

10.30.2020

Dear Pine Plains,

The Cemetery Tours have been moved to Sunday at the same time. This event is a fundraiser for the Library but more than that a really wonderful community event that your neighbors participate in, and work very hard on. Characters from Pine Plains history come to life in the Evergreen Cemetery, and as a playwright myself, I can tell you that the writing is beautiful and moving, and every story is a revelation. If you cannot make the new date, please consider donating your ticket back so that others might go, but the Library can use the money for all the good things they do.

www.pineplainslibrary.org

The Seniors Drive-in Bingo is all set for November 5th. But you have to sign up! Please call 845-486-2555 and make sure they save you a spot! 1pm-2:30pm The numbers are called over your car radio and when you have a Bingo, you honk. Stanford Rec is the place!

This Monday, the Hometown Heroes flags are going up on Route 82. This is the first set of 12, and they will stay up this year, due to COVID, until after Thanksgiving. Then we will take them down—all thanks to help from Kyle Lougheed of Ginocchio Electric. Next year, we will put them up from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. They turned out beautifully, thanks to Alice Nuccio's careful eye and Gregg Pulver's support. There are a number of people who ought to be up there, and don't have flags yet. Please, convince them to let us honor them, and get us their photo in military uniform, with the dates and place of service. Alice can give you more info. We order the flags in groups of 12, so as soon as we have another 12, we can get these made and ready for Spring. AND here is the *pies de resistance*: Matt Brimer of Industry Standard (owners of the Old Library) will be helping me create a website that is mobile-friendly so that people can access each hero's story while standing in front of their flag! We will be working on this all winter, writing bios and getting it ready, as well as assembling the histories of the buildings in town, and the people we have featured over the years at the Cemetery Tours. We are thinking of calling the website something like Pine Plains Heroes and History. (Got a better name? Write or call!) It will give us a walking tour of the Town for people to take. And we can link it to our Town website as well. Again, thank you Gregg Pulver for your suggestion of all this, thank you Alice for spearheading the project, and thank you Matt Brimer for the next phase. I am so excited! A walking tour of Pine Plains accessible by cell phone was one of the first things on my To-Do List when I got into office.

The Broadband Committee met yesterday, and mapping is on their agenda now. They are taking the results of the Survey and creating maps to show where adequate speed service is and isn't. Now here is a bit of education we got from Dave Berman, who is leading ConnectColumbia for Columbia County: there are new technologies coming that use the white space that is unused on your televisions. (Think blank channels). That way, if someone has Cable TV, it might be able to be transferred into high-speed internet access. It sounds crazy and futuristic, but that is the era we are in. More fun info as we learn it.

But if you have received an offer from Optimum for trial "free" internet service, beware their end date—it will automatically sign you up for their service after that at their going rate. As my father always said, nothing in life comes free.

This thoughtful essay just came in from a friend as regards stress from this year's election. I hope it might help: <https://m.dailygood.org/story/2611/8-questions-to-help-navigate-election-stress-jeremy-adam-smith-jill-suttie/>

As I write this, the snow is falling in big fat flakes outside and it's wet enough to catch on all the trees. Alice and I are tucked into Town Hall, paying bills and answering email, and keeping watch over the Budget. I have a meeting with the Durst Project Manager, Lisa Baker, later today, as they hope to be bringing their application to the town in the next few months. The highway crew is out on the roads under a full moon this weekend.

Go howl at the moon, Pine Plains!

Darrah Cloud