VOICE of the Valley

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GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

April 2023 | Volume 73 | No. 2

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Changes Coming

To the 85+ Capital Credit Program

Garden Valley Technologies (GVT), a member-owned cooperative, has been offering an 85+ Capital Credit Program for the past three years. Under this program, members who are 85 years or older have the option to receive early payout of 100% of their unretired capital credits. This is the third consecutive year that GVT has offered this payout program. In 2020, 627 members received $1.6 million; in 2021, 163 members received $459,000; and in 2022, 133 members received $391,140, in unretired capital credits as part of the 85+ program.

Recently the GVT Board of Directors voted to offer quarterly payouts for the 85+ Capital Credit Program. With this change, GVT will accept and review applications each quarter and members who are 85 years or older will no longer have to wait a full year to apply. This positive change to the 85+ Capital Credit Program is a great step towards supporting those members who have been long-time supporters of the Co-op by offering more flexibility and convenience to those who are 85 years or older and helping ensure that they receive their unretired capital credits in a timely manner. The Board of Directors will review the 85+ Capital Credit Program annually to determine if they will continue it in the future, based on the cooperative's financial condition and other considerations. The success of the 85+ program over the last three years has pleased the GVT team, and they want to thank those who were able to participate.

Capital credits are one of the many benefits of being a GVT member. Since co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits. ***Timothy Brinkman, CEO/General Manager of GVT, explains, "As a member-owned cooperative, it's rewarding to see these dollars go back to people in our local communities. Unlike a private company or corporation, our members earn money back for every dollar they spend with us."***

We encourage all members to make sure their membership account is up-to-date with their Social Security Number and date of birth. This information is important to ensure members continue to receive capital credit checks and information on future programs. Members can call 800-448-8260 with any questions.

Those members who are eligible to take part in the 85+ Capital Credits program can call 800-448-8260 and GVT will physically mail or email the payout form to the member to fill out. Members can also pick-up a form at any of our three retail locations in Bagley, Erskine and Thief River Falls. We will be doing the first quarterly payout in Quarter 2, April – June 2023.

➔

News & Events

GO GREEN & SAVE

Sign up for Autopay and Paperless Billing and receive a one-time $10.00 credit on your account. Register at www.gvtel.com/my-account

GVT FAQ's

Is the GVT Stream channel lineup the same?

The channel lineup is almost identical to our traditional GVTV service, and **HD programming is now available for FREE**, *when available.*

Visit the Help Center at www.gvtel.com/help-center for additional FAQ's on all of our services.

GVT Directors seeking re-election

See inside for additional information.

Congratulations!

Data Processing Coordinator

Congratulations to **Carly Swanson** on being selected to fill the Data Processing Coordinator position. **Congratulations Carly!**

Service Representative

Part-Time Service Representative **Dawn Kreitzer** has been selected to fill the Full-Time Service Representative position. **Congratulations Dawn!**

Service Office Coordinator

Full-Time Service Representative **Tina Farrell** has been selected to fill the Service Office Coordinator position. **Congratulations Tina!**

Service Representatives

Meet the newest members of our GVT Customer Service Team, **Brooke Danielson** and **Luke Burd**, both from McIntosh. Brooke and Luke were hired as Part-Time Service Representatives in March.
Congratulations to you both and welcome to the GVT family!

Congratulations & Thank You

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

25 Years

Steve Chalich
Facilities Technician

Jeffrey McCollum
Cable Splicer

5 Years

Derek Blackburn
Service Representative

Haley Mosher
Service Representative

CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

May is an exciting time for GVT members. That's when net margins are allocated to members based on patronage dollars they spend with the Cooperative each year. This May GVT will be paying out over $2 Million in capital credits. This payout includes a percentage of allocated capital credits for 2002 and a percentage of allocated capital credits for 2022. Like usual, members can expect their checks to arrive the latter part of May.

Members will also be getting a statement in May that shows their capital credit balance.

TAP, TAM, 911

Effective April 1, the TAP, TAM, 911 charge has been reduced from $.91 to $.87 and the ARC charge increased from $.02 to $.09.

SUBSCRIBER ADDRESS

If your mail is delivered to a Post Office Box address, you can list it in our 2024 directory in addition to, or in place of, your 911 address. The default directory listing will be your 911 address unless you instruct us otherwise. Please contact GVT before July 1 if you would like us to make a change to your listing.

Download the GVT WiFi app
Visit our website for additional info.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Available for iPhone®, iPad® and Android devices.

SAVE-THE-DATE

118th Annual Membership Meeting

June 6, 2023 | Win-E-Mac School

Directors will be elected for 3-year terms from District 2 *(Brooks, Erskine, Mentor exchanges)*, District 5 *(Fosston, Lengby exchanges)*, and District 8 *(CLEC & National Members, including Thief River Falls & Bejou exchanges)*.

Qualifications for Directors are contained in Article III and Article IV *(Section 2)* of GVT's By-Laws, printed on pages A51 to A55 in the 2023 Directory, and will be summarized in our May Voice of the Valley. The election process is also summarized on our website: www.gvtel.com/about-us/

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:30am. Members may register beginning at 9:30am. 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, 2022. Members present will be asked to cast their vote for Directors for Districts 2, 5, and 8.

Incumbents Seeking Re-election

Lee Hoaas
District 2 | Brooks, Erskine, Mentor

Casey Holland
District 5 | Fosston, Lengby

Jim DeVries
District 8 | CLEC & National Members, including Thief River Falls & Bejou

Register at
www.gvtel.com/my-account
or call 800-448-8260

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

What is GVT Stream?

GVT Stream is a Fresh Way to Stream all the Entertainment You Love.

Stream top networks, live sports & news, plus local channels on any compatible TV or device. This next generation of video entertainment provides members with the convenience, flexibility, and control over how and where they watch their favorite programming.

What equipment do I need?

- Fast and reliable Internet*.
- A streaming device such as:
  - an Amazon Fire TV device, Apple TV, or Roku device that is connected to your TV and Wi-Fi. Streaming devices include a universal remote control to sync with your TV.
  - a tablet, laptop or smartphone that is connected to Wi-Fi or data.
- A subscription to GVT Stream – you can choose from our same great packages: **Expanded, Basic, Classic, and Lite**.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Available for iPhone®, iPad® and Android devices.

How do I subscribe?

Subscribing to GVT Stream is simple. Once you decide what package you'd like, you can either call into our office to add GVT Stream to your current GVT services or you can **sign up for GVT Stream at join.gvtel.com**. Once GVT Stream is added to your account, you can be set up and streaming your favorite content in as little as a couple hours.

What are the benefits of GVT Stream?

With GVT Stream you can break free from:

THE COSTS OF SET-TOP BOXES. *Use your own enabled device.**

COSTS OF HD PROGRAMMING. *Channels are included in HD when available, at no additional cost.*

LOCATION LIMITATIONS. *Watch TV at home or from anywhere enabled with the GVT Stream app.*

*Available on Amazon Fire TV devices, Roku, Apple TV, and most mobile devices. Local programming only works on the GVT network. Restrictions apply. GVT Stream is available to GVT Internet customers only.

GVT Stream

The Future of TV

Sign up for GVT Stream and Receive

1 month Internet Service *(250/250 or higher) (up to $138.95 value)*

100 Hours DVR Storage/mo for 3 months *($18 value)*

(1) Amazon Fire TV Stick *($39 value)*

HD Channels Included at No Additional Cost

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Available for iPhone®, iPad® and Android devices.

Don't miss out!

Sign up today at JOIN.GVTEL.COM

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

Some restrictions apply. Offer valid for new GVT Stream customers only. GVT Stream is available to GVT Internet customers only.
Service requires an Amazon Fire TV device (not Stick Lite), Roku, Apple TV and a high-speed Internet connection. Limited time offer.

Statement of Non-discrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulation and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, officers, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs (including Garden Valley Telephone Company) are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Garden Valley agrees with, and has fully complied with, all nondiscrimination and equal employment requirements. The Company has not received any complaints in regard to these provisions.

Garden Valley Telephone Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer. All employment is decided on the basis of qualifications, merit, and business needs.

VOICE of the Valley

Published by Garden Valley Telephone Company
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

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

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

SMART RURAL COMMUNITY

GIG-CERTIFIED PROVIDER

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

May 1- 14, 2023

Mother's Day SPECIAL OFFER

$550 Device Credit

for New & Existing Customers towards the purchase of a new device

Visit any GVT Retail Store May 1-14 to claim this special offer.

Qualifying customer must purchase and activate a new smartphone under the device installment program, sign up for a 5GB or higher plan, meet credit qualifications . 30 month commitment required. Restrictions may apply. Limited time offer.

GVT Retail Store Locations *(OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY)*: Bagley | Erskine | Thief River Falls
800-448-8260 | www.gvtel.com |