

## Digging Done Right: The Importance of Calling 811 - for Everyone

Every year, underground utility lines are unintentionally damaged due to digging, leading to costly repairs, service disruptions, and potential safety hazards. Whether you're a homeowner planting a tree, or a contractor working on a major excavation, calling Georgia 811 before you dig is a crucial step in ensuring safety and preventing damage to vital underground infrastructure, and in Georgia - it's the law.

### Why Call Georgia 811?

Georgia law requires that anyone digging must contact Georgia 811 before starting a project. This free service notifies area utility companies, who respond and mark the location of underground utilities with colored flags or spray paint. These markings help prevent accidental damage to power, gas, water, sewer, and telecommunications lines.

Failing to call Georgia 811 before digging can result in fines, service interruptions, and, in worst-case scenarios, serious injuries or fatalities. Striking a gas or electric line can be life-threatening, while damaging communication or water lines can disrupt essential services for entire neighborhoods.

### Utility Providers Must Call 811, Too

Just like homeowners and contractors, utility companies are also required to contact Georgia 811 before beginning any digging or excavation for their own projects. This ensures that all underground infrastructure, whether it belongs to them or another provider, is properly marked and accounted for before work begins.

If another utility company fails to properly mark their lines or respond to a Georgia 811 request, it puts the digging company at risk of accidentally striking unmarked utilities. This can lead to service outages, costly repairs, and dangerous conditions. That's why it's critical for all utility companies to follow the Georgia 811 process, not just to protect their own assets, but to ensure the safety of workers and the surrounding community.



**Know the Color Code for Utility Markings**  
Utility locators follow a standardized color code to identify different types of underground utilities:

- **Red** – Electric power lines
- **Yellow** – Gas, oil, or petroleum pipelines
- **Orange** – Communications, telephone, or fiber-optic cables
- **Blue** – Potable water
- **Green** – Sewer and drain lines
- **Purple** – Reclaimed water, irrigation
- **White** – Proposed excavation area

### Plan Ahead & Stay Safe

Whether you're installing a fence, digging a new foundation, or handling large-scale construction, calling Georgia 811 is a simple but essential step to keep everyone safe. The process is free, easy, and is often completed in 3-5 business days.

To request a locate, dial 811 or submit an online request at [www.georgia811.com](http://www.georgia811.com).

# Spring [and Wi-Fi] is in the Air!

Spring is in the air – and so is our public Wi-Fi. Stay connected while enjoying the outdoors with free public internet access.

Whether you're working remotely, studying, or simply browsing the web, you can enjoy high-speed internet in four popular locations across Pineland's service area. Visitors can access the "PinelandInThePark" network at William Trapnell Memorial Park in Metter, Courthouse Square Park in downtown Swainsboro, and Helen Clark Memorial Park in Louisville. In downtown Americus, users can connect to the Wi-Fi in the City initiative, via the network "Pineland In The City".



Outdoor connectivity allows residents and visitors to step outside without losing their connection. Parks and downtown spaces are hubs where people gather, collaborate, and make meaningful connections. So next time you visit one of these locations, take advantage of Pineland's public Wi-Fi, and stay connected while enjoying the outdoors.



**73<sup>rd</sup>**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
of the members of  
**Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

*\*Members reside in our Cooperative service area. Contact us if you are unsure of your eligibility.*

SAVE THE DATE

**JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>**

\$10 bill credit,  
cash prizes,  
door prizes,  
entertainment



**Pineland**

## Start connecting today with Georgia Relay



**Georgia Relay is a FREE public service** administered by the Georgia Public Service Commission that makes it possible for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking to communicate over the telephone. A specially trained Communication Assistant (CA) facilitates the call. All relay calls are confidential and there are no records kept of relay conversations. Relay services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. There's no limit on the length or number of calls you may place or receive.

Anyone may initiate a Georgia Relay call, simply by dialing 7-1-1.

[www.GeorgiaRelay.org](http://www.GeorgiaRelay.org) | 1-866-694-5824 (Voice/TTY) | In an emergency, dial 9-1-1!

**Grow your business with Georgia Relay Partner:** Join our FREE program for businesses today! Call or visit us online to learn more.

