

photo by Megan Wissbrod

# RINGER

OCTOBER 2020



## NCC VIDEO IS HERE! STREAMING TV

- **Stream LOCAL channels!**
- **No more worries about the "input" button!**
- **FREE features like HD, DVR and Restart/Replay TV!**
- **Thousands of programs on Video-on-Demand!**



**FREE Internet upgrade  
when you sign up today at:  
[nccray.com/NCC-VIDEO](http://nccray.com/NCC-VIDEO)**

Some restrictions apply, call for details. Limited time offer. Free internet upgrade applicable to existing 25 Mbps internet subscribers only and requires a subscription to NCC Video Streaming TV service. \*Each network has policy rights regarding where content can be viewed and any additional features available.

**NCC announces the completion of its 3,540 mile fiber optic broadband network to 16 exchanges serving approximately 5,500 members within the counties of Burke, Mountrail, Williams and Divide in northwest North Dakota!**



*Pictured (L to R): Chandra Rystedt from Powers Lake was one of the final members to be cutover to fiber optics. Also pictured is Sheldon Johnson, NCC technician completing the cutover and Leslie Grubb, NCC Director from Powers Lake.*

Eleven years ago, NCC embarked on an initiative to deliver up to 1,000 Megabits per second internet connections – that's 1 Gig – to businesses and homes within their service territory. The project, which consisted of 47,000 man hours and a \$50 million investment, was a mission to upgrade NCC's entire network and efforts to strengthen the region through an all-fiber network. NCC has a rich history of investing in the local workforce and community and has made a significant impact on the local economy.

Fiber is a must-have utility, as vital as power and water to many. NCC's robust 100% Fiber Network is able to support the increased demand placed on it. "More and more devices are Internet-capable, making the demand for more bandwidth critical. Whether it's family bonding while streaming movies together or a business needing a reliable, fast connection to compete in a global economy, fiber is the best solution," said GM/CEO Jeremy Becker.

A strong telecommunications network is a top economic development recruiting tool. NCC's fiber network along with regional and statewide associations such as BAND and DCN, have helped attract industries that demand the highest performance from their Internet, and showcase the region as a top choice for businesses and consumers to relocate.

Building a 100% Fiber Network takes a lot of patience, progress, and funding. "We've been fortunate to have all of the many factors required for a build out such as this, including a talented team, supportive communities and amazing members," said Board President AJ Cvancara.

#### **What Fiber Means to Area Residents and Businesses:**

- *Reliable, high quality connection*
- *Faster connection speeds – up to 1,000 Mbps*
- *Improved productivity and ability to compete globally*
- *Unlimited Internet usage – no caps on data consumption*
- *Homes and businesses are equipped for the future of technology*
- *Little to no maintenance*
- *Less vulnerable to glitches or interference*



## Grant Programs

Each year, NCC commits nearly \$50,000 in donations, sponsorships and scholarships in and around the communities we serve. Grants to local organizations are a large priority of these commitments. We are excited to again offer the following grant opportunities:

### ✓ **Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) Grant:**

NCC and the other Rural ILECs in ND are given \$2,000 to distribute to community owned entities, non-profits and other community-based projects. Funds available up to \$2,000. This grant requires a \$4 of your organization's funds to every \$1 of RDFC funds awarded. Applications are due back to NCC by October 15, 2020.

### ✓ **CoBank Sharing Success Grant:**

NCC is again partnering this year with CoBank in the Sharing Success grant program. NCC may request a match for up to four contributions, providing a minimum grant of \$500 and maximum grant of \$20,000. Entities who can apply must be a 501 (c)(3) charity, school or government organization such as counties or municipalities and their agencies or departments as long as the donation serves a public purpose. For more information on the Sharing Success program, please visit: [www.cobank.com/citizenship/corporate-giving/sharing-success](http://www.cobank.com/citizenship/corporate-giving/sharing-success). Applications are due back to NCC by October 15, 2020.

*If you belong to an organization that might benefit from one or both of these grants, please visit [www.nccray.com](http://www.nccray.com), or email [angelas@nccray.com](mailto:angelas@nccray.com) for more information or an application.*



broadband association of north dakota

## NCC Spotlight

**Ashley Sevre Photography is capturing history:** Ashley Sevre has always enjoyed taking pictures, but it was one film photography class at Minot State University—taken on a whim, as she was pursuing a degree in information management systems—that ignited her passion for the craft. She purchased her first DSLR camera shortly after, and began teaching herself the basic techniques of digital photography.



See full story on our website at [www.nccray.com/blog](http://www.nccray.com/blog)

## Important Notes

- **The Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC)** Surcharge Factor recovers costs associated with NCC's contributions to the federal universal service fund program. Effective October 1, 2020 and for the 4th quarter of 2020 the FUSC contribution factor will increase to 27.1% on your bill.
- **NCC TV Video Customers please notice:** MLB Network has been added to Advanced TV on Channel 204. BTN has been dropped due to no guarantee by the network of live games or rebate language.
- **New printed telephone directories** for 2020-2021 were mailed to all Telephone subscribers. Please contact us if you need additional copies or find one at your local financial institution.
- **NOTE to NCC TV Video Customers:** During Fall we anticipate outages associated with Solar Fade Interference which occurs when the sun is directly in line with our satellite dish and the satellite orbiting above the Earth. The predicted outage range is October 2nd through October 12th, starting around 12-noon running through 5pm. It is only a prediction and subject to change.

**Report Trouble:** 611

**Email:** [ncc@nccray.com](mailto:ncc@nccray.com)

**Website:** [www.nccray.com](http://www.nccray.com)

**Phone:** 701-568-3331 or 800-245-5884

**Directory Assistance:** 411

**Call Before You Dig:** 811

**Newsletter Editor:** Angela Schepp

**Design:** [lori@leutzgraphics.com](mailto:lori@leutzgraphics.com)

**Business Hours:** M-F 8am to 5pm.

NCC Message Center will take calls outside of these hours.

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