



# Weekly Chamber Newsletter

September 8, 2025

## GPCC News



Join us on Wednesday for our Bi-Weekly Luncheon - Sept. 10

Join us for our annual Hero's Luncheon, a tradition hosted by the Palmer Chamber to honor and remember the victims of September 11th while also recognizing the incredible service of our local heroes. This meaningful gathering brings our community together to reflect, give thanks, and show appreciation for those who protect and serve us every day.

[Click here to Register](#)

## Call for Keynote Speakers for our 2026 Luncheon Series

We're now accepting keynote speaker applications for our 2026 Bi-Weekly Luncheon Series — a premier gathering of business leaders,

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TONIGHT



### Colony Christmas Committee Meeting

- ☐ Monday, September 8
- ☐ 5:30 PM
- ☐ Palmer Chamber Office

The lights are still twinkling in Palmer, and excitement

is building. Let's come together to make this year's celebration the best and brightest Colony Christmas yet!

[Read More](#)

### Palmer Business After

professionals, and engaged community members. Each luncheon brings together an audience eager for inspiration, fresh ideas, and real conversation. We're looking for speakers from all backgrounds and industries who can spark meaningful dialogue, offer fresh perspectives, and inspire action long after the luncheon ends.

We're looking for speakers who can:

- Share insights, stories, or research relevant to current or emerging trends
- Inspire action, leadership, or innovation in their field or community
- Engage audiences with authenticity and clarity
- Keynote speakers must be members of the Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce

Application

Hours  
w/ Revel Treks & Tours  
Sept. 15, 5:30-7pm

Join us for a guided forage walk along the river, then relax with hot drinks and light snacks at the pavilion.

# JOIN REVEL

## TREKS & TOURS

And Palmer Chamber For  
Palmer Business After Hours  
September 15<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7pm  
Matanuska River Park Pavilion

Join us for a guided forage walk along the river, then relax with hot drinks and light snacks at the pavilion.

Discover Alaska like never before with Revel Treks & Tours. They go beyond the ordinary tour experience, creating transformative adventures designed to connect you with the breathtaking landscapes, vibrant cultures, and hidden stories of the Last Frontier. Every journey is led by passionate local guides who bring authenticity, knowledge, and a spirit of adventure to every step of the way. Whether you're trekking through untouched wilderness, learning about Alaska's rich traditions, or simply soaking in awe-inspiring views, Revel Treks & Tours makes each moment unforgettable. Their trips aren't just about exploring the outdoors—they're about discovering yourself, building meaningful connections, and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
GREATER  
PALMER  
• Alaska At Its Best •

SCAN TO REGISTER

More Info

# CANDIDATE FORUM

Join us and meet the candidates running for Palmer Mayor and City Council, ask questions, and learn where they stand on the issues that matter to you.

WEDNESDAY  
24TH SEPTEMBER  
Bi-Weekly Luncheon  
DOORS OPEN AT 11:30AM

PALMER TRAIN DEPOT

SCAN TO REGISTER

Click to Register

Please join us for the

# RIBBON CUTTING

September 9th, 2025  
Ribbon Cutting at 4pm

Open House: 5:00-8:00 PM  
Location: 902 E. Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Palmer, AK 99645

Ribbon Cutting

This event is a celebration of Empower Physical Therapy's continued commitment to the Mat-Su Valley and an opportunity for the community to connect with their skilled team. Guests will be able to tour the clinic, enjoy light refreshments, and learn more about the services they provide to support health and wellness in our region. We would be honored to have you join us in recognizing Empower Physical Therapy's role in our business community and help to kick off an evening of festivities.

# MEETINGS

## GPCC BOARD ROOM



SECOND THURSDAY  
EVERY MONTH - 8AM  
UNLESS OTHERWISE SCHEDULED

907-745-2880  
info@palmerchamber.org

[More Info](#)

## Board Meeting

September Board Meeting  
Wednesday, September 11  
8:00 AM  
Palmer Chamber Board Room

## Step-by-Step Guide for Small Businesses

# How to Take Advantage of the New Tax Law

## A Step-by-Step Guide for Small Businesses

The “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” brings significant tax changes and benefits for small businesses.

This guide summarizes several key provisions and outlines actionable steps to help you prepare and maximize opportunities for your business.



U.S. Chamber of Commerce

### 1 Permanently Claim the 20% Qualified Business Income (QBI) Deduction

**Who qualifies** Sole proprietors, partners, and S corporation shareholders.

#### What to do

- Calculate your qualified business income (QBI) for the year.
- Deduct 20% of your QBI on your federal tax return every year—this deduction is now permanent.
- If your QBI deduction is low, check your eligibility for the new inflation-adjusted minimum deduction (at least \$400).
- If you were previously ineligible for the deduction, determine whether changes to the phase-in of existing limitations make your business eligible.

#### Action item

Work with your accountant or tax professional to determine your eligibility and claim the maximum deduction each year.

### 2 Immediately Deduct Qualifying Research & Experimental (R&E) Expenses

**Who qualifies** Businesses with domestic R&E spending, especially those with average annual gross receipts of \$31 million or less.

#### What to do

- Track your U.S.-based R&E expenses each year.
- Deduct 100% of your qualifying R&E expenses this year on your 2025 tax return.
- If your annual gross receipts average \$31 million or less, you may apply this benefit retroactively for tax years 2022–2024.

#### Action item

Review past returns with your tax professional to seek retroactive refunds if eligible.



We’ve upgraded our Membership Management System and Website just for you—log in and take a peek!

# NEW MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND WEBSITE



We are thrilled to announce that on September 1st, we launched our brand-new membership management system and website! This exciting upgrade brings a more modern, user-friendly experience designed with our members in mind. The new system will make it easier than ever to manage your membership, register for events, update your information, and explore many new features. All members received an email with detailed instructions on how to log in to your new membership portal and take full advantage of the enhanced tools and resources. We can’t wait for you to see the improvements and experience how this new platform will better support our members and community!

Website

# WELCOME



Northern Sno



## Open Event Registrations



### Something Spooky Is Coming to Downtown Palmer! ☐

Halloween is creeping up fast, and registration for Trick or Treat Street is already underway! Businesses and organizations still have 7 weeks to sign up and secure their spot in this community-favorite celebration. This year promises to be our biggest Trick or Treat Street yet. We're bringing even more fun to Downtown Palmer with hayrides, food trucks, and the return of candy-filled storefronts. Plus, our brand-new Trick or Trunk zone in the Pavilion parking lot gives businesses without a downtown location the perfect way to join in the excitement. Decorate your vehicle, pack plenty of



### Fall is Here — and That Means Colony Christmas Is on the Horizon!

The leaves are turning, the air is crisp, and we're already busy planning the magic of this year's Colony Christmas celebration.

Event Registration is Open  
Businesses are invited to register their events for Colony Christmas. Every event adds to the festive spirit in Downtown Palmer, and all registered activities will be featured in the official schedule and included in Colony Vendor Applications Now Open  
Vendors, this is your chance to be part of one of Palmer's most beloved traditions! The holiday markets bring



candy, and help us create a spooktacular night for families. Don't miss the chance to be part of the fun — costumes, community spirit, and plenty of sweet treats await. Let's make this Halloween one to remember!

[Register Here](#)

thousands of visitors, and we can't wait to showcase local makers and businesses again this year. We're looking forward to celebrating the holiday season with you and making Colony Christmas 2025 the most magical one yet!

[Register Here](#)

The graphic features a festive winter theme with a light beige background, scattered white snowflakes, and pink stars. A large, stylized red cursive script reads "Shop Palmer 2025", with a red bow tied around the end of the word "Palmer". Above this, "8th Annual" is written in a gold sans-serif font. Below the script, the text "Celebrate the Holidays - Shop Local and Win!" is in a dark green sans-serif font. Further down, "Four Weekly Drawing of \$500 in gift cards & \$1000 Grand Prize from participating Shop Palmer businesses." is written in the same dark green font. The dates "November 20, 2025 to December 18, 2025" and "Grand Prize drawing on December 22, 2025" are in a gold sans-serif font. In the bottom left corner is the logo for the Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce, which includes the text "CHAMBER OF COMMERCE", "GREATER PALMER", and "Alaska At Its Best" around a blue mountain icon. On the right side, there is a faint, stylized illustration of a green Christmas tree.

**Registration is Now Open for Shop Palmer!**

It's almost time for another season of holiday shopping, community spirit, and big prizes! We're excited to invite businesses to enroll in this year's Shop Palmer event, running November 20 – December 18, 2025.

By registering, your business becomes part of one of Palmer's favorite holiday traditions — encouraging our community to shop local while giving your customers the chance to win gift cards to participating businesses.

- ☐ Prizes Include:
- Four Weekly Drawings: \$500 gift card prizes. Winners may select either 2 x \$250 gift cards to participating businesses or 1 x \$500 gift card.
  - Grand Prize: \$1,000 in gift cards! The winner can choose to spend their prize at one business or split it between up to four locations in \$250 increments.

Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your business and be part of a holiday tradition that brings joy and shopping excitement to our community!

[Register Here](#)

# Thank you

for the Joint Luncheon door prize donations

MTA  
NORTHRIM BANK  
GLOBAL

PALMER BAR  
MAT-SU REGIONAL  
VPA  
MATSU HEALTH  
FOUNDATION

MEA  
ACS  
1ST AMERICAN

## GPCC Month-At-A-Glance

September							2025
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 ASF	2	3	4	5 Mat-Su Dermatology Ribbon Cutting 3:30pm	6	
7	8 Colony Christmas Committee Meeting	9 Empower Ribbon Cutting 4pm	10 Hero's Luncheon Train Depot 12pm	11 GPCC Board Mtg 8:00AM	12	13	
14	15 PBAH 5:30 pm Revel Trex & Tours	16	17	18	19	20 NAMI Walks Alaska in the Valley 10:30am	
21	22	23	24 Candidate Forum Train Depot 12pm	25 MatSu Medical Behavioral Clinic Ribbon Cutting	26 Veterans Rally to Support LINKS	27 Fall Harvest Festival 2025 11am	
28 The Lakes Trail Fest	29	30 COP Council Mtg 6pm					ASF - Alaska State Fair COP = City of Palmer

October							2025
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	ASF		1	2 GPCC Board Mtg 8:00AM	3	4	
5	6	7	8 State of the Borough Train Depot 12pm	9	10	11 Death by a Mile Run	

12	13 PBAH 5:30 pm Revel Trex & Tours	14 COP Council Mtg 6pm	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Mat-Su College Train Depot 12pm	23	24 Trick or Treat Street 4pm-7pm	25
26	27	28 COP Council Mtg 6pm	29	30	31	ASF - Alaska State Fair COP = City of Palmer

# Member News

3rd Annual

2025 MAT-SU

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY



TASTE OF HOPE

A CHEF'S COMPETITION

Presented by

AURORA  
INTEGRATED ONCOLOGY & FOUNDATION

MAT-SU VALLEY  
CANCER CENTER

Come join us!





JOIN US

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 20  
2025

5:30pm - 8:30pm  
(VIP doors open @ 4:30pm)

hosted by 

IMAGING ASSOCIATES  
Expert Radiology. Exceptional Care.

ALASKA RADIOLOGY ASSOCIATES

ANCHORAGE & VALLEY RADIATION THERAPY CENTERS

GLACIER SURGICAL

Sponsored by

Credit Union 1

GCI

NODAK  
People & Communities, Inc.

NEW YORK LIFE  
Joy Fearn-Condon

& in partnership with

ANCHORAGE















MAKE A  
SCENE  
2007

95.5  
THE PASS

The People's  
Paper



Wunderbar  
Cakcypops  
&  
Sweets



*The Turkey & The Fox*

# PRIVATE TURKISH RUG SHOWING

JOIN US IN-PERSON



**Discover the beauty of handmade vintage rugs in person!**

A curated selection of vintage, handmade Turkish rugs

A short discussion about rug traditions and regions

Cozy ambiance, Turkish tea, and sweets

## 09/27

BETWEEN 12PM TO 7PM  
231 E EAGLE AVE, PALMER, AK

(NO STREET PARKING)

LIMITED SPACE – PLEASE RSVP TO  
RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

907-416-9872

[WWW.THETURKEYANDTHEFOX.COM](http://WWW.THETURKEYANDTHEFOX.COM)



## Private Turkish Rug Showing with The Turkey & The Fox

We're excited to share that **The Turkey & The Fox**, a local small business specializing in handmade vintage rugs, is hosting an **Open House this September**.

Discover a curated collection of authentic rugs—primarily from Turkey, with a select few from nearby regions—while enjoying Turkish tea and sweets in a cozy, welcoming setting.

**Spots are limited! Reserve yours:**

**(907) 416-9872**

**[info@theturkeyandthefox.com](mailto:info@theturkeyandthefox.com)**

**<https://www.theturkeyandthefox.com/>**

Experience the artistry, culture, and stories woven into these timeless pieces.

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December 5th, 3pm to 8pm

*and*

December 6th, 9am to 3pm

- Handmade arts and crafts
- Silent Auction
- Gift wrapping table  
(for donations)
- Event is free to attend
- Food available for purchase

**SIGN UP TO  
BE A VENDOR**



Deadline: November 19th

Contact Michelle with questions @ [mlmishaan@alaska.edu](mailto:mlmishaan@alaska.edu)

*at Mat-Su College*   
8295 E College Drive Palmer AK, 99645

### **Books and so much More At the Mat-Su College Library**

With the school year starting, Mat-Su College wants you to know that the library at your hometown campus is open to the public and it has much more than just books for you to check out.

Before getting to the ‘More,’ the Alvin S. Okeson Library does have great books, and it is open to the community – not just students. Anyone can come in and borrow a book on their favorite topic or written by their favorite writer.

If you are a K-12 student and the library at your school does not have what you need for your project, come to the college. If the book you need is not on their shelves, staff can order it and have it sent from another library around the state, or beyond. Campus librarian Micha Muer says, “All you need is a library card, either from a local library or from us.”

Now for the much more.

The library at the campus has thousands of academic and popular movies that can be checked out just like a book, for free!

If music is more your jam, there are also thousands of CDs and vinyl records for you to borrow.

The library also has computer workstations anyone can use. Muer says, “Those who come into the library can also use one of our computer lab stations to access all the databases subscribed to by the University of Alaska Anchorage. You can also use them to check your email or even update a resume.”

The Alvin S. Okeson Library is open from 8 am to 7 pm Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm on Fridays, and 9 am to 4 pm on Saturdays. Muer says, “We’re a great place to study, to read the paper, or work on a puzzle! Come on by, we’re glad to help!”

For more information on the library at Mat-Su College, visit [matsu.alaska.edu/library/](http://matsu.alaska.edu/library/) or call 907-786-1871.



## The Alaska SBDC is offering the following three upcoming workshops in September.

I would like to personally invite you to three exciting workshops that the Alaska SBDC is offering this September. These workshops are designed to help small business owners secure, design, and scale their space. Although we're focusing on restaurants and retail, the content will benefit any business interested in a physical location. Each session features a panel of industry experts and includes a guided tour of either the Market Project (aka, the Downtown Revitalization Project) or the Wild Birch Hotel.

### Workshops:

- Wednesday, Sept. 10th, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm From Dream to Doorstep: Finding the Right Space for Your Business - Anchorage
- Wednesday, Sept. 17th, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm From Lease to Launch: Designing and Developing Your Space - Anchorage
- Wednesday, Sept. 24th, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Scaling Up: What to Know Before You Expand - Anchorage

The workshops will be held in downtown Anchorage at the Alaska Experience Theater. These workshops are packed with value for current and aspiring business owners.

We hope to see you there!

Best regards,

MaryAnne LeMaitre

Learning & Development Manager

Alaska SBDC

W: [aksbdc.org](http://aksbdc.org) P: (907) 786-7278 E: [maryanne.lemaitre@aksbdc.org](mailto:maryanne.lemaitre@aksbdc.org)

Live Music by  
**Soul Society of Alaska**  
7pm-10pm

**LINKS**  
Resource Center

**NIGHT**  
At Post 11

**All Ages**

**FRIDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**26th**

**5pm-8pm**

**AMVETS**  
**POST 11**  
951 S Hermon Rd # 2,  
Wasilla, AK

**SILENT AUCTION**  
**LIVE DESSERT AUCTION**  
**50/50 SPLIT THE POT**

**ALL YOU CAN**  
**EAT CHICKEN**  
**& FISH FRY** **\$20** Per Plate  
Beans, Coleslaw, Cornbread, and French Fries Included

**AMVETS**  
AMVETS POST 11 Never Forget!

Amvets Post 11-Never Forget, located in Wasilla, is more than just a gathering space—it's a place full of heart, generosity, and community spirit. The veterans who serve through Post 11 have some of the biggest hearts in the Mat-Su Valley, continually going above and beyond to support local organizations that work to strengthen and connect our community. Their latest effort? Hosting the LINKS Resource Center Night at Post 11—a fundraising rally for resources set for Friday, September 26th.

Known for their unwavering dedication to service, the veterans at Post 11 continually go above and beyond to support their community. Whether it's providing back-to-school supplies for local students, helping fellow veterans with home repairs, volunteering with Special Olympics Alaska Mat-Su, supporting The Rise Program at Meadow Lakes Elementary, or now partnering with LINKS Resource Center, their generosity shines through. They don't just offer their venue; they give their time, their hands, and their hearts to lift others up. Their dedication to service didn't end when they took off the uniform—it simply found new ways to shine.

LINKS Resource Center provides resources, advocacy, & connections to improve lives. This event will celebrate that mission while raising funds to help ensure LINKS can continue to serve

event will celebrate that mission, while raising funds to help ensure LINKS can continue to serve individuals and families in the Mat-Su area.

From 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., attendees can enjoy a hearty all-you-can-eat Chicken and Fish Fry featuring baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, and French fries for just \$20. Prefer not to eat? That's okay! There will be free fun and live music.

The evening will also feature a Silent Auction, a Live Dessert Auction, and live music from Soul Society of Alaska from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. It's shaping up to be a fun-filled, family-friendly

night with something for everyone.

Whether you're a longtime supporter of LINKS, a proud veteran, a local resident, or someone looking to give back—this is a night to come together, celebrate, and rally for resources.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, September 26th and join us at Amvets Post 11, 951 South Hermon Road, Suite #1 Wasilla, for a night full of music, food, fun, and purpose. All ages are welcome—we can't wait to see you there!



**Come see VPA's hilarious  
season opener,  
ABOVEBOARD.**

Tickets are on sale now for ABOVEBOARD and all of VPA's Golden Season line-up. Call (907) 373- 0195 or go to [www.vpaalaska.org](http://www.vpaalaska.org) to purchase tickets today.

When food starts disappearing from Nick's apartment fridge, he suspects his neighbor/best friend, Milo, an aspiring magician. Nick installs a surveillance camera to catch Milo in the act, but discovers an unlikely trespasser instead. Someone has been squatting in his apartment and stealing his food! What ensues is an amusing love triangle full of laughs and magic tricks. Watch the story unfold with hilarious twists and turns!

Follow Valley Performing Arts on Facebook to Meet the Cast of ABOVEBOARD!

**Job Openings**

Did you know you can submit your job openings to be added to our newsletter?

You can share it with the community! Simply email your job listing to [info@palmerchamber.org](mailto:info@palmerchamber.org), and we'll include it in our upcoming newsletter.







CCS Early Learning

# HIRING BONUSES

## for classroom staff

### Available positions:

- Infant-Toddler Teacher
- Preschool Teacher
- Infant-Toddler Classroom Aide
- Preschool Classroom Aide

Positions available at our Palmer, Wasilla and Knik-Fairview locations

*Apply before Dec 31, 2025 to be eligible for a **\$1,500 sign-on bonus***

*Bonuses will be paid out at*

**\$300** after 30 days,

**\$300** after 90 days,

**\$400** after 180 days,

**and \$500** after 1 year of successful continued employment

### More Information:



907-373-7000

[ccsalaska.org/employment](https://ccsalaska.org/employment)

[humanresources@ccsalaska.org](mailto:humanresources@ccsalaska.org)



“Autumn teaches us that change, though inevitable, brings with it the promise of renewal.” Anonymous



## PIONEER PARTNERS



## MATANUSKA PARTNERS



## ESHA PARTNERS



## HATCHER PARTNERS





832 South Colony Way, Suite A

Palmer, AK 99645

[www.palmerchamber.org](http://www.palmerchamber.org)

[info@palmerchamber.org](mailto:info@palmerchamber.org)

(907)745-2880



Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce | 832 S. Colony Way Suite A | Palmer, AK 99645 US

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