

STAY ALERT!

Karen Hensley and Stephen Jones spoke to our community about actions that can help protect you whether you are answering the phone or enjoying the internet.



BTC sponsored BINGO at Ballard's Senior Citizens Center. Thanks to Chris Denton and Tara Greenwood for providing the fun!



OPEN HOUSE
December 1st
9am - 2pm



If your child is enrolled in Ballard or McCracken's school systems you likely qualify for the

\$30

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

credit applied to your internet bill!

www.acpbenefit.org

A Federal Communications Commission program that provides a monthly discount on internet service for qualifying households.

ACP QUALIFIERS

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) under the National School Lunch and National School Breakfast Program, SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Housing Assistance, Public Housing, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), WIC, Federal Pell Grant, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefit

ACP SUPPORT CENTER

877-384-2575, 8am - 8pm CDT

7 DAYS PER WEEK

ACPsupport@usac.org



Registration will begin at 8 am

Vote only - 8 am to 10 am

Business meeting with In-Person voting begins at 10 am



Karen Hensley

NEWS FROM THE MANAGER

What an exciting summer at your cooperative! We have had a lot of fun visiting with many of our friends, neighbors, and members across our community at multiple back to school events and at the Ballard County Senior Center! What a blessing to live in an active, social and thriving community. We especially enjoyed giving back to the schools in our area by donating wireless mice for the children in the Ballard County and Heath school districts to use with their Chromebooks. Education and technology are so vital for a healthy community and investing in our youth is a step in the right direction for all of us and BTC.

For the people who live in the New Hope community of McCracken County covered by the Reconnect Grant we received, your wait is over and high-speed internet is on its way to your home or business! We are excited to welcome these new customers to BTC and share with them the same great BTC network and customer service that existing members have enjoyed for years.

*As we begin September, preparations are underway for our Cooperative's 68th annual meeting. The meeting will be held on Saturday, October 28th, in the Ballard County Middle School cafeteria with parking behind the school same as last year. **There is a change to the time of the meeting with it beginning at 10:00 am this year.** Also, mark your calendars as we are planning our Christmas Open House on Friday, December 1st from 9 am - 2 pm. We hope you can make it to both celebrations of your cooperative, and we look forward to seeing you!*

Just as technology is constantly evolving, so is our commitment to you. BTC is blessed with an outstanding team of employees who are locally driven to keep you globally connected. On behalf of the whole BTC team, thank you for choosing us as your telecommunications provider.

- Karen Hensley



BTC GO puts you in charge!



Download the FREE app today!

- ✓ **Parental Controls On Wi-Fi Devices At Home:**
game systems, smart TV's, phones, computers, tablets
- ✓ **Search The Web Safely**
- ✓ **Choose Sites Allowed In Your Home**
- ✓ **Schedule Wi-Fi Down Times**
- ✓ **Wi-Fi Turns Off At Bedtimes**



DEAR MEMBER SUBSCRIBER:

We would like to clarify what the bylaws say about voting so you can be aware before the Annual Meeting. In Article III Section 5, the bylaws state "Each member shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members." Therefore, only the person or persons listed on the membership are entitled to vote. If the membership is listed as a joint membership, both spouses' names, either may vote, but not both. A spouse may not vote if the membership is only the other spouse's name whether the other spouse is alive or deceased. The staff will be following the bylaws as written for the upcoming annual meeting and election which states only the member is entitled to vote. All voting will be held in-person at the meeting. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the October 28th annual meeting of the membership.

- BTC Management



CALL 811

Fall is a great time for home projects but don't forget to place a ticket for fiber locates!



**TO SET UP EFT/AUTO PAYMENTS
CALL THE OFFICE 270-665-5186**

Your payment will automatically be paid on the 7th of every month!



TOLL FREE 1-833-526-0295

You will need your
*account number and your **PIN



**Save time.
Avoid service interruptions.
Eliminate late fees.**

Your credit card or banking info is stored so your payment is a click away!

Download the FREE app!

GENERAL SUPPORT
270-665-5186
baltel@brtc.net
www.btcservices.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30
Lobby Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:00
Saturday Trouble Repairs: 8:00 - Noon

BTC'S PRACTICAL STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST CYBER-CRIMINALS

BTC has seen an alarming increase in members having their personal information comprised from online activities or even via telephone. Below are some actions that can help protect you whether you are answering the phone or enjoying the internet.

- 1 Get On the DoNotCall Registry.** Visit DoNotCall.gov and register. Even if you have registered in the past, do it again! The DoNotCall list is not foolproof, but it will cut down on unwanted calls.
- 2 Spam Reporting.** Text messages are used to contact you. Unsolicited or unwanted text messages should be reported. Most wireless carriers have this built in as you delete the message. Or you can forward the text to 7726. And you can report the text to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint or call 1-888-383-1222.
- 3 Do Not Click Links.** Do not open links you receive via text messages or email unless you've been expecting them or verified the sender is legitimate.
- 4 Visit Trusted Vendors Websites Directly (separate from emails or text messages).** If a company is requesting that you provide credit/debit card information, checking account information, check the order status, or change your password, don't click the link. Go directly to the organization's website or contact them directly.
- 5 Do Not For Any Reason Respond to Strange Texts, Emails, or Calls.** They are trying to determine if the number is real a person, setting you up for additional harassment in the future.
- 6 You Do Not Have To Answer Phone Calls.** You are not obligated to answer phone calls. If you do not recognize the number/name, do not answer. Let the caller leave you a message, then you can contact the organization independently from the phone call to verify it is legitimate. Caller ID with name and Voice Mail is recommended.
- 7 Good Passwords.** Create passwords that are unique and not related to your personal identity. For example, don't use birthdays, pets name, your name, etc. Use multi-factor authentication (MFA) when available. This requires you to sign in with your password and the organization will contact you with a security code via text message or email.
- 8 Never Provide Personal Information Out of Fear or Urgency.** Take your time and talk with a trusted person to help you. If you are not sure, contact the company directly.

BTC is committed to protecting you to the best of our ability. We offer the BTC Go App to protect you when you are online, and we have automatic screening that blocks known spam callers. Also, please contact us and ask any question about cybersecurity if you are not sure about phone calls, emails, text messages that you receive that might be fraudulent. **BTC IS HERE TO HELP YOU!**

BTC HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

- Veterans Day, Friday, November 10th •
- Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23rd •



ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, October 28th at 10am

HAVE YOU HAD
A GREAT BTC EXPERIENCE?

Review us on
Google



POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR TRUSTEE ELECTION 2023

If you would like to serve as a trustee for BTC, petitions are available for the upcoming Board of Trustees election at the headquarters building in La Center.

Completed petitions must be returned by Friday, September 22, 2023.

Trustee elections will be held for the exchanges of La Center and Wickliffe.

You must reside in one of these exchanges (La Center or Wickliffe) and have a petition signed by at least fifty (50) members of BTC with active service.

For more information regarding the trustee election, members may contact Karen Hensley, CEO/General Manager or review BTC's by-laws in the telephone directory.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 10 am. The meeting will be held in-person at the Ballard County Middle School cafeteria. We will let you know as soon as possible before the meeting date should plans change.



2023 ANNUAL MEETING AND TRUSTEE ELECTION

This is your official notice of meeting and annual report. The Annual Meeting and Trustee election has been set for Saturday, October 28, 2023.

The meeting will be held in-person at the Ballard County Middle School cafeteria. We will let you know as soon as possible before the meeting date should plans change.

The meeting will be called to order at **10:00 am.** for the election of the La Center and Wickliffe Trustee positions. The incumbents are Joe B. Whipple for the La Center exchange, and Jack Giles for the Wickliffe exchange.

All voting is in-person. Every member is entitled to one vote; where two people hold a joint membership, either may vote, but not both. The purpose of this meeting is to transact business and allow you to take part in your cooperative.

- Joe B. Whipple, Secretary/Treasurer



BRINGING HOME THE BTC WI-FI
PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS!



**HEATH
PIRATES**



EASIEST EVER CROCKPOT LASAGNA RECIPE

ingredients

1 lb extra-lean ground beef
1 yellow onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 tsp each salt & pepper
2 jars (650mL) jars of Classico's basil & tomato sauce
1 lb of lasagna noodles (can use either oven ready or normal)
1 (475g) tub ricotta cheese or an 8 oz. block of cream cheese
2 cups each, mozzarella and parmesan cheeses
1/2 cup water

instructions

In a large frying pan, brown the ground beef over med-high heat. When beef is almost cooked through, add onions, garlic, salt & pepper and 1 jar of tomato sauce, then stir to combine.

Spray slow cooker with cooking spray, then layer in a bit of meat sauce. Add lasagna noodles (you may need to break some into pieces to make them fit), then add some ricotta and cheeses, and more of the meat sauce. All layers should be about 1 inch thick. Repeat until the slow cooker is full - usually 3 layers total.

Pour the other jar of tomato sauce ovetop of lasagna, then add mozzarella and parmesan cheeses to the top. Pour water in on the sides. Cook on high. Can assemble your lasagna ahead of time then store in the fridge until time to cook.



Prep Time: 30 mins

Cook Time: 4 hrs

Total Time: 4 hrs 30 mins

