

# Pineland PROUD NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

Connecting the communities  
we serve with excellence,  
integrity, innovation, and a  
servant's heart.



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## Expanding broadband access to Americus

One year after breaking ground for a new facility in Americus, Pineland cut the ribbon on August 7 to celebrate its opening.

Pineland General Manager Dustin Durden told those gathered for the ceremony that the 706 E. Jefferson St. facility is the realization of a dream created three years earlier.

"You have a special community here," Durden said. "You have created an environment that made us want to come in and do business. We are really excited to be here."

Americus Mayor Barry Blount was one of several local leaders on hand at the ribbon cutting. He called the event a great day for Americus.

"We really appreciate Pineland's investment in our community," Blount said. "We are excited about you coming here to improve our internet and improve our access."

Pineland has partnered with One Sumter Economic Development Foundation, Sumter Electric Membership Corporation and Georgia Transmission Corporation to bring a fiber optic broadband network to Americus with speeds up to 1 Gbps.

This multiyear project to bring affordable broadband access to the Americus business community represents a \$2 million capital investment in infrastructure to support economic development, education and business progression.

Without broadband, communities miss out on opportunities in telehealth, educational services and economic development that are needed for a community to thrive.

Pineland provides those opportunities through its world-class fiber optic broadband with high-speed internet access. Pineland also offers its customers phone, internet, technology and security services.



## ANNUAL MEETING: The future is broadband

Pineland Telephone General Manager Dustin Durden told the more than 225 members gathered at the cooperative's 67th annual meeting that broadband is the future.

"Our underlying goal is to provide our members with the best and most cutting-edge communications services possible," Durden says. "We have worked to bring new services and offerings that you need and want."

Since removing the requirement of a phone line almost two years ago, 100 members each month have dropped traditional landline service while



increasing their internet speed package. More than 25% of Pineland's customer base now has internet service without a landline. Durden says that number continues to grow.



### Dedicated service

Pineland Telephone recognized 16 employees at this year's annual meeting who have a combined 220 years of service to the cooperative and its subsidiaries.

PTC President Mark Bland praised their dedication to the cooperative and the members they serve.

"There is only one way to truly succeed at anything, and that is to give everything," Bland said. "That is what your motivated employees at Pineland Telephone do every day."

### Board members reelected

This year's meeting also included the unopposed reelection of three Pineland board members: Brinson Lanier — District 7, Northeast Metter area; Carson Cross — District 4, Midville and Northeast Emanuel County; and Will Donaldson — District 1, Lexsy and Oak Park area.

Durden assured those in attendance that the board will continue bringing members access to cutting-edge technology and the most innovative solutions on the market.

"We are here to serve you," he said.

## Pineland in the park

Pineland Telephone now offers Wi-Fi in two local parks, Mayor William M. 'Billy' Trapnell Downtown Park in Metter and Helen Clark Memorial Park in Louisville.

Since we began hosting the free Wi-Fi hot spots, records show an average of 201 daily users at the downtown park in Metter using about 4.92 gigabytes per day. Louisville has fewer daily users at 51, but the data usage is higher at 5.07 gigabytes per day.

Metter Mayor Edwin O. Boyd says the Wi-Fi at the downtown park was part of an overall enhancement project that also included tree removal, fountain restoration, walkways and seating.

"The result is an inviting area for civic functions and citizen enjoyment," Boyd says. "Pineland Telephone graciously offered to provide Wi-Fi connectivity throughout the town center park area, funded by a Smart Rural Community Challenge Grant. The usage has been amazing, helping to populate our downtown renaissance."





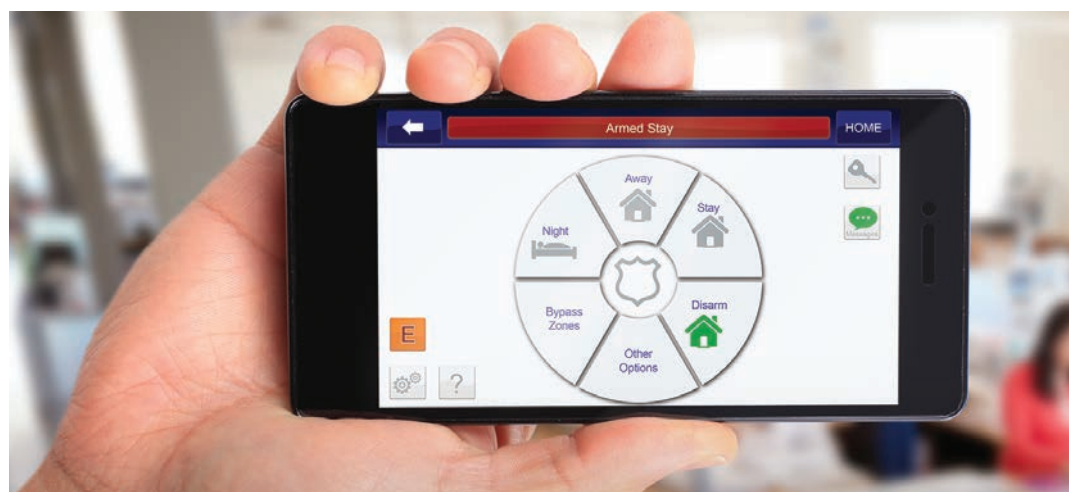


# Lifeline

The Lifeline Universal Service Program, available to qualified low-income consumers, provides a discount for telephone and internet service. If you participate in any of the following programs, you may be eligible:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start
- Income below the Federal Poverty Guidelines

For more information or to learn if you are eligible, contact Pineland Telephone at 912-685-2121.



## Keeping your kids safe

Parents worry when their children return to school. Many are at work when their kids get off the bus. Did they get home safely? Did they remember to lock the doors?

Southeast Fire & Burglar Alarm Co., a subsidiary of Pineland Telephone, has a number of products to ease your worry and keep your kids safe this school year. See them get in the door with our surveillance technology, iBridge Video Doorbell, and control smart lights through iBridge. We also have GPS Vehicle Tracking service for teen drivers.

Using the NAPCO iBridge Concept, Southeast Fire & Burglar Alarm Co. provides you with smartphone, tablet or PC access

for 24/7 control of your security system, surveillance cameras, HVAC systems and lighting.

If your home is already wired for an alarm system but you are interested in switching to the Pineland/SEFB family of services, call to schedule an on-site assessment. In many cases the switch is seamless and our monitoring can begin with no lapse in security.

We will help you safeguard your home and your children with a comprehensive 32-point security survey to identify your vulnerability, and we will work with you to design the security system you need at a budget you can't afford to be without.

**>>> For more information or to schedule a security assessment, visit [www.southeastfbalarm.com](http://www.southeastfbalarm.com) or call 912-685-2059.**

## Pineland Telephone recognized for broadband work

Pineland Telephone was recognized as one of the top rural telecommunications companies helping to provide broadband access to rural America.

BroadbandNow.com, an online consortium of internet providers dedicated to providing broadband access to all Americans, included Pineland Telephone among its list of "19 Rural Broadband Providers Working to Bridge the Digital Divide."

Visit our Facebook feed for a link to information published by BroadbandNow.com about Pineland and other recognized telcos.





P.O. Box 678  
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# FiberFocus Trivia

Mail or bring your completed answers to Pineland Telephone Cooperative for your chance to win a \$5 credit on your bill. Fifteen customers will win! Mail to:  
 Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Pineland Proud Trivia; P.O. Box 678; Metter, GA 30439

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the date of the annual meeting?
2. Where did Pineland host a ribbon cutting?
3. In what two cities does Pineland provide Wi-Fi in parks?
4. Name a service provided by Southeast Fire & Burglar Alarm Co.
5. What percentage of Pineland’s customers are “internet only”?

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

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

- Steve Campbell Jr.
- Tonya Manning
- Cheryl Rogers
- Mickey Flanders
- Robin Mulrooney
- G. Kyle Hostilo
- D.F. Alfonso
- Judy McWhorter
- Susan Lamb
- Laverne Bridges
- Ted Hurley
- James Lamb

**Congratulations!**  
 You are the winners of Pineland Proud Trivia from our previous newsletter!