VOICE of the Valley

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GARDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES

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POWER OF THE PAST. FORCE OF THE FUTURE.

Members of Garden Valley Technologies, please join us for our Annual Membership Meeting, **Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at the Win-E-Mac School Auditorium in Erskine, MN. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:30am with doors opening at 9:30am for member registration.** Coffee and donuts will be served prior to the meeting and the business meeting will be followed by a catered lunch. 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, 2022. Members present will be asked to cast their vote for Directors for Districts 2, 5, and 8.

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 2 *(Brooks, Erskine, Mentor exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Lee Hoaas - Erskine; District 5 *(Fosston, Lengby exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Casey Holland - Fosston; and District 8 *(CLEC & National Members, including Bejou, Thief River Falls & Warren exchanges)*, which is currently represented by Jim DeVries - Bejou.

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 2023 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.

Continued on Inside

News & Events

Holiday Closings

GVT business offices will be closed in observance of the upcoming holidays:
Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day
Tuesday, July 4 - Independence Day

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 6
See article for additional info.
Registration - 9:30am
GVT Products & Services will be on display
Meeting Time - 10:30am
2022 Operation reports will be presented
Vote on By-Laws Amendment and Director Seats
Attendance Gift, Door Prizes & Hot Meal Served

GVT Promotions

Looking to upgrade or add a service? NOW is the time, we have some great promotional offers the month of May.
Visit **www.gvtel.com/amazing-offers-2** for additional details.

Happy Retirement

Service and Operations Manager Steve Olson has retired

from

Garden Valley Technologies effective April 1, 2023.

Steve began his GVT career as the District Representative for the Grygla, Goodridge, and Gatzke exchanges on July 30, 1990. On May 5, 1997, Steve was promoted to Service Supervisor and in December 2013 he advanced to his current position of Service & Operations Manager. In his 32+ year career he served under three General Managers, working tirelessly to provide excellent customer service to GVT subscribers amid the ever changing world of technology. Steve is described by customers as always having a positive attitude, willing to go the extra mile for them, and making them feel like he's known them for years. He played a vital role in GVT's territory expansion and helped GVT grow into the multi-products and services cooperative it is today.

On behalf of everyone at GVT, we wish Steve the very best in his retirement!

Congratulations Steve and thank you for your 32+ years of dedicated service!

Continued from Front Page

Proposed Resolution for Amending By-Laws at Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors has recommended amendments to the Cooperative's By-Laws for consideration by Garden Valley Technologies members at the June 6 Annual Meeting. If adopted, the proposed amendments would provide more options regarding the manner, method, and location of the Annual Meeting; include voting by electronic means when determining the quorum necessary for transacting business; allow for three different voting methods (in person, mail, or electronic means) and remove voting done by acclamation, standing or raising of hands; create a nomination process to become a candidate for the Board of Directors and process for filling a vacancy when no person is nominated; provide for renumbering of Sections within Article III; and require approval of at least two-thirds of all eligible members entitled to vote regarding disposition of fixed assets.

The Board's Resolution and the complete redlined version of the proposed amended By-Laws are located on GVT's website at **www.gvtel.com/news/**. *Or simply click on the Annual Meeting announcement on the homepage and you will be directed to information on the Annual Meeting, including the proposed By-Law amendments.*

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.

SAFE DRIVING AWARDS

500,001 - 600,000 Miles:
Wade Gray 510,135
Wayne Hanson 503,591

400,001 - 500,000 Miles:
Brian Anderson 414,242

300,001 - 400,000 Miles:
Lyle Waughtal 306,813

200,001 - 300,000 Miles:
Dan Uhlir 208,425

100,001 - 200,000 Miles:
Michael Green 112,120

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
Mathieu Derosier Service Supervisor

15 Years
April Shimpa Office Clerk
Bryce Torgerson District Representative

10 Years
Heather Hegre Office Clerk

Construction Lineperson
Meet **Adam Harmon** of Shevlin. Adam started as a Construction Lineperson on April 10, 2023.

Congratulations Adam and welcome to the GVT family!

More Bandwidth. More Possibilities.

Garden Valley Technologies is excited to announce the launch of our increased Internet speeds available May 2023. With these new Internet packages, GVT members will be able to ***experience faster Internet speeds*** and ***improved connectivity***, allowing them to ***stream video, work remotely, and stay connected*** with loved ones more easily than ever before. All of our packages are ***symmetrical***, meaning that your upload speeds are as fast as your download speeds, which creates a ***better, more consistent Internet experience***, especially for high-capacity functions such as video conferencing and gaming.

What it means for you:

- 50/50 Mbps subscribers will be upgraded to 100/100 Mbps **(same price, twice the speed)**
- 250/250 Mbps subscribers will be upgraded to 500/500 Mbps **(same price, twice the speed)**
- 1 Gig subscribers will get the same great speed while **saving up to $49/mo.**

In addition, members also have access to two brand new speeds, a lightning fast 3 Gig package and an extreme 6 Gig package that will enhance your Internet experience like never before.

If you're interested in increasing your speeds with our new package offerings, visit **www.gvtel.com** for more information about GVT's services and pricing plans or **call 800-448-8260** to speak with a customer service representative.

	SLOW	MEDIUM	FAST (Most Popular)	FASTER THAN YOUR NEIGHBOR	EXTREME
	100 Mbps download/upload	500 Mbps download/upload	1 Gbps download/upload	3 Gbps download/upload	6 Gbps download/upload
	$48.95/mo	$58.95/mo	$89.95/mo	$189.95/mo	$289.95/mo

Garden Valley Technologies Announces
Fiber Optic Service to 100% of Members

Garden Valley Technologies has reached an important milestone of **providing high-speed fiber optic broadband service to 100 percent of businesses and homes in its service area.** With a widespread, primarily rural service area spanning over 4,400 square miles, building an all-fiber network has been a significant undertaking that has taken nearly 20 years to complete.

"Access to fast, reliable Internet makes the communities we serve a more attractive place to live, work and call home," said Timothy Brinkman, CEO/General Manager of GVT. "The availability of fiber-to-the-home provides opportunities for e-learning, the flexibility to work remotely and the ability to stream the latest in entertainment."

Since 2005, Garden Valley Technologies has installed more than 6,500 miles of fiber optic cable, serving over 13,500 locations. The Company plans to continue to invest in its fiber optic backbone. The communities GVT serves can count on their local, responsive broadband provider capable of providing fast, reliable fiber optic services for years to come.

811 **Know what's below.** Call 811or visit call811.com for more information.

COVER CONTEST

$100.00 Cash Prize

Deadline:
July 31, 2023

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

We no longer accept printed photo submissions.

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

Directory Advertising

Marketing/Sales Consultants from Pinnacle Marketing Group will be visiting businesses in our area, **starting May 8, 2023 until the middle of July**, selling advertising for the 2024 GVT telephone directory. When you advertise in the GVT directory your ad will automatically be featured in our online directory, with all website and email addresses conveniently accessible by your customers.

Get the most out of your advertising investment, increase visibility, and connect with your customers with a fresh new ad, a website or social media page by contacting Pinnacle Marketing Group at 800-343-8086 or **pinnaclemgp.com**.

Greg Meyer

Kelly Gordon

Melissa Schwartz

FEDERAL USF Charge

Effective April, 2023, the amount of the Federal USF Charge (FUSC), appearing on your bill each month, may change as a result of an expected decrease in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) universal service fund contribution factor from 32.6% to 29%. 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 April, that The FUSC factor will decrease from 12.0946% to 10.759%

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

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

GVT's multi-service discount program is designed to help you save on

INTERNET | GVT STREAM | CELLULAR | PHONE

When you package two or more qualified services, you are eligible to save up to $20 per month — and that adds up! The program requires a consolidated bill, which means that all services must be listed under one account.

There are no fees and no hidden catches to these monthly savings — all you have to do is enroll.

TWO SERVICES = $10.00/mo. Discount
THREE SERVICES = $15.00/mo. Discount
FOUR SERVICES = $20.00/mo. Discount

View availability and pricing at **JOIN.GVTEL.COM**
Find out what services are available by entering your address.