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Important Dates

- July 24th – Offices open late for staff training
- August 10th- August invoice due
- August 23rd – Offices open late for staff training
- September 3rd- Labor Day (Pineland offices closed)
- September 10th-September invoice due
- September 18th – Offices open late for staff training
- September 22nd- First Day of Fall
- October 8th- Columbus Day
- October 10th- October invoice due
- October 23rd – Offices open late for staff training
- October 31- Happy Halloween

Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

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Summer 2018

InTouch Newsletter

An informational newsletter from Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Pineland Telephone's 66th Annual Meeting Recap

With nearly 200 members in attendance, Pineland Telephone Cooperative held its 66th Annual Meeting on June 14, 2018 at the Metter Pre-K through 8 Education Complex. This year's meeting included the unopposed re-election of four Pineland board members; John M. Moore, District 6 (Adrian and Kite), R.E. Hendrix, District 9 (Metter and Cobbtown), John Paul Johnson, District 3 (Twin City and Garfield), and Jean Melton-Furr, Director at Large.

“Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to report to you today, that after 13 years of hard work and determination, the Pineland Fiber-to-the-Home project is complete,” said General Manager, Dustin Durden. The project that began with the goal of eventually having 100% of customers connected via dedicated fiber in every exchange concluded with what has been the largest commitment to the infrastructure and development of Pineland's network since its beginning in 1951, with over 3,200 miles of fiber optic cable buried and nearly \$50 million invested.

“During this thirteen year project, Pineland has seen 28 employees retire, 35

new employees join the Pineland team, and 38 independent contractors work on the same (Fiber-to-the-Home) project,” continued Durden. Service was added to the towns of Claxton and Vidalia/Lyons, and later this year, service will be available to the new markets of Louisville, Sandersville, and Wrens. “We have partnered with our electric cooperative brethren,” says Durden, “to help bring broadband networks to the areas of Georgia that lack service.” With the recent legislature passing in Georgia this past session, as well as the federal government funding USDA with \$600 million in experimental funds for rural broadband buildouts, Pineland's affiliations with the Georgia Telecommunications Association and NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, “Pineland will, and should be, at the forefront of making sure that areas of Georgia are able to capitalize on these funding opportunities to bring high-speed broadband to underserved areas,” says Durden.

With the completion of the Fiber-to-the-Home project, NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association, recognized Pineland as Gig Certified. Gigabit internet



L to R: Andy Cook, Denise Lee, Scott Steele, Michael Cardell, Donnie Salter, Ken Scott, Wayne Foskey, and Jim Sherrod.

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COOKING CORNER

With Steven Snell

Grilled Parmesan Corn on the Cob



Ingredients

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 6 ears fresh Peaches and Cream Corn | crushed into paste |
| ¼ cup grated parmesan cheese | 1 pinch coarse ground salt |
| ¼ cup mayonnaise | Additional ¼ cup parmesan cheese for garnish |
| 2 cloves garlic, finely minced and | Pinch of paprika for garnish |

Directions

Remove all husks, hairs from each ear of corn. Mix ¼ cup parmesan cheese, mayo, garlic and salt together. Generously brush this mixture on the corn. Wrap each ear tightly in aluminum foil. Grill over high direct heat on the grill, turning about every 3 minutes per side. Allow to rest for a couple minutes before unwrapping. Just before serving, garnish with additional parmesan cheese and paprika.

Steven Snell joined the Pineland team in May, 2018 as a Business Development Representative. Steven holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education as well as a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Georgia Southwestern University where he was

both a baseball player and coach. He currently sits on the Board of Trustees for the GSW Foundation. Steven resides in Metter with his wife Brandi, and their two sons, Hudson and Harrison.

(continued from page 1)

speeds are now available to each Pineland member over our Fiber-to-the-Home network, and it is now available without a required landline. "A tremendous amount of employees, contractors, equipment, labor, and capital all contributed to this ambitious project which provides all of our customers with connectivity as cutting edge as that found in large urban areas such as New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, or L.A" -says President, Mark Bland.

Pineland has worked diligently since 2005 toward completion of the Fiber-to-the-Home project and strives to be on the cutting-edge of new technology, service, and support to this day. Pineland believes that our customers are our neighbors and our family. "We are not here merely to make a living, we are here in order to enable the world to live more amply with a greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement; we are here to enrich our environment and we would impoverish ourselves if we forgot that errand," Bland says.

Also at the meeting, Pineland Telephone showed its appreciation for the employees with service anniversaries. This year the following employees were honored with service awards: 5 years- Andy Cook; 10 years- James Owens; 15 years- Denise Lee, Donnie Salter; 20 years- Michael Cardell, John Lawrence, Scott Steele; 25 years- Ken Scott; 30 years-Wayne Foskey, Jim Sherrod.

Pineland Announces FRS Washington Youth Tour Representatives

Beginning in 2015, Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. joined other rural telecommunications companies across the nation by sponsoring two highly recommended students from the Pineland service area to visit Washington, DC during the early summer. Since its inception in 1995, the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) Washington Youth Tour has hosted thousands of students, providing a forum for teens to meet and interact with their peers from other rural communities, as well as, key legislative, regulatory, and government figures.

The 2018 Youth Tour participants representing Pineland, and chosen through a blind critique, attend Metter High School and David Emanuel Academy. Amy Parker, a rising senior at MHS, is the daughter of Wally and Sandra Parker of Metter. She is active in the Art Club, Book Club, FFA, and FBLA. In her spare time she helps neighbors, friends, and family by offering a local pet sitting service and very recently, Amy began designing and sewing "buster" dolls to be distributed to children facing mental health challenges. Baylor Smith, son of Eric and Julie Smith, is a rising senior at DEA. The family currently resides in Swainsboro. Baylor is active in several sports, playing baseball, football, golf, and running track. He is a Class Officer, member of the One-Act Play Cast, and BETA club. Baylor is a recipient of the DAR Good Citizenship Award and is a graduate of Candler Youth Leadership.

"We were excited when Amy and Baylor were chosen to represent Pineland Telephone at this year's FRS Washington Youth Tour and congratulate them on their accomplishments thus far," said Dustin Durden, General Manager of Pineland. "FRS does a great job of providing the youth tour participants a way to learn about their government as well as the issues that rural communities face."

The Foundation for Rural Service is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Arlington, VA, that serves rural communities across the United States. Established in 1994 by NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, FRS educates the public about the benefits of a nationwide telecommunications network and promotes rural connectivity as an essential link in this network.



Georgia Youth Delegation

Swimming Pool Safety

Brought to you by Southeast Fire & Burglar Alarm Company,
a member of the Pineland family since 2009.

With the long summer days and hot afternoons comes an array of outdoor activities for the whole family. Swimming is one of the many wonderful things about summertime. A pool can set the scene for hours of family fun and playtime with friends and neighbors. Swimming pools though, come with their own set of hazards. Every year, more than 600 people drown in swimming pools, 200 of them being children. An unsupervised child can slip into a pool without a sound or splash. The best way to prevent pool accidents is to implement several layers of security.

Children should always be supervised when swimming. This reduces the risk of accidents and increases reaction time in case of an emergency. Adults should stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions such as cell phones and other portable devices. Children should never be left alone, even in a "kiddie pool". Drowning incidents can happen in a matter of seconds, so it is important to remain attentive. It is essential to make sure your child doesn't swim near the pool drain. The drain should have a protective cover so the grate is not accessible, and even then, accidents can still happen. Never allow anyone to swim alone, including adults.

Teach your children to swim at an early age and encourage the use of flotation devices for novice swimmers. Swimming is a valuable life-skill that should be taught as soon as possible to children. Make sure at least one adult in the pool area knows CPR. You should always keep a first aid kit close by, as well as a flotation device, and a cell phone in case of an emergency. Safety devices should be used properly; air-filled pool floats or foam toys are not life saving devices and should be kept away from the pool when not in use. Establish a set of rules and guidelines for your family and for visitors, and go over these rules with your kids, babysitters, and visitors so they understand the expectations that you have for the use of your swimming pool.

Safety barriers such as fences, gates, and security gates are necessary to keep your kids, neighbors, or pets from visiting your pool without supervision or permission. Children can climb out of a window, sneak through a door, or even a doggy door

to get to the back yard and into the pool. Barriers are not childproof, but do provide layers of protection when there is a delay in adult supervision. Fences should be a minimum of 4 feet high, however, 5 feet or higher are preferable. Make sure the gates have self-closing and self-latching devices or locks. Children can easily open a gate and slip into the pool if parents are preoccupied. Remove tables, chairs, ladders, and toys from outside of the gate so that children cannot move the objects next to the fence to climb into the pool area. When leaving the pool, make sure all gates, safety

covers, and alarms are functioning properly. Pineland's Southeast Fire and Burglar Alarm Company can install sensors to alert you if someone opens the pool gate or enters the area. For increased protection, you may decide to place sensors in multiple locations in your pool area. These sensors can alert you at your home or on your mobile device of an emergency before it's too late. Effective alarms are not lifesaving devices, but can alert you to give you time to act.

A backyard swimming pool is such a nice amenity to have to cool off in, and swimming itself is fun and has great health benefits. With pool ownership though, comes great responsibility for the owner. Safeguarding your pool and taking proper safety precautions is a matter of life and death when it comes to swimming pool safety.



IN-TOUCH TRIVIA

1. With the completion of the Fiber-to-the-Home project, NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association recognized Pineland as _____ Certified.
2. Pineland has worked diligently since _____ toward completion of the Fiber-to-the-Home project and strives to be on the cutting-edge of new technology, service, and support to this day.
3. Established in _____ by NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, FRS educates the public about the benefits of a nationwide telecommunications network and promotes rural connectivity as an essential link in this network.
4. Every year, more than _____ people drown in swimming pools, 200 of them being children.
5. Name one swimming pool safety tip. _____

***Write one of the questions and correct answer on Pineland's facebook for an additional chance to win a \$5 credit on your bill! 5 fans will win!**

Name: _____ NUMBER: _____

****Please print your name and phone number clearly****
Not eligible for credit two editions in a row.

IN-TOUCH TRIVIA WINNERS

Mary Zimmerman
Sarah B Tapley
Mickey Flanders
Betty Kulick
Ruth Middleton
Bobby Coxwell
John Shattler
Vann Irvin
Connie Wammock
Sandra Braswell
Lisa Wilcher
James Dekle
James Sell
Emmie Smith
Alta Dudley

Congratulations! You are the winners of In-Touch Trivia from our previous newsletter! These customers will receive a \$5 credit on their Pineland Telephone bill!



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Don't forget to mail or bring your completed answers of the trivia questions inside to Pineland Telephone Coop. for *your* chance to win a \$5.00 credit on your bill.

15 customers will win!

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