

## **For Immediate Release**

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**April 16, 2019**

### **Florence County Broadband Expansion Grant Installation Complete**

Florence County, WI..... Broadband equipment installation on the final two Florence County towers, Long Lake and Keyes Peak is now complete. Florence County, in partnership with Northwoods Connect, received a Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant award in August 2017 to provide fixed wireless, high-speed internet service to property owners in the Fence, Long Lake and Keyes Peak areas. These three towers will make available 25 Mbps download and 5 Mbps upload speed internet to 1039 businesses, residents and seasonal households. Broadband has become more and more important for students to complete homework, adults to pursue online continuing education, businesses to obtain licenses and complete paperwork online through the state and the health care industry to provide remote telemedicine options to their customers and staff.

The first tower located in Fence was up and running in August of 2018. There are now 53 customers taking advantage of the new high-speed internet service that can handle multiple HD streams or a whole family surfing unlimited sites and videos on multiple devices.

Northwoods Connect, offering high-speed fixed wireless internet service with no data caps, will begin customer installations the last week in April in the Long Lake and Keyes Peak tower area. If your residence or seasonal home is within five miles of these towers or you can see the tower from somewhere on your property, then this new service is worth exploring (service availability not guaranteed for all addresses). For more details about pricing and packages visit [www.NorthwoodsConnect.com](http://www.NorthwoodsConnect.com). Call 715-544-8025 to get on the installation list.

This \$133,462 project received \$66,712 of state grant money which was matched with \$66,750 from the following supporters: Florence County, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Florence County School District, the Towns of Fence, Fern, Goodman, Long Lake, Commonwealth and Florence, Florence County Chamber of Commerce, Florence Utilities (member of WPPI Energy), Marinette County, Marinette County Assoc. of Business & Industry, Dr. Greene (Florence Area Medical Clinic), Dr. Peter Hamel from Fence, Dickinson Area Community Foundation mini-grant, Pine River Lumber, Wild Rivers Realty, Florence Prescription Services, small donations from home-based business owners and private citizens and Northwoods Connect. This grant project was not possible without the verbal and financial support of all of these public and private entities.