Welcome to Candler County House Rural Development Council

September 6, 2017
Candler County School District

- Charter school system
- Soft skills training
- Apprenticeship program
- Dual Enrollment
Transportation/Logistics

- Metter Municipal Airport
- Access to I-16
- Pioneer Rail
- 60 miles – Georgia Ports Authority
Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) Site

- 125 total acres:
  - 50 contiguous acres
  - 50 contiguous acres
  - 25 contiguous acres

- Permitted and jurisdictional letter of determination (wetlands)

- Utilities:
  - Natural Gas: 4”- 50 psi distribution line
  - Power
  - Fiber
  - Water: 8” main and 10” line
  - Sewer: 8” main
Leading Existing Industries in Candler County

- Linzer Products Corp.
- Flint Industries
- CPE America
- The Peterbilt Store
- Pepsi Distribution Co.
Downtown Development

• Retail, hotel, restaurant developments at I-16 interchange 104
• Investments to revitalize the historic downtown:
  • “Pineland in the Park” in downtown Metter
  • Façade improvements
  • Metter Depot
Facts

• Unemployment Rate: 4.6%
• Average Weekly Wages (all industries): $538
• Average Annual Wages (all industries): $27,962
• Candler County is ranked the 152\textsuperscript{nd} lowest average wage county out of the 159 counties in Georgia
• Total population living in poverty: 31.8%
• Under 18 years living in poverty: 46.7%
Thank You

Molly Olson
Executive Director
912-314-4565
molly@selectcandler.com
History of Pineland Telephone Coop.

1951 – Established in Candler & Emanuel counties

1952 – First loan from REA approved (March)

1983 – Single line service available to all customers, no more party lines
History of Pineland Telephone Coop.

1996 – Added Dial-Up Internet @ 56kbps

1998 – Pineland added long distance service @ 10¢ per minute

2001 – Added High-Speed Internet @ 256kbps or 1.5 mbps over copper lines

2005 – PTC began FTTH project in Adrian, constructing nearly 3,100 miles since in nine counties
Pineland TV Plus Added

2005 – TV service added with 195 channels in three DMAs. Today’s lineup includes over 200 channels with 129 HD channels, Pay Per View, Video On Demand, Digital Video Recording, and Watch TV Everywhere for Residential Customers
New Product Lines and Locations

2008 – Acquired Baker and Owens Computer Solutions (Statesboro)

2009 – Acquired Southeast Fire & Burglar Alarm Company, a company founded in 1999

2010 – Expanded into 1st CLEC area; Swainsboro
Codero added at Pineland

• June 2015, Pineland along with 310 other rural telcos acquired Codero Holdings, Inc.

• Codero is the home of high-quality dedicated, cloud, managed, and patented On-Demand Hybrid Hosting Services.
Continued Growth

2015 – Acquired Southeastern Alarm and Technologies Company

2016 – Began service in 2nd CLEC; Claxton

2017 – Acquired Broadtech Solutions computer company (Vidalia); and SDS Southern Digital Systems (Glennville)

2017 – Began serving 3rd CLEC; Vidalia
By the end of 2017, all Pineland customers will have access to Gigabit enabled internet speeds....
Pineland Partners

- City of Metter
- Candler County Schools
- Candler County Industrial Development Authority
- East Georgia State College
- Altamaha EMC
Pineland in the Park
Pineland in the Park
TeleHealth
Candler County Schools
East Georgia State College
Bob Cat Villas South & West

Bob Cat Villas South
Established August 2011

Bob Cat Villas West
Established June 2016

Bob Cat Villas West
Ribbon Cutting June 22, 2016
Smart Rural Announcement
October 2016

Pineland Telephone receives state’s first Smart Rural Community award

by Jerei Goodman

While the big cities are bragging about the achievements they are now making, Pineland Telephone Cooperative has already been there and done that for their local community.

And during Thursday’s State of the Community, Pineland General Manager Dustin Durden made a surprise announcement to the community. Pineland Telephone has received the NTCA Smart Rural Community Award.

“Every official in those large cities tout what a major impact the investments that Google is making will have on their communities. What you don’t hear too often in the press is how Pineland and other companies in rural America are doing the exact same thing that Google is doing in the hard-to-reach places of our country.”

Dustin Durden

Because of this, NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association developed the Smart Rural Community Program, Durden said. “The goal of the NTCA Smart Rural Community initiatives is to foster the development of smart communities throughout rural America and Canada by encouraging innovative implementation of broadband solutions and access to next-generation applications for distance learning, telehealth services, public safety and security. Since 2013, 32 communities have been awarded the NTCA Smart Rural Community Award.”

As part of this award, Durden said, “Metter and Candler County will now have at its disposal new marketing material tailored for the award recipients including road signs that will identify us as a Smart Rural Community. It is our goal that this award will only help to tell the story of how truly ‘everything, including broadband, is better in Metter.’ To receive the award, Durden said, the cooperative had to go through an intense application process, including an essay.”

See Pineland p. 28

Pineland Telephone General Manager Dustin Durden shares the cooperative’s ‘surprise announcement’ at Thursday’s State of the Community at Willow Lake.
Metter & Candler County Announcement
State of the Community Address
Recreating Pineland’s Success

1. Leverage every economic resource possible (RUS, USF, UAF, etc.)
2. Focus on long-term benefits and business plans that future proof the network.
3. Empower employees to learn new technologies and not be afraid of failure.
4. Look for partnerships that make sense from a financial and shared value perspective.
5. The time is NOW.
Thank You!!

Dustin Durden
General Manager
(912) 685-2121
ddurden@pinelandtelco.com