



# NineStar CONNECTION

VOLUME 4  
ISSUE 6

## HOLIDAY SAFETY

Inside are a few important safety tips to help make your holiday season safer.

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## SERVICE DAY

Check out photos and more from the second annual Cooperative Service Day.

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PRESORTED  
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## NINESTAR RECOGNIZED AS A SMART RURAL COMMUNITY BY NTCA

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## LT. GOVERNOR ELLSPERMAN VISITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Indiana Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann was a special guest at the recent Johnson County Fiber Network (JCFN) combined board meeting. The meeting was hosted at the Indiana Electric Cooperatives office in Indianapolis. Ellspermann was there to hear how Johnson County REMC & NineStar Connect came together in 2013 to form JCFN and their progress of deploying fiber optic connectivity to underserved portions of rural Indiana. Ellspermann praised both boards for working together to create an environment in which Hoosiers can prosper through increased potential for economic development.

It was significant to have the Lt. Governor at the JCFN meeting because under Indiana law, the Lt. Governor serves as President of the Indiana Senate and Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. Ellspermann also manages six state agencies including the State Department of Agriculture, Office of Community and Rural Affairs, Office of Tourism Development, Office of Defense Development, Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. Additionally, the Lt. Governor chairs the Indiana Counter Terrorism and Security Council.



**COVER STORY** PAGES 4-5  
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**BE CAUTIOUS WHEN USING SPACE HEATERS** PAGE 8  
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Joe Skvarenina, the host of NineStar TV's history show "Step Back In Time," was selected by the Indiana Historical Society as the 2015 recipient of the Hubert Hawkins History Award.

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

"PERRY COMPLETED OUR INSTALLATION. HE WAS ON TIME AND DID A GREAT JOB!"

- JIM L.



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



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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## SPECIAL RECYCLING PROGRAM DISCONTINUED

Wabash Valley Power and its member co-ops learned on Nov. 23, 2015 that its recycling vendor, JACO Environmental, unexpectedly and without prior notification, ceased operations. Until further notice this program has been discontinued. Unfortunately, pick-ups scheduled on or after Nov. 23, 2015 will not occur. If you are awaiting an incentive check, or have a check not yet cashed, please do not cash it as this account is closed and you may incur unnecessary bank fees. Instead, please call us at 317-326-3131 so that we may issue a replacement check and provide updated information to assist you. We sincerely apologize for this inconvenience.

# YOUR CURRENT NINESTAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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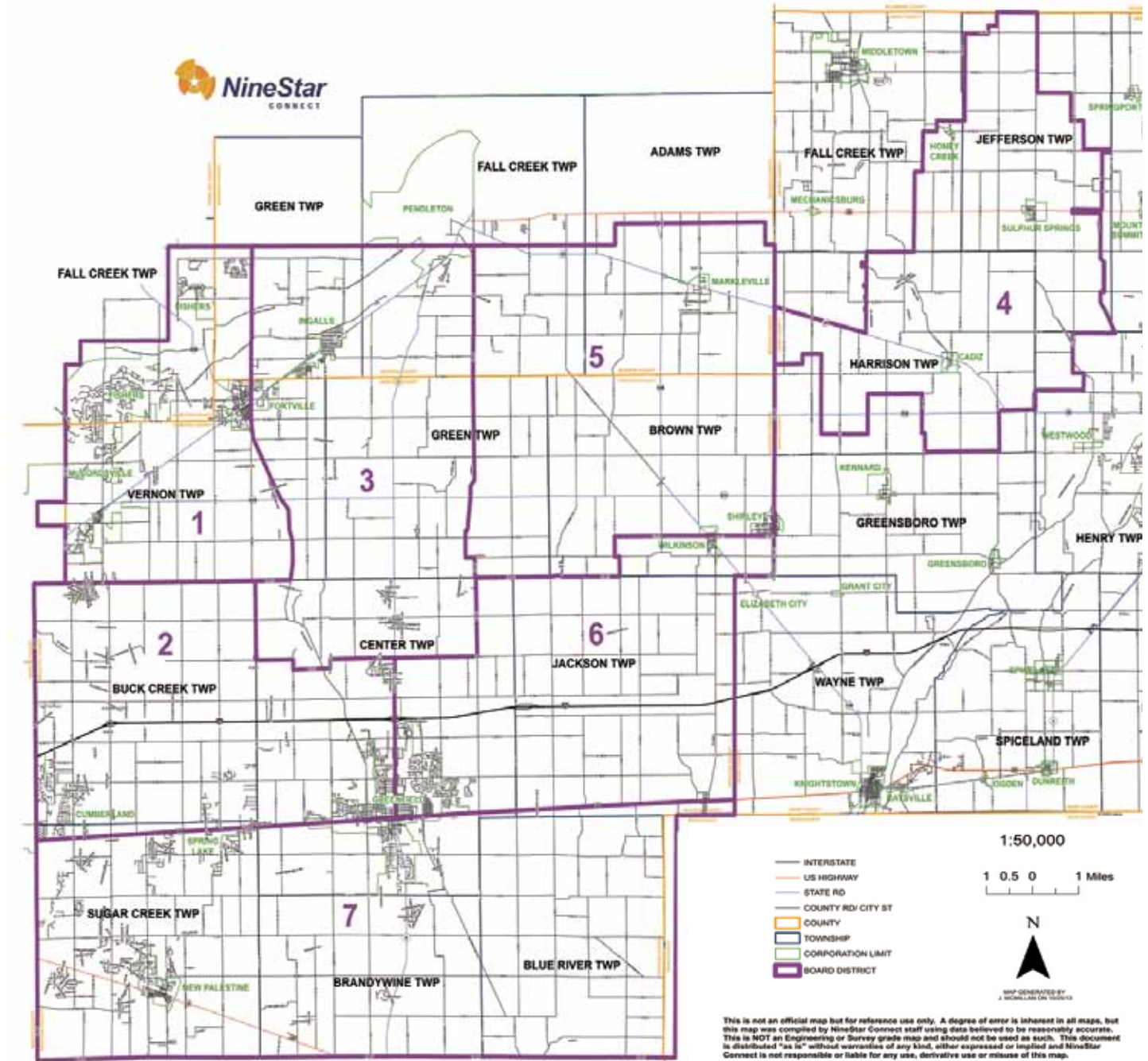
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JAMES GILLETT (B)



# FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

## NINESTAR RECOGNIZED AS A SMART RURAL COMMUNITY BY NTCA

**W**hat happens when a dynamic suite of broadband-based solutions strengthens municipal services, promotes economic growth and enables global competition beyond the urban setting? You get the basis for a Smart Rural Community!

WRITTEN BY  
**JULIE YOUNG**

NineStar Connect knows this better than anyone and its commitment to bring state-of-the-art broadband capability to everyone in its service area has not gone unnoticed. On Sept. 22 NineStar was among 12 telecommunications cooperatives in the United States to be named a Smart Rural Community Showcase Award Winner by NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association. The announcement was made at the association's annual Fall Conference in Boston, Mass. and is the second distinction NineStar has received from the organization in 2015.

"It's a very busy and exciting time for all of us," said Ross Ferson, Chief Technology Officer for NineStar. "Not only were we recently named a Certified Gig-Capable Provider, but the Smart Rural Community designation shows our continued interest in our service area and the desire to put our entire membership on a level playing field with those in urban areas."

According to the NTCA's website, a Smart Rural Community is not only one that utilizes broadband networks and related applications to foster innovative economic growth, better schools, improved healthcare and government services as well as cutting edge security and more efficient energy distribution and use. It is also about the people behind the technology including the manufacturers, developers, telecommunications providers as well as the end user who adopt and employ those broadband services. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a lot of people to establish a Smart Rural Community and encourage its further evolution.

Jill Snyder, director of sales, spearheaded NineStar's Smart Rural Community initiative and said that the NTCA's application was extensive, focusing on the cop's broadband reach as well as the economic impact that type of capability has had in the community and the types of partnerships and collaborations they have established through the years.

"NineStar is second to none in these endeavors. By bringing broadband to our customers, we are showing that we are invested in rural Indiana and bringing them the best connectivity available. We were one of the first to provide fiber to the home and when we ran fiber to that first customer in 2003 it was a promise that we were focused on the future and committed to getting everyone in our service area connected."

Snyder says there are a number of key anchor institutions that wouldn't be in business today were it not for the broadband capability NineStar Connect provides. From Connersville to Trafalgar and everywhere in between there are entities that would have had to relocate to a

larger city or be crushed by the path of progress as telecommunications technology continued to grow and evolve. Thanks to NineStar's commitment, as commerce continues to rely more and more on web-based sales and service, these businesses and service providers can continue to offer products, amenities and employment opportunities for local residents at the same time as they become competitors in the global marketplace.

One such entity was INTAT Precision, a foundry in Rushville who manufactures auto parts for companies across the United States and around the world. Prior to partnering with NineStar, they were on a copper wire connection that offered them limited opportunity for growth. Once they were connected to NineStar's fiber, they were able to do a lot more in terms of production and they were even able to link various production lines into a seamless loop which creates a self-sustaining back up.

"With suppliers we had before, it wasn't even possible for them to offer that service," says Cary Dodenhoff, IT Manager for INTAT Precision. "We'll work with (NineStar) quite a bit and say here's what our struggles are, here's a new problem we're having and they will come up with some ideas and maybe present a solution. They have become a business partner of ours."

Steve Long, president and CEO

of Hancock Regional Hospital says the fact that NineStar was an independent, locally-owned company that was willing to do things that a larger company would not be willing to do was very important to the hospital system. They not only connected the building to the fiber network but also enables them to stay on top of the radically changing healthcare industry.

"(NineStar) gives us access to things that we would not have otherwise," he says.

Snyder says the strides NineStar has made to create this Smart Rural Community means so much to both the business and residential membership. Not only do they know they have a forward-thinking telecommunications and electric co-op, but they have an entity that is constantly reinvesting in the community whether it is through their time, talent or treasure.

"I often tell people to look around at the number of places connected to our network, the community service we provide and the support we show our local schools, and area organizations through sponsorships," Snyder says. "A Smart Rural Community does not begin and end with improved connectivity, it is an all-encompassing idea that develops local talent, improves the public and private sector and demonstrates good stewardship of its resources. It's just smart business."

## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS AND HELP

**E**ach year, electrical fires from unsafe installation and use of holiday decorations cause injuries, damage and even death. You can help keep your family safe during the holidays by taking a few extra precautions with your holiday decorations. To better protect your family against the dangers of fire, make sure your home has smoke detectors and a fire extinguisher. Families should also develop and practice an escape plan in case of a fire or emergency. Below are a few important safety tips to help make your holiday season safer.

- Inspect all Christmas light cords for bare wires, frayed cords, loose connections, or damaged light sockets
- Use fused light sets whenever possible
- If using lights or cords outside make sure they are intended for outdoor use
- Always use GFCI protected outlets or cords outside or in damp locations
- Do not overload extension cords
- Follow manufacturers' directions for number of light strands linked together (usually no more than 3)
- Secure lights with insulated holders (not tacks or nails)
- Turn lights off when leaving or going to bed. When installing lights outside, know where overhead power lines are and keep lights, ladders and persons far away from power lines
- Unravel and test lights on ground before climbing ladders to install
- Do not mount lights near heat sources (electric heaters, candles, fireplaces etc.)
- Do not close doors or windows on light strands or extension cords
- Replace burned out bulbs promptly with proper wattage replacements
- Periodically check wires; they should not be warm to the touch
- Keep cords out of walkways
- Use one long extension cord rather than several short cords



# SERVICE DAY 2015

NINESTAR EMPLOYEES TAKE PART IN ANNUAL COOPERATIVE EFFORT



The second annual Cooperative Service Day was held on Friday, Oct. 9. Cooperative Service Day is part of the Indiana Electric Cooperative's Statewide Day of Service that helps several nonprofits with projects they otherwise wouldn't be able to complete on their own. NineStar increased their projects from last year from helping five individuals/organizations to eight this year. Below is a list of organizations and projects the NineStar team assisted with:

- Kids Play, Inc.**
  - Painted room in basement of Memorial Building (used as a rehearsal space)
- Hancock County 4-H Ag Association**
  - Cut down dead trees/tree limbs around fairgrounds property
- Good Shepherd Community**
  - Assisted with a cookout for residents (served and played games with residents)
- Town of McCordsville**
  - Beautified McCordsville sign at north gateway into town (plants, mulch and top soil)
- Regreening Greenfield/Parks Department**
  - Weeded and mulched trees along Penny Trail
- Hancock County Arts Council**
  - Built a privacy wall around air units/trash receptacles; built and placed seating benches and flower boxes
- Hancock County Senior Services, Inc.**
  - Assisted an elderly couple with yard maintenance
- LINK (Leaders in Navigating Knowledge)**
  - Created a database for the organization

Regina Bever, Director of Customer Service and organizer of the event, said "I'm really happy with the turnout this year. Everything seemed to go smoothly and the weather cooperated too. We have a great group of hard working employees to volunteer their knowledge and skills in helping get the jobs needed done and done quickly. It really makes me proud that NineStar is a part of this and to see the look on the faces of the people we helped makes it all worthwhile."



## NINESTAR'S REGINA BEVER SPEAKS AT IURC BILLING SYMPOSIUM

On Nov. 2 NineStar's Director of Customer Service, Regina Bever, spent the day at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC) billing symposium in downtown Indianapolis. The symposium was organized and hosted by the IURC. The one of its kind event was not only a first for Indiana but across the United States as well. The purpose of the gathering was to encourage ideas, open dialogue, transparency and sharing of billing practices across many different types of utilities.

Bever spoke on two different panels during the day. The topics she discussed included eBilling and paper billing. NineStar was selected for the panel because the cooperative has been seen as a leader in the industry's move to eBilling and the Smart Hub feature which allows customers to track their energy consumption.

Many different types of utilities took part in the day long symposium. Participants included; electric utilities, water utilities, gas utilities and communication utilities. Other groups such as the Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, AARP, Citizens Action Coalition and the National Regulatory Research Institute also participated.

After the event Regina Bever had this to say, "I was proud to be asked to speak and discuss all of the great things NineStar is doing in the areas of billing. We provide our customers with tools so that they can investigate their electric usage and when they use the most kWh during the day. All in all it was a fun day, and I learned many things from the other presenters."

## BE CAUTIOUS WHEN USING SPACE HEATERS

It's December, which means the weather is cold and you may be dreaming of a white Christmas. Your home may stay toasty in some places, but you may have a room that just doesn't get as warm as you'd like. You turn to a space heater to get that area warmer but keep in mind:

- They're small, but they can run up big bills. One 1,500 watt space heater operating on its' high setting 24 hours a day for a month can add about \$110 to your electric bill. Use space heaters sparingly and on the lowest setting that you can tolerate.

- Where there's heat there may be fire. Huddle under a blanket, sure, but keep your space heater three feet from fabric. Make sure anything combustible is safely out of range, like curtains or the stuffed animal a child has left on the floor.

- An upright space heater is the safest space heater. Keep your heater on a flat, level surface so that there's less likelihood of it falling over (and the heating element reaching something combustible). You should also turn it off at night so that roaming pets don't knock it over.

- Manage your fuel carefully. If you're using a liquid fuel space heater, make sure you stick to the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Deviating is downright dangerous. The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment was designed for and cause a serious fire.

Instead of turning to a space heater, there are things you can do to keep your home warmer and more comfortable this winter.

- Air Sealing – Use caulk to seal high-impact areas in your home such as plumbing, wiring, light fixtures and ductwork penetrations from your attic. Gently push back the insulation on the attic floor to locate the tops of wall headers and use caulk or spray foam to seal the cracks. Give your attic access hatch inside your home a makeover. If you have a simple flat board blocking the access hole, attach

three inches of foam board insulation to the backside of the hatch. Apply weather-stripping to the lip that holds the board in place. Apply latches from the home side that will keep the board fitting snugly against the weather-stripping. It may not seem like much cold air could escape through those places but added together, they can account for significant heat loss – as much as leaving a window open all winter!

- Insulation – Wait! Before you think about adding insulation to your home, have you air sealed? If you haven't air sealed properly, air moving through newly installed insulation drastically reduces its R-value and will make your new insulation worthless! We recommend R42 ceiling insulation to newly built homes. If you don't have that, adding more may help keep you warmer this winter.

- Equipment – Once you've sealed and insulated your home properly, your heating system can do its' job effectively. If you're in the market for a new heat pump or geothermal system, visit [www.powermoves.com](http://www.powermoves.com) to see if you qualify for a rebate. If your heating system doesn't need replacing quite yet, there are things you can do to save energy and money. Make sure to check your filters monthly and keep them clean. Don't turn off your central heating system and use space heaters thinking you'll save money on your heating bills.

You won't! If you already have an electric air source heat pump don't "flip the switch" to emergency heat. And finally, don't be fooled by commercials or ads that claim the heater in the fancy handcrafted wooden box are more efficient than a space heater from a discount store.

If you need more information to help make your home more efficient, call NineStar Energy Advisor Darrin Couch at 317-326-3131. Happy holidays from NineStar Connect!

## UPCOMING

### LOCAL TEENS CAN PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL PAGE DAY

On Monday, Jan. 25, the Indiana General Assembly will host Indiana Electric Cooperative Page Day. The day will feature a tour of the governor's office and the Indiana Statehouse, as well as the opportunity to meet the students' local state representative. Pages will also observe floor sessions, learn about current legislation and assist staff members.

"Serving as a page gives young people a unique opportunity to participate in state government," explained Michael Burrow, President & CEO of NineStar Connect. "Experiencing the process and the heart of state government brings to life many of the lessons students learn in the classroom. Seeing it firsthand takes it to the next level."

Students between the ages of 13-18 who are affiliated with an Indiana electric cooperative are eligible to participate. To apply visit [https://www.indianaec.org/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?action=frm\\_forms\\_preview&form=1ucl10245](https://www.indianaec.org/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?action=frm_forms_preview&form=1ucl10245). The application deadline is Jan. 18.

For more information about the 2016 Indiana Electric Cooperative Page Day, contact Christa Riggs at 317.323.2132 or [criggs@ninstarconnect.com](mailto:criggs@ninstarconnect.com).

**INDIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
**PAGE DAY**

**SPEND A DAY in the INDIANA LEGISLATURE**  
WITH STUDENTS FROM REMGS AROUND THE STATE.

**JANUARY 25**

- ★ See the legislature in action!
- ★ Observe policy debates.
- ★ Assist legislators during session.
- ★ Tour the governor's office and statehouse.

**HOW TO APPLY**

1. Visit [IGA.IN.GOV/legislative/find-legislators](http://IGA.IN.GOV/legislative/find-legislators) to find your state legislator.
2. Visit [bit.ly/INDIAJOE](http://bit.ly/INDIAJOE) to apply.
3. Submit your application.

**REQUIREMENTS**

You must be available on January 25 and have reliable transportation to and from the Indiana Statehouse that day. The program is open to students aged 13-18. Please confirm with school administrators, but Page Day is considered an excused absence in most instances.

**APPLY BY JANUARY 18**



## RETIRED NINESTAR DIRECTOR RICHARD PARKER HONORED

At the October quarterly employee luncheon Richard Parker, a recently retired director of NineStar Connect was honored. A short presentation took place after the lunch where President and CEO Mike Burrow described Parker as a visionary for helping create a new vision and forging a unique new path for the hybrid utility. After a few remarks by Parker he was presented with a NineStar Connect logo wooden rocking chair. Parker was first elected to the Hancock Rural Telephone Corp. board in 1973. He served in various capacities and officer positions with the cooperative during his 43 years on the board. Parker's wife Anne was also in attendance. After the presentation the Parker's received a standing ovation from NineStar employees.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE FOUNDATION TO FUTURE PROSPERITY

There has been a lot of talk lately about the need for investment in infrastructure. Indiana Representative Todd Rokita earlier this year commented it was time to have "an adult conversation" on the topic as the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on which he sits was wrestling with the thorny issues of how to pay for much needed repair and upgrades on America's roads and bridges. Similarly, Governor Mike Pence has proposed utilizing \$241 million from the state's reserves to spend on rehabilitating Indiana's highway system.

The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that the United States will need to spend over \$3.6 trillion by 2020 on critical infrastructure that is key to our country's vital interests and

ability to remain competitive. Closer to home, the Society gives Indiana an overall infrastructure grade of D+ with roads receiving a C-, drinking water systems receiving a D+ and wastewater systems receiving a D-. It seems that years of neglect and deferred maintenance is coming back to haunt many of us. The dollar we saved by kicking the can down the road on repairs or upgrades 10 years ago will now cost us three dollars to fix today.

Recently, the NineStar board of directors adopted a mission statement which captures this cooperative's commitment to critical infrastructure: "NineStar

Connect is a "smart utility." We deliver fiber optic and other utility infrastructure for homes and businesses that drive economic

development and growth for communities."

The condition of needed infrastructure is the key to any community's current status as well as future prosperity. History has shown that communities that are focused on building, maintaining

and improving their public infrastructure enjoy greater prosperity than those who defer investments or wait for something to come along to spur such investments. Indeed, communities with better infrastructure often

have larger tax bases that reduce overall individual tax burdens.

Of course, not all infrastructure is government infrastructure paid for by the taxpayers. Some critical infrastructure is owned, maintained and operated by companies and they too share the responsibility to continue to invest in their infrastructure. For example, aging communications infrastructure cannot support modern broadband needs just as aging electrical infrastructure cannot support safe, reliable power.

As a community-based cooperative utility, NineStar Connect is essentially an infrastructure company. We are always mindful of the delicate balancing of fiscal prudence without deferring much needed repairs and upgrades to the next generation. That's why

over the last five years, we have made capital investments of over \$44 million in both electrical distribution and fiber optic facilities

while simultaneously reducing the company's long term debt by over \$6.6 million. These investments have been designed to not only meet the growing needs of our current members and customers but also future needs of members and customers as our community continues to grow.

Ultimately, thoughtful investment in critical infrastructure fosters prosperity for communities through future economic development and growth. Greater economic development and growth leads to stable taxes, utility rates and communities. It's a virtuous circle that benefits everyone and NineStar is proud to be doing its part.

## TIME OF USE — ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT RATE?

The optional Time of Use program is available for those who scale back their electricity use during peak hours (4 to 8 p.m.). We are seeing this program become more popular and have heard positive reviews from various customers.

One customer commented, "I saved almost 10 percent on my electric charges last month by being on the Time of Use rate. Not too bad for changing a few habits. My wife and I avoid doing laundry or running the dishwasher during the peak hours. We have also made an effort to manage our hot water usage and keep a closer eye on our thermostat during the peak. However, we still watch TV in the evening, use the computer and cook dinner. So I can say we are very satisfied with the savings."

Additionally, the great thing about this program is you don't have to worry about the weekends or holidays. Use your electricity as you want. There are no peak hours during this time so there is no remembering when you should water the yard or charge your phone. So plug away!

And the other great feature is you can try Time of Use and if you are finding that it doesn't work for you and you feel it's not saving you money, you can go back to the standard flat rate bill without penalty. Just let a Residential Service Consultant know so we can accommodate your request.

So what do you have to lose? Nothing! Well, except having to pay a few more dollars every month! If you are interested in more information or would like to change from the standard flat rate to Time of Use, please call us at 317-326-3131.



## CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS ARE ARRIVING SOON

It's that time of the year again when NineStar mails out capital credit checks. The check(s) you will be receiving are for profits that were allocated to your patronage account as a member of NineStar Connect. Profits are allocated to the members and are prorated based upon each members' purchase of electric and/or telecommunications services.

During the last five years, NineStar has been able to make more than \$44 million in capital investments in critical electrical and fiber optic infrastructure while still being able to reduce its long-term debt by more than \$6.6 million. During that same period, the company has returned more than \$2 million in cash to members in the form of capital credit retirements.

## WABASH VALLEY TO CEASE OPERATIONS AT SGSOLUTIONS

### OFFICIALS CITE INCREASED OPERATING COSTS, DECLINING NATURAL GAS COSTS

Indianapolis-based generation and transmission cooperative, Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA) will cease operations at its sgSolutions synthetic gas plant and close its steam turbine at Unit 1 at the Wabash River generating station in West Terre Haute.

sgSolutions converts solid fuels, such as coal and petroleum coke, into a synthetic gas which has been used to fuel the company's adjacent Wabash River combined cycle power plant. The remaining turbine at

the facility will now be fueled by natural gas from an existing pipeline at the site. The synthetic gas plant was originally constructed in 1995 and purchased by WVPA in 2005, as the company sought ways to mitigate forecasted increases in natural gas prices.

"Due to increased operational costs and the continued decline in natural gas prices it has simply become uneconomical to continue operations at the fuel island and the steam turbine," stated WVPA Chief Executive Officer

Jay Bartlett. We will be running the remaining turbine at the site on natural gas, which will help us reduce wholesale electricity costs for our 23 electric distribution cooperatives and their nearly 350,000 members.

"We need to operate as efficiently as possible for the families, businesses, and schools throughout our electric service territories," Bartlett said. "We are deeply concerned for the sgSolutions employees and their families, and will provide career transition services to support

them through this process."

NineStar Connect President and CEO Mike Burrow commented, "We are mindful that providing affordable, reliable and safe power to NineStar's 14,000 members in Hancock, Hamilton, Madison and Rush counties is paramount to our mission and appreciate our G&T Wabash Valley Power which keeps our rate paying members in focus when making long term decisions that impact the energy we provide."

This decision will affect approximately 47 sgSolutions employees, as well as contractors and vendors who do business at the facility.

# OPERATION ROUND-UP

The last quarterly meeting of NineStar Connect's Operation Round Up was held in November at the company's headquarters.

The next application deadline date for Operation Round Up is January 15, 2016. Applications can be downloaded from our website at [www.ninestarconnect.com](http://www.ninestarconnect.com).

Here are some organizations that benefited from the ORU fund this past quarter:

### FUSE, INC. (FAMILIES UNITED FOR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT)

Fuse, Inc. provides information, resources and support to Indiana families raising children who have special needs. They help alleviate the challenge of parenting a child with special needs by serving as a handbook to help answer questions and give education to the families. They believe that children with special needs are children first.

### HANCOCK COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES, INC.

Hancock County Senior Services, Inc. was established in 1978 and assists over 1,076 residents in the county annually. They are a not-for-profit, community-based agency that provides non-medical support for seniors, transportation and allows individuals to maintain the greatest possible independence necessary.

### HANCOCK COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Since their inception in April 1993, the Food Pantry's mission is to secure and distribute food and non-food essentials to the needy in an effort to alleviate hunger in Hancock County. It is a 100% volunteer organization with over 100 volunteers. The Food Pantry has served an average of close to 650 families and over 800,000 pounds of food in 2013 and the numbers continue to increase each year.

### LOVE INC (LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST)

Love INC of Hancock County is part of a national movement of other Love INC affiliates that has been helping churches reach out to the community to share hope and effect change. Through strategies, partnerships and networks, Love INC encourages a fully engaged faith foundation for serving people in need in Hancock County.

### VIPS (VISUALLY IMPAIRED PRESCHOOL SERVICES)

VIPS provides early intervention and educational services to children who are blind or visually impaired from birth to 5 years old in order to build a strong foundation for reaching their highest potential. VIPS provides a strong support system for not only the children but the parents, grandparents and the whole family.



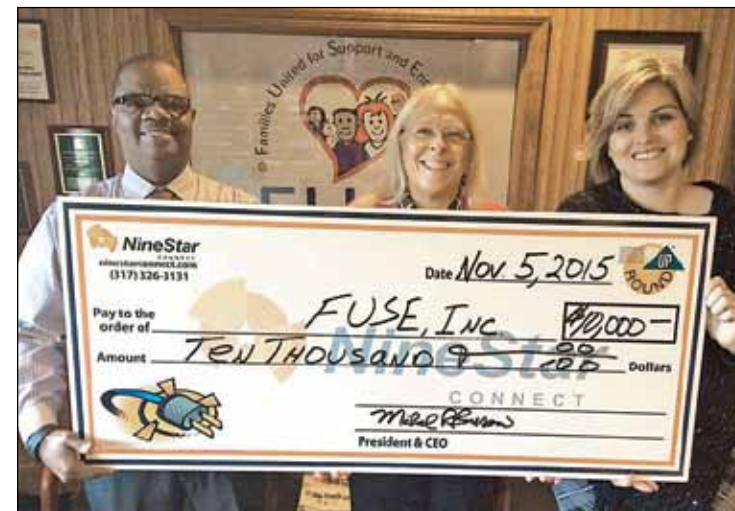
HANCOCK COUNTY FOOD PANTRY



LOVE INC



VIPS



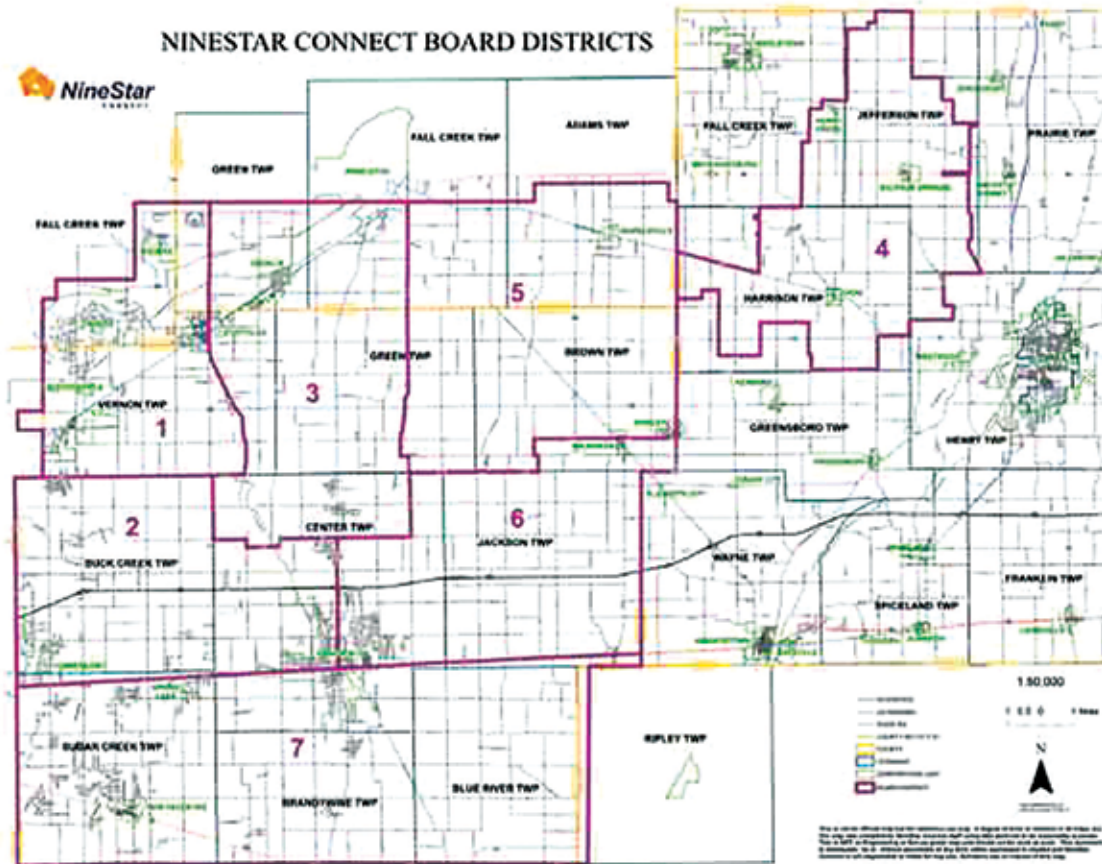
FUSE, INC.



HANCOCK COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES, INC.

## Notice to Membership of Upcoming Election of Directors

The 2016 NineStar Connect Annual Meeting will be held on April 1, 2016. The following director districts are up for election: 3, 5A, 5B, 6B, and 7B.



Any member in good standing residing in these districts who is interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors should contact Christa Meadors at the Main Street office (317-323-2106) and request an Information Guide for Potential Directors.

A Nominating Committee Meeting will be held on January 6, 2016. Any member who desires to be nominated for director by the Nominating Committee should complete a Director Candidate Information Form along with a Certification of Eligibility to Serve as Director to:

NineStar Connect  
 Attn: Michael R. Burrow, President and CEO  
 2243 E. Main Street  
 Greenfield, IN 46140

Forms may also be personally delivered to any NineStar Connect business office. **Deadline** for submission of these materials in order to be considered for nomination by the Nominating Committee is **December 31, 2015 at 12 o'clock noon.**

Members who are being considered for nomination will have the opportunity to meet with the Nominating Committee at a candidate reception on January 6, 2016 immediately preceding its meeting.



## PAPERLESS BILLING PAYS OFF: MONTHLY TABLET GIVEAWAY

A big CONGRATULATIONS to Amy Stivers (September's winner) and Eric Parks (October's winner) who each won a Samsung Galaxy Tablet for enrolling in Paperless Billing. You could be a winner too...sign up for Paperless Billing TODAY!

## NINESTAR HISTORY SHOW HOST WINS STATEWIDE AWARD

Joe Skvarenina, the host of NineStar TV's history show "Step Back In Time," was selected by the Indiana Historical Society as the 2015 recipient of the Hubert Hawkins History Award. The award goes annually to a local historian for his or her distinguished service and career in local history. Hubert Howard Hawkins was the executive secretary of IHS and the director of the Indiana Historical Bureau. He was instrumental in increasing membership through visits around the state and with the Indiana Junior Historical Bureau. This year, Mr. Skvarenina shares the award with Maratha Bladen of Vevay and Peter Jones of Wabash. Mr. Skvarenina was nominated by the Hancock County Public Library. The award will be presented at the Dec. 7 Founder's Day Dinner at Indiana Historical Society.



## S U D O K U

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

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

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