VOICE of the Valley

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GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

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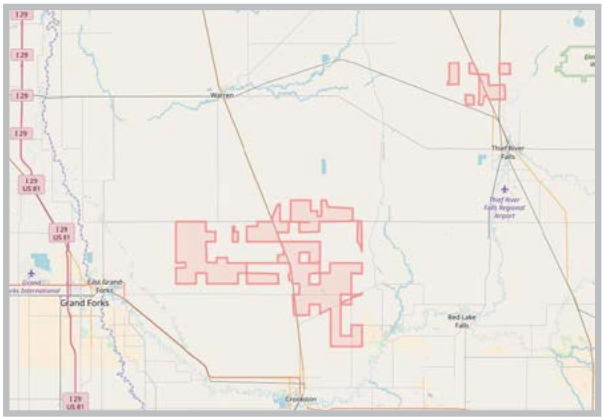
Broadband Grant Awarded

Garden Valley Technologies has been awarded a Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant to provide Internet access in Euclid and rural Thief River Falls, MN.



The DEED Office of Broadband Development awarded Garden Valley Technologies a Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant. This State of Minnesota grant will assist in a broadband build to Euclid and rural northwest Thief River Falls.

Residents and businesses in this area expressed support for GVT's Border-to-Border Grant application, which gives GVT the opportunity to offer Euclid and rural Thief River Falls Internet access, allowing employees to work from home and their children improved access to homework and educational resources. Euclid leaders agree that the area is in desperate need of fast, reliable Internet service to help the area progress, especially as technology continues to advance around them.

The grant provides the assistance needed to plow state-of-the-art fiber optic cable to the homes in this area allowing access to Internet speeds up to 1 Gbps, local phone service and digital video services, which includes over 200 channels.

"This is exciting news and I would like to thank the Office of Broadband and the State of Minnesota for this grant opportunity," said Timothy Brinkman, CEO/ General Manager at Garden Valley Technologies. "Grants like these make it possible to build out broadband in highly rural environments."

Continued on Inside

News & Events

Embrace Earth Day

and go GREEN by signing up for automatic bill payments. Visit 'Account Login' on our site or go to **www.gvtel.com/pay-bill-signup**

Directors seeking re-election

See inside for more details.

COVID-19 Relief Act

See inside for more details.

GVT FAQ's

Do you have questions about our products and services? Visit our website to view Frequently Asked Questions. **www.gvtel.com/faqs**

Download the GVT WiFi app

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Available for iPhone®, iPad® and Android devices.

Download vs. Upload Speeds

Why GVT Offers Symmetrical Connections

When it comes to your Internet connection, there are two speeds you need to consider: the download speed and the upload speed.

The download speed is the speed at which data travels from a remote location on the Internet to your Internet-connected device. For example, if you are watching a video on YouTube, the download speed is the rate at which the information in the video stream travels from the YouTube server to your computer or phone.

The upload speed, on the other hand, is the speed at which data travels from your connected device to a remote location on the Internet. For example, if you post a video or a photo onto a social media site like Facebook, the upload speed is the rate at which the information travels from your device to the Facebook server.

Some providers offer asymmetrical Internet connections, which just means that the download and upload speeds are not equal, typically with a faster download and slower upload. But at GVT, we offer packages where you will get the same download and upload speeds. That's because our 50 Mbps/50 Mbps, 250 Mbps/250 Mbps and 1 Gbps/1 Gbps plans are built on our fiber fast network.

These symmetrical speeds are a huge plus if you're one of these types of subscribers:

- Telecommuters *(working from home)*
- Businesses
- Students *(learning from home)*
- Content Creators
- Gamers

That's because these people are often uploading and sharing large files with clients, coworkers, teachers and subscribers. PDFs, graphic files and videos tend to be a lot larger and require a faster upload speed. And if you have a gamer in your house who live-streams on Twitch or YouTube, you'll need a solid, fast upload speed to make live-streaming possible.

The Bottom Line

When you're choosing an Internet package, make sure both the download and upload speeds are fast enough for the kind of activities you plan to do online. This is the best way to ensure a high-quality Internet experience.

SPECIAL OFFER

ONE MONTH FREE

INTERNET SERVICE *(ANY SPEED)*

and Free Basic Installation

Restrictions apply. Limited time offer. Call for details.

Congratulations & Thank You

Cable Splicer

Mike O'Neil - 45 Years

and

Facilities Supervisor

Lyle Waughtal -15 Years

for your loyal and dedicated service to GVT.

Continued from Front Page

The Border-to-Border Broadband project for Euclid and rural Thief River Falls will bring service to 126 unserved and underserved locations which include 92 residences, eight businesses, 22 farms and four community institutions. The total project cost of $3,281,444 million will be financed by the $1.6 million Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant and a local match of $1.6 million by Garden Valley Technologies. The project is expected to finish with installation of subscribers in the fall of 2022 and will cover 95 square miles. Residents living in the area will receive communication from GVT on next steps in the project.

We make switching EASY!

GV CELLULAR

Get a new smartphone and keep your current number.

Restrictions may apply.

Stop by our retail stores or call for details.

Bagley | Erskine | Thief River Falls | 800-448-8260

SAVE - THE - DATE

June 8, 2021

116th Annual Meeting

Win-E-Mac School | Erskine, MN

Directors will be elected for 3-year terms from District 3 (*Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, Plummer exchanges)*, District 6 *(Clearbrook, Gonvick, Leonard exchanges)*, and District 9 *(Gatzke, Goodridge, Grygla, Gully exchanges)*.

Qualifications for Directors are contained in Article III and Article IV *(Section 2)* of GVT's By-Laws, printed on pages A53 to A58 in the 2021 Directory, and will be summarized in our May Voice of the Valley. The Board Election Process is also summarized on our website: **www.gvtel.com/about-gv/gvtc-board-of-directors**

Financial reports on operations for the year-ended December 31, 2020 will be presented during the Annual Meeting, scheduled to begin at 10:30am, with member registration beginning at 8:30am. The in-person meeting is subject to change depending on COVID-19 guidelines as we get closer to June. If we need to adjust the meeting to be a virtual event, we will communicate those details at that time.

Incumbents Seeking Re-election

Arlene Novak
District 3 | Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, Plummer

Larry Djernes
District 6 | Clearbrook, Gonvick, Leonard

Ron Kiesow
District 9 | Gatzke, Goodridge, Grygla, Gully

Now Available

Goodridge Local Channel 38

Garden Valley Technologies is excited to have the opportunity to work closely with several local schools to provide live broadcasts of student-run productions, including our most recent partnership with Goodridge High School, home of the Chargers.

"The GVT Local Channels have always played an important role in keeping our communities connected," explains Timothy Brinkman, CEO/General Manager of GVT. "But during this unique time of limited attendance at sporting events, church services and more, it has proved more valuable than ever before."

Beginning in February we started airing school and local community content for Goodridge on GVTV Channel 38. GVT's Video Production Coordinator, John Andringa, and Service Supervisor, Andy Knott, trained staff and students on the cameras and broadcasting equipment that GVT provided to the school for their Goodridge Media Production Club. Goodridge teacher, Alexis Hruby, will serve as the advisor of the Media Club. Sporting events at the Goodridge High School will be broadcast on Channel 38 and, in the future, there are plans to expand content programming.

The students and staff at these schools have dedicated countless hours to learning and running the equipment to provide parents, grandparents, friends and family the opportunity to cheer on their favorite student(s) from home. Tune in to GVTV Local Channels 30-38 or live-stream on our website to support our local media crews and students: **www.gvtel.com/video/livestream**

Win-E-Mac #30 | Fosston #31 | Fertile-Beltrami #32
Bagley #33 | Red Lake Falls #34 | RLCC #35 | Grygla #36
Thief River Falls #37 | Goodridge #38

COVER CONTEST

2021 GVT Directory

$100 Cash Prize

Deadline: July 31, 2021

View Rules & Submit Entries:
www.gvtel.com/about-gv/directory-photo-contest

We no longer accept printed photo submissions.

Directory Advertising

Marketing/Sales Consultants from Pinnacle Marketing Group will be contacting businesses in our area, starting April 12 until the end of June, selling advertising for the 2022 Garden Valley telephone directory. When you advertise in the GVT directory your ad will automatically be featured in our online directory, with all website and email addresses conveniently accessible by your customers.

Get the most out of your advertising investment, increase visibility, and connect with your customers with a fresh new ad, a website or social media page by contacting Pinnacle Marketing Group at 800.343.8086 or **pinnaclemgp.com** for more information.

Greg Meyer

Kelly Gordon

Rod Wentzel

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Statement of Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulation and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, officers, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs (including Garden Valley Telephone Company) are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Garden Valley agrees with, and has fully complied with, all nondiscrimination and equal employment requirements. The Company has not received any complaints in regard to these provisions.

Garden Valley Telephone Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer. All employment is decided on the basis of qualifications, merit, and business needs.

Personnel News

Administrative Assistant (Purchasing)

Congratulations to **Kristi Benson**, who has been a member of our Accounting team for over 15 years, on being selected to fill an Administrative Assistant position. Kristi is looking forward to this new adventure.
Congratulations Kristi!

Administrative Assistant

Congratulations to Data Processing Coordinator **Shelly Juve** who was selected to fill an Administrative Assistant position. Shelly has been with GVT for over 12 years and is excited to take on this new challenge.
Congratulations Shelly!

Installer-Repairperson

Congratulations to **Jake Johnson** of St. Hilaire, who was selected to fill an Installer-Repairperson position on February 1, 2021. Jake worked for GVT as a Temporary Installer-Repairperson in 2020 and is excited to join us full-time.
Welcome to the GVT family Jake!

Data Processing Coordinator

Congratulations to Service Representative **Cherie Thompson** on being selected to fill the Data Processing Coordinator position on February 15, 2021. Cherie is excited for this new adventure.
Congratulations Cherie!

Office Clerk - Accounting

We are excited to introduce the newest member of the GVT team, **Anita Revier**, from Winger, who joined our Accounting department on March 10, 2021 as an Office Clerk.
Congratulations Anita and welcome to the GVT family!

COVID-19 RELIEF ACT

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has enacted an Emergency Broadband Benefit Program that provides a monthly Internet discount for eligible households. Please call our office if you'd like more information. As a reminder, GVT's Students First Internet Discount ends May 2021. This government funded program will provide similar support for eligible households.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND CHARGE

Effective in April 2021, the Federal Universal Service Fund Charge *(FUSC)* will increase from $2.07 to $2.17 per line for most residential and $3.02 to $3.17 per line for most single-line business customers, and from $3.88 to $4.07 per access line for most multi-line business customers.

The new FUSC amount for cellular service is calculated by multiplying the FUSC factor against your cellular plan charges. Effective in April 2021, that FUSC factor will increase from 11.7978% to 12.3914%.

SUCCESSFUL AUDIT

Operating margins for 2020 are $9.1 million on revenues of $37.2 million. Net margins ($9.6 million) are down from 2019 due to efforts to expand service into the city of Thief River Falls. The increase in revenues has lagged behind the increase in expenses as the expansion project has been delayed due to weather and other unforeseen factors. Allocation statements will be included on the members' check stubs when capital credits checks are delivered in May 2021. The audit was conducted by the certified public accounting firm of Olsen, Thielen & Co., Ltd. of St. Paul, MN.

TAP CHANGES

In April 2021 TAP *(Telephone Assistance Plan)* credits will increase from $7.00 to $10.00. The TAP fee is also decreasing. This fee is included in the TAP, TAM and 911 Surcharge. The fee will decrease from $1.12 to $1.09.

SUBSCRIBER MAILING ADDRESS

If your mail is delivered to a Post Office Box address, you can list it in our 2022 directory in addition to, or in place of, your 911 address. Please note that the default directory listing will be your 911 address unless you instruct us otherwise. Please contact GVT before July 1 if you would like us to make a change to your listing.

VOICE of the Valley

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Retail Stores & Office Hours

Erskine: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm
Bagley: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
TRF: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm

Contact Us

Customer Support 24/7/365, Business Office, Retail Stores or Service Requests
800-448-8260, 218-687-5251, or
888-879-4968 *(GV Long Distance)*
www.gvtel.com

Internet Support 24/7/365
877-546-7495
Email: helpdesk@gvtel.com

IT Services M-F 8:00am - 4:30pm
218-687-4202
Email: ITServices@gvtel.net

Live Chat www.gvtel.com
7:00am - 8:30pm Monday - Saturday
11:00am - 6:30pm Sunday

Gopher State One-Call
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811 *(call toll-free before digging)*

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