

November 2024

THE CVT CONNECTION

CONNECTIONS MATTER

FIBER FIELD TRIPS





FUN WITH FIBER FIELD TRIPS

As part of Co-op Month celebrations, Copper Valley Telecom (CVT) hosted field trips for elementary students, giving them a behind-the-scenes look at how the internet connects their homes. Third graders from Herman Hutchins Elementary in Valdez, third graders from Glennallen Elementary, and second and third graders from Kenny Lake Elementary visited CVT offices in Valdez and Glennallen, where their curiosity and insightful questions stood out as a highlight of the experience.

The students learned how internet signals travel from CVT's central office through fiber technology to reach homes and businesses in the community. During a live demonstration of fiber splicing, students not only watched attentively but also engaged with the technicians, asking thoughtful questions about how fiber optics work and the role they play in internet reliability.

Thank you to CVT techs Walter Ingalls, Jorden Griffith, and Bill Gardener for their valuable time

and expertise in making these demonstrations possible. Their hands-on involvement and willingness to engage with the students brought the technology to life and helped create a memorable, educational experience.

Their eagerness to understand the process showcased a genuine interest in the technology behind everyday communication tools. The students showed impressive enthusiasm as they absorbed complex concepts, proving that young minds are eager to grasp the world of technology and connectivity around them.

The field trips were part of CVT's ongoing efforts to make connections that matter within the community and inspire future generations. By fostering curiosity and education, CVT continues to highlight the cooperative spirit, while empowering local students with knowledge about the technology that connects their world.

BRINGING HIGH-SPEED TO ELLAMAR AND TATITLEK

With help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) ReConnect Program, we're bringing even faster, more reliable internet to the remote coastal communities of Tatitlek and beyond in the Chugach Census Area.

You might remember our 2020 "Fiber to the Home" project, where we made history by delivering 25/3 Mbps fiber internet to the village of Tatitlek—one of the first off-grid communities in Alaska to get fiber! Now, we're taking it a step further. Thanks to a \$16.5 million USDA ReConnect grant, we're extending subsea fiber from Valdez to Ellamar and on to Tatitlek, upgrading from the current microwave signal. This upgrade will deliver internet speeds of 1 Gbps for both downloading and uploading—giving these communities a major speed boost!

The new subsea fiber connection will make a world of difference, replacing the current microwave system and ensuring that Tatitlek and surrounding communities have fast, dependable internet. This means smoother video calls, faster downloads, and better access to remote learning, telehealth services, and business opportunities. Plus, local schools, healthcare facilities, and tribal government offices will also see huge improvements in their internet performance, making it easier to serve the community.

At CVT, we make connections that matter, no matter how far off the beaten path they are. We know how important internet access is, especially in today's digital world, and we're thrilled to be able to support the growth and success of Tatitlek and neighboring areas with this new high-speed fiber infrastructure.

UNDERSTANDING BROADBAND LABELS

We all know how important high-speed broadband internet is to our daily lives and the economy. That's why the FCC is rolling out a new consumer-friendly label for broadband services to make things clearer when you're shopping for internet. These "broadband facts nutrition labels" will now be featured in marketing materials, including on CVT's website, social media, and any promotions for our high-speed fiber internet.

Broadband labels are a straightforward, easy-to-read summary of the key details about the internet service you're considering. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently mandated that internet service providers include these labels when advertising their services. It's designed to make choosing your internet provider as simple as choosing your favorite cereal—just look over the label and see what fits your needs!

Just like food labels or ingredient lists help you make informed choices at the grocery store, these new broadband labels will do the same for your internet service. The goal is to make it easier for you to compare different options—so you can clearly see how they stack up in terms of pricing, speeds, and more. This way, you can confidently pick the best service for your home or office.

These labels cover all the important information you need to know about an internet plan. Here's a snapshot of what you'll see:

- The name of the provider
- The monthly price (including whether it's a promotional rate and what it will change to later)
- Additional fees (like equipment leasing or installation)
- Internet speeds (download and upload)
- Latency (important for things like online gaming)
- Links to privacy policies and network management details

While most of the label will be pretty easy to understand, some of the more technical terms may need a little explanation. Here are a few:

- **Download Speed:** How fast data (like music, videos, or webpages) is sent to your device from the internet.
- **Upload Speed:** How fast you can send data (like files, videos, or livestreams) from your device to the internet.
- **Latency:** The time it takes for data to travel from one point to another, which can impact things like gaming or video calls.

The labels will be in a standardized format, so it'll be easier than ever to compare different providers, or even different plans with the same provider. At CVT, we're confident that these labels will make it clear that we offer the fastest, most reliable internet at a competitive price.

If you have questions about the labels, feel free to stop by our store or reach out to our customer service team at 800.235.5414.

Quick Tip: Login to your SmartHub account, and click on My Services to view your Broadband label today!





PHONEBOOK PHOTO CONTEST

The winner will have their photograph featured on the cover of Copper Valley Telecom's 2025 phonebook and will receive a \$200 cash prize!

All entries must be received by **November 29th at 5pm.**
Visit our website for full contest rules.

www.cvtc.org/PhonebookPhoto

UPCOMING EVENTS

VETERANS DAY: In honor of all who serve, we will be closed November 11th.
THANKSGIVING: Our offices will be closed November 28th and 29th.
PHONEBOOK PHOTO CONTEST: Enter your best images by November 29th!

Visit www.cvtc.org for more information.

The CVT Connection

Enter to Win a \$50 Account Credit

November 2024

WORDSEARCH

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

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

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Students | 3. Photo | 5. Broadband | 7. Learning |
| 2. Local | 4. Contest | 6. Tatitlek | 8. Fiber |

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, **LUCAS CATLEDGE** (Glennallen), **ANDREA SEARLES** (Valdez), and **NICOLE NOTHSTINE** (Cordova). **REMEMBER TO FILL IN YOUR NAME!**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

