

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2019



NineStar_{CONNECTION}

VOLUME 8
ISSUE 5

KNIGHTSTOWN OFFICE BEING REPURPOSED

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VAIL NAMED AS MEMBER OF NEW TASK FORCE

The FCC Chairman, Ajit Pai, announced memberships of the Precision Agriculture Task Force.

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

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ALLOWS MEMBERS TO
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FARMERS ALMANACS
HAVE ARRIVED!
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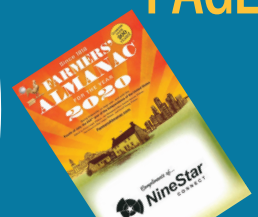




Photo of the participants from the SES E-Sports Tournament sponsored by Fountaintown Gas Co. Inc. and NineStar Connect (See page 12)

 **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.



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

ANDREW HAS "EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE COMMUNICATION!"
- CUSTOMER FERGUSON



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@ninarstarconnect.com

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VAIL NAMED MEMBER OF TASK FORCE **PAGE 7**
FCC Chairman, Ajit Pai, announced the members of the new Precision Agriculture Task Force, with our own Board of Directors Vice-Chairman, Steve Vail, being among them.

JULIE BEAUCHAT RETIREMENT **PAGE 9**
NineStars Payroll & Benefits Administrator, Julie Beauchat, hung up her NineStar hat on Friday, November 15th after 26 years with the company. She will be dearly missed!

NINESTAR CH9 SCHOOL BASKETBALL **PAGE 11**
NineStar Channel 9 has been busy filming a lot of high school basketball this season. See what games are coming up on NineStar Channel 9!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Year-end is once again upon us and always presents us with an opportunity to evaluate where we have been and assess where we are going.

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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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ADDRESS:
NineStar North Campus
2331 E. CR 600N
Greenfield, IN 46140

NineStar South Campus
2243 E. Main St.
Greenfield, IN 46140

PHONE:
317-326-3131
765-533-4303

EMAIL:
dspencer@ninarstarconnect.com
www.ninarstarconnect.com

NineStar Connection

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David Spencer

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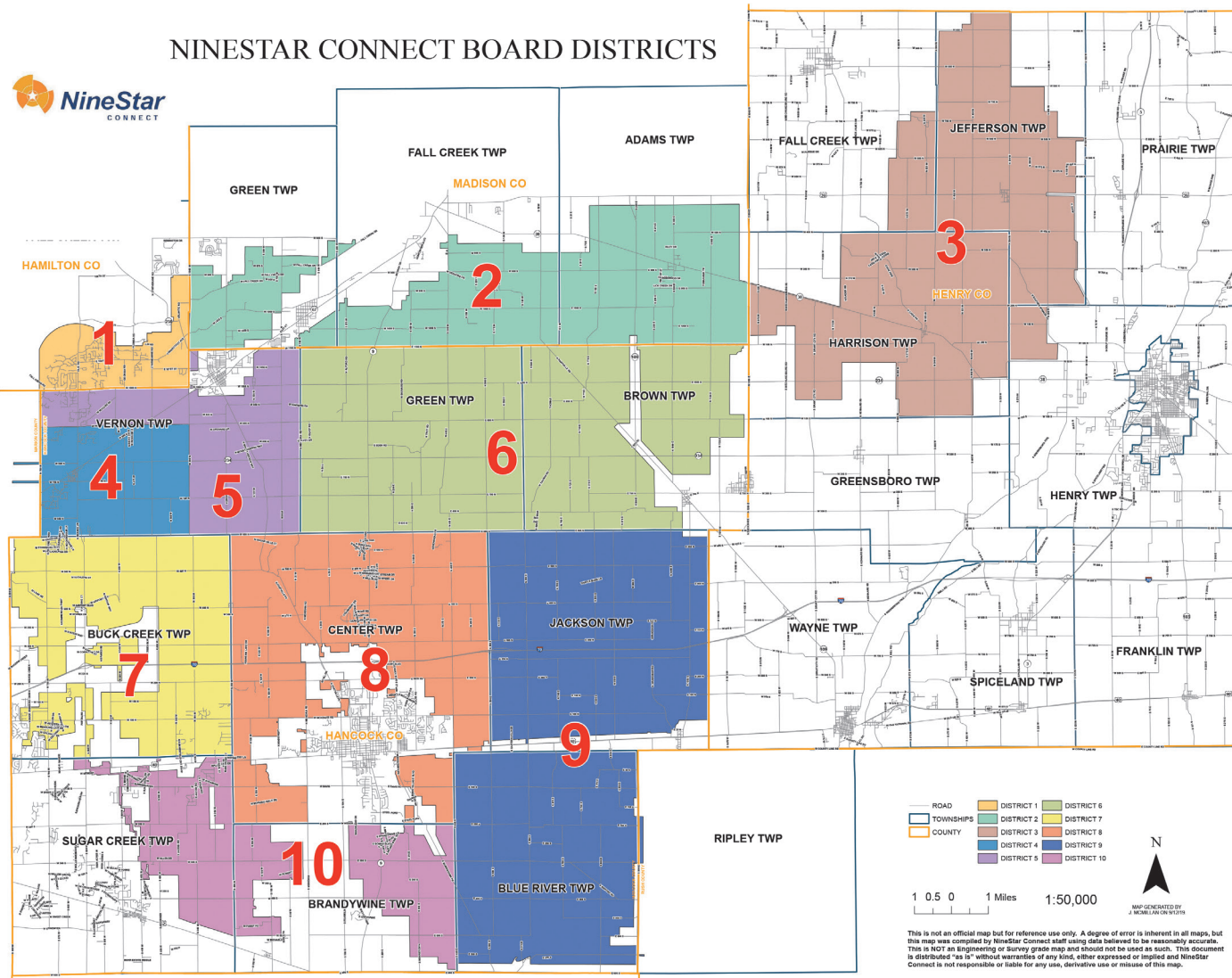
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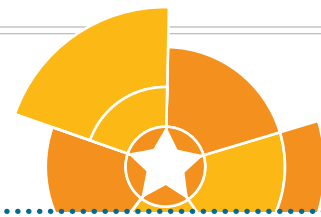
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RONNIE MOHR



OPERATION ROUND-UP



COMMON "CENTS"

OPERATION ROUND UP ALLOWS MEMBERS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Julie Young

What can \$.99 buy? Unfortunately, not very much, but when coupled with the other spare change contributions of other NineStar Connect members, it can do so much more!

That's what Operation Round-Up is all about. Since 1995, NineStar Connect members have been able to round their statement up to the nearest whole dollar, which is then awarded to local programs and organizations in need. The most a member can spend annually is \$11.88 per service customer, which is an average of \$.99 each month (or \$1.98 for dual service members.)

"Over the years, we have awarded \$1,482,712.82," says Christa Riggs, NineStar Connect Marketing coordinator who administers the Operation Round-Up program along with fellow NineStar employee Monica Sexton. "Members are automatically enrolled in the program unless they opt out, but we currently have a participation rate of 80 percent and the extra change that they contribute makes a big difference in the local community."

Beth Young says although she participated in the Operation Round-Up program through her monthly NineStar payment, she didn't realize how far the money went until she became a committee member five years ago. Now as she meets with other committee members quarterly to consider grant applications, she is amazed with the number of programs, agencies and organizations that benefit from the generosity of NineStar members.

"I always thought of NineStar as this little Hancock County cooperative, but through my work as an Operation Round-Up committee member, I have discovered that the company has a

presence in Henry, Hamilton, Marion, Rush, Shelby and Madison counties as well," she says. "That's a lot of people pooling their resources and helping to support worthwhile organizations."

Operation Round-Up grants have been used to preserve history, supply various soup kitchens and food pantries, subsidize organizations that serve those with mental health and addiction issues, support the Hancock County Children's Choir, Zoey's Place and so much more.

"We have helped a variety of animal rescue facilities and those groups who provide services for military members so it's really varied in terms of the groups that benefit from the program," Young says.

Applicants seeking a grant from the Operation Round-Up program fill out a form about their organization and send it in for approval. Committee members read through the requests and follow up to learn more about the programs as well as how the money will be used. At their ORU meetings, they report on their findings and determine what amount will be given. Applicants can apply for up to \$10,000 every 12 months, but that amount is rarely given.

"It somewhat depends on the need as well as how many applicants we have at the time," Young says. "Some quarters we have only a few requests, other times we have a lot more. The one nice thing about our grant process is that it is pretty simple and not overly complex. We seldom get a professionally written grant application and sometimes, they are done by hand. We never want to lose sight of the roots of the program and that's the whole point. We want the money to go where it will impact the most people on the local level."

Of course, no matter how far the

Operation Round-Up funds go; the need is always greater. The last time the committee met; there was \$22,000 in their account, but they had \$46,000 in requests. Although they try to award something to everyone, sometimes, there just isn't enough money.

Harold Dungan became an Operation Round-Up committee member four years ago at NineStar's annual meeting. There was a general call out for those who were interested in serving on the committee for a three-year term and he thought it would be a great way to see where the money goes and who it helps. He says committee members can serve for two terms before cycling off and he hopes that more people will consider joining the committee and being part of the great work the Operation Round Up program does.

In fact, more committee members are currently needed. After fulfilling their terms, seven committee members have stepped down this past year. Even though some of these spots have been filled, we are seeking more NineStar members to volunteer their time and serve. "It's not a huge commitment as the committee meets only four times a year; however, it is a rewarding one. Even serving as an administrator of the program, I have learned about so many organizations that are in need of assistance in some way or another. It is such a great program to be a part of and I would encourage anyone that has some interest should contact us. I guarantee you won't regret it." said ORU administrator Christa Riggs.

"Being a co-op that serves so many counties, we have the opportunity to help out all facets of society. We are aware that the need is out there and we do all that we can to help, but there is always more work to do," Dungan says.

ABOUT OPERATION ROUND-UP

Operation Round-Up is a program that accumulates and distributes funds for charitable purposes to groups/organizations or individuals located within the NineStar Connect service area by rounding up a member's account to the next whole dollar each month. This money is transferred into the NineStar Community Trust and awarded quarterly after a thorough review by volunteer board members who read through and evaluate requests for appropriate eligibility.

Grant applications can be found on NineStar Connect's Website or can be picked up at NineStar's north or south campuses. Any questions concerning the application should be directed to Operation Round-Up at NineStar Connect (317) 323-2087 or via e-mail at OperationRoundUp@ninstarconnect.com

If you are interested in serving on the Operation Round-Up board of trustees, please contact the number or e-mail above.

IS YOUR HEATING SYSTEM READY FOR WINTER?

For commercial buildings nationwide, space heating accounts for 36% of overall energy consumption. With the approach of cold weather, it's important to ensure all of your heating equipment is working properly.

After an initial checkup, monthly maintenance and energy conservation practices will keep your building heating system running efficiently. The following measures will help maximize indoor comfort and lower winter energy costs.

HEATING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance is critical and should include:

- **PERFORM A FULL-SYSTEM CHECKUP.** Make sure all parts — fan belts, air dampers — are operating properly. A checkup helps to ensure efficient operation and reduces maintenance costs.
- **INSPECT HEATING DUCTS AND SEAL ANY LEAK.** Direct leaks in duct systems can result in significant heat loss.
- **CHECK AIR FILTERS THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING.** Dirty or clogged air filters reduce air flow, increasing the energy required for heating.
- **INSULATE HOT WATER TANKS AND PIPES.** This helps prevent heat loss. Check existing insulation for damage.
- **MAKE SURE ALL MOTORIZED DAMPERS ARE OPERATING PROPERLY.** All outside air dampers should remain closed during unoccupied hours.

- **CHECK HOT WATER OR STEAM VALVES.** They should provide full flow with minimal pressure drop within the piping system.
- **CALIBRATE THERMOSTATS.** Poorly calibrated controls can reduce heating system efficiency and building comfort.

BOILER CLEANING AND INSPECTION

Annual cleaning and inspection will help to reduce the risk of boiler system failure and save on fuel costs. Although it's important to follow the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations, the following elements should be part of any annual inspection:

- **INSPECT AND CLEAN THE FIRESIDE.** Deposits of soot and noncombustible material reduce efficiency.
- **INSPECT AND CLEAN THE WATERSIDE.** This should only be done after the boiler has cooled to 120°F to eliminate the possibility of scalding.
- **CHECK THE REFRACTORY FOR CRACKING OR EROSION.** These problems can cause boiler failure. Patch cracks as needed following the manufacturer's recommendations.
- **OPEN BURNERS AND INSPECT THE COMPONENTS.** All parts should move freely without making contact with other parts. Clean all components to like-new condition.
- **CHECK FLUID LEVELS ON HYDRONIC VALVES.** Repair any signs of leakage.
- **INSPECT BOILER FEED PUMPS.** Replace or recondition if necessary.



- **EMPTY AND WASH OUT CONDENSATE RECEIVERS.** Perform an internal inspection. If necessary, overhaul and check for proper operation.
- **CHECK ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS.** Starter and relay connections should be tight.

If your heating system is older, or in need of repair, consider replacing it. Newer models are more efficient than older systems and can save significantly on energy costs. If you replace your system, make sure it's sized to meet your current needs. Relying on the size of your old system or general formulas could result in oversizing and wasted energy.

Your local electric cooperative offers Power Moves® rebates for energy efficiency upgrades, including to heating systems that also will help lower your organization's long-term energy costs. If you have questions or to learn more about available rebates and incentives, contact energy advisor Matt Strahl at 317.323.2042 or mstrahl@ninestarconnect.com.

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NINESTAR OFFICE IN KNIGHTSTOWN BEING REPURPOSED

Starting January 10, 2020, the NineStar Communications office located at 37 E. Main Street in Knightstown, Indiana will be closed to customer traffic. However, the company plans to maintain a presence in the community and will turn the office into a support center. While customers will no longer be able to visit the office, they can still drop their payments off at this location by using the drop box on the east side of the building.

"As our customer base continues to grow throughout our entire territory, it has become apparent the need for our 24/7/365 support to keep pace. This support center will be an expansion of our current operation in Maxwell, Indiana," stated Julie Mitchell, NineStar Customer Service Manager.

NineStar will continue to be a part of the Knightstown and Henry County communities

by maintaining the new support center and by providing the same great customer service you have come to expect. The company also plans to continue supporting the many great local organizations as they have for close to two decades. If you have any questions regarding customer service, the company can be reached at 317-326-3131.

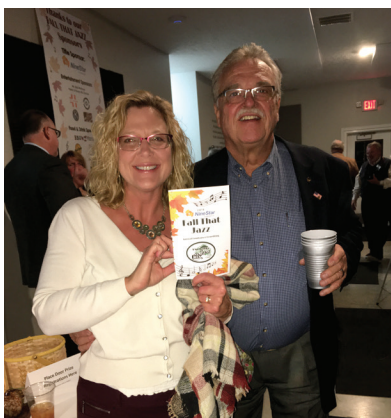
NINESTAR MAKES DONATION TO SANTA'S HELPERS



Recently, NineStar made a \$1,000 donation to Santa's Helpers. This group raises money to purchase Christmas gifts; such as toys and clothing for children. The program has been in existence since 1948 and is a

coordinated effort between the Hancock County Christmas Connection and Greenfield Sertoma. Last year Santa's Helpers was able to spend \$85 on each child identified for the program. They hope to assist as many children again this year. Pictured above, NineStar Director of Marketing, David Spencer is handing over the check to Steve Burt who is representing Greenfield Sertoma and Santa's Helpers.

FALL THAT JAZZ



Accounting Manager Jill Martin was representing NineStar at the 3rd Annual Gala Fundraiser for Nameless Creek Youth Camp and their "Fall that Jazz" event on Friday, November 1st. Attendees enjoyed a jam-packed all-inclusive evening of dinner, drinks and entertainment. The Cool City Band performed their best hits along with a stand-up stint by comedian Don Miller. Dinner was provided by BBQ'n Fools and Lincoln

Square. Pictured with Jill is Jerry Bell, executive director of Nameless Creek Youth Camp. NineStar Connect was proud to be one of the event sponsors this year.

MUSIC CHOICE CHANNELS TO BE DISCONTINUED

Starting January 1, 2020 all Music Choice Channels (Ch 303-Ch 353) will be discontinued. The decision to eliminate these channels from NineStar's offering is due to continued cost increases passed on to us by content providers. We are sorry for the inconvenience but we believe this is the best business decision for our TV subscribers as we continue to keep costs in check. If you would like to learn more about NineStar's streaming options, please call one of our Residential Service Consultants and they will be happy to assist you. They can be reached at 317-326-3131.

NINESTAR TO HOLD TOWN HALL IN JANUARY

Please join us on January 16th at 6pm for another NineStar Town Hall Meeting. The meeting will take place at the Greenfield office located at 2243 E. Main St. This will be your first opportunity to meet the board of director candidates before early voting and the annual meeting. Come learn about the members running for board seats, their experiences and views. Snacks will be provided and everyone who attends will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Visa gift card.



VAIL NAMED
AS MEMBER
OF THE FCC
PRECISION
AGRICULTURE
TASK FORCE

WASHINGTON, November 19, 2019—Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai announced the membership of the new task force assigned to explore ways to enhance the productivity and efficiency of the nation’s farms and ranches through broadband-based technologies—a concept known as “precision agriculture.”

“There is an urgent and growing demand for broadband from America’s farmers and ranchers,” said Chairman Pai. “As I’ve seen for myself in places like Rifle, Colorado, King Hill, Idaho, and Charles City, Virginia, farmers and ranchers are using connected technologies to collect real-time data in the field, make the most efficient use of resources like water, fuel, and seed, and increase yields, all to the benefit of American consumers. Making modern networks available from coast to coast is the FCC’s top priority. The Task Force’s recommendations and reports will enable us to help America’s food producers deliver more, better, and cheaper goods to the table.”

Chairman Pai, in consultation with the Secretary, has identified four working groups that will assist the Task Force in carrying out its work: (1) Mapping and Analyzing Connectivity on Agricultural Lands; (2) Examining Current and Future Connectivity Demand for Precision Agriculture; (3) Encouraging Adoption of Precision Agriculture and Availability of High-Quality Jobs on Connected Farms; (4) Accelerating Broadband Deployment on Unserved Agricultural Lands.

Along the list of names was NineStar Board of Directors Vice-Chairman, Steve Vail. Vail, a twenty-year board member of NineStar will be among the working groups. These working groups will assist the Task Force in performing its duties pursuant to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 which includes provisions directing the FCC to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop policy recommendations to promote the rapid, expanded deployment of broadband Internet access service on agricultural land where service is not available. Federal advisory committees were established by Congress to provide federal agencies with outside, expert advice on policy matters. The Task Force held its first meeting on Monday, December 9, 2019 in Washington D.C.

ENERGY ANSWERS:
THE COST TO OPERATE
A COMPRESSOR

How much does it cost to operate a compressor? If you can read your electric bill, a motor nameplate and understand a few simple formulas, you can quickly find the answer for your compressor, or any other motor-driven process.

Just take power in kilowatts (kW), multiply it by time in hours, and multiply that by your electricity rate in dollars per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Every motor should have a nameplate that provides specific information about the unit. What we are looking for is the power input in kilowatts (kW). In this case, we are only shown 40 horsepower (HP) output. If the nameplate only shows HP output, convert it to electrical power input using the following formula:

40 HP X 0.746/.96 = 31 KW

Time is how long you expect to operate the equipment. Let’s say eight hours. Next, find your electricity rate on your bill. We’ll use \$0.08 per kWh in this example. In this case it would cost nearly \$20 to run a compressor for eight hours:

31 KW X 8H X \$0.08/KWH = \$19.84

If you are running your compressor at part load, the cost would be less, but not exactly proportional due to reduced efficiency at part-load operation. This formula should give you a good idea for estimating purposes, however.

You also have to add any peak demand charges. If your demand charge is \$8 per kW, for example, it would cost you an extra \$248 per month to operate:

PEAK DEMAND = 31 KW X \$8/KW = \$248

Making sure your system is efficient and used properly can make that money stretch even further.

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President's Message

Year-end is once again upon us and always presents us with an opportunity to evaluate where we have been and assess where we are going.

2019 was a remarkably busy but very successful year for NineStar Connect. That success comes largely from our 125 hard-working, dedicated employees. I am in awe of how dedicated they are at providing genuine great service for our members and customers. They know superior service is what distinguishes us from much larger companies and is why folks like you continue to support your locally owned and controlled utility cooperative. It really is our life blood.

Our employees also continue to support efforts of many community organizations. This year, they donated over 2500 hours of service and over \$10,000 to various community non-profits. This is something of a tradition of our NineStar employees and I'm sure will continue in the future as a gesture on their part to give back to the communities that support them.

Since 2011, NineStar has invested over \$86 million in utility infrastructure and has budgeted an additional \$16.5 million dollars in 2020. These investments include fiber optics, rebuilding and upgrading electric distribution and of course water and wastewater facilities.

I sometimes speculate what local elected and economic development officials might do to attract a new business that promised to invest over \$100 million dollars locally over a 10 year period and wonder if any of them realize that they already have a locally-owned company that has done just that – without any tax abatements. Building high quality utility facilities represent a continuing effort by NineStar to invest in our local communities,

improve our quality of place and make them attractive for additional new investments in housing and businesses to come to our area.

While being a non-profit utility cooperative means we do not pay federal income taxes on profits, that doesn't mean NineStar doesn't pay ANY taxes. Quite the contrary, every dollar that NineStar invests in utility infrastructure translates to extra property tax revenues to local communities that support schools, public safety and other public infrastructure like roads and bridges. That is a virtuous circle if you ever saw one!

Last month, the NineStar board of directors voted to retire over one million dollars in allocated capital credits and return it to the members. By doing so, NineStar reached a milestone of returning nearly \$5 million dollars to its member owners since 2011 – a pretty remarkable feat considering the \$86 million in capital that was invested in our community by NineStar during that same time frame.

NineStar prides itself in annually retiring and returning capital credits to its members because it differentiates it from municipal and investor-owned utilities that don't do that. We cannot guarantee the rates we charge for our services will be the least expensive compared to other utility companies but we can guarantee that as a non-profit utility, any profits ("margins" in coop language) that we realize will be allocated and eventually returned to those member customers who bought the services from us. It's one of the big reasons why I am such a supporter of the cooperative



MICHAEL R. BURROW

business model.

Ultimately, the beauty of NineStar Connect lies in the fact that it was founded nearly 125 years ago under the simple principle of self-help. Much like our founders, we don't sit around waiting for either a large corporation or government to solve our needs but instead look to ourselves to provide our own solutions. Local governance and control will continue to be a hallmark of how NineStar will continue to be responsive to the needs of those we serve today and invest in the utility infrastructure that will be needed by our children and grandchildren in the future.

On behalf of the board of directors and employees of NineStar Connect, I wish all of our member customers good fortune and health in the upcoming New Year.

4-H OPEN HOUSE

The 2020 Hancock County 4-H Fair is still many months away and most of us are focused on holiday celebrations at this time of year, but on Sunday October 27th many Hancock County area families were enjoying the Hancock County 4-H Open House. This is the first opportunity for area youth to sign up to participate in the 2020 4-H Program. The open house offers kids the opportunity to meet Club Leaders, Project Superintendents and Program leaders from the Purdue Extension Office. The Exhibition Hall was packed with tables full of project examples for the kids to see including electric circuit boards, model airplanes, achievement books, woodworking projects and poster boards. Eager project superintendents were on hand to talk to the kids and share information about the projects they represented. The open house offers kids the chance to learn just how many unique opportunities are available from the 4-H Youth Program. Each year, the Exhibition Hall is bursting at the seams with projects that hundreds of local youth have spent countless hours creating.

Any youth interested in signing up for the 4-H program has until February 1, 2020 to sign up.

For many years, NineStar Connect has been a big supporter of the 4-H Youth Program. Matt Strahl (Energy Advisor) serves as superintendent for the Hancock County 4-H Electric Project. Many other NineStar employees volunteer their time and expertise during project workshops to assist kids with their electric projects. Meeting and workshop dates have already been set for next spring.

An organizational meeting will be held on April 14th 2020 from 6pm-8pm for all electric project participants.

Division workshops will be conducted in May as follows:

- **Division I May 12, 2020 from 6:00PM-8:00PM**
- **Division II May 13, 2020 from 6:00PM-8:00PM**

Electric project kits for Division I, II and III are available at the Purdue Extension Office compliments of NineStar Connect. If you have questions about a 4-H Electric Project, please contact Matt Strahl at 317-323-2042 or mstrahl@ninestarconnect.com.



JULIE BEAUCHAT RETIREMENT

NineStar's Payroll & Benefits Administrator, Julie Beauchat, hung up her NineStar hat on Friday, November 15th after 26 years with the company. Julie began her tenure at NineStar at the young age of 22 and has worked in the Accounting Department and then Human Resources Department during her years with the company. Julie took an early retirement to spend more time with her husband who retired last year. Together, they hope to complete some "Fixer Upper" projects that has been in the works for some time.

To celebrate Julie, employees dropped in to say "Farewell" and "See You Soon" at a Retirement party that was given to her by her department. Good memories and well wishes were expressed as Julie has been nothing but a true asset to NineStar and will be dearly missed!

HAPPY RETIREMENT JULIE!!





NINESTAR PARTICIPATES IN COOPERATIVE SERVICE DAY

NineStar held its Sixth Annual Cooperative Service Day on October 11th. The daylong event provided much needed brawn, support and materials to local projects and by all accounts the day was a complete success. Over seventy of NineStar’s employees volunteered their time, energy and expertise on several important projects in our service territory. Cooperative Service Day is part of the Indiana Electric Cooperative’s Statewide Day of Service, which is held annually in October. NineStar helped several nonprofits with projects they otherwise wouldn’t be able to complete on their own. Below is a list of organizations and projects the NineStar team lent a hand to:

- 1. Agape Riding Center – Install sensory stations
- 2. Boys & Girls Club of Hancock County – Painting & Door Installation
- 3. Dani’s Dream – Landscaping & Plexiglass Replacement
- 4. Falls Park – Tornado Recovery (misc. cleanup and work on meditative garden)
- 5. Greenfield Junior & Senior High - Landscaping
- 6. Greenfield Parks & Recreation – Floating Bridge Builds & Installation
- 7. Hancock County Ag Association – Bowl Area (Painting & Roof Addition to Changing Rooms)
- 8. Mt. Vernon Education Foundation – IT Assistance
- 9. Nameless Creek Youth Camp – Painting Exteriors of Camp Kitchen and Bathroom Buildings
- 10. Town of McCordsville - Landscaping

Ryan Bewley, NineStar’s Manager of Electric Engineering, who organized the day’s activities, said “This is something our employees look forward to each year. It’s a great way for NineStar to give back to the communities in which we serve. I want to thank all the employees that volunteered this year. We couldn’t do this without them!”



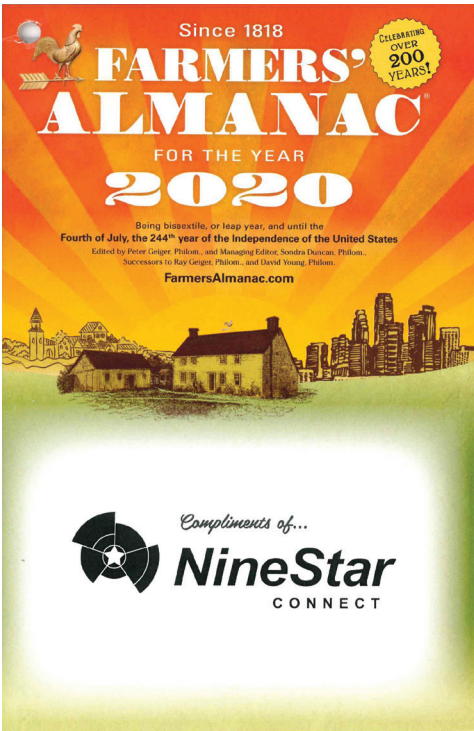
NINESTAR CH 9 FILMING HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

NineStar TV Channel 9 has been busy filming lots of high school basketball this season. As we end 2019 and begin 2020, more games will be filmed throughout the season and rebroadcast the next day on Channel 9. If the next day is a weekday the game can be seen at 7:00pm. If the next day after the event is a weekend, the games can be seen at 2:00pm and 7:00pm. Please check local listings or the guide on the TV as the schedule can change without notice.

| DAY | DATE | OPPONENT | SPORT | LOCATION/HOME TEAM | TIME | GAMES |
|----------|--------|-------------------|-------|--------------------|------|--------------|
| SATURDAY | 04-JAN | MT VERNON | BOYS | NEW CASTLE | 7:30 | SINGLE |
| FRIDAY | 10-JAN | MT VERNON | BOYS | GREENFIELD C. | 7:30 | SINGLE |
| SATURDAY | 11-JAN | COUNTY TOURNAMENT | GIRLS | KNIGHTSTOWN | 6:00 | DOUBLEHEADER |
| SATURDAY | | | BOYS | KNIGHTSTOWN | 7:30 | |
| FRIDAY | 17-JAN | NEW CASTLE | GIRLS | GREENFIELD C. | 6:00 | DOUBLEHEADER |
| FRIDAY | 17-JAN | NEW CASTLE | BOYS | GREENFIELD C. | 7:30 | |
| FRIDAY | 24-JAN | CONNERSVILLE | GIRLS | PENDLETON H. | 6:00 | DOUBLEHEADER |
| FRIDAY | 24-JAN | DELTA | BOYS | PENDLETON H. | 7:30 | |
| SATURDAY | 25-JAN | SHENANDOAH | BOYS | EASTERN HANCOCK | 7:30 | SINGLE |
| TUESDAY | 28-JAN | NEW CASTLE | GIRLS | MT VERNON | 7:30 | SINGLE |
| THURSDAY | 06-FEB | SHENANDOAH | BOYS | MT VERNON | 7:30 | SINGLE |
| FRIDAY | 14-FEB | CARMEL | BOYS | H.S.E. | 7:30 | SINGLE |
| TUESDAY | 18-FEB | NEW CASTLE | BOYS | PENDLETON H. | 7:30 | SINGLE |
| SATURDAY | 22-FEB | HAGERSTOWN | BOYS | KNIGHTSTOWN | 7:30 | SINGLE |

COMPLIMENTARY FARMERS ALMANACS HAVE ARRIVED!

Once again NineStar Connect will be providing a limited number of free 2020 Farmers Almanacs to our customers. The almanacs will be available at all three business locations. This includes; Maxwell, McCordsville and Greenfield. While the almanacs are free there is a limited supply and when the supply is exhausted, they are gone. So be sure to pick up your copy early so you will be able to see what winter has in store for us in East Central Indiana.



PAPERLESS BILLING

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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:

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| September | Jaquelin Borowicz | \$50 Amazon Gift Card |
| October | Kevin Sanders | \$50 Amazon Gift Card |
| November | Jacob & Elizabeth Laird | \$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!

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MY RUSTY OLD TRUCK

by Mary Jane Bogle

I know the title of this article sounds as if it could be the latest hit single on your favorite country music station, but let me put your mind at ease right now. I'm not trying my hand at a new country-western song. I'll leave that kind of writing to the folks down in Nashville. I do, however, want to sing the praises of my favorite mode of transportation, and I hope you'll indulge me as I wax eloquent about my rusty old truck this holiday season.

I'm sure we've all seen commercials showing a person waking up on Christmas morning to find the keys to a brand-new luxury car just waiting for them in a stocking or cute little designer box. Nothing against luxury cars, here. I'm just not a wake-up-Christmas-morning-to-find-a-silver-sedan-wrapped-in-a-huge-red-bow-in-my-driveway kind of gal. I say, give me my rusty old truck any day of the week, thank you very much.

Why? Well, those wheels and I have traveled some miles together. We've hauled hay and straw, manure and countless kitchen and bathroom remodel supplies, plus three kids and a camper on family vacations to Colonial Williamsburg and Mount Rushmore. Over the years, I've loaded the back



with all kinds of produce from my garden, kids' backpacks, and oodles of groceries, not to mention the two packages of live honeybees we bought one year!

And while the odometer reading is getting dangerously close to 200,000 miles, the engine is solid as a rock. As long as I change the oil, replace the break pads and rotate the tires on a regular basis, it's definitely a reliable mode of transportation. Plus, I never have to worry about someone dinging me at the grocery store. Go ahead and park too close. One more dent won't really make a difference.

The only thing I fear is whether or not the body will hold out. (Isn't that the truth for most of us?) Seriously, I think the rusty floorboards will fall away before the engine gives out. Sometimes, we even find an outline of rust around the truck if we slam the car doors too hard. That kind of history is priceless to me. So you can keep your silver sedan. Come Christmas morning, I'll sip some hot cocoa, relish the year ahead with no car payment, and think about everything I can haul again in my rusty old truck!

MORRISTOWN GAMING

NineStar Connect and Fountaintown Gas Co. Inc. sponsored the SES E-Sports tournament held at the Morristown High School.

