VOICE of the Valley

THIS ISSUE:

Construction Update
New Website Launch
Advertise on GVTV
New Cellular Plans

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

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Innovate > Advance > Connect

Construction Update

It has been a busy construction season at Garden Valley Technologies. Our construction crews and installers have been working hard to bring service to several new areas as well as bringing upgraded fiber to our current members. With all the projects going on, you've likely noticed an increase in GVT trucks and construction throughout our service area. Here is an update on some of our major projects:

City of Warren – We began our fiber network construction in spring of 2021 in the city of Warren and after completing the network link to TRF, and the buried fiber within the Warren city limits, we are ready to begin installing service this month. Our CSRs have been busy scheduling installs for residences and businesses. If you are located in the city of Warren and interested in getting service, call 800-448-8260 today or visit **join.gvtel.com** to schedule your install.

City of Thief River Falls – We installed our very first member in TRF with service on October 26, 2020, and one year later we have completed all planned construction and have hundreds of customers enjoying quality GVT services on our new fiber network. Therefore, any resident in the City of Thief River Falls who wants GVT services can get it, and for those who may live in apartments or developments that are not yet wired, we continue to wire individual apartment buildings upon approval by owners. We are adding new GVT members daily and we fully expect to stay very busy in TRF for the foreseeable future.

Euclid and North Thief River Falls Grant Area – Construction of this project is part of our Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant that was awarded in January and has been progressing with over 39 miles of mainline trenched and over 27 drops placed. Once complete, the Euclid and rural Thief River Falls project will bring service to 126 unserved and underserved locations. Residents in city of Euclid and the northeastern section of rural Euclid can expect GVT service starting in the winter of 2022. North Thief River Falls and the areas south and west of Euclid will begin construction in the summer of 2022 with services available later in 2022 or early 2023.

Union Lake and Island Lake – GVT started plowing new fiber optic cable to residences in the Union Lake and Island Lake areas during the summer of 2021, and have completed the placement of fiber optic cable. By upgrading to Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP), we can provide our members with the latest technology in telephone, Internet, and video services and we appreciate the opportunity to enhance and improve services to our existing members.

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) – Garden Valley Technologies took part in the RDOF program as part of a consortium with three other area companies. Being part of a consortium gave us the opportunity to save

Continued on Inside

News & Events

Shop Local

Support local, small businesses this holiday season. Our retail stores have great gift ideas and we are open Monday - Friday until 5pm.

Holiday Closings

GVT business offices will be closed in observance of the upcoming holidays
Friday, December 24
Friday, December 31

Happy Holidays!

GVT Directory

Please remember to recycle your 2021 telephone directory. Recycling bins can be found at our headquarters in Erskine, the Fosston Recycling Center, and GVT central office buildings in: Bagley, Fosston, Oklee, Clearbrook, Grygla, Red Lake Falls, Fertile and McIntosh.

Follow Us

money and bid on a larger area. Ultimately, GVT was awarded $2,792,139.40 over 10 years to build out to 492 locations in designated census block areas west of Thief River Falls and outside of Mahnomen. We recently received word from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that our application was officially approved in October and therefore we can start construction to these areas. A few areas will be built yet in 2021 but the majority of the RDOF award areas will not be build until 2022 or later. GVT has several years to construct these areas as part of this program.

GVT is committed to continually improving our existing infrastructure and looking for opportunities to help serve our neighbors who live in under-served areas. 2021 was a busy and successful year of construction and 2022 is showing no signs of slowing down!

Congratulations!

Construction Lineperson

Congratulations to Facilities Technician Mark Thode on being selected to fill the Full-Time Construction Lineperson position. Mark is excited to be working in the Construction department.

Congratulations Mark!

Promote Your Business on GVTV

It's never been easier to advertise your business on GVTV. Local TV advertising is a great way to get the most out of your advertising dollars by targeting the right audience at the right time.

R&J Broadcasting and GVT have partnered to make TV advertising an affordable option for local businesses.

If you're interested in getting a fresh, new commercial promoting your business on GVT's Local and Network channels, reach out to R&J Broadcasting: **Call 218-687-5251 Ext. 479, ask for James Cardarelli or email** jamesc@gvtel.com

60 DAY FREE TRIAL

mBackup

$31.98 value

Automated Data Protection
Ransomware, Malware and Virus Protection
Managed Off-site Backups
Monitored by GVT IT Techs
Fast, Local Restores
Customer Defined Encryption

Call Today 218-687-4202

Billed 15.99/month after 60 day free trial ends. Restrictions may apply. Limited time offer.

Shop Local

Come in WE'RE OPEN

SPEND LOCAL, ENJOY LOCAL

We offer a wide variety of items perfect for your holiday shopping.

Bagley
105 Main Avenue North
M-F 9am - 5pm

Erskine
206 Vance Avenue South
M-F 8am - 5pm

Thief River Falls
1517 US HWY 59 South
M-F 8:30am - 5pm

New Cellular Family Plans

4G/5G Essential Shared Plans

Includes primary access line charge.

Essential Shared - 5GB $65/mo.

Essential Shared - 10GB $75/mo.

$35/per additional line, per month Smartphone access.

Plans include unlimited talk, messaging & shared data. Family plans must have 2 or more lines on the account.

SAVE WHEN YOU BUNDLE CELLULAR ACCESSORIES

cellhelmet

NOTICE:

As part of our continued 10-digit dialing communication, effective February 1, 2022, all GVT members must dial 10-digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls. On and after this date, local calls dialed with only 7-digits will not be completed, and a recording will inform you that you must hang up and dial again using the area code and the 7-digit number.

Newly Named GVTV Packages

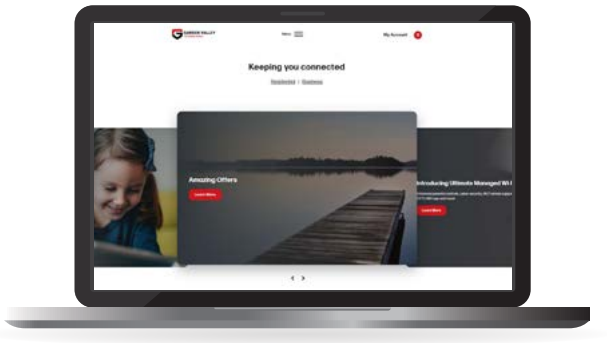
with Same Great Lineup

We have simplified the GVTV package names for four of our six package options. Expanded, Lite, Limited and Basic are the new package names. Only the name is changing; you will not see any changes to the channel lineups within your package. All other package names will remain the same.

New Name	Current Name
Expanded	Expanded Basic
Lite	Classic Lite
Limited	Limited Basic
Basic	Lifeline Basic

INTRODUCING THE NEW GVT WEBSITE

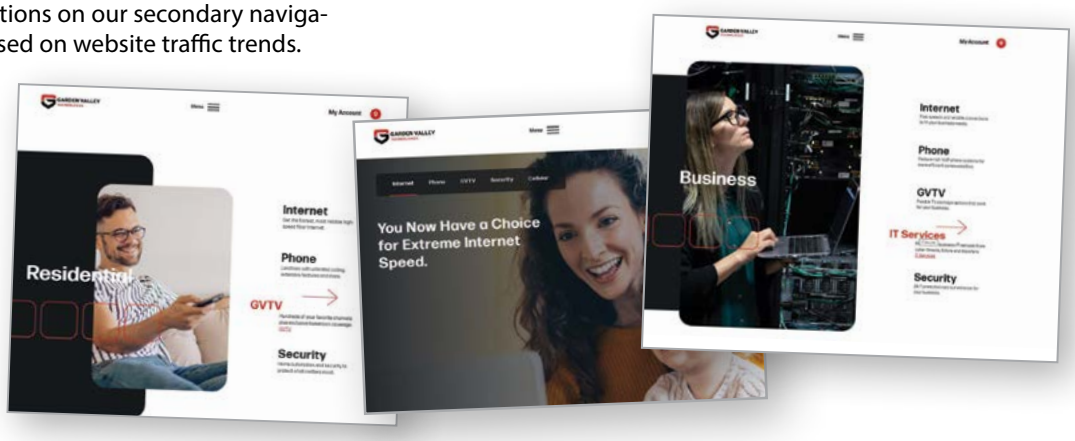
If you've visited www.gvtel.com recently, you have most likely noticed a big change. We launched our new and improved website in November and we're ecstatic with the results.



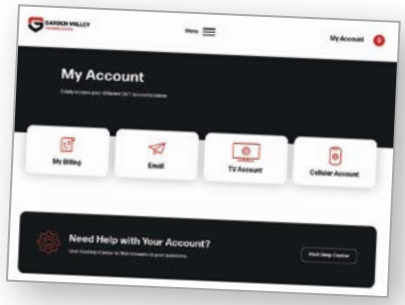
We'd like to showcase some of the major changes on the site and give more context on the improvements we decided to make.

The first thing you'll notice on our new homepage is a clean, modern design. The scrolling carousel takes place of the rotating hero spot. We switched to a hamburger style menu that follows you wherever you are on the site. A good website rule-of-thumb is to keep your navigation limited to 3-6 options. You'll notice on our old site we had eight main navigation options and we also featured a secondary navigation with seven options right above that. So one of our main goals was to streamline the content and make it easier for people to find what the are looking for. We now have five options on the main navigation and five options on our secondary navigation – all of which were decided based on website traffic trends.

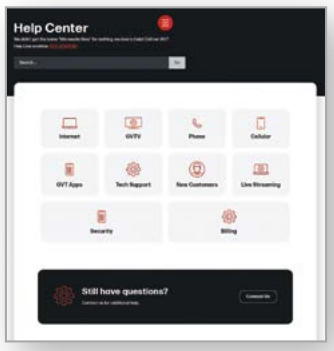
The other main change we made was creating a personalized experience for site visitors. Letting visitors pick between Business or Residential makes a big difference in the content they will see. Everything from pricing to services offered will be customized based on the choice they make.



We also simplified the process of logging into your account so you can access any of your accounts: billing, email, TV or cellular all from one place.



Our new Help Center makes it easy for members to self-serve and easily find answers to common questions regarding their service. You can also access our Live Streaming service, download relevant apps and reach out to tech support from this comprehensive portal.



A lot of our same great features and content are still included though. You can still type in your address and see if GVT provides service to your location. You can also access information about our products, services, pricing and retail locations.

We look forward to an improved website experience for our current and future members. **If you haven't already checked out the new site, take a few minutes and visit www.gvtel.com. Discover our updated GVTV Channel Lineups, browse our cellular options or watch our Live Stream right from your tablet, phone or computer.**

Top 4 Reasons
to Switch to Paperless Billing

On-the-go convenience
Instead of waiting for the paper bill in the mail, members can quickly access their bill from their email inbox. Paperless billing fits into our 24/7 schedules and help reduce some of the stress associated with late payments.

2 **Pay anytime, anywhere**
The ability to access your bill from any location, at any time is a big benefit of paperless billing. When you can quickly and easily access your billing information on your mobile phone, you can pay your bill while cooking dinner, working out or even watching TV.

3 **Reduce carbon footprint**
Paperless billing gives members an opportunity to help the environment by saving paper *(especially during a paper shortage)* and reducing GVT's environmental impact with bill printing and mailing.

4 **Save money**
By signing up for GVT's Auto Deduct and Paperless Billing, not only will you save on monthly postage and the time it takes to make payments, you will also receive a one-time $10 credit on your account.

IT'S A WIN-WIN!

One-time credit applied to bill for Auto Deduct and Paperless Billing combined. Limited time offer.

2022 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour

Washington, D.C. | June 1-5, 2022

Visit www.gvtel.com for essay rules.

All attendees of the 2022 FRS Youth Tour will be required to show proof of Covid-19 vaccination.

Essay deadline is February 11, 2022

(Must be a High School Student, age 16-17 and a GVT member to qualify)

WHY APPLY...

Meet with other high school students | Learn about the telecommunications industry | Visit famous historical sites | Learn about legislative and government process

Scholarships Available

For Area Students

The time has come for high school students to apply for college scholarships. GVT is a member of NTCA and is proud to support the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) in this worthy endeavor.

Opportunities Include:

$2,000 - Foundation for Rural Service Scholarship
(plus an additional $500 contribution from GVT)

- Everett Kneece Scholarship
- Good Neighbor Scholarship
- JSI Scholarship

Additional information can be found on frs.org or by contacting your high school counselor.

(Must be a member of Garden Valley Technologies to apply)

Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

Included is a partial list of individuals who we have not been able to reach.
Please visit our website for a full list. If your name, or a name of someone you know is on the list, call us at 800-448-8260.

Anderson, Betty Ann *(Clearbrook)*
Bales, Danny *(Fosston)*
Bevins, James *(Bemidji)*
Blomseth, Rachel *(Mahnomen)*
Bravo, Virginia *(Minneapolis)*
Bursheim, Christopher & Crystal *(Red Lake Falls)*
Cefalu, Chris *(Lengby)*
Crenshaw, Deven & Holly *(Gully)*
Godtland, Wendy *(Fosston)*
Gustafson, Troy *(Red Lake Falls)*
Hagl, Marvin *(Red Lake Falls)*
Haugen, Kevin *(Fertile)*
Hegland, Richard & Tawny *(Thief River Falls)*
Jasperson, Jeff & Rhonda *(Lengby)*
Johnson, Brenda Lea *(Coyle) (Fosston)*
Juelson, Steven & Kris *(Clearbrook)*
Kastner, Rolland *(Warroad)*
Lafriniere, Patricia *(Fosston)*
Latourell, Melinda *(Ely)*
Lessman, Paul *(Shevlin)*
Lone Tree Pet Product *(Bagley)*
Magnell, Toni *(Oklee)*
Matt, Jean E *(Plummer)*
McKenzie, Katie *(Eden Prairie)*
McKercher, Cathy *(Saint Hilaire)*
Niswander, Dennis *(Bemidji)*
Ohnstad, Denise *(Fosston)*
Patch, Crystal *(Crookston)*
Pee-Tee Kennels *(Mentor)*
Petry, Leroy *(Fertile)*
Prairie Lakes Internet *(Mankato)*
Ritter, Ernest *(Brooks)*
Robinson, John *(Mahnomen)*
Sjoblom, John *(Pagosa Springs, CO)*
Sparhawk, Sam & Lisa *(Pinewood)*
Wagner, Tracey *(Bagley)*
Walls, James C. *(Detroit Lakes)*
Young, Rodney *(Gonvick)*
Zearing, Leslie & Sandra *(Crosby)*

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)*

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