

IN THE LOOP

MAY/JUNE 2024

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800 Central Ave N, Brandon, MN
410 30th Ave E 106, Alexandria MN
Office: (320) 834-5151
Toll Free: (888) 236-3574
Help Desk: (320) 834-5155
Fax: (320) 524-2785
Email: hello@gardonville.net
Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 am-4:30 pm

www.gctel.com



Gardonville is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

gardonville
cooperative telephone association

Grant Funding Awarded For Our Douglas County Project

In March, Gardonville was awarded a Border-to-Border Grant by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The "Douglas County" grant competed against roughly 60 other projects and was 1 of 24 that will receive funding.

While we're not all pictured here, this is truly a win for our entire team. We are grateful to get to do what we do and excited to bring fiber-optics to 51 unserved homes and businesses in our community!



Business Profile

Ace Hardware in Alexandria and Long Prairie

"Ace is the place with the helpful hardware folks." You know the familiar jingle. And if you've ever shopped at Ace Hardware in downtown Alexandria, you know those words could not be more true.

As your local hardware store, Alexandria Ace Hardware is one of 5000+ Ace stores locally owned and operated across the globe. In 2023, the Gustufson family, who were long time owners of the Ace stores in Alexandria and Long Prairie, decided it was time to retire from the business. Keeping the business local was very important to the Gustufsons. They knew Shaynen Schmidt would be the right fit for the job. Shaynen is an Alexandria native and had dreams of owning a store on Broadway Street someday. He has always had an entrepreneurial spirit which also led him to part ownership of two other local businesses, Protainer and Alex Rubbish and Recycling.



Most things at Ace have remained the same. You'll still be greeted by the same friendly staff who will help you find just what you're looking for. They'll get you in and out with the perfect size bolt for the project you're working on. Within the impeccably organized isles you'll find housewares, plumbing and electrical, battery operated outdoor power tools, paint, grills and accessories, lawn and garden supplies, things for your pets and so much more.

"It's all about people. It's all about convenience and customer service."
Shaynen Schmidt,
Owner



Some of the changes they've made include expanding their bolt and nut section with larger sizes in metric and standard options. They added steel and aluminum flats, round and angle. They also added Big Green Egg to their grill product line along with new spices, sauces and grilling accessories.

Shop at "The Helpful Place" Monday through Friday 7:30 AM to 7:00 PM, Saturday 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Spring Burning Season

Please Call Us Before You Burn a Ditch

Gardonville has equipment installed in many of the road ditches in portions of Douglas and Grant County. If you are considering burning a road ditch that has telephone equipment and/or markers installed (similar to the picture on the right) please call us at (320) 834-5151 so we can keep our equipment out of harm's way.

If you're unsure the equipment belongs to Gardonville, please call us anyway! By keeping our equipment in tip-top shape, we can ensure your services remain reliable and go uninterrupted.

Our metal cabinets contain wires with plastic sheathing that can melt and cause considerable damage under extreme heat.



Gopher Bounty Program

Trap Gophers and Earn Cash

Trap gophers... earn cash! Did you know gophers cause extensive and expensive damage to buried fiber-optic cable? A gopher chew cut costs upwards of \$20,000 and 15-24 hours to repair. You can help reduce the amount of service interrupting gopher cuts by trapping them, and earn an average of \$7 per gopher through our Gopher Bounty Match Program!

To qualify, gophers must be caught in our cooperative service area. Eligible townships include: Brandon, Erdahl, Elk

Lake, Evansville, Ida, LaGrand, Leaf Valley, Lund, Millerville, Moe, Pelican Lake and Urness.



Learn more at www.gctel.com/gopher-bounty-match-program

Capital Credit Checks

In April, Gardonville mailed out capital credit checks to our cooperative members. This money was allocated to our members based on two separate retirements: 1) 15% of the remaining of 2000 patronage dollars earned 2) 100% of unretired patronage dollars (\$150 and less), to inactive membership accounts

Capital credits are just one of the benefits of choosing to purchase services

from your local cooperative. Cooperatives, like Gardonville, benefit the economy of the communities they serve by returning revenues generated by the cooperative back to their members, rather than shareholders. If you live in the communities of Garfield, Brandon, Evansville or Millerville and subscribe to certain services, you automatically become a member of our cooperative!

Thank you for choosing Gardonville!

Brandon Car Show

Save the Date for August 1st

Live music, food trucks, beer garden, root beer floats, vintage tractors and 70+ cars on display! The Brandon Car Show is presented by Gardonville and the Brandon Community Club and hosted at Gardonville's headquarters 800 Central Ave, N, Brandon, MN. Admission is free and open to the public!

Register your car or tractor at:
www.gctel.com/brandoncarshow



Paying it Forward Award

Gardonville was honored to receive the Paying it Forward Award at the Lakes Area Professional Women's 30th Anniversary Gala!

"This award recognizes a business that has been highly engaged in philanthropic activities – giving of their time, talent, and treasure."

This award honors a business that has made a significant positive impact in their community (with preference given to businesses with initiatives that support women in their workplaces and their families)."



Thank you, Lakes Area Professional Women, for this honor. It fuels our passion to do even more.

Office Closed

Our offices will be closed on Monday, May 27th in recognition of Memorial Day.



Before You Dig

If you're planning to dig, even if it's a shallow hole to plant a tree, contact Gopher State One Call first. Simply call 8-1-1 or submit an online ticket at least 48 hours before starting your project to get your underground facility lines marked. This will keep our fiber lines intact and save you from costly damage.



gopherstateonecall.org/homeowners

FCC Battery Backup Disclosure

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association and Wisper Next Wireless Internet deliver telephone service via three different methods. These methods are copper, fiber and wireless modem/antenna.

Backup Power for Telephone Service during Power Outages: For many years, your telephone service would allow you to connect to 911 emergency services during a power outage. However, many of today's telephone services require backup battery power to function during an outage. If your service is delivered to your location via fiber or modem/antenna connection, a backup battery is required. If your telephone service is delivered via copper, and you use a corded phone during a power outage, you do not need a backup battery.

What a backup battery can and can't do for you: If you are on a fiber connection, you have an optical network terminal (ONT) at your location. If you have a Voice-over-IP connection, you have a wireless modem/antenna at your location. Both types of these connections require a battery backup to ensure telephone service continues to work during a power outage. Without a battery backup or alternate backup source such as a generator, you will not be able to make any calls, including 911 emergency calls. The only way to maintain the ability to use your telephone is by using some form of backup power.

The battery backup does not provide power to any services other than voice. Home security systems, medical monitoring devices and other equipment will not run on a telephone battery backup.

Purchase and Replacement Options: To ensure you can contact 911 emergency services during a power outage, you must have a backup battery. For fiber ONT's, a Cyber Power Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), wall mount, 8-hour battery backup is provided and maintained by Gardonville. A 24-hour battery backup is available, upon request, for a one-time service fee of \$99.95.

For Voice-over-IP locations, customers can purchase an UPS APC 600va battery

backup from Gardonville. The APC 600va battery backup sells for \$79.95, plus tax, and comes with a one-year warranty. Customers also have the option to purchase a larger UPS, a 1500va battery backup from a retailer of their choice, in order to increase their battery backup time to 24 hours. If you do not feel comfortable installing your own UPS battery backup, please contact us to make an appointment. We would be more than happy to assist you; however, there may be a charge for this service.

Expected Backup Power Duration: The Cyber Power UPS (wall mount) battery backup is expected to last at least 8 hours on standby power. This backup battery should give you 6 hours of talk time. The 24-hour Cyber Power USP (wall mount) battery backup is expected to last at least 24 hours on standby power. This backup battery should give you 16 hours of talk time. The APC 600va battery backup is expected to last at least 6 hours on standby power. This backup battery should give you 4 hours of talk time. A 1500va battery backup is expected to last at least 24 hours on standby power. This backup battery should give you 12 hours of talk time.

Instructions for Proper Care and Use of Your Battery: Please follow the more detailed instructions included with your battery for proper use, storage and care of your battery to ensure it will function as needed during a power outage. If you do not store your battery correctly, it may shorten its useful life.

Environmental factors such as temperature can shorten your battery's useful life. We recommend that you store your battery above 41°F and below 104°F. These batteries are rechargeable but will not last forever and should be replaced when your device starts to make a loud beeping sound. See the instructions above for purchase and replacement options. You should also periodically, as described in the instructions included with the APC 600va and 1500va battery backup, remove and test your battery to verify both the operation of the battery backup and its condition.

Please contact Gardonville for any questions you may have regarding the Backup Power Disclosure Rules.

Brain Buster

My first is in horse, but not in pony. My second is in coyote, but not in jackal. My third is in shrew, and also in vole. My fourth is in panda, but not in bear. My last is in baboon, but not in monkey. What am I?

Answer

Name - Please Print

March/April Brain Buster

How many people named Brian are on Gardonville's team?

Two

Last month's winner is Mary Bombeck. Call our office to schedule a pick-up time for your goody bag, Mary!