

# the NETWORK

**JAMES  
VALLEY**  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

MARCH 2022 | VOL. 1 NO. 3



Marne Neiger's view out of her home office window near Mina. Our construction crew setting a new pedestal in the rural Mina area.

## Fiber Connections

Few people probably take the time to consider how all the connected devices in their home operate efficiently and optimally. For many in the James Valley Telecommunications and NVC serving areas, those connections have been greatly improving over the last few years. Since late 2019 to year-end 2021, JVT/NVC has installed close to 1,500 miles of core fiber in numerous rural areas. That's roughly the same distance from Aberdeen to the US-Mexico border driving on Highway 281.

One NVC customer that is benefiting from the additional fiber is Marne Neiger of rural Mina. Marne lives on her childhood farm eight miles south of Mina Lake and works from home. With fiber internet, she works from home with the confidence that her connection will be fast and reliable. Marne also knows her video call won't be affected as her daughter does her homework or streams a movie.

"I feel so lucky that I was able to get such fast internet service since there are only three people on

my road. It's less than my cell phone bill and totally worth it," said Neiger.

Connect South Dakota and CARES Act funds were awarded to NVC for rural Mina and rural Redfield areas. Connect SD funds were also awarded to James Valley Telecommunications in 2021 to be used in their service area including rural Frederick, rural Groton, rural Hecla and the city of Groton.

"Bringing fiber-optic broadband to rural areas is part of our overall mission, and it's something we feel is vital to the communities we serve," said JVT/NVC CEO James Groft. "Internet speed is even more important now for business, school, personal connection and life in general."

JVT/NVC is not slowing down on connecting customers and will install over 800 additional miles of fiber core to the remaining rural areas in its service territory in 2022 and 2023.



# Official Notice of Director Elections

Two directors will be elected at the 2022 annual meeting, which is scheduled for June 2nd, 2022, Groton Area High School. Bob Wegner (District 3) and Duane Jark (District 5) are up for re-election for 3-year terms.



*Bob Wegner  
District 3  
City of Groton*



*Duane Jark  
District 5  
Ferney, Mellette*

Anyone interested in running for an open director position, in the district which they reside, should file a nominating petition signed by at least fifteen members also residing in that interested member's district.

The petition can be picked up at JVT's business office and must be filed at JVT's business office between the hours of 8am-5pm no sooner than April 3 and no later than April 18.

At the annual meeting, members from each district in which a director is being elected will receive a ballot listing the names of all the candidates who have submitted valid petitions for that district. The candidate receiving the majority of votes cast for each district will be elected.

**Bylaw Section 4.3.** Qualifications to be Nominated, to Become, or Remain a Director. Any member shall be eligible to be nominated, elected and remain a director of the Cooperative who resides in the district from which the director is nominated and is not an employee of the Cooperative or in any way financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business engaged in selling communication services or communication supplies or maintaining communications facilities. However, the Board may grant exceptions for "de minimis" competing enterprise. The director is expected to attend two-

thirds or more of the regular meetings during each twelve-month period beginning with the month of the director's election.

Nothing in this Section shall affect, in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meetings of the Board.

**Bylaw Section 4.4.** Candidate Petitions. Any member who meets the qualifications of Section 4.3 and wishes to appear on the ballot for election as a director for the member's district, shall, not less than 45 nor more than 60 days preceding the day designated for the annual meeting, file during business hours at the business office of the Cooperative, a nominating petition signed by at least fifteen members residing in such member's district. The petition shall be in a form approved by the board of directors. The signature of only one member of a joint membership may be counted among the valid signatures on a petition, and any other signatures on the same petition by other members of the same joint membership shall be stricken.

**Bylaw Section 4.5.** Election of Directors. Elections of directors shall be by a separate printed ballot for the exclusive use of the members of each district in which a director is being elected. Each district's ballot shall list the name(s) of the candidate(s) who have submitted valid petitions, the order of which shall be determined by drawing of lots.

At the membership meeting considering the election of directors, the Secretary of the Cooperative shall place in nomination the names of all those who have submitted valid petitions.

The candidate from each district from which a director is being elected receiving the majority of votes cast for that office at such meeting shall be declared elected as a director. At least seven members from that district must cast votes at the membership meeting for the election of the director to be valid.

Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbent director whose directorship would have been voted on to hold over only until the next member meeting at which a quorum is present.

Director petitions must be filed at JVT's office between April 3 and April 18, 2022.

## Aberdeen Area Humane Society Sponsored Pet

Zorro, who came to the shelter as a stray, was our February Aberdeen Area Humane Society sponsored pet. Since Zorro was adopted, we donated \$250 to the AAHS!

Our January pet, Crown, is still available. You can find out more about Crown and other pets at [anewleashonlife.net](http://anewleashonlife.net).

If you're interested in adopting a pet you can also call the AAHS at 226-1200 to schedule a time to visit.



## State High School Events Coverage

### March 11-12 State Girls Basketball

Class B Girls (Watertown) - Special Events ch 151 & SDPB ch 3

Class A Girls (Brookings) - Special Events ch 152 & SDPB ch 160

Class AA Girls (Rapid City) - Special Events ch 153 & SDPB ch 161

### March 17-19 State Boys Basketball

Class B Boys (Aberdeen) - Special Events ch 151 & TBD

Class A Boys (Rapid City) - Special Events ch 152 & TBD

Class AA Boys (Sioux Falls) - Special Events ch 153 & TBD

### March 26 All-State Band

All-State Band Concert (Mitchell) - Special Events ch 151

*Check our Facebook page for updates.*

## New Members

Beauty Brew LLC	Groton	397-2739
Morehouse Curtis & Marcia	Bristol	492-3396
Cell Phone		492-7965





## Grand Giveaway Winner

*Congratulations to Chris and Amy Kucker, who won a \$100 Netflix gift card, a \$50 Hulu gift card, and a \$100 credit in our Grand Giveaway!*

Wondering how to register? No problem, because there's no purchase or registration, just winners! Each month we randomly select one of our "grand" residential customers to win. Our next winner could be you!

## Super Bowl Winner

Karli Stubbe was the winner of our Super Bowl giveaway and won a \$150 Kessler's gift card.

Congratulations Karli! Her husband Logan picked up her gift card and is pictured.

Find us on Facebook to keep up to date on upcoming promotions.



## Check out the all new Samsung Galaxy Fold and Flip!



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SIGN UP FOR OUR MONTHLY  
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### GROTON

234 E 1st Ave  
PO BOX 260  
Groton, SD 57445

(605) 397-2323  
Open Mon- Fri 8am-5pm

### ABERDEEN

3211 7th Ave SE, Suite 102  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

(605) 725-1000  
Open Mon- Fri 8:30am-5:30pm