

VOICE of the Valley

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Celebrating the Success

of the Discounted Capital Credit Payout Program

Response to GVT's 50% Discounted Capital Credit Payout Program was nothing short of phenomenal. We want to express our gratitude for the overwhelming interest and participation in this pilot program. We anticipated a lot of interest, but the response greatly exceeded our expectations, and we'd like to share the results and outline what members can expect moving forward.

We introduced the 50% Discounted Capital Credit Payout Program as an opportunity to give back to our valued members and offer some financial relief during these challenging times. With nearly 6,000 applications received, it demonstrated how eager our members were for the opportunity to collect their capital credits, even at a 50% discounted rate. *In fact, because of the tremendous response, we reached our \$3 million cap the very first day, Monday, October 9th, at approximately 9:15am.* This means members who submitted their applications after this time will not receive the discounted capital credit payout. We understand

this may be disappointing, but we want to be transparent and ensure that our members are well-informed.

We did experience a brief website slowdown due to a surge in traffic. However, the website was operational, and we received *an average of 100 online applications per minute from 9:01 to 9:10am, receiving 1,524 online applications by 9:30am. We also accepted over 1,000 in-person applications in Bagley, Erskine, and TRF in the first couple of hours.*

It is undetermined whether GVT will offer a discounted payout in the future. However, we will continue our quarterly 85+ payouts and our annual capital credit payout in May. So, *if you do not receive the discounted payout, you will still have 100% of your capital credit balance* and can expect to receive your regular capital credit check in May.

We are proud of this program's success and the overwhelming participation of our members. We worked diligently to process applications and verify those received before hitting the \$3 million cap. *The Board approved the list of payouts at their November 28th meeting, and emails notifying applicants if they will or will not receive a discounted payout were sent December 4th.*

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
Monday, December 25

Monday, January 1, 2024

Happy Holidays!

GVT Directory

Please remember to recycle your 2023 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.

Use Caution

Near telecommunications cabinets and pedestals during snow removal.

Continued on Inside



Members receiving a payout check can expect it in the mail before Christmas.

As we move forward, we will keep members informed of potential future opportunities like this one, guided by the interests and needs of our members and the financial strength GVT. Your feedback and participation are instrumental in shaping our community-focused approach. Once again, we extend our sincere appreciation to our members for making this program a resounding success.

Capital Credit Payout Stats:

19% member response rate

28% of allocated capital credits were requested

1,543 in-person applications were submitted

4,301 online applications were accepted

Nearly **1,100** members will receive the discounted payout

Over \$10 million in discounted capital credits were requested



119th Annual Meeting Information

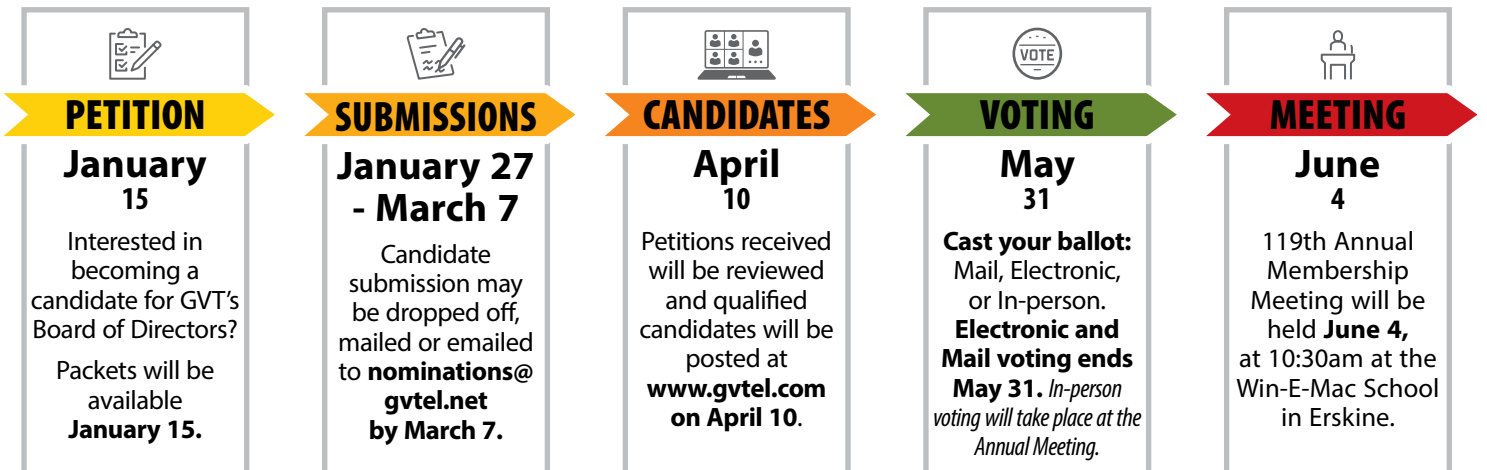
Garden Valley Technologies (GVT) will hold its **119th Annual Membership Meeting in-person at the Win-E-Mac School in Erskine, MN and viewable to members through GVT Local Channels, on June 4, 2024**, beginning at 10:30am. During the 118th Annual Membership Meeting, members unanimously approved proposed amendments to the Cooperative's By-Laws. There are more options regarding the manner, method, and location of the Annual Meeting, three voting methods (*in person, mail, or electronic means*), and a new Director candidate nomination process which is further explained below.

The new nomination process to become a candidate for the Board of Directors replaces the former caucus nomination process that took place during the Annual Membership Meeting. A person who is interested in becoming a candidate for GVT's Board of Directors must be nominated through a petition process. **Petition**

packets will be available to interested persons beginning January 15, 2024, at each of GVT's three retail stores (*Erskine, Bagley, Thief River Falls*), and on our website. The petition to nominate a candidate for the Board of Directors must be signed by fifteen (15) GVT members with voting rights from the same District as the candidate they are nominating. The petition packet will require certain biographical information about the candidate and director qualification questions for the proposed candidate to answer. **The candidate submission window is January 27, 2024, through March 7, 2024**, by in-person delivery at one of GVT's retail stores, by U.S. Mail, or by email. The Director seats up for election are Districts 3 (*Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, Plummer exchanges*), District 6 (*Clearbrook, Gonvick, Leonard exchanges*), and District 9 (*Gatzke, Goodridge, Grygla, Gully exchanges*). 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 2024 Directory, and summarized on our website: www.gvtel.com/about-us.

Petitions received during the submission window (*January 27, 2024 through March 7, 2024*) will be reviewed and **a list of all properly nominated and qualified candidates will be posted on GVT's website on April 10, 2024**. The election process will consist of three voting methods: by U.S. Mail, by electronic means, or in-person. Members may vote by one of these three voting methods for each District up for election. All members will be mailed election materials for the purpose of voting by mail. Members who prefer to vote by electronic means will be able to do so via an election website. **Voting by mail or by electronic means will end May 31, 2024**, so that ballots cast by those two methods are tabulated prior to the 119th Annual Membership Meeting. **Members who prefer to vote in-person may do so at the 119th Annual Membership Meeting on June 4, 2024.**





Grand Re-Opening of GVT Retail Store in Thief River Falls

We are thrilled to announce that the Grand Re-Opening celebration of our retail store in Thief River Falls was a huge success! From October 23-27, we welcomed over 200 visitors who had the opportunity to sign up for prizes and take advantage of our special promotional offers.

On October 26, we held a ribbon cutting ceremony and provided our guests with GVT popcorn bowls, as well as a complimentary cup of cookies from Grandma's Cookie Jar. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who attended and made this event even more special. We especially want to thank the members of the Thief River Falls Chamber and the Thief River Falls Times who attended the ribbon cutting with many of our GVT Employees.

Congratulations!

We'd like to congratulate all the **Gift Basket & Gift Card Winners**. Prizes included items from nine local Thief River Falls businesses!

GVT Stream Basket: **Crista Ostby** (*Goodridge*), Fall Basket: **Marie Adams** (*Goodridge*), Prowler Basket: **Mark Haugen** (*Thief River Falls*), Family Fun Basket: **Randy Barth** (*Thief River Falls*), Grilling Basket: **Putzy Raiter** (*Thief River Falls*), Ronnings Gift Card: **David Weiss** (*Red Lake Falls*), Curve Gift Card: **Tiffanie Dugstad** (*Plummer*), Mulligans Golf Gift Card: **Ken Fredrickson** (*Thief River Falls*).

GVT Celebrates Co-op Month



Co-op Month is celebrated by cooperatives nationwide during the month of October, an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a trusted, proven way to do business and build resilient, inclusive communities. This year's Co-op Month theme, "Owning Our Identity," also provides an opportunity to reflect on what makes cooperative businesses unique in the marketplace. Guided by a set of shared principles and values – among them democracy, equity and solidarity – co-ops are hardwired for economic and societal transformation.

In recognition of National Co-op Month, **GVT gave back to our local communities - donating over 1,000 reusable color changing water bottles to 11 schools in our service area for 2nd and 3rd grade students!** Pictured above are students from Clearbrook-Gonvick school. Together, we can make a positive difference in the lives of our youth - helping them stay hydrated and showing them the power of cooperation.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Be the first to know the happenings at Garden Valley Technologies by joining our **NEW** email marketing list.

Visit www.gvtel.com/sign-up to be added or scan the QR code below.



Each quarter we'll be giving away a **\$100 GVT bill credit** to one lucky member who **enters our e-newsletter contest**.

Additional details will be shared in the February e-newsletter.

Don't worry we won't share your email and you'll receive minimal emails from GVT, and if you wish, you can unsubscribe at any time.





Gifts for everyone on your list.

SPEND LOCAL, ENJOY LOCAL



OPEN: Monday-Friday 8am - 5pm

Bagley

105 Main Avenue North

Erskine

206 Vance Avenue South

Thief River Falls

1412 3rd Street West

**Check Out
Our Newest
Devices**

We have everything
you need and more.

[Learn More](#)

Special Offer
Holiday Credit


\$550 savings

for new & existing customers on select
Apple or Android Devices

Valid: Nov. 27 - Dec. 20

Restrictions apply. Limited time offer. Visit our retail store for details.





2024 FRS Youth Tour Washington, D.C. June 3-7, 2024

Visit www.gvtel.com/ntca-youth-tour to apply.
Essay deadline is February 7, 2024



FOUNDATION FOR
RURAL SERVICE

Must be a member of GVT to qualify. High School Students age 15, 16 or 17.



Scholarships For Area Students

It's time for high school students to unlock doors to future success! Apply for college scholarships and get the support you need to achieve your dreams. GVT is proud to partner with NTCA and the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) to make this possible. Don't miss your chance – apply now!

Opportunities Include:

\$2,000 - Foundation for Rural Service Scholarship
(plus an additional \$500 contribution from GVT)
Everett Kneece Scholarship | Good Neighbor Scholarship | JSI Scholarship

Apply online at:
frs.org/scholarships

Deadline:
February 16, 2024

Contact your school counselor or www.gvtel.com for more information.
Must be a member of Garden Valley Technologies to apply.

Additional Scholarship
Opportunities can be found at

<https://www.gvtel.com/about-us/>

Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

Bales, Danny (*Fosston*)

Bardwell, Les & Jamie (*Clearbrook*)

Bevins, James (*Bemidji*)

Bush, Donald (*Bagley*)

Cefalu, Chris (*Lengby*)

Crenshaw, Deven & Holly (*Gully*)

Evenson, Lyle (*Winger*)

Haugen, Kevin (*Fertile*)

Hinrichs, Gregg & Lori (*Shevlin*)

Johnson, Brenda Lea (*Coyle*) (*Fosston*)

Juelson, Steven & Kris (*Clearbrook*)

Kjolhaug, John M. (*Red Wing*)

Klema, Wade J. (*Gonvick*)

Kutsev, Moysey (*Erskine*)

Kuznia, Joffery & Melissa Lee (*Bemidji*)

McCollum, Jonathan & Keri (*Clear Lake*)

Morvig, Jeff (*Winger*)

Nelson, Bruce (*Thief River Falls*)

Nennich, Terrance (*Bagley*)

Ohnstad, Denise (*Fosston*)

Olson, Martha Jane (*Red Lake Falls*)

Lone Tree Pet Product (*Bagley*)

Ritter, Ernest (*Brooks*)

Robinson, John (*Mahnomen*)

Sevigny, Vicky (*Lancaster*)

Shereck, Lee & Rebecca (*Bagley*)

Smeby, Joe & Wendy (*Erskine*)

Westman, Brian (*Worthington*)

Zearing, Leslie & Sandra (*Crosby*)

The Garden Place (*Bagley*)

Prairie Lakes Internet (*Mankato*)

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



VOICE of the Valley

Published by Garden Valley Telephone Company
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Retail Stores & Office Hours

Bagley | Erskine | TRF

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 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 Hoas, 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



**GIG-CERTIFIED
PROVIDER**



GARDEN VALLEY

TECHNOLOGIES

206 Vance Avenue South | PO Box 259

Erskine, MN 56535



Happy Holidays!

The team at GVT wishes you peace, joy and prosperity throughout the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support and joining us for Customer Appreciation Day.

May your holidays be filled with joy.

