

## *Newsletter May 18, 2026*

Town Board Members

Town Supervisor - Brian Walsh  
Town Council - Jeanine Sisco, Kevin Walsh,  
Trevor Roush, Murphy Birdsall



After some unpredictable, yet predicted changes in our Spring forecasts of weather, I feel like

Spring has arrived! The transfer of seedlings started indoors, and bursts of color provided by annual flowers are finally ready to plant outdoors.

Thanks in advance to the Pine Plains Garden Club for once again planning their efforts to plant flowers in the twenty-two planters throughout our town. They will be hard at work on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Ad Hoc Community Day Committee has been busy planning what promises to be a fun, informative and dynamic day to gather, starting the day with a free breakfast provided by the Pine Plains Fire Company. You may have already received a postcard in your mail informing you of the events planned. This group, led by and consisting of volunteers, deserves a huge THANK YOU for their time and effort in the planning of this event. The committee welcomed the extraordinary participation of Pine Plains new Director of Recreation, Jen Balckburn! Hope to see everyone out and about in town on **June 13<sup>th</sup>**.

The Pine Plains Library continues to offer amazing programming for the community. The Kids Club and the Spring Break activities achieved record breaking attendance and have been met with great enthusiasm. How lucky we are to have such a great resource in our community.

The Town of Pine Plains was awarded \$15,000 for Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory through the 2025 Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Grant Program. This grant will enable our town to fund three integrated planning actions: (1) a community-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory (2) development of a robust, interactive web-based Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) mapping platform to enhance the Town's forthcoming NRI, and (3) targeted updates to the Town's Comprehensive Plan to incorporate sustainability elements. Upon receipt of this award and execution of the contract, the Town Board will proceed with the tasks outlined in the grant and anticipated collaboration with the Pine Plains Conservation Advisory Council (CAC).

Everyone is invited to honor those who died serving in the United States Military on Memorial Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>. The parade and ceremony are at 10:30 AM, hosted by AL Post #426 and VFW Post #5519.

~Jeanine Sisco [jsisco@pineplains-ny.gov](mailto:jsisco@pineplains-ny.gov)

Councilman Kevin Walsh is on the road with spotty electronic access. He's having a wonderful vacation -

~Kevin Walsh [kwash@pineplains-ny.gov](mailto:kwash@pineplains-ny.gov)

May 17th, 87 degrees: grass, gardens and dreams are growing. This month I took a road trip through many small rural towns around Vermont and New Hampshire. Every town I passed through had 2 things that jumped out at me: a beautiful library and a park/green space in the center of town. I asked myself—how can Pine Plains better support the library and where could we create a larger town park & gathering space? Monday, May 18th, a workshop meeting will be held to discuss the future and stability of the Pine Plains free library. For the June town board meeting, I am planning a presentation for what I am calling the “Pine Plains Pocket Park” and adding more off-street municipal parking in our downtown. I look forward to hearing the community’s thoughts after this presentation. I am very excited to welcome Jen Blackburn as the new rec director. Pine Plains summer camp sign-ups are live on the town website and in person at the town clerk’s office.

Grow, garden, and dream!

~ Trevor Roush, 914 466 8947 [ttroush@pineplains-ny.gov](mailto:ttroush@pineplains-ny.gov).

Though I have been doing a fair amount of work inside in front of a computer, I am finding that the increasing hours of sunlight help to clear the air and warm the soil, soul and body. Everybody wants to be outside. So,

The Adult Swim Subcommittee of the Conservation Advisory Council went down to Stissing Lake beachfront with Councilman Roush, liaison to the Recreation Department, to plan the structure for unsupervised swimmers to get into the water. 4th of July is the hoped-for opening day of this fenced area adjacent to the town beach. As the space develops over time, the CAC will ensure that the design flourishes with a thoughtful, sustainable and educational blend of native plants.

I saw soccer nets being installed at the rec field; the Back Bar Beer Garden opened; Memorial Day is less than a week away.

On May 9th, under a canopy to keep the rain off, the students of the Pine Plains Racing team displayed the beautiful blue race car they have created in the Winners Circle program at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High. "Building Vision - Solving Problems - Inspiring Community" - these are the encouraging words running across the back of the t-shirt. May we all take them to heart.

~ Murphy Birdsall [mbirdsall@pineplains-ny.gov](mailto:mbirdsall@pineplains-ny.gov)



## **Town of Pine Plains**

**Brian Walsh**

**Town Supervisor**

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**Dear Residents,**

May is already half over, and with the arrival of warmer weather, we have a lot to look forward to in our community!

**Safety First: Burn Ban Update**

The seasonal burn ban has officially been lifted. While it's exciting to see the return of outdoor fires and controlled burns, I urge everyone to exercise caution and strictly follow all burning regulations. You can find the full list of rules and safety guidelines on the NYSDEC website. Let's all do our part to keep our town safe.

**Honoring Our Veterans: Memorial Day**

Memorial Day is just around the corner. I encourage you to take a moment to thank any veteran you encounter for their service. We honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live in freedom. This year, our Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 25, 2026. Please join us as we line the streets to pay our respects, it is a meaningful tradition that unites our community in remembrance and gratitude.

**Celebrating Local Achievements: High School Race Car Program**

I am thrilled to share some exciting news from our local high school. The High School Race Car program has successfully completed their race car! After passing inspection, it is now ready to hit the track at Lime Rock, driven by a professional from Dyson Racing. Witnessing this project from conception to completion has been truly inspiring. It's a shining example of what dedication, teamwork, and community support can accomplish.

**Looking Ahead: Town Clean-Up Day**

Our annual Town Clean-Up Day will be held in June (exact date to be announced soon). This is a wonderful opportunity for residents to spruce up our community, dispose of unwanted items, and keep our town beautiful. We will also be looking for volunteers to help pick up items from residents who are unable to transport them themselves. Stay tuned for full details regarding dates, fees, and accepted items.

As always, thank you for your continued support and participation in making Pine Plains a safe, welcoming, and vibrant place to live. I look forward to seeing many of you at the parade, clean-up day, and all the exciting events ahead.

~ Brian Walsh [brianwalsh@pineplains-ny.gov](mailto:brianwalsh@pineplains-ny.gov)

***Town Board Meeting - Thursday, May 21 7 PM at Town Hall***