

DRIVING SUSTAINED SUCCESS

BY TOM WALCH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The success of Grand Valley Power depends on the hard-working men and women who serve on the front lines for our consumers, always ready to make sure that the lights — and everything else that relies on electric energy — are there when we need them. Our lineworkers lead the way, performing a difficult, dangerous and often thankless job. But it shouldn't be thankless, especially this month, as we celebrate National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18. This month, we should make it a point to stop and thank them for the difficult work they do.

What makes a lineman's job so difficult? It is physically demanding and at the same time requires a high degree of technical skill. Lineworkers must climb utility poles, operate complex heavy machinery, and master the intricate details necessary to build, maintain and troubleshoot our distribution grid. They work near dangerous high-voltage electric lines and equipment at all hours of the day and night and in all kinds of inclement weather. They may be called away from their families on nights, weekends or holidays, if that is what it takes to get the lights back on.

The safety aspect of their work is particularly challenging. Lineworkers must understand voluminous safety rules and make sure they use the right equipment at all times. There is often zero tolerance for any mistake or misstep. Most of us rely on coordination and teamwork with our coworkers to get the job done. Electric lineworkers must be able to trust their coworkers completely, or they may not go home safely at the end of the day.

How are our Grand Valley Power linemen doing? On the all-important

safety front, our team members marked an important milestone in January when they completed four consecutive years without a lost-time accident. This is easily the longest stretch our cooperative has reached in my time here, and it is one of the longest current streaks among our cooperative peers in Colorado. While this is an accomplishment that looks back, we are able to achieve it by focusing on doing things right in the present.

Even with the primary focus on safety, our crews do not lose sight of other important aspects of their jobs. Grand Valley Power's ratings for reliability are well above the national average, and in recent years we have been at or near the top with the best reliability marks for any electric cooperative in the state. We also deliver top marks for member satisfaction. We track this by mailing out postcard surveys any time our team members have direct contact with one of our consumers. Our target is *Five Star Customer Service*, as consumers are asked to rate the service they receive on a scale of one to five, with five being the highest. In 2022, Grand Valley Power's overall rating was 4.88 on this 5-point scale. Of the 401 surveys returned, 333 respondents gave our team members the highest mark possible. In fact, one respondent went so far as to extend the scale to 6 for one of our servicemen.

While we're thanking our linemen, let's not forget our other team members — the customer service and support representatives, service planners and engineers, finance and accounting staff, warehousemen, IT staff, and communicators. All of them contribute to our safety achievement. All of them produce great



TOM WALCH

service for our consumers. All of them drive Grand Valley Power's success.

The best news of all? The successes described here are not of the flash-in-the-pan variety. These results have been sustained over time. This provides a reliable indication that Grand Valley Power members can expect these results to continue. So please join me in expressing appreciation for all our team members for driving our cooperative's success.

COMMENTS TO THE CEO

You are a member of a cooperative and your opinion does count. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please let me know by writing to *Ask the CEO*, P.O. Box 190, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502, or send an email to me at twalch@gvp.org. Check out our website at gvp.org.

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Grand Valley Power board meetings are open to the members, consumers and public. Regularly scheduled board meetings are held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the headquarters building located at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

The monthly agenda is posted in the lobby of the headquarters building 10 days before each meeting and posted on the GVP website. If anyone desires to address the Board of Directors, please let us know in advance, and you will be placed on the agenda.

Solar: Get Facts Not Fiction

BY RITA-LYN SANDERS DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

My family moved here last summer for two reasons: recreation and sun. When we arrived from the Pacific Northwest, we were familiar with the Centennial State, having lived in Fort Collins for a few years. During that time, which coincided with my husband's tenure as western Colorado's migratory bird researcher for the agency then known as the Colorado Division of Wildlife, we took note of Grand Junction's access to all things outdoors, the small-town feel, and especially its proximity to our favorite winter pastime: skiing.

After living in the Pacific Northwest for 15 years, we were ready to shake off the mold and donate our umbrellas. It wasn't quite that simple; but we did it, nonetheless.

Upon arriving in Colorado, I rekindled my old friendship with the sun and searched the internet to learn we get 245 days of it in Grand Junction compared to the 143 in Washington. The future looked so bright that we donned our shades.

Over the past few months, I've made acquaintance with the many benefits of our (usually) dry and sunny climate. (I will take a sentence to point out that my coworkers are certain I brought this year's precipitation with me ... you're welcome, fellow skiers.)

One benefit of the sun that I've absorbed since joining the staff at Grand Valley Power is solar electricity generation. And with that, I want to help inform our members who are considering investing in solar.

When a door-to-door solar salesperson from Utah came to my front door a few weeks ago, you can be sure that I listened carefully. Unfortunately, this salesperson did not provide accurate information, leaving me concerned about the information provided by non-reputable companies that blow through our region like the wind.

If you are considering solar, please reach out to us with your questions. We want you to understand GVP's Grid Connectivity charge and how solar will impact your electricity bill. We also suggest getting estimates from the local, reputable companies that have done business in the Grand Valley for decades.

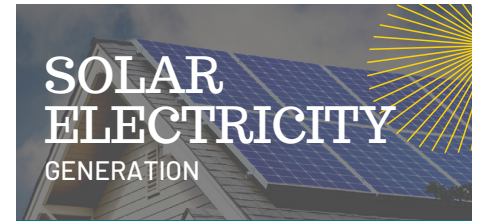
Solar can be a great investment, but it is a large investment. There are many factors to consider before you decide if it's right for you. We offer resources to help you determine if a solar system will meet your needs, goals and financial objectives. Visit gvp.org/solar for more information.

EXPERIENCE ELECTRIC ROAD SHOW

GRAND JUNCTION LINCOLN PARK BARN
SUN, APR 30, 1-5 PM

PRESENTED BY: **CLEER** CITY OF **Grand Junction** COLORADO

DETAILS:



Is Solar Right for You?

What is your main goal?
Lower energy costs?
Reduced environmental impact?

Have you considered energy-efficient improvements?

What is the age of your roof? What direction does it face? Is it shaded?



Five Steps to Going Solar

Determine if solar meets your goals.

Consider home energy-efficient improvements.

Contact GVP and review the interconnection agreement.

Get quotes from several reputable installers.

Research incentives and tax credits.



Questions for Solar Installers

Do you have a local office?

How long have you been in business?

Can you provide references from local customers?

More information: gvp.org/solar

Renewable Lifestyle Suits Grand Junction Homesteaders

BY DANA POGAR GVP COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

 Tim and Betsy Chinn's 10-kilowatt solar system.



This is the story of long-time Grand Valley Power members Tim and Betsy Chinn, a hometown couple who inherited a renewable lifestyle. Tim and Betsy own a 10-kilowatt solar panel system that was installed on their property in 2010.

THE MOVE

Betsy's family history began in the early 1900s with her grandfather, Mr. Morse, a man who was guided by his passion for innovation and his overwhelming love for family.

Mr. Morse and his wife lived near the hustle and bustle of downtown Chicago, a city that never sleeps, where they had two little girls. "After his daughters were born, my grandfather felt it would be much better to live in the beautiful Grand Valley," Betsy shared. It was only a matter of time before her grandfather moved his family, including his three brothers, across the country to Grand Junction to start a family fruit orchard.

MOVING FARTHER WEST

Betsy was born at the old St. Mary's Hospital on Colorado Avenue. "Not the big, giant building we have today," she said, "and a time when Grand Junction was nothing but farmland and Main Street was a thing of the future." When Betsy was 7, her family moved to California for a career opportunity her father was seeking in the printing industry. Before she knew it, her bags were packed and Betsy was headed to the West Coast, leaving her extended family behind.

BUILDING AN EXTRAORDINARY HOMESTEAD

Soon after her family's departure to California, Betsy's relatives purchased 360 acres of farmland in the Grand Valley. "However, by the time I was born, the farm had downsized to an 80-acre parcel with an outhouse, a well, and a log cabin that was built by Mr. Morse," Betsy said.

When the land became too challenging to manage, Mr. Morse passed down the land to his son, Harold Morse, a retired commercial airline pilot who came to settle on the farm.

Harold was also an innovative gentleman with a mindset that was "ahead of his time." After inheriting the land in the 1980s, Harold was determined to build a passive solar and self-sustaining home — an unheard-of technology and lifestyle. In fact, he searched nationwide for an architect who could tackle this extraordinary project and build it. "I remember the day Harold called us with this big idea," Tim said. "Both Betsy and I thought he was crazy. But before you knew it, we had found him a contractor in California who could get the job done in Colorado."

Tim described the house as sitting on a slope with half the foundation buried in dirt and with windows facing south to capture the sun's heat. Harold also installed solar panels on the roof to help heat the hot water system. The inside was heated by a wood-burning stove, and little electricity was needed to perform everyday tasks. "Harold and his wife, Peggy, loved that house," Tim said.

As Harold and Peggy built their dream home in Grand Junction, he invited Tim and Betsy to purchase 35 of the remaining 80 acres to make a home of their own. "It was the time of the big oil bust; downtown was boarded up and there were no jobs, so we declined," Tim said.

But in 2013, when Harold called again, he convinced the Chinn family to move to Colorado and take over the farm. Harold and his wife could no longer care for the property and were moving into Mesa View. "The decision was made and we arrived in Grand Junction on October 31. Finally, we knew we were home again," Betsy said.

Q: How do you like your system?

A: Since moving to Colorado, we've only owned a home with a solar system. It has allowed us to manage our energy costs and focus on creating an energy-efficient and sustainable home.

Q: How long have you owned your system?

A: Betsy and I have owned the panels since 2013, when we inherited the property. However, the solar panels went on line in 2010. Even after 13 years, we still see significant benefits from them and have enjoyed using renewable energy.

Q: What advice would you give to someone interested in installing solar?

A: If you are interested in solar, it's essential to know that solar is an investment, and it will take many years for you to recover that investment. The system works well with little or no maintenance. Solar might be a good fit if you are passionate about renewable or sustainable energy solutions.

SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

Once the Chinn family unpacked their boxes into what was Harold's self-sustaining home, they cared for both the property and Harold and Peggy until their passing several years later. In 2019, Tim and Betsy decided to build their forever home. While Harold's original structure was outdated and razed, the 10-kW solar panel system remains. The Chinn's solar array sits on their land on the northeast side of their home and produces enough energy to support their inherited, sustainable lifestyle.

Grand Valley Power advocates for renewable energy in working toward a green future. If you are interested in installing solar and have questions on how a system could impact your energy bill, call GVP at 970-242-0040 or visit gvp.org/solar.

GVP CELEBRATES FINANCE MANAGER IN HIS RETIREMENT

BY DANA POGAR COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

You may be an avid golfer, involved in a community organization like the Clifton Lions Club, or even have stopped into Grand Valley Power to pay your electric bill. Whatever the case, you likely ran across GVP Finance Manager Pat Kanda. After serving cooperative consumers for more than 31 years, Pat has decided to indulge his passions and retire.

Pat started as a staff accountant at the cooperative on October 1, 1991. His role has been critical to developing the co-op as he manages various essential tasks, including member capital allocation, payments, taxes, and special programming. From his humble personality to years of experience and wisdom, Pat has been fundamental in bringing GVP’s mission statement to life — Empowering Lives with Hometown Service.

“Over the past 31 years, I have truly enjoyed working with the employees and members we serve. There’s nothing better than working for a cooperative — it’s been my second family,” Pat said. During his retirement, Pat hopes to travel across the country, exploring the finest golf courses and spending time with loved ones. Please join us in congratulating Pat on his retirement and 31 years of service to Grand Valley Power.



Pat Kanda, GVP finance manager.

Director Petitions Available April 24

The election for the Grand Valley Power Board of Directors is approaching. While the election is held in August, the nominating procedure begins in April. Three director positions are up for election every year. Directors whose terms expire in 2023 are Joe Burtard, Don McClaskey and Janie VanWinkle.

To be eligible to become or remain a director, a person must receive electric service from GVP at the member’s primary residence. A director cannot be engaged in a competing enterprise or in other businesses involving a conflict of interest. Grand Valley Power’s bylaws provide in-depth information on director qualifications, terms, elections, meetings and officers.

Election procedures for the board of directors are governed by Colorado Statute. The cooperative’s bylaws and election policy comply with statutory requirements. These bylaws and policies can

be found on GVP’s website at gvp.org/director-elections. Upon request, these written documents can be picked up at GVP’s headquarters or mailed to you.

Nominating petitions will be available for pickup beginning April 24 at the GVP office. **Petitions must be signed and returned no later than by 5 p.m. on June 2.**

If no more than three petitions are returned to fill the three positions that are open for this year’s election, there will be no mail ballot and the election of directors will take place at GVP’s annual meeting to be held on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at Colorado Mesa University’s Meyer Ballroom.

More details on the election process are on GVP’s website at gvp.org/bylaws.

\$2k WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP

Apply by June 1, 2023

gvp.org/scholarship-program

The WCCC Lineworker Scholarship is available to anyone who resides in Mesa County, Colorado (at the time of application).

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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GVP GRAND VALLEY POWER
Empowering Lives with Hometown Service
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative