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Dear Pine Plains 9.18.2020

Many thanks are due this month to donors and volunteers in Pine Plains. Once again, please thank Lenny Liberta when you see him for donating the dumpsters for **Town CleanUp Day**. He has done that for us every year so far and all day people thanked us for the service. This is Vinnie's Oscar night, and he worked really hard organizing people with a band of the Class of 2021 Seniors, who were equally awesome, cheerful and willing volunteers. We were able to pick up unwanted items from more than 10 homes of people who had no way of getting them to the highway yard. But the day before this, on 9/11, 8 stalwart flag bearers climbed **Stissing Mountain and the Fire Tower to hang a 20x48 inch flag from the Tower**: John Blackburn, Matt Zick, Matt Cade, Joe Schmidt, Tyson Klay, Mike George the Younger, Mike Cooper, and Mark Frenzel. I have often been passed by Joe Schmidt when climbing the mountain. I'm panting and ambling, he's striding up with half a tree trunk in his arms. Bravo everyone and thank you again. It was an amazing sight.

John Hughes and I have begun work in earnest on the requirements for the **Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative** with the County. Last weekend, we had our community meeting online with members of the County task force. People were allowed to speak for three minutes with ideas for reform. Very few actually spoke, which was a bit disappointing, but maybe more will attend future meetings. If you have an idea, you can get on one of these calls and present them. Information is at DutchessNY.gov/PoliceReform. Our big project is to go back 50 years in our records to track race issues and emergency responses in policing. We are putting together a Stakeholders Committee of community members right now to review our relevant policies. I look forward to working on this with them.

Every other Tuesday I take part in a ZOOM call with other town supervisors of

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research group has a lot of influence on state government, so when I bring up our challenges, like Broadband for everyone and affordable housing, there is actually someone listening who is taking this up to Albany with recommendations from their own research on how to solve the problems. Our Broadband Committee has sent out the Broadband Survey which I want to urge everyone to fill out. This will help the town find funding to extend high-speed internet service to the entire town. I have discussed this at length in my newsletters. There is a new stack at the Library if you want to do this on paper.

The Census is also something you should fill out, and please encourage any neighbors you have whom you think might have missed the importance of this. It does not matter if you vote, or pay taxes here, if you live here you can fill out the Census and this helps the town directly to receive enough state and federal aid to make improvements and pay for emergencies. It's imperative that we get the most accurate numbers in this regard. Pine Plains does not have the revenue streams that other towns have, and we depend on sales tax and aid for a lot of our funding.

And speaking of funding, the **tentative budget** will be available online and in Judy's office for perusal as of September 30th. Any tax increase should be offset by new buildings coming onto the tax rolls which will help pay the overall tax amount to be raised. If your assessment went up this year it does not mean your taxes will go up. They may even go down a little.

Our police have reported to me on a number of instances in which they were called to help out with harassment and arguments. **There is no doubt that we are living in the most stressful times many of us have ever seen.** And sometimes, we are the last to know just how stressed out we really are. County Executive Marcus Molinaro signs all of his emails the same way: "We are all in this together." We are all feeling the same way, whether it looks like it or not. Let's be patient with each other.

Keep it together, Pine Plains!
Darrah Cloud