

Pineland PROUD NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

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



30 S. Rountree St.
Metter, GA 30439

425 S. Main St.
Swainsboro, GA 30401



P.O. Box 678
Metter, GA 30439



912-685-2121
800-247-1266

WWW.PINELAND.NET


phone + internet + technology + security



"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

— Fred Rogers

The COVID-19 virus has impacted the daily lives of people all over the world. Non-discriminant of age or race, communities everywhere have felt loss in one way or another. However, as Mr. Roger's mother implies, good can be found even in difficult or dark times.

To help highlight the good, we reached out to the communities in our service areas to see what responses they have had since the COVID-19 occurrence and we were overwhelmed with replies. Here are just some of the ways "the helpers" are keeping our communities stronger together in Candler, Evans, Toombs, Montgomery, and Washington counties.

- Communitywide drive-by teddy bear and Easter egg hunts.
- Donations of hand sanitizer, masks and gowns by both businesses and individuals to local hospitals, first responders and essential personnel, as well as the shipment of supplies to areas in great need such as Albany, Georgia.
- Small-business grants funded with the help of community support through purchases of T-shirts and signs.
- Shop Local promotion, the creation of community dashboards listing both resources for businesses and business operation updates for the community, and assistance to connect individuals with community partners for needed supplies by local chambers of commerce.
- "Faith over Fear" movement of crosses displayed at both homes and businesses with numerous individuals and organizations making and providing wooden crosses free of charge to those who wish to participate.
- School personnel and volunteers providing food at designated feeding stations to ensure children have meals and pet food assistance drives launched by local organizations.

While our lives remain different, we know that we can continue to look for the good — and remember that we too can be "the helpers" keeping us stronger together.

SAFE DIGGING



Digging before checking for underground utility lines not only risks service interruptions for you and your neighbors but also can lead to personal injury. Hitting a utility line while digging can cause power outages, waterline breaks, gas leaks, internet outages and, of course, electrocution. Gas leaks can lead to further issues, including potential fires or explosions. Still, a 2019 survey conducted by the Common Ground Alliance found that nearly half of homeowners don't call their local utility notification center before digging.

If you plan to dig on your property, even if only a couple of inches deep, call 811 to protect yourself and your community.

CALL — Dial 811 two to three days before work is set to begin to notify your local one-call center of your plans to dig. You can also make a request online by visiting georgia811.com. The center will notify affected utilities.

WAIT — Wait for the affected utilities to respond to your request. On average, it will take the center two to three days to provide you a list of utilities that were notified.

MARK — Confirm that all utilities have responded to your request and have marked any underground lines on your property.

STEER CLEAR — The marks provided by utilities are your guide. Respect them and steer clear of digging on marked ground. If you are unable to maintain the marks during your project, please call 811 to request a re-mark.

DIG — Be careful when you dig. If you can't avoid digging near the marks, consider moving your project to another part of your property.

Georgia 811 Excavator Mobile App

Whether you're a homeowner, landscaper or professional excavator, contacting Georgia 811 before you dig just got easier. Individuals planning to dig can now download the "Georgia 811 Excavator App" in the App Store or on Google Play.



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Please update your calendars!

Offices in Metter and Swainsboro | pineland.net | 800-247-1266

The annual meeting has been rescheduled for Oct. 7.

68TH ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Metter pre-K through 8 Education Complex Cafetorium
33661 Highway 129 S. • Metter



FRS Scholarship Winners Announced

Toombs County High graduate, sponsored by Pineland Telephone, receives one of 34 national scholarship awards

The Foundation for Rural Service announced awards of \$87,000 in college scholarships to 34 students in rural communities served by members of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association. The FRS College Scholarship Program awards one-time scholarships to students from rural America for their first year of college, university or vocational-technical school. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company.



Pineland Telephone Cooperative Inc. sponsored Trevor Sconyers from Lyons, Georgia. Sconyers was chosen as one of 19 FRS scholarship recipients. Sconyers attends Toombs County High School and is the son of Shannon Sconyers, Leah Farrow and Christy Terwilliger. He is active in FCCLA and represents Georgia as a state officer. He is a National Teen Influencer for Teens in the Driver's Seat, a lead actor and stage manager for Bulldog Theater, a member of the Beta Club and part of the People's Bank Student Leadership Board. Sconyers has over 200 community service hours to date. He plans to study a dual major in secondary and mathematics education with a minor in Spanish at Georgia Southern University. The only recipient from Georgia, Sconyers will receive a scholarship of \$2,500.

While the delivery of the scholarships award is slightly different this year, Sconyers remains very appreciative and states: "I am thankful to be receiving this scholarship and to Pineland Telephone for sponsoring me. It is so amazing to see people investing in youth and rural communities; it is truly something needed in the world."

"We are extremely honored to learn that Trevor was selected as one of the FRS scholarship winners," says General Manager Dustin Durden. "Trevor is a motivated and engaged young man with a bright future ahead, and we wish him the best in his upcoming endeavors."

"It is a privilege for FRS to have a small role in supporting the continued education of these students through our scholarship program," says FRS Executive Director Pam Decker. "Every applicant was impressive and demonstrated a deep knowledge of and dedication to their rural communities. We thank all our donors for making this scholarship program possible year after year."

COVID-19 changes

Change in business operations

Pineland will reopen its commercial offices in both Metter and Swainsboro beginning Tuesday, May 26. While clients will be welcome to come inside, we encourage all who can to continue conducting business via the drive-thru, phone or online portal. If you need to come into the office, we suggest no more than two representatives per account come inside at a time. Social distancing guidelines will be upheld. Signage and directional markers will be in place for guidance.

On June 1, we will resume in home installations for phone and broadband services, and begin the process of converting those with a temporary setup to a permanent installation. Television installations will still be delayed at this time. Please continue to look for updates and changes to our procedures on our website at pineland.net and on our social media platforms.

We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation as we navigate through the COVID-19 situation together.

Be counted!

The census benefits your community

Did you know that census data is used to determine federal funding for more than 100 programs including school lunches, highway construction, education, first responders and more? That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location. Your response directly impacts your community. Be counted! It matters!

2020census.gov

Safeguard your outdoor pool space with a

POOL GATE ALARM



P.O. Box 678
Metter, GA 30439



888-963-FIRE

FiberFocus Trivia

Mail or bring your completed answers to Pineland Telephone Cooperative for your chance to win a \$5 credit on your bill. Fifteen total customers will win! Mail to:

Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Pineland Proud Trivia; P.O. Box 678; Metter, GA 30439

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Email: _____

1. What number should you call before you dig?
2. True or False, 2020 census data is used to determine how much funding organizations in your community will receive.
3. When is the 68th annual meeting?
4. Once Pineland opens its business office on May 26, how many people from each account can come inside?
5. What local student received an FRS scholarship this year, and where will he go to college?

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!

By listing your email address, you will be signed up to receive monthly email correspondence.



Pineland
PROUD

Trivia Winners

Betty Kulick
Debra Sharpe
Billy Thompson
Victor Riles
Josh Williams
Steve & Bonnie Macinsky
Diane Womack
Justin Walsh
Louise Ryckewaert
Bobby Coxwell
Oscar Lee Smith Jr.
Annie Williams
Rick Tooley
Selena Hernandez
Jane Frederick

Congratulations!

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