

IN THE LOOP

MAY/JUNE 2025

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Business Profile

Supporting Veterans and Community: The Heart of the VFW

The local VFW Post 936 (Veterans of Foreign Wars) is more than just a bar or event space—it's a cornerstone of service, community, and camaraderie. To become a VFW member, one must have served in a foreign war, but everyone is welcome to enjoy the atmosphere, food, and events the organization provides.

Every year, the VFW gives back an incredible \$70,000–\$80,000 to the community through proceeds from gambling activities like Bingo, e-tabs, pull-tabs, and meat raffles. These funds support veterans and local children—whether it's sponsoring a youth sports team or helping a community member in need. It's all about lending a hand and standing behind those who serve and grow our community.



Bar Manager Kelly, who has been with the VFW for over 8 years, leads a dedicated team of 20-25 staff members. "It's a privilege to get to help people," he says. His team not only keeps the bar and restaurant running smoothly but also helps cater offsite events and operates the post's event space, which is available for weddings,



birthdays, and other private gatherings—with full catering and bar services.

The VFW is also a proud supporter of military traditions and honors. Members perform full ceremonial honors, including taps with bugles and gun salutes, at community events like Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations, as well as at funerals for fellow veterans, ensuring their service is never forgotten.



Every Friday, veterans are invited to enjoy free coffee and donuts—a simple but powerful gesture that fosters friendship, understanding, and healing. For many veterans, especially those who've experienced the hardships of war, having a space to connect with others who truly understand makes a world of difference.

And let's not forget the fun—nightly menu specials, weekly events like open mic night, bingo, karaoke, and more keep the VFW buzzing with activity. Whether you're a veteran, a family member, or just someone in the community looking for a good meal and good company, you're always welcome.

Follow the Alexandria VFW Post 936 on Facebook to stay up-to-date on their specials and events. They're open from 1 PM to 1 AM, Monday through Saturday.

Whether honoring heroes, building community, or just serving up a cold drink and a warm meal, the VFW is a place where purpose and connection come together.

Save the Date

Brandon Car Show - July 31st

Live music by The Healers, food trucks, beer garden, root beer floats, vintage tractors and 70+ cars on display! Admission is free and open to the public!



Register your car or tractor to reserve your space! Scan the QR code or go to: www.gctel.com/brandoncarshow



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.

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. Our metal cabinets contain wires with plastic sheathing that can melt and cause considerable damage under extreme heat. If you are considering burning a road ditch that has telephone equipment and/or markers installed (similar to the picture on the left) please call us at (320) 834-5151 so we can keep our equipment out of harms way and ensure your services go uninterrupted.

Trap Gophers. Earn Cash.

Gophers cause extensive and expensive damage to our 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 up to \$10 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)** 17% of the remaining of 2000 patronage dollars earned **2)** 100% of unretired patronage dollars (\$155 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!

Twins Baseball on Stream TV



In case you missed the BIG Announcement, the Minnesota Twins are going to have a channel of their very own on our Stream TV lineup! Watch full Twins game coverage on channel 37 in our Expanded package.

Office Closed

Our offices will be closed on Monday, May 26th in recognition of Memorial Day.

May we never forget the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Get a \$100 Account Credit

Refer your friends, family and neighbors to one of our services (Telephone, Internet or Stream TV) and each of you will get a \$100 credit on your account!

To participate, simply have your friend mention your name when signing up. Call/text our customer care team for more details at (320) 524-2211.



Call 811 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

Brain Buster

If a farmer has 3 horses, 2 ducks, 1 pig, how many feet are on his farm?

Answer

Name - Please Print

March/April Brain Buster

What was the first toy to be advertised on television?

Mr. Potato Head

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

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 receive or 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.