VOICE of the Valley

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

May 2022 | Volume 72 | No. 3

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117th GVT Annual Meeting

GVT members please join us for our Annual Membership Meeting, **Tuesday, June 7, 2022** at the Win-E-Mac School Auditorium Erskine, MN. **The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:30 am. Doors will open at 9:30 am for member registration. Coffee and donuts will be served prior to the meeting.** Attendees will receive a gift for coming and there will be prize drawings. 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, 2021. Members present will be asked to cast their vote for Directors for Districts 1, 4, and 7.

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 1 *(Beltrami, Fertile, Maple Bay exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Byron Ness - Fertile; District 4 *(McIntosh, Oklee, Winger exchanges)*, which is currently represented by James Ferden - McIntosh; and District 7 *(Bagley, Minerva, Shevlin exchanges)* which is currently represented by Allen Paulsen - Shevlin.

Director qualifications are set forth in Article III and Article IV *(Section 2)* of GVT's By-Laws, printed on pages A51 to A55 in the 2022 Directory. The election process is also summarized on our website: www.gvtel.com/about. 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:
Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day
Monday, July 4 - Independence Day

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 7 at 10:30am
See article for additional info.

GVT Employee Recognitions

Part of the Safety Award Program is to recognize employees who have attained safe driving milestones without a preventable accident. Congratulations to the following employees who have reached impressive safe driving milestones.

2019 SAFE DRIVING AWARDS

Mike O'Neil
704,019 miles

Marc Plante
405,377 miles

Ted Tollefson
404,992 miles

2020 SAFE DRIVING AWARDS

Shannon Brekke
414,411 miles

Pat Jackson
402,299 miles

Jeff McCollum
212,026 miles

Jim Hahn
206,298 miles

Jordan Cote
205,045 miles

2021 SAFE DRIVING AWARDS

Jay Anderson
314,526 miles

Scott Guillemette
304,848 miles

Matt Anderson
115,323 miles

Jason Breckel
104,634 miles

Patrick Mullen
101,869 miles

Congratulations & Thank You

We would like to congratulate the following employees for their years of loyal and dedicated service with Garden Valley Technologies.

20 Years

Jim Hahn
District Representative

Dan Olson
District Representative

Sales Intern

Meet our Sales Intern, Briana Jorde of Thief River Falls. Briana started with GVT on April 5, 2022, and will be primarily working with our Marketing department on our door-to-door sales campaign in TRF and Warren.

What is the GVT WiFi App?

Take a moment and think of the number of wireless devices being used in your home. According to a recent Deloitte report, the average U.S. household has 25 connected devices – more than double the 11 that the average household had in 2019. It's hard to wrap our heads around how to manage all of those cell phones, TVs, speakers, cameras and more. Luckily, when you have GVT Managed Wi-Fi, you also have access to our **GVT** WiFi App. The app *(available for Android and Apple)* puts you in control of your home Wi-Fi network.

What can I do with the GVT WiFi App?

Forgotten your Wi-Fi network name or password?
No problem! You can now change this information anytime you want directly from the app. No need to pick up the phone and call anyone to make a simple fix yourself.

Are you concerned about how much time your kids are spending looking at screens?
Parents or grandparents can now create healthy habits for screen time directly in the app.

Do your kids take their devices to bed and stay up late looking at their screens?
Create bedtime routines so that your child's devices get disconnected from the Internet at a set time and don't reconnect until the next morning.

Tired of giving your network name and password to friends and family when they come over?
Create a guest network they can connect to without needing your actual network information. Text it directly to anyone you want to have access.

Concerned that your neighbors might be connecting to your Wi-Fi network?
Get alerts anytime a new device is connected and see all devices connected at any time in the dashboard.

Is there any cost for this app?
Nope, the app is completely free!

Download the GVT WiFi App Today!

Download the GVT WiFi App

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Available for iPhone®, iPad® and Android devices.

GVT WiFi App is available to Managed Wi-Fi subscribers in conjunction with Internet service and requires a GigaSpire or GigaCenter router.

Fiber-to-the-Home Continues to Expand!

Garden Valley Technologies' fiber-to-the-home deployment in 2021 was very busy and successful. We installed over 330 miles of buried fiber optic cable, serving over 2,746 homes and businesses.

The 2022 construction season will consist of installing over 180 miles of buried fiber optic cable that will serve over 500 homes and businesses in the City of Plummer, City of Goodridge, Rural Euclid, and Rural Thief River Falls areas. The construction is planned to start in May and should be completed in November 2022. **Please remember to slow down and proceed with caution when traveling in these construction areas.**

Garden Valley Technologies 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.

Check our website for **Temporary Summer Construction** openings at: **www.gvtel.com/careers**

Capital Credits: One Advantage of Being a Co-op Member

When a person establishes service with GVT, they become a member and start earning capital credits.

Because co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues *(called margins)* are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Capital credits are earned by every member based on the amount they spend with GVT. This includes services like GVTV and Internet, and purchases from our retail stores.

At the end of the fiscal year, any margins remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated back to members.

The GVT Board of Directors evaluate the financial condition of the co-op to determine the amount and percentage of capital credits we can retire.

Current and former GVT members who paid for services during the designated time frame *(this year it is 2002 and 2021)* receive their capital credit checks in May.

If a member check is less than $2.50, the allocated amount will remain in the account until the accumulated amount is greater than our check minimum and a check will be issued during the next capital credit distribution.

Capital Credit Checks

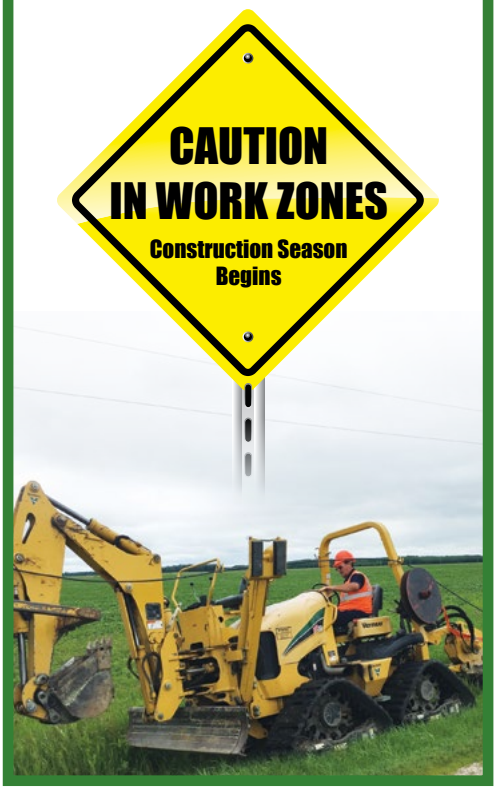
Garden Valley Technologies will be paying out 10% of the capital credits allocated for 2002 and 15% of the capital credits allocated for 2021, totaling approximately $1.5 million. Checks will be mailed to GVT members at the end of May.

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

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.



- Website Design
- Social Media
- Design Services
- Video Production
- Targeted Campaigns
- Print & Online Advertising

Pinnacle Marketing Consultants will be in our area, starting May 9!

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

Pinnacle Marketing Group

800.343.8086 | getstarted@pinnaclemgp.com | pinnaclemgp.com

$100.00 Cash Prize

Deadline: July 31, 2022

Learn More: www.gvtel.com/directory-cover

We no longer accept printed photo submissions.

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 or 218-687-5251
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

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GIG-CERTIFIED PROVIDER

GARDEN VALLEY
TECHNOLOGIES
206 Vance Avenue South | PO Box 259
Erskine, MN 56535

Waiting for a reason to sign up for GVTV?

Now is the time!

You'll be entered in a drawing to win a free 65" TV and receive

2 Months FREE

Ultimate DVR, Whole-Home Service & HD Access

Don't miss out!

Sign up at
JOIN.GVTEL.COM
or call 800-448-8260

Limited time offer. For new and existing GVTV subscribers. No purchase necessary.
(1) winner will be drawn on July 5, 2022. Restrictions apply.