

ATMC Becomes FOCUS Broadband

Since 1957 ATMC has connected Brunswick County to the world. First with telephone service, then cable TV, wireless, and internet. As we mark our 65th year of service, your cooperative is becoming newer than ever. Our mission is to provide you with the very best high-speed internet. In 2022, we're beginning a multi-year \$100 million project to upgrade ALL of our Brunswick County members to fiber optic delivered broadband. And as we evolve to bring you even better broadband, we're changing our name to better reflect our future. ATMC is now FOCUS Broadband. And while our name is changing, our commitment to serving you with the very best customer service never will.

"The change in our corporate name reflects who we are today as we expand to serve more areas and as broadband becomes our core service offering," said Keith Holden, CEO. He added, "No matter how much growth we experience, our goal is to maintain the values on which we were founded."

FOCUS Broadband will continue to operate as a cooperative in our original areas of Calabash, Ocean Isle Beach, Sunset Beach, Holden Beach, Boiling Spring Lakes and Shallotte. To learn more about the transition to FOCUS Broadband, visit focusbroadband.com.

Looking Back on 2021

FOCUS Broadband is grateful for all of the progress made in 2021 as we continue to expand our fiber optic network while maintaining exceptional customer service. Here are a few of our most important accomplishments from the past year:

1

Changed our name from ATMC to FOCUS Broadband to better represent the future of our company as we make high-speed internet our number one priority.

2

Made faster internet, with speeds of up to 600 Mbps, available to more than 30,000 rural customers.

3

Gave back \$2 million in Capital Credit refunds.

4

Announced a 10-year, \$100 million-dollar upgrade project that will bring fiber optic delivered high-speed internet to every cooperative member.

5

Completed a project to bring high-speed internet to Fair Bluff using funds received from the NC GREAT Grant program.

6

Started construction on a USDA ReConnect Grant Project to bring fiber optic high-speed internet to Tabor City, Hallsboro, Buckhead, and other unserved areas north of Whiteville.

7

Began offering service in Robeson County.

8

Made fiber optic service available to over 3,000 homes in Boiling Spring Lakes.

9

Helped low income families impacted by the pandemic afford internet service by participating in the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program.

10

Recognized as providing "Best Customer Service" by the Brunswick Beacon and the News Reporter in their annual reader's choice awards.

FOCUS Broadband Service Now Available in Robeson County

FOCUS fiber optic delivered high-speed internet service is now available in parts of Orrum, Proctorville, and Fairmont. Residents and businesses in some areas now have access to internet speeds of up to 1 Gigabit.

Robeson Community College student, Hollie Johnson, and her family were among the first residents to sign up for service. Hollie was excited about how much easier it would be to complete her online assignments. "Now I am able to fully focus on school without having to worry about my internet going out", said Johnson.

Once all phases of the project are complete, over 2,900 residents and business in Robeson County will have access to high-speed internet. This was made possible by two grants totaling \$4.07 million dollars awarded by the NC Department of Information Technology GREAT Grant Program.

For more information on service availability in Robeson County, visit fasterrobeson.com.



FOCUS Broadband's first customer in Robeson County

Recognized in Columbus County People's Choice Awards

For the second consecutive year, FOCUS Broadband, formerly ATMC, has been recognized by The News Reporter's People's Choice Awards program where readers in Columbus County cast their votes for their favorites in a variety of categories. FOCUS Broadband was voted Best in Customer Service, Best in Internet Service, and Best in Cable TV.

"Our employees go the extra mile each



day to give value to our customers and we are excited to be recognized in these three categories again," said Keith Holden, FOCUS Broadband CEO.

FOCUS Broadband first started providing service in Columbus County in 2011 and has been expanding into more areas of the county since. We look forward to continuing to provide exceptional service to our customers in Columbus County!

Accepting Applications for our 2022 Grant Program

FOCUS Broadband will be accepting applications for our 2022 Community and Education Grants through February 28th. Each grant category will receive \$40,000 in funds to award to educators and nonprofits in Brunswick, Columbus, and Robeson counties. Grant funds must be used to benefit residents in our service area. Community grant funds will be awarded in the spring and education grant funds will be awarded in the fall.

To download a grant application or for more information on eligibility and exclusions, visit focusbroadband.com or contact our Public Relations Department at 910-755-1677.

FOCUS Fiber Optics Coming to Oak Island Beachfront



The remaining unserved portion of the Oak Island beachfront will soon have FOCUS Broadband service! The project is expected to begin this month and will bring residents and businesses along the beachfront internet speeds of up to 1 Gigabit.

To see where service will be available or to stay up to date on the progress of this project, visit us online at iwantfocusbroadband or give us a call at 910-754-4311.