

PLAINtalk

NEWSLETTER BY PINE LAKE ASSOCIATION OF INVOLVED NEIGHBORS



Welcome! Pine Lake Autumn!

Abbreviation Key

ARB	Architectural Review Board
NW	Neighborhood Watch
PLAIN	Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors
TAB	Tree Authority Board
BH	Beach House
CH	Club House
CC	City Chambers

PLAIN Leadership

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Vice President

Greg Creech

Secretary

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Message from the President

What a busy couple of months! LakeFest is a wrap, we had a great turnout and fantastic dishes for the PLAIN International Dinner, and the PLAIN-sponsored Candidate Forums proved to be a great way to get to know our city council candidates. PLAIN was also able to provide a wonderful Halloween party with great fun had by all!

The November 7th Pancake Breakfast will be followed by a Town Hall Meeting and an Arbor Day presentation sponsored by the Tree Board. In addition, Amy Colburn will be providing an altar in remembrance of Day of the Dead at the breakfast.

Join us for Breakfast with Santa on December 7th. There will also be a Holiday Market during the December 7th breakfast with your favorite Pine Lake artisans offering wonderful gifts for your friends and loved ones. Maybe you can even get a little something for yourself!

That same night, the PLAIN Cookie Exchange and Lighting of the Lake will take place with music provided by Greg Creech with a special surprise provided by some of our local children.

As we move into the holiday season, please consider supporting PLAIN outreach efforts to those in need by donating to PLAIN Caring and Sharing. Sharing and Caring provides help in the way of food, utility bill help and other essential needs for those who may require a little assistance at this time of year. You can make directed donations to Caring and Sharing during the PLAIN breakfasts now and throughout the year by making your check out to PLAIN and put "Sharing and Caring" in the note section. Your donation can make all the difference to your neighbors during the holidays.

Pine Lake Lounge—Black Friday—Nov. 27

Notice it's not the second Saturday but **November 27**. We will have great music with Uncle Don's Band but it will be held during Thanksgiving weekend for those who stay in town and would like to shake off the festivities with a little movin' and groovin' (and no shopping! egads!!) Check out the music at <https://www.reverbnation.com/uncledonsband>

7:30 at the Beachhouse Friday Nov 27

December 12th will be the annual Holiday Hoedown. Comedy night acts and then a set by another local group, Chicken and Pigs. Monthly artist will be our own Susan Lightcap showing handmade jewelry, dolls, and amazing critters of all sorts. Look for more info as we get closer. Find The Pine Lake Lounge on FB for updates.

Make Note! At every Lounge event from now til we raise the money. I will have a donation container out for funds towards buying our very own real stage for The Pine Lakefest. Consider helping this effort with a generous donation!

Yard of the Month Winners

Congratulations! To our PLAIN Yard of the Month Winners—Kim Fugate for September (first photo on the right) and Renee and Bill Brooks for October (the spooky yard on the far right). Please submit your nominations to creechgreg@bellsouth.net; the PLAIN board decides the winner in mid-November.



Message from the Mayor

On Saturday, Nov 7, after the Pancake Breakfast (which will also feature a Day of the Dead altar), there are 2 special presentations: an Arbor Day program hosted by the Tree Authority Board, and "the 411 on 911, or Everything You Ever Wanted to Now About Emergency Phone Calls." The Town Hall, which was also originally scheduled for this date, is re-scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 7pm at the Clubhouse.

Another important city meeting is the Work Session (7:30 Clubhouse) on Tuesday, October 27. We will see the 2016 budget for the first time and begin to lay plans for the City's Comprehensive Plan, which must be submitted in 2016.

Finally, take a look at the new spiral trail at McAllister Meadow (to the east of the lake), ending in a bench under the tree for bird-watching and quiet reflection. This trail is a prototype of a garden feature planned for future development. Also, the extension of the western wetlands lower trail has been newly improved, and the Public Works staff proudly invites you to experience both.

Pine Lake Cleans up

Walmart is missing a shopping cart. Thank you to our volunteers for the clean-up of our wetlands and creeks on Saturday, September 19. We gathered tons of debris, tires, and many liquor bottles (someone had a great party upstream). Thanks again.



Message from Mayor—Elect Melanie Hammet

I moved to town in 1999 and immediately got involved: cooking at the pancake breakfast, booking the monthly music gigs, mucking about in the creek pulling out shopping carts and tires with other muddy neighbors.

My experiences as a performing songwriter and as a city council person uniquely prepare me to work toward creating a more sustainable city. I've used my music to foster collaboration with unusual and successful partners in fields as diverse as urban design, criminal justice, and social entrepreneurship. In government I served on council from 2005-2013; was president of the Dekalb Municipal Association in 2011; was city liaison for the lake restoration project (including The Dredge Report); in 2010 completed Atlanta Regional Commission's planning and zoning class courses. In anticipation of stepping up to the role of mayor I am currently enrolled in the GA Academy Economic Development class program.

Simply put: I am a musician who will be leading a city that cares about sustainability in every category: our economy, our ecology, our future development. I'm looking forward to working with the skills and talents of all our residents in assembling a sustainable city, supported by new relationships, new resources, and new revenue.

Candidate for City Council Statements—Two Year Term

JEAN BORDEAUX-

My name is Jean Bordeaux and I am running for the vacated City Council seat which has two years remaining. My partner Gayle and I have lived in Pine Lake a little over 5 years. We have always loved the fact that so many folks here are willing to do whatever they can to contribute to our community; it makes me want to participate however I can. As a member of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) for the past four years and as Chair for the past three, I have learned a lot about zoning and building codes and a quite a bit about how the city operates. I would like to use that experience in a new role as a member of City Council. I am particularly interested in simplifying the residential zoning code, making it less cumbersome and difficult to follow, and in revising the commercial code to encourage development while restricting density and encouraging open space. Please consider voting for me on Nov. 3rd.

KRIS CASARIEGO-

Hello, I'm Kris Casariego, your candidate for the 2-year open seat on City Council. I have lived in Pine Lake for nearly 12 years, and both of my children are Pine Lake natives. I was instrumental in bringing more than 200 Pine Lake residents and friends together in 2008 to build our new playground. I am running for City Council to 1) use my background in facilitation and consensus-building to foster community engagement at the city government level to "pull the wagon in one direction," 2) draw from my marketing and business management skills to help Pine Lake find a path to economic sustainability and 3) use my strategic planning experience to help the city create a long-range plan that incorporates smart land use; environmental stewardship; economic sustainability and a focus on our unique, artistic community. Thank you for your vote.

BILL COTTER-

I am asking for your vote in the special election Nov. 3 for City Council. I am committed to pressing Pine Lake government for improved compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, adherence to basic Principles of Accounting 101, and review of the city police department. I was born and raised in Atlanta (midtown, before anyone ever called it that) and have been a Pine Lake homeowner and resident for barely less than the entire 21st century. I graduated from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. If you know anything about that small, liberal arts college (accent on liberal), you know it is good practice for living in Pine Lake. I sometimes tell people I was an English major, even though that is not exactly the truth, but it helps explain my work history. I have been a journalist and fiction writer, a Foreign Service Officer (in Cairo, Egypt, Brussels Belgium, and Washington, D.C.), rental property manager, telecommunications technician and engineer, and driver for a major rent-a-car company (moving vehicles from where they are to some other place where they actually need to be). I am a veteran of the U.S. Army. Thanks to Ho Chi Min and Lyndon Johnson, I was able to attend college on the Vietnam Era G.I. Bill, without ever having been closer to Vietnam than my duty station in France, 66 miles south of Paris, an hour away by thumb.

Candidate for City Council Statements—Four Year Term

BRANDY HALL-

My name is Brandy Hall, and I own and operate Shades of Green Permaculture Design, Inc., a leading ecological design firm in the southeast, since 2004. My husband and I have lived in Pine Lake since July 2014, and we are so excited about and inspired by this amazing city. I am running for City Council, and, as a council member, I will offer an excellent ability to creatively address challenges with thoughtful and pragmatic solutions, both ecologically and economically. In service to this community, I intend to attract business and creative development to alleviate the current tax burden placed on residents, while working to foster connection with the broader community and maintain ecological awareness.

TONJA HOLDER-

I have been a resident of Pine Lake for 7 years and know the unique and wonderful qualities of this community. If I am elected to the City Council, my priority will be the creation of a thriving business district for the City. I have experience working with city governments and developers. I know the process of creating a professional and comprehensive redevelopment plan and finding resources to make it happen. My wife and I have successfully run our own business for nearly five years. Our work focuses on bringing resources to small community-based non-profits, government agencies and even national organizations. I can bring to the City Council more than 10 years of experience with revenue strategies and grant writing. I am grateful and humbled by the opportunity to serve my community.

MEGAN PULSTS-

I'm Megan Pulsts, and I ask for your vote for reelection to the City Council for another four years.

I've been a compulsive hand-raiser ever since my husband Matt and I moved to Pine Lake in 2007, volunteering to improve Pine Lake. From serving on the tree board, to clearing trail around the new western wetlands path, cooking at pancake breakfast to planning the Pine Lake Prom and Lakefest, I love serving our crazy little hamlet.

It takes about a year to really learn the ropes of municipal service. Voting for me keeps an experienced councilmember on the team. That will be vital given the task we're facing this year – completing a rewrite of our overly complex, unenforceable zoning code into something that preserves "Pine Lake Quirky" while allowing for regular people to be able to use the code without an expert interpreter.

I hold a law degree from Emory and serve as a public defender in Walton County. Your vote keeps someone trained in the law and legislative writing in our process. We haven't had that before. Your vote on November 3 will let me continue working to make this place I love so much an ever-better place to call home. Thanks.

DUGAN TRODGLLEN-

I think most of us in Pine Lake have similar goals for our city. These include a healthy ecosystem at our beautiful lake, assurances that our relatively high property tax rate is put to effective use, discovering other city revenue streams to ease our tax burden, and making sure the city maintains the unique identity that drew us here. It is the approach to these goals, especially when they may conflict, that determine our effectiveness as office holders. My strengths as a person, a retail manager, and, hopefully a city councilman, include looking at issues, examining ideas, and confronting problems in a practical, pragmatic way that looks in every nook and cranny for creative answers. My hope is that many of these answers will come through working with the community, as Pine Lake is a neighborhood as much as a city, and everyone who wants a voice in the direction of the city should have one. After this election we will have a new mayor and two to three new council members. It will be a great time to use fresh eyes to look at everything we love about Pine Lake and see how we can make it better, and I would be honored to be a part of that.

Day of the Dead

History of Day of the Dead ~ Dia de los Muertos (Wikipedia)

Day of the Dead is an interesting holiday celebrated in central and southern Mexico during the chilly days of November 1 & 2. Even though this coincides with the Catholic holiday called All Soul's & All Saint's Day, the indigenous people have combined this with their own ancient beliefs of honoring their deceased loved ones.

They believe that the gates of heaven are opened at midnight on October 31, and the spirits of all deceased children (angelitos) are allowed to reunite with their families for 24 hours. On November 2, the spirits of the adults come down to enjoy the festivities that are prepared for them.

In most villages, beautiful altars (ofrendas) are made in each home. They are decorated with candles, buckets of flowers (wild marigolds called cempasuchil & bright red cock's combs) mounds of fruit, peanuts, plates of turkey mole, stacks of tortillas and big Day-of-the-Dead breads called pan de muerto. The altar traditionally has lots of food, bottles of soda, hot cocoa and water for the weary spirits. Toys and candies are left for the angelitos, and on Nov. 2, cigarettes and shots of mezcal are offered to the adult spirits. Little folk art skeletons and sugar skulls, purchased at open-air markets, provide the final touches.

On the afternoon of Nov. 2, the festivities are taken to the cemetery. People clean tombs, play cards, listen to the village band and reminisce about their loved ones. Tradition keeps the village close. Day of the Dead is becoming very popular in the U.S.~ perhaps because we don't have a way to celebrate and honor our dead, or maybe it's because of our fascination with its mysticism

- See more at: <http://www.mexicansugarskull.com/support/dodhistory.html#sthash.8oSh2U6X.dpuf>

Holiday Progressive Dinner and Events

Our annual Holiday Progressive Dinner is Sunday, December 13 beginning at 6:00 PM. We will have three hosts from around Pine Lake. We will have a host for appetizers, another for entrées, and a third for desserts, with participants providing the main dishes, salads, side dishes, beverages, desserts, and other items. Please contact Greg Creech at creechgreg@bellsouth.net to volunteer as a host and to help.



Saturday, December 5—Holiday Time in Pine Lake!



December 5 is loaded with annual Pine Lake Holiday festivities beginning with PLAIN's Breakfast with Santa at the Beach House—8:30—10:30 AM. Next at the Beach House, we have the Cookie Exchange and Lighting of the Lake at 6:30 PM with musical entertainment provided by Pine Lake talent. Get ready to kickoff your Pine Lake holidays with these events.

Happy Holidays from PLAIN

PLAIN
pine lake association of involved neighbors

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 PLAIN Break-fast—8:30—10:30 Arbor Day and 911 Seminars
8	9 City Council Mtg 7:30 PM Courthouse	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 TAB 6 :30 PM Clubhouse ARB 7:00 PM Clubhouse	18	19 PLAIN Mtg— 7:00 PM Beach House	20	21
22	23	24 City Council Work Session 7 :30 PM Courthouse	25	26	27 Pine Lake Lounge 7:30 PM Beach House	28
29	30					

December 2015

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		1	2	3	4	5 PLAIN Breakfast with Santa— 8:30—10:30 Cookie Exchange/Lake Lighting—6:30
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Pine Lake Lounge 7:30 PM Beach House
13 Pine Lake Holiday Progressive Dinner— 6:00	14 City Council Mtg 7:30 PM Courthouse	15	16	17	18	19
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