

April 2026

THE CVT CONNECTION
CONNECTIONS MATTER

2026 ANNUAL MEETINGS

GLENNALLEN - APRIL 28TH
VALDEZ - APRIL 30TH



DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

MEETING BEGINS AT 6:15 PM



CAPTURE MORE OF WHAT MATTERS RIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE

Spring in Alaska brings longer days, softer light, and scenery that practically begs to be photographed. From snow-capped peaks to coastal views and quiet moments in town, there's no shortage of inspiration. The best part is you don't need expensive gear to capture it. With a few simple techniques, your smartphone can handle everything from wide-open landscapes to the small details that make Alaska unique.

Strong photos start with composition, or how your subject is placed in the frame. Turning on your camera grid can help you use the rule of thirds, placing your subject slightly off-center for a more balanced, natural look. In Alaska, it's easy to find leading lines like roads, shorelines, rivers, or trails that guide the viewer's eye through the image and add a sense of depth. You can also use natural framing, like tree branches, doorways, or even mountain passes, to draw attention to your subject. Don't be afraid to move around, either. Changing your angle can completely transform a photo. Shooting from a lower position can make mountains feel even more dramatic, while stepping back or finding a higher vantage point can help capture the full scale of the landscape.

Your phone's camera also has built-in tools that can make a noticeable difference. Tapping your subject sets the focus, and adjusting the exposure slider lets you control how bright or dark the image appears. This is especially helpful in Alaska, where bright snow, reflective water, and shifting light can be tricky to balance. If your phone offers a RAW setting, it's worth using when you want more flexibility to fine-tune your photos later. One simple rule to keep in mind is to avoid digital zoom. Moving closer to your subject will almost always give you a sharper, higher-quality image.

Most smartphones also include

shooting modes designed for specific situations. Burst mode is great for capturing motion, whether it's kids playing, wildlife moving, or waves hitting the shoreline. Portrait mode helps your subject stand out by softly blurring the background, making it a good choice for people or close-up shots. Macro mode is perfect for highlighting small details like wildflowers, textures, or local craftsmanship. When you want to capture the scale of Alaska's landscapes, panorama mode can help you take it all in. And for low-light scenes, like evening skies or northern lights, night mode can brighten the image, just be sure to keep your phone steady.

Editing is a simple way to enhance what you've already captured. Small adjustments to brightness, contrast, and color can bring your photos to life without overdoing it. There are plenty of easy-to-use apps available that can help you fine-tune your images while keeping them looking natural. Once you're ready to save or share, be sure to keep high-quality versions of your photos and back them up to the cloud so your memories are protected.

When it comes time to upload and share, file size can make a difference, especially with high-resolution images. Reliable fiber internet from Copper Valley Telecom helps you move those photos quickly, whether you're posting to social media, sending them to friends and family, or backing up an entire weekend of shots. A strong connection keeps the process smooth so you can focus on capturing more moments.

Photography is something you build over time. The more you practice, the more you'll develop your own style and eye for what makes a great shot. Get outside, take advantage of Alaska's incredible scenery, and start capturing the moments that matter most.



SPRING CLEANING GOES DIGITAL

CLEANING UPDATING AND ORGANIZING YOUR DEVICES

Spring is a great time to refresh your workspace, and that includes your devices. Just like a cluttered room can slow you down, dust and debris can affect how your computers, tablets, and phones perform.

Over time, dust can build up in fans, vents, and keyboards, causing devices to overheat or run slower than usual. Take a few minutes to give your devices a thorough cleaning. Use a soft, lint-free cloth to wipe down screens and surfaces and an electronics-safe cleaner if needed. Compressed air or a small vacuum can help clear dust from fans, vents, and docking stations. Always power down and unplug devices before cleaning and avoid moisture near ports and openings to keep everything safe. High-touch devices such as laptops, monitors, tablets, smartphones, keyboards, mice, headphones, smartwatches, and fitness trackers all benefit from regular attention. Even small cleaning steps can make a big difference in performance and longevity.

Once your devices are clean on the outside, it is time to focus on your digital space. Cluttered desktops, overflowing downloads folders, and messy email inboxes can slow you down as much as physical mess. Start by backing up important files before making any major changes. Running a full system backup may take some time but it provides peace of mind and protects your important data.

Organize files into clearly labeled folders, delete temporary or outdated items, and review your cloud storage to remove duplicates or old documents. Your email inbox is another area where small changes can make a big difference. Delete unnecessary messages, unsubscribe from lists that no longer interest you, and organize important emails into folders or with labels so you can find them quickly when you need them.

Next, review your apps and programs. Over time, devices accumulate

software that is no longer used, and some apps run in the background, slowing performance. Go through your devices, including phones, tablets, and computers, and uninstall anything you no longer need. Disable programs that start automatically if they are not essential. Updating the apps and software you do use is equally important. Developers regularly release updates to improve performance, fix bugs, patch security issues, and add new features. Keeping your operating system current ensures your devices run smoothly and stay protected.

Digital spring cleaning is not a one-time task. Make it a habit. Set aside a few minutes each week to reset your workspace, tidy files, and check for updates. Schedule quarterly cleanups to prevent clutter from building up again. When both your physical workspace and devices are organized and updated, it is easier to focus, work efficiently, and enjoy your technology. Taking the time during spring cleaning to care for your devices ensures they continue to perform reliably and efficiently.

Your devices work hard for you, so giving them a refresh now sets you up for smoother, faster, and more productive days ahead.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

BALLOT DEADLINES: Ballots are on their way and must be returned and received via postal service no later than 5:00 pm on **April 21st**. Ballots may not be brought to CVTC business offices.

VALDEZ CAREER EXPO: Visit with us & other local employers at the Valdez Civic Center from 12 - 6 PM, **April 16th**.

ANNUAL MEETINGS: Join us on **April 28th** in Glennallen, and **April 30th** in Valdez for the Annual Meeting!

Visit www.cvtc.org for more information.

The CVT Connection

Enter to Win a \$50 Account Credit

April 2026

WORDSEARCH

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

Z	S	A	J	Q	B	O	X	Z	Z	C	Q	S	J	T	L	P	L	P	S
F	U	Q	M	O	L	O	N	I	M	S	D	I	G	I	T	A	L	H	S
J	S	I	H	Q	L	B	P	B	G	E	A	T	B	Z	O	H	B	O	P
C	P	B	F	B	D	C	X	X	I	Y	E	M	A	E	F	L	W	T	R
S	M	A	R	T	P	H	O	N	E	Z	M	T	S	W	Q	A	I	O	I
R	S	Z	P	B	U	N	S	S	J	V	W	W	I	U	E	P	U	G	N
B	C	K	K	G	C	R	A	D	T	P	Z	X	L	N	N	G	R	R	G
I	F	G	I	G	R	W	E	X	L	R	K	K	V	I	G	G	H	A	J
R	I	I	O	L	J	M	V	A	L	L	T	S	B	A	X	S	Z	P	M
M	C	L	E	A	N	I	N	G	B	A	L	L	O	T	S	Q	R	H	G

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|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. Smartphone | 3. Spring | 5. Digital | 7. Ballots |
| 2. Photograph | 4. Cleaning | 6. Meetings | 8. Samsung |

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, **DARLENE WRIGHT** (Glennallen), **JULIE ROETMAN** (Valdez), and **JESSIE ESPEJO** (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