

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES: 2025 FIBER CONSTRUCTION

CVT is entering another exciting construction season as we continue expanding and enhancing our fiber network in 2025. With multiple major builds planned across our service area, we're pushing forward in our mission to deliver fast, reliable internet to even the most remote corners of Alaska.

The first project to break ground will be along the Glenn Highway, where construction is set to begin on June 1. This Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) build will connect 185 locations between milepost 121 and 144, bringing high-speed fiber directly to homes and businesses along this important corridor. As part of this effort, additional backbone fiber will be installed to further strengthen the overall network. Michels has been contracted to complete this project and will begin mobilizing in early June.

Valdez will also see improvements this season. In the downtown area, we'll be replacing sections of aging fiber infrastructure to maintain reliability and improve long-term performance. These upgrades will help ensure that our existing customers continue to receive dependable service while positioning the network for future expansion.

Looking ahead, CVT is actively planning two major future builds through the support of federal ReConnect grants. These projects are

currently undergoing extensive environmental review and permitting, and while construction is not expected to begin until next year, they represent an important step forward in our long-term expansion efforts.

The first of these projects, funded by a 100% Federal ReConnect grant totaling \$17.9 million, CVT will connect 109 locations by extending backbone fiber to the McCarthy Central Office. This project will bring modern connectivity to one of the most isolated areas in our network.

The second project, supported by an additional ReConnect grant (75% funded) totaling \$16.6 million, will connect 45 locations in Ellamar to fiber via the Tatitlek Central Office. Due to the remote location and need for subsea fiber placement, this project is in an extensive planning phase to ensure environmental and logistical challenges are thoroughly addressed before work begins.

Each of these projects represents another step forward in CVT's long-term goal to deliver world-class broadband throughout our region. We're proud to lead the way in connecting our communities and bridging the digital divide—no matter how challenging the terrain.

Stay tuned for updates throughout the season, and thank you for supporting CVT as we continue Making Connections That Matter.



Carlie VanBuskirk - Valdez - \$3000 - Radiographic Technology

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend? Idaho State University

What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study? Radiologic science lets me make a difference in healthcare while also pursuing my goal of traveling and experiencing life in new places.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown? I'll miss the mountains, the Valdez trails, hiking, skiing, camping, and seeing my school friends every day.

What is your favorite school lunch? Definitely the country fried steak with mashed potatoes.

**Eli Critchlow - Valdez - \$2500 - Instrument Technician**

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend? Idaho State University College of Technology

What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study? I am pursuing an Associates Degree in Instrumentation Engineering Technology. My father is an Instrumentation Tech and I am choosing to follow in his footsteps.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown? I will miss the hiking, kayaking, and snowboarding in Valdez.

What is your favorite school lunch? Pepperoni Pizza

**Kelsey Prax - Valdez - \$1500 - Business Administration**

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend? North Carolina State University

What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study? I have always been interested in management and business management will allow me to have many career choices.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown? Hiking on the sunny days and the amazing community.

What is your favorite school lunch? Country fried chicken

**Rhiannon Easton - Valdez - \$1500 - Marine Science - Biology**

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend? Alaska Pacific University

What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study? I've always wanted to be with animals and my favorite one is a shark.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown? Hanging out with my friends and the small town.

What is your favorite school lunch? The pizza

**Sydney Cronk - Valdez - \$1500 - Nursing**

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend?

University of Alaska Fairbanks

What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study?

My mom, dad, and sister by showing me what good comes out of helping others in showing kindness and empathy.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown?

How close we all are together, even if sometimes we are too close.

What is your favorite school lunch?

Country fried steak

**Madeline Hamby - Glennallen - \$3000 - Education**

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend? University of Alaska Fairbanks

What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study? Working with the 1st grade class, along with growing up in a small town.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown? The openness of the area and the freedom that goes along with it. Also, the opportunities that are given to us by living in a small town.

What is your favorite school lunch? Tangerine Chicken



Madison Carlton - Glennallen - \$2500 - Airframe and Powerplant

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend? I plan to attend UAF this fall for their Airframe and Powerplant program, which will teach me what I need to know to become an Aviation Mechanic.
What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study? Growing up in Alaska, I have been exposed to aviation often, and I discovered that I enjoy being in around aircraft. Living in a rural area, I have learned the importance of being able to understand and repair your own machinery. As I explored aviation careers, I realized it would be helpful to become a certified mechanic as I searched for work in the aviation industry.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown? I have been able to share a lot of memories; sports seasons, outdoor adventures, and everyday activities, with friends and family, and I will miss doing that!

What is your favorite school lunch? Being homeschooled, lunch is normally leftovers, if it happens at all. But the best days for lunch are probably during the fall, when we try to finish school early and spend half the day outside enjoying the last bit of sunshine. On those days, lunch is on-the-go and outside, often consisting of PB&J or chips and salsa. Or whatever was easiest to grab in the pantry!



Joseph Hauptman - Glennallen - \$1500 - Wildlife Biology and Conservation

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend? University of Alaska Fairbanks

What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study? Living on a farm all my life inspired me to work with exotic animals.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown? I will miss my friends at school and in the community.

What is your favorite school lunch? Lasagna



Kesler Seifert - Glennallen - \$1500 - Instrument Technician

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend? Idaho State University College of Technology

What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study? The inspiration for choosing instrumentation as my field of study comes from enjoying working with my hands, my curiosity of wanting to take things apart and figure out how they function, as the job security going into this field.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown? One thing I will miss the most about my hometown is the tight knit community. Everyone knows everyone here in Glennallen and the people are kind, caring, and helpful when you need it.

What is your favorite school lunch? Tangerine Chicken



Andrew Severs - Glennallen - \$1500 - Criminal Justice

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend? University of Alaska Fairbanks

What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study? The Alaska wilderness and wildlife.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown? Friends.

What is your favorite school lunch? Nachos



Thomas Nothstine - Cordova - \$1000 - Piano Performance and music education

What College/ Trade School do you plan to attend? Olivet Nazarene University

What inspired you to pursue your chosen field of study? The joy and happiness my music brings to my audience.

What will you miss most about high school or your hometown? I will miss most my family, friends, and support from the community.

What is your favorite school lunch? Cheese Nachos



ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Copper Valley Telecom held its 2025 Annual Meetings in early May, bringing members from both districts together for an evening of updates, prizes, and community. The events featured a Company Showcase, dinner from Poor Betty's in Valdez and Cast Iron Café in Glennallen, cupcakes from Baked in the Deez, and Alaskan-made sea salt gift sets. More than 40 door prizes were awarded in each district, many donated by CVT vendors.

Staff and board members shared key updates, including the ongoing conversion to the RINA wireless network and the completion of the

dual headend broadband upgrade, which now serves over 80% of members. Those not yet upgraded are encouraged to contact CVT to check eligibility.

In the Valdez District, Ryan Morgan and Jennie Sodergren were elected to three-year terms, and Jessica Vincent was elected to a two-year term. In the Glennallen District, Terry Valentine was elected to a three-year term. The meetings concluded with staff service awards and a look at future initiatives. Thank you to all who attended—we look forward to seeing you next year.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

Each year during CVT's Annual Meeting, members submit their votes by mailing in ballots sealed in signed return envelopes. These signatures are reviewed and verified by CVT's Credentials and Elections Committee. For a vote to be counted, the signature on the envelope must match the one we have on file. If it doesn't, the ballot inside—no matter how carefully completed—cannot be validated or counted.

We understand this can be frustrating, and we want to help you avoid common issues that lead to invalid ballots. Here are a few reasons why a signature might not match:

- The return envelope is missing a signature.
- A business representative signs using the business name instead of their own.

- The member has legally changed their name but hasn't updated their CVT membership card.
- The signature has naturally changed over time and no longer matches what we have on record.
- The person who signed the envelope is not the account holder.
(Please note: authorized users do not have voting rights and cannot submit a valid ballot.)

Every vote matters, and we want your voice to be heard! If you're unsure whether your signature is up to date, or if you've experienced any of the issues above, we encourage you to check in with us ahead of the next Annual Meeting.

For assistance or to verify the signature on your account, please contact Rebecca Smith at rsmith@cvtc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

STORE CLOSURE: All of our storefronts will be closed on June 19th for employee training. If you need assistance during that time, our help desk will still be available at 800.235.5414 or online at www.cvtc.org

The CVT Connection

Enter to Win a \$50 Account Credit

June 2025

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, **SUE HORNER** (Glennallen), **JEANNIE KIRKLAND** (Valdez), and **WILLIAM & CATHY PEGAU** (Cordova). **REMEMBER TO FILL IN YOUR NAME!**

1. Name one of the individuals elected to the Board of Directors during the Annual Meetings. _____
2. How many recipients were there of CVT's 2025 Scholarships? _____
3. Starting in June CVT will begin construction on the Glenn Highway between milepost _____ and _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____



CVTC Board Members: Karen Linnell (P), Ryan Morgan (VP), Jennie Sodergren (Sec/Tres), Shanna Conway, Scott Malone, Mike Rego, Terry Valentine, and Jessica Vincent