VOICE of the Valley

GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

February 2023 | Volume 73 | No. 1

Innovate > Advance > Connect

THIS ISSUE:

GVT Stream - NOW AVAILABLE
$5,000 Technology Grants
Broadband Development Grant
December Appreciation Day

GVEF Awards $5,000 Grants to Local Schools

The Garden Valley Education Foundation *(GVEF)* has presented $5,000 technology grants to nine local schools. The grants are intended to be used for the purchase of any technology related service or product the district feels would best suit their needs.

Each of the nine schools submitted a written request for grant funds which included what the grant would be used for and how it related to a technology need. ***"We were excited to see how many schools wanted to take part in the grant process," explained Timothy Brinkman, CEO/General Manager of GVT. "Between these grants and our Local Channel partnerships with the schools, it's a great opportunity to be involved in the educational experience of our local students."***

The schools listed below received technology grants for the following projects:

- **Bagley** - purchased Logger Pro Materials Kit for science classes and video equipment for elementary STEM program
- **Clearbrook-Gonvick** - purchased new shot clocks including wiring, parts and installation
- **Fertile-Beltrami** - purchased two color printers for Business Classes and three MacBook Air Laptops for Web Design, Advance Comm and Video Editing classes
- **Fosston** - purchased podcast and photography equipment for a new Technology class offered in conjunction with supporting the new scoreboard
- **Goodridge** - installed 42 remote transmitted clocks and transmitting unit to automatically sync all building clocks
- **Grygla** - installed cameras in new school store and library, hung 75" TV in gym lobby to broadcast school related content, and installed new buzzer/camera at west entrance to the building
- **Red Lake County Central** - replaced and upgraded RLCC Elementary teacher and staff computers
- **Red Lake Falls** - purchased new iMacs with expanded storage and memory for the Yearbook and Multi-Media class
- **Win-E-Mac** - purchased 2 Clevertouch Smart Boards with mounting assemblies

Board member Casey Holland (District 5) presents a check for $5,000 to Fosston Public Schools Superintendent Todd Selk

The Garden Valley Education Foundation was established in late 1990, by Garden Valley Telephone Company (GVT), to promote rural economic development through the use of modern telecommunications technology for educational purposes. Garden Valley Technologies funds the Education Foundation with unclaimed capital credits.

News & Events

College Scholarship Opportunities

High School Students apply online by February 17, 2023.
See additional details inside or visit www.gvtel.com/about-us

GVTV Channel Updates

GVT did not renew the contract with Entertainment Studios due to limited viewership on the following channels: Comedy.TV (162), Cars.TV (246), ES.TV (149), Mydestination.TV (241), Recipe.TV (157), Pets.TV (248). These channels were removed on December 31, 2022.

Follow Us on Social

SAVE $10.00
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See back for details

Happy Retirement

Cable Splicer **Mike O'Neil** retired on December 1, 2022, after serving the Company for almost 47 years. Mike's impact on this Company and the many customers, co-workers, and managers he has seen come and go cannot be put into words. Mike always has a smile and kind, thoughtful words for everyone he meets. Mike, thank you for your dedicated service to the Cooperative!

We all wish you the very best in retirement, Mike, congratulations!

Warehouseperson **Sam Halley** retired on December 1, 2022, after serving the Company for over 24 years. Sam took his role as Warehouseperson very seriously, and his diligence, along with his neat, orderly, and organized personality and work ethic, helped the warehouse run efficiently. He worked with multiple departments ensuring stock was available timely, and he always had a joke or story to share, too! Sam, thank you for your dedicated service to the Cooperative!

We all wish you the very best in retirement, Sam, congratulations!

Congratulations & Thank You

Shelly Juve for 15 years

of loyal and dedicated service with Garden Valley Technologies.

Congratulations!

Installer-Repairperson

Chris Venem of McIntosh joined our GVT team on November 30, 2022. Chris is a familiar face to many at GVT, as he has been a contractor on GVT projects with JCS for the past couple of years. Congratulations, Chris, and welcome to the GVT family!

Cable Splicer

Congratulations to Construction Lineperson **Garrett Rock** on being selected to fill the Full-Time Cable Splicer position. Garrett began his new duties on December 19, 2022. Congratulations Garrett!

Warehouseperson

Congratulations to Service Representative **Kristen Branstner** on being selected to fill the Warehouseperson position. Kristen began her new duties on January 8, 2023. Congratulations Kristen!

GVT Stream - *NOW AVAILABLE*

A Fresh Way to Stream all the Entertainment You Love

GVT Stream is now available to all new and existing members.
If you're a current GVTV subscriber, you can make the switch to streaming at any time.

It's a great opportunity to BREAK FREE FROM:

- **COSTS OF SET-TOP BOXES.** *Use your own enabled device.**
- **COSTS OF HD PROGRAMMING.** *HD Channels are included when available, at no additional cost.*
- **TRADITIONAL TV.** *Watch TV how you want and still enjoy features like Restart TV and fast-forwarding.*
- **LOCATION LIMITATIONS.** *Watch TV at home or from anywhere enabled with the GVT Stream app*.*

Same great packages. Same great price. Better way to watch.

For more information on GVT Stream, please call 800-448-8260 or visit www.gvtel.com/gvtstream

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Available for iPhone®, iPad® and Android devices.

*Available on Amazon Fire TV devices, Roku, Apple TV and most mobile devices. Local programming only works on the GVT network. Restrictions apply.

Successful Customer Appreciation Day

Thank you to everyone who attended our Customer Appreciation Day event on Saturday, December 3.

This was the first Customer Appreciation event held in our building since 2018. It was nice to have members attend to see our new retail store and training center. Members had the opportunity to purchase specially-priced merchandise, have lunch, visit with employees, and see product and service demonstrations. Everyone received an attendance gift and had the chance to register for additional prizes *(winners listed to the right)*.

Thank you for being a Garden Valley Technologies member!

Grand Prize Coupon Winner

$200 GVT Bill Credit	Stephanie Clark

Attendance Prizes:

Adult Prizes (age 18 & older)

GoPro HERO 8 - Grand Prize	Tom Ledding
Smart Tracking Cell Holder	Jennifer M. Edberg
Air Cleaner	Nancy Tradewell
Mug Warmer & Coaster	Michael Riendeau
Room Security Camera	Kenneth Beauchane
Emergency Alert Radio	Michelle Brinkman
Philips Wakeup Light	Virginia Sly

Kids' Prizes (age 6-17)

Power Beats Pro - Grand Prize	Camden Determan
Pro Gaming Headset	Sterling Klade
Gaming Essentials	Henry Swanson
Moon Light	Garrett Davis
Forge Wireless Speaker	Rolly Rue
Xtreme Dura Charge	Ruby Howard
Karaoke Machine	James Loerzel
Wireless Speaker	Elliana Sandness

5yrs & under

LEGO Airport Building Blocks	Evie Frisk

Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

Garden Valley Technologies has been awarded a border-to-border broadband development grant from the State of Minnesota through the DEED Office of Broadband Development. This grant will assist in a broadband build to rural Oslo and east rural Warren.

Residents and businesses in this area expressed support for GVT's border-to-border grant application, which gives GVT the opportunity to offer rural Oslo and rural Warren Internet access. This underserved area needs fast, reliable Internet service to help residents progress, especially as technology continues to advance around them.

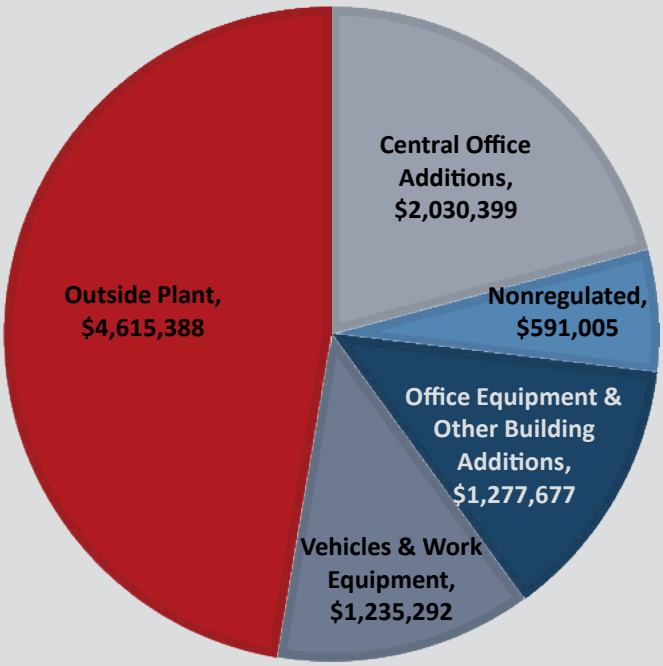
The grant provides the assistance needed to plow state-of-the-art fiber optic cable to the homes in this area allowing access to Internet speeds up to 1 Gbps, local phone service, and digital video services, which includes over 200 channels.

"This is exciting news and I would like to thank the Office of Broadband and the State of Minnesota for this grant opportunity," said Timothy Brinkman, CEO/General Manager at Garden Valley Technologies. "Grants like these make it possible to build out broadband in highly rural environments."

The border-to-border broadband project for rural Oslo and east rural Warren will bring service to 105 unserved and underserved locations which include 47 residences, two businesses, 52 farms and four community institutions. The total project cost of $2,925,139 million will be financed by the $1,462,569 million Minnesota border-to-border broadband grant and a local match of $1,462,569 million by Garden Valley Technologies and community partners. The project is expected to finish with installation of subscribers in late 2024 and will cover 108 square miles. Residents living in the area will receive communication from GVT on next steps in the project.

2023 Capital Budget

Garden Valley Technologies' operating budget, approved by the Board of Directors in November, includes more than $9.7 million of capital expenditures in 2023. GVT is continuing to expand our fiber optic network and bring voice, video and broadband services to unserved locations in NW Minnesota. One of the larger projects planned for 2023 will bring service to 105 unserved and underserved locations to south rural Oslo and east rural Warren.



Capital Credit Program

In December, the Garden Valley Technologies Board of Directors returned $391,140 in unretired capital credits to members age 85 years or older. This payout was part of a successful program designed to ensure our older members have the option to receive 100% of their unretired capital credits. This is the third consecutive year GVT has offered this payout program. In 2021, 163 members received $459,000 in unretired capital credit payouts as part of our 85+ program. Capital credits are one of the many benefits of being a GVT member. Because co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits. ***"As a member-owned cooperative, it's rewarding to see these dollars go back to people in our local communities," explains Timothy Brinkman, CEO/General Manager of GVT. "Unlike a private company or corporation, our members earn money back for every dollar they spend with us."*** This capital credit payout comes just 7 months after GVT issued more than 17,500 checks to members totaling over $1.5 million. Meaning our members received nearly $2 million in capital credit payouts in 2022 alone. Payments of capital credits at this time of year made the holiday season a little brighter for 133 members who were part of the program. We have been pleased with the success of the 85+ program over the last three years and want to thank those who were able to participate. Based upon the Cooperative's financial condition and other considerations, the Board of Directors will determine if this is something we will continue in the future.

To ensure that you continue to receive capital credit checks and information on future programs please make sure your membership account is up-to-date with your Social Security Number and date of birth. Please call 800-448-8260 with any questions.

BILLING UPDATE

Due to annual rate increases from our programmers, GVTV video subscribers were notified that it was necessary to make rate adjustments to the a la carte and bundled video services effective with the February 2023 bills. For additional information about GVTV service, including discounts available for services, please call us at 800-448-8260.

FEDERAL USF CHARGE

Effective January 2023, the amount of the Federal USF Charge (FUSC), appearing on your bill each month, may change as a result of an expected increase in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) universal service fund contribution factor from 28.9% to 32.6%. The Federal Universal Service Fund Program is designed to help keep local telephone service rates affordable for all customers, in all areas of the United States.

The new FUSC amount for cellular service is calculated by multiplying the FUSC factor against your cellular plan charges. Effective in January, that FUSC factor will increase from 10.7219% to 12.0946%.

SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

If any of your GVT services (phone, TV, Internet, etc.) are out of service or impaired, we want to hear from you immediately. Remember, we offer 24/7 service to answer your calls. Simply call: 800-448-8260

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

In order to send members their capital credit check, we need to have a social security number associated with all accounts. This ensures we are compliant with IRS regulations. Garden Valley Technologies protects your social security number and keeps your records confidential. If you're not sure if your account is in compliance, please reach out to customer service at 800-448-8260.

VOICE of the Valley

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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

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800-448-8260 or 218-687-5251
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Internet Support 24/7/365
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IT Services M-F 8:00am - 4:30pm
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Email: ITServices@gvtel.net

Live Chat www.gvtel.com
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11:00am - 6:30pm Sunday

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