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8.28.2020

Dear Pine Plains,

This week we lost a wonderful man to an ATV accident, Ben Brousseau. My kids went to school with Ben and knew him as a bright, funny, talented guy. We are heartbroken, as is everyone who knew him, and grieve with his family.

**School taxes** will be due at the end of September. If you have been out of work and aren't sure you can pay them on time, please talk to the school tax collector. Their offices are located in the High School. As for next year's Town Municipal Budget, we are in the throes of Budget Prep. Keep in mind that taxes are due in February 2021. Expense lines will be adjusted for inflation but remain close to the same. We will not exceed the tax cap. **Town taxes** are paid in full every year, with delinquent taxes made up for by the County. Only the County can foreclose on a house. And right now there is a moratorium on foreclosures due to COVID-19. Come talk to Eileen Ciaburri if you have any fears, and do it early in the year so as to know your options. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

OK, breathe now.

**Town Clean-Up Day** is September 12<sup>th</sup>, and we need VOLUNTEERS WITH PICK-UP TRUCKS to help a few seniors with their garbage. The list of what we will take and the charges for it are on posters all over town, as well as on our website. Please call Alice or Darrah at Town Hall 518-398-8600 ex 1. Please get your Hometown Heroes information in to Town Hall. We need the photo of the hero in uniform, and vital information for the flag. The flags will be put up from Memorial Day through Veterans Day each year by volunteers. The

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**SURVEY ALERT: BROADBAND!** The Broadband Committee has created a survey for ALL PINE PLAINS CITIZENS to take on the nature of their Internet service. It is very short and easy, and contains instructions for taking a "speed test" at your home or business to see what you actually get. Very informative for those of us who pay for high speed but may not get what we pay for! You can go anytime to [www.speedtest.net](http://www.speedtest.net) and find your download/upload speeds as well as your "ping". They might vary day to day. Please look early next week in your email for the survey to come to all subscribers easily in an online Survey Monkey format. You can forward it too to neighbors if you'd be willing. We need answers from everyone. Pine Plains, and all of Dutchess County, was determined to be Completely Served by internet, which is far from the truth. This designation has resulted in internet providers refusing to put down lines to the most remote houses, or in neighborhoods where one person pays for high speed while another nearby is not served at all, but because that house is in that neighborhood (called a census block) it is deemed served. Confused? Exactly. We want to fix this. We want high-speed internet service for all houses in Pine Plains.

**The storm on Thursday took down a bunch of very beloved and perfectly healthy trees.** Highway, fire/rescue, and police have been out helping people and cleaning up, and we thank them again for all their vigilance. We may see this as a kind of new normal. Most homeowners' insurance does not cover damage from storms sending healthy trees from one property onto another. So the clearing of the trees may fall on kind neighbors and the understanding that not everyone has the money or the equipment to do this. And we all need help once in a while.

Stay kind, Pine Plains!

Darrah Cloud