VOICE of the Valley

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- Large Business of the Year

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

May 2021 | Volume 71 | No. 3

Innovate > Advance > Connect

116th Annual Meeting

GVT members join us for our **Annual Membership Meeting, Tuesday, June 8, 2021** Win-E-Mac School Auditorium Erskine, MN

The meeting is **scheduled to begin at 10:30am**. Members can **register any time after 9:30am**. Due to COVID restrictions, we will not be serving food or coffee this year and there will not be any music entertainment. We will still be giving a gift to attendees and there will be prize drawings. Social distancing and mask guidelines will be followed. In addition to the in-person option, we will also broadcast the meeting on our local channels, but members must be present if they want to vote. Reports will be presented on the Cooperative's operations and financial status for the year ended December 31, 2020. Members present will be asked to cast their vote for Directors for Districts 3, 6, and 9.

Each GVT 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 3 (*Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, Plummer exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Arlene Novak - St. Hilaire; District 6 *(Clearbrook, Gonvick, Leonard exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Larry Djernes - Clearbrook; and District 9 *(Gatzke, Goodridge, Grygla, Gully exchanges)* which is currently represented by Ron Kiesow - Goodridge.

Director qualifications are set forth in Article III, Section 1 of Garden Valley's By-Laws which are located on our website: **www.gvtel.com/additional-resources/legal-documents** and on pages A53-A58 in our 2021 Directory. Throughout the By-Laws, the masculine pronouns *(he, his, him)* include the feminine pronouns *(she, hers, her)*.

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.

News & Events

Capital Credit Checks
Checks will be mailed to GVT members at the end of May.

Holiday Closings
GVT business offices will be closed in observance of the upcoming holidays:
May 31 Memorial Day
July 5 Independence Day

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 8 at 10:30am
See article for additional info.

Now Available
A number of Channels have been added to our GVTV lineups including:
Grit, Court TV, Court Mystery, Heroes & Icons, Bounce and Laff

811 Know what's below. Call 811 before you dig.

Your New and Improved Wi-Fi Experience is Coming

Introducing the new GVT WiFi App design

Get ready for new enhancements to your Wi-Fi experience, with the next version of the GVT WiFi App coming May 11, 2021.

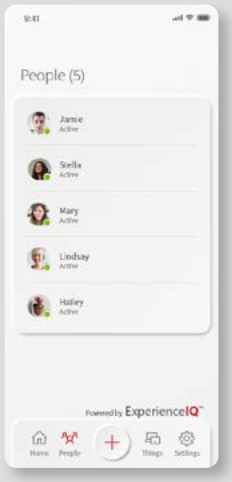
New Design
Attractive and intuitive, the new app makes it easier to create the tailored Wi-Fi experience you want.

Usage, Insights and Control
Proactively identifies and alerts you on ways to enhance device connectivity. Now from a single profile you can monitor usage, pause the Internet, add time limits and content restrictions, and check signal strength.

People, Places and Things
Easily create profiles, group devices by location and connect new devices.

Devices and Activity Priority
MyPriorities powered by **ExperienceIQ** gives you the power to set which devices should be prioritized over others. Plus you can prioritize by activity, such as work, to make sure your quality of service is maintained for things like Zoom or team calls.

Safe, Secure, Peace of Mind
The new security dashboard powered by **ProtectIQ** shows you total threats, intrusions, and viruses blocked over time. You can even see protected devices and total protection uptime.



Download the GVT WiFi App
If you are a GVT Internet subscriber with Managed Wi-Fi, you can download the **GVT WiFi App for FREE** and take control of your Wi-Fi experience today!

Once you download the app, it will walk you through the set-up process. If you have any questions, you can refer to our website **www.gvtel.com/internet/managed-wi-fi-service** and click on our **Quick Start Guide**.

Download the GVT WiFi app

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Available for iPhone®, iPad® and Android devices.

Notice: If you currently have the app installed you will receive a popup notification when the updated version of the app is available and will be redirected to Google Play or the App Store to update. Those who have automatic updates will have the new interface appear on May 11.

Capital Credit Checks

Garden Valley Technologies will be paying out 100% of the remaining capital credits allocated for 2001 and 10% of the capital credits allocated for 2020, totaling approximately $2,466,000. Checks will be mailed to GVT members at the end of May.

A summary of capital credits allocated to members for 2020 will be included on the check stub. Margins are allocated to members based on patronage dollars with the Cooperative for the year.

GVT Named TRF Chamber Member of the Year

- Large Business -

Garden Valley Technologies was named Chamber Member of the Year Large Business by the Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce during their virtual Annual Banquet on March 9, 2021.

The Chamber Member of the Year is awarded to an organization that exemplifies growth, innovation, strong community culture and involvement during the past year. GVT was highlighted for recently expanding services to include the TRF community and investing in the technology to make this expansion possible. Award recipients are nominated by members of the community and the winner is selected by the TRF Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

A total of six award categories were included in the Virtual Annual Banquet

- Chamber Member of the Year Small Business – The Shed
- Chamber Member of the Year Large Business – Garden Valley Technologies
- New Chamber Member of the Year – Jared May Bookkeeping Solutions
- Chamber Volunteer – Mark Schmitke
- Community Volunteer – The Joppru Family and TRF Mask Makers
- Honorary Chamber Members – Glen Peters and Ivonne Pederson

Garden Valley Technologies was honored to be nominated and has enjoyed becoming an active business in the TRF community. ***"Finding new opportunities to get involved in the communities we serve has always been a priority for GVT," explains Heidi Haaven, Marketing and Communications Manager at Garden Valley Technologies. "We're a local company that's eager to give back and do***

SPECIAL OFFER

Enjoy GVT's Super-Fast Internet with

ONE MONTH FREE

INTERNET SERVICE

and

FREE BASIC INSTALLATION

Restrictions apply. Limited time offer. Call for details.

Fiber-to-the-Home Continues to Expand!

Garden Valley Technologies' fiber-to-the-home deployment in 2020 was very busy and successful. We installed over 325 miles of buried fiber optic cable, serving over 3,100 homes and businesses.

The 2021 construction season will consist of installing over 300 miles of buried fiber optic cable that will serve over 2,800 homes and businesses in the Union Lake, Island Lake, Euclid, Rural Thief River Falls, City of Thief River Falls & the City of Warren and portions of the rural Warren area. The construction is planned to start in May and should be completed in October 2021. ***Please remember to slow down and proceed with caution when traveling in these construction areas.***

GVT customers on fiber can subscribe to GVTV video services offering over 200 channels with HD access, telephone services, and Internet speeds up to 1 Gigabit with no data limits and unmatched reliability. Call GVT for additional details.

Congratulations!

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCED

CFO Mark Klinkhammer has announced his retirement effective August 1, 2021.

Mark's career with Garden Valley Telephone Company began on November 13, 1988. Mark has witnessed and been an integral part of the many, many changes that GVT has undergone during his 32 years with the company. With his quiet demeanor, tenacious work ethic, and ability to evaluate and anticipate the effects of change, Mark has played a vital role in helping GVT grow into the successful company it is today.

On behalf of the company, we wish Mark the very best in his retirement.

Congratulations Mark and thank you for your 32+ years of dedicated service!

Congratulations & Thank You

25 Years

Andy Knott
Service Supervisor

Tricia Proulx
Service Representative

15 Years

Sue Rasmussen
Personnel & Administrative Manager

for your loyal and dedicated service.

Personnel News

Service Representative

Congratulations to Sales Account Manager **Derek Blackburn** on being selected to fill the Full-Time Service Representative position in the Thief River Falls Retail Store. ***Congratulations Derek!***

Service Representative

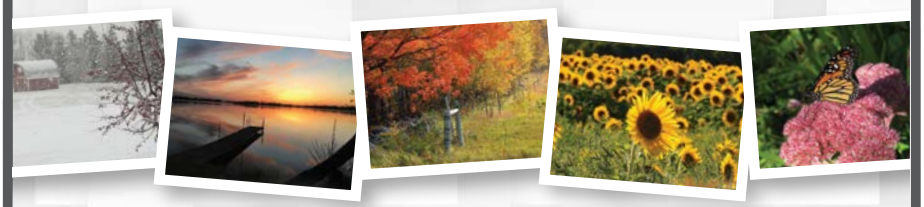
Congratulations to Service Representative **Tyler Brekken** on being selected to fill the Full-Time Service Representative position in the Erskine Retail Store. ***Congratulations Tyler!***

Service Representative

Congratulations to Part-Time Service Representative **Danielle Willoughby** on being selected to fill the Full-Time Service Representative position in Erskine. ***Congratulations Danielle!***

GVT DIRECTORY

COVER CONTEST



Enter to win $100 cash prize

Deadline: July 31, 2021

View Rules & Submit Entries:

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

Photos must be submitted in digital, jpeg format.

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

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.

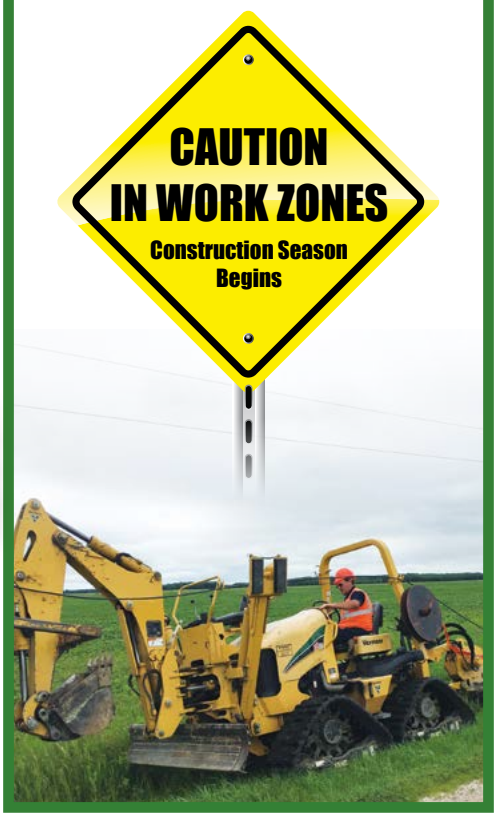
Learn more at: www.gvtel.com/video/gvtv-everywhere

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.

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.



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
(Closed 1:00pm – 1:30pm)
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
800-252-1166
811 *(call toll-free before digging)*

Board of Directors

Byron Ness, President | District 1
Arlene Novak, Vice President | District 3
James Ferden, Secretary | District 4
Allen Paulson, Treasurer | District 7
Lee Hoaas, Director | District 2
Casey Holland, Director | District 5
Larry Djernes, Director | District 6
Jim DeVries, Director | District 8
Ron Kiesow, Director | District 9

SMART RURAL COMMUNITY

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Switch to GV Cellular during the month of May and get an ***iPhone SE (2020) 128GB*** for FREE!

Must be a new line subscriber activated with a 30-month device installment on a 1GB or higher plan to receive 30-monthly bill credits. Restrictions apply. While supplies last.

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