

The Piermont Newsletter

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Piermont Pier To Remain Open To Traffic

After a long hot summer of often-passionate argument and debate over how, and even whether to restrict motor vehicle traffic on the Piermont Pier, the Village Board wound up spinning its wheels and ended up in almost the same place it had begun. At its August meeting, it decided that there would be no new fees or restrictions for pier drivers. What ended the debate was a report by Police Chief Michael O'Shea on the surprising results of a pier traffic study.

At the same time, the Board said it probably would close the pier to motor vehicles three Sundays next summer as it had this year. It also moved ahead on plans for two new buildings at the end of the pier and will consider allowing a vendor to open a hot dog stand next summer near the Goswick Pavilion.

The traffic report, Chief O'Shea told the Board, showed that the number of vehicles on the pier—about 200 a day—is almost the same on weekends as it is on weekdays. Everyone had assumed it was much heavier on weekends, but the detailed study, conducted for the village by the Orangetown Highway Department, refuted that.

Contrary to another public perception, the report said that speeders are a small minority. Those who break the pier's 15 miles per hour speed limit, tend to do it in the straightaway after the ball field. The study also said that weekday pier traffic peaks at 11 am, and again between 3 and 4 pm. The peaks on weekends are at 11 am, and between 1 and 4 pm.

After listening to the Chief, the Board voted not to restrict motor vehicle access, but rather to have the police and Piermont's DPW work together to "calm" pier traffic. The DPW immediately painted a new stop sign on the roadway at the entrance to the Pier. Drivers had long ignored the existing red metal stop sign there.

The plan calls for:

- Enforcing the stop sign.
- Painting new signs on the roadway to remind drivers of the 15 mph speed limit.
- Targeting police patrols at the times and the areas suggested by the study.
- Deploying the radar / message board to remind drivers of the speed limit.
- Mounting a permanent radar sign that tells drivers how fast they are going.
- Encouraging pedestrians to walk on the left side of Pier Road, facing traffic.



Piermont Pier was closed to traffic on July 17, 2011 and for 2012 it will probably be closed on three Sundays.

Bob Samuels photos

Turning its attention to other pier matters, Mayor Chris Sanders reviewed plans for a building that's about to be erected near the end of the pier, where the black top widens out. It will go on the north side, near the river to house the Fire Department's rescue boat. A \$125,000 state grant is paying for the prefab metal building and a contractor to put it together.

Plans are also moving ahead, Sanders said, to cover the cinder block building with a more attractive exterior with a roofed porch. The village hopes to cover the cost of this improvement with an \$180,000 grant it has already secured.

~ Bob Samuels

President's Corner



Piermont is charming. Piermont is quaint. Piermont is lovely. Piermont is also awash in sewerage, a recent report on Hudson River pollution reminds us. If you didn't know, you'd think we live in some sad little Third World backwater instead of an upscale New York suburb.

But Piermont is number one, right? Yes, of course. We took three of the top spots in the study. That's amazing! Researchers sampling 10 locations over four years found that our Sparkill Creek is Numero Uno. Even though it is still stunningly beautiful and rarely smells, they report that the creek was mucking up the river 86% of the time they tested it. We beat 'em all -- even besting Brooklyn's notorious Gowanus Canal! Pollution was there in only half the samples.

Just imagine the ads we can run: "Live in Piermont. We're Number One in sewerage discharge!" That should boost our real estate values

Bad stuff also was found in 50% of the samples taken near the Piermont Pier, and out much further where the joint County-Orangetown outfall sewer line discharges. That matches the Gowanus Canal results.

The report doesn't mention volume, but I am sure we beat them there too. The outfall line pumps a torrent of poorly treated warm sewerage into the Hudson. It keeps the water there from freezing, even during the bitterest cold spells. Flocks of seagulls use the area as a spa. They find it toasty warm.

Boaters feel differently about the spot. In summer, the smell keeps them a long distance away. However, you don't have to go sailing to experience the odor. Just drive by the pumping station on Ferdon Avenue near the drawbridge on a warm day and take a whiff. The perfume de la sewerage also is available at various points along the Erie path. Enjoy!

But Piermonter John Lipscomb, the

Riverkeeper boat captain who headed up the sampling program tells us that isn't a joke, "The risks from contaminated water are really significant," he said.

Why do we put up with it? It has been going on for years and is not a problem we caused. We are geographical victims. Piermont is the convenient dumping place for Rockland County and Orangetown to get rid of its poorly treated human waste. We have all been too passive. We need to complain to our Village Board, the Orangetown Board and as County legislators.

Our Mayor and village Trustees must let the County and Orangetown know that they need to repair their sewer systems and stop pumping filth into Piermont waters. If they don't halt this outrage, Piermont should use every legal means to stop them.

~Bob Samuels

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Rockland Bridge: When Will It Be Fixed?

And so it was that merchants, haulers, and other citizens of Piermont, approaching the waterway designated Tappan Sloate for over a century, were able, in 1874, to cross the stream for the first time on a meant-to-be permanent structure. In that year, a small single-span bridge laid up out of stone and brick, was constructed to carry travelers from Rockland Road across the stream to the present Piermont Avenue, and back again. One hundred and thirty-seven years later, that same little bridge, battered by time, trucks, and traffic still carries travelers over what is now called Sparkill Creek, from Ferdon and Rockland Road to Piermont Avenue—but it no longer takes them back again. The bridge has been narrowed by orange traffic cones to a single one-way lane, its structure in serious need of repair after a century-and-a-half.

Although the Rockland Road Bridge as it is now designated in the National Register of historic places is one of only three of its design still standing in the state, there was a time not so long ago when it looked as if it would need to give up its place in that trio. It did fine for a hundred years or so, and then, in the 90's major construction began on the pier. Trucks loaded with heavy equipment coming into the village from the south took what seemed the shortest and most direct route to the construction site, up Ferdon as far as Rockland Road, over the Rockland Road bridge to Piermont Avenue, then straight up Paradise to the Landing.

In 2002, while the construction was still going on, the New York State Department of Transportation inspected the bridge and declared it "seriously deficient." After three more years of heavy use, and much backing and forthing between the village and the county, about what should be done to the bridge and who should pay to do it, two major events moved the process forward: in April 2005, the county, going in to make interim repairs, reported back that the deterioration was now so serious, that only the foundation could be shored up, not the brick arch.

Alarmed, the Village Board, in May of 2005, voted to close the bridge. Ten months later, based on a consulting engineer's report, it was reopened for one-way traffic—which accounts for the orange cones. Meanwhile the battered little structure was nominated for and then placed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Now it was historic, but in serious trouble, and the price



Orange traffic cones are an unsightly feature of the Rockland Road bridge.

for rebuilding it in keeping with its landmark status and according to the rules of historic preservation looked likely to require more than a million dollars, a financial burden that could not be laid on the taxpayers of Piermont. Stalemate.

And where are we six years later? By general agreement, things at the crossing could look better than they do, whatever the underlying problems, so the orange cones may have come down before this story is printed—replaced by planter boxes whose delivery date, Tom Temple assures us, will be the middle of August. So for the time being, the passage will look better, though it will remain one-way.

For the longer term, Sylvia Welch, our grants genius, is at work on funding ideas, and with luck the little bridge will be reconstructed, brick arch and all in an historically appropriate way. And, with a little more luck, the Village will have to chip in no more than it would have cost if—as long seemed likely—we had been forced to tear down the little bridge and throw something durable but graceless across the stream in its place. Stay tuned.

~Joan Gussow

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Need 'Craic?' Try Riverwaves Salon



Andrea Cea, owner of Riverwaves, applies nail polish to a young party goer at a "Princess Party" at the salon. Marjorie Derven photo.

Ireland is famous for its public houses, or pubs, known around the world for the "craic," a Gaelic term that loosely translates into enjoyable conversation and atmosphere. In Piermont, many locals visit the Riverwaves Salon not only for its great hair and nail care, but also for this same feeling.

Located at 222 Ash Street in Piermont, with sweeping views of the Hudson River, this unisex full service salon has been a presence in the community for more than two decades. Denise Oswald, a long-time Piermont resident and Riverwaves patron, enjoys the pub-like feeling at the salon. "It's a very welcoming environment," Denise notes, "filled with regulars and newcomers."

Andrea Cea, owner of Riverwaves, has been in business in Piermont for two decades and enjoys being part of the fabric of the community. "Piermont is filled with amazing, interesting people," according to Andrea, who values "relationships that have been cultivated over time." In fact, Andrea is now providing health and beauty services to the next generation of her original clients. My daughter, Rebecca, serves as a case in point: she was first introduced to Riverwaves when she had a pre-school "Princess Party" with ten or

so four- and five-year-olds at the salon, where party-goers made tiaras and had their hair and nails done. Now beginning her freshman year in college, my daughter got ready for her senior high school prom at Riverwaves.

"I like to make people feel good," Andrea said. "I don't want to just provide the service, I like to look at the whole person inside and out." Her enthusiasm and warmth has been noted by her loyal clients, including Rebecca Tachna, a Piermont resident who co-owns a graphic design studio in Manhattan. She has been visiting the salon for twelve years, and observes that, "We are all so involved with superficial busyness. It's a wonderful break to come to Riverwaves. I enjoy the laid-back quality...you feel like old friends when you walk in the door."

Julia Breer, another long-time customer, observes that Andrea is "...adept at all phases of skin, nail and massage care." Beyond the expert beauty care, Julia also appreciates the personal attention that is the signature characteristic of the Riverwaves salon, offering "an uncanny sense and respect for each client's individual needs." Julia describes Andrea as "the unofficial caregiver of Piermont's thriving community, open and available not only to loyal customers, but drop-ins who stumble upon this jewel."

Now supported by a small and talented team that provides the full range of salon services, including haircuts, color, nail care and waxing services, Andrea's business has evolved over time. She has grown from being a manicurist in someone else's shop, to a partnership, to her current role as entrepreneur and sole proprietor. "I consider it the ultimate compliment if someone is willing to pay you for your services," says Andrea.

Inherently a personal, "high touch" service, Andrea creates an environment where clients feel safe, respected and pampered. Denise appreciates that the salon is kept immaculately clean, which she attributes to Andrea's intense attention to detail and high standards.

While Riverwaves does not serve any alcohol, like a true Irish pub, in many respects, it serves a similar function. "It's warm, it's predictable," according to Denise, and, "it's a great place to catch up with Piermont happenings."

~Marjorie Derven

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Something Fishy This Way Comes

This spring, around the time of the June 4th 'River Day' Festival and in celebration of the Hudson River and its unique fish community, a new informational sign kiosk was installed on the Piermont Pier Road. The sign, researched and designed by Piermont native Greg Mercurio was funded by a grant from the Hudson River Foundation's Hudson River Improvement Fund and sponsored by the Piermont Village Board and Piermont Parks Commission.

Images of Bluefish, Striped Bass, White Perch, Flounder, Herring and Eel swim serenely across Mercurio's soft washed marker color rendering of the river, salt meadow and Tallman Mountain. The fish found in the waters off Piermont are depicted in accurate size relationship to each other and are labeled with the common and scientific names.

Today, over 200 species of fish have been identified throughout the 315 miles of the Hudson River and its tributaries. The section of the river with the highest diversity of fish species is

right here in the waters surrounding the Piermont Pier. The unique environment created by the transition of the tidal marine salt water and the slowly flowing fresh water plays an important role as a nursery for larval and juvenile fishes.

The timber kiosk and enamel coated aluminum 4' x 8' sign was created and installed by Michael Darch of Island Cutter Signs, who has created the 'Welcome to Piermont' signs, The Piermont Pier and Rittenberg Memorial signs and others around the village.

A box on the sign offers pamphlets prepared by the New York State Department of Health informing the public on health advisories on eating sport fish in Rockland and Westchester marine waters. Updated annually, the pamphlet states, for example, that in the Tappan Zee Bay, it is not ever advisable to eat Channel catfish, Gizzard shad, White catfish, Crab tomalley and crab cooking liquid. However, for males over 15 and women over 50 eating Atlantic needlefish, Bluefish,



Fish Kiosk on the Piermont Pier. Dan Sherman photo

Rainbow smelt, Striped bass, White perch, Carp, Goldfish once a month is fine and all other fish species plus Blue Crabs can be eaten once each week. No fish from the river should be eaten by children under 15 or women under 50. For more information on eating sport fish in the Hudson River visit <http://www.health.ny.gov> and search for "Hudson River Fish Advisory."

~Dan Sherman, Chairman
Piermont Parks Commission

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The Piermont Community Gardener

Gardening doesn't have to stop after Labor Day. In fact, fall and winter can be productive seasons for gardeners. Here are some things you can do:

1) *Plant your garlic:* Mid to late fall is the traditional time for planting garlic. The folk wisdom is this – plant your garlic on the waning of the 1st full moon after the first fall frost. With the first frost coming later and later every year, look for a late October, November or even December full moon, and plant as it starts to wane (assuming we've had a frost by then). Plant individual garlic cloves flat side down (pointy side up), about 1-inch deep. Space them so there are about 9 cloves in a 12" square area, which means about 4-inches apart on all sides.

2) *If you have a sunny spot, you can plant Mache.* Mache is a winter green that tastes great and can survive very cold weather. It makes a great addition to fall, winter and early spring salads. Mache can also be planted as a winter cover crop – in this case, instead of eating the plants, you dig the plants into the soil in the spring. They will decompose and add nutrients to your garden.

3) *Plant spinach:* If you have a "cold frame," or other protected space that will provide a little insulation and let in the sun, you can plant spinach. Spinach tends to be cold tolerant, though it does need some insulation and protection, as well as sun.

4) *Harvest:* Some plants are best harvested after they are kissed by frost, and some are best harvested after prolonged

cold. Kale, collards and Brussels sprouts all taste best when harvested after the frost. Some varieties of these plants will even last through the winter. These plants are biennials. That means they live two years, producing flowers and seeds in the second year. These plants have internal mechanisms that help them last through the winter so they can grow, flower and reproduce the following year. Other biennials best harvested in the fall and winter are carrots and parsnips. During the cold weather, carrots and parsnips convert complex carbohydrates that they have stored in their roots into simpler sugars. This makes them taste sweeter.

5) *Shell dried beans and cook up delicious and healthy bean dishes.* Growing drying beans, even just a few plants, can provide the main ingredient for chilies, soups and bean based spreads like black bean hummus. Most are easy to shell once the pods are totally dry. For a small crop it doesn't take much time. For an acre of dry beans, well, that would be another story.

6) *Clean up and mulch your garden.* Mulching is a really important way to keep nutrients in and weeds down. Clean your garden and mulch it well with dry leaves, wood chips (watching out for things like Poison Ivy), or salt hay. Another option is to plant a winter cover crop of rye, wheat, clover, oats or Mache. This cover crop will then be dug into the soil in the spring, providing nutrients as it decomposes.

~Susan Freiman



The recent Hurricane Irene flooded much of the village and made a mess, but we were spared the damage that other areas received. Above is a photo of the Piermont Pier on Monday morning after the hurricane. Thanks to the excellent work by Piermont's DPW, the pier was cleaned up and ready for action the next day. Rockland County, however, was declared a disaster area. If you had extensive damage, individuals and businesses can register directly with FEMA for assistance. Residents should contact FEMA either by phone or online to begin the process.



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The Front Line

Piermont Police Warn of 'Smash and Grab' Thieves

There has been a number of so called smash and grab larcenies in the area of the Piermont Pier and the Piermont Police Department wants residents to remove valuables from their cars and lock up the vehicles. "These larcenies are beginning to slow down, but they are continuing to occur, according to Police Chief Michael O'Shea. "When you are visiting the pier, bring your valuables with you or lock them in your trunk. These thieves are not forcing trunks open, but what they are doing is going after things in plain view such as wallets, pocketbooks and cameras. We have also had instances where people

left valuables in plain sight and then did not even lock their cars."

Chief O'Shea said that there is also an ongoing debate taking place in the village about whether or not to close the pier to traffic. "Regarding traffic on the pier," he said, "there are two messages we would like to get out. If you drive on the pier, keep within the speed limit of 15 miles per hour and when you come on a section crowded with pedestrians, slow down even more. For pedestrians, walk on the left side facing traffic."

Each year, Piermont restaurateur John McAvoy, owner of The Turning-Point, sponsors a Labor Day concert/fund raiser at The Goswick Pavilion to benefit the Police Athletic League

(PAL). "We want to thank John for his great efforts," said the Chief. "The money will be used this year to buy a new PAL van. What we do with the van is to take children to a Boulders game on Wednesday night. Further, the local VFW uses the van as well as the Piermont Fire Department. It is more like a community van than just a PAL van."

The Piermont Police are continuing to strictly enforce bicycling laws in the village and speaking with local bicycling clubs about the need to obey all traffic laws. The Chief said that the problem of bicyclists running traffic lights and not riding single file is an issue in the village itself and on Route 9W.

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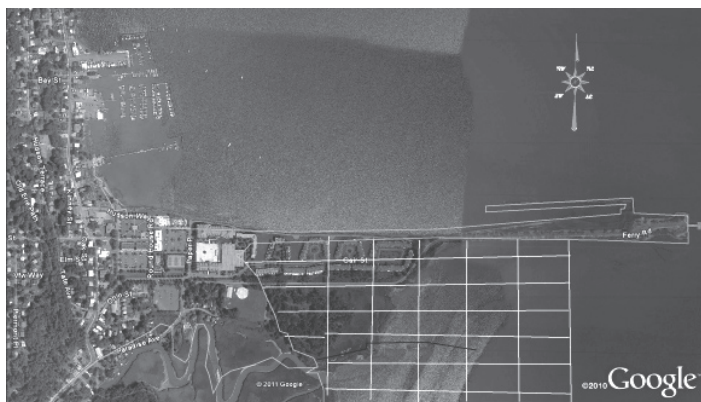


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Piermont's Massive Subdivision That Wasn't



Piermont's subdivision that wasn't. Above on a Google map is a grid overlaying a section of Piermont where a rather large subdivision was to be built. Karl E.A. Knoecklein, licensed surveyor photo.

Eleazar Lord, the founder of the New York and Erie Railroad, was largely responsible for creating modern Piermont. His railroad built a pier running a mile out into the Hudson. He built a castle on Mount Nebo (the mountain behind Piermont) as his summer residence. He gave Piermont its name.

The railroad was Lord's idea. It would be the first long-trunk line built in the United States. While his plans for the railroad evolved, Lord bought acres of land that would be needed to construct the railroad. In partnership with Judge Cornelius Blauvelt, a prominent Rocklander, he bought land on the slopes of Mount Nebo and many acres of marshland stretching east into the Hudson. The land they bought was too steep or too soggy to build houses. They bought it for a song.

In addition, Lord and Blauvelt applied for and received the right to develop New York State land that lay under water next to their marshlands.

Construction of the railroad began in 1836. Hundreds of workers using pick axes and shovels chopped away Mount Nebo along Sparkill Creek to create a level path for tracks. They moved rocks and earth in ox carts and wheelbarrows from Lord and Blauvelt's hill to their marsh, creating land for the railroad's depot and maintenance sheds. They added

a pier to reach steamships transferring cargo and passengers to Manhattan.

Workers filled every spare room for miles around. Shanties and tar paper shacks sprang up along the waterfront. Lord's railroad had created a housing problem, but he also had a solution for it. With Blauvelt, he owned acres of marshland south of the pier. They would subdivide it and sell lots to all the drovers, carters, mechanics, machinists, smiths, ironmongers, porters, stevedores, engineers, firemen, roustabouts, managers, conductors, and coopers, who had come to work on the railroad.

In the Piermont Library there is a "Map of land in and out of water owned by Cornelius J. Blauvelt and Eleazar Lord lying south of the New York and Erie Rail Road at its termination on the western shore of the Hudson River. Surveyed and laid out in blocks and lots... for reference ... in the deeds and sales of the properties." The map is signed by Isaac M. Dederer, head surveyor for the railroad, and dated September 1, 1836.

The map shows five avenues running from west to east for 4,000 feet along the south side of the Pier. They are divided by ten north-south streets. Lord and Blauvelt's subdivision measures 1,400 feet west to east and 1,700 feet from north to south. The map gives names to the avenues: Lake, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. The north-south streets are numbered one through ten.

A few months later, Lord and Blauvelt listed their proposed development with a New York City real estate broker.

The subdivision would have radically altered the Village of Piermont. Piermont resident Karl Knoecklein, who is a licensed surveyor, translated the map's metes and bounds measurements and found the total acreage of the subdivision was 174.49 acres. This is a one quarter of the 704 total acres in the Incorporated Village of Piermont today.

Dividing the blocks into smaller lots would allow for a crammed development of small cottages for railroad workers and their families.

There was a problem, however, with Lord and Blauvelt's subdivision. One hundred acres was soggy marsh—unbuildable unless they were filled with earth. The other 74 acres were at the bottom of the Hudson, but underwater rights granted by New York State

Their offer to sell land that was under water was not

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intended as a scam. After all, many acres of marsh had already been turned into solid ground. But as a business proposition, it would seem prohibitively expensive.

Lord and Blauvelt's subdivision was never developed. No cottages were ever built. The need for them went away in 1851 when the railroad's terminus was moved to Jersey City. Piermont then became merely the end of a small branch line. Most of the railroad's workers left.

Lord's daughter, Sarah Whiton, inherited his lands when he died in 1871. The plan for the subdivision continued to be shown on maps of Piermont as late as 1964.

Much of the land that Lord and Blauvelt owned is now owned by the Village of Piermont and the New York State Department of Conservation (DEC).

The DEC's mission is to acquire and preserve land in its natural state. But Real Estate Officer Richard Bennett in New York State's Office of General Services, said that sometimes small, unwanted parcels of DEC land are sold off.

Is it possible that one day residents of Piermont Landing might look south through the mists of the marsh and see rows of small cottages, smoke curling from their chimneys? Mr. Bennett said, "It's possible, but it doesn't seem likely."

~Fred Burrell

The Front Line continued from page 7

Leaf Collection Begins Week of October 24

The Piermont Department of Public Works (DPW) will begin its leaf collection program the week of October 24th and continue through December 9th. Tom Temple, Supervisor of the DPW, said: "We ask that all loose leaves be put out at the edge of your property for easier removal. Please do not block sidewalks with leaves for this creates an unsafe condition for pedestrians. All leaf piles should be clear of any brush, rocks and other debris that would clog our machine. Leaves that are to be bagged should be placed in biodegradable bags, which are available at the DPW garage during normal business hours. The bags should be stacked at the property's edge in an orderly fashion. The Village encourages the use of biodegradable bags for the protection of the environment and therefore will not accept leaves that are placed in plastic bags. As always, this and other information is available on our website at www.villagedpw.com.

Fire Department Looks for Volunteers

The Piermont Fire Department is constantly looking for new members to join its ranks. Anyone who is interested in joining the Department should come to the firehouse on any Monday evening between 7-9 pm.

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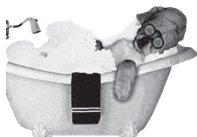
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Pollinating Piermont: Tales Of A Beekeeper



Local beekeeper tends to hive.

Piermont has two beekeepers that I know of, Ron Derven and me.

Ron first kept bees as a teen-ager. I had my first hives last year, encouraged by a bee-keeping cousin from Missouri and

by my daughter who keeps bees on her roof in Manhattan. Those bees work the High Line park in the West Village.

Non-commercial beekeepers have lots of reasons for keeping bees -some because of a passion for honey, some to pollinate their gardens. Some beekeepers are responding to an urgent concern about a declining bee population due to what is know as "colony collapse disorder" widely attributed to certain pesticide use, which has been decimating bee populations since 2006.

Myself, I am in it for the pure empirical pleasure of observation and listening. To my eyes, the translucent, organic yet highly structured swag of newly constructed hexagonal comb is one of the most beautiful sights in nature. Pure magic.

My first year as a beekeeper was rocky. I ordered classic white boxy Langstroth hives on-line. A beekeeping friend ordered two "packages" of Italian bees from the Carolinas to get me started. (Italians are said to be the best tempered, least fraught with issues.) Bees are ordered by the pound. About 4,000 bees are in a pound. A package contains almost 12,000 bees - of mostly female worker bees with a queen and a few drones.

After a late start at the end of June, my bees lacked the strength to fight off a moth infestation, which ruined their comb, and destroyed their store of honey. In September, I



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scrambled to capture as many as I could and packaged them to go to a beekeeping friend for the winter. It was a chilly night, and as the bees waited in their small screened travel box they formed an amazing cluster the size of a small lime in the upper corner of their box. Here were hundreds of bees with a compactness that was almost unimaginable, quietly beating their wings for warmth as they waited for a ride to Brooklyn.

The thought of so many potentially stinging bees alarms a lot of folks. Some communities address bee concerns in their zoning (Piermont doesn't.) Most typically, requirements have hives placed away from rights of way, sidewalks and walking paths. Bees have hectic flight paths from hive to destination. And most people will want to be off that runway as bees go about try business. Beekeepers find this, however, a prime viewing spot. Bees typically travel in a three-mile radius from their hive - so its likely that my bees are in your flower bed as you read this. I love watching them return to their hives, the sacs on their hind legs filled with pollen - yellow, orange, white. Like salesmen with sample cases, sometimes too heavy to make it into the hive on their first try, they will stop a few inches short, as if to take a breather, then pick up their loaded legs and head on in.

Being a beekeeper gives you privileged access to the inner workings of the hive. One of the thousands of fascinating things you learn as a beekeeper is that smoke calms bees down so they are more amenable to being intruded upon. Yes, I have a special suit I wear to work inside the hive. Yes, I have been stung - three times in two years, due to carelessness. I feed the bees with sugar water to get them started when they first arrive, and check in on them weekly to be sure the queen is doing her egg laying work, and the girls are looking healthy. Periodically I commiserate with other regional beekeepers. If you Google Rockland Beekeepers, there are beekeeping contacts and blogs. The Green Meadow School offers a basic beekeeping course twice a year, as do most beekeeping suppliers such as Brushy Mountain and BetterBee in Greenwich, NY.

This year things are going better in my hives. There is dense honey filled comb - certainly enough for the coming winter. As I look out from my porch it appears that bees from one hive are raiding another - quite an air battle going. Relying on my plethora of brilliant bee-keeping techniques, I turn on the sprinkler.

~Margaret Grace

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From The Library

Get a head start on holiday shopping at the library's first Local Author Book Fair. On the afternoon of Sunday, October 16, from 1 to 4 p.m., a roomful of talented local authors will be selling their wares, signing their books, and making themselves available for a discussion of their work. Books will range from picture books for tiny tots and fiction for young adults to adult mystery and suspense and a variety of nonfiction.

Authors run the gamut from the relatively newly published to seasoned writers with many books to their credit. They include Marian Armstrong, Anita Bell, Paul Braus, Donna McDine, Barry Fixler, Betsy Franco-Feeney, Lisa Grubb, Joan Gussow, Lynn Lauber, Lynn Cluess Mangione, Cindy Reisenauer, Stephen Roberts, Karen Steinmetz, François Vuilleumier, and Catherine Whitney. All are Rockland County residents – our friends and neighbors who work at an age old craft in the new digital age.

Book fairs can help authors meet their readers and build a network of connections to further promote their work, something very important in the contemporary world of publishing. It's fun for readers to meet and speak with the authors and go home with an autographed copy of a book they might never have otherwise discovered. And, of course, books always make great holiday gifts!

Refreshments will be served and we hope to have some surprises for the children. Please check our website for updates on this event!

UPCOMING ART EXHIBITS

New Piermont resident Trine Giaefer will exhibit her paintings at the library in September. Giaefer received a BFA in Illustration from Rhode Island School of Design and, while working full time as an illustrator for The New York Daily News, she earned a Masters in Painting from the New

York Academy of Art, a graduate school that teaches the ways of the old masters, traditional figure drawing, sculpture and painting methods. Over the course of the 23 years that she lived in New York City, she also attended a variety of classes at the Art Students League, the National Academy of Design, the School of Visual Art, and Pratt Institute. She has exhibited in many states including Cal-

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ifornia, Florida, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York. The Albright-Knox Museum has her work in their collection. She has also exhibited several times in Oslo, Norway, and in Rome, Italy. Recently her paintings have focused more on landscape, and after moving to Piermont last year she has become interested in painting the people and places in beautiful Rockland County. She is currently a freelance illustrator, predominantly for scientific publications. An OPENING RECEPTION will be held on Friday, Sept. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m.

During October, we will welcome paintings by Deborah Blau. Deborah was born in Newark, New Jersey, to Belgian immigrants. Her father is a self-taught artist. Influenced by his tireless work as a copyist she began her own studies at the Art Students League of New York, studying with Gustav Rehberger, Daniel Green and Frank Mason. She obtained a BA in Fine Arts and a degree in Early Childhood Education from Hunter College.

Deborah taught preschool for over 20 years and raised her three children before returning to her artistic career. She works primarily in oils and gouache. Her current landscapes reflect the beauty of the Hudson River Valley. Deborah now lives and paints in Rockland County. An OPENING RECEPTION will be held on Sunday, October 2, from 2 to 4 p.m.

And in November, look for a show of unique work in collage created by Piermonter Isabella Jacob. Isabella has been constructing landscape collage images for over 40 years. Among her materials are the detritus of professional work of family and friends: Braille documents, photographs, seismic records of earthquake events. She explores the relationship between scale and illusion: geologic forms and atmospheric essences that shift...that may or may not be there. The ice landscape image has been a sustaining interest for many years. A RECEPTION for her exhibit will be held on Sunday, November 20, from 2 to 4 p.m.

FOR THE CHILDREN

For the first time in many, many years, the library has added a professional children's librarian to our staff. Nancy Russell, a recent graduate of St. John's University's library science program, has joined us as part-time Children's Librarian. Nancy has lived in Tappan for more than 20 years and has been involved in the community there. She has also served as a SOCSD School Board member. This summer, she has been presenting a story time on Monday mornings and will be hosting more programs in the fall. As a former reading and literacy teacher, Nancy enjoys recommending great reads and working with children and parents to instill a love of reading. Her major goal is to make the children's room a welcoming, informative, and enjoyable place for all Piermont kids.

The ever popular Moon River Music Together with Catherine will continue on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. A rollicking good time for

continued on next page

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## From The Library continued from page 13

young and old alike, the program introduces the fundamentals of music to very young children in a group setting. Don't miss it!

To find out what else is coming up, please check our website regularly: [www.piermontlibrary.org](http://www.piermontlibrary.org)

The library is located at 25 Flywheel Park West and is open Monday through Thursday 10-8, Friday 12-5, and Saturday 12-4. We are closed Sundays except for special events. We offer computers for public use; wireless access to the internet for all; public fax machine (charge); public copy machine (charge); 24 hour book drop and DVD/CD drop; a variety of free museum passes; and book delivery by mail to the home-bound. For more information, please call 845-359-4595.

~Grace Mitchell

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