VOICE of the Valley

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

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May 2018 | Volume 68 | No. 3

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113TH Annual Meeting - June 5

Garden Valley members are urged to attend the 113th Annual Membership Meeting of Garden Valley Telephone Company, **Tuesday, June 5, 2018**, 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 entertainment by the band "Caleigh" 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, 2017. Members will be asked to cast their vote in favor of a resolution to amend Article III, Section 1 of the By-Laws and to cast their votes for Directors for Districts 3, 6, and 9. The resolution to amend the By-Laws, passed by the Board of Directors at their March 29, 2018 board meeting, is set forth in full in this issue.

Continued on inside

Power Failure in Stormy Weather

Minnesota is no stranger to the unpredictable weather. If you have fiber-to-the-home telephone service, in the event of a commercial power outage, Garden Valley Technologies has you covered for up to 8 hours.

To avoid disruption of telephone service during an outage, and to maintain the ability to connect to 911 emergency services, Garden Valley provides you with a battery, for the 8-hour backup power, at the time of the initial installation, at no additional cost.

Major storms can result in electrical outages lasting several days. For added protection, Garden Valley has extended battery packs for purchase, which will last up to 56 hours. If you are interested in this added safety option, please contact us for pricing.

➔

News & Events

Holiday Office Closings

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

May 28 Memorial Day
July 4 Independence Day

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 5

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

Bundle and Save

Looking to add a new product or service to your account? Check out the Bundle Builder at www.gvtel.com/bundles

We can fix it!

Repair service for your Smart Phone or Tablet device(s). Call 800-448-8260 today for competitive pricing.

Continued from front page

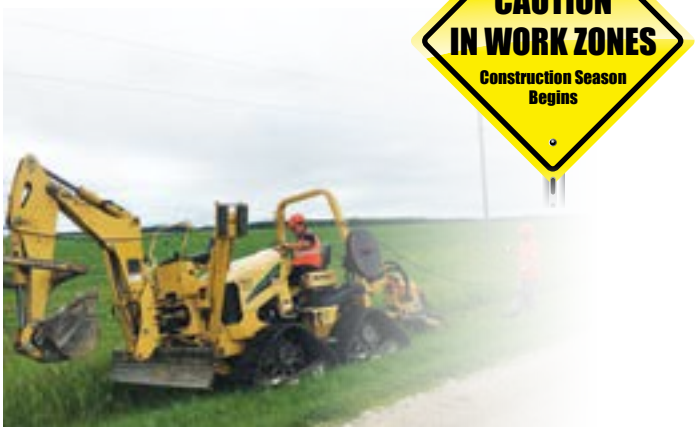
Each Garden Valley member, under Article II of the Cooperative's By-Laws, is entitled to one vote. Section 5 of Article II provides that "...the spouse of a member may vote on behalf of the member unless the member has indicated otherwise."

Directors will be elected for 3-year terms from District No. 3 *(Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Arlene Novak – St. Hilaire; District No. 6 *(Clearbrook, Gonvick, Leonard exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Vernon Hamnes – Gonvick; and District No. 9 *(Gatzke, Goodridge, Grygla, Rural Thief River Falls exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Ronald Engelstad – Grygla.

Director qualifications are set forth in Article III, Sections 1 and 10 and Article IV, Section 2. Garden Valley's By-Laws may be found on our webpage *(About Garden Valley / User Guides & Additional Resources / Legal Documents / GV Corporate By-Laws)* and on pages A59-A64 in our 2018 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.



811

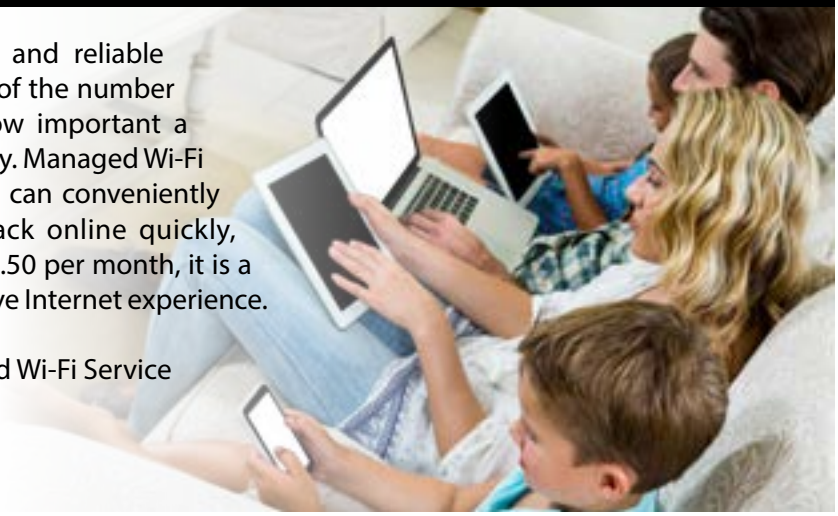
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

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.

FAQ What are the benefits of Managed Wi-Fi?

Garden Valley Managed Wi-Fi offers a secure and reliable network connection. Take a moment and think of the number of wireless devices in your household and how important a dependable Internet connection is for your family. Managed Wi-Fi service keeps you connected, meaning that we can conveniently troubleshoot issues remotely, getting you back online quickly, without an in-home visit from a tech. At only $4.50 per month, it is a cost-effective service to ensure you have a positive Internet experience.



We are so confident you will appreciate Managed Wi-Fi Service we'd like you to try it for ***3 months free***!

3 months free applies to new activations only.

Proposed Resolution for Amending By-Laws at Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors has recommended this amendment to the Cooperative's By-Laws for consideration by Garden Valley members at the June 5 annual meeting. If adopted, the proposed resolution would change Director qualifications.

RESOLVED, That the board of directors of the Garden Valley Telephone Company hereby adopts and recommends that the members adopt the following resolution amending the By-Laws at the annual membership meeting to be held in Erskine, Minnesota, on June 5, 2018:

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article III, Section 1 of the By-Laws be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Number and Qualifications of Directors. The business and affairs of this Cooperative and its management shall be vested in a board of nine Directors who shall be members of the Cooperative. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director unless he or she is a resident of the district that said person represents and unless said person is receiving service from the Cooperative at his or her residential abode. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director if he or she is a brother, sister, son, daughter, father, mother, wife, or husband of an employee of the Cooperative. No former Garden Valley Telephone Company employee shall be eligible to become a Director. Nothing in this section shall or shall be construed to, effect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors unless such action is taken with respect to a matter which one or more of the Directors have an undisclosed interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

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
- 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 service
- 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 each of our 25 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.**

Enter to win $50 cash prize

Printed submissions no longer accepted.

Garden Valley Technologies Directory COVER CONTEST

Deadline: **July 31, 2018**

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

$AVE $10.00

by switching to

Auto Deduct & Paperless

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

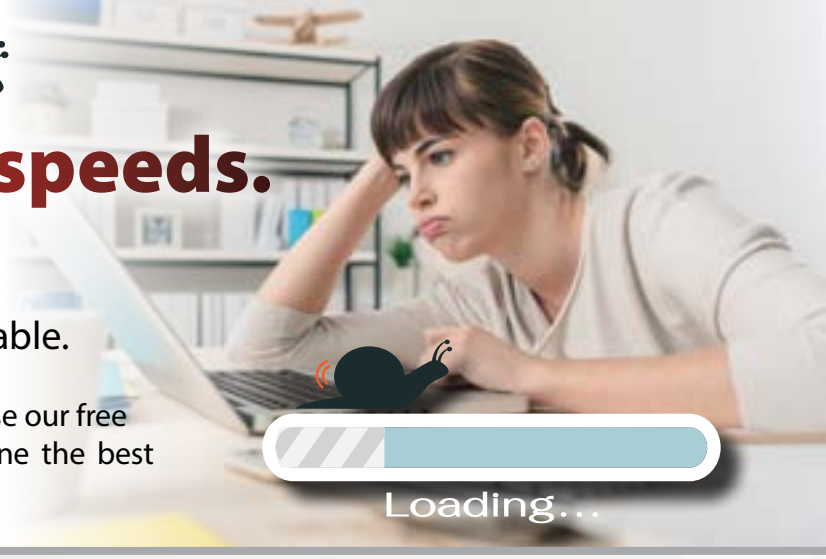
Register online at
www.gvtel.com
or call **800-448-8260**

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

FOLLOW US

Follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn & YouTube!
Like or Follow Us on Social Media. Visit our website at **www.gvtel.com** and click on the icons at the top of our page. View helpful technology tips, popular TV series that are airing on GVTV, learn how Garden Valley gives back to the communities they serve and MUCH, MUCH MORE!

Don't settle for slow Internet speeds.



Sign up with Garden Valley
and **get $5 off for 12 months**
of the ***fastest, high-speed Internet*** available.

Not sure what speed is right for you and your family? Use our free Speed Demo at **www.gvtel.com/internet** to determine the best package for your needs.

Must meet credit qualifications. Restrictions may apply. Limited time offer. Call for details.

GV Employee Recognitions

Garden Valley employees, directors, and retirees gathered April 14, 2018, at Garden Valley's annual awards dinner to recognize recent retirements, service awards, and safe-driving milestones reached by employees in 2017. The 25-year and 40-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

40 Years
Julie Derosier, Office Clerk *(not pictured)*

25 Years
Patty Brekke, Service Representative
Sue Kronschnabel, Service Office Coordinator
Jon Smith, Network & Facilities Manager

20 Years
Darren Djernes, Information Systems Supervisor
Wade Gray, Cable Splicer
Wayne Hanson, Cable Splicer
Sharon Hedlund, Service Representative
Jeff Lund, District Representative
Cherie Thompson, Service Representative

15 Years
Jim Hahn, Installer-Repairperson *(not pictured)*
Dawn Kreitzer, Service Representative *(not pictured)*
Bernice McKeever, Service Representative
Dan Olson, District Representative
Lisa Stuhaug, Administrative Assistant *(not pictured)*

10 Years
Scott Guillemette, Construction Lineperson *(not pictured)*
Tom McGlynn, Custodian

5 Years
Danielle Willoughby, Service Representative

Recent Retirees

Office Clerk Judi Hoeft and
After-Hours Representative Carol Rutherford
Directors: Joe Sandberg, Edgar Olson *(not pictured)*

Safety Awards

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

300,001 - 400,000 miles:
Brian Anderson, District Representative *(not pictured)*

200,001 - 300,000 miles:
Bryce Torgerson, District Representative *(not pictured)*

100,001 - 200,000 miles:
Steve Chalich, Facilities Technician
Sam Finseth, District Representative *(not pictured)*
Jeff Lund, District Representative

New Minkota Sales Account Manager

Derek Blackburn of Plummer has been selected to fill the Sales Account Manager position. Derek will be visiting with area businesses, providing them with new opportunities and solutions for their business. We welcome Derek to our Minkota Technologies and Garden Valley Technologies team.

Happy Retirement

Julie Derosier, after 40 years of service, Julie has retired from Garden Valley. Julie's career with the company has provided her with many opportunities, but she is best known for her work in the accounting department. We will miss her efficiency and wish her a great retirement!

Part-Time Service Representative

Haley Mosher of Fertile has been selected to fill the Part-Time Service Representative position in Erskine.

Office Clerk

Part-Time Service Representative **Heather Hegre** has been promoted to the Full-Time Office Clerk position in Erskine.

FREE for 3 Months

GV Hosted Voice

Unified VoIP Communications

Garden Valley and Minkota Technologies are now offering Hosted Voice services to our business customers. Hosted Voice is a cloud based – communication solution eliminating the cost of maintaining on-site equipment, while allowing the customer the flexibility to be accessible anytime, anywhere, on any device. And just like everything we do, you can count on expert installation, thorough training and local customer service.

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Office Hours

Erskine: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm
Bagley: Monday - Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm
TRF: Monday - Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm
(coming soon)

Company Telephone Numbers

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

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

Radio Shack Sales Center
218-687-3233

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

Internet Remote Support
support.gvtel.com
Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm

Live Chat *(8:00am - 11:00pm)*
www.gvtel.com

Board of Directors

Jerry Freitag, President | Plummer
Byron Ness, Vice President | Fertile
Arlene Novak, Secretary | St. Hilaire
James Ferden, Treasurer | McIntosh
Ronald Engelstad, Director | Grygla
Vernon Hamnes, Director | Gonvick
Lee Hoaas, Director | Erskine
Casey Holland, Director | Fosston
Allen Paulson, Director | Shevlin

SMART RURAL COMMUNITY

GIG-CAPABLE PROVIDER GIG CERTIFIED NTCA GIG-CAPABLE PROVIDER

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

Thank you

for choosing Garden Valley Technologies

Your Member-Owned Cooperative