husband Don.

“Although I decided to stay home when our children were young, I ran for the Greenfield City Council in 1975 and won. I served on it for 13 years before running for State Senate for the 28th District,” she said.

In the 24 years she was a State Senator, Gard was involved in the Utilities and Technology Committee where she championed cooperative and cooperative-related issues. When Central Indiana Power and Hancock Telcom made the decision to merge in order to create NineStar Connect, Gard was instrumental in promoting the merger in the legislature.

“It was an amazing experience to be part of all of that and I enjoyed working with the various parts to create a forward thinking co-op that has been a model for the nation,” she said. “It’s funny, but when I look at the roster of NineStar employees, I can’t help noticing that a number of them served as my Pages in the State House.”

David Spencer, director of marketing and public

relations for NineStar said he was never one of Gard’s Pages, but he and a friend did attend a ribbon cutting in New Castle that included a visit from then Vice-President Dan Quayle.

“She knew our interest in politics and wanted to make sure we were part of this big event,” he said. “I was blown away that someone would take the time and effort to include two youths from the community and I am forever grateful that she did.”

When she announced her retirement from the Senate in 2012, Gard joined the NineStar board where she continued to champion the co-op. She said the 20 hours a month she spent on NineStar’s board allowed her to see the company grow and develop as one that cares for its members, believes in giving that membership value for their price and gives back to the community in a variety of ways.

“It has been a privilege to be on the board of a company that is always thinking about the public it serves,” she said. “They are always looking for new products and services to offer and I will miss them a lot. Still, we are moving out of the territory to downsize so the time has come to move on but rest assured, NineStar will continue to do the right things for the right reasons and I know the co-op is in good hands.”

PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP

A retired teacher and lifelong resident of Hancock County, Dave Heller was on the original telephone cooperative board in 1985. The following year, he was also appointed to the board at Central Indiana Power (CIP) and served on both until 2002. That year, CIP got into the telephone business, which created a conflict of interest and Heller stepped aside in favor of his original commitment. Eight years later, negotiations began to merge the utility and telephone cooperatives into a single company. It was a legal nightmare and something that hadn’t

been attempted before, but on January 1, 2011 NineStar Connect was born and Heller has been part of it ever since.

“I have just completed my 35th year on the board,” the former Mt. Vernon Middle School principal said. “Needless to say, it’s been a very interesting experience and one of the highlights of my career.”

Heller says his lengthy tenure with area cooperatives is largely due to the strong leadership the entities have had and he credits NineStar’s President & CEO Mike Burrow for guiding NineStar into the future by constantly offering its membership and state-of-the-art products and services. Not only did the NineStar merger give its entire territory access to the Internet, but they were one of the few co-ops in the United States to bring fiber optic cable to every home in their service areas.

“NineStar has been very innovative and we’ve only grown from there,” he said. “With members in several counties, we want people to move into the area knowing that they will have access to the highest Internet speeds available and that they will be part of a cooperative that is always giving back to the community it serves.”

NineStar’s Board Chairman Phil Hayes commented on Dave Heller’s years of service: “David’s dedication to NineStar and devotion to the cooperative business model has been constant for over 30 years and has significantly contributed to our growth and success.” Heller says his 35 years is a long tenure and one he will always be proud of.

“I just feel my time has come,” he said. “It’s been a fun experience to see the area grow due in part to the efforts of NineStar, but it’s time for someone else to step in and take over.”

WIFI IN THE PARK

Five years ago, the McCordsville Park Board authorized the creation of the Building a Brighter McCordsville Fund through the Hancock County Community Foundation (HCCF). A requirement of that fund creation was to host a fundraiser that would help endow the fund and eventually be able to receive funds from the HCCF. The Building a Brighter McCordsville Fund's purpose is to purchase or acquire park related needs. The fundraising effort took the form of the McCordsville Path to Fitness 5K run/walk, now in its fifth year.

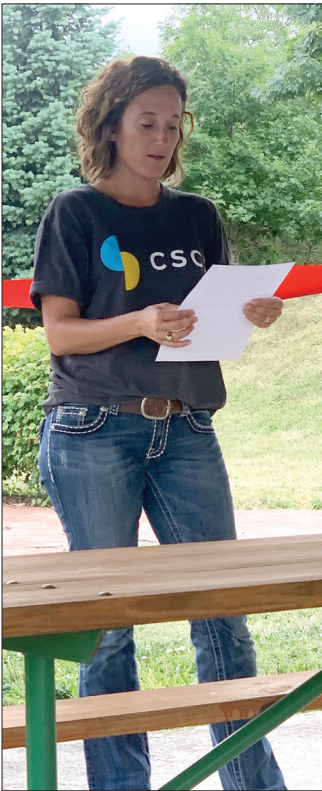
The endowment of the fund has occurred over the past five years because of the 5K and this past spring, the HCCF presented the Town with its first grant from the Building a Brighter McCordsville Fund. The Park Board, after deliberating the potential uses of the grant, settled on adding WiFi to the Town Hall Park and shelter. The grant would pay for the access points to make connecting throughout the Town Hall Park and shelter a reality.

However, the grant was not able to pay for the cost of installation. Enter NineStar Connect. The utility, which serves McCordsville and most of Hancock County, stepped in to provide the installation of the access points, bringing WiFi to the park area.

Over the course of the spring and summer, the project moved forward, and installation was recently completed. Having WiFi in the park makes it easier for parents to utilize their mobile technology while watching their children participate in sports in the park or taking part in a special event such as Trunk-or-Treat or the Easter Egg Hunt. Further, it allows for vendors who use internet-based equipment to charge customers during special events an easier time connecting without being only placed in locations nearest to Town Hall accessible points.

Now that the installation has been completed, the Park Board felt it was important to celebrate our first HCCF grant and thank both the HCCF and NineStar Connect for their assistance. On Monday, Aug. 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Park shelter, the Park Board, along with representatives of the HCCF and NineStar Connect, held a ribbon cutting to announce that the park is now WiFi accessible. A special plaque thanking our founders was also unveiled.

Developing park land throughout McCordsville is a focus of the Park Board and WiFi in the park is another step in accomplishing that goal



TOWN OF CUMBERLAND RIBBON CUTTING

On Wednesday, September 4th a ribbon cutting was held with officials from the Town of Cumberland celebrating the completion of NineStar's state of the art fiber network. Now, current and future businesses have access to speeds up to 40 Gig synchronous and a local company they can depend on.



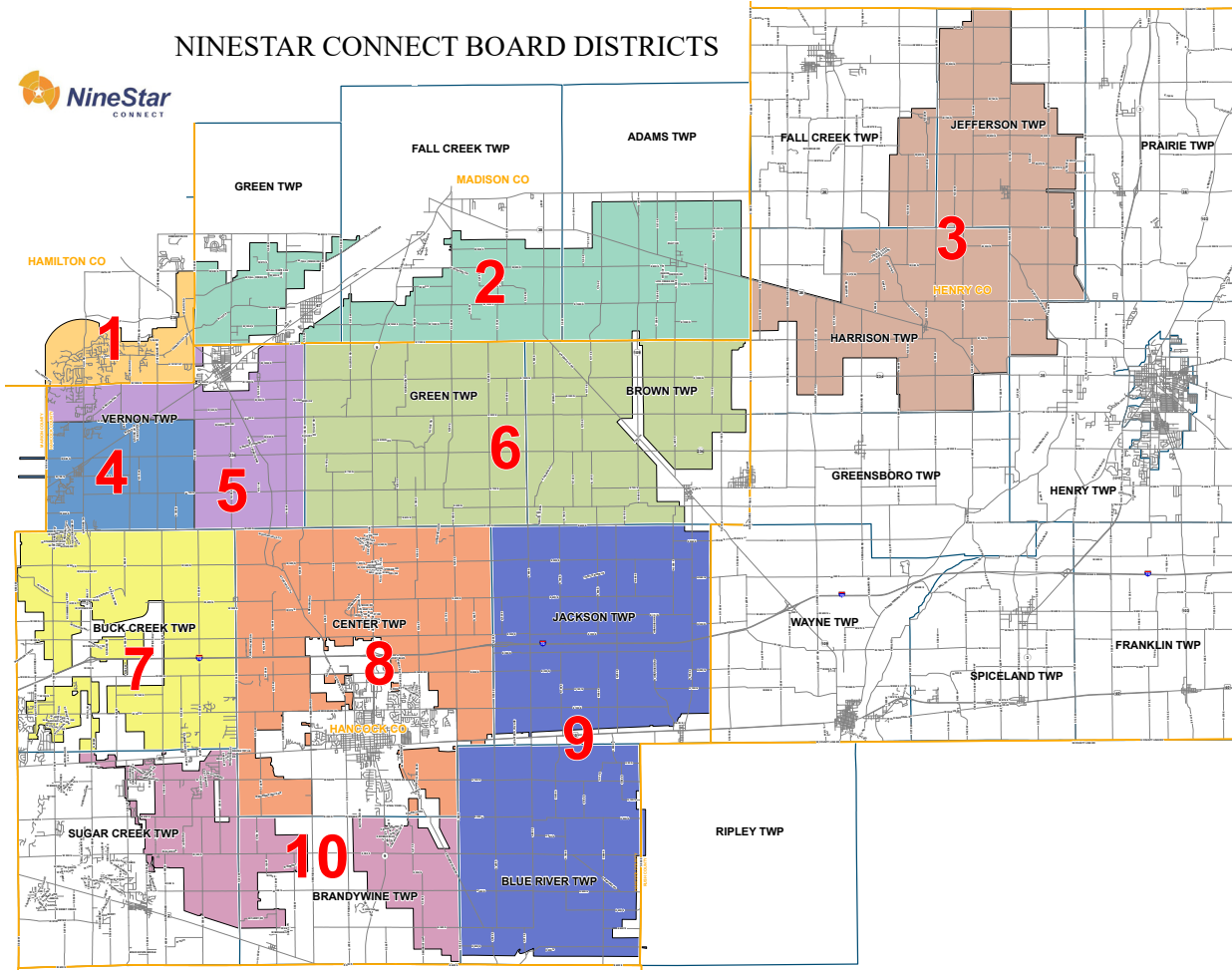
NORTH CAMPUS CHARGING STATION

NineStar’s North Campus (2331 East 600 North) now has an Electric Vehicle Charging Station that anyone can use! If you or someone you know drives an electric vehicle, be aware that NineStar is a Chargepoint Location to charge you up so you are ready to go!



Notice to Membership of Upcoming Election of Directors

The 2020 NineStar Connect Annual Meeting will be held on March 27, 2020. The following director districts are up for election: 1, 7, 8, At-Large 1.



Any member in good standing residing in districts 1, 7, or 8 is eligible to run for a director position in these districts. Any member residing in districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, or 10 may run for the At-Large 1 director position. The incumbent director in District 7 has announced his retirement and does not intend to run for re-election.

Anyone interested in running for director must attend one of the mandatory information meetings to be held on October 10th, 29th, and November 4th at 6:00 pm and submit a completed nomination application. Meeting attendees will receive the nomination application form at the information meetings. To RSVP for one of the meetings and to receive an information guide for potential directors email Kim Gerard at administration@ninestarconnect.com or call (317)326-3131.

Nomination applications may be personally delivered to any NineStar Connect business office. **Deadline** for submission in order to be considered for nomination by the Nominating Committee is **Friday, November 8th at 12 o'clock noon.**

Members who have attended the mandatory information meeting and completed the nomination application by the deadline will be eligible to be interviewed by the Nominating Committee on November 11, 2019.

AFTER 33 YEARS NINESTAR’S STEVE O’CONNOR RETIRES



Steve O’Connor has been a part of the Greenfield community his whole life. He graduated from St Michaels grade school in 1971, and then Greenfield-Central High School in 1975. He was part of the first class to attend all four years in the brand new high school.

Because his father, Dan O’Connor was the President of Hancock Rural Telephone he started working in the summers during high school mowing grass around phone pedestals and helping with phone service orders on rainy days. While going to IUPUI he continued to work for HRTC part-time and eventually decided to transfer to IU in Bloomington (in 77). While attending classes at IU, he worked part-time for Smithville Telephone.

Steve heard there was good money to be made on a telephone construction

project in the Guam Islands burying telephone cable. He worked there for nearly a year before returning to the States. While in Guam, he picked a good year to be there because he missed the Blizzard of 1978. Once back stateside he got a job working for Telecom Engineering as a “field engineer”. That job included working construction in the off season and during summers following the plow trains around as an inspector making sure load points were properly placed, pedal set at proper depth etc. Steve did that for two years before returning to Indiana to work Yeoman Telephone as a combination tech doing everything from installs to trouble shooting and construction. Steve worked at Yeoman for five years before moving back to IU to continue his education. While there he married, had a child and returned to the Greenfield area.

In 1986 he was hired into Hancock Rural Telephone Corporation where he worked a variety of jobs including inside wiring and key system installation. When reflecting on his career Steve stated “if someone had told me in 1986 that I would be working with fiber optics and light instead of copper plant, I wouldn’t have believed them!” His future plans include relaxing and spending time with his wife and enjoying their grandkids. He also plans to, follow Indycar racing, ride his motorcycle and finally learn how to play guitar.



Nick Leech



Brett Fyfe

NICK LEECH AND BRETT FYFE PASS BICSI TECH WRITTEN EXAMINATION

NineStar’s I & R Technicians, Nick Leech and Brett Fyfe both successfully passed the BICSI TECH written examination this past month. This was the final test, stemming from 120-hours of formal instruction, as well as, successfully completing 2 separate hands-on evaluations encompassing many aspects of cable installation, termination, and testing. This is the highest level credential BICSI offers for technicians.

BICSI Technician (TECH) candidates are tested on their ability to understand and apply a comprehensive collection of installation-specific information. Achieving your Technician designation will demonstrate your ability to:

- Successfully lead an installation group or team using project management skills.

- Perform advanced testing and troubleshooting for both copper and optical fiber installations.
- Discuss and evaluate numerous specific applications of information and communications technology (ICT) cabling installation.
- Make recommendations based on applicable codes, standards, and best practices.
- Implement the job plan and scope of work as well as perform retrofits and upgrades for existing infrastructure.

NineStar is proud of having employees such as Nick and Brett who work hard at furthering their skills and expertise. **Great job!**

IEC LEADERSHIP EDGE

Recently, two NineStar employees Brett Molinder and Bryan Shell participated and graduated from the IEC (Indiana Electric Cooperatives) Edge program. This program began in January and only 3 out of the 15 that participated completed their capstone project ahead of the final session (two of those

three being Brett and Bryan). Both plan to attend the awards dinner at the IEC Annual Meeting on Monday, December 9th to commemorate their achievement.

Congratulations to both Brett and Bryan for this great accomplishment!



Brett Molinder



Bryan Shell

President's Message

"PUT YOUR LIGHT ON THE TABLE WHERE IT CAN SHINE, WITHOUT BLINDING OTHERS."
- LAURENT CARRELL

I had the recent pleasure to receive a call from a voice of a friend and colleague I had not heard in several years. James L. Bass, a dedicated 97-year-old Carthage, Tennessee attorney who still goes into his office daily, serving his clients and the community he loves. I am in awe of this man, the arc of his life and how he conducts himself, daily.

Mr. Bass served in the Army Air Corp and was a radio operator on bombers that flew over occupied Europe during WWII. After the war, he finished school and graduated law school before opening his law office where he continues to practice 70 years later. During his many years of being a simple country lawyer, he has always been focused on betterment of his community and its citizens. He volunteered his legal services for little or no fees to help start a rural water district and rural telephone cooperative and later helped found the National Telephone Cooperative Association and serve as its first President. He continued to be active in that association where he helped start programs to educate younger, up and coming attorneys on issues affecting rural communications companies. He always greets his many friends and acquaintances with a warm smile and genuine interest in how you are doing and what's new in your life. He always asks what is happening in your community and how you are contributing to it.

His success as a lawyer has always been inextricably intertwined to the success of his community and clients. Mr. Bass is part of that quickly vanishing "Greatest Generation" that made America the great modern nation it is. We are all better today because of the likes of Mr. Bass and his generation who thought of others before they thought of themselves.

NineStar is better today because of two individuals who will be retiring from the board of directors after many years of service to our cooperative and community. The first one to retire will be Beverly Gard who will leave the board in October after six years of service.

Now six years might not seem like a lot of time to serve a coop but when one considers

Beverly's 24 years of service in the Indiana Senate where she was always a champion of cooperatives and rural issues, you can readily understand why many of us at NineStar will be missing her thoughtful insights and counsel when she retires. I will always remember her taking the time to hear about issues impacting Hancock Telecom or Central Indiana Power during her years as State Senator and in her last term, how she and State Representative Bob Cherry became the champion of a bill that would allow those two coops to merge together for the common benefit of their members and the community. NineStar was only the second coop in the nation to merge this way and was the first in Indiana. And the bill passed both houses of our state legislature with only one "no" vote – a feat that was rare back then and even more so now. If you talk with Beverly, she will tell you that after she decided to leave the Indiana Senate, she was singularly focused on doing one more thing to serve the community – that being a director on our newly created cooperative. And she has served it well.

In March 2020, David Heller will retire after 35 years of service as a director – first on Central Indiana Power and Hancock Telecom boards and since 2011, on the NineStar board. Dave served as chairman of both coop boards before their merger and always brought the heart of a teacher and principal that he was in his day job to his role as a director. Dave has always been focused on improving director education and even spent time as an instructor for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association – traveling around the United States conducting classes and educating the next generation of coop directors on how to properly conduct themselves in the execution of their fiduciary responsibilities. Though Dave has suffered through personal challenges and loss during his time as director, he has never made his cooperative service about himself. During my 21+ years as an employee, he has always taken



MICHAEL R. BURROW

the time in his busy schedule to stop by the office to ask how I am doing, how my family is and offer quiet words of encouragement and support when they were needed.

Both Beverly Gard and David Heller have had a profound impact making NineStar Connect one of the leading nationally recognized cooperative utilities it is today and have created a solid foundation for its success for many years in the future. They have both had a positive impact on my professional and personal life and I'm a better person today for having had the opportunity to work with both of them over the last 25 years.

I have always been a big believer in coops and the concept of self-governance through directors that are elected by the members of our coop. We have been fortunate to have members who have over many years had the collective wisdom to elect some of their best and brightest to serve on our board which has made it the national leader it is today. If you happen to see Beverly or David, I hope you extend to them a heartfelt thank you for all they have done to contribute to our coop's success. They leave very big shoes to fill.

OPERATION ROUND-UP



NineStar Connect's third quarter Operation Round-Up Committee meeting was held at the company's headquarters on August 1st. The purpose of Operation Round-Up is to accumulate and distribute funds for charitable purposes to groups/organizations within the NineStar service territory. The source of these funds is the membership of NineStar Connect service customers who voluntarily "round up" their bill to the next highest dollar. The money is accumulated by the co-op and transferred to the NineStar Community Trust. Each quarter a group of Trustees (NineStar customers who volunteer their time to serve on this committee) meet and decide how the funds are dispersed with the applications that are received.

Here is a list of organizations that benefited from the ORU fund this past quarter:

EASTERN HANCOCK HS BROADCASTING & COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM (\$4950.00) –

Eastern Hancock schools recently started a broadcasting and communications program where Eastern students will put on a weekly news program to highlight events in the EH community. Additionally, livestreaming select sporting events will also be a part of this program. The money donated will go to materials and equipment to support this new endeavor.

INDIANA WOMEN IN NEED (IWIN) (\$8400.00) –

IWIN supports women/men who are going through breast cancer treatments by meeting the practical tasks of meal preparation, transportation and gas assistance, prescription assistance, childcare, eldercare and home maintenance (lawn maintenance and housekeeping). Their professional services are valued at \$400 per person and with NineStar's ORU donation, this will help 21 individuals.

LOVE INC (\$3600.00) –

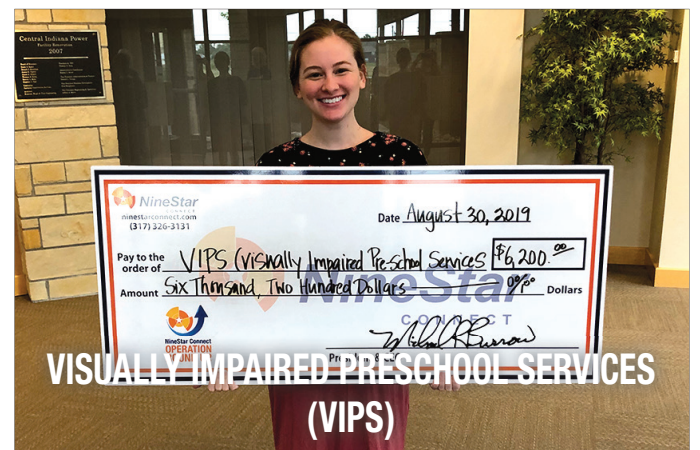
The mission of Love Inc. is to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ. Love Inc. bridges resources by working with local churches, agencies and other community resources. The requested funds will be used to replace an aging AC unit for the second floor of the Love Inc. office. Any unspent funds will go to general operating expenses.

MIDDLETOWN FALL CREEK TOWNSHIP (\$3250.00) –

The funds will be used to build a railing on an existing railroad trestle on the Honey Creek Trail project. The railing will be a vital safety guardrail across the railroad trestle in Dietrich Park. The trestle rises 25 feet over Fall Creek, so a guardrail is necessary for the ensured safety of trail users.

VISUALLY IMPAIRED PRESCHOOL SERVICES (VIPS) (\$6200.00) –

VIPS requested support for the education of young children with blindness and low vision living to be granted the VIPS Early Childhood Intervention Program. This program includes the cost of a home visit - teacher's prep time, materials, resources, mileage and actual cost of the specialized and individualized home visit. The skills taught will help children who are blind and visually impaired to reach developmental milestones and be prepared educationally for preschool and kindergarten.



For ones that want to send in an application for Operation Round-up dollars, the next application deadline is October 11th.

Applications can be downloaded from our website at www.ninestarconnect.com under the Community tab.

If you or someone you know (must be a NineStar customer) would like to serve on the Board of Trustees, please email OperationRoundUp@NineStarConnect.com or call 317-323-3087.



NINESTAR FILMS

NineStar Films has been very busy filming new shows. The crew has been visiting area schools filming football and volleyball games to broadcasting on NineStar TV, Channel 9. Breaking Bogey, another new show this season, features a golf professional teaching a

novice how to play the game. New episodes including athletic directors from New Palestine, Eastern Hancock, Greenfield-Central and Knightstown have also been airing. Be sure to tune in to Channel 9 to watch the latest episodes!

SENIOR INTERNS SHINING AT GREENFIELD COWORKING SPACE

by Alex Brown, Assistant Managing Editor – Daily Reporter

GREENFIELD -

August 21st was National Senior Citizen Day and three seniors are being celebrated for their contributions at a coworking space in Hancock County.

Idea Co-op, which officially opened its doors earlier this year, has taken on three “senior interns” following a chance encounter at a local Kiwanis meeting in December. Jill Snyder, director of economic and business development for Idea Co-op at NineStar Connect, says the men approached her with the goal of being involved in the coworking space in any fashion.

In an interview with Inside INdiana Business, Snyder said the senior interns have had a major impact.

“It really set something off in my head, we’ve got all this talent out there, all these seniors with all this knowledge and practical experience and know-how and, you know, how much they can bring to the table to the younger generations,” said Snyder. “And they’re volunteering their time. In our case, they don’t want (compensation). They just want to be involved and participate. When you see these senior interns interacting with the younger people, it’s like all of a sudden, there’s no age gap. They’re all talking the same language; they’re talking about making this or making that and it’s like you totally forget that one person’s 65 and the other person’s 10.”

The senior interns include Scott Kleine, a former industrial arts teacher, as well as Don Hoffman, who previously worked at

Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly and Co. (NYSE: LLY) before retiring and Mike McCarly, a former fiber network

engineer. Snyder says the interns help teach others how to use various types of equipment in the makerspace at Idea Co-op, including laser cutters and 3D printers. McCarly also helps run the Coder Dojo classes at the coworking space on the weekends. Snyder says it’s the decades of experience among the senior interns that has provided the biggest benefit.

“One of our startup companies was working with a major university here in Indiana to help create a new piece of equipment. The engineering students created the piece of equipment with CAD; they designed the equipment and said, ‘Here’s what you need to manufacture.’ One of my senior interns was brought into the process and he said the design is fine but for you to manufacture that would cost 10 times more than it needs to cost. All you have to do is adjust this component here or there and now you’ve made this real expensive device a couple dollars now to manufacture. So that’s the practical life experience that someone’s not going to learn in college.”

Snyder says there are no definitive plans to add more senior interns, but she has mentioned it to other coworking spaces throughout east central Indiana, which also need the same type of assistance. Snyder says the senior interns have had a major impact on the coworking space.

Scott Kleine is one of the senior interns at Idea Co-op.





COOPERATIVE SERVICE DAY

The 6th Annual NineStar Cooperative Service Day is fast approaching and the planning has begun! Coop Service Day is a day where all NineStar employees (with an exception of a few that have to keep things going in the office) go out in the community and work on service projects from those that were selected from an application process. This year, NineStar will be helping multiple organizations and will be performing a variety of tasks such as painting, landscaping, tree trimming, floating bridge construction and IT work.

Coop Service Day/Community Day was established back in 2014 by Indiana Electric Cooperatives (IEC) to improve the quality of life in our communities. This year Coop Service Day is Friday, October 11th.

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We'll see you out and about in the community

October 11



Indiana's Electric Cooperative

COMMUNITY



NINESTAR CONNECT is teaming up with electric cooperatives around Indiana to improve the quality of life in our communities.

#NineStarGivesBack - Making a Difference in the Communities We Serve

October 11, 2019



We **power** communities and **empower** our consumers by improving their quality of life.

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 will receive a \$50 Amazon Gift Card. Congratulations to our latest monthly winners:

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| July | Sanjeev and Tatwa Anand of Pendleton | \$50 Amazon Gift Card |
| August | Brad and Lauren Steinbach | \$50 Amazon Gift Card |

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!

HAPPY (HOMEMADE!) HALLOWEEN

by Mary Jane Bogle

For as long as I can remember, I've been celebrating autumn with homemade Halloween costumes. Back in the day, it was the rare classmate who sported a slick, store-bought E.T., Yoda or Darth Vader costume. The rest of us spent the days and weeks leading up to Halloween transforming old boxes, aluminum foil, fabric and paint into space-age robots, super heroes or any other get-up we could imagine. We didn't know our parents were saving money, and we didn't use fancy words like "recycle" or "repurpose." We were just having fun, using our creativity to make that perfect costume for trick-or-treat.

It's a tradition I've passed on to my own children. We've converted a black leotard into a cat costume by adding a fleece tail, ears and a collar; created a gypsy outfit from old scarves and costume jewelry; and transformed Ikea boxes into a stoplight and a Lego figure. (The Lego figure even won top prize in our local costume contest one year!) With a little inspiration, anyone can access that inner costume designer. Here are five tips to show you how.

1. Start early. Okay, so we threw the gypsy outfit together about 10 minutes before walking out the door, but most of the time, we started creating costumes a week or two before the big night. (Tip: it takes several coats of spray paint to cover cardboard boxes, so plan ahead.)

2. Get your kids involved. After all, it is their costume. Let them run the show. You might be surprised at the depths of their creativity. Just steer them in the right direction and step back.

3. Turn to books or movies for inspiration. Still stumped? Look no further than your child's favorite book, movie or TV show. One year, we made my daughter a Robin Hood costume from a yard of green fleece we picked up for \$3 at Walmart. A Pringles-can-turned-quiver and homemade arrows completed the ensemble.

4. Keep it simple. Remember that someone needs to walk around town or go to a trunk-or-treat in this thing, so keep comfort in mind. You can't count on 70-degree weather and clear skies, either, so leave room for winter coats. (We do live in Indiana, after all.)

5. Use what you have on hand. The whole point of homemade Halloween costumes—besides having fun, of course—is to save money. Don't go crazy buying supplies, or you'll spend as much or more than you would on a store-bought costume.

Have fun making those costumes, and remember to have a happy, safe and homemade Halloween!



TOWN HALL QUESTION ANSWERED

In our last newsletter, we asked our members to submit questions they would like to have answered at our Town Hall Meeting that was held at our Main Street location on September 5th. We received several questions before and during the meeting and each one was answered the night of the event. For those members that couldn't attend the meeting, here is a question that was asked that night:

Customer Michael L. asked:
"What is NineStar's view on customers who would like to hook up to solar or other energy alternatives?"

Answer:
NineStar has no issues with people who hook up to solar and we work with them to make sure it's done properly.

If they choose to get involved with solar and don't want the hassle of installing their own panels, we have a solar array on 600 North and panels can be purchased. Either way we are here to assist you. If you have any questions, please call our energy advisor Matt Strahl at 317-326-3131 and he will be happy to help.

