

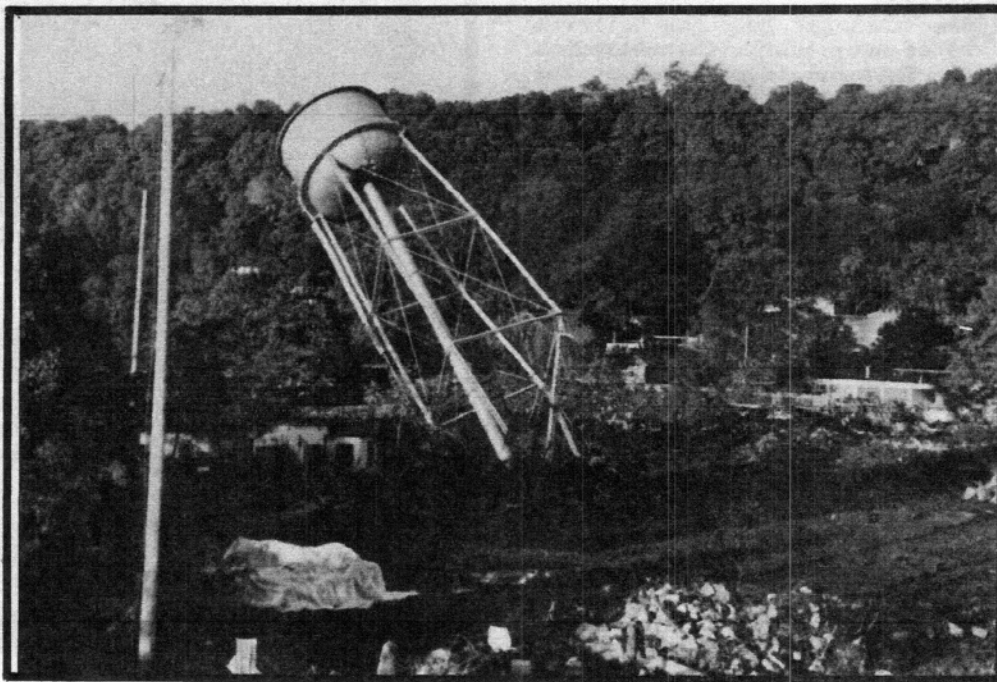
The Piermont Newsletter

VOLUME XXII, NO. 4

PUBLISHED BY THE PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1987

DEMOLITION



Factories Flattened, Flywheel Stays On

The vibes you've been experiencing in the neighborhood of the old Clevepak and Federal factory buildings are due not to hangover or the phase that your bio-rhythms are in but to the modest earthquakes caused by the demolition of the factory buildings.

You have the wrecking ball and an assortment of massive earth-moving equipment to thank for the vibes--all so far within the acceptable IPS (inches per second) range--as one ton of bricks after another succumbs to the carefully engineered assault. One ancient relic still stands: a steel flywheel twenty feet in diameter first used in 1902 by the Piermont Paper Co. to generate in-house electricity. When the wrecking ball recently began doing dangerous bank-shots off this immovable object, project manager Gary Koehnken, deciding that turf was turf, called off his crane. So,

After weeks of anticipation, the landmark water-tower finally dropped - in a direction that surprised the demolition experts.
Photo by Sally Savage

in the commercial area of the new Piermont Landing--an area whose boutiques will be smart, fashionable, and with-it to some and artifacts of South Street Seaport glitz to others--the flywheel, like a gritty old lady who wouldn't budge, will stand, according to Koehnken, as a memorial to things past. Nice.

Koehnken, a civil engineer who has served as project manager on various sites for such as Swiss

Continued on page 3



Presidents Corner

Halloween may be out of fashion in most of the U.S. but in Piermont Halloween is still very much alive. Great costumes are part of the Piermont tradition. At the local Elementary, Middle and High Schools many of the students now choose not to come in costume for the Halloween festivities but Piermont's youths are well decked out. The preschoolers from the Community Playgroup get into the tradition early with a Halloween-afternoon march down Main Street to Kane Park in imaginative homemade costumes.

Halloween evening in Piermont centers around the firehouse. Most Village children go Trick or Treat'n shortly after dark and arrive at the firehouse around 7:00 for a magic show and party sponsored by the firemen. But in Piermont it's not just the children that get into the Halloween swing for there are as many adults in outlandish getups as children. This can be observed at the Halloween Parade down Main Street from the firehouse to Kane Park after the magic show. Hundreds of Villagers of all ages troupe along laughing and chatting, led by fire engines and the colorful Blue Phantom marching band.

Late night Halloween fun can be found at the PCA's annual Halloween Costume Ball at the Village Hall. Here adult costume imagination reaches its heights. This year we had a good crowd and great costumes. Prize winners were: Hazel and Hae Kim decked out for U.S. Constitution celebrations in star-spangled red, white and blue; Tom Mitchell and Paula Huggins as giant mushrooms; and Grace Meyer, elegant in a gold period costume from the 1930's.

The Grand Prize winner was Margaret Grace (Johnson), who came as a huge silver model of the Tappan Zee Bridge. Tappan Zee Bridge #2, a twin to Margaret's TZ #1 and worn by Rod Johnson, broke apart when the judges, Bob and Marilyn Heitman, rejected his bid for a prize while the crown chanted - no TZ - two!! Next year come join the dancing, eat the marvelous hors d'oeuvres and take part in the general foolishness of Halloween in Piermont.

On a more serious note. The Carlyle Pier proposal is still in flux as the Village Board works on the Final Environmental Impact Statement. A modified proposal for the project is currently being hammered out with Carlyle which could lessen some of the more serious impacts on the Village, Pier, and Marsh. The PCA hopes the retail component of the project is substantially reduced and the residential portion is shifted toward the Village and away from the environmentally and visually sensitive eastern end of the Pier property. The executive planning sessions of the Village Board for these discussions have not been open to the public so we must wait to see what the final outcome is.

The Public Hearing on the Pier Project scheduled for November 17 has been shifted to December 1. This change was necessary because legal notification of the scheduled Nov. 17th public hearing was not given within the prescribed time limit. This, in turn, changes the date for completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (F.E.I.S.) to January 16.

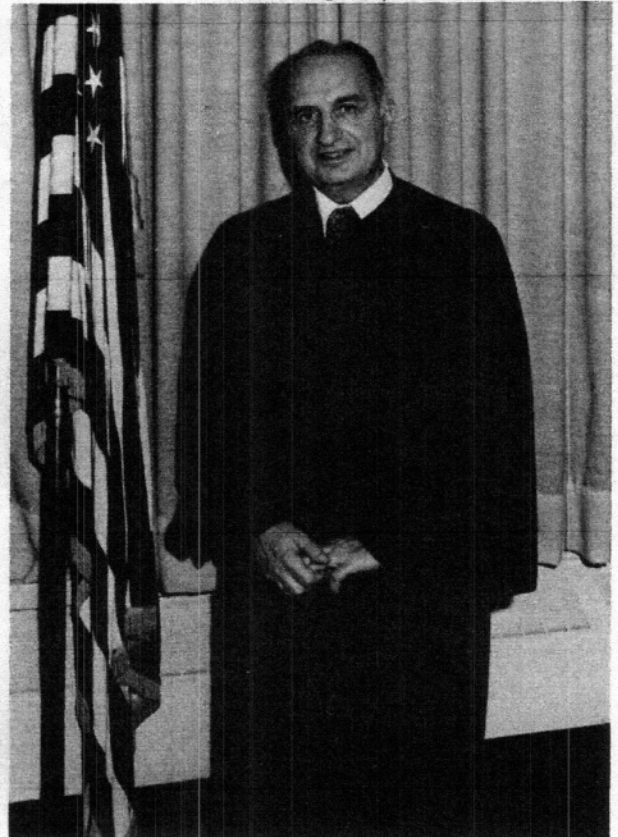
There is still a considerable amount of work ahead for the Village Board and the Village's Boards and commissions. After the F.E.I.S. is accepted sometime next January there will be many planning meetings necessary for a zoning change

and a site plan review on the Carlyle pier project.

Public input is still worthwhile and necessary. The Village Board can only give us a project which will prove acceptable to residents if they receive input, so speak up and let your elected officials know what you are thinking. Call or write a Board member or come to a Village Board Meeting. The Board meets most Tuesdays at the Village Hall, 8:00.

Carolyn Kent

John A. Gallucci
†1915-1987†



There are few in Piermont whose lives were not touched by John Gallucci. A just judge, a solid attorney, and a man whose smile and humor could light up the greyest days, he was one of those rarities - a touchstone of the community he loved, and which treasured him in return. Struck by a fatal heart attack on October 31, he leaves us heartsore.

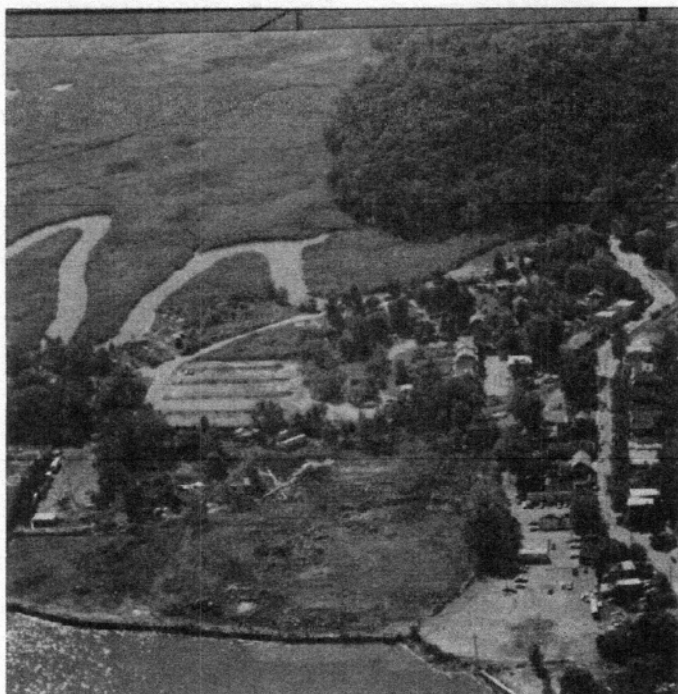
John came to Piermont in 1923 and never even thought of leaving. His wife, Roxane, a native of Piermont, recalls, "...he always wished he had been born here, too".

During World War II, John served as a Captain in the Army Air Force, where he won his wings as a navigator. A graduate of Cornell Law School, he hung his shingle in Nyack, but for many, many years served as Police Justice in Piermont. He fit his judicial robes well, and later served for 15 years as Justice of the Rockland County Court. There, in the words of a Journal News editorial, he "...took his love of a factory town and its people to the bench and administered justice fairly and squarely in the name of humankind."

Ted Merrill

DEMOLITION

Factories Flattened, Flywheel Stays On



Where the buildings were. Aerial photo shows the new Piermont flats.

A planned fire broke out--planned, that is, to the extent that it was proposed by Koehnken as a way to dispose of demolition rubble and thus avoid the noise and pavement punishment of trucking it out. Local firemen, seeing the proposal as an opportunity for fire-control drills, got permits from the County Health Department and the local Fire Inspector to burn and control. Soon after the burning began, a few smoke complaints by residents were registered with both the Department and the Inspector, whereupon the latter rescinded the permit, and the rubble was trucked out. (A call to the Health Department revealed that its on-site engineer assayed the smoke toxicity as negligible.)

A minor oil-spill occurred when the operator of a metal-cutting machine, a huge shear, sliced a tube that fed the fuel--hydraulic oil. Sand was used to soak up the oil, although a resident of Paradise Avenue later noticed oil film on water running off into Sparkill Creek. Damming took care of that problem.

Fill, fire, spill. What do they add up to? Gary Koehnken amiably insists that the fill, together with a new drainage system for Piermont Landing, will decrease flood, that the fire produced an overreaction, and that the spill was a human error swiftly corrected. Maybe he's right. On what spin-off the next phase of the process - pile driving - will produce, your guess is as good as mine.

A visitor to the site, razed of its dilapidated buildings, beholds a rather stark and wondrous wasteland, the basis for, according to Carlyle, a new and improved Piermont, and according to others, gentrification at its trendiest. The flywheel --let's give credit where it's due, to Koehnken-- bears mute and monumental witness to the change that is taking place. Meanwhile, wait and see--and keep your waders dry.

--Bob Sennish

Nestles and who, while an employee of Clevepak, did the development plans for the present site, signed on with Carlyle Piermont Corporation in November of 1986. Affable, articulate, and smart, Koehnken talked openly with this reporter about the best and worst aspects of the demolition phase of the project.

Among the best aspects, he said, was that none of the workers, employed by subcontractor A. J. Mazzochi, Inc., has so far gotten hurt. He thought, also, that disruption to life in Piermont had, in keeping with Carlyle's alleged aim, been minimal. In another reference to the company's good faith, he noted that the demolition phase has been prolonged by at least two weeks because of his decision not to use a hydrohammer, a macro-jackhammer attached to a power vehicle, which splits rock and concrete at decibels many times over those of a wrecking ball. With per-month carrying costs alone in the lower six figures, the decision to prolong was an expensive one.

Estimates for landfill on the site run from 10,000 to 60,000 cubic yards with elevations from three to four feet. Asked about the effect this will have on adjacent floodplains (say, Paradise Avenue), Koehnken referred to the Draft Environmental Statement of July 1987, which states: "The beneficial effects of the new fill will be that overland runoff onto the adjoining properties will be reduced..." (Those of us who live on the adjoining properties are waiting and seeing and keeping our waders dry.) Fill, by the way, will go in in stages, the first to include the western/commercial area, together with the condomized (sic) Building #28, and is to be completed some three or four years from now.

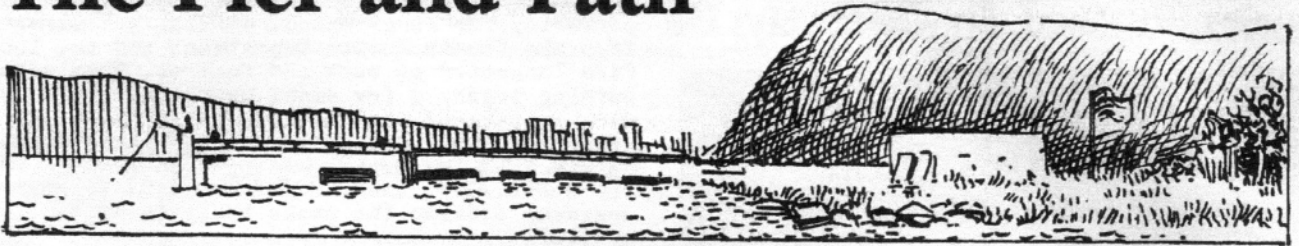


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Parkland: The Pier and Path



What lies in store for the end of the Pier - the part beyond the "dogleg" that marks the eastern edge of the Carlyle Development Corp. property? Some residents want a boat-launching ramp there while others would like that part of the Pier to remain in its present semi-developed state.

The boat-launching facility has been under consideration for over a year, since it was incorporated in the LWRP (Local Waterfront Revitalization Program) adopted by the Village as a guide to future waterfront development. In fact, the Village jumped the gun when it constructed a boat ramp there for a speedboat regatta in the summer of 1986, an act that landed the Village in trouble. The location of the ramp, on the south side of the end of the Pier, happened to be on property owned not by the Village but by the State Department of Environmental Conservation. The DEC threatened to sue the Village, which promptly closed the ramp.

Over the past year, the DEC has undergone a change of mind. It now looks on a launching facility as a forward step in its long-term goal of "access to the river". It has agreed to trade its land at the end of the Pier in exchange for a parcel of Village land next to the ballfield on the Sparkill Creek. Now the Village can build a permanent launching facility at the end of the Pier.

Some residents question whether that is a good location for a boating facility. It is an area of calm and tranquility, they point out, perfect for casual walking, bird-watching, picnicking and fishing. They do not want its serenity broken by an influx of boat trailers and trailer parking, which they claim would disturb both the people who enjoy it and the wildlife that lives there. They would like the Pier beyond the dogleg to stay the way it is until the impact of the Carlyle development becomes clear.

The five Village Trustees, with whom the ultimate decision lies, are of various minds about a launching ramp at this site. Mayor Goswick and Don Cocker are in favor; Charles Berger and John Zahn are predisposed to it but officially noncommitted; Margaret Grace is opposed. All of them agree that some kind of launching facility is desirable somewhere, if only for the use of Village boat owners and not the general public.

Trustee Zahn: "At the present time, I would vote for a ramp where the closed ramp is, but prefer it be restricted to Village residents." Berger: "It seems like the best alternative because it is on the south side, and less susceptible to winds and currents than the north side where another ramp would have to be located." Trustee Grace, the only outspoken opponent of a ramp on the end of the Pier, is against "cityfy-

ing" an area that is essentially Village parkland.

The site Ms. Grace prefers is on the Carlyle property itself, by persuading the developer to share with the Village the ramp it intends to build as part of a proposed marina. "Carlyle could provide launching just for Villagers," Ms. Grace says, "because there are so few of them."

At the same time, she maintains that Carlyle could provide parking facilities for these few boat trailers from the large number of spaces they have set aside for future marina-related activities. Carlyle has not so far agreed to a sharing plan. It has not yet applied for permission to build its marina from the many agencies involved. That process could take several years.

Erie Path Controversy

Another issue involving Village parkland is creating differences of opinion among Village residents. It involves the Erie Path, the former railroad right-of-way west of Hudson Terrace, and whether additional car parking should be allowed there.

Since its designation as a Village park, the path has been restricted to hikers and emergency vehicles, except for a single resident of Hudson Terrace who has been granted parking rights because of a heart condition. When another Hudson Terrace resident requested similar permission for a similar medical problem this summer, a number of residents objected. They cited what they saw as a trend that would be harmful to the natural beauty of the park, that could rut the path, create obstacles to hiking, and eventually lead to the path's becoming a road.

Without prior public notice, the Board voted to allow any resident with a medical problem that made access to their Hudson Terrace house difficult to park on the Erie Path, following approval at a public hearing. Trustee Grace cast the only negative vote, although she did so "reluctantly," she explained, in the interest of preserving Village parkland. So far, nobody has applied for the necessary public hearing to park a car.

Your Opinion Needed

The Newsletter would like to know your opinion on the pending issue of boat-launching and trailer-parking on the end of the Pier. Should there be a facility at this location? If so, should it be open to the public or restricted to Piermont residents? And if you feel strongly on this issue, you can contact the Trustees or attend the Tuesday Village Board meetings.

Bob Cone

St. John's R. C. Church

St. John's Roman Catholic Church has had a long and distinguished history in Piermont. Father Francis McKeon was made resident pastor of Haverstraw in 1848 his parish included all of Rockland County. It was Father McKeon who established a congregation in Piermont and oversaw the building of the first church on the north side of Sparkill Creek nearly opposite the present Reformed Church. The first mass was celebrated in the "new" church on January 1, 1852.

In the 1850s the Piermont parish included all territory south of Haverstraw and as the congregation grew, members from Nyack began demanding their own church because of the distance they had to travel to attend mass. Father John Quinn, then the pastor, compromised and, instead of dividing the congregation into two smaller parishes, located the new building at the extreme northern end of Piermont at its present site commanding an extraordinary view of the Tappan Zee.

In the fall of 1860 work had progressed on the new larger church to the point where all that was needed was the roof. Then a northeasterly storm--one of those known and feared by anyone who has lived in Piermont for any length of time--came up and destroyed the walls. Undaunted, the congregation went back to work and the first church on the new site was finished in August of 1861. The parishioners of St. John's have had to live with other disasters in their history--a fire in the 1890s that seriously damaged the church and most recently a fire in 1962 that completely destroyed the old church. The present brick building was dedicated and the first mass held in May of 1964.

The present pastor of St. John's is Father Robert D. Saccoman, known affectionately to entire community as Father Bob. His activities in both church and community are so non-stop that last spring he was awarded the PCA President's Plaque for community service. Father Bob came to St. John's in February of 1983 from St. Anthony's in Nanuet. Since he was born in Kingston, N.Y. and attended seminary in Yonkers, he qualifies as a true river priest. He is now assisted on weekends by Father Tom O'Hagen, Prof. of Sacred Liturgy at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie, Yonkers.

In addition to the full range of masses on weekends (call 359-0078 for the schedule), the church has a very active Social Action Committee which supports the Cardinal Cook Residence for single parents and the Martin Luther King Center,



both in Spring Valley. The Catholic Daughters also have many activities including fasting days ending with bread and soup dinners--all money that would have been spent on food that day is donated to Oxfam, an international organization trying to alleviate world hunger.

While over 450 families are currently included in St. John's Parish, Father Bob is concerned about the changing nature of the congregation--which reflects the changing nature of Piermont. The congregation is now much older than it was a few years ago and there are fewer children enrolled in the Catholic education program. Because this area has become fashionable and expensive, young families are transient and move to cheaper locations. And more houses are "weekend homes" for the wealthy. All of these changes mean a less stable and family-centered community both for Piermont and St. John's. Father Bob also says that because of its beautiful setting the church is "attractive to passersby," and while he welcomes all who want to enjoy and worship in the church on an occasional basis, he would like to encourage involvement and on-going commitment to both church and community.

Peggy Fox Sennish



Hudson Valley Bazaar
516 Main Street, Piermont, NY 10968

Gail Montgomery, Prop.

(914) 359-6601

**The
Turning Point**



RESTAURANT

At the Piermont Library

During the month of October, the Piermont Library's display focused on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for "Piermont Landing" now being reviewed by the Village Board. Along with the exhibit, the Library Board posted a letter asking people whether they thought the Library should be part of this new development, and for any other thoughts they might have on the Library.

Quite a few people who came into the Library during October took the time out to jot down their opinions and ideas and drop them into our suggestion box. We are reprinting the Board's letter so that a broader base of Piermont could become aware of the Library's concerns and respond to them as well.

Over the years, and lately with more intensity, the Library Board has been discussing the Library's future. The purpose of this letter is to inform you, the people for whom the Library exists, of what the Board's concerns are and to ask for your ideas.

Foremost on the list of concerns is the Library building. It is old and short of space. Limited parking is available and access is difficult for older people and the handicapped. Solutions to these problems seem to lie either in renovation or in moving the Library to a new location, perhaps in whatever development is finally built on the pier. The Library Board has talked to the Village Board and to the prospective developers about this possibility. We've also talked about looking for another building in Piermont.

We don't want to make decisions in a vacuum. We want to know what you think.

- * Is the current building and location serving your needs?
- * Should we expand?
- * Should we move?
- * Should we continue to explore the possibility of finding a spot on pier?
- * Should we look elsewhere for a home?

There is no checklist that accompanies this letter. It's not a questionnaire, and you're not limited to the questions we've asked. If you have something to say on any subject concerning the Library, we want to hear it.

Send your comments to:

The Piermont Library Board
Piermont, N. Y. 10968

...or drop them off in the suggestion box at the Library or the book drop that is on Main St. in front of the bank. We appreciate your continued interest in the Library.

Grace Meyer

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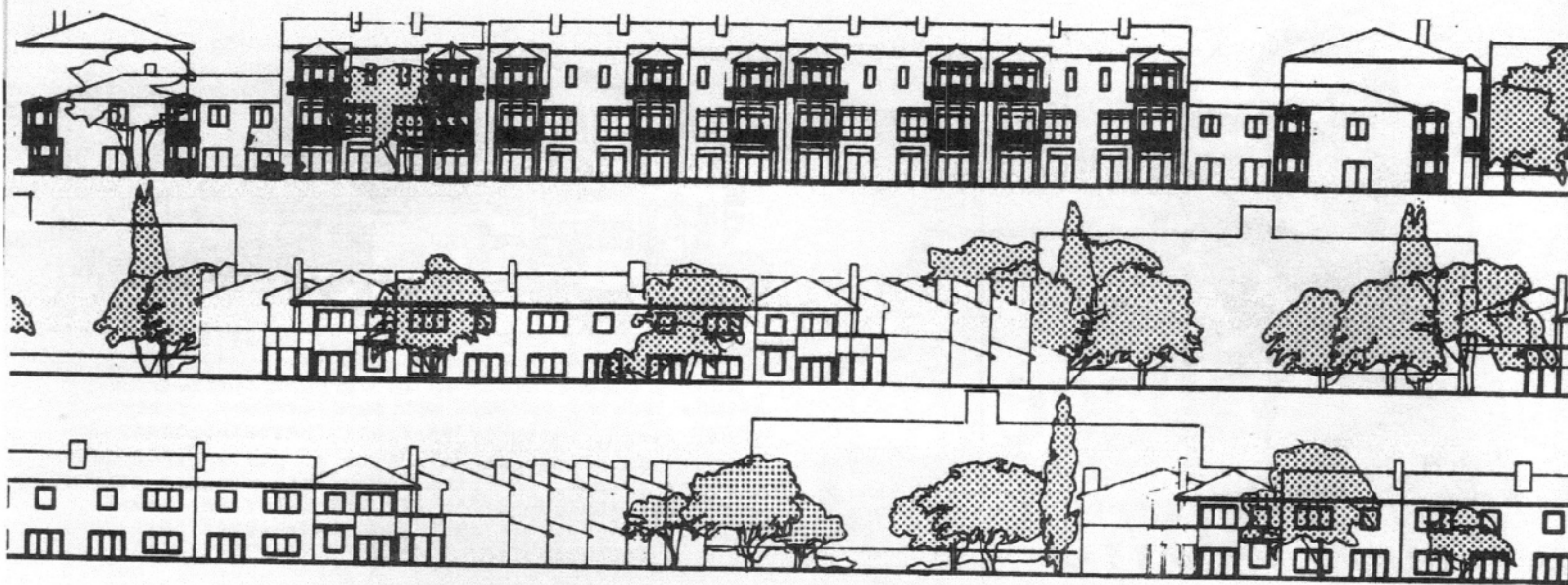
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The Carlyle Proposal: Village Board Acts

On Wednesday, November 4, 1987, the Piermont Village Board, in an executive session, recommended to its consultant that two significant changes in the Carlyle Proposal be included for review in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

1. A reduction of newly constructed commercial space to 27,413 sq. ft.
2. Changing the 25 "below-market condos" in building 28 to market rate units. The numbers for the proposed project in its recommendation are:

- * 225 market-rate condos, 50 of which would be in building 28.
- * 25 affordable rental units, above the new commercial space.
- * 27,413 sq. ft. newly constructed commercial space, in what the developer calls "the Shops at Piermont Landing"
- * 18,000 sq. ft. of health/yacht club in the ground floor of building 28 (Membership in this country-club-like facility will be offered to Pier-at-Piermont owners, but will also be available to non residents).
- * 75,600 sq. ft. of indoor boat storage/parking in building 41

The Board made these recommendations in response to the impacts of the proposed development described in the DEIS, and in response to comments by individuals and parties of interest that are part of the on-going SEQRA process. That material is being reviewed weekly at workshop sessions called by the Village board as a "meeting of minds" with the heads of its boards and commissions, its planning consultant, attorney, and the developer. These workshops have not only served as a constructive forum of review of the DEIS, and the project it represents, but have been truly a time for looking at Village goals in light of the 1987-style realities the project represents in terms of impacts to the village.

The Board recommended the reduction in commercial space as a traffic mitigation measure. Reductions

were considered for building "D" off the main plaza of the proposed commercial area, as well as the size of the proposed restaurant, and elimination of all professional/office space in building A. What is left will be studied to see if it meets the goal of "enhancement" instead of "overpowering" existing main street commerce. The remaining new retail construction serves two important functions. It provides the buildings for its desired affordable rental units, as well as creates, by

its design and placement on the parcel, a potentially attractive public plaza, on the waterfront.

In its proposal, Carlyle has, in the DEIS, made a financial case for the value of a mixed-use project that includes a trade-off of commercial for residential space. The Village Board, hopes to avoid an increase of density in residential units. By changing the below-market condos to market-rate units, it may succeed. Additionally, below-market-rate units presented two problems. The first is their real cost. While below market rate, they would still be in the \$200,000 range, which remains beyond the financial abilities of the residents it hoped to reach. The second problem is allocation of those units and guarding against their immediate resale which would represent not only a windfall for the owner, but would take them out of the below market range.

Much remains to be considered by the Village Board and the residents of the village. Public comment to the DEIS extends to ten days after the public hearing scheduled for December 1st. The Final Impact Statement then prepared by the Village Board with its consultant will delineate initial changes in the proposed project as mitigation of impact described. But changes and alterations in the proposal will continue throughout the site plan review process. The final project will be finally shaped by the zone change for the parcel. That will reflect the LWRP and the material available in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Margaret Grace



boys and girls up to size 12. There's a good line of shoes, too, including Zoo Shoes. Also many charming yet useful gifts for baby: Baby Bjorn equipment, musical toys and bedding for the crib. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 to 5; Sunday 1 to 5.

Abigail Rose has sweaters in both wool and cotton, some hand-knit, one-size-fits-all (helpful to any gift buyer) in beautiful new colors and styles. Gloves, hats, tights and leggings make warm, much appreciated gifts; luscious hand-woven scarves feel as good as they look. Other great gift items include: putty cotton nightgowns, a large array of handcrafted jewelry, leather goods in pastel colors, Body Shop scents, soaps and lotion in lovely packaging; popular Las Manos adjustable belts in suedes, silk, brocades and cotton. For children (boys, too): hand-knit alpaca sweaters; Jeannie Mae cotton sweatshirts and dresses with leggings or pants to match; hair-wear, belts, suspenders, and more.

Toys from around the world are at Buttercup and Friends at 535 Piermont Avenue. Brio trains from Sweden, Corolle dolls from France and Darda race sets from Germany. The new Roller Coaster game intrigues the younger visitors. There are myriad stuffed animals and wind-up toys; musical instruments and recordings by Raffi, Rosenshontz, Sharon, Lois and Bran. Art supplies by Caran D'Ache, Galt and Prang for budding artists. A party department provides everything from favors and paper goods to pinatas from Mexico and Venezuela. A big selection of greeting cards is available. The store offers a wide variety of prices, many to suit a lowbudget. It's open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 to 5:30 and Sundays from 1-5.

For the holiday season Goose Cove Antiques features Staffordshire pottery, a Pennsylvania dower chest, and a wonderful small farmwagon. The shop has lamps, rugs, paintings, prints, Windsor chairs and many interesting gift items for the tabletop, such as brass candlesticks. For Christmas, Goose Cove will have Christmas wreaths, dried and fresh. December hours: 11 to 6 Tuesday through Sunday.

The Tappan Zee Thrift Shop is Piermont's No. 1 shop - it was the first to open on Main Street twenty-one years ago. Its celebrated opening brought a wave of optimism, following a long period of time when empty storefronts faced the street. Between Clausland Bookshop and Goose Cove Antiques, it is known as the place where great bargains and surprisingly high-quality merchandise may be discovered at a pittance of its

original cost. You can count on finding knit goods, toys, books, ski jackets in children's sizes, ice skates, baby carriers or car seats, craft kits and puzzles, and miscellany that varies from day to day. The occasional great find makes every visit worthwhile. Hours are 10-4 Tuesdays, Thursdays, Friday, and Saturday. Donations accepted each day until 3:30. It is staffed by volunteers.

Rosemary Cone



Get Well Soon, Charlie!

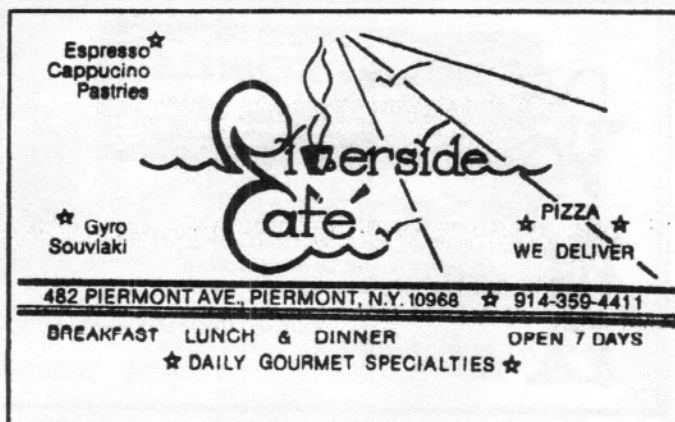
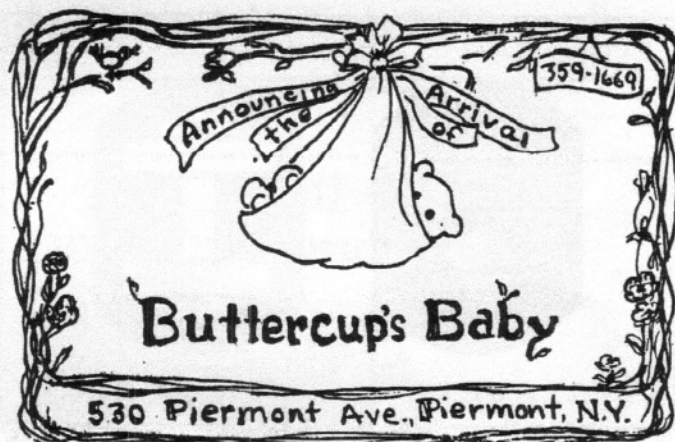
Piermont resident, Village Trustee and longtime PCA member Charles Berger has been hospitalized since October 20th. For many years Charlie has suffered with a digestive disorder. While most of us struggle to keep our weight down, Charlie has had the opposite problem.

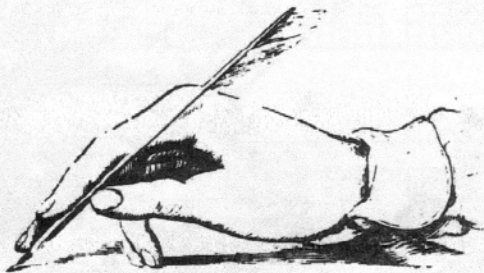
On November 9th, Charlie was transferred from Nyack to Mount Sinai Hospital in N.Y.C. for extensive surgery and he is now on the mend. Charlie's drive and stamina should speed his recovery and he should return to Piermont soon.

While at Nyack Hospital Charlie spent many hours working on the Carlyle proposal for the Piermont Pier. One of his fellow trustees recently referred to Charlie as the Village's "brain trust."

Get well soon Charlie, we miss you.

C.K.





Letters to the Editor

To Editor:

A small antidote to the many ugly news stories of man's inhumanity to man... On Veterans' Day, after driving through the Village and noting the flags - including the new square black POW/MIA ones - waving behind a blizzard of snow, I reached our Memorial to note Vito Sorriento struggling out of his car, in spite of the ghastly weather, to set back the MIA/POW flag there that had been blown over. Nice to know there are still small towns where people can be bothered.

Sally Savage

To Editor:

At a recent meeting, The Village Trustees responded to a letter I wrote the Board (see below) protesting possible construction of a boat ramp on the end of the pier. Generally favoring

the project, the Board argued that use would be limited to Piermonsters with "small" boats, thus precluding wide trailers and other impediments to "passive recreation." Maybe so, but my hunch remains that once in place, the ramp will generate uses beyond the Board's current guess. The letter:

Board of Trustees
Piermont, New York

Dear Trustee:

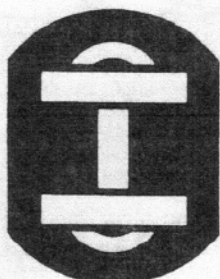
It has come to my attention that your Board is considering the construction of a boat ramp on the south side of the east end of the pier. I oppose the construction on that site of anything on the scale of a boat ramp until the impact of Carlyle's "Piermont Landing" on the Village and on the pier in particular has been assessed (which means 1990 or later). Piermont Landing can only add to the volume of people and traffic in the Village and to changes in its demographic profile. To these dynamics, let's not add a boat ramp, which can only compound problems to come.

The only benefit of such a boat ramp for the people of Piermont will be to that very small minority who own boats and have no other place from which to launch them. To the great majority, who use the pier for "passive recreation" (walking, cycling, birding, picnicing, getting away from it all, etc.), the boat ramp, worse than a nuisance, will be the end of an era. Unless (God forbid) it is widened, the present Ferry Road is so narrow as to make two-way traffic at best difficult and at worst dangerous. To increase the volume of that traffic and the nature of it (wide-load trailers) would be sheer folly. It would also:

1. Discourage and diminish walking on the road, which would be dangerous, comparable to telling people to go play in the traffic.
2. Have the same effect on cyclists.
3. Drive away wildlife.
4. Create congestion and noise in the ballpark/pavilion area.
5. Create traffic problems and increase accident possibilities on the western end of Paradise Avenue.
6. Lead to a diminution of picnicing and getting away from it all out on the end of the pier.

The ramp itself would be launching noisy power-boats into the south side of the pier, thus driving away the cormorants, ospreys, night herons and other species that make Piermont Piermont--a bird sanctuary whose lucky citizens are just a short drive from the city. Why citify Piermont? A parking lot and a trailer turn-around at the end of the pier, together with the Cross-8ronx access to it, will do just that.

Yours truly,
Robert B. Sennish



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Contributors to this issue:

Bob Cone, Rosemary Cone,
Margaret Grace, Caroline Kent,
Bob Samuels, Bob Sennish, Peggy Fox Sennish.
Photos: Sally Savage, Charlie Samuels.
Layout & design: Angela Langston,
Denise Northey
Illustration: Jim Kimack
Editor: Ted Merrill

To Editor:

I am interested to see the "ballot box" recently installed at the Piermont Public Library. On the second floor is a cardboard box in which to deposit your vote - Should the library stay in its present location, or should it move down to the new Carlyle Pier Project? Vote which way you like, and, oh yes, how may the library better serve you - go ahead and vote.

I "cast my vote", and began asking around to see if this idea is seriously being considered. It is!!!

I am so shocked that I am compelled to write and cast my vote through this public forum.

I vote NO MOVE!

Why move out of a space owned lock, stock and barrel by the Library, into a rental space at a questionable rate? Granted, the library is up a steep hill, and there is precious little parking space, but that is a small price to pay when you consider the quietude and esthetic beauty of the library building itself.

More people might use the library if more programs were offered. What about presenting some of our local poets and authors in a series of public readings? What about making the library more easily accessible to the handicapped? There may be grants available for this purpose. What about renovating the existing structure to make more efficient use of the space? What about working with what we've got instead of flying after an illusive gamble?

You who are interested in the details should ferret them out. Just ask any Library Board member, and, oh yes, be sure to cast your vote.

Sincerely,
Diane Horstmyer

To Editor:

All the residents of Piermont pay for the library but not all of them can use it.

Because of the library's location and architecture there isn't much that can be done without

spending huge sums to make it more accessible to people who have trouble climbing stairs.

The library board has before it a proposal to relocate to the new pier development. I understand that it is difficult logistically and emotionally for the library to move and that there are problems to be resolved over costs and leases.

I'm also aware that the village board has offered legal and other help to ease the move. I urge the library board to accept this offer and try to reach some kind of a compromise agreement with the pier project's developers.

If the library doesn't move soon, much needed new laws will force it to become wheelchair accessible. The difficulties and expense involved in this will make the relocation seem like a bargain.

Our old library building is charming and unique. It could be sold and converted into a lovely home. The money from the sale could be used to help pay for and endow a new library.

It's time Piermont had a modern library with easy parking and access for all.

Bob Samuels

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Kirk

Kirk Moldoff knows what makes you tick.

He's a medical illustrator, an artist, who is hired by magazines, book publishers and pharmaceutical companies to give the world a view of what goes on inside the human body.

Some work by the 33-year-old Piermont bachelor is available locally. Buttercup & Friends, the children's shop, sells "The Macmillan Book of the Human Body" which Kirk illustrated, and the Clausland Bookstore carries "AIRBRUSH: The Complete Studio Handbook" which has several pages of his paintings.

Kirk has used residents as models. David, the son of Piermont trustee Margaret Grace, for example, is the boy in the Macmillan book showing how muscles work by kicking a soccer ball.

If you talk with Kirk, a quiet, serious man, for a while you realize that like so many successful people he had to search before he found his niche.

He grew up not far from Piermont, in Dumont, N.J., and went on to the University of Rochester where he gained a B.A. in Neuroscience and an M.S. in Medical Education. "I wanted to go into brain research," he recalls.

Next stop was the University of Chicago where he had a pre-doctorate fellowship in the Department of Anatomy but he found research wasn't for him. Applying for grants was a hassle and he didn't want to be spend his life narrowly focused on a single subject.

He'd always had an interest in art and illustrating and at Rochester, when he was an undergraduate, he'd discovered the medical illustration department where art was applied to medicine. He'd enjoyed that. So he returned to Rochester, where after a year-and-a-half, he won a Masters degree in medical illustration.

But he learned that academic medical illustrating didn't suit him either. He found the work, which consisted largely of making drawing and charts for scientific papers, routine and unchallenging.

A friend of his parents, an advertising executive, opened Kirk's eyes to the commercial side to medical illustration. He urged Kirk to try and sell his work to advertising agencies.

Success was slow in coming. "I worked as a bartender at night for several years to support myself while I was showing my portfolio around. Meanwhile, I was teaching myself other techniques. I started doing acrylic sculpture that could be photographed and used in advertising."

He also bought himself several books on airbrushing and began mastering that difficult skill on his own. Today he works mostly with an airbrush, which uses air pressure to spray paint from a nozzle.

Kirk began to be known. His client list now includes many of the nation's largest drug companies. He's worked also for "Discover" magazine, "Sports Illustrated" and the National Geographic Society.

Many of his highly stylized illustrations are so futuristic looking that they could have been used as backdrops in the movie "2001."

His most unusual recent project was a 360 degree theater presentation for a drug company that involved 13 screens and 39 slide projectors. It gives physicians at trade shows a three dimensional view of the heart and the affects of heart disease.

About six years ago Kirk moved to Piermont. "I like it because it's close to the city, quiet and a



good place to work without interruption," he says. Not being interrupted means so much to him that he asked that his address not be published.

He clearly enjoys what he does, often working through the night. "Each assignment is a new challenge. You're trying to portray something in a way it hasn't been portrayed before," he explains.

-Bob Samuels

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