



Connecting You

ATMC Grant Lends a Helping Hand

Students in Kathie Green's class at Supply Elementary School really enjoy their new friends, The Letter People. The special needs students, ranging in ages 5–11, have been working with The Letter People, courtesy of an ATMC Smart Connections grant. Kathie Green says it has made a world of difference.

"The children in my class have a variety of developmental delays," said Green. "One student, who normally does not make eye contact, started making eye contact when The Letter People arrived. This was a tremendous step for this particular child." Green and her assistant, Megan Grissett, said they have been amazed at how the children have responded to the program.

The Letter People are a group of puppets representing each letter of the alphabet. Each of the 26 fuzzy, friendly puppets has a name

that begins with a particular letter and a look to match. For instance, the letter D is depicted by Dancing Dave.

Ms. E wears a warm-up suit and carries a set of dumbbells. These puppets have been introduced in a "hands on" approach to the students one by one, with a focus on the "look" and "sound" of each letter. It helps them to not only learn to read, but to sound letters phonetically, understand symbols, improve sign language, increase vocabulary and improve social skills as well.

Green continued, "The impact of this program on my students was immediate, and the parents have been thrilled with the results. The children have been interacting more with each other and with students from a neighboring class.



We are so thankful to have these puppets and for the difference they have made for our students."

ATMC's grant program has awarded \$220,000 in community and education grants to a diverse group of local educators and community organizations. This year, an additional \$50,000 in grant funds will be awarded. Information regarding ATMC Community Connections and Smart Connections grants may be obtained by contacting Daphne Yarbrough-Jones at (910) 755-1755. ●

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HOLIDAY CLOSING

The business offices of ATMC will be closed on Friday, April 22, 2011 in observance of the Easter holiday. ●

CONNECTING YOU ONLINE

Go Green and sign up to receive *Connecting You* via email. To begin receiving the online version, visit www.atmcconnectingyou.com. ●



There's a battle brewing in Raleigh and on Capitol Hill between national telecommunications companies and small telcos like ATMC. At issue is the way rural companies are compensated for access to their local networks. The outcome of this debate could determine the future of hundreds of small-town telephone companies across the nation.

The public telephone network is vital to our country. It allows people from even the most remote locations to have access to affordable communications. The more people connected to the network, the better it is for everyone.

Companies like ATMC face high costs when providing service to rural areas with few customers. Yet we have an obligation to provide these customers affordable service. To help offset these high costs, rural telephone companies rely on "inter-carrier compensation" where the national companies pay the rural companies when they send a call over the rural

company's network. To me, that's only fair because without these local networks, the call wouldn't get through.

Through their powerful lobbying effort, the national companies are working to put an end to inter-carrier compensation. They claim the model is outdated and that rural companies don't need help anymore. This is ridiculous. The local network is more important today than it ever was. It supports not only telephone, but also Internet and wireless service for millions of people.

If support for the local network is taken away, then everyone served by rural telephone companies will suffer. Local telcos would be forced to increase the rates charged for services to cover costs, while the national companies would use the local networks for free to reap even bigger profits. This isn't fair to you.

ATMC's local telephone prices are among the lowest in the nation. Rest assured that we, along with hundreds of other small telephone companies across the country, will continue to fight to keep it that way. ●

ATMC Voted "Best of Brunswick" for Fourth Consecutive Year

For the fourth consecutive year, ATMC has been recognized as having the "Best Customer Service" in the Brunswick Beacon's "Best of Brunswick" Awards. The accolade is part of the newspaper's Reader's Choice program where readers cast their votes online or by ballot.

"We put so much emphasis on the importance of taking care of our customers," commented Allen Russ, ATMC CEO/General Manager. "To be voted Best Customer Service for one year, let alone four straight years, is an honor and testament to the effort all of our employees give to providing customer service excellence each day."

In addition to the customer service honor, also for the fourth consecutive year, ATMC Wireless was named "Best Wireless Provider" finishing ahead of Verizon Wireless and U.S. Cellular.

Russ added, "We've made a huge investment in order to provide the best wireless infrastructure in the

region and we offer the best wireless experience in Brunswick County, bar none."

ATMC also received a "Best of Brunswick" Award in the "Best Internet Provider" category, finishing ahead of Time Warner Cable. This was the third consecutive year of winning in the Internet Provider category. Thanks to everyone who took the time to vote. It would not have been possible without your support! ●





Wounded Warrior Ride
2010 Community Connections Grant Recipient

Community Connections Grants Now Accepting Applications

ATMC is now accepting applications for its 2011 community grant program. This program addresses the needs of Brunswick County residents in a variety of areas including: emergency and disaster relief, arts and culture, civic service, and health and human services.

ATMC will be awarding \$25,000 in Community Connections grant funds. Funds will be disbursed for single-use and must be expended within one year of receipt. Grants are open to any charitable or nonprofit organization in Brunswick County or one in another county which offers a program specifically targeted at and benefiting only Brunswick County residents.

Applications will be due at ATMC offices no later than 6:00 PM on April 15, 2011. Details regarding eligibility rules and exclusions are available at www.atmc.net. Applications are available on the website or at ATMC offices at 640 Whiteville Road in Shallotte or at The Village at Sunset Beach. For more information call (910) 755-1755. ●

Listing changes for the 2011 ATMC Telephone Directory are due soon!

- **Business Deadline May 13th**
- **Residential Deadline April 8th**

Send to: ATMC Customer Service

by mail: P.O. Box 3198, Shallotte, NC 28459

by fax: (910) 754-4060

by email: contact@atmc.coop

Community Bulletin Board

Lot at Shallotte Point, marsh view, with septic, \$65,000.
279-5489

1.49 Acres, Winnabow area. 253-4871

2000 Boston Whaler Sport, 25 Yamaha, nearly new, \$6250.
540-4268

Antique Farm Table, 85"x35¾", \$550; Victorian antique vase, \$80. 253-6677

20kw Onan LP Gas Generator, 350 hours, 120/240/480, \$4500. (910) 590-0227

Ban Saw, including table, \$345; Plainer, \$275, excellent condition. 754-2594

2006 Electric Club Car Golf Cart, battery charger, 755-5448

Grace Company Quilting Hoop, never used, \$150.
575-2409

10-piece Rattan Living and Dining Room Set, \$995.
579-3246

2008 Avalon Limited, loaded, navigation, remote start, 56,000 miles. (917) 337-4448

7-piece Queen Bedroom Set, like new, \$475 firm. 754-8987

Antique Camelback sofa, re-upholstered, ball and claw feet, \$425. 842-9064

Dell Desktop, XP, monitor, keyboard, mouse. \$100.
754-4529

220-volt Miller-Falls Arc Welder with cables, \$125.
575-3627

Executive Desk & Matching File Cabinet, antique white, \$450. 579-3104

2 Microwaves, 3-Ball Hitch with Lock, 13' camper. 575-1118

Carson Mfg. Dual Axle Heavy Duty Trailer, 9½', \$1000.
842-7303

5 Curio Cabinets. 842-5194

1967 Chevelle, 454 motor, 700R transmission, new everything, \$22,000. 842-8225

5x8' Royal Palace Carpet, wool, butterfly/floral, \$200.
579-3308

'64 Barracuda, push-button, automatic, 273-V8, \$15,000 or trade. 269-7742

This space available exclusively for ATMC members selling personal items. Bulk items not eligible. Limit 10 words per customer. One ad per customer per 6-month period. Ads longer than 10 words not considered for publication. Deadline for each issue is 5th of the month preceding month of publication. Mail to: P.O. Box 3198 / Shallotte, NC 28459 / Attn: PR Department, fax to (910) 754-3768 or email dyarbrough@atmc.coop. No ads accepted via telephone.



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Oxygen HD & truTV HD now available!

ATMC has just added two new high definition networks, bringing our HD lineup to 63 with more coming soon!



ATMC Wireless to Upgrade to 4G Technology



If you're ready for next generation wireless, then we have great news. In June, ATMC Wireless will begin upgrading its countywide wireless network to HSPA+ 4G and add enhanced fiber optic backhaul connections to transport data from existing wireless transmission sites. 4G is the acronym given to 4th generation wireless technology which provides mobile broadband speeds up to 4 times faster than our current 3G network.

"Five years ago, we set out to build Brunswick County's largest, fastest and best wireless network," said ATMC CEO/General Manager Allen Russ.

"This project to upgrade to 4G using High Speed Packet Access Plus (HSPA+) technology will give our ATMC Wireless customers a wireless experience that is second to none."

ATMC Wireless owns and operates Brunswick County's largest and fastest wireless network with 46 wireless transmission sites utilizing 3G technology. The company has invested over \$28 million dollars on wireless coverage in Brunswick County and has a dropped call rate of less than one percent, which is better than the national average of any major provider. ●