



Connecting You

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ATMC Wins Best of Brunswick in Customer Service



ATMC has been recognized as having the best customer service in Brunswick County for the 13th time since 2008! This honor is part of the Brunswick Beacon's Best of Brunswick Reader's Choice Awards, a recognition program in which readers vote for their favorites in several categories.

"We are grateful to once again have received this honor," commented Keith Holden, ATMC CEO. "Our number one priority is how we serve our customers and this award is a testament to our employees' incredible efforts."

Thank you to all who voted ATMC Best of Brunswick in Customer Service! We look forward to continuing to serve you!

ATMC Awards Scholarships to Local Seniors

ATMC recently presented five \$2,000 scholarships to local high school seniors: Mikayla Watts, Amileon Williams, Jackson Metty, Helen Rippy-Roehner and Laney Cribb. The students were selected based on academics, involvement in school and community activities, and interview skills. Mikayla Watts, a graduating senior from Brunswick County Early College High School plans to attend Meredith College in the fall to study biology. Amileon Williams is also a graduating senior from Brunswick County Early College High School and plans to attend North Carolina A&T State University in the fall where she will study nursing. Jackson Metty, a graduating senior of North Brunswick High School, plans to attend UNC Charlotte where he will major in nursing. Helen Rippy-Roehner is also a graduating senior from North Brunswick High School and plans to study nursing at UNC Chapel Hill. Laney Cribb is a graduating senior from South Columbus High School and plans to attend East Carolina University to study biology.

"We are glad to be able to help these young folks advance their education," said Keith Holden, ATMC CEO. "Each of them has a bright future and we look forward to seeing all of the incredible things they will accomplish." To learn more, visit atmc.com/giving-back.



Mikayla Watts, Early College High School

Amileon Williams, Early College High School



Jackson Metty, North Brunswick High School

Helen Rippy-Roehner, North Brunswick High School



Laney Cribb, South Columbus High School

Ten-Digit Dialing Starts This Month

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted "988" as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline. For 988 to work successfully in our area code (910), mandatory 10-digit local dialing must first be implemented to all landline subscribers. While we understand that this can cause some inconveniences for the dialer, the addition of this national three-digit number will make it far easier for an individual to reach out and receive immediate assistance during a time of a mental health crisis. You can begin dialing 10-digits on April 24th, 2021. If you forget and dial just seven digits your call will still go through. This change will become mandatory by October of this year. The price of a call or your coverage areas will not change due to this new method of dialing. For more information, visit atmc.com/10digitdialing.

ATMC Employee and Former Board Member Receive National Recognition

An ATMC employee and a former board member recently received national recognition during the NTCA's RTIME Conference. Zachary Swartzmiller, Communications Services Technician, received the NTCA's Heroism Award and Doug Hawes, former ATMC Board President, received the NTCA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Zachary Swartzmiller was awarded the NTCA's Heroism Award after helping save another person's life. Last year, Swartzmiller was on his way to work when he and a passenger in his vehicle noticed a service van run off the road and into a nearby creek. Swartzmiller immediately stopped his vehicle and along with his passenger ran into the water to rescue the driver.

Doug Hawes, former Board President, received the NTCA's Lifetime Achievement Award. In his three decades of service at ATMC, Hawes has been instrumental in keeping ATMC relevant in a changing industry by helping to transform it from a telephone cooperative into the full-service communications provider that it is today.



Zachary Swartzmiller, Communications Services Technician



Doug Hawes, former ATMC Board President

You can read more by visiting atmc.com/atmc-news. Congratulations to Zachary Swartzmiller and Doug Hawes!

Always Call Before You Dig

April is National Safe Digging month. If you are planning a spring home improvement project, make sure to call before you dig. Simple tasks like installing a mailbox, planting shrubbery, or building a deck can result in damage to gas, electric, communications or water and sewer lines, which can lead to service disruptions. Not knowing where these utility services are in your yard could also lead to serious injuries and costly repairs if digging is done without knowing their location.

By calling 811 before you dig, you'll be connected to a local one call notification center that will share your information with local utility companies like ATMC. Locators then will visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint, flags, or both. Once a site has been accurately marked, you'll be able to safely begin digging.

ATMC Service Now Available in Fair Bluff

High-speed internet is now available in Fair Bluff. Residents and businesses located on Rough and Ready Road, Andrew Jackson Hwy SE and Hinson's Crossroads near Fair Bluff and Cerro Gordo will now have access to ATMC's high-speed internet service.

These first few phases are part of 11 total phases to become available in Fair Bluff, made possible through a NC GREAT Grant received in 2020. Work is underway on additional phases and service availability in all phases is estimated to be complete in the next 10-12 weeks. In addition to the Fair Bluff community, in December, ATMC won an additional grant through a supplementary round of the NC GREAT grant program which will allow the expansion of high-speed internet service into the Boardman and Cerro Gordo Communities, areas along Smyrna Road near Whiteville, and additional areas near East Arcadia, Riegelwood, Northwest and Sandy Creek.



Residents and businesses located in the first phases of Fair Bluff can sign up for services from ATMC by calling, 910-754-4311. For more information on ATMC service availability in Columbus County, visit fastercolumbus.com.