

The

# Communicator

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

Published for  
customers of

**New  
Hope**  
Telephone  
Cooperative  
*Your Broadband Connection*

## DOCTOR McMILLAN

gives folks a  
reason to smile

### **FREE GED CLASSES**

offered at C.A.R.E. Center

### **HIT THE ROAD!**

Exploring automotive  
museums of the South



## FCC addressing rural calling issues

Rural telecommunications providers work through NTCA to encourage government action



By working together and being involved in the regulatory process, rural telecommunications providers are seeing progress toward resolving rural calling issues.

NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association represents the voice of rural providers across America. For three years, NTCA has been working with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on the issue of rural call completion, where subscribers in rural areas report significant problems receiving long-distance or wireless calls on their landline phones. These problems include failed connections and poor call quality.

The problem appears to lie in the fact that some long-distance and wireless carriers, in an effort to cut costs, are contracting with third-party service providers to route phone calls into rural areas.

In its latest ruling toward the end of 2013, the FCC took steps that the NTCA described in a statement as “positive developments for

rural consumers and their loved ones who have suffered the frustration or fear of a call not completing, lost business or endured public safety concerns because of circumstances beyond their control.”

Shirley Bloomfield, CEO of NTCA, expressed gratitude for the FCC’s efforts, adding “there is still much work to be done to ensure that no consumer will be cut off from critical communications, but NTCA is hopeful that this order will help to minimize consumer confusion by precluding false ringing, provide immediate incentives for providers to better manage completion of their calls, give the FCC a useful tool in identifying bad actors for enforcement, and serve as a springboard for further conversations about what else remains to be done to achieve truly universal and seamless connectivity.”

As your telecommunications provider, we will continue to keep you updated on this important issue through the pages of this magazine. ☎

## The IP Evolution

*Regulations must change to accelerate advances in technology*

Two letters — IP — are changing the way we connect as a society. Short for “Internet Protocol,” the term refers to the standardized method used to transmit information between devices across the Internet. This goes well beyond accessing websites on your computer. IP technology is used today for connecting everything from security systems to appliances, and it enables you to share photos, watch TV, chat over video and more.

As innovation continues to bring us new ways to use IP technology, it is important for industry regulations to support the adoption of that technology. As your telecommunications provider, we are working with other companies like ours across the U.S. to encourage changes in FCC rules that will help consumers take advantage of the IP evolution.

We are doing this work through NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association. In coming issues of this magazine, we will take a look at incentives NTCA is recommending to the FCC. In the March/April issue, we will explore the idea of universal support for standalone broadband service — and explain why current rules prevent us from being able to sell a broadband connection without some type of phone line bundled with it.

The IP evolution is here, and our mission is to ensure your home and community are ready for all the benefits it brings. ☎

# #ruraliscool



Share your photos, videos, thoughts and stories on your favorite social media channels, and use the **#ruraliscool** hashtag.

Simply add **#ruraliscool** to your posts on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube. Your posts will help spread

the word that our region offers a great lifestyle — and one that is supported by modern technology.

We are looking for photos and story ideas for possible use in future issues of this magazine. Share yours today!



# Introducing your kids to email



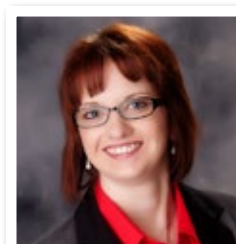
## Digital Citizenship

Email is an important communication method, with adults using it daily at work, in school and for personal needs. However, with so many ways to communicate, many children are drawn to interact through Facebook, Twitter and text messaging. It's therefore important that we teach our children the value of email as a form of correspondence.



### *Consider the following guidelines for introducing your young one to email.*

- Contact your local telecommunications provider and ask them to set up a new email account for your child.
  - Talk to your child about how beneficial email can be for the future, and the importance of using it right now. They can use it for sharing ideas and tips, asking questions, assigning tasks to family members and even sending funny jokes.
  - Email your child a few times each week. Ask them about their ideas for weekend activities, send links to educational websites or even mention a recipe that you want to make together.
  - In the evening, open the emails together and demonstrate how the content is beneficial and sometimes couldn't be shared through another method.
  - Try to foster an understanding that not all communication has to be done through social media, and that email will be an important part of their life in the years ahead.
  - Only open and reply to email from people you know.
  - If you receive an email from a company or a bank asking for information, never reply (and your child should inform you about this email as soon as possible).
  - Never share sensitive information, such as date of birth, social security number, physical address or passwords in an email.
  - Never open email attachments unless you are absolutely certain they are from a known source.
- Put these tips to work and start teaching your child how to properly use email. It's an important part of becoming a good digital citizen. 📞



**Carissa Swenson** is the owner and technology specialist of TechTECS, a technology training, education, consulting and support company.



## Building our future's foundation

Can you imagine life without electricity? Of course not. It helps you take care of your home and family, earn a living, get your news, enjoy entertainment and experience a better quality of life. Wait ... can't the same be said for broadband?



I draw that parallel to drive home an important point — the broadband network we are building today is as foundational to modern society as the electricity distribution system that began powering rural America in the 1930s and 1940s.

Do you remember the first time you logged on to the Internet? Maybe it was through a New Hope Telephone Cooperative Internet account. Perhaps you dialed a toll-free number, or even paid long-distance charges, to connect to EarthLink or AOL (how many CDs did you receive in the mail over the years offering

10 free hours of service to try AOL?). As you listened to the whistles and pops of your modem making a dial-up connection, you could not have imagined a day when such a network connection would impact practically every part of your life.

But that day is here. As dial-up access gave way to broadband connections, technology drove innovations that go far beyond simply browsing the Internet. And just like in the early days of electrification, rural America is benefiting greatly.

Consider these examples of how people are using their broadband connections:

- Students are staying current with their studies when they miss class, and turning in their homework online.
- Teachers and professors are bringing advanced studies into their classrooms through distance learning.
- Clinics and hospitals are managing records and expediting test results in ways that help them control costs while improving patient care and convenience.
- Businesses are selling products and services, buying supplies and communicating in ways that help them compete with companies in larger markets.
- Local governments, fire departments, police forces, water providers and other agencies are saving money on training while offering greater access and improved services to citizens.

Our network is making stories like these possible. And it's not just New Hope Telephone. Providers like us across rural America are creating real solutions as we lead the way for a more advanced telecommunications network in our country.

If these stories are not enough to convince you that we truly are building the foundation for our future, look at the story "Wireless Needs Wires" on Page 6. With so many people connected by cell phone these days and the use of traditional landlines on the decline, you might be tempted to think of your local telecommunications company as a provider whose most relevant days are behind them. But as you see from this article, even the cell phone service people are so attached to depends heavily on the wired network that we continue to improve. It wouldn't work without us.

Broadband is indeed the infrastructure of the future — one we are building for you today. ☎

**JIM COOK**  
General Manager

is a member-owned corporation dedicated to providing communications technology to the residents and businesses of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads.

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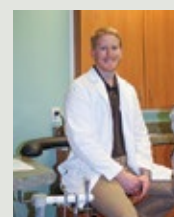
## The Communicator

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### On the Cover:



Dugald McMillan, DMD, opened New Hope Family Dentistry in November. It is the only dental clinic in town.

See story Page 8.

# Thanks for helping us celebrate!

In October, New Hope Telephone Cooperative celebrated 62 years of providing telecommunications service to the area with a Customer Appreciation Day. Refreshments were provided throughout the day, along with a hot dog lunch. Employees met and visited with everyone who stopped by. Members spun the NHTC prize wheel to win great door prizes. Congratulations to Heather Dewberry, the grand prize winner. She bundled her service and won an iPad Mini. Other prize pack winners were: Leroy Meeks; Sherry Whitaker; Cliff Mann; Jean Stapler; Angela Gordon; Mary Williams; Glenda Self; and Billy & Archie Butler. NHTC thanks everyone who attended our annual event.



Members enjoyed a hot dog lunch as part of the Customer Appreciation Day celebration.



NHTC's prize wheel was a big hit with members.



Mary Williams was one of several prize pack winners.



Cliff Mann won a pack full of Food Network goodies.



Sherry Whitaker was a prize pack winner.

## Community Calendar

### EVERY TUESDAY

#### TOPS

Join Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) at New Hope United Methodist Church on Main Drive in New Hope at 8:30 a.m. each Tuesday for weigh-in and 9 to 10 a.m. for a group meeting. If you'd like more information call 256-479-9628, 256-723-4656 or 256-723-4738, or visit [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org).

### NEW HOPE REC ANNOUNCEMENT

#### [www.newhoperec.org](http://www.newhoperec.org)

The New Hope Recreation Center will be going through a change in October 2014. The director's position and several board member positions will become available. If you're interested in filling one of these volunteer positions, please call 256-723-2111 or email [newhoperec@yahoo.com](mailto:newhoperec@yahoo.com) and start attending the monthly meetings. Help guide the New Hope Recreation Center into the new season.

## INSPIRATION CORNER

C.S. Lewis wrote: "To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, give it to no one. Wrap it carefully with hobbies and luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable."

In the movie "J. Edgar," Leonardo DiCaprio makes the statement, "Love is the most powerful force in the world."

I have always known real Love is special, but had never considered it a "force." Paul, talking about Spiritual gifts says, "... these three remain: faith, hope and Love. But the greatest of these is Love." Jesus tells us, "God so Loved us, He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

With Love being that special, it's no wonder the devil perverts it and turns it into a façade. "Love IS NOT envious, boastful, proud, self-seeking, easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs nor delights in evil." Any of these things portrayed as love is the furthest thing from love. If your heart is broken and you struggle with the truth of Love, a church near you should be able to help. Take love for granted and you will find yourself without love. Treat Love the way God does and it will take you into forever!

#### MICHAEL CARPENTER

Pastor of New Hope  
United Methodist Church &  
Oak Bowery United Methodist Church





## Make your home a HOTSPOT!

Did you know you can make the power of the Internet available throughout your home? With a Wi-Fi network, your Internet connection is no longer confined to one computer.

When the broadband service coming into your home is connected to a wireless router, you can create a Wi-Fi network that allows you to get more benefit from the same service — just like a Wi-Fi hotspot you see in libraries, restaurants, malls, hotels and other public places.

Many devices today are Wi-Fi enabled, ready to take advantage of your home's network. This includes smartphones, tablets, laptops, e-readers, monitoring and security systems, gaming systems, televisions, thermostats and even appliances.

Unlock the power of your broadband Internet connection. As your telecommunications company, we can help you determine what you need to create a home Wi-Fi network.



**NOTE:** Are you a business owner who would like to set up a Wi-Fi network for your employees or customers? Contact us for more information.

# Wireless Needs Wires

## Why your cell phone would not work without the wired landline network

When this company was formed decades ago, our mission was to provide reliable telephone service to our region. Telephone service was the single most important method of communicating quickly with family, businesses or emergency services — across town or across the country.

Today there are more cell phones in America than there are people. Users talk trillions of minutes each year and send billions of text messages every month. With all this wireless connectivity, do we really need the wired network at all?

Absolutely. The copper and fiber lines that run overhead and underground through the networks of companies like ours play a critical role in moving signals between the more than 300,000 cell sites located across the country. When you use your cell phone to make a call or access the Internet, your connection spends part of its journey on the same network that makes landline calls and Internet connections possible.

“The wireline network is the backbone of our whole telecommunications system. We need wires.” Those were the words of U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., who chairs the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet, in an interview last fall on C-Span ([www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Pryor](http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Pryor)). AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson expressed a similar sentiment last year in a Forbes magazine article when he said, “The more wireless we become, the more fixed-line dependent we become.”



According to a Foundation for Rural Service whitepaper\*, the components of a wireless phone network are:

- **Cell phone:** The device you use to make the call
- **Cell site:** A radio transceiver that connects the caller to the network
- **Mobile switching center:** The “brains” that control all elements of the wireless network
- **Interexchange switching and transport network:** The equipment that connects the wireless network to other wireless or wireline networks

The transport network is where we come in. Without our network of wires, your wireless phone calls would never be connected. So the next time you reach for your cell phone to make a call or check your email, remember that it's the wireline companies like ours that are helping make that connection possible. ☎

\*The whitepaper “Wireless Needs Wires: The Vital Role of Rural Networks in Completing the Call” was produced by the Foundation for Rural Service and authored by GVNW. To order a complimentary copy of the full paper, visit [www.frs.org](http://www.frs.org).

# The TV Pricing Drama

It's no mystery, and it's certainly not a comedy

Remember when watching TV meant having to choose between ABC, NBC and CBS (and sometimes the public television station, when it was clear enough)? As we walked across the room to switch channels on a TV set encased in a wood-grain cabinet, we could not imagine a world where hundreds of channels existed, catering to viewers interested in sports, movies, home decorating, cooking, science fiction, cartoons, politics and everything in between.

While we have gained tremendous choice in our television viewing options, we have also lost any pricing stability. In fact, the only thing predictable about programming rates is that they will continue to increase for the foreseeable future.

## WHY DO TV PROGRAMMING PRICES KEEP CLIMBING?

A portion of the fee you pay for your TV package each month covers the equipment and personnel costs associated with delivering you the service. But a majority of your bill goes to pay the providers of the programming you love to watch — and that you don't watch. Because of the way these companies (from CNN and FOX News to Disney Channel and ESPN) structure their contracts, we must pay them according to the number of subscribers we have, not the number of people who actually watch each channel.

A 2013 article in the New York Times<sup>1</sup> offered ESPN as a good example. Only 1.36 million of the sports network's 100 million subscribers, the article states, were tuned in during prime time hours April-June of 2013. Nonetheless, all 100 million

paid ESPN's programming fees those months as part of their monthly bill from their service provider.

ESPN is an easy target for a discussion on why TV subscription costs keep climbing. According to a recent Planet Money article on npr.org<sup>2</sup>, ESPN is the most expensive channel, charging service providers \$5.54 per month per subscriber. That same article lists TNT at \$1.33 and Disney Channel at \$1.15. Rounding out the bottom of the list as the least expensive channels were Hallmark Channel at 6 cents and CMT Pure Country at a nickel per subscriber.\*

But ESPN is not the only channel that continues to raise its rates. In fact, some of the biggest increases have come from the broadcasters of "local stations," who traditionally allowed service providers to carry their signal at no charge. Now, each time service providers have to negotiate the retransmission consent agreements with these networks, their monthly price per subscriber goes up.

## IS THERE A SOLUTION ON THE HORIZON?

Currently, providers like us are required to buy a bundle of several channels (and often place them in certain packages) in order to get the two or three most popular channels a programmer offers. Congress has considered legislation that would change such requirements, making it possible for subscribers to have options for paying only for those channels they want to watch.

Judging by past attempts at such legislation, it appears to be a longshot that mandated unbundling will happen any time

soon. It also remains unclear if picking your channels a la carte would have a significant impact on your bill anyway. A study released last year by Needham Insights suggested that the fees per member charged by ESPN, for example, would soar to \$30 under such a structure, based on the assumption that their number of subscribers would drop from 100 million to approximately 20 million die-hard sports fans.

This could also spell an end for the smaller specialty channels that would not attract a large enough audience to generate the ad sales to support them.

## WHAT IS OUR ROLE?

As your telecommunications company, we are committed to providing you with the channel selections you want while doing all we can to maintain package prices. This will not be easy, and you will continue to see price increases in the future as the cost we pay for these channels keeps going up.

However, we want you to know that our eyes are on the bigger picture. Whatever happens in the future regarding how you buy and watch your favorite channels, we know that the most important part of that equation is the network for delivering the signal. Whether it's traditional TV, media websites or "over the top" services like Netflix and Hulu, you must have a robust, reliable network to enjoy these services. And we are committed to providing the broadband connectivity to deliver all you demand — in whatever form that might take — for many years to come. 📶

(1) "To Protect Its Empire, ESPN Stays on Offense," by Richard Sandomir, James Andrew Miller and Steve Eder - New York Times, Aug. 26, 2013

(2) "The Most (And Least) Expensive Basic Cable Channels, In 1 Graph," by Quoctrung Bui - Planet Money, NPR.org, Sept. 27, 2013

\*These estimates are based on a study by SNL Kagan of fees paid by the large, nationwide providers, and do not reflect the exact cost we pay for these channels.



# Something to smile about

## Dr. McMillan opens dental clinic in New Hope

By Kerry Scott



Dr. McMillan, his wife and office manager Natalie (seated) and hygienist Lori Whitaker welcome patients to New Hope Family Dentistry.

Call it fate, divine intervention or just plain luck. Dugald McMillan and his new bride Natalie say they aren't really sure how they ended up in New Hope. They're just glad they did.

When they moved to town in August, the couple had only recently married and Dr. McMillan had just sold his dental practice in Birmingham. They wanted to find a nice small town where they could settle down, become part of the community and one day raise a family.

### SMALL TOWN, U.S.A.

"I grew up in Woodland, Ala., a town of about 200 people," says McMillan. "I thought I would enjoy living in Birmingham, but after a few years, I realized that I really missed that small-town feel." Natalie is from Decatur, but she loves the closeness and sense of community that small towns offer.

One day, after visiting a practice for sale in northeast Alabama, the couple drove through New Hope on their way home. "When we passed the school and saw all the 'Go Indians' signs, I fell in love," recalls Natalie. So once home, they did a little research on the town. They turned their search back to other areas after learning that the town had no dental offices.

"I thought I wanted to purchase a dental clinic that was already established," McMillan says. But after visiting a few more clinics that held no appeal, they began to consider New Hope as a real option.

"It's a lot easier to buy an established practice than to start one from scratch," he says. "But several of the practices I looked at were outdated and would require a lot of upgrades. And none of the communities held much appeal."

So, deciding to start a brand new practice, the McMillans purchased a home and moved to New Hope.



## MODERN CONVENIENCES

After the move, the McMillans began the laborious process of building a dental practice, New Hope Family Dentistry. It was really important to McMillan that his patients have access to the latest dental technology and expertise they would find anywhere else. His patients' comfort was an equal concern. "We've equipped our patient rooms with heated massaging chairs," he says. "TVs mounted in the ceiling above the chair will give patients something to focus on and help take their mind off any procedure taking place."

Currently, there are two patient rooms set up. They are fully equipped to handle any procedure from a cleaning to a root canal. "As the number of patients we are seeing grows, we'll equip the remaining rooms," says Natalie, who works alongside her husband in the clinic. A nurse by trade, she files insurance claims, manages the schedule and "anything else that I need to do." The McMillans are excited to have Lori Whitaker, a native to New Hope, join their team as a dental hygienist.

## A PICTURE OF PREVENTION

Prevention is a cornerstone philosophy McMillan hopes to instill in his patients. "I would much rather help someone prevent a problem, than have to fix it,"

he says. One of the ways he does this is through the use of technology.

Using an intra-oral camera, he can take pictures of healthy areas in a patient's mouth as well as any trouble spots. He uses the TVs in each room to show the patient those images. "I explain what they are looking at and tell them where they need to be working harder," McMillan says. "They may not be able to avoid every cavity, but it can go a long way toward preventing future ones. A picture is worth 1,000 words, and seeing images of your own mouth is a great motivator."

Natalie believes her husband's relaxing tone and demeanor puts patients at ease, too. "He explains everything in a way most people understand, and his patients seem very comfortable with him," she says.

As a dentist, McMillan says the most rewarding thing for him is to take away the pain. "It makes me feel good to know that I can cure someone's pain," he says.

It's been quite a year for the McMillans. "We got married in March, sold my clinic in Birmingham, moved here in August, bought our first home and built and opened New Hope Family Dentistry," McMillan remembers. "The town has welcomed us with open arms and we're excited about the future." ☎

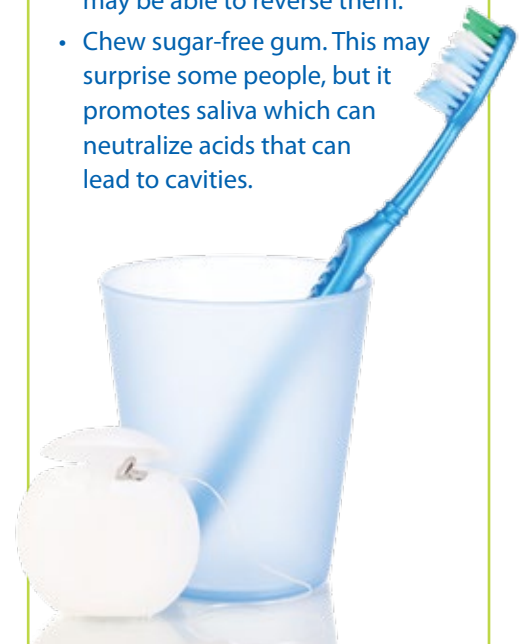


For patient comfort, rooms are equipped with heated massaging chairs and TVs mounted in the ceiling.

**Prevention is key  
when it comes to  
dental hygiene**

Dr. McMillan offers these tips to promote healthy teeth and gums:

- Brush at least twice a day. Be sure to brush even the hard-to-reach spaces.
- Floss daily. Debris can become trapped between teeth and lead to cavities if not removed.
- Limit the number of soft drinks you consume. It's also better to drink a soft drink at once, say with a meal, than to sip it throughout the day.
- Use a mouthwash with fluoride. However, don't believe the myth that using mouthwash can replace flossing.
- See your dentist every six months. Your dentist can detect cavities early and in some cases, may be able to reverse them.
- Chew sugar-free gum. This may surprise some people, but it promotes saliva which can neutralize acids that can lead to cavities.



**New Hope Family Dentistry**  
5487 Main Drive, New Hope  
256-723-8833  
[NewHopeFamilyDentistry.com](http://NewHopeFamilyDentistry.com)



Corvettes come from all over the country to pose for the perfect picture.

# A DRIVING PASSION

BY PATRICK SMITH

## MUSEUMS EXPLORE AMERICA'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE AUTOMOBILE

Since the prehistoric age when the first wheel was chiseled from stone, mankind has been fascinated with motion. Forward motion. That connection between man and machine is embodied in the automobile, with its roaring engine giving humans the power to conquer distance and time. The power of man and machine, performing as one, gave birth to the wide-open road we love to traverse, along with a multitude of ways to work and play behind the wheel.

Long before NASCAR thrived as we know it today, the roar of the dirt track echoed through the South. The glory days of dirt tracks may have waned, but our interest in cars has not. In fact, the South is America's new automotive corridor, with a number of automakers having located manufacturing plants in the region and thousands of workers earning a living on an automotive assembly line.

Scattered across the region are a number of unique museums that preserve our automotive history and help us to relive the milestones in our fascination with the car (and truck). Visit their websites, learn more, then plan a road trip to remind yourself of why the automobile just might be America's greatest pastime.

### FLOYD GARRETT'S MUSCLE CAR MUSEUM

The sleek lines and powerful facades of the '70s muscle cars are alive and well at Floyd Garrett's Muscle Car Museum in Sevierville, Tenn. Widely considered an expert on the era, Floyd Garrett showcases his \$8 million collection of more than 90 cars, including a 1969 Ford Mustang Boss 429 and a 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle LS6 (Detroit's highest factory horsepower car).

Address: 320 Winfield Dunn Parkway, Sevierville, TN 37876

Phone: 865-908-0882 • Website: [www.musclegarmuseum.com](http://www.musclegarmuseum.com)

### INTERNATIONAL TOWING & RECOVERY HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

The first tow truck was built in Chattanooga in 1916. Started in 1995, the International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame & Museum is a walk through the history of the wrecker. In addition to the array of displays and exhibits, there's a Hall of Fame presentation and a memorial to those who have fallen during their service as recovery operators.

Address: 3315 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN 37408

Phone: 423-267-3132 • Website: [www.internationaltowingmuseum.org](http://www.internationaltowingmuseum.org)

While in Chattanooga, visit the Volkswagen plant, home of the Passat sedan. For more information email: [tours@vw.com](mailto:tours@vw.com).



## NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM

The father of the Corvette, Belgian-born Zora Arkus-Duntov would surely be proud to see his creation thriving at the General Motors Corvette assembly plant in Bowling Green, Ky., and the accompanying National Corvette Museum. The museum draws enthusiasts from around the world to admire its collection spanning the 60-year history of the American classic.

- Address: 350 Corvette Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42101 • Phone: 270-781-7973 • Website: [www.corvettemuseum.org](http://www.corvettemuseum.org)  
Public tours of the assembly plant are also available. For more information visit: [www.corvettemuseum.org/plant\\_tours](http://www.corvettemuseum.org/plant_tours)

## LANE MOTOR MUSEUM

Uncommon cars find a home at the Lane Motor Museum in Nashville. Celebrating a decade of operation, the museum showcases vehicles like the 1919 Leyat Helico, a propellor-driven car meticulously developed by aircraft engineer Marcel Leyat. Leyat believed propellor-driven cars would be simpler because they wouldn't require a transmission, rear axle or clutch. Lane also hosts several unique motorcycle and truck designs.

- Address: 702 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37210 • Phone: 615-742-7445 • Website: [www.lanemotormuseum.org](http://www.lanemotormuseum.org)

## RUSTY'S TV & MOVIE CAR MUSEUM

The unmistakable creativity of Hollywood, combined with American style and ingenuity, are presented at Rusty's TV & Movie Car Museum in Jackson, Tenn. Who wouldn't want to solve a riddle with Scooby Doo in the Mystery Machine, or fight crime in the Batmobile? Rusty's is the place to see more than 25 cars used in television shows and movies.

- Address: 323 Hollywood Drive, Jackson, TN 38301 • Phone: 731-267-5881  
Website: [www.rustystvandmoviecars.com](http://www.rustystvandmoviecars.com)

## INTERNATIONAL MOTORSPORTS HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

Teaming man with machine, the International Motorsports Hall of Fame & Museum satisfies the need for speed. This institution celebrates the achievements of drivers breaking the limits and setting new heights. Spanning three buildings next to the Talladega Superspeedway, the facility is home to the memories of drivers, engineers and designers who shaped the motorsports community.

- Address: 3366 Speedway Boulevard, Talladega, AL 35160 • Phone: 256-362-5002  
Website: [www.motorsportshalloffame.com](http://www.motorsportshalloffame.com)

## WHEELS OF YESTERYEAR CAR MUSEUM

Lifelong collector Paul Cummings showcases more than 50 vintage muscle cars and trucks at the Wheels of Yesteryear Car Museum in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Opened in 2009, the museum shows off the raw power of the 1965 Pontiac GTO and the elegant simplicity of the 1949 Dodge pickup truck. It has quickly become a landing place for tourists and car aficionados alike.

- Address: 413 Hospitality Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579 • Phone: 843-903-4774  
Website: [www.wheelsofyesteryearmb.com](http://www.wheelsofyesteryearmb.com)

## BMW ZENTRUM MUSEUM

BMW admirers flock to see the past and catch a glimpse of the future at the Zentrum Museum in Greer, S.C., the home of BMW's only American production facility. Visitors flow through the history of exquisitely engineered German cars, SUVs and motorcycles while interacting with educational exhibits, galleries and interactive displays.

- Address: 1400 Highway 101 South, Greer, SC 29651 • Phone: 864-989-5300 • Website: [www.bmwusfactory.com/zentrum](http://www.bmwusfactory.com/zentrum)  
Visit [www.bmwusfactory.com](http://www.bmwusfactory.com) to inquire about the BMW Performance Center's "Ultimate Driving Experience" and factory tour.

## SWOPE AUTO MUSEUM

The horsepower of the '70s or the fuel efficiency of today's cars can't match the solid steel and molded aluminum of the time-honored transportation at the Swope Auto Museum in Elizabethtown, Ky. A collection that spans from the early 1900s to the 1960s, Swope is home to classics like the 1914 Model T Ford Touring and the 1925 Pierce Arrow. Swope also sells antiques to passionate collectors.

- Address: 100 North Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, KY 42701 • Phone: 270-765-2181 • Website: [www.swopemuseum.com](http://www.swopemuseum.com)



National Corvette Museum



Lane Motor Museum



Rusty's TV & Movie Car Museum



BMW Zentrum Museum



Lane Motor Museum



Those planning to get their GED will benefit from instruction through the C.A.R.E. Center, especially with the new testing guidelines.

# Earn your GED

... C.A.R.E. Center offers free classes to help

There are any number of reasons why someone who never finished high school might want to go back later and earn their GED. Some want to get a better job. Some want to go to college. Some just want the satisfaction of knowing they have it. Barbara Dickens is pleased to help them all.

Dickens, a GED instructor with Calhoun Community College who teaches at the C.A.R.E. Center in New Hope, spent several years teaching middle and high school students before working with adults. "Teaching adults is a lot different," she says. "It's their choice to be in the class, so they really work hard to accomplish their goals."

The exam was recently updated for the first time since 2002 and is now based on the common core standards used in public schools. It is also moving online.

Dickens expects some students will find the exam more difficult, but she is determined to make sure she is doing all

she can to help her students be prepared for the changes. "The science portion is harder now because it is no longer multiple choice," she explains. "You have to draw on your knowledge of science to answer the questions, which some will find difficult."

On the essay portion, students might be asked to compare and contrast two historical documents or two branches of government in five paragraphs. "It will require critical thinking and must include persuasive arguments with facts," Dickens says.

But one of the biggest changes to come to the test is the move to the Web. Basic computer knowledge and decent typing skills are going to be very important. "I'm so glad that New Hope Telephone Cooperative is offering digital literacy classes," says Dickens. "I know some students that would really benefit from a class teaching them typing skills."

Dickens says each student is unique. She gives each one an initial test to evaluate

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their skills and to discover where they need the most instruction. Once that has been determined, students begin studying booklets based on their needs. "Those who are really motivated to learn take the booklets home and study there," she says. "They typically get ready for the exam much faster than those who only work in class."

Since she began teaching GED classes, Dickens has seen several real success stories. Many have gone on to take college courses or other secondary education classes. She's even had students who completed a semester of college studies before walking across the graduation stage to receive their GED.

One student that stands out in her mind had tried unsuccessfully for years to get her GED. "Before I taught at Calhoun, I

taught a night course in New Market," says Dickens. "One of my students was 58. She had been a custodian all her life. She raised five children successfully. She would work all day, then come to my classroom at night and work really hard."

She had taken the classes before, but when she took them under Dickens' instruction, she was able to pass. "She told me she took my class for two reasons," says Dickens. "The class was close to her home, so it was easy to get to, and I gave her the one-on-one help she needed."

In her GED graduation ceremony speech, that student told how a lot of her friends dropped out of school and they didn't think it was a big deal. "She said she learned the hard way that it was a very big deal," adds Dickens. 📞



**Barbara Dickens, a GED instructor with Calhoun Community College, works with students at the C.A.R.E. Center in New Hope.**

## *People you know... working for you!*

The employees at NHTC work hard every day to provide members with the technology they need to stay connected, whether it's through phone service, a high-speed broadband connection or TV packages. You'll be meeting some of the hard-working individuals at NHTC in each issue of The Communicator this year.

### **MEET AMBER**

January marks Amber Parsley's one-year anniversary with NHTC. She loves working as a customer service representative where she helps members with everything from ordering a service the cooperative offers to taking payments and answering any billing or service questions they may have. Amber lives in Owens Cross Roads and enjoys amusement parks and attending Indie rock concerts.

As a self-described people person, Amber's favorite part of her job is getting to help others. "I especially like meeting people who have just moved to the area and learning what brings them to our small town," she says.

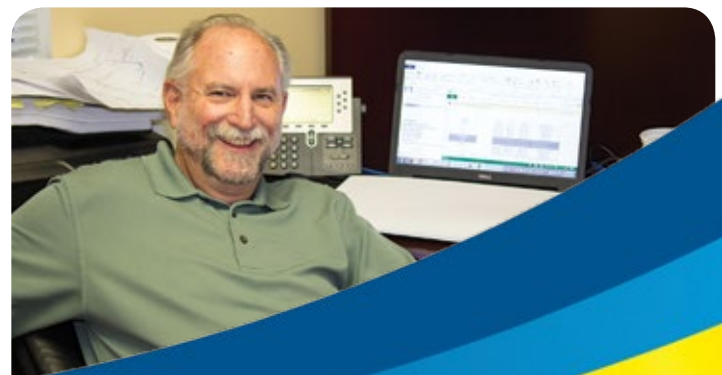


### **MEET DAVE**

Dave Ramski has worked in the telecommunications industry for more than 30 years. Before coming to NHTC as the engineering manager, he spent 20 years in southwest Kansas, and before that he worked as an engineer designing and sometimes installing ocean fiber around the world in such places as Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore. He is managing the fiber-to-the-home project in New Hope and Owens Cross Roads.

Dave is married and has two grown daughters. When not working, he spends his time with them in the Nashville area.

"I really enjoy being a part of a team that is professional, positive, skilled and full of energy, drive and commitment," says Dave.



## Picking a favorite?

There's no better way to ward off winter's chill than holing up inside with a bowl of steaming soup. So lately, I've been experimenting and making many different soups. I can't make up my mind which is best, but I know one thing for sure: using my mother's old soup pot makes a difference. Not only does it make a good soup, but somewhere in the steam, I swear I can see Momma smiling.

So what's your favorite soup? For me, it's West African Peanut Soup. There are many different recipes for this soup, but my favorite is this one that I managed to get from a restaurant in Chattanooga that no longer exists.

### West African Peanut Soup

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 medium onions, very finely diced
- 2 large green peppers, finely chopped
- 6 large cloves garlic, minced
- 1 (28-ounce) can chopped tomatoes with juice
- 8 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- 1 (18-ounce) jar creamy peanut butter
- Chopped roasted peanuts (optional)

Heat olive oil in large stock pot over medium-high heat. Cook onion, bell pepper and garlic until lightly browned. Stir in tomatoes with juice, broth, pepper and red pepper flakes. Simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes. Add rice to soup; stir. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 25 minutes, or until rice is tender. When rice is cooked, whisk in peanut butter, return to a simmer and serve. Garnish with chopped roasted peanuts. Makes about 8 servings.



**Anne P. Braly**  
Food Editor

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## Baked soup: a family staple



*Rebecca Spraggs*

**S**oup cuts across cultures. Its popularity spans the nation in wintertime and becomes comfort food in every corner of America. This is especially true in the small town of Kirbyton, Ky., when Rebecca Spraggs makes her Baked Soup, a recipe handed down in her family for generations.

"I can remember my grandfather making it. Just the thought makes me happy," she says. "He'd cook it in a great big iron kettle. And when we'd come inside from sledding, it would be ready."

This soup, as well as others, is part of Spraggs' repertoire of comfort foods that she brings to the table as a caterer. About a year ago, she and a friend launched Catering by Lorie and Rebecca.

"We both loved to cook, and often did for family and friends," Spraggs says. "So we started catering out of our houses." In

less than a year's time, they've built up a good client base.

Spraggs says clients often ask for soups when they call. "It's just good comfort food. People love it. And it makes a hearty meal, too, when we add sandwiches or salads."

Magic happens when Spraggs stirs the pot of her favorite baked potato soup. As the cheese melts, the flavors of bacon, garlic and onions come together, bringing the pot to a crescendo of comforting flavors. "It's got just the right amount of texture to make your taste buds happy," she says. "It's just wonderful."

Her lasagna soup is one that sends mouth-watering Italian aromas through the home as it simmers in the slow cooker for hours. And her baked soup cooks in a slow oven allowing the vegetables to absorb the flavors of fork-tender meat, creating a delicious gravy that you can sop up with bread, or use a spoon to get every last bite. There's something about cooking it in the oven that gives it such good taste, Spraggs adds.

"Soup is just so good. And it's so easy, you can just throw it together and let it cook all day and you have a full meal, getting all the vegetables and meat you need," Spraggs says. "You can use leftovers and probably canned goods from your pantry."

Are you in need of a little comfort? Try one of Spraggs' recipes and see if it doesn't bring some warmth to your soul. ☎



### TIPS FOR MAKING A SUPER BOWL OF SOUP:

- To lighten up a cream-based soup, use fat-free milk or chicken or vegetable broth.
- Simmer soup as long as you can. It will only make the flavor better.
- Don't saute the vegetables first.
- Use the freshest ingredients you can find.
- Do not add salt until the end. Taste as you go.
- If the recipe calls for chicken broth, and if you have the time, make your own. Use the chicken in the soup or save it to make chicken salad for sandwiches to go with the soup.



# Serve up super soups for supper

## Loaded Potato Soup

- 3 pounds potatoes, peeled, cooked and chopped
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup flour
- 8 cups of half-and-half
- 16 ounces Velveeta cheese, cubed
- White pepper, to taste
- Garlic powder, to taste
- 2 teaspoons Tabasco sauce
- Bacon, cooked and crumbled
- Green onions, chopped (tops only)
- Cheddar cheese, shredded
- Sour cream, optional

Melt butter in large pot, slowly add flour and half-and-half. Stir continually until flour is incorporated. Add Velveeta; continue stirring on medium heat until melted. Add potatoes, pepper, garlic, Tabasco, bacon and green onions. Once cheese is melted, turn heat down and simmer for 30 minutes. Serve topped with cheese and sour cream, if desired.

## Baked Soup

- 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 cup water
- 3 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons salt



*Loaded Potato Soup*

- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 pounds beef stew meat, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 4 medium carrots, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 3 medium potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 2 celery ribs, cut into 3/4-inch chunks
- 1 medium onion, cut into chunks
- 1 slice of bread, cubed

In a large bowl, combine the tomatoes, water, tapioca, sugar, salt and pepper. Stir in remaining ingredients. Pour into greased 3-quart baking dish. Cover and bake at 375° for 2 hours or until meat and veggies are tender. Serve with cornbread or corn cakes.



*Baked Soup*

## Crock Pot Lasagna Soup

- 1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste
- 3 cups beef broth (or more, see note)
- 1 pound ground beef, browned and drained
- 4-5 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup V8 juice
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups uncooked shell pasta
- Shredded cheddar cheese, optional


Mix tomatoes and tomato paste in Crock pot. Add broth, beef, garlic, parsley, basil, onion, V8 juice, salt and pepper. Cover and cook on low 7 to 8 hours or on high 4 to 5 hours. Thirty minutes before end of cooking time, add in 1 cup of water and pasta. Stir to combine, cover and continue cooking 30 minutes. Serve topped with cheese, if desired.

*Note: If you need more liquid, add extra broth when you add pasta. 📞*



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