

The Piermont Newsletter

VOLUME I NO. 3

PUBLISHED BY THE PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

FALL 2021

Piermont's 2021 Hurricane Season Begins

On September 1st, remnants of Hurricane Ida dropped 6.92 inches of rain on Piermont as the storm passed through on its way to New England. Between 9:30 and 10:30 pm that evening, we had 2.5 inches of rainfall. All this water hit the ground saturated by Henri a week earlier. Two "500 year" storms in two weeks.

At the Turning Point restaurant in Piermont that night, the soulful blues of Chris Smither was brought to a halt by cell phones blaring flash flood and tornado warnings. The exiting crowd confronted ankle-deep water surging north on Main Street. Muddy water, finding its way downhill from Route 9W and the Erie Path, gushed and tore through yards on Hudson Terrace, carrying soil and rocks into the streets and properties below. Clogged storm drains on 9W closed the road and added to the downhill flood. A section of the Erie Path collapsed north of Ash Street, and the path itself was inundated with overflow from the sewer line that runs under the path. The Erie Path is closed indefinitely.

At the north border of the village, St. John's stream was overwhelmed by the water cascading down from the top of Clausland Mountain, pushing down boulders, mud and stones, blocking the culvert under River Road, enlarged after hurricane Floyd in 1999. Stones, small boulders and a sea of mud

clogged River Road there, at the Grandview line, as well as at the foot of Ritie Street. Along the Sparkill Creek, dangerous rapids carried the floodwater from neighboring villages upstream, overwhelming the skating pond, flooding the lower basin, creating a maelstrom as it poured over the dam.

Piermont has four identified hillside flood zones that run along the Erie Path, and one above South Piermont Avenue. The flood waters from these areas and those on the Sparkill Creek corridor saw sanitary sewer outflows combining with storm water runoff. Two inches of water an hour is the "tipping point" where sewer lines become overwhelmed, says Piermont Trustee Nathan Mitchell. This led to New York State DEC "water quality" advisories being issued not just for Piermont, but across Rockland County.

Piermont's problems during Hurricanes Henri and Ida were all about infrastructure, commented Mayor Bruce Tucker, pointing to drainage installed in the early 2000's on Tweed Blvd., which is a County road. That drainage system, built to carry flood waters from the top of Clausland Mountain down to the river, is now incapable of handling 21st century rainfall amounts. The mayor had already

been in touch with Rockland County government officials about flooding issues on the mountainside after Henri. Then, a week later, comes torrential rains from Hurricane Ida.

Route 9W is a New York State road. Management of catch basins falls to the State, although Piermont's DPW will send its own crews up to clear debris in anticipation of flooding.

How does our small village afford to address these problems? Piermont may have some funding available through a broad Federal Covid Relief bill for "Storm Water Mitigation". Our Congressman Mondaire Jones and other officials were in Piermont the day after the storm to survey damage and discuss funding options.

Ultimately, it will be up to the Village Board and Piermont residents to demand infrastructure improvements from town, county and state agencies.

Our community owes a debt of gratitude to the brave and rigorous responses of our Emergency Services, Police Department and Department of Public Works during this dangerous hurricane season.—Margaret Grace

To view Piermont flood maps, go to <https://www.piermont-ny.gov/> and click on Government at the top of the page, then click on Waterfront Resiliency, then click on the Village of Piermont Flood Guide.



DPW digging out storm drains, flood water between homes on Piermont Ave., and at the Sparkill Creek Waterfall - Staff Photos

Piermont Reflections—Piermont's Enunciator



At a recent Village Board Meeting, there was a complaint read about the very loud fire siren that blasts its signal, with no respect for time of day, from a tower at the corner of Parelli Park. The citizens in attendance, including this writer, were given something of a “talking to” which included:

4 things to appreciate about Piermont's siren, which serves to:

1. Alert our volunteer emergency forces spread throughout the village
2. Warn the village of an emergency
3. Let the people in trouble know that help is on the way
4. Notify us to avoid emergency vehicles

Piermont's siren, in place with the same shrill call since

1956, is essential to the effective operation of our emergency services.

Yes, our volunteers have cell phones, land lines and high-speed internet. Any or all of those devices can fail during power outages, with email and texts sometimes taking 10 minutes to arrive in an inbox. That siren? Instantaneous message sent.

The question was asked: Why don't you have these sirens if you live in a large city? Answer: because large municipalities have paid firemen round-the-clock at the firehouses, they don't need to be called in by a siren.

The next time that irritating siren blasts, hold your ears and thank your lucky stars that our volunteers are answering its call.—Margaret Grace



The Fred Scheffold Memorial on the Pier was re-dedicated in July, following a beautiful landscape restoration. The Scheffold family was joined by members of the Piermont Fire Department, Former Fire Chief Al Bartley at the podium, and representatives from departments county-wide.

Fred Scheffold, a long-time Piermonter, was a Battalion Chief with the New York City Fire Department, lost his life in the line of duty, responding to the unfolding tragedy taking place at the World Trade Center on September 11th, 2001. Staff photo.

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This issue of *The Piermont Newsletter*, and many past issues, can be found online at

<http://www.piermont-ny.com/newsletter/>

Thanks to website manager Richie Stark.

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Meet your Neighbor...Joan Gussow: The Food Leader Among Us

It was a couple of months into the COVID pandemic, and the start of another gardening season. Time to get the beds ready, maybe harvest some greens that had wintered over. Joan Dye Gussow, 91 years old at the time, tired of being isolated indoors, had to get out to the garden.

Close friends started coming over to help her with chores, and drink wine, sitting six feet apart on her terrace that overlooks the Hudson River. Down below, stretching to the shore lays a garden that has been a source of nourishment, inspiration and resilience to Joan. Dubbed “the Matriarch of the Eat Locally, Think Globally Movement” by The New York Times, Joan has many titles: Mother, Professor Emeritus of Nutrition, Author, and Gardener. Ask her today, she’ll tell you she’s more of a Weeder. “It’s the extra CO² in the air. The weeds thrive,” she says.

Much of what is written today about food, from sourcing and labeling, to support for small farms has been influenced by Joan. She is the former chair of the Nutrition Education Department of Teachers College at Columbia University, and the author of several books including “The Feeding Web,” “This Organic Life,” and “Growing, Older.” She has served on the FDA’s Food Advisory Panel, the National Organic Standards Board, and the board of Rockland Farm Alliance. Michael Pollan, author of “The Omnivore’s Dilemma” said of her, “Once in a while, I think I’ve had an original thought, then I look and read around and realize Joan said it first.”

Joan is concerned about the entire food supply chain, from soil to the plate. She puts farmers and organic growing practices at the center of the nutrition discussion. Of many memorable quotes attributed to her, one that sums up her point of view succinctly is “I prefer butter to margarine because I trust cows more than chemists.”

“My husband, Alan, was on a committee called Rockland 2000, a land use committee. I thought, ‘This is ridiculous. I should be on the committee.’ So I got myself appointed. We were having a meeting, and I said, ‘We should be doing something about saving farmland.’ And someone else said, ‘We should have a model farm, like they have in Westchester, so that children could see how food used to be grown.’ ‘Used to be grown?’ She laughs at that.

There was a time when advocating for ‘organic’ was a dangerous thing to do. In 1971, Joan testified in front of the NYS Attorney General about deceptive advertising in health food stores. “At that time, in the nutrition field, organic was considered a fad.” She remembers the newspaper headline the next day: “Nutritionist Defends Faddists.”

Joan and her husband, artist Alan Gussow, lived in Congers until 1995, when they moved to Piermont. “The minute we bought the place, we asked the sellers for permission to start planting the garden while they were still living there. We planted tomatoes out on the edge of the river.” The sellers told her that they had tried some gardening, but they had given up. They told Joan there had been a major flood. “Really, I had been forewarned,” she said.

Joan and Alan were inspired to establish a community garden almost as soon as they moved in. She heard from her new neighbor that the land covered in junk next door was going to be turned into a parking lot.

“I went to the wife of the mayor about using the lot for a community garden instead. She told me, ‘He [the mayor] said if you can get 25 people to show up to the next village board meeting, he’ll consider it.’ Well, we packed that meeting!” And the Piermont Community Garden was born.

Joan continued her civic engagement as a Village Board member. Originally, she was appointed to fill a vacated seat. She went on to serve as a Village Trustee for 10 years.

Even though she left her chair position at Teachers College in the mid-90’s, Joan has never really retired. She still co-teaches her landmark course, Nutritional Ecology at Columbia. She stays up to date on the latest agricultural policies and climate science reports. For decades, Joan has grown in her backyard almost all the produce she consumes year-round. This summer, her peach tree bore a few peaches, but

when she looked at it the other day, the tree was completely wilted. It’s an old tree, so maybe its age, or, she thinks, it also may have drowned in the rising water table.

“Recently, it struck me, in my lifetime, the Hoover Dam is going to fail. I was born in 1928. My father worked on the Hoover Dam when it was being built. The water level in Lake Mead has now fallen so low, that it might not generate any more electricity. It struck me as symbolic of our failure to relate to nature in any way, to go from the great triumph of the Hoover Dam to this. My new favorite word is solastalgia. It refers to the grief one feels when...losing a place while you’re still there. You’re still there but the place is disappearing. I feel it for my garden.”

Some Piermont residents may not be aware of the food leader who lives among them, nor how influential her garden has been on an entire movement that believes what we eat, how it was grown, and how it gets to our plate are connected to the way we treat the earth and each other. They may not know her whole resumé or list of distinctions. In Piermont, we are lucky to get to add one more to the list: Neighbor. —*Jessica Kesselman*



Joan Gussow. Photo by Susan Freiman

Profiles in Service

Piermont's Bravest, the men and women of the Piermont Fire Department – Empire House Co No 1, keep the Village safe in fires, floods, medical emergencies, water rescues and virtually anything else they are called upon to do when seconds and people's lives hang in the balance. Here are profiles of three of its members.



Frank Bockowski is a 40-year-old father of two who has been with our fire department for four years, and serves as an EMT, a diver, a firefighter, and is part of our high-angle rescue team. He works as an accountant by day, but had considered firefighting as a career path, and joined

shortly after moving to Piermont. Frank enjoys the camaraderie and culture of the fire department, teaching others and learning new skills such as achieving NYS emergency medical technician certification, which he earned through our department. Frank took those skills and put them to exemplary use in service to our community, receiving our EMS Provider of the Year award and a top EMT in District Citation in 2021. He would like our residents to know that what we do is much more than just put out fires, and that there are ways that people of any age or fitness level can get involved and help protect our community.



Reece McNichol is a 22-year-old heavy equipment operator, who has been with our department for six years, and has risen to the rank of 2nd assistant chief. He got an early start in our fire explorers program for youths under 16, and serves as firefighter, diver, and on the high-angle rescue team. Reece appreciates how

our diversity of training in numerous response capacities builds skills that are relevant, even lifesaving, in normal everyday life, and how it allows us to help others on their worst possible day. He finds the most meaningful aspect of his efforts is training our members and seeing them apply their skills to the best of their abilities in real life scenarios. For Reece, like most of us, the department is like an extended family, with room for everyone to contribute, and a seat at the table for all.



Hope Goswick is a 31-year-old mother of two who has been with our department for nearly 14 years, and serves as 1st EMS Lieutenant. She works as a registered nurse and carries on her family's tradition of service as an EMT and firefighter. Hope values the opportunity to set an example and inspire others to grow personally and professionally.

In 2021, she was recognized as a NYS Woman of Distinction, in addition to numerous professional and volunteer service awards and citations she has received over the years. She also takes great pride in working with other volunteers and first responders and developing the skills that support our shared mission of serving the community—*Nate Mitchell*

Join Us: Piermont Fire Department's Open House 9/25/21

The Empire Hose Company & the Piermont Fire Department would like to invite all Piermont residents to come down to our Open House demonstration and recruitment event at the firehouse all day Saturday, September 25th, and encourage folks to come down any Monday night at 7 PM to learn more about how you can get involved.



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Are Piermonters Missing Out on Clean Energy & Energy Savings?

New York State has created a program called **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** that helps communities transition to clean electricity at low, fixed rates and with built-in protection from surprise rate increases. In order for Piermonters to participate, the Village Board has to decide to join the program.

How do we purchase electricity? Prior to 1998, O&R both supplied and delivered energy. But, since a ruling in 1998, O&R only delivers it. Ratepayers can either choose a supplier (an "ESCO") or just get the default O&R option (a mix of largely fossil fuels at a rate that varies every month). Those who pick an ESCO do so either looking for good rates or wanting to support renewable energy or both. How do you know whether you picked an ESCO? Check your energy bill – on page 2 or 3, you will see the name of your ESCO(s) and the rate they are charging you. Of course, whether we picked an ESCO or not, we all continue to pay O&R's delivery charges.

So what is the problem with picking an ESCO on your own? Often the ESCOs offer a good introductory rate, but later raise it, counting on consumers not to keep a close eye on their bills. Sometimes there are exit fees as well.

In the CCA program, municipalities join together to form a buying group, which gives them much more bargaining power than individual consumers. The group negotiates agreements through which residents and small businesses may purchase electricity from renewable sources at a rate that is **FIXED** for two or three years. **Nothing is binding until the last step – i.e., until the Village is satisfied with the final rates.**

This program started in New York State in 2016 with a pilot project in Westchester. Today, 2/3 of the communities in Westchester are in a CCA group; they are on their second round, having renewed their contract and added more members. CCA is now a growing movement, with 131 municipalities in New York State participating.

Last winter, six communities in Rockland - Orangetown, Clarkstown, Nyack,

South Nyack, Upper Nyack, and the Village of Haverstraw – joined together to form a buying group called Rockland Community Power (RCP). Piermont was not included because, as an incorporated Village, it has to make its own decision. RCP – which includes approximately 1/5th of Rockland's population – was able to lock in two low rates: 7.167 cents/kWh for 100% renewable energy and 6.515 cents/kWh for "standard" energy (i.e., largely fossil fuels). Both rate options are slightly lower than what ratepayers had paid in the previous two years for "standard" energy from O&R. The clean energy rate through the program is also lower than the rate consumers could obtain for a similar, two-year 100% renewable energy plan on their own.

If Piermont joins the next group now being formed, it will still have some choices to make. The Village will get to decide which option to offer as the default - clean energy or "standard" energy (largely fossil fuels). Either way, the other option will still be available to ratepayers. No one is locked into the Village's choice. Additionally, most municipalities also include community solar in the mix (energy from a solar project in

Orange County); and, again, consumers can opt out. Those who stick with the community solar option get a discount on their entire electricity bill, including O&R's delivery charge.

Once the program is set, an introductory packet explaining all the options goes out to all "eligible customers" - those residents and small businesses who do not have an electricity ESCO, i.e., who are on the O&R default option. **Anyone who wants to opt out of the program can do so at any time; no one is locked in, as there are no contracts for consumers within the CCA program.** Of course, given the advantages it offers (clean energy at a fixed rate with a discount through community solar), it's hard to see why anyone would want to opt out.

What about those who are getting their electricity from an ESCO? They will not get the introductory packet, but they can always choose to terminate their ESCO and join the program at any point. They should, of course, check on their contract with their ESCO, which could include an exit fee.

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Charles V. Sparhawk: The Amazing Chemist of Rockland Road

Just One of the Historic District's Little-Known Characters

Charles V. Sparhawk, resident of 20 Rockland Road from 1941 until his death in 1959, was a rather eccentric chemist and essential oil distiller who pioneered products from secretions of animal glands – most notably from skunks. His popular product, 'Skunkadora' was demonstrated to remove the skunk smell out of everything from pets and car upholstery to mink coats. The chemist also succeeded in using the skunk secretion as a fixative for perfumes, allowing the perfume fragrance to last far longer.

The milking of skunks can be a ticklish process. The skunks must be handled gently as an injured or dead skunk is of no use. Each black and white 'pussy' was strapped to a board and its tail held down with a rubber band for when the skunk tail is lowered the power to 'spray' is turned off. A glass receptacle with a rubber bulb was used to draw off the fluid. The animals were then released to produce more 'product'.

During World War II, Sparhawk developed a combination chemical used to keep German dogs from trailing para-

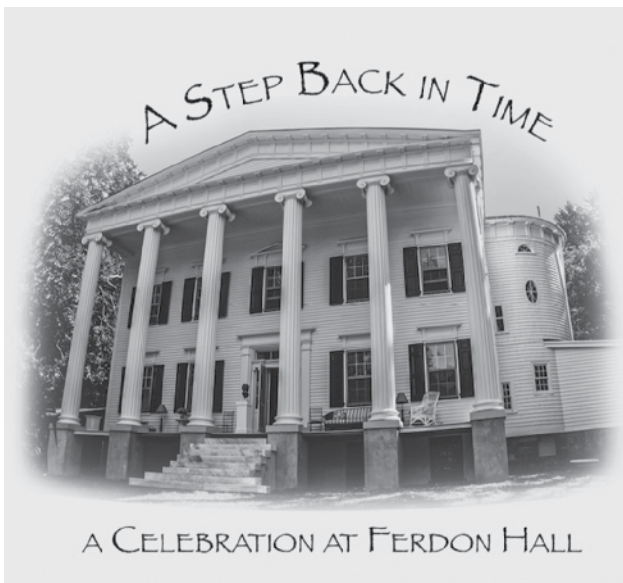
troopers. The odor would attract dogs initially, but contained an odorless chemical that would paralyze a dog's sense of smell.

Rat repellents were also created with the skunk's scents to protect food storage facilities and an otter odor was developed for use by Canadian muskrat trappers to repel beavers and to stop them from building dams that flooded the muskrat dwellings. Sparhawk also experimented with fish lure products where the odors of worms, snails, crayfish, and other bait were duplicated in the lab to be applied to lures.

Sparhawk's laboratory is believed to have been located on the 20 Rockland Road property, at the east corner of Ferdon Avenue. The subsequent owner recalled encountering many skunk bones interred in the grounds.

For more 'breaking news' about the history and characters of Piermont's Historic District be sure to join the Piermont Historical Society's gala celebration of the district on the evening of September 23rd to be held at Ferdon Hall.

—Dan Sherman



A Step Back in Time...

A Celebration at Ferdon Hall

Thursday, September 23, 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Join us as we celebrate one of Piermont's most significant and beautiful historic sites. Placed on the National Registry in 2011, this Greek Revival House was built by Piermont resident and mill proprietor, William Ferdon, in 1837. It was recently restored and expanded with such care that the new faithfully represents the old. Marvel at the Art & Architecture as you explore Ferdon Hall. A stroll through the outdoor garden rooms linked by stone and rusty steel will delight and surprise you. Don't miss the original brick smokehouse, woodland garden and classical sculptures. A gallery of murals and vintage photos will immerse you in the history of Piermont's birthplace.

Go to piermonthistoricalsociety.org for more information



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Bob Samuels Park at the Waterfall

Just under 175 years ago, a little brick-arch bridge was built across the Sparkill Creek to carry Rockland Road onto Piermont Avenue just north of where a small waterfall splashed noisily over a dam. The little bridge was designed to have a long life, but by 2002 the Piermont village board learned that after 128 years of carrying traffic, the bridge had serious structural problems.

The story of the bridge's temporary closing, its temporary reopening to one-way weight-limited traffic and ultimate rescue by a plan that restored the rare brick arch, AND transferred the roadway's weight onto new concealed bracketing abutments, was a 10-year saga. By 2013, the rare span (one of only two bridges of the same design in New York State) had been safely restored to one-way west-bound traffic. The roadway on Ferdon Avenue was narrowed to open up a larger unpaved space near the waterfall and the entire area, including the restored mansion that faced the bridge across Ferdon, was named an historic district.

Meanwhile in that mansion, a budding architect named Walter Cain, who helped inspire the push to narrow the road during reconstruction, had plans. He thought the enlarged macadam-free area should be made more welcoming. It should be transformed into a park that would allow visitors to stroll closer to the waterfall and provide more places where they could sit, watch and listen to the water spill over the dam.

But funding for such a transformation was not available, and Walter was busy in architectural school. There he developed a philosophy of trying to use recycled materials in his work as a way of reducing the global warming impact of construction. And one day three years ago, he happened to come across some magnificent slabs of granite in a Connecticut salvage stone yard. With the dreamed-of little park in mind, he bought them, and asked his neighbor, P. J. Mouquin, to store them on her property. (If you drive north on Ferdon, you can look to your right and see them lying there now).

Meanwhile in 2018, the village board had established

a Piermont Public Art Committee to determine what art should be placed in the village. Two years ago, the PPC's chair, Joe Serra, aware that the noted sculptor Grace Knowlton of Palisades was aging, asked her daughters whether she might consider donating one of her sculptures to be placed as public art in Piermont. They agreed, and very generously offered Piermont a special piece called "Steel Twist,"

a piece that Walter saw as perfect for the hoped-for park. Since its destination did not yet exist, the sculpture was temporarily stored on Walter's front lawn at Knowlton's death.

Plans have now been redrawn to create a pedestal for the sculpture from the salvaged granite slabs that will sit on the corner of Piermont Avenue and Rockland road, sheltering the park from passing cars, and welcoming visitors. It is not yet

clear just how much money will be available to complete the work in the near future. The Piermont Civic Association will take overall charge of fundraising; the village may contribute some funds, and the Piermont Historical Society,

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Walter Cain discusses plan for park with US Congressman Mondaire Jones and NY State Senator Elijah-Reichlan Melnick. Photo by Betsy France Feeney

Contributions to help build the park can be sent to The Piermont Civic Association PO Box 454, Piermont NY 10968. Please Note Park Fund in the memo area. Or go online to piermontcivicassociation.org.

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Bob Samuels Park continued from page 7

which is having a benefit gala in the mansion, will also help.

At the suggestion of Dan Spitzer, the Piermont Public Art Committee enthusiastically declared that the park should be named for our deeply missed late resident Bob Samuels who will, I am certain, probably manage—however daunting the trip—to visit his park. —*Joan Gussow*



Proposed site of Bob Samuels Park. Photo by Betsey Franco Feeney


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Bob Samuels Summer Concert Series

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Photos by Betsey Franco Feeney

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From The Library

Happy September! We welcome all of our new residents to Piermont and invite you to come on in and get your new library card. Our building is open! Please visit our website for up-to-date Covid precautions.

We will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Library in Piermont on September 26th. We hope you will join us in our celebration outside the library for some community fun. From noon to 2 pm we will have cake and live music — bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in Flywheel Park and help us wish the library a happy birthday.

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, we will present “A Story of a 9/11 Survivor: Victoria Lockhart” on Friday September 10th via Zoom. An international speaker and inspirational communicator, Victoria has written three books and motivated many leaders. Her life was permanently altered when she found herself on the 63rd floor of the 1 World Trade Center during the terrorist attack.

This fall we will continue to offer a wide range of engag-

ing programs, both in person and virtually. Our popular Adult Create and Sip classes continue as well as our Adult Art and Craft classes. We will be offering a creative and inspiring range of art classes for kids in grades 1 – 12.

Ms. Nancy will continue to offer a broad range of children’s literature programs from outdoor story time, to Story and Craft, to book clubs for older students.

In our gallery spaces, we continue to exhibit the beautiful paintings of local scenes by Piermont artist Dan Lukens. Additionally, we are presenting a new virtual art exhibition through our website each month. September will feature the paintings of celebrated local artist Diana Chelaru. Romanian-born Chelaru’s style is influenced by Byzantine mosaics as well as Gustav Klimt’s subject matter and use of decorative patterns within his compositions.

We also offer two book clubs for adults. Our popular Adult Book Discussion Group meets monthly on a Wednesday afternoon, currently outside beside the river. We read a range of thought-provoking books, primarily newer releases. New members are always welcome! Additionally, library trustee Kelly Ruby is leading our Anti-Racist Book Club. Inspired by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi’s “How to be an Antiracist”, this group will take a deep dive into racist systems and policies.

There is always so much going on at the Piermont Library, the only way to keep up with the latest is to join our email list at info@piermontlibrary.org. Our website (www.piermontlibrary.org) always has a full list of events on our events page. You can also follow us on Facebook (Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library), Twitter (@mchughpmtlib), and Instagram (mchugh_piermont_library). --Alexis Starke

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Covid-19 Update: Piermont Merchants Rebound

It has been an extraordinarily challenging year around the globe and in our lovely village as we coped with the pandemic. With the warmer weather and widespread distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, Piermont downtown is demonstrating resiliency as it our downtown reawakens as the lively and stunning village that attracts visitors and residents alike. It is encouraging to see our vibrant town open up so we can once again enjoy the riverfront vistas, shops and restaurants. We checked in with a number of different businesses about how they have fared since reopening and what they see on the horizon.

Arturo Lepore, owner of Confetti, reports that the restaurant fully re-opened when this was permitted, with tables stationed 6-8 feet apart to allow for social distancing. Outdoor dining has further encouraged patrons to come back. Lepore is also seeing a return to limited indoor parties as well, as expansive indoor space with massive windows able to accommodate safety practices. Lepore sees a mixed picture ahead: "People are also starting to cancel booked parties...there are no clear rules now." As more people are feeling safer, an increase in travel is also having an impact on his usually robust season. He emphasized that, "We want to keep people safe" and invites the com-

munity to continue coming.

Canzona's Market, which never closed during the pandemic, managed to expand its base of business by offering items in short supply such as meat and toilet paper advertised on Instagram. The market "has stayed busy, made new friends and customers from Pennsylvania and South Jersey," Carl Canzona states. In addition to having necessities on hand for customers, Carl attributes the ongoing stream of business to being a small store: "People wanted to stay out of the big stores, so they came here." Canzona's Market is selling an unprecedented quantity of prepared foods, necessitating restocking the freezer faster than




Katie Stoeckeler and young friend - yoga by the riverside. Photo by Dion Deen

ever. His message to the Piermont community is "Thank you for supporting us. We appreciate your business." He sees the uncertainty ahead, with the Delta variant as a challenge that Piermont will "get through together."

Chef and owner of 14 & Hudson Kitchen and Bar, Eric Woods offered "meals to go" to local hospitals as a "thank you" to our critical front line workers during the height of the pandemic. He reports that they offer outside dining options and socially distant seating indoors and continue to offer food to go. Looking ahead, Chef Woods emphasizes that he wants "people to know that we are committed to keeping our customers safe." With hand sanitizer, staff wearing masks and distanced seating, he is cautiously optimistic that the restaurant can continue to serve its customers going into the cooler months, but acknowledges that we

are in uncertain times with the emergence of Covid variants and he is prepared "to pivot as needed."

Peace in Piermont, which started out with a mission to help special needs children, was founded by Katie Stoeckeler who



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continued on p.13

Piermont's True Crime Story




Tess McCormick

Attempted murder and mayhem are not words one ascribes to the peaceful village of Piermont, but author Tess McCormick, lifelong resident of the village, has uncovered and written about a real crime story that took place in Piermont.

In "Shopping List for Murder," McCormick writes about a sadistic former Nazi S.S. officer who manipulated a family into allowing him to adopt a 15-year-old girl, one of 10 children living in a poor and demoralized household. The 15-year-old fell in love

with the former Nazi guard's 17-year old son and married him. A cruel relationship within this family ensued. The young couple, struggling for normalcy in their lives, moved out of the guard's house and purchased a home across from the old train station on Ash Street in Piermont and had a child together. But their relationship would come apart in a terrible and murderous way that could have landed the young wife in prison for many years. This is a true story of a young girl's virtual slavery and mental unraveling and the courageous lawyer who fought for her future.

"Shopping List for Murder" is available on Amazon in paperback and through Kindle. —Newsletter staff



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RESTAURANT
& BAR



Energy Savings continued from page 5

So why didn't Piermont join the Rockland group formed in the fall of 2020? Well, the Village Board was feeling cautious at the time and wanted to see how things would work out. What do we now know about that? So far, over the nine months since the RCP program began, 21,000+ ratepayers on clean energy have collectively saved over half a million dollars. These ratepayers and their communities can proudly say that they are helping to combat climate change and move our state forward.

Are there other benefits to the Village? Yes, the Program Administrator makes a donation to the Village for sustainability projects. And, if the Village chooses clean energy as the default option, it earns a lot of points towards funding opportunities within two state programs (Clean Energy and Climate Smart Communities), all part of a state effort to promote renewable energy.

In the final analysis, all the program really does is replace the present default option for consumers (O&R's dirty energy mix at a variable rate) with a better default option (clean energy at a low, fixed rate).

So what do we have to lose, besides paying too much, supporting fossil fuel companies, and enduring surprise rate increases?

For more information, you can visit www.Rockland-CommunityPower.com. --Marthe Schulzolf

Covid-19 Update continued from page 11

saw an unfulfilled need through her work as a Special Education teacher to help students with special needs to "Live peacefully and in the present moment." She extended her offerings to include entire families and establish a restorative space for parents and expanded to provide a robust schedule of many classes for the general population. To respond to the safety protocols that Covid required, Katie offered classes on Zoom, but acknowledged that face-to-face classes are always preferred.

Today, Peace in Piermont offers a camp for young people aged 6-12 years old to enjoy the playground, the Pier and other fun activities along with journaling, yoga and meditation.

With the arrival of the Delta variant, Katie has not seen any drop off so far in class attendance and she anticipates that more online options will be added this fall. She emphasizes the diligent focus on cleanliness and safety protocols have kept her clientele coming to Peace in Piermont.

Stoekeler is on a new mission: to help people deal with the unprecedented stress caused by the pandemic. With her gentle manner and commitment to make classes available to all, regardless of income, Katie offers a welcome refuge to help people to deal with the stress and uncertainty of the changing face of the Covid pandemic, an important service to our community.—Marjorie Derven



Pier 701
RESTAURANT & BAR

Pier 701 is open year round and offers outdoor dining on our beach, at our Tiki Bar and 200 seat deck. Winter months we offer Supper Club shows Starring Jesse Posa as "Sinatra" and specialty wine pairing dinners. We offer two private dining rooms for all of life's special celebrations. Open for lunch and dinner.
Saturday and Sunday a la carte Brunch.

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Piermont
Pristine Gothic Revival c.1860 across from Sparkill Creek. Exposed beams, brick walls & period moldings.
5brs/4.1 baths \$1,199,000



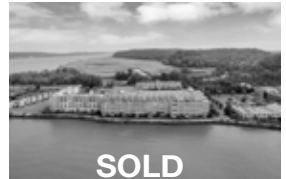
Piermont
"Secret Garden House", first time on market across from Sparkill Creek with water and mountain vistas.
3br/3.1 baths \$889,000



Grandview
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Piermont
"Freneau House," c.1810 Federal style home overlooking the Hudson w/12' ceilings, 3 fireplaces & lots of light. 5,600sf, 5brs/3.1 baths.
\$1,550,000



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Enter the Piermont Civic Association's
Scarecrow Contest
Saturday, October 23rd, 10:30-11:30am

We supply the stakes and hay, you supply your imagination and everything else you want to use - fabric, hats, gloves, etc., to decorate your scarecrow!

Where? The Piermont Library's side yard at Ash Street

Cost - \$10. per scarecrow - pay cash the day of

We have 15 Scarecrow posts to create

Judging will be in three categories: scariest, funniest, and most creative, by our guest judge.!

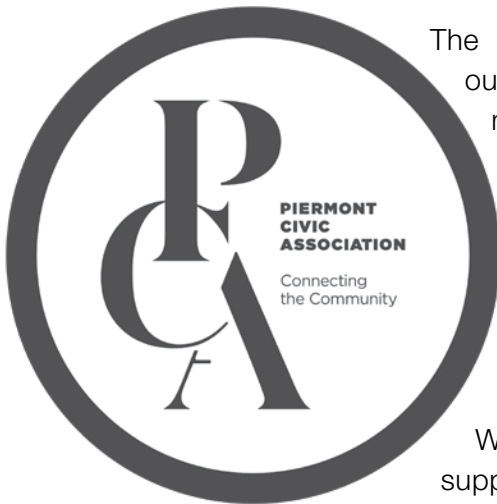
Clean up your scarecrows the DAY AFTER Halloween
Sign-up starting Sept. 14 at the Piermont Library Desk

SPONSORED BY THE PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Thank you, Piermont Library



Support the PCA



The Piermont Civic Association's Piermont Newsletter has chronicled our community's history for 53 years. It is delivered free to every Piermont household and is available online. The PCA gave us trees on Main Street, the Gazebo at Kane Park, and established a "Piermont Provides" food pantry during our difficult pandemic months. The Piermont Newsletter, as well as the PCA's Summer Concerts in Flywheel Park and numerous other community events are possible because of a dedicated group of volunteers and the contributions of Piermonters like you. All funds stay in the Village to support our community - 100% of our revenue goes to our efforts. We are grateful for your donations. We ask for your continued financial support. Please contribute \$25, \$50. or more. Please do it now!

You can mail a check made payable to Piermont Civic Association, PO Box 454, Piermont NY, 10968, or donate online: <https://piermont-civic-association.snwbll.com/giving-portal>