

# PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

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## VILLAGE TAKES CONSISTENT STEPS TOWARD CLEANLINESS

Piermont is to have its annual Clean-Up Week in mid-April.

But unlike previous years, when habitual offenders against public cleanliness resumed their careless and illegal habits of garbage disposal and street littering a few days later, this year's cleanliness campaign is planned as a year-round effort sustained by the Village's police powers, where necessary.

Mayor A. J. di Francesca has designated April 18, 19 and 20 as special pick-up days for householders' winter accumulations of broken chairs, discarded refrigerators and other outsized rubbish. And, beginning May 1, the police will issue summonses for appearance in police court of all violators of the garbage and rubbish ordinance. Those summoned will be subject to \$25 fines for each offense.

Mayor di Francesca has told the Piermont Civic Association in an interview, that the time has come to substitute summonses for the "educational" warnings that have been given to violators. Since last fall about 130 such warnings have been issued.

"Some citizens whose offenses resulted from unfamiliarity with the legal requirements conformed to the law after a first notice, but several persistent violators--particularly at a few eyesore locations along Main Street--have been unresponsive to repeated notices. These will be the first targets of the summonses," he said.

The main provisions of the garbage ordinance require that garbage be set out only on scheduled collection days and that it be in firmly-lidded containers which must be taken in within 12 hours after each collection. It specifically prohibits use of paper bags, cardboard boxes and overloading of garbage pails.

In calling upon Piermonters to clean out their cellars, garages and attics for the April 18 to 20 special pick-ups, the Mayor made it clear that the trucks will NOT accept leaves, hedge cuttings, branches and other garden or arboreal waste. He also said that each house would be visited only once during the three-day period. It will take the truck three days to cover the entire village.

## Loyalty Day Parade

The official Clean-Up Week comes somewhat later than usual this year because the Village trustees want Piermont to look its best for the week-end that will culminate on Sunday, April 30, with the Loyalty Day Parade that will bring visitors from all over the county to Piermont. A Navy destroyer will be anchored in the Tappan Zee Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30, and be open from 1 to 4 p.m. to visitors, who will be shuttled by bus and boat from the base of the long pier.

A Navy band, the Army Band from West Point and a cadet honor guard from the U.S. Military Academy will be in the parade.

Mayor di Francesca expressed the hope that householders throughout the Village and Main Street merchants would spruce-up and paint-up their properties as needed.

Following the April 18 to 20 special pick-ups, there will be a similar pick-up for oversize discards the first Tuesday of each month, beginning May 2.

### Village Seeks New Dump

The clean-up campaign, muscled with summonses and potential fines, is directed at one aspect of Piermont's garbage problem, but the ultimate disposal of the Village waste is still without a solution. The Continental Can Company, whose swampland the Village has helped fill with its garbage and refuse for more than 30 years, has notified the Board that it may eventually have to find some other means of disposal.

The State has notified the Can Company that the dump, whose smoky fires of coated paper waste have long befouled the atmosphere here, will have to be converted into a sanitary landfill. The Company is to build a treatment plant, where the industrial waste will be converted into sludge as a base for the landfill.

Meanwhile, there has been a noticeable lessening in the air pollution resulting from dump fires. Following representations by Village officials, the plant management now keeps the gate to the dump area locked and has instituted tighter policing of the dump. The Company had blamed the frequent dump fires on mischievous youngsters and spontaneous combustion of Village garbage.

Pollution from the Continental Can smokestacks remains a problem, but there has been an apparent brightening of the outlook, according to the Mayor. The company, ordered to conform to the State Smoke Abatement Program, is studying use of cleaner fuels, possibly gas or a lighter grade of fuel oil. The first step in this direction was taken a few years ago with conversion from coal to heavy fuel oil, but residents continue to complain of the stacks' spewing out black or purple smoke. The Company is continuing to seek improvement of its boiler operations.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Groundbreaking for the new Tappan Zee Elementary School will begin early in April. According to Dr. Stanley Raub, South Orangetown school superintendent, the new school will open in September of 1968.

The school, which will house children from kindergarten through fifth grade, will be built on the top portion of the school property which runs along 9W adjacent to the athletic field.

The one-story brick structure will contain three clusters of classrooms in addition to a double-station gym, a modern kitchen and a large cafeteria, Dr. Raub explained. The clusters, one for lower grades, another for the third, fourth and fifth grades, and a third containing an office, music room, art room and library, will be joined by enclosed walkways. A bona-fide library with a goal of 8,000 books is planned, and classrooms are to be maximum in size. Two additional clusters of six classrooms each can be added to the school as the need arises.

### TOWN AND PCA COOPERATE ON TREES

London plane trees will be planted this month along Piermont Avenue. Donations from local merchants and individuals have enabled Jim Hammerstein's tree-planting committee to begin work on the project with trees of 2½ caliper at 45 dollars each. The Village will break the concrete for the trees, and holes will be dug and top soil put in by a local contractor at a reduced fee. More than 200 dollars have been collected towards the tree planting, and Mr. Hammerstein urged other would-be contributors to support this project by sending contributions, made out to the PCA Tree Fund, to treasurer Ed McPherson.

### NURSERY TEACHER NEEDED

The Community Play School is looking for a teacher for three mornings a week to work with four-year-olds, Mrs. Bincy Taylor, advisor to the School, has announced. A teaching license is not necessary, although experience with young children is essential. The job will afford an opportunity to work with children in the Piermont area who most need a head start. The modest salary will be increased as fund-raising efforts show results. Those who are interested are to call Mrs. Taylor at EL 9-3278.

On Tuesday, April 18th, the Play School is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner at the Palisades Presbyterian Church from five to seven-thirty P.M. Tickets will be \$1.25 for adults and 50 cents for children. Call Regina McClure at EL 9-2123 for reservations.

### NEW FACADES ON PIERMONT AVENUE

The Piermont Emporium opened its doors with a flourish on Saturday, March 4th. It brings Piermont its first "country store", with a large selection of antiques, as well as contemporary decorative accessories, candies, soaps and delicacies. Under the proprietorship of Don and Gloria Blauhut, the Emporium is open for business Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 1 to 5:30, and Saturdays from 10 to 5:30.

Another addition to Piermont Avenue is Leonard DeMaio's new Ding-Dong's cocktail lounge. An attractive, intimate atmosphere has been appreciated by visitors.

The Piermont branch of the Tappan Zee National Bank will be in operation before the end of Summer, according to Frederick Palmer, president. The one-story brick and glass building will be on the northeast corner of Piermont Avenue and Ash Streets. Mr. Palmer said that the Bank's grounds would be suitably landscaped with parking areas, and a drive-in window for automobile and after-hour deposits.

### VOTERS TURN OUT FOR LOCAL ELECTION

In Piermont's March 21 election, the four incumbents running on the Democratic ticket were pleased with a turnout of 284 voters. The Mayor was front-runner with a vote of 270, while William Lynch received 238 votes, Howard Brawner 235, and Judge John McKenna 224 votes.

"Considering the weather, I was surprised by the number of voters," the Mayor said. "It shows Piermont's civic awareness, and paves the way toward further restoration of the assets of this village."

The candidates, who were unopposed, addressed the PCA membership at its March meeting.

## LIBRARY NOTES

- Look for a new look in the children's room. It will soon have a fresh coat of paint and a new rug to make the story hours even more enjoyable. The upper and lower halls will also be repainted and carpeted. When everything is completed, an Open House and Reception will be announced.
- Several new periodicals have been added to our holdings: PLAYS MAGAZINE for children, NEW YORKER, GLAMOUR, and SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. All magazines circulate for the regular loan period.
- An extensive weeding has been completed. Many of the withdrawn volumes are at the Thrift Shop at very low prices. The shelves are being refilled with new books of our own and collections on long-term loan from the Ramapo-Catskill Library System.
- The Dorothea Thompson Garden Collection is now ready for your use. In addition to volumes from Miss Thompson's own collection, many gifts were received as memorials from her friends. John Bindrum designed a bookplate which will identify each book in this collection.
- Among the new volunteers to be welcomed to our staff are Dr. Elaine F. Kinder, Mrs. Ruth Goode, and Mrs. Lisa Ordahl, who will work at the circulation desk; Mrs. Renee Donn, who has agreed to act as substitute in the Story Hour program; and Mrs. Rose Azar.
- A general "thank you" to all contributors to the 1967 Fund Drive. To date over \$500. has been received. In case you've overlooked this opportunity to support your library, may we remind you that it's not too late!

## THRIFT SHOP SPRUCE-UP PLANNED

Under an eye-catching sign painted by Mimi Bryan, the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop has completed its third month of operation. Mildred Burck, the shop's chairman, cited Piermont's spring clean-up-spruce-up campaign in an appeal for volunteers to paint the shop front, as well as for "able bodied teenagers" to work in the back yard so it can be used this summer.

The Thrift Shop needs a constant supply of donations and consignments. Mrs. Burck said that many articles destined for the spring rubbish pick-up might become merchandise for the Thrift Shop instead, especially furniture, appliances, china and bric-a-brac. The only requirement is that the items be in working order or need only minor repairs.

Mrs. Burck invited all local organizations to join in the operation of the shop, both through donations and volunteers who will work in the shop.

For donations or consignments which the donor wishes to have picked up, call any of the following: Mrs. Burck at EL 9-2455; Mrs. Cone - EL 9-0854; or Mrs. McPherson - EL 9-1385. Volunteers for painting, gardening and assisting in the shop can reach Mrs. Burck in the morning between 7 and 9. The Thrift Shop is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M.

### ROCKLAND REMAP GETS PIERMONT HEARING

The complex-and urgent-problems of local re-apportionment, that have affected all 50 states, will be presented to Piermonsters at a special Information Meeting on Tuesday, April 11. The issues, which have been called "political dynamite," will be explained non-partisanly for the benefit of all who attend. The time is 8:00 p.m., at Piermont's Village Hall.

### TRUSTEES SEE DISTRICT TAX AS GAIN FOR LIBRARY

In order to assure an annual income for the Piermont Library, Mrs. Miriam Bryan, trustee, urged Piermonsters to vote "yes" on the proposal for a school district tax, at the March PCA meeting. Mrs. Bryan explained that the library's entire Board of Trustees supports the proposal for such a tax, whereby all citizens of the community contribute to the support of the Library, which (along with those of other South Orangetown communities) retains its autonomy. The school district, under the proposal, acts as the collecting agent.

"This method," she said, "assures an annual income for each of the South Orangetown libraries, and will provide the basis for realistic long-range planning."

Those registered were urged to vote "yes" for the school district tax proposal, on Wednesday, May 3, at the elementary school annex on Hudson Terrace, in Piermont. Hours: 1-9 p.m.

### ADS, LETTERS TO BE NEWSLETTER FEATURES

Beginning with our next issue, July 1, the Newsletter will take classified advertising. If you have a short classified ad to place, please send it before that date to PCA, Box 365, Piermont, New York. The advertising rate is 10 cents per word...Also, letters to the editor will be considered. Just drop a line with your opinion to the same address... More Newsletter volunteers may help us publish more frequently; to help with the Newsletter, (or give news,) call EL 9-0854...Have you joined the Piermont Civic Association? Dues of only 1 dollar per individual (2 dollars per family) benefit Piermont--and you. Join, and attend meetings the first Tuesday of every month at the Village Hall. Send dues to Box 365, Piermont.

### SENIOR CITIZENS PLAN AHEAD

The next excursion planned for the Senior Citizens will take place on April 13th, when the group will attend the Easter Pageant at Radio City.

The club membership is composed of those 58 and over, and anyone meeting that qualification is invited to attend meetings on the first and third Fridays of the month at 2 P.M. at the Village Hall. The Piermont Senior Citizens were organized in July 1966. At least one excursion each month is planned.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Robert Bradbury

For this issue there will be no tilting at windmills in this column; we're setting aside our lance and will cast a few bouquets instead.

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First, congratulations to the Mayor, two Trustees and Judge who were re-elected to office in March. The size of the vote, considering the lack of opposition, is a real vote of confidence.

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Next, our thanks to the Mayor and Trustees for their efforts in ending the burning of garbage on the pier. This is real progress.

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We are grateful to the State for its efforts to reduce pollution of the river, including new restrictions on the local factory. Even if this presents temporary garbage disposal problems to our village, won't it be worth it when we can swim in the river and worry about stepping on crabs again?

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The little child in each of us applauds the exciting plans the V.F.W. has made for the Loyalty Day Parade, and waits eagerly for the sight of a real destroyer anchored in the river off our village.

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Bouquets of welcome to all of the new members of the PCA. We had hoped to write a welcoming letter to each of you who has joined by mail, but between Thrift Shop activities and the Tree Planting Project, we seem to have never found the time. But you are welcome indeed, and we urge you to attend the meetings (at the Village Hall, 8:30 pm, first Tuesday of each month) where your energy and ideas are needed.

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Well, maybe just one little windmill, in closing. Can't we do something about the Erie Railroad right of way? We hear that Grandview has taken possession of its portion, and is making a park of it. Why can't we move ahead? It would make such a marvelous hiking and bicycle path. There is a wild-eyed bunch of tree planters loose in Piermont, and that strip of land would keep them busy and out of sight for years!