

October 2025

THE CVT CONNECTION
CONNECTIONS MATTER

iPhone 17
PRO





CELEBRATING CONNECTION CO-OP MONTH AT COPPER VALLEY TELECOM

October is National Co-op Month, and Copper Valley Telecom is excited to celebrate with our members and communities. As your local cooperative, we are built on connection, whether through technology, community, or shared experiences. This year's activities highlight the cooperative difference, strengthen relationships, and showcase CVT's continued investment in our region. Co-ops are guided by teamwork and service. Co-op Month is a chance to reflect on those values and thank our members, who make everything we do possible.

We are starting the month by welcoming local 3rd and 4th grade students behind the scenes in Valdez and Glennallen. With guidance from our technicians, students will take part in hands-on learning that explores fiber technology and the role CVT plays in delivering essential services to rural Alaska. These field trips inspire curiosity and help the next generation understand how CVT connects our communities, showing that innovation can grow even in remote parts of Alaska and that they too can help shape the future.

Co-op Month is also about supporting the local economy. Members in Valdez, Glennallen, and Cordova can shop at their favorite stores and submit receipts for weekly prize drawings. Winners receive gift cards from local businesses, creating a fun way to give back while encouraging shopping close to home. This initiative promotes the strength of local businesses that form the heart of our communities, reminding us that when we support one another, everyone benefits. It celebrates neighbors helping neighbors and the impact of working in community.

Members are also invited to join the celebration online with Co-op Month trivia on Facebook and Instagram. Questions will be posted every

Tuesday and Thursday, with winners announced the following day. Each week, two participants receive a \$25 bill credit. This activity makes it easy to learn more about CVT and the cooperative model while adding fun to the week. It is a meaningful way to keep the cooperative conversation going, spark connections, and engage members where they are. These lighthearted games also show that learning can be enjoyable when it brings people together.

CVT is proud to partner with Copper Valley Electric Association at their Pumpkin Patch events. Families in Glennallen on October 11 and Valdez on October 18 can enjoy fall festivities, food, and games from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CVT will be there with a ring toss game and plenty of smiles. This partnership reinforces the strength of local cooperatives while giving us a chance to connect with members in a fun, festive setting. Together, CVT and CVEA show how cooperatives can work side by side to create meaningful experiences for families and bring joy to our communities.

Continuing the month's festivities, CVT is excited to participate in business trick-or-treating on October 31 from 3 to 5 p.m. at all locations. We can't wait to see our community in costume and share treats while connecting with members in a fun, festive way. This event is another opportunity to celebrate the cooperative spirit while enjoying time with neighbors young and old.

We look forward to sharing Co-op Month with you and hope you will join us in supporting local businesses, learning something new, and enjoying time with your community. More than anything, we are grateful to celebrate the values of cooperation, connection, and community with you. Co-op Month is a reminder that when we work together, we achieve more.



KEEPING YOUR DEVICES PROTECTED TRANSITIONING TO WINDOWS 11

At Copper Valley Telecom, keeping our members connected and secure is a top priority. Technology is always evolving, and one important change ahead is Microsoft retiring Windows 10. On October 14, 2025, Windows 10 will reach End of Life, meaning it will no longer receive security updates, bug fixes, or technical support.

While your devices will still work after that date, they will become more vulnerable to online threats and may face compatibility issues as new applications and hardware are designed for newer systems. Most Windows 10 users are eligible for a free upgrade to Windows 11, which offers enhanced security, improved performance, and a modern design to enhance productivity.

To check if your computer can upgrade, use the PC Health Check app, which may already be installed, or download it from Microsoft. Make sure your Windows 10 updates are current, then go to **Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update** to see if the upgrade option is available. Backing up your files is always a smart step.

We encourage members to plan ahead for this transition so there are no surprises when support for Windows 10 ends. With Fiber Internet from CVT, downloading and installing updates will be faster and easier. For more information, visit Microsoft's Windows 11 Upgrade Guide at www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-11.

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH: PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM AI SCAMS

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a great reminder to stay alert to AI scams. AI tools can create realistic photos, videos, and messages, and while they can be fun to explore, they also carry risks when misused. Deepfakes, or altered images, videos, and audio, are becoming more common. They can show people you know or public figures in situations that never happened. According to the FBI and the American Bankers Association, deepfakes are increasingly used to spread misinformation or trick people into sharing personal information.

Even pausing to ask, "Is this real?" can prevent you from falling for a fake message, call, or video. Test your skills with Northwestern University's "Detect Fakes" quiz at detectfakes.kellogg.northwestern.edu or by scanning the QR code to the right. AI is advancing quickly, and even trained professionals can struggle to tell what is real, so fact-checking content before sharing is essential.

Scammers are using AI to make their schemes more convincing. The Federal Trade Commission warns about criminals impersonating family members or using cloned voices to request money. AI can also make phishing emails, texts, and chatbots seem legitimate,

earning trust to steal information or funds. Protecting yourself starts with careful sharing. Limit personal information on social media, create code words with loved ones for emergencies, and use strong passwords with two-factor authentication. Always double-check urgent requests for money or personal details, verify sources, and trust your instincts.

Spotting AI-generated content can be tricky, but there are clues. Photos may have extra fingers, warped backgrounds, mismatched accessories, unnatural hair or teeth, or overly perfect skin. Videos can show lips or voices slightly out of sync, unnatural blinking, stiff movements, or odd shadows. Writing may feel overly formal, repetitive, or vague. Learning these signs helps you stay one step ahead.

AI can be a helpful tool but, the key is to use it wisely, stay cautious online, fact-check what you see, and limit what you share. At Copper Valley Telecom, we make connections that matter, and staying vigilant helps protect those connections.



iPhone 17 PRO



Get iPhone 17 Pro on Us

Trade in your eligible phone on a Plus Unlimited plan or higher to get up to \$1,100 off.*

*Via 30 monthly bill credits. If you cancel agreement before receiving 30 credits, credits stop and balance on required finance agreement is due. Bill credits end if you pay off device early. Up to \$1,100 off on iPhone 17 Pro and 17 Pro Max, and up to \$830 off on iPhone 17 and iPhone Air after 30 monthly bill credits. Offers vary by device/trade-in combination.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CVEA PUMPKIN PATCH: Join us in Glennallen on October 18th and in Valdez on October 11th.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN: We look forward to seeing you all at the business trick-or-treating on October 31st from 3:00 - 5:00 PM.

Visit www.cvtc.org for more information.

The CVT Connection

Enter to Win a \$50 Account Credit

October 2025

WORDSEARCH

Locate the given words in the grid, running horizontally, vertically, or down diagonally.

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| O | L | B | F | Z | P | A | C | Y | B | E | R | S | E | C | U | R | I | T | Y |
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| 1. Cybersecurity | 3. Pumpkin | 5. iPhone | 7. Local |
| 2. Windows | 4. Halloween | 6. COOP | 8. Fakes |

Solve the wordsearch, 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, **MARGARET "PEGGY" CHARLEY** (Glennallen), **BONNIE WOODS** (Valdez), and **ALAMA GAPPE**(Cordova). **REMEMBER TO FILL IN YOUR NAME!**

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