# VOICE of the Valley

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- Directory Cover Contest

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

May 2020 | Volume 70 | No. 3

*Innovate > Advance > Connect*

## We Stand Strong With Our Members

As a member-owned cooperative Garden Valley Technologies understands the hardships the COVID-19 pandemic has created for so many and we are very proud to be able to give back in many ways.

We have implemented various Internet assistance plans to help residents and businesses located in our service area because we are focused on you and using our resources to help people stay connected and continue to enjoy the broadband services you need for online learning, working at home, or maintaining your business.

### THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS ARE IN PLACE:

- Free Internet service for families with students Pre-K-12 who currently do not have Internet.
- Internet speed upgrade credit for families with students Pre-K-12 and teachers.
- Income-based Internet credit for subscribers that have applied for unemployment and/or worked in an industry proven to be affected by COVID-19.
- Business Internet credit to assist businesses remaining open during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Free community Wi-Fi hotspots in 11 area locations.
- Live streaming service is available and provided free to anyone until August 1, 2020. *See inside article for a list of church services and details.*
- GV Cellular subscribers can receive up to 15GB of data per month to help with data overage.

GVT believes in doing everything we can to help our members maintain connectivity under these circumstances. One important way we are doing this is by signing the "***Keep Americans Connected Pledge***" created by the FCC to ensure our members do not lose their broadband, television (GVTV) or telephone connectivity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**To keep up-to-date on GVT and our COVID-19 programs and procedures, visit our website at www.gvtel.com. Restrictions may apply.**

Along with the new programs, **GVT will be paying out approximately $2,000,000 in allocated capital credits to our members** at the end of May.

This is almost four times the amount allocated in recent years and, during difficult times, we are happy to be able to give the funds back to those who support their Cooperative.

➔

## News & Events

### Annual Meeting POSTPONED TO TUESDAY, JUNE 30

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

### Holiday Office Closings

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

**May 25** Memorial Day
**July 3** *Observation of* Independence Day

### COVID-19

GVT's COVID-19 Updates
www.gvtel.com

### Follow Us *on Social Media.*

Restrictions apply. Must meet credit qualifications. $200 credit will be applied to your account over 18 months. Device installment program is required when purchasing a new device with the promotional offers. Offers end June 30, 2020.

# Congratulations

## HAPPY RETIREMENT!

Service Representative **Sharon Hedlund** retired as of March 27, 2020 after over 22 years with GVT. Sharon's bubbly personality and her wealth of knowledge, patience, and positivity, have been an asset to the Company and her fellow employees throughout her time with Garden Valley. Sharon is excited to start the next chapter of her life, enjoying her farm and more time with her family. Sharon, thank you for your dedicated service to the Cooperative!

***We all wish you a happy retirement, congratulations Sharon!***

## District Representative

Congratulations to Installer-Repairperson **Jim Hahn** who has been selected as the District Representative for our newest exchange area, Thief River Falls. As a long-time employee of GVT and a resident of TRF, Jim is a familiar face to most, and he is excited to begin his new District Representative duties.

***Congratulations Jim!***

*Congratulations*

**Accounting & Billing Supervisor**
**Stacy Tadman - 25 Years**

**New Technologies Manager**
**Brian Grunhovd - 10 Years**

**on your loyal and dedicated service with Garden Valley Technologies.**

## Lifeline discounts are available for landline & broadband Internet service

With the newly-launched Lifeline customer portal, you can qualify within minutes to receive lifeline benefits by going to: www.CheckLifeline.org. Upon approval, contact Garden Valley Technologies to get enrolled immediately. If you prefer to complete a paper application, contact the Lifeline Support Center at 800-234-9473 to request one. An application can also be printed by going to www.CheckLifeline.org. Once a letter confirming your eligibility is received, contact us or mail a copy of that confirmation letter to our Erskine office. You can also stop in to one of our three retail locations and a representative can assist you with the application process.

115th Annual Meeting

DATE CHANGE

# June 30, 2020

## Win-E-Mac School | Erskine, MN

Garden Valley Technologies invites our members to attend our 115th Annual Membership Meeting, rescheduled for Tuesday, June 30, 2020, 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 musical entertainment from 9:00 to 10:15am. Adults' and children's registration gifts will be provided, prize drawings awarded, and a hot meal will be 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, 2019. Members will be asked to cast their vote on a proposed By-Laws Amendment and vote for Directors for Districts 2, 5, and 8. 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."

The proposed By-Laws Amendment, if approved, will rearrange Director districts as follows: District 8 *(Jerry Freitag not seeking re-election)* will be a new seat for members residing in GVT's competitive non-ILEC areas, or CLEC. These include our new TRF and Mahnomen exchanges and also those members who do not reside within any of GVT's exchanges and are Cooperative members, as they purchase recurring services. The original District 8 exchanges *(Gully, Oklee, and Plummer)* will be rearranged as follows: the Plummer exchange becomes part of District 3 *(currently represented by Arlene Novak)*, the Oklee exchange becomes part of District 4 *(currently represented by Jim Ferden)*, and the Gully exchange becomes part of District 9 *(currently represented by Ron Kiesow)*.

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 2020 Directory. Throughout the By-Laws, the masculine pronouns *(he, his, him)* include the feminine pronouns *(she, hers, her)*.

The final proposed language for the By-Law Amendment will be posted to the GVT website on May 1, 2020, providing members an opportunity to review the proposed By-Law language change prior to the Annual Meeting.

## ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 30, 2020

Registration - 8:30am

Meeting Time - 10:30am

2019 Operation reports will be presented & GVT Products & Services will be on display

Vote on By-Laws Amendment and Director Seats

Attendance Gift

Door Prizes

Entertainment

Hot Meal Served

## ANNUAL MEETING CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

- Any eligible Garden Valley Technologies 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 to voting.
- Director campaign activity is not permitted at the entry to the meeting facility; nor within the area where members register for the meeting.

# Live Stream Community Content

GVT school and local content channels are now available for live streaming from your PC, laptop, tablet, or mobile device. With the COVID-19 pandemic, this service will be provided free to anyone until August 1, 2020. Below is a list of the church services currently scheduled for your viewing. GVT is planning to add additional local content throughout the coming year.

If you are interested in viewing the school and local content from your mobile device, go to www.gvtel.com/video/livestream. To enjoy this offer you will need an Internet signal *(10 MB or higher is recommended for best performance)*. After August 1, 2020, in order to access live streaming, you will need to subscribe to at least one GVT service and register for a GVT E-bill username and password. Your E-bill username and password will be used to access the live streaming content, plus allow you to view your bills online. It is not necessary, or required, that you pay your bill using E-bill in order to view live community content. If you have any questions please give us a call at 800-448-8260. We hope you enjoy these broadcasts which are produced and run by community members and students!

| Win-E-Mac - Channel 30 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mt Carmel and Trinity Free Lutheran Churches of McIntosh | Sunday | 10:00 AM, 7:00 PM |
| Our Savior's Lutheran of McIntosh | Sunday | 9:00 AM, 11:15 AM |
| Thriving Life Church | Sunday | 8:00 AM |
| Grace Lutheran | Monday | 10:00 AM |
| Gosen Lutheran | Tuesday | 10:00 AM |
| Immanuel Lutheran | Wednesday | 2:00 PM, 8:00 PM |
| Mt Carmel and Trinity Free Lutheran Churches of McIntosh | Wednesday | 6:00 PM |
| Grace Lutheran | Wednesday | 7:00 PM |
| Thriving Life Church | Thursday | 7:00 PM |
| Grace Lutheran | Saturday | 9:00 AM |
| **Fosston - Channel 31** | | |
| Calvary Free Lutheran | Sunday | 7:00 AM, 12:00 PM |
| Kingo Lutheran Church | Sunday | 11:00 AM |
| St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Bagley | Sunday | 8:00 AM |
| Fosston Hope Lutheran | Sunday | 9:30 AM |
| Kingo Lutheran Church | Monday | 7:00 PM |
| Calvary Free Lutheran of Fosston | Wednesday | 8:00 PM |
| **Fertile-Beltrami - Channel 32** | | |
| Resurrection Free Lutheran Church of Beltrami | Sunday | 9:00 AM, 7:00 PM |
| Hope Evangelical Free Church | Sunday | 10:30 AM |
| St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Fertile | Sunday | 11:15 AM |
| United in Christ Lutheran Parish / Concordia | Sunday | 9:30 AM |
| Resurrection Free Lutheran Church of Beltrami | Wednesday | 8:00 PM |
| United in Christ Lutheran Parish / Concordia | Wednesday | 7:00 PM |
| **Bagley - Channel 33** | | |
| Grace Free Lutheran of Bagley | Sunday | 10:00 AM |
| St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Bagley | Sunday | 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM |
| Faith Lutheran Church of Bagley | Sunday | 9:30 AM |
| St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Bagley | Monday | 11:00 AM |
| Grace Free Lutheran of Bagley | Wednesday | 7:00 PM |
| **Grygla - Channel 36** | | |
| Grace Lutheran Church Grygla | Sunday | 9:00 AM, 7:00 PM |
| Grace Lutheran Church Grygla | Wednesday | 7:00 PM |

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

**Schedule subject to change.**

## TESTIMONIALS

**Garden Valley's local channel is a wonderful option… love that you guys have it! And a great opportunity for students to learn as well! Thank you!!**

**Becky E.**

**Thanks GV for allowing me to worship this morning even though I don't have GVTV. God's blessings for this service in these times.**

**Kandy S.**

# GVTV Everywhere

*Watch GVTV on up to 4 devices at one time, per account.*

**TV on your tablet, smartphone, laptop and/or other devices**

## 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 programming package.

## GVT DIRECTORY COVER CONTEST

## Enter to win $50 cash prize

**Deadline: July 31, 2020**

**View Rules & Submit Entries:**

**www.gvtel.com/about-gv/directory-photo-contest**

Photos must be submitted in digital, jpeg format.

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# ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

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**Always call 811 before you dig.**
**Visit call811.com for more information.**

# 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 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** www.gvtel.com

*7:00am - 8:30pm Monday - Saturday*

*11:00am - 6:30pm Sunday*

## 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

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