Why Build a Neighborhood NIXIE?

v240315

[NIXIE is not a government program or associated with any business.]

The day a "crisis" kicks open your door, you have to walk into the crisis as the person you are ... prepared or not. There will not be a way to prepare after the crisis arrives.

A NIXIE links you with others in our neighborhood. When things go very wrong and communications are down it will be your neighbors will be first on the scene to help you. The usual first responders will be overloaded, if they are functioning at all.

A NIXIE can give you access to special skills (Medical, IT, Construction, Drone Pilot, LEOs, Educator, Hunter, Fisherman, Scientists, Pharmacists, Firefighers, Electricians, Cook, Chemists, ...) and gives you an option **to give,** or **to get** information when we are in crisis. A NIXIE is also a two way street where we can assemble and send information to government officials asking for assistance. It also can distribute area specific information from the officials back to our neighborhood.

The skill that I offer to share with NIXIE-NEZIDA is radio communications systems, and ~50 years of Information Techology experience. I have already purchased and installed the central element allowing all of us to talk when cell phones and internet are down. I am also a weather nut and have put up a weather station that you can access.

What's the crisis? Most likely a hurricane, but it could be a cyber attack on our communications systems or power grid. It might be an EMP or CME that takes out our power grid. Sometimes government shuts off the communications

systems when there is civil unrest.

Did the people on the island of Maui (Hawaii) expect their cell phone system and 911 would be down? A they probably didn't have a plan to run into the ocean because of a brush fire?

How would your life changed if the recent cell phone outage lasted 9 days instead of 9 hours?

What might we need? Every expertise in the NIXIE increases the odds for you, your family and the neighborhood, to survive and recover from the event. For example, Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) to describe what we can do to protect our neighborhood from roving bands of bad actors. Medical personnel can provide over the radio instructions if someone needs first aid or beyond first aid.

Construction workers might be able to judge if structures are too damaged to live in. Information Technology (IT) might be able to build us rudimentary computer communications in the neighborhood, and before the crisis the IT folks can keep our online web and social systems going.

A drone pilot can take damage pictures from the air because state and federal aid only flow to us after damage is documented. Educators might be needed to provide the kids with an environement so the parents can deal with the crisis. Hunters and fishermen could provide guidance about finding food. Pharmacists can help people on medications and chemists can help us purify drinking water.

I've been working on the **N**eighborhood **I**nformation e**X**change **I**n **E**mergencies (NIXIE) concept for a several

months building websites and a Facebook group. I see our NIXIE limited to the homes no more than 1 mile from the intersection of Nezida and Rue de Belier (RDB). The radio repeater is on the air. The weather station is installed.

You will also see the name LCARE (**L**afayette **C**ommunity **A**rea **R**epeater **E**nvironment) in the documents. I have been working with local governement to support LCARE. LCARE uses the same radio as the NIXIE but expands coverage to the whole parish. It is not yet approved. The LCARE website contains a lot of radio information that also applies to using NIXIE radios.

Neighborhoods all over the Parish could form their own NIXIE. All NIXIEs can be different, there is complete flexibility to make the NIXIE work for the neighborhood.

See more about the plan to be able to talk across the NIXIE using radios. The website designed to use larger screens (your phone might feel restrictive but it will work).

KF5VH.com/nixie

Also available is a website that focuses more on the radios for Parish wide communications.

KF5VH.com/lcare

Nothing is cast in concrete. Everything I have generated is only a starting point. We will consider our options, select goals and build our NIXIE.

Please join Facebook Group NIXIE-NEZIDA where you can get more information.