

MATTHEW WILLIAMS | 1979-2024

Grand Valley Power is mourning the passing of a great friend and important leader of our organization. Matt Williams, GVP's Chief Operating Officer, passed away on October 15 at the age of 45. Matt had been part of the Grand Valley Power team for almost 19 years.

After graduating at the top of his class from Montezuma-Cortez High School, Matt earned an engineering degree at Colorado State University. He returned to Cortez to work for Empire Electric Association for several years. He arrived at Grand Valley Power in 2005, accepting a position as Staff Engineer.

Within a few short years Matt had earned a reputation as Grand Valley Power's resident problem solver. Under the tutelage of Engineering Manager Steve Don, Matt mastered the fundamentals of electric distribution system engineering. He had a knack for finding cost effective ways to modernize and automate GVP's system, one step at a time. He matured quickly. When the time was right for GVP to invest in enhanced metering — the biggest technological upgrade in the cooperative's history — Matt was there to manage the project.

Once a reticent and reserved technician who didn't want to be anywhere near the Grand Valley Power boardroom or CEO's office, he challenged himself, first to be a vocal contributor, and then a bold leader. He continued his ascent up GVP's version of the corporate ladder, first as Engineering Manager, and then as Chief Operating Officer.

Matt's analytical abilities played a big part in the development of GVP's innovative time-of-use rates. Again, once the decision was made and it was time to put everything into motion, he stepped up to lead the



implementation of the new rates, making sure that all details were addressed across multiple functions and departments. His success only fueled his fire.

Managing many aspects of GVP's wholesale power contract with Xcel, Matt had broadened his knowledge and experience on power supply and transmission matters. When the Grand Valley Power board decided to examine the cooperative's power supply options in detail, Matt was there to provide his analysis and input. Board members will tell you that Matt's contributions to the discussion played a critical part in decisions to terminate power purchases from Xcel and sign on with Guzman Energy.

Without pausing to catch his breath, Matt moved on to the next challenge. Even though he had no knowledge or experience in the world of grant writing, Matt recognized that GVP and its members would reap millions of dollars in benefits if we could take advantage of growing funding opportunities available at the state and federal level. He jumped in and became the driving force in multiple successful grant

applications that will benefit GVP members for decades to come.

Matt's drive to overcome challenges was one of his defining characteristics. When you see the way he approached his work life, it is no surprise that he was driven the same way outside work: climbing towering peaks, carving paths through deep canyons, and navigating wild rivers — always exploring the beauty of the world and the richness of life. And just as he did at Grand Valley Power, he brought others along, inspiring them and leading them every step of the way.

Matt's departure leaves a tremendous void for family and friends, and for his fellow team members at Grand Valley Power. Maybe there is a kind of symmetry to it: that this young man who excelled at solving problems, at surmounting challenges, leaves tough problems and big challenges for us. We're left with no choice but to follow his example and take on these problems and challenges the way he would have. We'll do our best, but it will not be the same. We will all miss Matt.

On the Cover: Matt Williams and his dog Wilson.

UNWRAP CASHBACK CREDITS



The Cooperative Difference

One of the greatest benefits of being a Grand Valley Power member is your investment in our business. Grand Valley Power is a not-for-profit cooperative. After expenses have been paid, remaining funds (margins) are allocated to Member Capital accounts. Margins are allocated in the spring based on each member's contribution to revenue in the previous year.

These margins, or member capital, reduce the amount of money Grand Valley Power must borrow from lenders to build, maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system.

When financial status allows, the Grand Valley Power Board of Directors can authorize the cooperative to refund or "retire" a portion of member capital in the form of Cashback Credit checks paid to members.

This Christmas, many Grand Valley Power members will receive a CashBack Credit check by mail, reflecting their capital contribution and ownership of the cooperative - it's the cooperative difference!

Frequently Asked Questions

1 What is the difference between the allocation notice and CashBack Credit?

An electric cooperative operates at cost by allocating excess revenue to each member based on the amount of electricity purchased in a given year. This is simply a notice of what was allocated to your Member Capital Account and varies each year. As financial conditions allow, a portion of the allocated amounts are retired and paid in the form of a check, also known as CashBack Credits.

2 What if I don't receive a CashBack Credit check?

CashBack Credit checks are issued to co-op members who have a credit greater than \$15. Due to the expense of processing printed checks, credits less than \$15 are accumulated year-to-year until the sum is equal to or greater than \$15.

3 What if I have additional questions?

Please contact us at 970-242-0040 or stop by at 845 22 Road in Grand Junction. We're here for you, our members!

THIS YEAR, GRAND VALLEY POWER RETIRED OVER \$1 MILLION IN CASHBACK CREDITS TO COOPERATIVE MEMBERS.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CASHBACK CREDITS AT GVP.ORG/CASHBACKCREDITS.





SCHOLARSHIP *Opportunities*

Now Accepting Applications!

More than \$20,000 in scholarship funds are available to students who get their electricity from Grand Valley Power.

APPLICATIONS DUE BY MARCH 1, 2025
gvp.org/scholarship-program

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 Tom Walch 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 members, consumers, and the public. Due to schedule conflicts, the December meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, December 19 at the headquarters building located at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado. The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m.

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.



FRUITA PARADE OF LIGHTS
SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

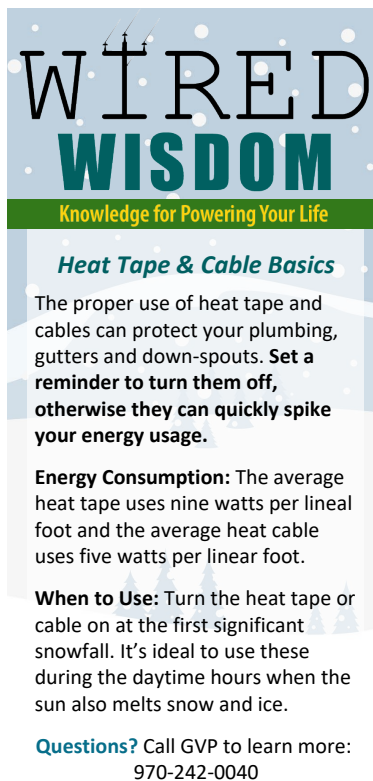
Choose your favorite Holiday song as the theme of your float!

Saturday | **Aspen Ave.**
December 14 | **5:30pm**

FRUITA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | **GRAND VALLEY POWER** | **WESTERN COLORADO PEDIATRICS**

Empowering Lives with Hometown Service | a division of Primary Care Partners

Register to enter at fruitachamber.org



WIRED WISDOM
Knowledge for Powering Your Life

Heat Tape & Cable Basics

The proper use of heat tape and cables can protect your plumbing, gutters and down-spouts. **Set a reminder to turn them off, otherwise they can quickly spike your energy usage.**

Energy Consumption: The average heat tape uses nine watts per lineal foot and the average heat cable uses five watts per linear foot.

When to Use: Turn the heat tape or cable on at the first significant snowfall. It's ideal to use these during the daytime hours when the sun also melts snow and ice.

Questions? Call GVP to learn more: 970-242-0040



Co-op Calendar

- Toys For Tots Drive - through December 6
- Fruita Parade of Lights - December 14
- Board Meeting - December 19

Holiday Closures

- Christmas Eve (December 24) - CLOSED
- Christmas Day (December 25) - CLOSED
- New Year's Day (January 1) - CLOSED

GRAND VALLEY POWER

“Oats Are Done!” A Lesson in Cooking Safely

BY RITA-LYN SANDERS DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

I'm embarrassed to admit that more than once I have left something simmering on the stove, only to remember later and — panic stricken — returned to a boiled-over catastrophe, a gelatinous mass of goo, or in the case of boiling water, nothing but a very hot saucepan.

Then there was the time we had a real fire in our kitchen. This one turned me into a safety fanatic, and it wasn't even my doing. My husband was baking brown bread — like they serve at Cheesecake Factory — and he wanted toasted oats for the top. Speaking from experience, I suggested it wouldn't take long to bake them in the oven. Alas, he didn't set a timer and went on to prepare the next ingredient. A *few* minutes later (who is to say when you're quite distracted), I smelled something burning and saw a white tendrils escape the oven.

“Uh,” I said. “I think the oats are done.” As I was nearby the wall oven, I pulled the door open and immediately wished I hadn't. The big blast of air hit the hot, blackened oats, and they spontaneously combusted into flames. Orange fire reached out of the oven and licked the cabinet above. “Aaaagh!” I yelled. I closed the oven door and watched the flames calm down.

My husband rushed toward the oven with a potholder and made a move for the door. “Wait,” I said, “Keep it clos ...” But it was too late. He pulled open the door and the flames leapt into life. As they renewed their dance, my husband grabbed the cookie sheet and carried the fiery cargo to the sink, where he tossed it in and turned on the water.

“Oats are done!” he proclaimed as steam rose to the ceiling. Lucky for us, the oats were the only thing damaged that day.

How, though, do fiery kitchen mishaps happen? Unfortunately, they can and do

when the distractions of life take our focus away from seemingly ordinary activities like cooking. Mishaps can happen even when we're paying attention!

So when you're cooking and baking yummy holiday treats this month, consider these safety tips for celebrating a festive season.

- Do not leave cooking unattended! Stay in the kitchen and keep an eye on everything on the stovetop. If you have something in the oven, check on it frequently; set a timer as a reminder.
- Keep flammable items (potholders, dish towels, food packaging) away from the stovetop. Avoid wearing loose clothing that could catch fire.
- Keep the floor clear of any tripping hazards. Put pets in a room where they won't risk getting underfoot.
- Stay alert while cooking on the stove.
- Exercise caution when handling hot liquids and foods. Pans and serving dishes can cause serious burns, as can steam or splashes.



RITA-LYN SANDERS

What should you do if you do have a fire in your oven?

- Turn off the oven.
- Keep the door closed to contain the fire. This will deprive the fire of oxygen and help it burn out.
- Use a fire extinguisher if necessary. Make sure it's rated for the kitchen. You may even want to get one that is rated for grease or oil fires.
- Call 911: If the fire doesn't go out, leave your home and call emergency services.
- After the fire is out, open windows and doors to ventilate your home.
- Carefully open the oven door only when you're sure the fire is out and won't reignite.

