



# THE Connection

## FIBER IS THE NAME OF THE GAME.

***As GBT continues to provide the best Internet and Communication services to residents and businesses in our area, GBT is very excited to announce the expansion of Fiber services in 2022 to the communities of St. John and Larned, as well as bringing Fiber to the rural customers in the Garfield, Burdett, and Bison exchanges. The 2022 rural exchange Fiber builds will begin in Garfield this summer, followed by Burdett, and finishing in Bison.***

GBT has been providing communication services to the community of St. John since 2008. GBT General Manager Beau Rebel stated, "With the continued growth and support GBT has seen in the community and the need for even faster Internet services than what we provide today, it was an easy decision to invest and upgrade our current infrastructure to a fully Fiber network within the entire city limits of St. John. We hope the community is excited to have access to Fiber services and understands the positive economic impacts Fiber can have with this upgrade." GBT plans to start converting St. John customers to Fiber in the Summer of 2022.

In Larned, GBT brought Fiber communication services to many of the businesses in 2018. The businesses that switched to GBT's Fiber services have consistently voiced praise about GBT's reliability, price, and the level of customer service they have received compared to what they had experienced from their previous communication provider. GBT General Manager commented, "As business customers have become familiar

to GBT's service, now the biggest question we get 'is when can I get GBT service at my house?' With GBT's commitment to helping the Golden Belt area thrive and ensure residents and businesses have access to world-class communication services and not fall behind from a connectivity standpoint, it only makes sense that GBT expands our Fiber services to residents of Larned so they can enjoy what many of our GBT customers have become accustomed to in the last 10 to 15 years." GBT will begin deploying Fiber in phases to the community of Larned, with 2 phases constructed in late Fall of 2022. If you live in Larned and want to keep up with progress or show your interest in getting Fiber, you can visit our website at [www.gbta.net/larned-Fiber](http://www.gbta.net/larned-Fiber).

*"We've had GBT's Fiber Internet service at our church for 3 years now and it has just been flawless. We've experienced such a tremendous improvement in service, reliability, and cost. I hope everyone will consider signing up for GBT's Fiber. I anticipate lots of good things to come! I know that I will utilize it tremendously. It will be an asset for all our community."*

**Jim Vratil - Larned Resident | United Methodist Church Trustee Chair**



What is the big deal about Fiber? In the technology world, Fiber is still king, and if you're not expanding communication services by deploying Fiber, you're most likely falling behind. Now some might ask about 5G, but what many don't understand is 5G CAN'T WORK WITHOUT FIBER. Secondly, when GBT brings Fiber to a home or business, you are essentially getting 10G-like technology at your door! Fiber gives GBT's customers a future-proof network that can provide the fastest speeds with the best reliability in the world!



# Kansas Relay Center

**What Is Kansas Relay?** Kansas Relay is a public service which guarantees all citizens access to prompt, professional and accurate communication through the telephone. Consumers of these specialized services, specifically individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or have difficulty speaking, can communicate on the telephone via TTY, Voice Carry Over (VCO), Hearing Carry Over (HCO), Speech-to-Speech (STS), Spanish Relay and Captioned Telephone in order to connect with family, friends or businesses with ease.

**How Does Kansas Relay Work?** Simply dial 711 or the appropriate toll-free number provided to connect with Kansas Relay. A qualified Communication Assistant (CA) will ask for the area code and number of the person you wish to call and begin the relay call. Generally, the CA will voice the typed message from the text telephone (TTY) user to you. The CA relays your voiced message by typing it to the TTY user.

**Captioned Telephone:** Captioned Telephone is also available and ideal for individuals with hearing loss who are able to speak for themselves. A captioned telephone works like any other telephone with an essential difference: it allows users to listen to their phone conversations while reading word-for-word captions of what's said to them.

**Speech-To-Speech (Sts):** STS is especially useful for people who have difficulty speaking or being understood on the phone. STS involves a specially-trained CA who is familiar with the speech patterns of a wide variety of individuals who have difficulty being understood.

**Spanish Relay:** Kansas Relay allows Spanish-speaking relay users to access all relay call types. Calls can be translated between Spanish and English if you and the person you are calling are both in Kansas.

**Access To Services:** Both 711 and the 800 numbers are toll-free calls and provide access to the same relay services. If you are experiencing trouble dialing 711 to reach Kansas Relay, please call Kansas Relay Customer Care. All TRS and English Captioned Telephone services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Spanish Captioned Telephone is available daily from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. CST. By law, each conversation is handled with strict confidentiality. Oversight for Kansas Relay is provided by Assistive Technology for Kansas. If you have questions or concern, contact: [atkapps@ku.edu](mailto:atkapps@ku.edu) or call 800-526-3648.

**Emergency Calls:** Please note that 711 is only to be used to reach Kansas Relay Center. In an EMERGENCY you should continue to use 911. For emergencies, call 911 or your local emergency service TTY number directly, without using relay. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that 911 centers have a TTY and be prepared to handle emergency calls placed in this manner. Kansas Relay will make every effort to assist you in an emergency. However, it is important to understand that relay centers are not 911 centers and do not assume responsibility for emergency calls.

**To Place A Call Using Kansas Relay Center**  
Dial 711 or one of the toll-free numbers below:  
TTY/Voice: 1-800-766-3777 | Spanish: 1-866-305-1343  
Sts: 1-866-305-1344

**Customer Care Information**  
1-866-735-2957 V/TTY | P.O. Box 285, Aurora, NE 68818  
[KSRelay@HamiltonRelay.com](mailto:KSRelay@HamiltonRelay.com) | [www.KansasRelay.com](http://www.KansasRelay.com)

**Captioned Telephone**  
Customer Service: 1-888-269-7477  
To call a Captioned Telephone user, dial: 711 or 1-877-243-2823

**THE GBT 2022**

# ANNUAL MEETING

 **WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 20**

 **VOTING IS OPEN FROM**  
**5:00-6:30 PM**

 **103 LINCOLN RUSH CENTER, KS**  
GOLDEN BELT TELEPHONE OFFICE

**FOOD AND PRIZES TO ALL WHO ATTEND!**

## Mark your calendars for the 2022 GBT Annual Meeting!

Come join us for the 2022 GBT Annual Meeting on April 20th from 5-6:30! The meeting will be a drive-thru, so hop in your car and come on down to Rush Center. All voting members will be given a registration gift and be entered to win some great prizes! In addition, a free meal will be provided courtesy of the Cooperative. See you there!

### District 1 – Brownell, Ransom, & Utica



**Cinda Flax**  
Ransom

Cinda Flax is a crop insurance agent serving several areas, including Utica and Ransom. She has served on various boards, with 21 years on GBT's board, including 9 years as Secretary/Treasurer, and she is currently Secretary/Treasurer for the Ness County Bank Building Foundation. Cinda and husband, Vernon, have 2 sons: Garrett, wife Shelby and daughter AJ; and Morgan and wife Addie.

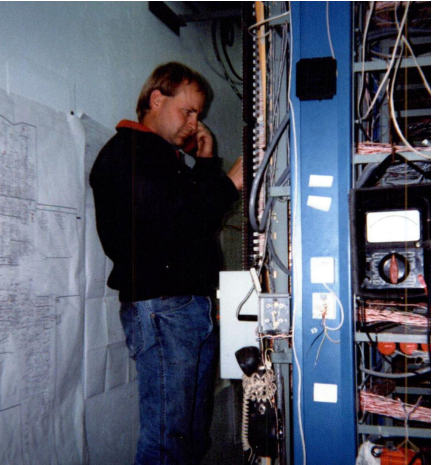


**Penny Stull**  
Ransom

Penny Stull has lived in Ransom for 23 years. She has a son and daughter, plus 2 grandsons. She has been the Materials Manager at Grisell Memorial Hospital for nearly 20 years and an EMT for 15 years.

# GET TO KNOW YOUR GBT NEIGHBOR

Employee Spotlight: Jim



**Tell us how you got to GBT?**  
*Before GBT, I was working for another provider and saw that GBT had purchased the Ellis exchange, which is my hometown, so I applied. I have been here ever since.*

**You've been with GBT for 25 years as of this month; how have you seen GBT grow?**  
*Over the past 25 years I have seen GBT go from a small telephone company to a broadband (Internet) company. We've expanded our services and we've expanded into other areas/towns.*

**What are you passionate about?**  
*I'm passionate about my family and will do anything to help them. I just became a grandpa and am very excited about that.*



**What is your favorite GBT core value? How do you live it out?**  
*GBT's core value of Honesty & Integrity aligns with my personal values. Customers can always know that I will always be honest with them and will always do my best to get the job done right.*

### District 5 – Albert, Bison, Otis, & Timken



**James Jecha**  
Timken

James Jecha is a farmer in the Timken area with his sons. He has been on GBT's Board for 35 years and currently serves as President for the last 14 years. He has also served on several other boards in the area. Jim and wife, Carole, have 3 grown children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.



**LoRay W. George**  
Albert

LoRay W. George and wife, Kathryn, have 3 children and live on a farm southwest of Albert. He is a lifetime farmer and owner/operator of Tire Barn and has served on the Peace Lutheran Church Council and the Heartland Farm Advisory Council. LoRay is a volunteer fire fighter for the Albert Fire Department, and he and his family are very active in 4-H.

### District 6 – Burdett & Rozel



**Brian Hammeke**  
Rozel

Brian Hammeke lives in the Rozel area. He graduated from Fort Hays State with an Ag Business degree and has served on numerous boards, including 12 years on GBT's board. Brian, along with his brother and father, farm together and operate a cow/calf operation around the Burdett area. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends.



**Brad Froetschner**  
Rozel

Brad Froetschner, a life-time resident of Pawnee County, lives on a farm close to Rozel. He farms in Pawnee County near Ash Valley, Garfield, Sanford, and Rozel, and currently serves on the Golden Valley Coop Board. He and wife Faith have 2 children: a senior and a 6th grader.



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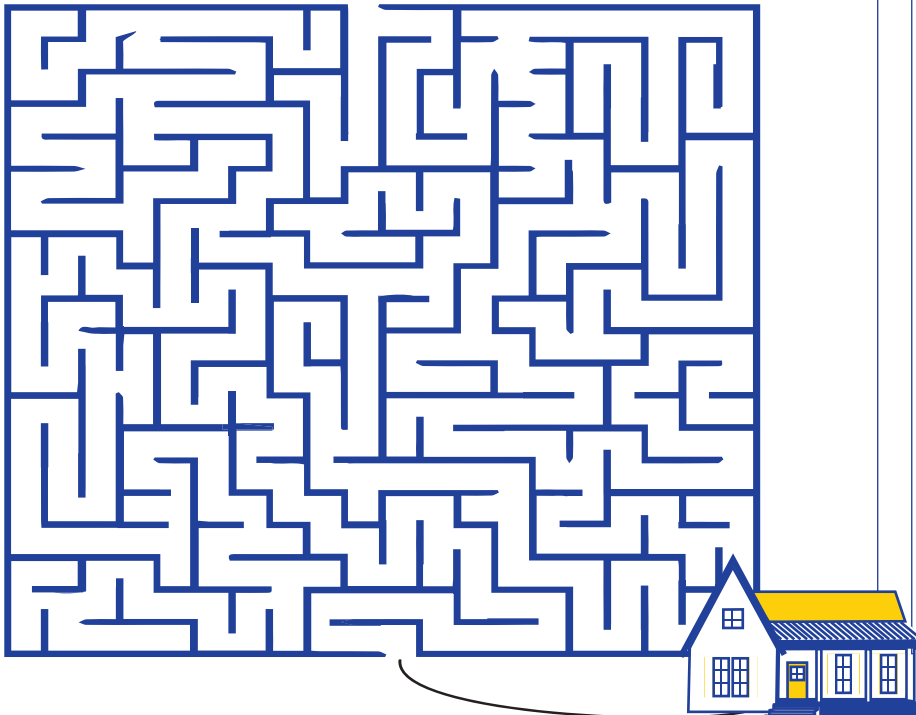
SAVE  
\$100

#### GBT Hunting:

C.O. (Central Office)



GBT is bringing Fiber to 5 communities in 2022 and we need your help! Throughout this year, help us bring Fiber from our Headquarters ALLLL the way to each of these communities - this month starting with St. John! When you complete the puzzle, email [gbthunting@gbtlive.com](mailto:gbthunting@gbtlive.com) and say "I helped bring Fiber to St. John!" to be entered to win a \$10 bill credit! Congratulations to Mike and Mary Beth Peach for winning last month's game!



#### February Recipe:



### Shelley's Wedding Cake

Recipe by: Krista Steinert, GBT Accounting

This is one of my favorite cakes. It's my sister-in-law's recipe and SO good! It tastes just like wedding cake - moist and yummy!

#### Cake Ingredients

1 box Duncan Hines white cake mix  
1 box Betty Crocker white cake mix  
1 envelope dream whip  
3 cups water  
6 egg whites  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 tsp almond flavoring

#### Frosting Ingredients

1½ Cups white Crisco  
2 lbs. powdered sugar  
¾ cup milk  
1tsp vanilla  
1 tsp almond flavoring  
1 tsp butter flavoring

**Cake Directions:** Mix all ingredients together and beat with an electric mixer for 15 min. Bake in 350 degree oven until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. **Frosting Directions:** Mix together and beat with an electric mixer. Frost cake when cool.



785-372-4236  
[www.gbta.net](http://www.gbta.net)

**Ellis**  
101 W 9th | Open: Mon., Wed., Fri.  
8am - 12:30 pm; 1:30 pm - 5pm

**Ness City**  
114 W. Main | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
8am - 5pm

**St. John**  
602 N US Hwy 281 | Open: Tues., Thurs.  
9:30am - 11:30 am; 12:00pm - 3:30pm

**Larned**  
122 W. 5th | Open: Mon., Wed., Fri.  
9am - 11:30 am; 12:00pm - 4pm

**Rush Center**  
103 Lincoln St. | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
8am - 5pm



## The Connection

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)  
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