

February 2022

THE CVT CONNECTION



2022
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS
ARE OPEN NOW



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Ayla Cummings was one of Copper Valley Telecom's 2021 scholarship recipients, and we've checked in with her to see how she's doing now.

Growing up in Tatitlek instilled a deep love for the natural environment in Ayla, which made studying Wildlife Biology & Conservation at the University of Alaska Fairbanks a perfect fit. She is currently conducting her studies through online courses.

When asked how the scholarship

from Copper Valley Telecom has impacted her, she stated, "The CVT scholarship has helped me to be able to take the classes I need and further my educational goals past what my own limited resources would have made possible."

Ayla plans to continue pursuing her degree and seek employment in a related field once she's concluded her studies. We wish her well in her educational endeavors and her future career. We know she will do great things!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN

Copper Valley Telecom is happy to announce that our 2022 scholarship applications are now available.

This year, CVT will grant \$23,500 worth of scholarships to graduating seniors. In addition to the scholarship provided by Copper Valley Telecom, we also promote scholarships from The Alaska Telephone Association (ATA) and The Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) and sponsor up to two applicants for the FRS Youth Tour.

The student must reside within CVT's service area to apply for the CVT scholarship. Their parents or guardians must be current members of Copper Valley Telecom or be wireless customers in Cordova or another area where landline service is not offered.

The deadline to apply for CVT scholarships is March 30, 2022. After that date, the scholarship committee will select the finalists based on the

merits of their application and a possible interview.

Applications for ATA scholarships should be submitted by mid-April. Please visit alaskatel.org/scholarships for further details. FRS scholarship applications are available now and have a deadline of February 25, 2022. Please visit frs.org/scholarships for pertinent information before beginning the FRS scholarship application.

The FRS Youth Tour brings students from rural communities across the nation to Washington, DC, for five days to learn about legislative and government processes and the importance of quality broadband connections. Copper Valley Telecom is proud to sponsor students to attend and see our nation's capital in action. Applications are available on our website.

Please visit cvtc.org/scholarships for more information on these programs.

OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW

The time has come to upgrade your gateway (a gateway is a device that combines the functions of a modem and a router). Smart RG gateways have reached their end-of-support as of December 31st, 2021. Meaning should you have internet problems, our technicians now need to replace the equipment before they can troubleshoot the service. On December 31st, 2022, the SmartRG Gateways will reach their end-of-life and will no longer be compatible with the CVT network.

The incredible new AURORA Tower gateway we have for you is equipped with Wi-Fi 6 technology and provides an average of 3x

more coverage. It uses multi-user, multi-input and multi-output technologies to allow more data streams to flow simultaneously and up to 4x faster. It also automatically updates its software to ensure that you always have the most up-to-date security for your network. And when the time comes to upgrade your gateway, Copper Valley Telecom has you covered and will replace the unit at no additional cost to you through our equipment leasing service.

Please reach our customer service department at 800.235.5414 today to upgrade to the new Aurora Tower and start experiencing internet at northern light speed!

THE DIRT ON CONSTRUCTION



Copper Valley Telecom is gearing up for another monumental year of Fiber-to-the-Home construction to achieve our Alaska Plan goals. The Alaska Plan is an FCC program that provides funding to drastically improve and expand broadband and wireless services throughout our state. CVT is proud to be not only meeting but exceeding the goals outlined in this ten-year program.

This season, Copper Valley Telecom will conduct Fiber-to-the-Home construction in the areas from Old Edgerton to lower Tonsina, including Kenny Lake area, and along Grizzly to Tiekel. This will result in 485 new fiber install locations.

You can expect to see Copper Valley Telecom's outstanding teams of contractors and employees alongside the road system as early as March as we bring fiber internet to even more communities in our area. The early start to the season will allow us to use the frozen ground to our advantage to extend the construction season, reach more customers, and reduce our environmental impact by minimizing disruptions to the local ecosystem.

The construction completed in 2021 will allow for in-home installations this summer, and our staff will contact current customers when

installation becomes available in their area. Likewise, this year's construction will allow for in-home installations in 2023.

During this busy construction season, CVT will also be expanding LTE coverage throughout Thompson Pass and in areas between Sourdough Creek and Paxson. Additional projects will fill in gaps in connectivity along Richardson Highway south of Willow Mountain. We are excited about this new construction season as we continue to build connections that matter.

Give us a call at 800.235.5414 or visit cvtc.org/construction to learn more about these exciting projects.

In preparation for the 2022 construction season, Copper Valley Telecom is planning a series of informational meetings in affected communities. These forums will allow stakeholders to ask meaningful questions and receive answers on how the construction plans will affect communities.

Final preparations for these events are still underway. Please visit cvtc.org/construction for more details as they become available.



Ring in the New Year!
22% OFF
ALL PHONES!*

*Some restrictions apply. See store for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ICEWORM FESTIVAL: January 29th through February 5th. Watch for special promotions in Cordova.
FROSTY FEVER: February 18th through 27th. Keep an eye out for exclusive promotions in Valdez.

Visit www.cvtc.org for more information.

SUNSETING CDMA

As new cell sites go up, so must some come down. The sun continues to set on CDMA networks, and CVT plans to fully retire the CDMA network by the end of the first quarter. Unfortunately, not all wireless devices are VoLTE capable. Additionally, VoLTE capable devices need to be operating on current software to avoid a loss of service.

If you have been notified that you need to upgrade your device, please reach out to us at 800.235.5414. Visit cvtc.org/VoLTE to learn more about VoLTE and upgrading your device or software as soon as possible.

We are here to make this transition as simple as possible for you, and we are proud to bring you this more powerful network. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us. It is our pleasure to serve you as we welcome the rise of VoLTE together.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY WITH COPPER VALLEY TELECOM

For over a year, Copper Valley Telecom has proudly been a participating provider for the Emergency Broadband Benefits (EBB) Program launched by the Federal Communications Commission. This temporary program provides financial assistance to families struggling to afford internet during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the launch of the EBB program, the FCC has recognized a need for a long-term solution for affordable internet access and developed the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). ACP eligibility requirements are broader and allow subsidies for even more customers that may need assistance.

Visit www.acpbenefit.org to learn more about and apply for the ACP program, or give us a call at 800.235.5414, and our Customer Service Department will be happy to assist you.

The CVT Connection Quiz

Enter to Win a \$50 Account Credit

February 2022

Answer all three questions below correctly, tear off, then mail or drop off at the Glennallen or Valdez business office. Return by the 10th of the month to ensure your entry is included in the monthly drawing. Congratulations to the last issue's winners, **AHTNA INTERTRIBAL RESOURCE COMMISSION** (Glennallen) and **DOLORES GARD** (Valdez). **REMEMBER TO FILL IN YOUR NAME!**

1. What is the deadline to apply for CVT 2022 Scholarships? _____
2. How many new Fiber-to-the-Home installations drops are planned for 2022? _____
3. When will SmartRG gateways reach their end-of-life and no longer be compatible? _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____



**GIG-CERTIFIED
PROVIDER**

CVTC Board Members: Trish Stowe (P), Ryan Morgan (VP), Karen Linnell (Sec/Tres), Odis "Scott" Brawner Jr., Scott Malone, Mike Rego, Jennie Sodergren, and Terry Valentine