



The Connection

A Monthly Newsletter for the GBT Communities and Patrons

Rush Center Office

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

Ellis Office

101 W. 9th • Ellis, KS 67637
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
785.798.3100
Hours:
8:00am - 5:00pm
Mon-Fri

Larned Office

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

St. John Office

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

Dig Safe

It's that fun time of year when outdoor projects are planned and started. Many fences, decks, and landscaping projects are underway, and GBT wants to remind everyone to call 811 before you dig. 811 is the national Call-Before-You-Dig phone number that coordinates with all utility companies in your area to mark their lines that are buried. 811 is a free service; it does not cost you anything to have your utilities located. But a few days' notice is required, so do not wait until the last minute to call before you start a project. Failing to call 811 and hitting a utility line can cost you thousands of dollars in repairs, and sometimes can also affect your neighborhood's and/or town's services, not just yours. Calling 811 can also save a life, so make sure you call 811 before you dig!!



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG:
811 or 1-800-DIG-SAFE
(800-344-7233)

The 2021 Junior Board

Another successful GBT Junior Board graduated recently and received a \$750 scholarship from GBT. These 7 area seniors are provided learning opportunities about who GBT is and what we do, including how communication services are delivered to the area. The Junior Board received an in-depth look at voice, video, and Internet and were able to tour the Nex-Tech Wireless Cellular Headquarters in Hays. GBT got to learn technology insights from our student leaders. One fun fact that some might find hard to believe, is most of our Jr. Board does not watch traditional TV, but instead choose to view content on phones, computers, or tablets. Every year it is amazing to see how technology savvy our young generation is!



Pictured from Left to Right: Kinley Mongeau - LaCrosse, Abbi Bahr - Otis-Bison, Janate Kerr - Ness City, Clay Shaw - Ellis, Dylan Reed - St. John, Madison Polson - Pawnee Heights, Jenna Strickler - Western Plains, Kara Jecha - GBT Marketing Specialist





LET US MANAGE YOUR WIFI WITH

MANAGED PROTECTION



SIGN UP TODAY **GET 3 MONTHS FREE!**

GBT'S TOP-OF-THE-LINE WIFI ROUTER

To get the best Wi-Fi, you need the best router. **We've got you covered.**

FREE ON-SITE TECHNICAL SUPPORT

GBT is **here for you** with any questions or issues.

WORRY-FREE INSTALLATION

Our techs install start to finish and optimize **your Wi-Fi to fit your needs.**

FAST SPEEDS

No lag, buffering or downtime. Our routers **utilize the newest Wi-Fi technology.**

STRONG, RELIABLE, & SECURE WIFI

Strengthened Wi-Fi to **reach every corner of your home** and automatic software updates provide **superior security.**



Offer valid 6/1/2021 - 6/30/2021. Certain restrictions may apply.

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

Most people wouldn't know that I am a spokesperson for GBT. I get asked about our company no matter where I go, thanks to our awesome logo wear. I enjoy telling them about all the services we have.

WHAT DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE OUTSIDE OF GBT?

I enjoy my three kids and all of their activities. I love everything the great outdoors has to offer. I also enjoy BBQing and all the fun and fellowship I have with my friends and family when we get together.



WHAT GOALS DO YOU HAVE WITH YOUR JOB?

I always embrace new technology and try to figure out how GBT can leverage it best for their customers.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

My children inspire me to be the best role model for them.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FUTURE OF GBT LOOKS LIKE?

GBT has been known as a forward-thinking company. We embrace new technology while keeping our customer in mind as we roll out new technologies. We will continue to be a front runner in the communication industry paired with always putting the customers first, as well as the communities we serve.



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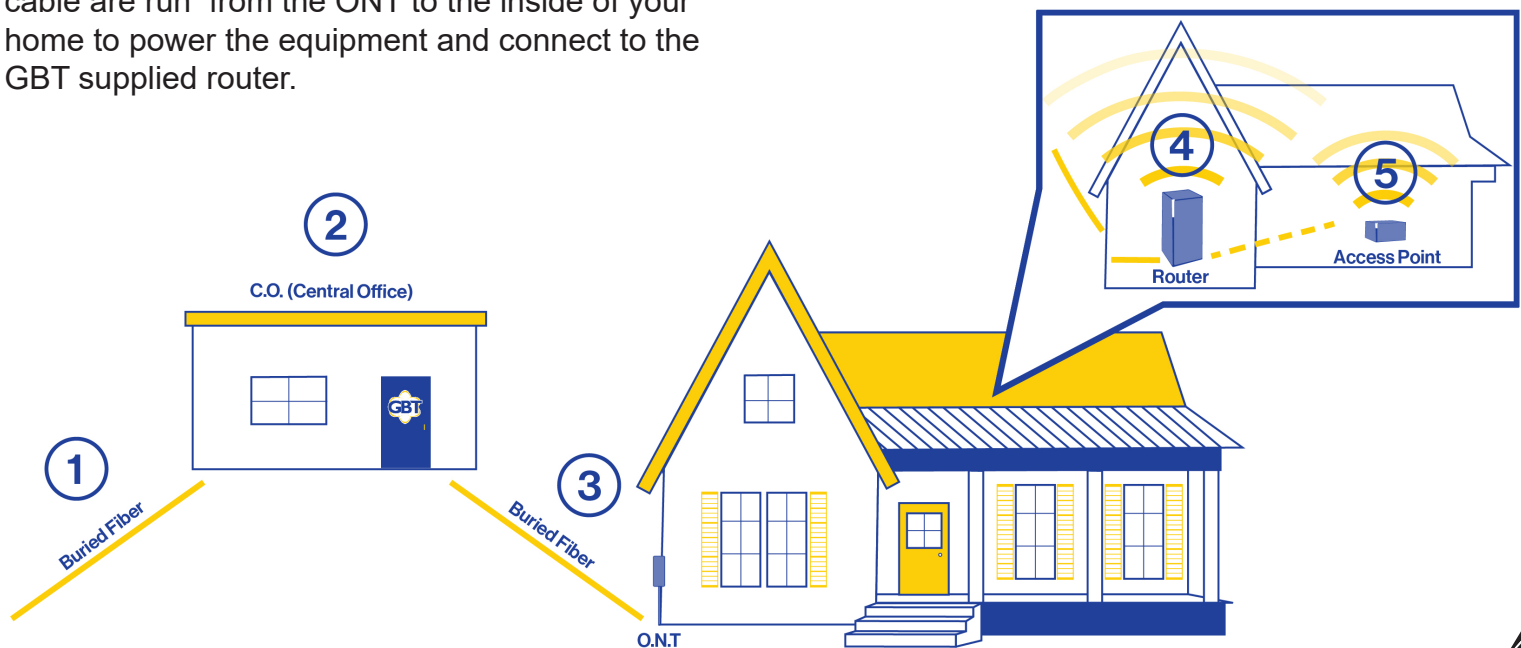
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:
DUSTIN





How Fiber Internet Works

1. GBT purchases Internet Bandwidth from National Broadband Carriers and links these connections to our Central Offices located within each of our towns we serve with the thousands of miles of Fiber Optic Cable we have buried in the ground. This connects your Internet traffic back to the world.
2. Individual fiber is buried between our Central Office and each dwelling or business that we serve with Internet.
3. An ONT (Optical Network Terminal) is mounted on the side of your dwelling that helps convert the fiber to an Ethernet cable. A power cable and Ethernet cable are run from the ONT to the inside of your home to power the equipment and connect to the GBT supplied router.
4. The Ethernet cable connects to the GBT router which broadcasts your Internet signal via Wi-Fi and allows multiple devices to connect. Many of these routers also allow devices to be connected directly to them with Ethernet cables.
5. Depending on the size of your home or other factors that degrade your Wi-Fi signal, an access point might be needed to improve the signal allowing devices to connect in all parts of your home.
6. All your Internet traffic travels thousands of miles of cable and many pieces of electronics to connect you to the world in milliseconds.



Kansas Lifeline

You may be eligible to receive up to \$17.02 off your monthly local telephone bill through the Lifeline Program.

You are eligible if you receive any of the following:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (FHPA), Veterans Pension & Survivors Pension Benefit, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start Tribal Programs (only those meeting its income qualifying standard), the Food Distribution Program on Tribal Lands, or 135% of the federal poverty level*. *A consumer must provide THREE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS of statements as documentation of income, or provide a copy of their tax return for the previous year.*

For more information about Kansas Lifeline, call your local telephone company. The number is on your telephone bill or in the front part of the telephone directory.

2021 Lifeline Income Criteria

Number In Household	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$17,388
2	\$23,517
3	\$29,646
4	\$35,775
5	\$41,904
6	\$48,033
7	\$54,162
8	\$60,291
each additional person	\$ 6,129



FRS Grant - \$5,000 Opportunity!

GBT is proud to sponsor the 2021 Foundation for Rural Service Community Grant Program, which invests funds to support local efforts of non-profit entities to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural America. In GBT's 6 years of participation, 5 project applications have won, totaling nearly \$18,000 in grant funds invested in the GBT service area!

Being a GBT Customer not only allows you access to this National Grant Program, it gives you the expertise of a grant writer who will review submitted applications to improve your project's chances for winning!

FRS provides PRIORITY to projects that:

- Could be fully funded by the grant maximum of \$5,000 or have at least 75% of the project currently funded.
- Focus on Technology and Broadband.
- Have a long-term impact for the community and its residents.
- Promote community participation and engagement.
- Create a more sustainable rural community.

FRS will NOT AWARD projects to:

- Individuals
- Scholarship Programs
- International Organizations
- Lobbying and Political Activities
- Ticketed Events
- Infrastructure/Building campaigns
- Capital Campaigns
- Endowments
- Event Sponsorships
- Community Food Programs
- Loan Repayments
- Religious-based Activities

Grants range from \$250 to \$5,000 in the categories to the right. Contact Kara Jecha for more information and to submit completed applications at kjecha@gbtlive.com or 785-372-4236. All proposals must be received by August 1, 2021.

GBT Hunting

Flower Hunting Winner - Theo Wiedeman

Theo won a \$10 bill credit from GBT just for playing May's Hunting Game!



Count this one too!

It's time to count... throughout this issue of the Connection there are many black lemon slices. Can you count them? When you find them all, e-mail us by the 10th of the month at gbthunting@gbta.net with the total number of black lemon slices, and you will be entered into a drawing to win a \$10 bill credit on your next GBT bill!

***Notice we have a NEW email address to submit your entries! Make sure to email gbthunting@gbta.net**

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter or any of our services, please email us at marketing@gbtlive.com

Kyle Bahr, Editor

Kara Jecha, Editor

Addison Flax, Graphic Design



This month Geno Reddick, Directory Advertising sales representative, will be canvassing the GBT area selling and renewing advertising. Geno has been working with GBT customers to develop and place their ad for the last 5 years, and will be glad to assist your business. If you are interested in advertising with the GBT Directory and would like to visit with Geno, please call our office for an appointment.

Business and Economic Development

Devise a plan to turn your community into a global phenomenon by growing small or existing businesses, developing new ones and implementing a job creation program that attracts key talent from your community or from skilled individuals interested in relocating to small town America.

Community Development

Develop an outreach program that helps to promote advancing technology skills of your community members, incorporates innovation into learning, raises the visibility of your community's talent and artistry, and places your town on everyone's bucket list as the place to visit.

Education

Support advances in education by helping your schools get technology (computers, smart boards, etc.) in the classroom, build resources for curriculum development, strengthen extracurricular activities and programs, and promote distance learning programs.

Telecommunications Applications

Show how you plan to turn your community into a technological powerhouse by promoting the implementation and use of broadband-enabled applications for telehealth, education, government services, safety and security, and efficient energy distribution and use.



4 Ingredient Rhubarb Sauce

Rhubarb sauce can be eaten like applesauce or jam. It's delicious over ice cream or pancakes, mixed in a yogurt parfait, or a sauce over meat.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups rhubarb chopped
- 1/2 cup water
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp tapioca quick cook variety

Directions:

Combine all ingredients into a saucepan. Cook until softened. Store covered in the refrigerator for up to one week.

