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ATMC Works to Upgrade Speeds for Thousands of Members

ATMC has begun a two-phase network improvement project that will provide faster broadband speeds to over 30,000 members by the end of 2022. As the faster broadband speeds become available, ATMC will increase speeds on most internet packages at no additional cost. In phase one of the project, internet speeds of up to 600 Mbps will be available. At the completion of phase two, internet speeds approaching one gigabit are expected to be available delivered via fiber-DOCSIS 3.1 technology.

“We are always working to improve services for our members,” said Keith Holden, ATMC CEO. “The COVID-19 pandemic brought the importance of connectivity to the forefront, and we are making improvements to our network services that are critical for online learning, telework, local business growth, economic development and more. By the end of 2022, our plan is to have one gigabit broadband speed available to 99% of our members.”

The hybrid fiber-DOCSIS 3.1 approach will provide internet speeds up to three times faster than what is currently available. In addition, this method will cut the time needed to provide gigabyte broadband speeds from likely 10 years with fiber optics to a period as short as 18-24 months.

ATMC Receives State and Federal Grant Funds to Expand Network to Rural Areas

For 65 years, ATMC’s mission has been to serve the unserved. In the 1950s, it was telephone. In the 1980s, it was cable TV. And from 2000 to now, it has been high speed internet. While Brunswick County is fortunate to have access to fast internet access, other counties in southeastern North Carolina are not as fortunate. To help fill this need, ATMC applied for and won more than \$24 million in state and federal grant funds to expand high-speed internet to several unserved rural counties. In August, ATMC received \$3.7 million in grants from the NC Great Grant Program to bring fiber optic services to more than 2,600 homes in Columbus, Robeson and Duplin counties. In September, we were awarded a \$21.6 million grant from the US Department of Agriculture’s ReConnect Broadband Program to serve more than 7,000 homes and businesses in rural Pender County. With these grants, ATMC will deliver vital internet service that will provide life-changing educational and economic opportunities for thousands.

“Now more than ever, the need for high-speed internet is essential for online learning, telemedicine, commerce, telework and every aspect of life. These grants allow ATMC the ability to bring our services to new areas where there is a critical need for connectivity, and in turn adding new customers allows us to strengthen and sustain your cooperative,” commented Keith Holden, ATMC CEO.

For more information about ATMC’s grant expansion projects, visit atmc.com.



*Keith Holden and
Congressman David
Rouzer*



*USDA Secretary of Agriculture,
Sonny Perdue*

ATMC Celebrates Co-op Month

ATMC is celebrating National Co-op Month this October! As the area's only telecommunications cooperative, ATMC has served the people of Brunswick County for 65 years. A cooperative is a business that is run by its members and keeps the members' interests at the heart of decision making. Our cooperative was built by local people who wanted to better serve our community by providing access to communications technology. Today, ATMC is still focused on connecting our communities and we continue to remain dedicated to the same cooperative principles on which we were founded.



- **Voluntary & Open Membership** - Owned by you, our members
- **Democratic Member Control** - Members elect a Board of Directors which govern operations
- **Member Economic Participation** - Revenues not used to cover expenses are refunded to members
- **Autonomy & Independence** - ATMC answers to you, not to outside investors
- **Education, Training & Information** - We promote learning in our workplace and in our community
- **Cooperation Among Cooperatives** - ATMC works closely with other cooperatives to better serve our members
- **Concern for the Community** - We give back to our community through grants, scholarships, donations, and employee giving

Join us this month as we celebrate National Co-Op Month. For more information about the benefits of doing business with a cooperative visit us online at atmc.com.

ATMC Recognizes Douglas Hawes for Thirty Years of Leadership



Doug Hawes

In September, ATMC Board President Doug Hawes announced his retirement from the ATMC Board of Directors after 30 years of service. Appointed to the Board in 1990, Doug served as Vice President from 2012 to 2014 before stepping into the President's role. Always mindful of his responsibility to the members he represented, and a proponent for growth, Doug played a vital role in transforming ATMC from a telephone company into the dynamic full-service industry that it is today. Always positive, always encouraging, and always a gentleman, ATMC is grateful for his unwavering leadership. We wish him the best in his retirement.

ATMC Accepting Scholarship Applications

ATMC will offer \$2,000 scholarships this year to five deserving seniors in our service territories. Applicants and/or their legal guardians must be customers of ATMC or one of its subsidiaries for Internet, telephone, cable TV or ATMC Security. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of academics, school-sponsored activities, community involvement and interview skills.

For more information regarding the ATMC scholarship program, contact the guidance counselor at your local high school, download an application at www.atmc.com or call 910-755-1677. Applications should be complete to ensure eligibility and must be received at an ATMC retail location by 5:00 p.m. on December 11th, 2020.