# VOICE of the Valley

**THIS ISSUE:**
- Shop Local
- Annual Membership Meeting
- Employee Recognitions
- FTTH Cutover

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

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*Innovate > Advance > Connect*

## Shop Local

Garden Valley Technologies has been a local business for more than 100 years and we believe in supporting other local businesses and the communities they serve. We pay it forward by investing in the communities we serve, sponsoring local events, donating to non-profit organizations, participates in local scholarships through MTA, and buying local. GVT's goal is to improve and promote the communities where we live and work to keep them strong and viable.

Our employees live where you live and we encourage them to participate in their communities. We are proud of our hard-working employees for what they do at work, and just as proud of them for making positive contributions in our local communities. They volunteer as Fire Fighters; members of City Councils, School Boards, Commercial Clubs, and Church Councils, as well as coaching youth sports, and volunteering with many other excellent organizations and events.

Through our Volunteer Time Off program (VTO), Garden Valley Technologies allows employees to participate in volunteer activities during work time. In 2018, GVT employees volunteered 117 work hours for 17 different organizations within GVT's service area and were involved in the Adopt-A-Highway program by cleaning our section of highway 59 twice a year.

Garden Valley Technologies strives to provide our customers the latest technology available with the products and services we offer. To better serve you we have expanded to three local stores, located in Erskine, Bagley, and Thief River Falls. Stop in at any one of our retail stores to purchase cellular service, security, TVs, computers, iPads, speakers, and a variety of other technology products and accessories.

## 114TH Annual Meeting - June 4

Garden Valley members are urged to attend the 114th Annual Membership Meeting of Garden Valley Telephone Company, Tuesday, June 4, 2019, in the auditorium of the Win-E-Mac School near Erskine, Minnesota--located on Highway 59 one-half mile north of Highway 2.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:30am. Members can register any time after 8:30am and enjoy music entertainment from 9:00 to 10:15am. Adults' and children's registration gifts will be provided, prize drawings awarded, and a hot meal served at the conclusion of the meeting. Reports will be presented on the Cooperative's operations and financial status for the year ended December 31, 2018. Members will be asked to cast their vote for Directors for Districts 1, 4, and 7.

*Continued on inside*

## News & Events

### Holiday Office Closings

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

**May 27** Memorial Day
**July 4** Independence Day

### Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, June 4**

Registration: 8:30am
Meeting: 10:30am
Win-E-Mac School Auditorium

### Internship Available!

Accepting resumes for a **Mass Communications Internship**.
Apply before noon July 1, 2019.
*Details at www.gvtel.com*

### Follow Us *on Social Media.*

# GV Employee Recognitions

Garden Valley employees, directors, and retirees gathered April 13, 2019, at Garden Valley's annual awards dinner to recognize recent retirements, service awards, and safe-driving milestones reached by employees in 2018. The 25-year and 30-year service award recipients also received recognition from NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association for their loyal and dedicated service in the telecommunications industry.

## Service Awards

**30 Years**
**Lori Hole,** Administrative Assistant
**Mark Klinkhammer,** Finance Manager

**25 Years**
**Mary Ann Senn,** Service Representative

**20 Years**
**Dawn Burbage,** Service Representative
**Steve Chalich,** Facilities Technician *(not pictured)*
**Sam Halley,** Warehouseperson *(not pictured)*
**Dave Holzer,** Network Technician *(not pictured)*
**Jeff McCollum,** Cable Splicer *(not pictured)*
**Lauri Walker,** Facilities Technician *(not pictured)*

**15 Years**
**Matt Derosier,** Service Supervisor
**Tina Farrell,** Service Representative *(not pictured)*

**10 Years**
**Jordan Cote,** District Representative
**Shelly Juve,** Data Processing Coordinator
**April Shimpa,** Office Clerk
**Bryce Torgerson,** District Representative *(not pictured)*

**5 Years**
**Heather Hegre,** Office Clerk
**Jim Ferden,** Director

## Safety Awards

The Company's safety awards program recognizes employees who have attained safe-driving milestones without a preventable accident.

**More than 400,000 miles:**
**Jeff Genereux,** Cable Splicer
**Wade Gray,** Cable Splicer *(not pictured)*
**Wayne Hanson,** Cable Splicer

**300,001 - 400,000 miles:**
**Dave Holzer,** Network Technician
*(not pictured)*

**200,001 - 300,000 miles:**
**Chris DuChamp,** Outside Plant Engineer
*(not pictured)*

**100,001 - 200,000 miles:**
**Garrett Rock,** Construction Lineperson

## Recent Retirees

**Julie Derosier,** Office Clerk *(not pictured)*
**Mary Ann Senn,** Service Representative
**Gary Kiefert,** Internet Helpdesk Specialist
**Ronald Engelstad,** Director
**Vernon Hamnes,** Director

# Fiber-to-the-Home Continues to Expand!

Garden Valley Technologies fiber-to-the-home deployment in 2018 was very busy and successful. We installed over 165 miles of buried fiber optic cable, serving 550 homes and businesses.

The 2019 construction season will consist of installing 71 miles of buried fiber optic cable that will serve around 822 homes and businesses in the City of Erskine and the Maple Lake area. The construction is planned to start in May and should be completed in August of 2019. **Please remember to slow down and proceed with caution when traveling in these construction areas.**

Garden Valley customers on fiber can subscribe to GVTV video services offering over 180 channels with HD access, telephone services, and Internet speeds up to 1 Gigabit with no data caps and unmatched reliability. Call GVT for more details.

# PROTECTION YOU NEED

## Swann Camera System

**$650.00**

**Swann 8-Channel NVR with 2TB Hard Drive**

**(4) 5mp Night Vision Bullet Cameras**

**Surge Protector & Cabling**

*Restrictions apply. Call for details. Offer ends June 30, 2019*

## NEW Internet Subscribers

*Receive a $50 Visa Gift card when you sign up for service*

## EXISTING INTERNET CUSTOMERS INCREASE TO A HIGHER INTERNET SPEED & RECEIVE 3 MONTHS AT YOUR CURRENT RATE.

*Restrictions apply. Call for details. Offer ends June 30, 2019*

# TESTIMONIAL

My experience with GVTEL has been very pleasant, starting when I called asking if the company would bring service to my area. Installation crew was courteous, professional, and accommodating to schedule the install and set up of new equipment, along with explaining how it worked. Having the High Speed Internet now is awesome, so much more superior than the cellular I was using.
I am very happy to have made the switch to GVTEL!

**MIKE THOMPSON - BEJOU**

# GVTV Everywhere

## TV on the go, on your mobile device

## FREE TO ALL GVTV SUBSCRIBERS.

Learn more at: www.gvtel.com/video/gvtv-everywhere

Some restrictions apply. Internet bandwidth of 10 MB or higher is recommended for best performance. The network you want to watch must be available within your GVTV service package.

# SPRING SALE OF USED ITEMS

Sale of used vehicles and misc. items will be posted in area newspapers. Items can be viewed at the Garden Valley Technologies warehouse in Erskine, from **8am-4:30pm Monday, May 13 - Wednesday, May 22. Bids must be submitted by noon on May 22.**

We reserve the right to reject any or all bids. All items will be sold 'as is'.

**2010 Dodge 2500 4x4 | 168,300 miles**
Regular cab pickup with 8' box

**2009 Dodge 2500 4x4 | 159,000 miles**
Regular cab pickup with new 8' box

# Annual Notice

Garden Valley Telephone Company offers the following local exchange telecommunications services to all consumers throughout our service area:

- Voice-grade access to the public switched network
- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge
- Local exchange service, including an amount of local usage, free of per-minute charges under a flat-rated local service package
- Dual-tone, multi-frequency signal
- Single-party service customers
- Access to emergency services
- Access to operator services
- Access to interexchange service
- Access to directory assistance
- Toll blocking without charge to qualified low-income customers

Basic, local exchange residential monthly service rates, excluding EAS rates are $20.00 in Thief River Falls and Mahnomen and $22.50 in our other 24 exchanges. **Subsidized discounts are available to customers meeting certain low-income criteria. Information concerning these plans is available from a Garden Valley representative at 800-448-8260.**

# $AVE $10.00

**by switching to**

## Auto Deduct & Paperless Billing

**Go online to view your monthly statement, billing details, and more.**

Register online at
www.gvtel.com
or call **800-448-8260**

One-time credit applied to bill. Limited time offer.

# ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

**One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.**

**Know what's below.**
**Always call 811 before you dig.**
**Visit call811.com for more information.**

*Continued from front page*

Each Garden Valley member, under Article II of the Cooperative's By-Laws, is entitled to one vote. Section 5 of Article II provides that "...the spouse of a member may vote on behalf of the member unless the member has indicated otherwise."

Directors will be elected for 3-year terms from District No. 1 *(Beltrami, Fertile & Maple Bay exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Byron Ness – Fertile; District No. 4 *(Bejou, McIntosh & Winger exchanges)*, which is currently represented by James Ferden – McIntosh; and District No. 7 *(Bagley, Minerva & Shevlin exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Allen Paulson - Shevlin.

Director qualifications are set forth in Article III, Section 1 of Garden Valley's By-Laws which are located on our webpage (About Garden Valley / User Guides & Additional Resources / Legal Documents / GV Corporate By-Laws) and on pages A53-A58 in our 2019 Directory. Throughout the By-Laws, the masculine pronouns (he, his, him) include the feminine pronouns (she, hers, her).

## Annual Meeting Campaign Guidelines

- Any eligible Garden Valley member may be nominated and elected as a Director.
- Nominations are made within each district caucus or from the floor after each district caucus.
- Nominated Director candidates are given an opportunity to address members attending the annual meeting prior voting.
- Director campaign activity is not permitted at the entry to the meeting facility; nor within the area where members register for the meeting.

## COVER CONTEST

**Enter to win**

**$50.00** *cash prize*

Garden Valley Technologies Directory

**Deadline: July 31, 2019**

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

# VOICE of the Valley

Published by Garden Valley Telephone Company
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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

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

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

# New Cellular Line

## $75 Device Credit

# 4G Upgrade

## $50 Device Credit

*Restrictions apply. Call for details. Offers end June 30, 2019*