Newsletter October 13, 2026

Town Board Members

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

"a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals"

As we enter October, the Town Board focus is on the 2027 budget. We met with the Supervisor on October 6th to review the preliminary budget. We discussed items line by line, comparing the budget items from 2026 to those currently being proposed. It is the goal of our supervisor, who also fulfills the function of budget officer, not to override the tax cap. If you are interested in learning more about this process, you are welcome to all open meetings. Town Board Meetings are held at 7:00 PM, the third Thursday of each month at the Town Hall. Workshop meetings are scheduled as needed the Monday prior to the Town Board meetings.

In the later part of September, I attended a Public Forum hosted by Public Safety Chair, Legislator Eric Alexander with District Attorney Anthony Parisi and Sheriff Kirk Imperati. There was an exceptionally large turnout, with representation from many towns and villages throughout Dutchess County. The Legislator, DA and Sheriff were eager to understand the concerns expressed at this forum. They listened, responded to questions, and made decisions based on the input they received from the public. It is very encouraging and reassuring to witness democratic process facilitated by our elected officials in Dutchess County.

The Beautification Committee decorated the planters in town for Fall. Special thanks again to the Garden Club for removing the plants that everyone enjoyed all summer long and to Thayer Durell for his artistry and assembly of the Fall displays.

PLEASE JOIN The Pine Plains Beautification Committee for a COMMUNITY CONVERSATION!

Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Community Room (upstairs from the library. There will be door prizes and refreshments!

On October first I attended a workshop on Farmland Protection and Agricultural Viability. The workshop addressed how local zoning and municipal code interacts with New York State Agricultural Districts Laws. Copies of the handouts can be available to you at the Town Hall. I have also registered for the Growing Homes 2026 Convening: Laying the Groundwork for Farmer Housing to be held on Friday, November 20, 2026. Discussions will include meeting the need for on- and off-farm agricultural housing in the Hudson Valley.

I hope that you are enjoying these lovely crisp mornings and sun filled, breezy afternoons of Fall!

~Jeanine Sisco jsisco@pineplains-ny.gov

I am riding high off this past weekend. I am beyond inspired by the amazing effort put into this weekend's ag fair and seeing the work FOSL (Friends of Stissing Landmarks) has been doing at Patchin's mill. Both of these events were total efforts of love that could only be accomplished with collaboration! They also show the working landscape of Pine Plains past and make me hopeful that in Pine Plains future we can still have working people on a working landscape. The rural character of this community is something to cherish.
Halloween is fast approaching and a reminder that Pine Street will be a one-way street! Basketball sign-ups are open now!
Have a wonderful peak fall!

~ Trevor Roush troush@pineplains-ny.gov.

There is so much going on. Halloween decorations are in every store, as well as on porches and lawns - pumpkins everywhere! One of my favorite features at the FFA Fair is the sprawling exhibit of Crazy Creatures. It was only this year that I paid attention to the fact that an awarding of "Good" (and not "Excellent") carried an explanation that non-vegetable items had been used; one creature lost the top accolade with the inclusion of Oreos. As always, the high school classes provided delicious food; and in the barn, the splendid show calves served as pillows for many young exhibitors. The fair is a treasure and a pleasure.

It's budget time. I could not attend the board meeting on Oct. 6th going over the Tentative Budget for 2027, but did watch it on the recorded video, as you all can - the link is above in Jeanine's post.

The CAC continues to work with the town government to complete the work needed to get the NYS DEC grant-funded Natural Resources Inventory up and running.

Amanda Wyant, Secretary to the Supervisor, has brought to the board a new website option! Revize designs local government sites. Nearby, Pleasant Valley and Hudson use them. We are exploring this option to bring Pine Plains' website into the realm of usability.

~ Murphy Birdsall mbirdsall@pineplains-ny.gov

Town Board Meeting - Thursday, October 15 7 PM at Town Hall