

www.gbta.net  
Help Desk: 800.432.7965



# The Connection

A Monthly Newsletter for the GBT Communities and Patrons

## Rush Center Office

103 Lincoln St. • Rush Center, KS 67575  
800.432.7965 • 785.372.4236  
Hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm | Mon-Fri

## Ellis Office

101 W. 9th • Ellis, KS 67637  
800.966.5183 • 785.726.3200  
Hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm | Mon-Wed-Fri  
Closed for lunch 12:30pm-1:30pm

## Ness City Office

114 W. Main  
Ness City, KS 67560  
800.966.5186  
785.798.3100  
Hours:  
8:00am - 5:00pm  
Mon-Fri

## Larned Office

122 W. 5th  
Larned, KS 67550  
800.432.7965 • 620.910.7676  
Hours:  
8:30am - 11:30am &  
Noon - 4:30pm  
Mon-Fri

## St. John Office

PO Box 86 • 602 N US Hwy 281  
St. John, KS 67576  
620.377.5555 • 620.377.5556  
Hours:  
11:00am - 5:00pm  
Mon-Fri

## Q & A on 5G

5G is a hot topic of conversation among all of the wireless carriers right now, but what does it all mean? You're probably hearing things like low band, high band, 600MHz and IoT just to name a few. We're going to break it down for you and update you on what we're doing to get our network 5G ready!

Spectrum is a huge piece of the 5G puzzle and includes low band, mid band and high band.

- Low band provides the most extensive coverage which spreads the furthest distance.
- Mid band offers good capacity but doesn't travel as far as low band.
- High band is best used in very dense outdoor areas like Times Square in New York City (not Kansas).

Nex-Tech Wireless is currently working to deploy 600MHz sites that are 5G ready with spectrum in each of the bands. We will begin our 5G rollout later this year! 5G-capable handsets are available, and we are excited to bring 5G to customers right here in Kansas!

What are the differences between 4G and 5G?

- 5G has more antennas on the transmitting and receiving end; 4G has 2 antennas. With 5G you'll see at least 4 antennas.
- 5G will be 20-30% faster!
- 5G will also extend coverage on the cell edge.

For a more in-depth explanation of all things 5G, check out the Nex-Tech Wireless Facebook Live with Nathan Sutter, Director of Network Operations and Engineering at Nex-Tech Wireless and stay tuned for updated information as we begin rollout.

GBT has 5 local store locations for your Nex-Tech Wireless needs! Did you know if you are a GBT customer, you could receive a discount on your NTW bill? Stop in and see your friendly faces at GBT today!

## MIX AND MATCH 5 DEVICES WITH UNLIMITED DATA FOR \$125/MONTH!\*

iPhone 12 Mini



Samsung S20 FE



iPad 8th Gen.



Get your device ON US with trade-in and Phone Guard.

**NEXTech**  
wireless  
Authorized Agent



114 W Main  
Ness City, KS 67560  
785-798-3100

101 W 9th  
Ellis, KS 67637  
785-726-3200

122 W 5th  
Larned, KS 67550  
620-910-7676

602 N Hwy 281  
St. John, KS 67576  
620-377-5555

103 Lincoln  
Rush Center, KS 67575  
785-372-4236

www.nex-techwireless.com | Questions? Contact Customer Care - 877-621-2600 |

\*Certain restrictions apply. Visit www.nex-techwireless.com for details.

Follow Us  
on Social Media



# UPGRADE to GBT's Streaming Internet *GET StreamIT* TV for

**\$57<sup>.95</sup>** /mo.

~~\$77<sup>.95</sup>~~

**PLUS —**  
GET 2 FREE  
FIRESTICKS  
WHEN YOU  
SWITCH!

## STREAMIT



\*Promo valid through 2/28/2021. Certain restrictions apply. TV price valid when customer subscribes to Streaming Internet (50 mbps) or higher. The price does not include additional taxes and fees.

### WHAT IS A PART OF YOUR JOB THAT MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T KNOW YOU DO?

"I get the exhilarating task of proof reading the phone book each year! It's a real page turner, haha!"

### WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF GBT?

"I think the future of GBT is very bright. We are always putting the customer first, and in our small communities that means so much to people! I am most excited that we are expanding services in Stafford County. I can't wait to better serve rural customers in this area."

### WHAT DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE OUTSIDE OF GBT?

"My husband, Tim, and I live in St. John and have 3 wonderful kids. Tim is the transportation director for Macksville schools. We love going camping and boating most weekends. We also enjoy a good game night with friends. Before Covid we played co-ed volleyball; we hope to get back to that some day!"

### DO YOU HAVE A MOTTO YOU LIVE BY?

"I suppose I have 2 mottos. The most cliché being the Golden Rule. But truly, I believe in treating others as you want to be treated, and I always strive to do that. The other being that everything happens for a reason. Good or bad, God has a reason for what happens even though we may never know what His reason is. We just have to keep our faith and trust in Him!"

**We are always  
putting the  
customer first,  
and in our small  
communities  
that means  
so much to  
people.**

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:  
**ANDREA**



## GBT Hunting

### Snowflake Hunting

William "Bill" Ring - Ellis



January's Newsletter had a total of 28 black Snowflakes! Bill won a \$10 bill credit from GBT just for playing!



*Count this one too!*

It's time to count... throughout this issue of the Connection there are many Black Hearts. Can you count them? When you find them all, e-mail us by the 10th of the month at [marketing@gbtlive.com](mailto:marketing@gbtlive.com) with the total number of Black Hearts, and you will be entered into a drawing to win a \$10 bill credit on your next GBT bill!



## GBT offers Scholarship and FREE Trip to Washington D.C.



### Foundation for Rural Service Scholarship (\$2,500 Scholarship)

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) offers an annual college scholarship program to help further higher education among rural youth. FRS awards a one-time \$2,500 scholarship to students from rural America for their first year of college, university or vocational-technical school. GBT supplies \$500 of the scholarship, with FRS funding \$2,000 of the scholarship. The FRS College Scholarship Program seeks to encourage students to return to their rural communities upon completing their education.

### Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour (All-expense paid trip to Washington DC)

Every summer, the FRS Youth Tour brings together high school students from across rural America to visit our nation's Capital and learn about rural telecommunications. The tour provides a forum for teens to meet and interact with their peers from other rural communities, as well as key legislative, regulatory and government figures. GBT will sponsor two students in 2021. If the trip would happen to be cancelled, GBT will transition this to a scholarship, so make sure you apply by March 5th!



For more information, please visit our website [www.gbta.net/About/Scholarships](http://www.gbta.net/About/Scholarships)



## GBT Completes \$2.3 Million Fiber Projects - Prepares for \$2.944 Million Fiber Projects in 2021

GBT is committed to providing all our cooperative members fiber. We are excited to announce the near completion of the rural Rozel and rural Rush Center Fiber Project, impacting approximately 86 homes and businesses, costing nearly \$2.3 million to complete. With these upgrades, customers now have access to the fastest, most reliable Broadband platform to get Internet.

This Broadband platform also makes the area more attractive to businesses and individuals who might want to move here, as one major question people want to know when relocating to an area is what type of Internet they can get. Fiber Internet access levels the playing field for rural opportunities and provides capabilities such as learning and working from home, telemedicine, being able to watch television, or buying products from the comforts of your home.

GBT continues to invest back into our cooperative and is excited to announce plans to build fiber in 2021 to the rural areas of Bazine and McCracken, along with the entire Brownell exchange, including parts of Cedar Bluff State Park. With a project estimate of \$2.944 million impacting approximately 125 customers, you can see GBT's pledge to taking care of our customers. GBT knows how important it is to get fiber to everyone, which is why the approximate \$23,500 per customer price does not deter us from entering this project. Once completed, GBT will have nearly 95% of its cooperative area built with fiber, with a goal of being 100% fiber by 2024!

# A (not so) novel idea.

**Stand-Alone, Fiber, 100x100 Mbps Internet** option from GBT is finally here.



CALL FOR DETAILS:  
**800-432-7965**



If you live in GBT's cooperative area (one of our 18 regulated exchanges), receiving GBT services has included subscribing to a home phone. A home phone can be invaluable due to its clarity and reliability, including during power outages, plus the ability for 911 to locate you right away in the event of an emergency. With the growth of the Internet and mobile phones, however, customers have requested to have more options in the services they subscribe to. Due to the high cost to provide fiber service to the areas we serve, GBT receives federal and state funding to provide voice to any person that requests service in the exchange. Regulations have not caught up with the times, unfortunately, to allow funding for Internet, which is in high demand today. However, GBT has heard from some customers who wish to have an Internet-only option.

Although a risk for GBT, we understand and make every attempt to provide the products and services our customers request, which is why we have begun to offer our 100/100 Mbps Fiber Internet option without a phone line for those customers who desire to have Internet only. Since GBT's voice service was formed as a cooperative and funding is received based on voice, cooperative customers who choose to eliminate their phone line will also relinquish their cooperative membership and forfeit the accruing of any capital credits. If you are interested in this option or have any questions, please feel free to call our office today.

## Smoky Queso Dip on The Grill

### Ingredients:

Pam Original Non-Stick Cooking Spray  
1 lb (16 oz) Velveeta®, cut into cubes  
1 can (10 oz each) Ro\*Tel® Diced Tomatoes with Green Chilies, undrained  
2 cups shredded Mexican cheese blend  
12 ounces chorizo, cooked  
1/2 cup Vlasic® Deli Style Jalapeno Pepper Slices  
1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped



### Directions:

Heat grill for indirect grilling: Light one side of grill, leaving other side unlit. Close lid. Heat grill to 300°F.  
Spray 12x9-inch disposable foil pan and a sheet of aluminum foil with cooking spray. Stir together all ingredients in pan and cover with foil, sprayed side down. Place on grill grate on unlit side of grill. Cook for about 30 minutes, stirring every 10 minutes, until thoroughly melted and mixed together.  
Serve warm queso dip with tortilla chips, crusty bread, or vegetables.

## SEEKING

If you  
a  
recipe  
would  
share

  
*Recipes*

have  
your  
favorite  
like to  
to be

featured in an upcoming newsletter, send it to [marketing@gbtlive.com](mailto:marketing@gbtlive.com).

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter or any of our services, please email us at [marketing@gbtlive.com](mailto:marketing@gbtlive.com)

Kelly Baalmann, Editor  
Kyle Bahr, Editor  
Kara Jecha, Editor  
Addison Flax, Graphic Design



PHONE



TV



INTERNET



COMPUTERS



BUSINESS  
TECHNOLOGY



SECURITY



WIRELESS