VOICE of the Valley

THIS ISSUE:
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- Annual Meeting Highlights
- Minnesota State Law
- FRS Youth Tour

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

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Innovate > Advance > Connect

EXPANDED LOCAL CALLING!

The Garden Valley Technologies board of directors were pleased to approve the new expanded local calling area. GVT strongly believes in our communities and this is the perfect way to keep friends and family connected.

Effective July 1, 2019, Garden Valley Technologies will be expanding its local calling area to all landline subscribers. This **FREE** service will allow you to make **unlimited calls** within Garden Valley Technologies 26 exchanges, which also includes local cellular numbers *(ported cellular numbers from outside of the expanded local calling area do not qualify)*.

If you currently use long distance to call within GVT's exchanges *(listed below)*, you no longer have to carefully watch your long distance minutes of use when calling to the following prefixes.

Expanded Local Calling Areas	
Bagley	694
Beltrami	926
Brooks	698
Clearbrook	776
Erskine	687
Fertile	945
Fosston	435, 431
Gatzke	459
Gonvick	487
Goodridge	378
Grygla	294
Gully	268
Lengby	668, 358, 533
Leonard	968
Mahnomen	261, 383, 930, 935, 936, 902
Maple Bay	574
McIntosh	563
Mentor	637, 200
Minerva	657
Oklee	796
Plummer	465
Red Lake Falls	253
St. Hilaire	964
Shevlin	785
Thief River Falls	416, 633, 653, 681, 683, 684, 686, 688, 689, 883
Winger	938

When making calls in the free expanded local calling areas, simply dial the 7-digit telephone number. Numbers located outside of GVT's service area, dial 1 + 10-digit telephone number *(Long distance charges apply)*.

PLEASE READ: If you currently have a device that makes outbound calls such as security equipment, medical alert devices, or home monitoring equipment or using GV's Call Forwarding Service and the outbound dialed number is within GVT's expanded local dialing area you should reprogram your equipment for local dialing.

Existing and new GVT landline subscribers will benefit from the **Expanded Local Calling areas starting July 1**. If you want to add a GVT landline please call our office today at 800-448-8260.

News & Events

Holiday Office Closings

Garden Valley business offices will be closed in observance of the upcoming holidays:

July 4 Independence Day

September 2 Labor Day

2018 Annual Reports

Annual Reports are available to members upon request.

Visit Us At Area Fairs

Learn more about our products & services by visiting us at area Fairs.

Polk Cty - July 10-14

Pennington Cty - July 17-21

Clearwater Cty - July 31- Aug. 4

Pursuit Channel

has been added to Expanded Basic programming on channel 230 and in HD on channel 1230!

Inspiration Network

has been added to Expanded Basic programming on channel 132 and in HD on channel 1132!

114TH ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

269 members and guests attended the Garden Valley Technologies 114th Annual Membership Meeting on June 4th held at the Win-E-Mac School in Erskine. Attendees received an attendance gift and were treated to coffee, donuts, and musical entertainment provided by "The Woodpicks".

The Annual Meeting began at 10:30am with an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the business session with confirmation, by Corporate Secretary Arlene Novak, that a quorum was present. Secretary Novak also reviewed the Official Notice of Meeting and presented the minutes of last year's Annual Meeting for approval by the voting members.

The business meeting included reports from President Jerry Freitag, Treasurer Jim Ferden, and CEO/General Manager Tim Brinkman, who provided exciting "breaking news" regarding local calling throughout GV's service area (see article on front page) and plans to expand the Cooperative's headquarters building in Erskine.

President Freitag gave special thanks and recognition to Administrative Assistant Lori Hole who is retiring after 31 years of service with the Company.

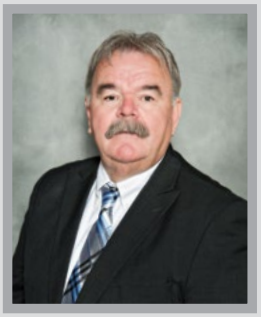
Personnel and Administrative Manager Sue Rasmussen reviewed By-Laws information relating to Director qualification and voting; the election of Directors for Districts 1, 4, and 7 was held following the recess for district caucuses. During the caucus break Jaden Kiesow and Bayli Dukek gave a presentation about their experience attending the FRS Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. in 2018. Upon adjournment, a hot meal catered by Erickson's Smokehouse of Fertile was served and enjoyed by all.

Garden Valley employees were available to answer questions about the Cooperative's many products and services.

Incumbent Director Byron Ness of Fertile was elected to fill a 3-year term as Director for District No. 1 (Beltrami, Fertile & Maple Bay exchanges). Incumbent Director James Ferden of McIntosh was elected to fill a 3-year term as Director for District No. 4 (Bejou, McIntosh & Winger exchanges). And, incumbent Director Allen Paulson of Bagley was elected to fill a 3-year term as Director for District No. 7 (Bagley, Minerva & Shevlin exchanges).

Byron Ness
District No. 1
Beltrami, Fertile, Maple Bay

James Ferden
District No. 4
Bejou, McIntosh, Winger

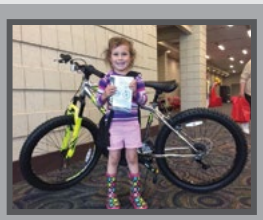


Allen Paulson
District No. 7
Bagley, Minerva, Shevlin

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED AND CONGRATULATIONS **to Jerome Bachand of Brooks who won the Grand Prize $250 Gift Certificate to GVT and to Lydia Baird of Fosston who won the 24" Bicycle.**

A list of all of our winners can be viewed on our website at: www.gvtel.com/about-gv/events

Jerome Bachand
Brooks, MN



Lydia Baird
Fosston, MN

MTA Foundation Scholarship

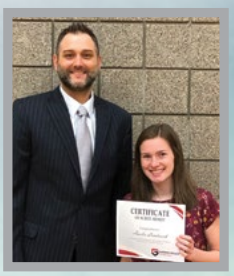
The Minnesota Telecom Alliance announced that they received 140 scholarship applications from across the state, with two winning students from our local service area. Brekken Lindberg was selected to receive a $2,000 Bud Morrow scholarship and Amelia Landsverk was selected to receive a $2,000 scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year from the Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation, according to Tim Brinkman, CEO/ General Manager, Garden Valley Technologies.

Lindberg graduated from Win-E-Mac High School and plans to attend The University of North Dakota. He is the son of Liz and Troy Lindberg.

Landsverk graduated from Fosston High School and plans to attend Concordia College. She is the daughter of Mark Landsverk.

In awarding the scholarships to Lindberg and Landsverk, Tim Brinkman said, "We're happy to have this chance to make an investment in these students' college education. Rural communities need educated and talented young people to be our leaders of the future. It makes us all proud at Garden Valley Technologies when we have not one, but two statewide winners selected from our area."

The Foundation is part of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance, a trade organization based in St. Paul representing over 44 telephone companies and cooperatives in the state.



Amelia Landsverk pictured with Garden Valley Director Casey Holland.

Brekken Lindberg pictured with Garden Valley Director Jim Ferden.

FRS YOUTH TOUR

Garden Valley Technologies recently provided Layla Jelle and Rylie Haugen with a first-hand look at the telecommunications industry through the FRS Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The students visited famous historical sites and attended educational sessions at the nation's capital. The following are comments from the students about their trip.

"On my trip to Washington, D.C. I got to see many different monuments and hear many different speakers. Some of the monuments that I saw were the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and all of our other famous monuments. Before attending this trip I really didn't know what to expect and if I would like it, but let me tell you it is the best experience I have ever had. I would like to say a big thank you to my local Garden Valley Technologies for showing me this opportunity and FRS for making it all possible!" said Layla Jelle.

Rylie Haugen said 'While in Washington, D.C. for the FRS Youth Tour, I had the opportunity to visit many historical sites. One of my favorites was taking a night tour of D.C., where we saw the White House, WWII, Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, and the Lincoln Memorial. Everything looked amazing at night! Another one of my favorites was touring Mount Vernon, home of George Washington. I was surprised to see how big it was. I also enjoyed being able to visit the Smithsonian Museums. There was so many, but one of my favorites would have to be the National Museum of American History. We didn't have time to visit all of the museums, so if I ever have the opportunity to go back, I would definitely visit the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Besides the museums and monuments, one of my favorite parts of my trip to Washington, D.C. was the friendships that were formed. At first, I was worried about being separated from the group I flew here with, but by the end of the first day I had already made more friends from all over the country. It was interesting to see what everyone's lives were like where they came from. It was very hard to say goodbye, but I hope I can stay in touch with the friends I made!

Finally, I want to say thank you to Garden Valley Technologies for sending me on this trip to Washington, D.C. I was able to visit so many amazing sites, make new friends and I even got to fly for the very first time. I encourage everyone who is able to sign up for this trip next year, because it was definitely a life changing experience."

COVER CONTEST

Enter to win $50.00 cash prize

Deadline:
Wednesday, July 31, 2019

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

Garden Valley Technologies Directory

Billing Information

Universal Service Charge

The Federal Universal Service Fund Charge (FUSC) decreased in July from $1.69 to $1.59 per line for most residential customers and will increase from $1.79 to $2.32 per line for single-line business customers. Most multi-line business customers will see a increase from $2.29 to $2.98 per access line.

The new FUSC amount for cellular service is calculated by multiplying the FUSC factor against your cellular plan charges. Effective in July, that FUSC factor will increase from 6.6748% to 9.0524%.

More Than $569,000 of GV Capital Credits Paid

Over 16,400 checks, totaling more than $569,000, were issued on May 16 to Garden Valley Technologies members who had service with the Cooperative in 2000 and/or 2018.

More than $8.6 million in capital credits have been authorized by the board of directors for payment to Garden Valley members over the last ten years.

These payments are not dividends for tax purposes because they are a return of contributed capital.

Unclaimed Capital Credits

If you are wondering if you have any capital credits that we've been unable to get to you, visit our website at: **www.gvtel.com/about-gv/capital-patronage.** Under the heading Unclaimed Patronage, you can view a list of unclaimed checks. If your name is on the list, call us at 800-448-8260.

Notice of Changes in Minnesota Telephone Assistance Program (TAP)

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has ordered two changes in the Telephone Assistance Program (TAP) which will become effective on July 1, 2019.

First, the TAP fee billed to customers will increase from three cents to ten cents per month per line. This fee is billed as a composite fee for TAP, TAM and E911 and the composite fee will increase from $1.03 to $1.10 beginning July 1, 2019.

Second, the TAP benefit will also change from $3.50 to $7.00 on residential wireline telephone service for individuals that meet the income criteria to qualify.

Customers that are interested in determining if they are eligible for TAP (or Federal Lifeline discounts) should contact our office at 800-448-8260 for more information.

We would like to congratulate the following employees for their years of loyal and dedicated service with Garden Valley Technologies.

Jerry Freitag | Director | 20 years
Julie Dahle | Marketing & Sales Supervisor | 20 years
Ted Tollefson | Cable Splicer | 20 years
Arlene Novak | Director | 10 years
Tania Waldal | Service Representative | 5 years

Personnel News

Temporary construction employees working on our 2019 summer construction projects are: **Blake Derosier, Austen Hanson, Jacob Joppru, Tahlor Ose, Chad Parsley, and Mark Schmitz.**

Facilities Technician

Congratulations to **Mark Thode** of Red Lake Falls who has been selected to fill the full-time position of Facilities Technician effective April 29, 2019. Mark has previously worked for GVT on our temporary summer construction crew.

Marketing Intern

Congratulations to **Emma McCollum** of Ada who has been selected to fill the Business Marketing Internship position on May 13, 2019. Welcome Emma!

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Administrative Assistant **Lori Hole** is retiring at the end of July after over 31 years of service with the Company. Lori has been a consistent source of experience and knowledge in the administrative department, assisting many supervisors, department heads, two general managers, and the board of directors during her career with Garden Valley. Lori is excited for the opportunity to enjoy more time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Thank you, Lori, for your dedicated service to the Cooperative. ***Your Garden Valley family wishes you a very happy retirement! Congratulations!***

Administrative Assistant

Congratulations to **Jessica Nelson** of Erskine who has been selected to fill an Administrative Assistant position. Jessica began working at Garden Valley as an After-Hours Representative in July of 2016 and was promoted shortly thereafter to the position of Part-Time Service Representative.

BROADBAND FUNDING

Recently, much more attention is being paid to broadband at a national level. This renewed focus on rural broadband has extended to the FCC. Many cooperative members may not realize that services of Garden Valley Technologies are supported not only by the revenues from services purchased by our members, but also depends in large part on federal funding support dollars. This funding assists companies serving high cost areas, such as those served by Garden Valley Technologies, in keeping rates similar to those in more urban areas. Until recent changes by the FCC, Garden Valley Technologies only received federal support dollars for our telephone subscribers. Therefore, subscribers requesting Internet had to also purchase landline telephone service. In 2018, changes in our regulated environment finally allowed Garden Valley Technologies to offer Internet without a landline, which was announced at the 2018 Annual Meeting. Recently the FCC made another big change to this support program and how Garden Valley Technologies will receive additional support going into the future. At the May board of directors meeting, your Garden Valley Technologies Directors voted to opt into a new program called the Alternative Connect America Model or ACAM. This new model will provide additional guaranteed support to Garden Valley Technologies for the next ten years as we continue to build out our state-of- the-art network. This guaranteed funding helps Garden Valley Technologies in our long-term planning versus the variable funding received in the past.

HANDS-FREE MINNESOTA STATE LAW

It is important for everyone to know that on August 1, 2019, hands-free only cellular phone use while driving goes into effect as a Minnesota State Law. This law requires Minnesota motorists to use hands-free devices when using cellular phones for any purpose while driving. This measure is being put in place to cut down on distracted driving and to saves lives. As technology advances, so have the solutions to driving safely while using your smartphone.

You can comply with the law by using your car's capability to route your cellphone call through the radio, which is activated by a button on the steering wheel. However, if that is not an option for you, Garden Valley Technologies has hands-free calling solutions available at our retail stores.

Our Bluetooth Car Kit Speakerphone supports Apple's Siri & Google Assistant and is compatible with any Bluetooth-enabled device. It can support two smartphones at the same time while having up to 20 hours of talk time. With built-in motion sensors, it turns on automatically and connects to your mobile devices when the car door is opened and off when the Bluetooth disconnects. This hands-free device is the perfect solution for safe driving and has the ability to answer, disconnect and reject calls, control volume, and can stream music.

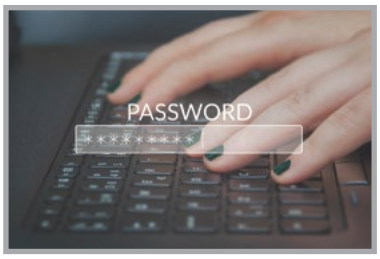
Our Bluetooth Wireless Headset is a hands-free earphone that is compatible with iPhone and Android cellphones. The built-in HD microphone with advanced CVC6.0 noise-reduction technology is able to block out disruptive background noise like wind, traffic, or crowds. It has crystal-clear audio and natural sound that has fast and stable pairing with any device that has Bluetooth functionality. It also has dual-pairing ability with 8-10 hours of continuous calls and up to 7.5 days in standby mode.

GV Cellular would like to remind you that using today's Bluetooth technology in your car is a good measure to safe driving, yet it is just as important to keep your eyes on the road.

Visit us at any of our retail stores located in Bagley, Erskine and TRF to learn more about these devices.

FAQ Why is it important to change my GVT email password?

Passwords are your front line of defense in ensuring your information stays secure. We take your security very seriously as it is our priority to ensure your personal information is protected. For this reason we now require each password to consist of 15 characters; including a combination of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.



To change your GV email password, view your broadband usage, or login to email and spam filtering systems, please visit our website, select Internet, *'Change my email password'* or https://userportal.gvtel.com

- Login with your current email address and password
- Click on the "Change my password" at the bottom of the page
- Enter in your new password and click submit request
  (password must be 15 characters long and have a combination of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols)
- You will get a message stating your password has been changed for the services listed
- When done, make sure to click the sign-out button in upper right corner of the page

Please Note: you will have to change the email password on all of your devices

VOICE of the Valley

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Retail Stores & Office Hours

Erskine: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm
Bagley: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
TRF: Monday - Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm

Company Telephone Numbers

Customer Support 24/7/365
800-448-8260, 218-687-5251, or
888-879-4968 *(GV Long Distance)*

Business Office, Retail Stores or Service Requests
800-448-8260 | 218-687-5251

Gopher State One-Call
800-252-1166
811 *(call toll-free before digging)*

GV Internet

Email: helpdesk@gvtel.com
Website: www.gvtel.com

Internet Support 24/7/365
877-546-7495

Live Chat *(7:30am - 10:30pm)*
www.gvtel.com

Board of Directors

Byron Ness, President | Fertile
Arlene Novak, Vice President | St. Hilaire
James Ferden, Secretary | McIntosh
Allen Paulson, Treasurer | Shevlin
Larry Djernes, Director | Clearbrook
Lee Hoaas, Director | Erskine
Casey Holland, Director | Fosston
Ron Kiesow, Director | Goodridge
Jerry Freitag, Director | Plummer

GARDEN VALLEY
TECHNOLOGIES
201 Ross Avenue | PO Box 259
Erskine, MN 56535

BIG Summer SALE
JULY 1st - 31st

Stop by and SHOP our WIDE SELECTION of GREAT PRICED items!

BAGLEY: 105 Main Avenue North
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm
Saturday, July 6 10am - 2pm

ERSKINE: 201 Ross Avenue
Monday - Friday 8am - 4:30pm

TRF: 1517 US Hwy 59 South
Monday - Friday 10am - 6pm
Thursday, July 18 10am - 8pm
Saturday, July 20 10am - 2pm