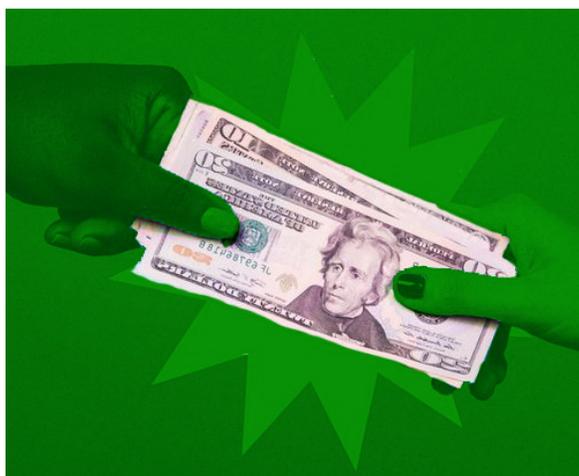




# THE Connection



## GO GREEN, SAVE GREEN.

**Beginning on February 1st, GBT is now offering a \$5.00 discount every month on your Internet bill if you subscribe to E-Bill and Auto-Pay.**

In the past, GBT has offered a one-time credit but has transitioned our program to monthly credit, **saving you \$60.00 a year** if you enroll in these two programs! If you are already enrolled in Ebill and Autopay, then you automatically will receive the monthly \$5.00 discount!

### Benefits of enrolling in E-Bill and Auto-Pay

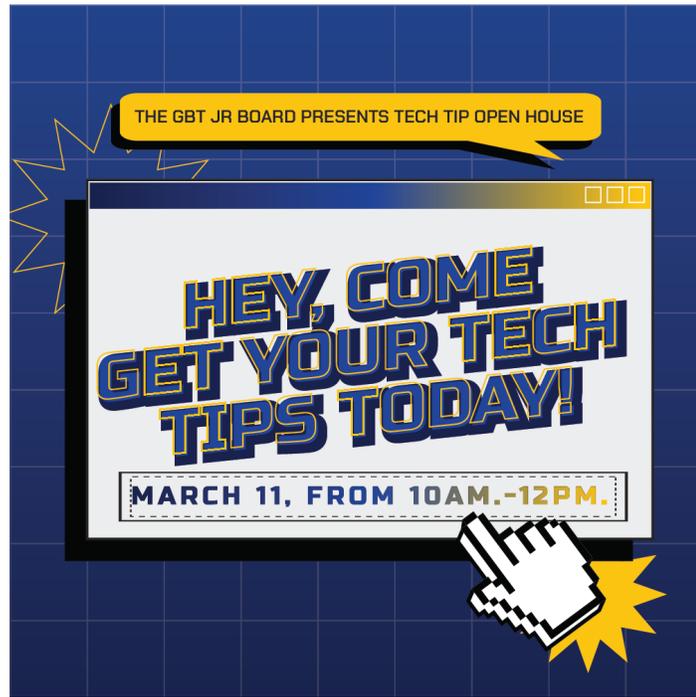
1. Get an electronic statement that you can look at any time on your email.
2. Login to your account via our app or web browser and look at your payment history with GBT.
3. Sign up for our E-Newsletter, same version that gets mailed to you monthly.
4. Payments are automatically deducted the 12th of every month.
5. No more worries on if you mailed in your bill, or chance of it not arriving in time from the mail.
6. Save money by not writing a check....have you ordered checks lately? Ouch!

At GBT, when making decisions and structuring programs, we always have the cooperative at heart and try to do what is going to benefit our members the most. We have been doing this for 70 years and will continue to do this, because we know the decisions we make impact YOU, our amazing customers. Although postage, mailing, stuffing, and bill processing fees have went up, GBT will not charge extra to send a paper bill like so many other companies have. We will just be passing on the savings to our customers that enroll in these programs that help minimize avoidable costs.

#### How can I enroll in E-Bill and Auto-Pay?

There are three ways you can enroll in both E-Bill and Auto-Pay

- 1) By using your GBT E-Bill Mobile App
- 2) By logging into your GBT online account at [www.gbta.net](http://www.gbta.net)
- 3) By calling one of our customer service representatives at 785-372-4236



# Tech Tip Open House to be held March 11th at the Rush Center GBT Headquarters

Join our GBT Junior Board and Employees at our Rush Center Headquarters Saturday, March 11, 10 am - 12 noon for a Tech Tip Open House.

Bring your devices and ask questions, check out streaming devices, learn more about Cybersecurity and email applications, or ask questions about your cellular devices. If you've ever wondered what fiber looks like, you can check that out too.

Stop by, enjoy some goodies, and register to win prizes, including a 32" Smart TV! Plan to stay in Rush Center to experience the Annual St. Patrick's Day Festivities, including the Car & Antique Tractor Show 9:00 am – 2:00 pm and the St. Patrick's Day Parade at 2:30 pm!

**70**  
YEARS  
1953  
2023  
SPECIAL SECTION

## The stories we share...

Each individual story of our employee's and customer's experiences with GBT matters. These stories, woven together, make the overall story of GBT and who we are today.

**Steve Miller shared a few memories with us from his time on the GBT Board of Directors. He served on the Board from 1983 – 1995 and was President of the Board from 1991-1995.**

**Steve:** "One thing I remember most is when we decided to join Kansas Cellular in 1989 and have cell phones in our area. Bag phones were offered at that time, and they cost \$1200 - \$1300. The very first cellular plans only allowed 15-20 minutes at a reduced rate, and rates went up considerably (45 cents/minute on up), so early on some people wouldn't answer calls because it would count against their minutes — they just used their cellular phone for their own business.



*Pictured: Steve Miller and GBT Tech Bryan*

GBT had bought 2 new Chevrolet company cars, and the dealer included a free bag phone with them. Our General Manager at the time, Arlyn Solomon, and Office

Manager Dan Maltby, would bring the phones in every night and put them in the safe so they wouldn't be stolen from the car!

Another memory is putting our first fiber optic from Rush Center 19 miles south to the Sanford Junction. We only put 6 fibers in the ground because it cost so much more for each fiber, and we thought 6 fibers would be all we need! (*Editor's Note: Today GBT installs 288-count fiber!*)

I also can't forget about GBT's 40th Anniversary. It was celebrated by having Eldora Conard of rural Timken cater sandwiches in the warehouse, and we invited the public to come celebrate in Rush Center."



# Nominating Process 2023

The Annual Meeting of The Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc. will be April 19, 2023, at the GBT Corporate Office, Rush Center, Kansas, from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

In accordance with Section 4.4 of the Bylaws of The Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc., the Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee, who shall be selected from the Districts from which Trustees are to be elected. At least two candidates shall be nominated by the Committee for each district up for election. Any fifteen (15) or more members of a District acting together may make other nominations by petition, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.

The following Districts will be up for election: District 2 – Ellis, McCracken; District 4 – Alexander, Bazine, Rush Center.

The Nominating Committee of Glen Keller, Dave McDaniel, and Les Weber for District 2; and Jay Georg and Dennis Frick for District 4 will meet March 1, 2023, to determine the nominee slate for presentation at the Annual Meeting.



## March Mania is Back!

GBT customers are invited to test your skills and sign up for the “March Mania Pick-It Challenge” for a chance to win awesome prizes and bragging rights! Follow our GBT Facebook page to stay up to date.

Register your account at <https://gbt.pickitchallenge.com/> and complete your Men’s Basketball Brackets after Selection Sunday on March 12!



## GET TO KNOW YOUR GBT NEIGHBOR

*Chelsei, Customer Service Representative, Ness City*

### Tell us about yourself...

I am from Burrton, KS. I lived there until life took me to Jetmore, KS where I met my husband. We moved to Ness City about 6 years ago. I was a stay at home mom with our two kids doing some odds and ends jobs until Jean (GBT HR) approached me about a job opening at GBT. I was excited about this opportunity because I was looking for a career job!

### Tell us about your job...

My favorite part about my job is the customer interaction. It’s fun for me to see kids get their first phones or helping someone get an apple watch for their spouse’s anniversary present. It’s the stories behind each customer that really make my job rewarding.

### What is one thing you would like to say to GBT customers?

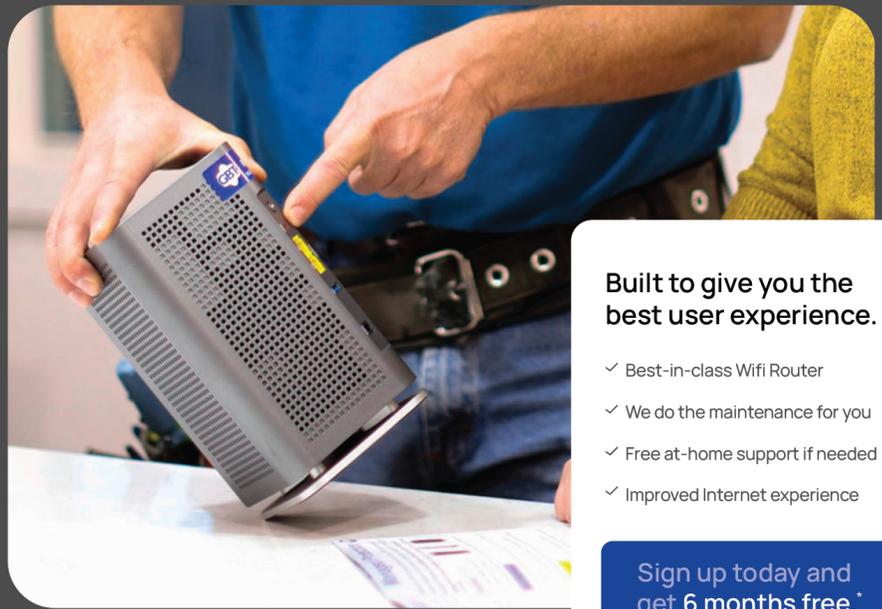
Advice I would give to customers is that yes, technology can be scary but your mindset changes it all! If you go in with a willing-to-learn mindset you are going to be so much more successful. I as well as all of the other GBT Customer Service Representatives are here to help you learn. Please don’t struggle with something that you can come in and we can help you learn. We WANT you to ask us questions because we CARE that you succeed. Trust me, we’ve heard them all and there are NO stupid questions!

### What are your favorite hobbies/ how do you like to spend your free time?

We have a camper and a boat and love spending time at the lake. Also in the last year, I have started raising chickens in my backyard in town. You can have up to six hens in town and I have two!

# Seamless access. Strong connection. Superior support.

Pairing GBT's Internet with our Managed Protection service gives you superior Internet experience.



**Built to give you the best user experience.**

- ✓ Best-in-class Wifi Router
- ✓ We do the maintenance for you
- ✓ Free at-home support if needed
- ✓ Improved Internet experience

**Sign up today and get 6 months free.\***

\*Offer valid through 3/31/23. Certain restrictions may apply.

## Game of the Month:

Congratulations to Kathryn George for winning February's game!

### Fun Fact of the Month:

**Do you remember the ice/snow storm of March 1957? Not only was it a benchmark to compare recent storms to in terms of ferocity and widespread impact, but it was a pivotal time in GBT history as it leveled over 800 telephone poles, therefore making no telephone in the system work. Thankfully, GBT rallied together and with the help of local labor the systems were quickly rebuilt.** Terry Keenan, Ness City, KS wrote to weather.gov: *"I was twelve years old at the time, living on a farm northeast of Seward, Kansas in Stafford county. After the rain and sleet hit, putting ice on everything, the wind and snow lasted for over two days. Our electricity was off over six weeks since every power pole in the area had been snapped. My older brother had a summertime job from college putting them back. After the storm was over, you could not go anywhere. Phone lines were down, no tv, no transistor radios. My dad asked me to saddle our horse and ride into Seward, two miles as the crow flies. To my amazement, the horse went thru the tall drifts without any trouble. I arrived in town, picked up our mail and left with news for the family. We did not have school for two weeks. Since we had milk cows, chickens, windmill water, things could have been worse. We played ten point pitch most nights to a coal-lamp."*

### Recipe of the Month:

## Galuskiess (Stuffed Cabbage)



*Galuskiess, stuffed cabbage, pigs in a blanket, cabbage rolls... if you come from a German background you may have a different name for them, but no matter what you call them at the end of the day, these stuffed cabbage rolls are hard to beat!*

#### Ingredients

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 3 heads cabbage, cored                 | ¼ cup diced onion                               |
| 1 cup apple cider vinegar              | 4 teaspoons salt                                |
| 3 cups water                           | 1½ teaspoons garlic salt                        |
| 1½ cups long grain rice                | 1 teaspoon fresh-ground black pepper            |
| 5 pounds ground beef                   |   |
| 1 (16 ounce) package bulk pork sausage | 1 (16 ounce) jar sauerkraut, drained and pureed |

#### Instructions

**Step 1:** Place cabbages in a large stockpot filled halfway with water; add vinegar. Cover and steam over low heat until leaves are tender, 1 to 1½ hours. Remove cabbages, reserving vinegar cooking water. Rinse with cold water to chill the cabbage, then separate the leaves.

**Step 2:** Meanwhile, bring 3 cups water and rice to a boil in a saucepan over high heat, then reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer until the rice is tender, about 20 minutes. Remove from heat and fluff with a fork; set aside to cool.

**Step 3:** Heat a large skillet over medium heat. Brown the ground beef and sausage with the onion, salt, garlic salt, and pepper, 7 to 10 minutes. Drain and set aside to cool.

**Step 4:** Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Cover the bottom of a large roasting pan with a single layer of cabbage leaves.

**Step 5:** Prepare the filling by stirring together the rice, cooked meat, and sauerkraut until well blended. Place 1/3 cup of filling into each leaf and roll into a cylinder, tucking in the ends as you roll it up. Place the rolls into the roasting pan. Pour in enough of the cooking liquid from the cabbage to come halfway up the sides of the rolls. Cover pan with a tight fitting lid or aluminum foil.

**Step 6:** Bake in preheated oven for 1 1/2 hours. Serve warm or at room temperature.



785-372-4236  
www.gbta.net

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

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

**St. John**  
602 N US Hwy 281 | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
8 am - 1 pm; 2pm - 5pm

**Larned**  
122 W. 5th | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
8 am - 11:30 am; 12:30 pm - 5 pm

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



## 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)  
Kyle Bahr, Editor | Kara Jecha, Editor | Addie Flax, Graphic Design