

BEK beacon

VOLUME 53 | MARCH 2011



Julie Hruby, Wilton Park Board President, accepts a Common Cents grant check from Richard Hausauer, BEK Communications director from District 1.

Common Cents Grants Awarded

There's no sweeter sound than children's laughter. Have you ever walked outdoors and heard the far off sound of kids playing? When the Wilton Park Board completes their new playground renovation, they will be rewarded time and again with the echo of happy children.

The **Wilton Park Board** was among the seven groups awarded a Common Cents grant at the January 2011 BEK Board of Directors meeting. The BEK Board of Directors donated \$500 to the Wilton Park Board to use towards their playground renovation project. Their group contacted BEK for a grant donation to "Wild in Wilton," which is an annual fundraiser with this mission statement: "To provide and promote a fun and safe environment for local youth to participate in healthy activities."

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Dates to Remember

- March 3
March Bills Mailed
- March 10
BEK Scholarships Due
- March 13
Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 15
Disconnect Day
- March 17
St. Patrick's Day
- March 20
February Bill Payments Due
- March 20
March Bill Payments Due
First Day of Spring



Don't forget to
SPRING ahead on
March 13!

Comfort and care go hand in hand at the **Napoleon Care Center** and their level of care for their residents has changed throughout the years. Future construction plans are underway to provide more private rooms, address spiritual needs with a new chapel, expand their dining room, remodel their activity room and much more. The BEK Board of Directors granted \$500 to the Napoleon Care Center to use towards their project goals.

The **Steele Volunteer Fire Department** reported to the BEK Board of Directors that over the last 40 years, statistics have shown that more than 600 individuals have been engulfed and suffocated in flowing grain.

This local fire department recognized the need for a grain bin rescue kit and asked the BEK Board and other local businesses for donations towards the purchase of a grain bin rescue kit. The BEK board awarded a \$500 **Common Cents** grant to the Steele Volunteer Fire Department for this need.

The **Common Cents** grant program was designed to support BEK's ongoing commitment to area communities. Four additional grants were awarded at the January board meeting to the following local communities to help improve health, education and community projects:

Zeeland First Responders - \$500 to use towards the purchase of pagers.

Kidder Emmons Senior Services - \$250 to use towards the purchase of a Blast Chill Freezer for their home delivery of meals.

Strasburg Senior Center - \$500 to use towards building repairs and fuel assistance.

Kidder County Food Pantry - \$500 to use towards food pantry expenses and assistance.

BEK's mission and long term goals are not only to provide connections that matter, but to enhance the quality of life in the communities it serves.

The **Common Cents** grant program was designed to support BEK's ongoing commitment to area communities. Since the program began in July of 2004, BEK has awarded nearly \$59,000 to communities applying for grants for Community Outreach or Economic Development.

Community Outreach includes support for those services, activities and events that contribute to the economic viability, health or safety, or general well-being of those residing in the community.

Economic Development includes support for communities in their efforts to create new jobs, retain businesses and to provide incentives for prospective or newly developing industries.

The needs of communities are numerous. Each new project or update often requires local volunteers and donations. BEK Communications welcomes tax-exempt, nonprofit community organizations or groups in BEK's serving area to apply for its **Common Cents** Grant program. Applications may be obtained by contacting BEK at 1-888-475-2361 or on our website at www.bektel.com (click on "About Us" and then "BEK Grants, Scholarships and Donations.") Applications are due by January 15th and July 15th of each year for consideration.

ESPN3.com

One Click and You're There

How does an ESPN sports fan benefit from BEK Internet service? One click on the ESPN3 logo on BEK's homepage will show you.

ESPN3.com ESPN3 is a broadband network for live sports programming. It broadcasts thousands of live games and events online each year. If you're a BEKNet subscriber, you have FREE access to a variety of online live sports action through ESPN3 such as College Football and Basketball, NBA, MLB, The Masters and US Open Golf, all 4 Grand Slam tennis tournaments and more.

Do you like to chat about your favorite sports? You can do that too with ESPN3's fully interactive live chat and real time in-game stats and scoreboards.

ESPN3 is available nationwide through participating high speed service providers like BEK Communications.



Director Bill Becker (left) presents a **Common Cents** grant check to Richard Regner, Administrator for the Napoleon Care Center.



Rob Dewitz, Fire Chief for the Steele Volunteer Fire Department (left) accepts a **Common Cents** grant check from Doug Kalianoff, president of the board for BEK Communications.



BEK

To Our Roots

with employee Kurt Anderson



Have you ever talked to someone out of state and they ask dumbfounded, "how can you live there?" It doesn't really matter if they understand the answer, North Dakota natives know; people like Kurt Anderson know...

Kurt grew up in Grafton, N.D. with work opportunities all around him. He hung out with farm friends; which means work found him. He has a long list of job experiences gained through his association with his friends, such as grain, seed potatoes and sugar beet farm work. With his employment at Holland & Sons Construction, Kurt learned a lot about the concrete business doing all types of concrete work including remodeling and new structures. During deer processing season, Kurt also spent evenings working side by side with his dad in the meat department of Denny's Jack and Jill in Grafton, processing approximately 400 deer per season. So many hours working with his dad; little did he know at the time he was making a huge deposit in his memory bank of a father/son working relationship and quality time conversations. It's evident that he was not only building his resume through all these experiences, he was also building character. At BEK, we discovered first hand that Kurt isn't afraid of hard work.

In November of 1996, we were introduced to Kurt Anderson. He came with credentials from Northwest Technical College and was hired to work in the plant department using his life experiences and technical trained skills. He discovered that his job over the next 14 years would entail many experiences; some expected, some not. He knows the BEK service area, inside and out. He has climbed towers, poles and buildings. He's literally been in many tight spots, crawling under trailers and crawl spaces and he's been in many holes. His uniform can range from business casual to coveralls and stocking cap to a wetsuit. His mode of transportation could be pickup, truck, boat or snowmobile. He has put in long hours, long days and long months working with the construction crew with a full workload of digging, plowing, boring, splicing, cutovers, house wiring, tower climbing, TV installs and wrecking. If you want to appreciate the crews that work outdoors, you must know that on occasion, they have been really hot, really cold, really wet and really tired.

Kurt's present position at BEK is Plant Technician. He is currently assisting with new builds created with BEK's expansion of fiber deployment to areas outside the traditional BEK service area. He also takes part in the staking of new lines to new customers and cable moves that come with maintaining cable on a day to day basis in the coop area. At BEK, we periodically have all employee meetings and we are asked for input from the CEO. When Kurt offers a comment, he is very direct and he is very conscious of the customers' needs and urges sound solutions. He's a good spokesman, which is probably why he was asked to represent the company at a career fair a few years ago. It may not have been in his normal routine, but ironically, he took note that following this career fair there appeared to be an increase in telecom students from Kidder County. He must have had them pumped!

There's an old adage, "don't take your work home," but Kurt does. In regards to one of his hobbies that is – he truly likes construction, so he takes on building decks, remodeling and light woodwork. He's an outdoorsman who enjoys river fishing. His snowmobile outings have included short runs across the prairie, an occasional poker run to the local communities or a weekend getaway with friends to the mountains in Montana. You might think he has seen enough dead deer in his life, but his deer processing days do not haunt him; he's like many North Dakotans enjoying the state holiday of deer hunting; the thrill of spotting, tracking and tagging a good shot.

Kurt's favorite pastime is his family. Laura, his wife of 11 years, is a Title 1 teacher and a full time wife and mother. According to Kurt "she's the glue that holds it all together." Kurt is enjoying his female predominated household with three young daughters; Julia is 6 years old and an active first grader; Molly, age 3, is non-stop fun and excitement (probably a lot of Kurt in her) and Ava, 10 months, is taking it all in and biding her time to reveal her special personality.

"I have done a lot of staking and plowing in all of the BEK exchanges and have pretty much seen all of it," says Kurt. He adds, "I would have to say that the area along Highway 1804 all of the way through the Wilton, McKenzie, Hazelton, Linton and Strasburg exchanges is probably my favorite place to be. The landscape is really a unique change from where I grew up; the hills and river scenery is probably what prompted me to stay here."

For those who ask "how can you live there?" Kurt's answer: "Like all of North Dakota, if you just take a minute sometime and look at the horizon where the earth meets the sky... really look at it and you will realize that there just aren't too many bad places here in our state."

Seeing Black Bars?

It's not just your TV size or your TV settings. Several BEKTV channels are now transmitting with black bars.



A while back, TV programmers and viewers had to get ready for the switch to digital TV. This meant that if you received your local channels over an antenna, you had to either get a converter box or upgrade to a digital television in order to continue to receive your channels that way. Of course, if you had BEKTV at the time, you didn't have to bother with a thing!

Some of our BEKTV programmers are shaking things up again! This time, they are moving toward High Definition (HD) TV. Until recently, all of our programmers have broadcast their stations in Standard Definition (SD). Several of them also simultaneously broadcast the same programming on their corresponding HD channel, with even better picture and sound.

HDTV has become so popular that some of our programmers have begun broadcasting ONLY in HD.

What does this mean for you? Don't worry, you will still be able to view these channels in SD. However, they will look different. They may now show black bars on the top and bottom and/or sides of your screen. The black bars on your screen may vary from program to program within the same channel.



Some of the channels you may notice this change on are as follows:

- Channel 46 – Halogen
- Channel 75 – Speed Channel
- Channel 226 – Lifetime Television

We anticipate that we will see additional programmers making this same change in the future.

*Adjustments to your screen view may be made by pressing the # sign (enter button) on the bottom right of your remote.

NEW MEMBERS

- | McKenzie - Menoken
Wagendorf Jamie & Julie 673-3944
- | Napoleon
Wald Alex & Jessica..... 754-2070
- | Steele
Binder Kelly 475-2977
Shipley Nathan & Salena..... 475-2979
- | Strasburg - Hague
North Central Farmers Elevator
Fax Line..... 336-7909
- | Tappen - Dawson
Crystal Springs - Lake Isabel
Garner Robin & William 327-8418
- | Wilton
Hettich Dawnell..... 734-6256
- | Wishek
Gienger Violet..... 452-4405
Hochhalter Clinton 452-2802
Laeger Alice..... 452-2241

INTERNET HELP DESK HOURS *HAVE BEEN EXTENDED!*



Monday – Friday
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
(Excluding Holidays)

Connections that matter.

SAVE
time & money

with **3** easy ways to pay

E-Bill
Save postage & paper.

1

Pay-by-Bank
Pay directly out of your account.

2

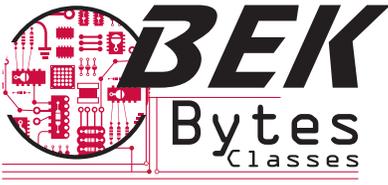
Pay-by-Credit Card
Pay automatically with your credit card.

3

**For more information or to sign up,
call 1-888-475-2361!**

1-888-475-2361
bekcomm@bektel.com





BEK Bytes Spring Classes

Everyone's invited to BEK Bytes classes!

Even if your town is not on the list of class locations, don't let that deter you from reaping the benefits of computer training. Linton, Napoleon, Steele and Wilton are nice trips to share with a friend. Treat yourself and get a group together to carpool to our classes. While visiting, check out the special features each of these communities has to offer. The pride of our communities is in fresh bakery goods, fresh meats, floral and craft items, unique coffee shops and much more. As you leave the communities, refuel at the local gas stops, browse their aisles for unique gift ideas and pick up some snacks for the trip back home.

BEK Bytes classes are designed to meet the educational needs of beginner to intermediate computer users. There's much to learn and we're here to help. Check out this great lineup of classes being offered and sign up to join us for a BEK Byte.

Tuesday, March 22nd

Location: Linton Community Center
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Computer Basics:

Computer Basics is going to be your introduction class to using computers. Learn everything from keyboard and mouse basics to printing, saving and searching. Check out the following list of class topics:

- Keyboard basics - (including command basics)
- Mouse basics
- Desktop basics
- Organizing files and creating folders
- Minimizing and maximizing windows
- Toolbars
- Cut/Copy/Paste
- Drag & drop
- Saving
- Printing
- Searching
- Changing backgrounds (aka: wallpaper)

Tuesday, April 5th

Location: Reuben's Restaurant in Napoleon
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Windows 7:

Finding the change to Windows 7 to be a bit complicated, strange and difficult? Sign up for this Windows 7 class! We'll show you the differences between Windows XP and Windows 7, as well as how to navigate your way around the new Windows 7 operating system.

Tuesday, April 12th

Location: BEK Headquarters in Steele
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

PC Maintenance & Security:

Want to learn more about Internet and email security? How about Malware, virus and Spyware avoidance and recovery? If this sounds overwhelming, don't worry – sign up for this class to learn how to keep your computer safe and running smoothly.

Wednesday, April 27th

Location: Wilton Memorial Hall
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Microsoft PowerPoint:

Wow your friends, family and co-workers with amazing graduation open house, work presentations or wedding/ anniversary slide shows! Take a big byte out of Microsoft PowerPoint with this basic PowerPoint class. Learn how to insert photos and text, work with layout and design to make a basic professional-looking slide show.

Class sizes are limited so call BEK at 1-888-475-2361 or R.S.V.P. to our Facebook events at facebook.com/bekcommunications to pre-register for the classes that interest you. BEK classes are taught using a screen and projector. FREE classes include instruction materials and refreshments.





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Steele, North Dakota 58482

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January Trivia Winners:

Jill Bosch, Strasburg
James Hilzendeger, Napoleon
Denise Huisman, Wilton
Ray Kessler, Lehr
Eva Vetter, Linton



Board of Directors

Doug Kalianoff, President..... Steele.....475-2839
District II

Brett Stroh, Vice President Tappen327-8201
District II

Sanford Williams, Secretary/Treasurer Wing.....943-2474
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William (Bill) Becker Wishek452-2928
District IV

Anton Braun..... Napoleon754-4440
District IV

Richard Hausauer..... Wilton.....734-6116
District I

Virgil Horner..... Strasburg336-7208
District III

Vickie Martin..... Linton.....254-4577
District III

Leo Meier..... Hague336-7258
District III

Derrick Bulawa, CEO/General Manager,
Manager Feedback..... 701-475-1234
managerfeedback@bektel.com

Beacon Trivia Questions

- Four BEK Bytes classes are scheduled for March and April in Linton, Napoleon, _____ and Steele.
- The Steele Volunteer _____ Department received a Common Cents grant from BEK communications to use towards the purchase of a grain bin rescue kit.
- The first day of spring will be celebrated on March _____th.

Entries must be received by April 11, 2011.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Clip and send to the BEK office with your phone payment. You can also email to bekcomm@bektel.com. We will be drawing for five \$5.00 credits to be applied to the winners' phone bill.