

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2023



# NineStar CONNECTION

VOLUME 12  
ISSUE 4

## OPERATION ROUND UP

NineStar's Operation Roundup donates over \$19,000 to four local Hancock county charities.

Read more on page 7.

## NINESTAR CONNECT DEVELOPING NEW BUILDING IN MCCORDSVILLE'S NEW DOWNTOWN

Other users anticipated to join utility co-op in McCord Square facility

Read more on page 11.

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

SEE PAGE 4

# NINESTAR NOW



## ALLOWS EVERYONE TO STREAM ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING

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OUT & ABOUT  
PAGE 8





Artist rendering of the future NineStar Connect building in downtown McCordsville. See more on page 11.



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

"KEITH CAME OUT TO REPAIR OUR INTERNET SERVICE. HE WAS VERY KIND AND HELPFUL DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS AND VERY PROFESSIONAL."

CUSTOMER GARNER



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](http://ninestarconnect.com)

STORY IDEA?

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

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NineStar Now  
Allows everyone to stream original programming

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Other users anticipated to join utility co-op in McCord Square facility

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

Your electricity is delivered by member owned co-ops and that powers how we operate.

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The *NineStar Connection* is a publication of NineStar Connect servicing retail and residential customers. Nearly 16,000 families and businesses receive this newspaper as part of their membership. *NineStar Connection* provides news, information and features about people, places and issues related to readers.

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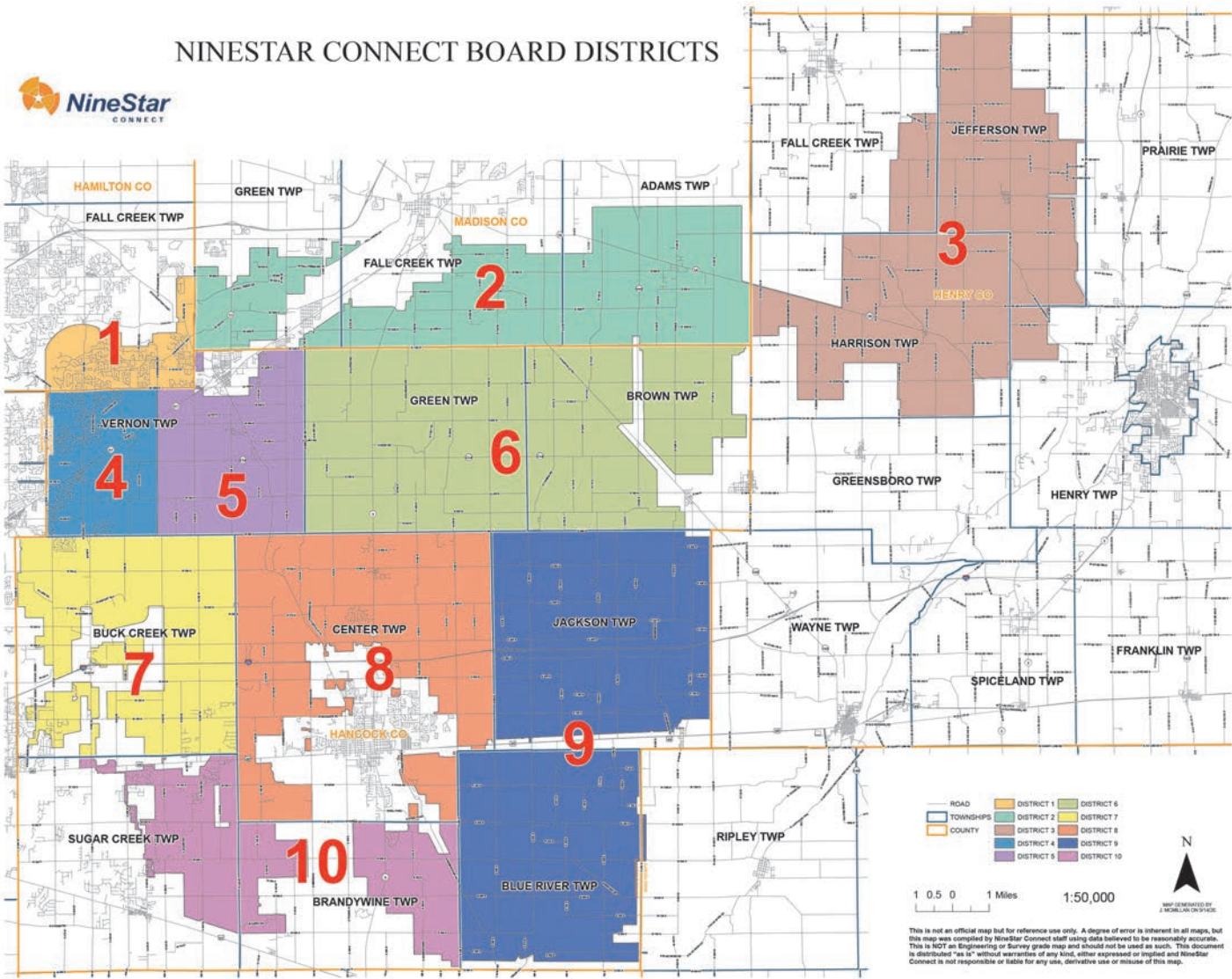
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# NINESTAR NOW

## ALLOWS EVERYONE TO STREAM ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING

BY JULIE YOUNG



If you are among those who have cut the cord to your cable service but miss the community content found on your local public access channel, then NineStar Now is for you!

NineStar Now is a new streaming service offered by NineStar Connect that carries original programming, sports broadcasts and more that was previously found on Channel 9. Best of all, it is available to NineStar members and non-members alike!

### UNDERSTANDING THE MARKET

In the early 2010s, those consumers who were cutting the cord to their cable box were a fringe minority, but by the end of the year, it is estimated that over half of Americans will have joined their ranks and left the box behind. This is great news for streaming services that can still provide local broadcast networks as well as a smattering of other traditional options found in cable packages, but it's bad news for the public access channels that are casualties of the conversion.

According to David Spencer, director of marketing and community engagement for NineStar Connect, when the co-op made the decision to get out of linear TV in 2022, they were concerned about what would happen to the content that was previously found on public access channel 9.

"We knew we needed to find an outlet for those offerings," he said.

Public access started out as a grassroots medium for community speech that dates back to the civil rights era and municipalities relied on these broadcast or cable-provided facilities to air public meetings, community content and more to residents. However, in the cord-cutting era, public access is struggling to survive, and many communities have turned to YouTube and other

cable-bypass platforms to showcase their content.

NineStar Connect has done this as well, utilizing its YouTube channel, NineStar Films to broadcast the Annual Meeting, local sports, and other programming, but NineStar Now promises something more. NineStar Now plans to stream approximately 60 area high school sporting events, feature profiles of area organizations and amenities, cooking shows featuring Ian Harrison of Carnegie's; as well as NineStar specific content such as Nerd Nights, webinars, and Town Halls.

"The best part about all of this is that because it is a streaming service, people can tune in whenever they have the time," Spencer said. "Since the pandemic, we have offered access to our annual meeting via a virtual option, but it wasn't streamed live. NineStar Now affords us the opportunity for members to live stream the meeting as it is happening or to catch up on it when they can so that they can continue to engage with their cooperative in a way that works for them."

### INCLUDING EVERYONE

Spencer said although NineStar was broadcasting some content via its YouTube channel; they knew that they needed to create a one stop shop for all of its original content while also giving them a way to archive programming so that people could easily access it when they wanted to review it. Creating a streaming service checked all of the boxes that would give members and non-members the opportunity to watch the great shows and content that NineStar produces, but previously needed linear TV or a YouTube link to enjoy.

"We are really excited for the customers that are already subscribing to our broadband to enjoy this new platform," he said. "If you are already a



NineStar Connect's **NEW** streaming service, NineStar Now, is **FREE** to members who subscribe to the co-op's 1GB speed (or higher) broadband or \$4.99/month (\$49.99/year) to members who subscribe to broadband speed lower than 1GB or non-members who want to tune into original programming from anywhere. To find out more about the service and enjoy a seven day free trial, visit [www.ninestarnow.com](http://www.ninestarnow.com)

1GB (or higher) broadband subscriber you will receive the NineStar Now streaming platform for free, but if you are a subscriber with less than a gig service or a non-member, NineStar Now is \$4.99 a month/\$49.99 per year."

Since launching NineStar Now in August, Spencer said that there has been a lot of interest in the streaming app, especially from those who want to tune into local sporting events, some of which are created in partnership with local schools. John Painter and his student crew from Greenfield Central High School offer excellent coverage of athletic events and with play-by-play commentary provided by Greg Rakestraw, who is the voice of the Indy Eleven and post-game host for the Colts Radio network, NineStar Now viewers will enjoy a top-notch experience that will also be good for the participating teams who may want to review the footage in the following days.

"I would put that coverage up against anyone else's in the business," Spencer said, noting that a recent game that aired live garnered 253 views, representing 218 hours of watch time. "We know that we are asking people to make an investment in us, and we want them to walk away feeling like it is money well spent. NineStar Now is an exciting new option for viewers and it will be exciting to see how we can scale it. We are only limited by our imaginations."



# CUSTOMER APPRECIATION



IN APPRECIATION OF OUR LOYAL CUSTOMERS,  
NINESTAR WILL HOLD A RANDOM DRAWING OF 25  
CUSTOMERS EACH MONTH TO WIN A \$150 BILL CREDIT!\*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL \$150 WINNERS!

\*Offer valid for internet customers only. Must be current on your bill. One winner per household per year. Credit will be applied to your communications bill. Winners will be notified via email.

AUGUST WINNERS

Nick Canter	Georgianna Jackson	James L Goebel	Andrew W Janutolo	Charles Neil Crum
Jenny Locke	Michael Shippoli	Evelyn Miles	John Griffith	Dianna Cowan
Sharon Rainey	Brian Mccoy	Jason Dwenger	Branndie Crouch	Scott Beyer
Danny L Lambert	Reggie Kendrick	Donna Hunley	Edward Elsner	Jeffrey R Cox
Mark Makara	Joseph W Hansome	Charles Wayne Penn	Betty J Harmon	

SEPTEMBER WINNERS

Stephen K Renfro	Terry Phillips	John C Kube
Carl F Rugenstein	John F Price	Ross D Corbett
Adam Reed	April Rodabaugh	Julie Oliver
Douglas Wills	Brian Emrich	James Placke
Charles Hazelbaker	Robert Cassidy	Hannah M Callais
Jennifer Buck	Justin Owens	D Benbow
Shawn Hollingsworth	Ryan J Craig	Kevin Barkdull
Randolph J Smith IV	Mike Lopez	
Daniel G Kovert	Jeffrey Ley	

OCTOBER WINNERS

John Gontarz	Tim Horoho	Kyle Moffitt
Jennifer D Puterbaugh	Robert Kazacoff	Joshua V Terebinski
Scott Bond	Richard M Levering	Ed G Roesch
Andrew J Pechous	Ryan Shaffer	William R Pearson
Amy Soberalski	Richard Hooker	Andy D Wilson
Jason Mccord	Robert A Roach	Bryan Gray
Salliann Flake	Karen Campbell	
Nancy Grounds	Mark A Myers	
Amanda Swain	Amy Burchett	

# PAPERLESS BILLING WINNERS

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

AMY MCINTYRE  
KNIGHTSTOWN

AUGUST

CORY AND ERRICKA GRAHAM  
MCCORDSVILLE

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  
for a chance to win big!



# IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

Your electricity is delivered by member-owned co-ops –  
*and that powers how we operate*

## NO MATTER YOUR JOB, A BUSINESS OWNER LIVES IN YOUR HOUSE: YOU!

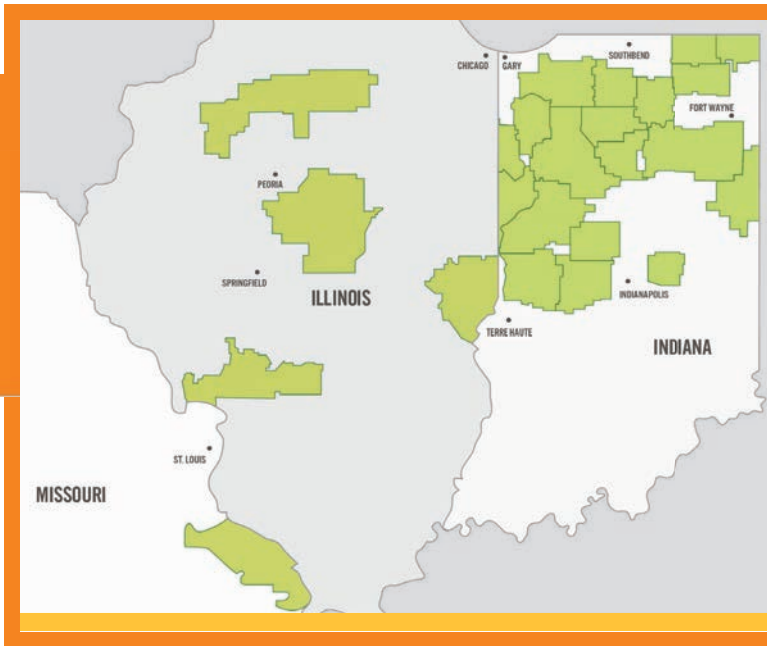
As a member of your local electric cooperative, you are actually an owner (a member-consumer) of the organization! Electric cooperatives sprang up across the U.S. in the 1930s as towns and cities across the nation gained access to electricity. The Rural Electrification Act in 1936 provided a way for residents in a community to join together and gain low interest loans to create a member-owned electric cooperative. Today, more than three dozen electric cooperatives power communities across Indiana. You benefit from being a member-consumer of your local electric cooperative in multiple ways:

**YOU HAVE DIRECT SAY IN HOW YOUR CO-OP OPERATES.** Each year, each local electric co-op hosts an annual meeting that includes the election of cooperative members to the organization's board of directors. The directors are elected by fellow co-op member-consumers; they are not shareholders located in an office somewhere far away. You may even personally know some of the members of your co-op's board!

**FINANCIAL DECISIONS ARE MADE WITH YOU IN MIND.** The programs offered by your local electric co-op are created based on what is in the best interest of the co-op's member-consumers. Your co-op offers Power Moves® rebates for energy efficiency upgrades, which can lower your long-term energy costs. Your local electric co-op may even retire patronage – the co-op's equivalent of profits – which are returned to members as financial conditions allow. The financial benefits stay in your community – not given as dividends to shareholders far away.

**WE'RE A CO-OP OF CO-OPS!** Wabash Valley Power Alliance was created by member co-ops and is owned by the 23 cooperatives it serves in Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. And as a cooperative serving more than 321,000 families and businesses, they also plan with you in mind: their power supply portfolio features diverse resources to safeguard against price volatility for any particular resource. In the past few years, they've added more alternative energy sources such as wind and solar, as they have become more competitive compared to other energy sources. This is done to ensure you receive affordable, reliable energy.

You can visit NineStar's website to learn more, including about your co-op's history and programs available to the community. And the next time you flip on the light switch, you can do so knowing that you are part owner of the cooperative powering your day!



# NEED HELP? WE'RE READY TO SUPPORT YOU.



Maybe something's not working  
— or maybe you just need a  
little help getting set up. We're  
here for you with our 24/7/365  
in-house support center.

Phone:  
317-326-4357

Online:  
View our Resources &  
Troubleshooting Guide





# NineStar Connect OPERATION ROUND UP®



Each quarter a group of Trustees (NineStar customers who volunteer their time to serve on the ORU committee) meet and decide how the extra change that is rounded up from customer's bills are dispersed from the applications that are received. Here are the organizations that benefited from the ORU fund this past August:

**CROSSROADS OF AMERICA COUNCIL, BOYS SCOUTS OF AMERICA - \$2,500.00**  
Support for youth and adult volunteers for Boy Scouts of America, leadership skills.

**GREENFIELD-CENTRAL SCHOOL FOUNDATION - \$500.00**  
Support for Project ARROW – self-esteem, character development for at risk kids.

**HANCOCK COUNTY FOOD PANTRY - \$10,000.00**  
Funding to help with renovation and remodeling expenses for new site.

**HOPE HOUSE - \$6,000.00**  
Funds for new playground equipment, picnic tables and fencing

The purpose of the Operation Round Up program 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.

For ones that want to send in an application for Operation Round-up dollars, the next application deadline is January 5, 2024. Applications can be downloaded from our website at [www.ninestarconnect.com](http://www.ninestarconnect.com) under “About” and then “In the Community”.

If you have any questions about the ORU program, please email [OperationRoundUp@NineStarConnect.com](mailto:OperationRoundUp@NineStarConnect.com) or call 317-323-3087.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE THIRD QUARTER ORU RECIPIENTS!**





# OUT & ABOUT

## CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY



Thank you to all of our customers who came out to Piney Acres Farm!



## LINEMAN RODEO



Lineman Kory Chapman, Austin Gearlds, and Justin Messer compete at the Indiana Electric Cooperative Lineman Rodeo.



## MEMBER INFORMATION CONFERENCE

Employees Sally Hunter, Alisha Roland, Amy Wisheart, Rachel Gibson, Misty Tinch & Shira Dankner attend a Member Information Conference (MIC).





# YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP PAYS YOU FOR BEING A CUSTOMER!

NineStar is more than an electric utility. It is YOUR electric utility. Because of that, NineStar customers like you enjoy some special perks including one that literally puts money back in your pocket.

Look for your capital credit check in your mailbox around the last week of November!



## CAPITAL CREDITS

### SHARING IN YOUR CO-OP'S SUCCESS

#### CAPITAL CREDITS A BENEFIT OF CO-OP MEMBERSHIP

One tangible benefit of being a NineStar Connect electric member — that literally puts money back in your pocket — is your access to what are called “capital credits.”

Capital credits are simply your share of your electric cooperative ownership. This concept of returning your financial investment in your electric utility back to you is something you may not be used to. But, NineStar is a not-for-profit organization. It operates at cost, not to grow profits.

Each customer's investment in NineStar is used for substations, poles, wire, transformers and equipment to keep the lights on. This investment is part of your monthly electric bill.

Having customers actually invest in their electric

company's electric system is different than what investor-owned utilities (like Duke) do. At investor-owned utilities, stockholders pay the necessary costs to keep the utility running. But as a NineStar customer, you are, in fact, an owner of your electric utility and as an owner you're responsible for making sure your utility has what it needs to operate.

As an owner, you also enjoy tangible benefits. For instance, you have a voice in how NineStar is ran. Each year you can vote for your co-op's board of directors, or you can even run for a seat on the board. And, just as stockholders receive dividends from investor-owned utilities, NineStar customers are entitled to allocations from their cooperative.

The amount of those allocations is based on each customer's energy use. Customers and former customers have capital credits accounts where the equity of the co-op is maintained.

At the end of each year, the NineStar board calculates the co-op's operating margin—the amount that income exceeds expenses. This margin may be

used to improve or expand the co-op's electric system or to meet other capital needs. Using the margin to pay for these necessary expenses means NineStar doesn't need to borrow money to ensure that it can continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable service.

If there is excess revenue after these necessary expenses are accounted for, it is allocated back to you as capital credits. When the co-op's financial strength permits, the board issues those credits back to its members.

Checks are mailed to customers and former customers that the NineStar has addresses for. (That's why it's important to make sure we have your correct address.)

You may wonder why NineStar is sending you money back in the first place. It all boils down to the fact that unlike investor-owned electric companies, NineStar provides at-cost electric service. It's not in business to make a profit. Since you're a part owner of NineStar, you share in its success.

## REAL TIME PRICING REMINDER

As a reminder, NineStar electric members are on a Real Time Pricing electric rate structure. The time-based rate defines on-peak, off-peak and, super off-peak hours. To learn more, check out these frequently asked questions, below.

### REAL TIME PRICING FAQ'S

**Q.** What is Real Time Pricing?

**A.** Real Time Pricing is the time-based rate for Residential and General Service electric rates. The time-based rate defines on-peak, off-peak and the new super off-peak hours. The charge for electricity is higher during on-peak hours than it is during off-peak or super off-peak hours. NineStar on-peak hours will now be 5pm-8pm Monday – Friday.

**Q.** Why charge a time-based rate?

**A.** NineStar is a distribution utility. NineStar purchases power from a generation and transmission provider. The charge for energy during the on-peak hours is higher than it is during the off-peak or super off-peak hours. A time-based rate passes those higher costs on to those members that use energy during the on-peak hours.



**Q.** Is my electric bill going to increase?

**A.** Households that choose not to decrease energy usage during the on-peak hours will see an increase in their monthly bill. Households that can decrease energy usage during the on-peak hours and move energy usage to the off-peak or the super-off-peak hours can minimize the impact on their electric bill.

**Q.** What holidays are excluded from on-peak hours for Real Time Pricing?

**A.** New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, & Christmas Day

**Q:** When was the super off -peak rate introduced?

**A:** The super off-peak rate was included on electric bills beginning in May of 2023.

**Q.** Do I have another option?

**A.** Yes. Members can choose the Peak Time Savings rate. This was formerly known as Time of Use. The Peak Time Savings rate allows members the opportunity for greater savings on their electric bill if they minimize electric usage during the on-peak hours.

**Q.** Can I stay on Budget billing?

**A.** Yes

**Q.** Can I monitor my usage?

**A.** Yes. Members can log into SmartHub and see graphs of their usage broken down by the hour and grouped by on-peak, off-peak and super off-peak usage.

**Q.** Can I still use my appliances during the on-peak hours?

**A.** Members do not have to change their household electricity usage. Members can still use appliances, lighting, electronics, etc. at any time. The cost of using those electric devices will just be more from 5pm-8pm Monday-Friday.

To learn more about Real Time Pricing, visit [ninestarconnect.com!](http://ninestarconnect.com!)

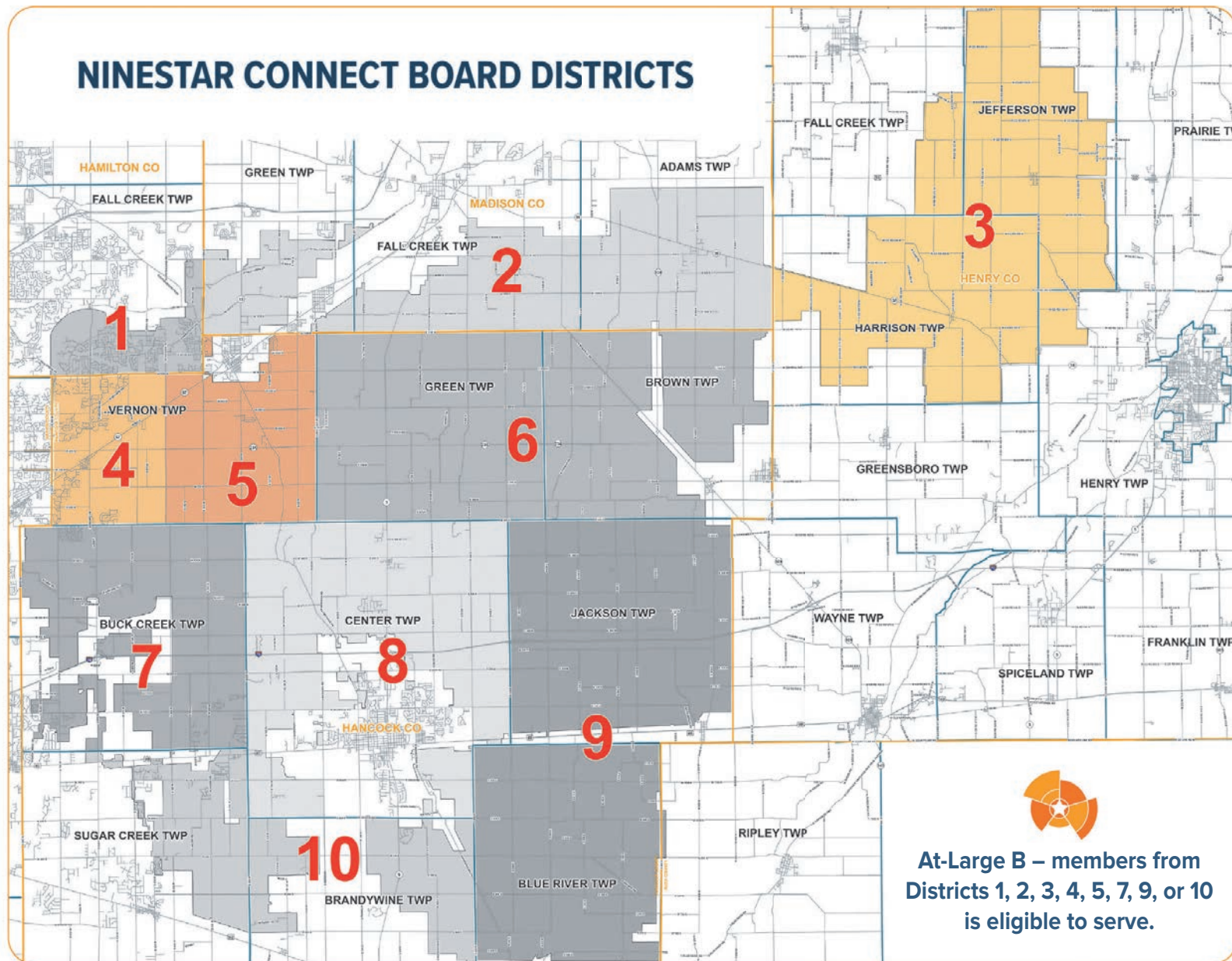




## NOTICE TO MEMBERSHIP OF UPCOMING ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The 2024 NineStar Connect Annual Meeting will be held on March 22, 2024.

The following director districts are up for election: 3, 4, 5, At-Large B.



Any member in good standing residing in districts 3, 4, or 5 is eligible to serve for a director position in these districts. Any member residing in districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, or 10 is eligible for consideration to serve as the At-Large B director. The district 5 directorship is an open seat because the incumbent director has announced his retirement and does not intend to serve another term.

Any member interested in being considered for director must first attend one of the mandatory information meetings to be held on October 10, 12th, or 24th at 6:00 pm. To RSVP for one of the meetings, please send an email to [candidateinfo@ninestarconnect.com](mailto:candidateinfo@ninestarconnect.com). Meeting attendees will receive the nomination application form at the information meetings.

Nomination applications may be personally delivered to any NineStar Connect

business office that is open to the public. Deadline for submission in order to be considered for nomination by the Nominating Committee is Tuesday, October 31st 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 8th or 9th.



# NINESTAR CONNECT DEVELOPING BUILDING IN MCCORDSVILLE'S NEW DOWNTOWN

## Other users anticipated to join utility co-op in McCord Square facility

By Mitchell Kirk

**M**cCORDSVILLE – NineStar Connect is developing a building that will house offices for the non-profit utility cooperative and make space available for other uses in the new downtown district underway in McCordsville.

The project bolsters NineStar Connect’s presence in one of its fastest growing service areas, continues its commitment to a locale it has served since its beginnings, and NineStar will not depend upon rate increases to fund the project.

The building is coming to McCord Square, an expansive town center planned at the southeast corner of Broadway and Mt. Comfort Road in McCordsville. At three stories spanning a total of about 34,600 square feet, the building will stand at the southeast corner of Mt. Comfort Road and Second Street, anchoring the south end of the entrance to McCord Square’s gateway.

NineStar Connect will primarily occupy the building’s first floor, with remaining public and commercial space completing the first level as well as much of the second and third floors.

The co-op has a community center at its headquarters in Greenfield, and looks forward to offering something similar at its new McCordsville location. A large stair-step community and gathering space will stretch from the first floor to the second, with a small catering kitchen also available. Plenty of glass will span across the north face of the community space, allowing in natural light and providing a view of what will be Main Street running through McCord Square.

NineStar Connect’s presence in the building will initially consist of customer service operations and a 24/7/365 support center. About 15 to 20 NineStar Connect employees will serve customer needs from this location.

Ground-breaking is anticipated in late 2023/early 2024, with initial occupancy in the first quarter of 2025.

While NineStar Connect has an office in McCordsville, it is much smaller and the new building will allow the co-op to better meet the needs of members in the quickly expanding area. By some estimates, the greater McCordsville/Fortville area could have a total population of nearly 100,000 people by 2050. NineStar is focused on being able to serve

those future members of the cooperative by creating a facility that has sufficient room to allow it to grow its presence in the community as the community grows.

“The growing McCordsville and Fortville communities provide an excellent opportunity for NineStar Connect to expand our exposure and presence to NineStar members in this area,” said Steve Vail, a member of NineStar Connect’s Board of Directors. “The board of directors are excited about supporting McCordsville and its development of a new downtown McCord Square. This building allows us to do that while also better serving our members and customers in that rapidly growing area of our service territory.”

Fellow director and board chairman Ray Kerkhof agreed.

“McCordsville is going through a rapid transformation with its expanding growth and new town square,” Kerkhof said. “The Board has elected to pursue the McCordsville project to meet that growth and the needs of our current and future members in the McCordsville/Fortville/Fishers area. It is our hope that the project will serve our members and the entire community for many decades into the future.”

Tim Gropp, McCordsville Town Manager, as well as Larry Longman, Vice President of Town Council and liaison to the Redevelopment Commission, welcome the project.

“McCord Square is the result of over a decade of planning and represents the future of McCordsville,” Longman said. “Having NineStar invest as an anchor at the entrance of this new downtown reinforces the Town’s vision and sets a high standard for future development to follow. NineStar has been and will continue to be a wonderful community partner and we look forward to growing the community together.”

Central Indiana Communications, Inc. (“CICI”) is a for-profit subsidiary NineStar Connect established decades ago to make investments that support the co-op and its members without impacting rates for the utility’s services. For example, CICI has brought cable and satellite television to unincorporated areas of NineStar’s service territory and paid for prior building expansions to avoid impacting current ratepayers who would otherwise have to bear those expenses.

CICI will buy the land and fund the construction of the building. Because NineStar believes in growing the tax-base of the community, it does not intend to seek tax abatements for the project.

For Andy Hine, the project represents a return to his roots. The 1983 Mt. Vernon High School graduate is an architect with arcDESIGN working with NineStar Connect on the development.

“This project means a lot to our company and to me personally -- to complete a highly relevant, ground-up building in my home county,” Hine said. “They are ensuring that this building will be a permanent fixture in McCordsville new downtown and a part of our community for the long term.”

He added NineStar Connect’s building will be a great addition to McCord Square.

“NineStar is making a commitment to long-lasting construction and materials,” he said. “This building will be an asset that serves the members of the co-op and the community for many years to come.”

Garmong Construction is the lead contractor and project manager for the building.

The plans hark back to NineStar Connect’s beginnings, when in 1895 McCordsville resident Loren Helms strung a wire across a fence from his sister’s house to their mother’s house and installed the first telephones in town. Other neighbors soon joined the line, and the McCordsville Telephone Company was born. That company went on to be part of what became NineStar Connect in 2011.





# THE SUNNY SIDE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

SOME MORNINGS, A DAWNING SUN GREETES SOME HOMEOWNERS WITH LIGHT – BY ELECTRIFYING THE TELEVISIONS IN THEIR HOMES.

Over the last decade, renewable energy resources including wind farms and solar arrays have generated an increasing share of the electricity powering the nation. As renewable energy technology has become more affordable, utilities also have added more large-scale projects to the grid. Many homeowners have even installed solar panels on rooftops or nearby property to generate electricity to power their house. In addition to becoming more affordable over the last decade, renewable energy resources offer multiple advantages.

Renewable energy resources benefit the environment. Renewables are unique compared to other traditional energy sources in multiple ways. Renewable energy sources do not produce the carbon emissions generated by fossil fuels. Also, the operation of renewable energy sources such as windmills and solar arrays do not require a fuel source such as coal or natural gas to be extracted from the planet.

Renewable resources can complement each other. Windmills, solar arrays, hydroelectric dams and other renewable energy facilities leverage plentiful resources such as wind, the sun, and bodies of water. Yet their production also provides a chance for power providers to create a balanced approach. Solar arrays, for example, routinely produce more electricity during the longer sunlight hours in the summer than in the winter. Yet wind farms typically produce more electricity in the winter than summer. Hydroelectric dams can produce energy year-round.

Renewables promote energy independence. As more solar arrays and windmills are installed across the U.S., more electricity will be generated near the areas where it is used. People also can install solar panels to their structures to generate power directly for their homes and businesses. Renewable resources provide more options for utilities, business owners and even homeowners to determine how to best fulfill their energy needs.

As technology evolves, more options including renewables will become more available across the U.S. and around the world. More renewable projects already are in various stages of development over the next few years, and the development of large-scale battery storage will bolster these projects.

To learn more about the variety of resources powering your day, as well as questions about how you can improve your energy use to lower costs, contact Ninestar Energy Advisor Matt Strahl.



## BE SAFE AROUND ELECTRICITY WHEN MOVING FARM EQUIPMENT

**WITH THE ARRIVAL OF HARVEST TIME, INDIANA'S FARMERS ARE SHIFTING INTO HIGH GEAR AS THEY MOVE INTO THEIR FIELDS TO BRING IN CROPS.**

**All that increased activity puts farmers and farm workers at greater risk.**

**Always look up and around before moving or raising equipment.** A good rule of thumb is to stay at least 10 feet from all power lines and power poles.

**Watch out for power poles, too.** If you strike one, it may break, dropping a live line on your equipment.

**Have a spotter on hand** to ensure your safety when moving equipment near power lines.

**If you're not completely sure that equipment will fit under a power line,** find an alternate way to move it.

**If you're in equipment that touches power lines, stay inside and call for help.** If you have to escape, jump clear of the equipment. Keep both feet together and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet away.

**PLUG** into SAFETY

