

The Piermont Newsletter

VOLUME XXXXIII NO. 2

PUBLISHED BY THE PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

FALL 2013

Future Of The Piermont Marsh

Until he was asked about the plan to eradicate Phragmites in the Piermont Marsh, Governor Cuomo's Special Advisor for the new Tappan Zee Bridge easily answered every question about the huge construction project. That one left him stumped.

This was in April at the Piermont Civic Association (PCA) sponsored information meeting about the bridge. Brian Conybeare, the Governor's man, admitted to the standing room only audience at the Village Hall that he'd never before heard the word Phragmites but he would get back to them about it. Phragmites, he was told, is the dominant plant in the marsh.

Since then Piermonters, including Mayor Chris Sanders and the Village Board, were stunned to learn that yes, the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) planned to use toxic herbicides to kill a large swath of the Phragmites in the Marsh in an attempt to bring back native grasses. If a member of the PCA's executive com-

mittee had not asked the question, the program might be underway today.

The plan to kill the Phragmites is part of a peace pact the Tappan Zee Bridge Authority and DEC had made with two environmental groups. Under it, the groups, Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper, promised not to slow the construction with suits over environmental issues. In return, the Authority pledged more than \$11 million in funding for assorted projects to enhance the environmental quality of the river.

Given just a few weeks to come up with a list of projects, the Hudson River Nature Estuary Research Reserve (HRNERR), a partnership between NY State and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and NY State DEC, suggested a number of plans that had been shelved for lack of funding. Among the most longed for on its list was eradicating Phragmites, an "invasive species" from the Piermont Marsh in order to re-introduce

"native" plants. The goal was to create a more diverse, healthy eco-system.

When an environmental organization says it wants to bring back native plants and increase biodiversity, most people nod and say "wonderful." But rarely do they ask, "How?" a local environmentalist pointed out. Phragmites eradication most often involves pouring hundreds of gallons of toxic herbicides into existing waterways and ecosystems. That's usually followed up by a "controlled burn" of what survives, followed by years of additional chemical application as the Phragmites returns. As it turns out, "invasive species control" is a powerful million dollar segment of the pesticide industry in the United States, and it has finally made its way to our shores, via the very institutions that we most look to for protection of our environment.

Piermont Landing's Marthe Schulwolf has long been an enemy of chemical warfare against plants. Back in

continued on page 15



Piermont Marsh from Paradise Avenue, before and after Phragmites eradication. Rendering by Nathan Meyers

President's Corner



I was watching "West Side Story" in Flywheel Park on an oddly chilly August night when the film's star-crossed lovers began singing, "There's a place for us, somewhere a place for us. Peace and quiet and open air...."

I looked around at the hundred or so fellow Piermonters sprawled on blankets and sitting in lawn chairs and wondered how many others at that moment realized that we had found our place, a place with peace and quiet (except for traffic and shouting bicyclists) and open air.

After Superstorm Sandy, many of us thought much of what we had loved about the village was gone and we would never get it back. It turns out we were underestimating the determination of our restaurants and other businesses to rise from the ruins, and the extraordinary devotion of Piermont's DPW and many volunteer organizations.

Hillary Clinton took the African saying, "It takes a village to raise a child," to title a book. We could say, "It takes many volunteers to make a village."

If you start a list of those, you have to put the men and women of the Piermont Fire Department and its Auxiliary at the top. From the moment the storm roared in, these people risked everything to save our lives and property. For weeks afterwards, they offered free meals and shelter to those who needed it.

Put Mayor Chris Sanders next on the list of Piermont's outstanding volunteers. Yes, we pay him and the Village Board but the amounts are very small, really just tokens. The Mayor was everywhere during and after the storm. Even in normal times, he and the Board put in long, often tedious hours in meetings. And, speaking of tedious hours, let's not forget the men and women who give up their evenings to serve without pay on our Planning and Zoning Boards.

Piermont's Police Athletic League is another group of volunteers who deserve our thanks and admiration. Many of

them are off duty Village police officers. They run an outstanding athletic program for our kids.

Our village has scores of skilled people who willingly give away their expertise. Piermont's churches could not run without them. The Piermont library depends on them. Our VFW's volunteers remind us of the sacrifices Piermonters have made, and the historic role of our pier in World War II. The Piermont Historical Society honors our past. It saved and restored our precious railroad station. Volunteers run our Community Garden, and twice rebuilt it after devastating storms.

What's amazing is that we continue to create new volunteer groups. We now have a very active Chamber of Commerce, formed to revive business after Sandy. Even more recently organized is the Piermont Marsh Alliance. These people are dedicated to protecting our wetlands.

I'm sure I must be overlooking some worthwhile groups. If I have, it is unintentional and I apologize. I almost forgot the Piermont Civic Association. It's been around for more than half a century. We're the people who publish this newsletter, and showed the outdoor movies this summer.

These volunteers and groups have made a place for us, all of us.

~Bob Samuels

Office Hours By Appointment



VINCENT L. FERRARA, D.M.D., L.L.C.

105 Shad Row, Suite 1A
Piermont, NY 10968

Telephone: (845) 359-6315

The Newsletter is published three times a year by the Piermont Civic Association, Box 454, Piermont, NY 10968

Editor: Margaret Grace

Contributors to this issue: Richard Benfield,
Fred Burrell, Ron Derven, Betsy Franco Feeney,
Susan Freiman, Joan Gussow, Mary Lukens,
Nathan Meyers, Grace Mitchell, Tom O'Reilly,
Bob Samuels, Sally Savage

Advertising: Charlene and Dick Stern
(845) 359-0032

This issue of *The Piermont Newsletter*, and many past issues, can be found online at <http://www.piermont-ny.com/newsletter/> thanks to volunteer Richie Stark.

• classic toys • party goods • gifts •

books/tapes

Buttercup & Friends

535 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, NY 10968
(845) 359-1669

an earth friendly store

fashions - infant wear •

Going Solar In Piermont

I confess to feeling deeply smug each time I encounter the fact that electricity generation produces 40% of our nation's CO₂. Coming in sweaty from work in the garden on the morning of the hottest day of summer to date, I went into my late-husband's studio where the meter for my solar electric system is ticking away. The meter was running backwards! I was sending power to O & R. Now I don't have to feel even remotely guilty about turning on my inefficient air-conditioner. I'm not helping heat the planet!!!

Like many people, I think, I had considered solar for a long time. I say "considered" meaning that I thought letting the sun produce your electricity was a great idea, but the up front price (down now to the neighborhood of \$25,000 from the neighborhood of \$50,000—neither of them neighborhoods I could aspire to) had always put me off. And because I am pathologically conservationist, I felt it would take me years to earn my money back from the sun because I use relatively little electricity. All my lights are fluorescent. I have a gas stove, a gas water heater, and a gas/hot water heating system. I have no television, flat screen or otherwise. Moreover, I almost never turn on my air-conditioning since there is usually a redeeming breeze from the river in my living room and—as a native Californian—I'm not overly heat sensitive.

And then, one day last year, in an issue of a newsletter on sustainable living, I saw a story about a company

called Sungevity, based in Oakland, California, that offered solar leasing with no upfront cost!!!! I trusted the source so I e-mailed the company which—with surprising promptness—e-mailed me back ready to set up a phone call to explain everything and see whether I was interested. And late on July 3, 2012, I took a call from Marie of Sungevity, .

After 45 minutes I realized signing on to get solar from these folks was going to cost me nothing, that I would have 16 solar panels on my roof and pay a small steady fee each month (less than my present electric bill) no matter how much energy I used, etc. After which it got too good to be true. I could recommend friends, and anyone who ended up going solar earned me \$1000. If I got three people to sign up I got an Ipad. Not only was going solar not going to cost me anything, I was actually making money!

I told them to move ahead. I was quite high at the prospect and began to call friends to sign them up. At this point in the process, many of those I talked to were suspicious, including my son. "Why don't you do it Mom and see how it works out." I didn't understand their suspicion. What could go wrong? I wasn't paying anything.

And after Marie looked at my utility bills and I had filled out a NYSEDA audit about my energy habits (did I have an AC? What kind of appliances did I have? Did I have a heating unit? A programmable thermostat, power

strips? What kinds of windows did I have? Were my doors weatherized? Etc.) Sungevity informed me that for the next twenty years (the term of the lease) \$52.04 would be deducted monthly from my bank account—that's \$624 a year—and there would be a small O & R charge for connecting me to the grid.

My current yearly electricity cost is over \$700. And quite likely to go higher, since O & R is heavily dependent on electricity from sources which seem fated to have future costly environmental problems. So on November 20, last year, I signed up to go solar! I had no idea how long it would actually take. As it happened, it took just a few days over a year from my initial inquiry.

But it was not a year in which I had to do a lot except answer e-mails once in a while, and sign papers from time to time. Sungevity, on the other hand, had a lot to do, because a solar installation requires a lot of paperwork (something that often discourages homeowners if they think of going solar) I once got 10 documents and a checklist requiring as they wrote "seven signatures and one initial." The other papers were informational. Twice I had to arrange to be home, first at the end of July, when the men from New York State Solar Farm in Gardiner, NY, who did the actual installation came to check out my roof and attic and basement and take pictures, and then, months later, when they

continued on page 6



Drew Ciganek's Piermont



Drew Ciganek. Photo by Fred Burrell

Drew Ciganek had just come into his house after photographing hummingbirds in his yard on a nippy October afternoon last fall. Hummingbirds in Piermont? That's unusual, isn't it?

"No, no," he replies, "they're here." When Drew tells you something that is obvious to him, he does it without

making you feel stupid.

He's planted pineapple sage around his Bay Street home to attract the hummingbirds. "It is one of their favorite plants, you know," he goes on, "Its red, blooms late in the fall and can survive a couple of frosts. Hummingbirds that are hanging out around here until the last minute can fill up on them before they fly south."

Drew, who is 61, says he picked up what others would call an encyclopedic knowledge of local birds and wildlife from his three older brothers. The Ciganek boys grew up across from the marsh in a Paradise Avenue house. Drew's earliest memories are of fishing and hunting with them. "Getting involved with nature was just part of living there in the 1960s," he says. "We were all outdoorsmen." Drew's brother, Tom, was Piermont's Justice for many years. He died in 2004.

The four of them and their pals hunted ducks in the marsh. "We would jump shoot them, you know from a canoe with one person shooting a shotgun and the other person paddling. No, no dog. We didn't need a dog. Everyone in Piermont hunted ducks back then," Drew recalls. "I don't believe it is legal now but it was when we were doing it. It was a big part of my life at that time. We ate them and spit out the buck shot."

They also fished, caught stripers and perch and other fish and they did lots of crabbing. "It was kind of like living in a resort," he remembers.

He doesn't feel that way about the village anymore. To him, Piermont is a paradise lost



Contact us for your Free Printing Estimates
10% off on orders over \$100. with this ad.

169 Paris Avenue • Northvale, NJ 07647

Tel: 201-767-6504 • Fax: 201-767-6471

www.NorthvaleNJ.MinutemanPress.com

Bug Runner Exterminating Co., Inc. Larry Siegel



"For Whatever Bugs You"

Monroe, N.Y.

(845) 782-0260

E-Mail: bugrunner71@hotmail.com

Spring Valley

(845) 352-1147

- 10% OFF with this AD -

OPEN HOUSE / PHOTOGRAPHY SALE

to introduce Sally Savage's
 Mini-Gallery



SUNDAY OCTOBER 13 - 9 - 5

225 N. Highland Ave. (9W) Nyack

black and white silver gelatin prints, matted, framed. All Hudson Valley B/W special holiday prices. Color, Polaroid Transfer, posters.

Information : 845-359-5735

PARKING LOT opposite house

Drew says the bird population has dropped drastically (as it has generally all over) since his childhood. He particularly mourns the lack of shorebirds. "When I was a kid there were hundreds and hundreds of them. Today I'll still see a 100, maybe 200 sandpipers on the tidal flats but I used to see thousands of them there," he says.

He partly blames the missing pier underbrush on the decline. It had provided nesting shelter. "Storms cleared it out and the village never replaced it. We tried to replant some of it but it didn't take because the soil wasn't there," he complains.

Drew also bemoans the deterioration of the Sparkill Creek. "I used to fish it for trout from one end to the other," he says. "The millpond behind the dam was 80 feet deep. Now it is filled with silt.

"The creek is like one big drain today," he continues. "Every time it rains really hard it overflows with sewage. The big storms continually wipe out the plant life. It's because they've built too many parking lots and too many buildings without any thought of what it will do to the environment. They don't consider the extra water that will be draining out of these places or the gas and oil that drips from cars in those parking lots. It all gets washed down the creek."

In the old days, didn't sewer lines run directly into the

creek and the river? "Yes, and not having that certainly is an improvement," he agrees.

You can't find a more native Piermonter than Drew. Both his parents grew up here. His mother was born in the bedroom he uses in the house he lives in now. His wife, the former Gina Gerlach, is also a native villager. Two of his three children live here. The third lives far away in Sparkill.

Drew went through the Piermont schools, graduating from Tappan High School in 1971. Like so many back then he took a job in the pier's paper mill. After five years there, he became a foreign car mechanic in a garage that was near the post office. These days he works for a New York City firm, repairing color copiers all over Westchester and Rockland counties.

He clearly loves the pier. When he's not at work, you'll often find him there, either fishing or taking bird pictures. He has hundreds of them. "I try to get a picture of anything that flies," he says. "When someone asks if I keep records of what see, I say yes but it is a photography record."

His brothers taught him what they knew about Piermont wildlife. After all these years, does he think he now knows more about it than they do? Drew takes a long pause to consider the question.

"Maybe," he says finally.

~Bob Samuels

THE DIPLOMAT IS FOR EVERY BODY!

Your neighborhood health & swim club!



Under the personal direction of Bruce Woolley and family since 1975.

Comfortable, Affordable, Results

Call today! 845-359-2401



Diplomat Health & Swim Club

1101 Overlook Circle, Piermont, New York 10968 • DiplomatHealth.com

Riverwaves east

A UNIQUE HAIR and NAIL SALON
222 ASH STREET PIERMONT NY 10968
845.359.6295



482 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, New York 10968
Tel. 845.680.6460

www.sidewalkbistro.com sidewalkbistro@aol.com

Going Solar In Piermont continued from page 3

returned to actually install the panels on the roof and the monitors indoors, next to my circuit breaker panel.

And meanwhile they were very busy—here's a little of what was going on.

Now that we've got the details from your home visit, our Design Team will confirm that your design is perfectly tailored to your home and meets local building and electrical codes. . . . Once the details are confirmed we'll create your solar plan set that we need to submit to your local building department. This stage can take several weeks while we get everything ready to go.

If required in your town, once the design is complete, we will submit your plans for structural engineering. . . .

In the meantime our Rebate and Interconnection Specialists will work to secure permission from your utility to install your solar system.

And at the end of September, Jan York, my project manager informed me that I could expect my design to be complete around the first week of October. The drawings were being sent out for an additional locally required structural review, after which they would submit the plan set to our Building Department for their review and approval. We were moving along.

And then came Sandy. Several documents that needed signing languished in my downed in-box; Marie gently reminded me but her reminder too fell into limbo. And when I got back on line and reconnected with an explanation,

I signed, among other things, a final lease agreement, but I also had a couple of questions:

First, we've just come through a horrendous storm here. I assume the solar panels you're going to install will stand up to our new weather regime without ripping my roof off.

Second, I was without power for a week, without heat and hot water for longer. I understand that since I will be interconnected with the utility, my solar power will be cut off when the utility goes blank. Is there any way that my utility connection can be installed so that I can cut off any outward flow of power when the utility goes down so that I don't lose power but don't electrocute the linemen?

If not, is there anything in the lease that says I can't install solar panels (not impinging on yours) that wouldn't have to be neutered just when they were needed most?

A week later, Jan York replied

We had no accounts of problems with roof integrity or the solar panels themselves from any of our East coast installations which is in the hundreds so you're good there. We are required to design within highest gusting wind loads in a region and apparently we did the job because that was a whop-storm you just endured.

There are solar electric systems that have battery back up capacity to power certain critical loads for homes

but I don't know of any leasing companies who provide them. The battery storage and losses add unpredictable factors when accounting for your power production and usage. If you were to purchase a system with battery back up, you could count on, at least, a 25% increase in your upfront cost plus replacement costs each 5 to 10 years. This usually discourages customers because, though your power outage was lengthy, it is probably too reliable to warrant the cost. A more affordable approach to keep power when the grid is down is to use a generator but those are fossil fueled. Whichever way you choose to go, your electrician will know to keep each source of power from backfeeding into the others with autotransfer switches.

So I can have power in emergencies if I want to invest in it. Now all I had to do was wait to get my solar system installed and approved. In early December O & R conditionally approved my application, and when I checked in late February, the installer was pulling my permits and had a forecast installation day of May 6.

New York State Solar Farms beat their estimate. They began what turned out to be a two day job on April 8, and it was entirely painless for the homeowner. They were very young, very competent and very neat, leaving me, when they were finished with solar panels on my roof which I can hardly see, and with a 40 by 44 inch panel holding a photovoltaic converter and an electric meter. Now it was up to the building inspector and O & R.

olar

587 Piermont Avenue
Piermont NY 10968
845-848-2207



**We Buy Gold, Silver,
Diamonds and Watches**

AB ARTISANS

Fine Estate Jewelry & Custom Designs
Vintage Watches

474 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, New York 10968
845-359-6639

email: info@abartisans.com
website: www.abartisans.com

On May 2, Jan York wrote that the system had passed inspection and it might take “up to days” for O & R to clear the paperwork—well no, up to weeks, perhaps. Months is more like it. I made a couple of inquiries in May, and by June was convinced O & R didn’t want to lose me. Finally on June 12, I was given permission to turn a dial, throw a couple of circuit breakers into the “on” position and the system began functioning! I went solar!

Two final notes: When I go on line to OurSungevity.com, I can quickly discover how much electricity I am generating for the day, the week, the month, the year, for my lifetime on solar; and from the very first call with Marie, I could see my house from Google Earth as it would look when the panels were installed. Both are examples of their smart website which is bright, helpful and easy to use.

Second, although it’s sad that my solar system does not keep me electrified if O & R goes down in a storm as Sungevity explained, I’m not yet working on trying to stay electrified during hurricanes. Someone who heard me say that my solar system wouldn’t save me from black-outs asked “So what’s the point of doing it then?” “To help keep the planet from warming,” I replied quite testily. It’s OK to pay a bit less than I would normally pay for electricity, and it’s nice that I’m about to receive \$1000 for a friend who went solar in Nyack, but those are not the real rewards. Feeling good about my relationship to the planet is.

~Joan Gussow



PALMER HAYDEN AND THE WOLF AT PIERMONT, NY

This spring the library received an intriguing inquiry from a docent at the Knoxville (TN) Museum of Art who was searching for information about a painting they had on exhibit in a traveling show of early African American art. The painting depicts a curious scene with a huge striped tail wolf apparently running around an industrial building by a river, and is titled *The Wolf at Piermont, NY* (n.d.). The docent wondered if this was a reference to some local folk lore or place like a train station or a jazz club! Local references, to the railroad, the mountain, steamboats, the river, the factories, obviously abound, but what on earth is this wolf about?

The artist was Palmer Hayden, who was born in Virginia in 1890, later attended Cooper Union, and spent several years studying in France. He became a part of the Harlem Renaissance, painting the everyday lives of African Americans until his death in 1973. How did he connect to Piermont? Local inquiries have come up with speculation that the wolf refers to the bottle of something that the two gentlemen in the foreground seem to be sharing. Piermont was reportedly home to speakeasies during Prohibition and maybe Piermont produced its own brand of brew. But what did the wolf have to do with it? And why would an artist from Harlem know about it or care enough to paint it? It’s a real mystery!

Anybody know anything more?

PIERMONT P.B.A

478 PIERMONT AVENUE • PIERMONT, NEW YORK 10968

PHONE: 845-359-0240

From The Library

September is library card sign-up month, so if you don't already have a card come right over with photo ID and proof of address and we'll make one up for you. The card provides access to a multitude of services and materials, including e-books, audiobooks, e-readers, movies, music, online classes, museum passes and even BOOKS!

We also have public computers, free wi-fi access, a fax machine and a copy machine for your use. And the library hosts a variety of free programs and events each month that don't require a card.

On Sunday, September 15, at 2 p.m., our own Marc Farre will perform a rare acoustic concert of his intimate, melodic songs in the Hudson River Room. Best known to many Piermonsters as the producer of the First Friday Film series, Marc is a serious musician/composer whose work has been described as "intense and truly fantastic" (NPR) and "the musical equivalent of an art-house film" (Journal News). Don't miss it!

The work of West Nyack poet and painter Gary J. Whitehead will be featured during October. On Sunday, October 6, from 2-4 p.m., Whitehead will join us to read from his new book of poems, *A Glossary of Chickens*, published by Princeton University Press. Best known for his writing, Whitehead is also a skilled painter whose oils appear in private collections here and in the UK. A selection will be on display for the month, and the reading will officially open the show.

Whitehead has published two previous books of poetry, his work has appeared in *The New Yorker* and *Poetry*, and was also featured on Garrison Keillor's program *Writer's Almanac*. "Quietly witty, observant, and frequently sad, this third outing from Whitehead sets itself apart through understatement, and through the connections it keeps making between contemporary midlife dilemmas and the 19th-

century American literature.... The more contemporary poems...sustain a personal gravity...it all holds together as the record of a sensitive, careful, unfashionable, acoustically gifted soul..." says *Publisher's Weekly*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

In November we will feature oil paintings by Meryl Toan. Meryl is a Tappan resident who paints landscapes from her imagination, inspired by her many walks around Rockland County. In this show, she will focus on the Piermont Pier and Marsh and Rockland Lake, hoping to give the viewer an experience of both the sweep of the landscape and the detail of the plants that inhabit it, together with the sense of renewal that a walk outdoors brings. Meryl will host an opening reception for the show on Sunday, November 3, from 2-4 p.m. All welcome!

As part of the village Holiday Festival, the annual Gift of Art Show Open House reception this year will take place on Sunday, December 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. A number of local artists are invited to donate work to this show, and a percentage of all proceeds goes to benefit our programming budget. Works are generally small and affordable—perfect for a holiday gift that also gives back to the community. And the reception is always lots of fun. Look for more information on the event in coming months.

The First Friday Film Series' October lineup is still in the works, but make sure to mark your calendar for a special feature on Friday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m. Wagner's *Jews* (2012), directed by Hilan Warshaw, is a fascinating, highly acclaimed documentary about the notoriously anti-Semitic German composer Richard Wagner. Strangely, many of Wagner's closest associates were Jews—young musicians who became personally devoted to him and provided crucial help to his work and career. Who were they? What brought them to Wagner, and what brought him to them? Wagner's *Jews* is the first film to focus on Wagner's complex personal relationships with Jews. Filmed on location in Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, the film tells these remarkable stories through archival sources, visual re-enactments, interviews, and performances on film. Director Warshaw, a successful violinist and conductor, will be on hand to answer questions about his highly acclaimed documentary.

Make sure to check our website at www.piermontlibrary.org for current information on upcoming events for children.

~Grace Mitchell

CALL

A W APPLIANCE CO., LTD.

Repairs On All Makes & Models

Washers • Dryers • Dishwashers • Refrigerators
Ranges • Cooktops • Wall Ovens • Disposers
Air Conditioning • Compactors • Instant Hot

(845) 634-6466

for service

TZELL
TRAVEL GROUP

CARBER TRAVEL

492 PIERMONT AVENUE
PIERMONT, NEW YORK 10968

845.359.5499

FAX 845.359.5377

WWW.CARBERTRAVEL.COM

A DIVISION OF THE
TRAVEL LEADERS GROUP

(845) 359-2348

ASE Certified

SPARKILL EAST SIDE AUTOMOTIVE INC.

FOREIGN And DOMESTIC CARS

- Motor Overhauls
- Automatic Transmissions
- N.Y.S. Inspections
- NYS Emissions Certified
- 24 Hour Towing
- Latest Diagnostic Equipment

"Service From Bumper To Bumper"

JOE VERRINO
JOHN MACKENZIE

590 Washington Street
Sparkill, NY 10976

The New TZ Bridge Reality Show

The new Tappan Zee Bridge will soon become a \$32-billion TV special. Work on the massive project will be broadcast live 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It will become a five-year-long reality show.

A set of dedicated TV monitors will be placed at as many as 10 locations on the bridge by Earthcam, a technology company based in Hackensack. Once construction gets fully underway, the cameras will be live on our website www.newbridge.com," said Brian Conybeare, spokesman for the project. "Everyone can see the progress that is being made 24 hours a day 7 days a week." EarthCam also will edit the images into a time-lapse movie.

By the middle of next year there will be 100 barges and 30 cranes clogging the waters between south Nyack and Tarrytown. Seen from Piermont's Pier, the work will be a distant blur, inscrutable even through field glasses. Private boats will be kept away from the construction work.

But you can see it up close on your laptop. The images will be delivered in high definition. You can follow an individual worker picking up something and carrying it to another place; you can watch trucks moving; cranes lifting.

Tappan Zee Constructors spokeswoman Carla Julian said, "It's going to capture everything. It's going to be really cool."

A similar project by Earthcam shows construction progress on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The website <http://baybridgeinfo.org/construction-cams#.T1p42-PUslaw> gives a good indication of the way the new TZ Bridge will be built.

Several thousand people will be hired to work on the new New York bridge. There won't be any casting call for actors, but every construction worker on the job can hope for his fifteen minutes of fame during the 43,800-hours of the TZ Bridge Reality Show.

~Fred Burrell



Beverage Barn

"A Complete Beverage Store"

Liquor, Beer, Wine, Soda, Ice
224 Livingston St (Rt 303) · Northvale, NJ 07647

OPEN SUNDAY 12 NOON-6PM

201-768-8848

15% OFF*

Any Mix & Match Wine
3 bottles or more-
750ml or larger

*cannot be combined with other offers

20% OFF*

Any Mix & Match Wine
6 bottles or more-
750ml or larger

*cannot be combined with other offers

Commissary

Restaurant

65 Old Tappan Road, Tappan, NY 10983

Private Events

Daniel Foti
commissary65@hotmail.com
www.commissary65.com

845-398-3232
fax 845-398-3233

PALISADES PHYSICAL THERAPY

MANUAL THERAPY | ORTHOPEDIC REHABILITATION

HANDS-ON

ONE-TO-ONE

PAIN RELIEF

STRENGTH



NO REFERRAL REQUIRED, INSURANCE PLANS ACCEPTED

Dr. Edmund Kalotkin, PT, DPT, COMT
(845) 359-3950 | Palisades | Bardonia | Manhattan

210 Ash Street
Piermont, NY 10968
845-398-2433

The Ice Cream Store with So Much More!

Piermont Paintings
by
Marilyn Heitman
at

Ned Kelly's on Main St.

Piermont Community Garden Revival

Editors Note: The Piermont Community Garden, founded in 1995, was able to rebuild at no cost to the Village, with all volunteer labor and donations of money and supplies. The Garden sends its warm thanks for all the community support that made restoration possible.



Community Garden after Sandy. Photo by Susan Freiman

BY THE NUMBERS

- ✓ 9,000 bricks
- ✓ 120 volunteers (over one weekend)
- ✓ over \$9,000 raised in donations
- ✓ 360 feet pipe for irrigation
- ✓ 3 tons sand and crushed stone
- ✓ 2,400 lbs donated Milorganite®

As they say, it takes a village, and that was never more evident when members of the Piermont Community Garden began its outreach to rebuild after the destruction of Super Storm Sandy.

THE PLAN

Last December, a small group of members met to create a plan to restore the garden. Restoration efforts were ambitious, and funds would need to be raised. A decision was made not to replace the wooden bed frames outlining the member plots, nor the wood-chip pathways. Rather, the plan was to create a more sustainable garden from future storms and water erosion, replacing the bed frames with brick walkways. Also a new irrigation system was planned, with underground piping and shorter hoses at select stations, thus eliminating the need to drag 100-foot hoses throughout the garden. And, with the new design and brick paths, the garden would be able to invite wheelchair-bound members. (Two raised gardening beds were made and are now fully used.)

FUNDRAISING

Efforts to raise funds began with



Community Garden after restoration. Photo by Susan Freiman

creating a Facebook 'Fundrzzr' page to solicit funds. Donation jars were placed in Piermont shops and restaurants, and garden members collected from family and friends. Revenue came from many sources; members, residents, village patrons, Piermont Chamber of Commerce, Piermont Civic Association, and the Lanza Foundation. Building

materials and garden supplies too were received from Lowe's Home Improvement Center and Beckerle Lumber.

The garden applied for and received a grant from Kitchen Gardener's International's "Sow it Forward" program, which included cash, seeds and a gift certificate for Gardeners Supply catalog. And, the Piermont Commu-

nity Garden was one of five community gardens in the county awarded a one-year supply of Milorganite organic nitrogen fertilizer.

ACTION

On a picture-perfect April weekend, volunteers gathered to begin the task to install permanent walkways. Carmine Gizzo Landscape, a Valhalla-based garden designer, was on hand with his staff to teach brick-laying techniques to teams of volunteers. Besides garden members, help came from many sources, including members of the Piermont Rowing Club, students from the Tappan Zee High School Lion's Club and Girls Lacrosse Team, neighbors and friends of the garden, and even strangers from other towns, who all worked together to level walkways and pass over 9,000 bricks into the garden.

~Mary Lukens

Join Us! The Piermont Civic Association is a nonprofit group dedicated to the betterment of Piermont. Thanks to membership dues, numerous fundraising events and countless hours of volunteer work, Piermont has its Newsletter, Main Street has its trees, bike rack and flower pots, Kane Park has its gazebo and the Community Playgroup, Empire Hose and PAL have received generous donations, to name a few PCA accomplishments. Please mail this application to: Piermont Civic Association, Box 454, Piermont, NY 10968 I have enclosed: \$_____2013 PCA Family Membership (\$25 includes the Newsletter)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____



**PREVENTATIVE
MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST**

845-359-5900

505 Piermont Ave.
Piermont, N.Y. 10968

Celia Smith Katzen
MA, MSW, LCSW

Psychotherapy

105 Shad Row
Piermont, NY 10968

845.365.6306
cskatzen@aol.com

914.325.8590
By appointment



Mimi's Plate



Mimi Platas-Owner • 33 Old Tappan Road • Tappan, NY 10983

Ph: 845-359-MIMI (6464) Fax: 845-359-6469

www.mimisplate.com

**Visit
Blue Rock School**

Introductory Session and Campus Tour
Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 10am

Come hear how our unique and creative hands-on approach can nurture your child's educational journey. A great alternative for grades kindergarten through eighth.

Please RSVP at 845-535-3353

BLUE ROCK SCHOOL
Where Learning Comes Alive

West Nyack, NY www.bluerockschool.org



Piermont Summer 2013



PCA Village Yard Sale. Photo by Sally Savage

*Mayor Chris Sanders welcomes
Native American leaders to
Piermont as part of the Two Row
Wampum Renewal Campaign
event in August.
Photo by Tom O'Reilly*



*Jack D'Amico reviews the Bastille
Day lineup on Main Street.
Photo by Betsy Franco Feeney*



Volunteers Sylvia Welch and Richard Esnard at the Piermont Train Station. Photo by Sally Savage. Lauren Rudolf paints at Chamber of Commerce ART Walk. Photo by Sally Savage. Old Number Seven Band at PAL Labor Day Music Festival. Photo by Margaret Grace. PCA Outdoor Movie Night. Photo by Sally Savage. Two Row paddlers leave Piermont for the UN. Photo by Richard Benfield.



The Front Line

Report Suspicious Activities

Piermont is a safe community, but if you see activities that seem suspicious, report them to the police immediately. Chief Michael O'Shea, Piermont Police Department, said that most of the burglaries and larceny that occur are through open doors and windows. "Please lock your car, don't leave valuables in plain view and secure your house. Make a closed home report with the police before going away. The PD email is police@piermont-ny.com and my email is chief@piermont-ny.com."

If you report suspicious activity to the police, you do not have to leave your name, noted Chief O'Shea. For emergencies call 911 and for non emergencies call 359-0240.

Rubbish/Debris Collection

Tom Temple, Supervisor of the Piermont Department of Public Works (DPW), said that the Department of Public Works will start its leaf collection during the week of October 21st and run through to December 6th. "Please place all leaves on the edge of your property," he advised. "The leaves should be free and clear of any rocks, brush or other debris that may cause a blockage in our leaf collection machine."

Please do not block the sidewalks with leaf pile or bags. This causes a public safety issue by forcing pedestrians to walk in the roadways. Leaves that are going to be bagged should be done in biodegradable bags. The DPW supplies these to Village residents for

free, while supplies last, and can be obtained from the DPW garage on Piermont Avenue during regular DPW business hours. The Village encourages the use of the biodegradable bags and will not pick up leaves that have been placed in plastic bags. This and other information is available on the Village of Piermont website at www.piermont-ny.org.

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.

~Ron Derven



Red Boats, Argenteuil by Claude Monet, used with permission

This is the luxury of nature. Where home blends seamlessly with its surroundings, allowing you to do so as well. Where the environment is not just a backdrop, but an essential component of the beauty of the home. A setting that is a glorious balance of light, landscape and sky.

Search for your own "harmonious" at ellissothebysrealty.com.

Ellis

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

76 North Broadway, Nyack, NY 845.353.4250

Future Of The Marsh continued from page 1

1993, she spearheaded Piermont Landing's policy of banning use of herbicides and synthetic fertilizers for landscape maintenance, earning it the Governors Award for Pollution Prevention in 2002. Now, Marthe heard that the state was planning to use hundreds

of gallons of herbicides across Pier Road from the Landing. She immediately alerted her Piermont neighbors, and in June, a group of concerned citizens formed the Piermont Marsh Alliance to stop the proposed eradication. In late July The Piermont Marsh Alliance (PMA), following rigorous weeks of press and petitioning, was invited to make its case before a joint meeting with Conybeare, the Thruway Authority, the DEC, the engineers selected for the eradication project, and representatives from Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper.

The PMA put its position on the table: the use of herbicides in the Piermont Marsh was totally unacceptable. There would be unknown and long-lasting harmful consequences for plant and animal life within the Marsh, the waterway, and the neighboring communities. The Phragmites, those gathered were reminded, are a cornerstone of Piermont's visual world. Replacing 200+ acre Piermont Marsh vista with a scorched-earth viewshed, devoid of the birds, reptiles, fish and fauna during the years it would take to attempt to re-establish other plant types is unthinkable.

Herbicides are not the Village's only problem with the DEC plan. "Phragmites greatly helped us during Superstorm Sandy," scientist and group member Klaus Jacob explained. "Its dense mass and uniquely tall habit spared us the devastating wave-action impacts in the areas adjacent to the marsh." Jacob, an expert on ocean rise, compared that to the devastation that occurred on the unprotected shores to the North. Native species such as Spartina, a grass that now exists in very small patches in the marsh, simply lack the height and density needed in the face of the 10 foot storm surge with 5 foot waves that occurred during in Hurricane Sandy.


Additionally, in the Piermont Marsh, Phragmites serves an important function as a filter for many chemical toxins and pollutants found in the Sparkill Creek, one of the most polluted bodies of water in New York State. Throughout the world Phragmites is used in constructed marsh environments specifically for the purpose of water filtration. This significant benefit would be lost if Phragmites were to be eradicated.

continued on next page

lee vazquez
floral design
weddings • events



845.365.0315
www.ladybuglee.com
25 hester st
piermont, ny 10968
by appointment only



Bonnie Chapin
Abigail Rose and Lily Too
500 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, New York 10968
845 359-4649

Our listings don't expire.
They sell for premiums.

Our 33 year old **boutique** real estate firm will give your home the best **exposure**.

We are **#1 in the Northeast & #8 in the Nation.***

WILLIAM RAVEIS
BAER & McINTOSH
REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE
baerhomes.com | raveis.com
845.358.9440
NYACK OFFICE

*Ranked by REALTOR Magazine 2011 by Closed Sales Volume
Proudly Serving Rockland & Orange Counties; 80+ offices in the Northeast.
10+ Million Annual Visits **BAERHOMES.COM | RAVEIS.COM** 1+ Billion Annual Hits

Future Of The Marsh continued from previous page

At the meeting, Columbia University climatologist Dorothy Peteet, asked to attend by Mayor Chis Sanders, spoke to the history of the Piermont Marsh. Dorothy reminded those gathered that the 7000 year old Piermont Marsh with its 1025 acres (just 200 + acres above water) caps a vast store of carbon, and if the marsh were to be lost, through bad management or natural catastrophe, those gasses would enter the atmosphere to disastrous effect. While she reminded all present of the importance of plant biodiversity to the health of the marsh—the fundamental reason HRNERR has been promoting its eradication program—she cautioned against unconsidered action, expressing grave concern regarding the DEC proposal, warning “Do no harm”.

In the following weeks, now months after the DEC headed down the troubling road of Phragmites eradication, Conybeare asked the Piermont Marsh Alliance for alternative suggestions for the mitigation dollars that have been allocated for this project.

Members of the Piermont Marsh Alliance and the Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance are working to present proposals focusing on the health of the Sparkill Creek by identifying the pollutants in the Creek and creating action plans to improve its water quality. There are also proposals being discussed to examine ways to re-introduce native plants, not by destroying existing habitats, but by expanding the surface area of the marsh and planting native plants there. Piermont Mayor Chris Sanders has suggested that we need to address the presence of the MRSA bacteria, which are anti-biotic resistant and the source of hard to treat infections, found in our stretch of the Hudson River. Orangetown Supervisor Andy Stuart has suggested a “green infrastructure” project to reduce runoff into the Sparkill Creek. Many community projects are also out there looking for funding—dredging Piermont Bay to allow added access to our waterfront, thus increasing recreational and business opportunities, repairing the dock at the end of the Pier, undermined by wood borers, and an important launch point for rescue operations on the Hudson, reinforcing Pier Road and the North Shore sea wall damaged by storm surges. Everywhere you look there is a need for funding. Remembering that this money is a give-back for the environmental impacts accompanying years of bridge construction, one thing has become clear—it must not be allocated to projects that create their own environmental havoc.

As summer of 2013 winds to a close and pile driving begins for the new Tappan Zee Bridges, the over-arching message from Piermont to the Thruway Authority and DEC regarding the Phragmites Eradication Plan is “Cease and Desist”.

~Margaret Grace

Cafe Portofino *“Where Romance Begins”*

587 Piermont Ave.
Piermont, N.Y. 10768

845-359-7300

Hair Salon
CIBELLE

499 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, NY 10968
Tel: 845-359-2892

Hair Salon
CIBELLE

We would like to say
Thank you....

Hair Salon
CIBELLE

To all our clients,
for your continuous support.

 P I N K  ENTOURAGE

Make Up Discontinued?

We will recreate any cosmetic!



GO PINK!

Boutique Beauty Lounge

Where Women Unite through Beauty

— All products are natural or organic —

+1 845-675-7977 | www.pinkentourage.com | 7 South Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960

glaze

We offer paint your own
pottery, mosaics, parties
& special events.

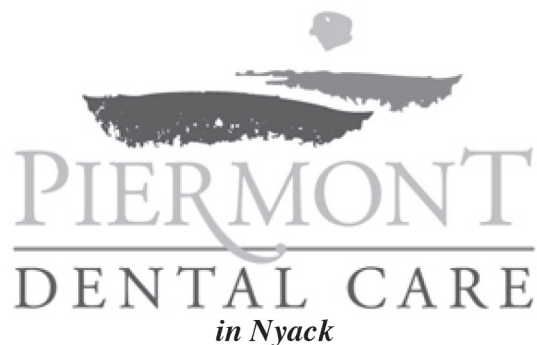
34 Orangetown Shopping Center
Orangeburg, NY 10962
(845) 359-9020

info@glazeartstudio.com

www.glazeartstudio.com

Claudette Scheffold
Kim Scheffold Stiefel

*** WE'VE MOVED ***



90 N Highland Avenue • Nyack, NY 10960
(845) 358-0695

New Patient Welcome Visit Offer includes comprehensive oral exam,
cleaning, necessary x-rays for only **\$190**
(\$365 value)

Children's Welcome Exam and Cleaning Offer includes exam,
cleaning, necessary x-rays and fluoride treatment for only **\$99**
(\$292 value)

Offers apply to new patients only.

*Offers cannot be combined with any other discounts or insurance benefits.
Mention this ad when scheduling appointment.*

Serving lunch and dinner daily



Biddy O'Malley's

Irish bistro and bar

*"Enjoy delicious smells
from every direction."*

*"A restaurant to be
reckoned with."*

*"It does not quite matter what you choose off
the menu, the vast majority of it is terrific."*

ELISA UNG - THE RECORD, Jan. 2012



191 Paris Avenue, Northvale, NJ 07647 | (201) 564-7893

Mon.-Fri. 11:00 am - 2:00 am | Sat. 11:00 am - 3:00 am | Sun. 12:00 Noon - 2:00 am

www.biddyomalleys.com

Tappan Pharmacy

Your Full Service Community Pharmacy
25 Old Tappan Road, Tappan, NY 10983
845-359-1777

We accept
most
prescription
plans

Unhappy with Chainstore "Service"?
We can have your prescriptions transferred to us!
Prescriptions filled while You Wait

Mon. - Fri.
9-7
Sat. 9-4

Stuffed Animals • Candles • Other Fine Gift Items

Bring in this ad and receive **\$10 off** any New or Transferred Prescription.
(New Patients Only)

For your convenience
we are now an O&R Payment Center

FREE DELIVERY FOR ALL PIERMONT RESIDENTS

THE OUTSIDE IN

245 Ferden Ave., Piermont, NY 10968 845 398 0706 theoutsidempiermont.com theoutside.in

LOCAL ARTEFACTS

FURNITURE, FINE ART, FOUND OBJECTS...



PIERMONT RESIDENTS
MENTION THIS AD AND GET 20% OFF
THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Elegant & Sophisticated

20% discount for Piermont
residents with this ad

For
Reservations
call:

845-398-1943



Lunch
and
Dinner
Served Daily

SLATTERY'S
OF PIERMONT LANDING

5 Roundhouse Road
Piermont, New York 10968

Confetti

RISTORANTE & VINOTECA

Family owned and operated since 1981
 Fine Italian Cuisine in Beautiful Piermont NY on the Hudson



Call to book your private parties in our two
 exclusive party rooms.

www.ConfettiofPiermont.com

200 ASH ST. PIERMONT, NY 10968 (845) 365-1911

AUBREY FLOWERS



LYNNE AUBREY

510 PIERMONT AVENUE • PIERMONT, NY 10968
 845.359.1411
www.aubreyflowers.com

MUSBRO KENNELS



845-359-4550
www.MusbroKennels.com

FULL SERVICE KENNEL
 Boarding for all Dogs & Cats
 Individual In/Out Door Runs
 Stereo Music • Grooming Available
 A/C • Heated • Personalized
 Menus Welcome

183 ROUTE 303
 ORANGEBURG, N.Y. 10962
 22 YEARS EXPERIENCE

YOUR PETS VACATION SPOT

DOGGY DAY CAMP

LET YOUR FURRY FRIEND
 STAY AND PLAY
 THE DAY AWAY

WWW.MUSBROKENNELS.COM

845-359-4550 *INQUIRE WITHIN

\$20 Per Day
 Per Dog



evband.com
info@evband.com
 845-365-4532

weddings
 private parties
 corporate events



THE PIERMONT
NEWSLETTER Box 454
Piermont, NY 10968

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL



540 Piermont Ave, Piermont, NY 10968
845.365.2505 or visit our home www.usakennedy.com

Take a look at these Piermont area homes that have sold recently, by a variety of brokers servicing our county:

Address	Location	Bedrooms	Baths	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date
103 Gair St	Piermont	3	3	\$674,000	\$635,000	07/26/2013
693 US HWY 9W	Piermont	5	2.5	\$899,000	\$865,000	07/31/2013
706 Piermont Ave	Piermont	5	3	\$1,295,000	\$1,270,000	08/02/2013
102 Abbotsford	Piermont	3	3	\$749,000	\$715,000	08/08/2013
520 Gair St.	Piermont	3	2.5	\$949,000	\$850,000	08/14/2013
47Gair St.	Piermont	2	2	\$399,000	\$380,000	08/23/2013

If you are thinking of placing your property on the market, purchasing one or simply renting, we are always here for you. We can also prepare a CMA (Comparative Market Analysis) for you. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about today's Real Estate market.