

PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

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Piermont Civic Association*

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March, 1971

VILLAGE ELECTION ISSUE

Editor's note: This issue of the Newsletter is devoted primarily to the forthcoming Village election. The following five questions were formulated by the Newsletter staff and asked of each candidate. The answers are in their own words.

1. Do you approve of buying the old school property on Hudson Terrace for \$1.00?
2. What use should be made of the property?
3. What disposition should be made of the abandoned Erie Railroad right of way?
4. Should there be a Village reassessment for property tax, or an equalization with Orangetown?
5. What do you think is the best use for the undeveloped portion of the Continental Can Co. pier?

Candidates for the Democratic Party

Mayor: AMERICO DI FRANCESCA (incumbent) Bo diFrancesca is running for his fourth term as Mayor; he was a Village trustee for six years prior to becoming mayor. He served as a member of the Rockland County Charter Commission. He is a construction electrician with Local 363 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, employed by Bechtel Corp. A native Piermonter, he attended local schools and is married to the former Ann Cassidy. They have two children.

Trustee: MIMI BRYAN Piermont housewife and active civic worker. In the nine years since the Bryans moved here from Grand View, Mrs. Bryan's volunteer services have included: Past President of the St. John's Altar Society, Girl Scout leader, Trustee and Past President of the Piermont Library, and Treasurer of the Piermont Thrift Shop. She was a teacher for ten years in Pittsburgh and now tutors children from St. Dominic's. Born in Philadelphia, Mrs. Bryan earned her B.A. from Rosemont College. She is married to Dr. George Bryan, a scientist at Lamont. They have two children.

Trustee: LEONARD DE MAIO Born and raised in Piermont, Lenny DeMaio graduated from the Tappan Zee High School and received his Diplomate in Food Administration from the New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences. He is presently a Painting Contractor; a member of the Piermont Fire Department; Past Post Commander, Piermont, and Past County Commissioner, Rockland County VFW. He served in the Signal Corps in Germany, and is married to the former Hazel Willard. They have two children.

Trustee: MATTHEW ROTELLI Matt Rotelli was born in Nyack and has lived in Piermont since 1946. A teacher in the old T.Z. High School in Piermont for 13 years (math and physical education), he also served as coach of football, basketball and track before taking his present position as coordinator of mathematics

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in the Nyack school system. Matt holds a B.S. from Syracuse University, M.A. from New York University, and M.S. from Clarkson School of Technology at Potsdam. He is presently taking courses in administration at N.Y.U. Married to the former Mary Bassani, they have three children.

Questions 1 & 2 -- School Property:

Mayor diFrancesca: I have always favored acquiring the school property for the Village. There are many potential uses for the property. I believe there should be a safe playground to begin with, and the small annex building should be spruced up enough to be made serviceable. That building has already been used successfully as a teen center, and it can become a village center for many more community functions. But in order for it to be successful and capable of serving the whole Village, the Board will have to get behind it and support it with full enthusiasm. I am convinced it could make a tremendous contribution to the Village, and already several people have come forward to offer their help in supporting programs for both children and adults.

Mrs. Bryan: Yes, we should acquire the property immediately. By law, there has to be a municipal use for the property. Within the framework of municipal use, we could do any or a combination of these things: move the Village offices -- clerk's office and so on -- into the Annex building, move the library there, continue its present use as a teen center and meeting place for scouts and other groups, provide badly needed parking space on both an upper and lower level.

Mr. DeMaio: Yes, I want to buy the school property for \$1.00; it's the best property in town and we have to protect our interests. If we can't use it, we can always turn it back. I'd like to see a little park, and the small building (the Annex) used as a community social center; maybe move the library down there.

Mr. Rotelli: Yes, most definitely. I believe the school property should be acquired immediately, if for no other reason than to protect the interests of the residents of this village. We are already using it as a teen center and for meetings and its use is covered by insurance. I believe we should study a variety of potential uses for this valuable property. A site committee is at present making a study; I would want to consider the committee's recommendation and any other proposals. We should discuss what kind of use would best serve the whole village.

Question 3 -- Erie R.R. Right-of-Way:

Mayor diFrancesca: I believe the Erie RR right-of-way should be open to all residents as a public walkway or bikeway. Residents who have property abutting the right-of-way should be permitted access to their property for special service requirements, such as the delivery of building materials or furniture. Certainly it should not be a general thoroughfare for automobiles. I believe there should be a special ordinance defining its use.

Mrs. Bryan: First of all, keep its rustic aspect. I am categorically opposed to paving it. I would like to see it offer limited access to the people who live along it. The right-of-way should be available to everyone in the village; it is one of the few pleasant level places for walkers -- older people, in particular, can enjoy walking there.

Mr. DeMaio: Temporarily, allow parking for people on Hudson Terrace to alleviate their problem. That is, until the Planning Commission can make recommendations for its future use and the Board can act on them.

Mr. Rotelli: The right-of-way should be preserved and maintained for public use. It is ideal for a woodland walk, perhaps with a bicycle path and

VILLAGE ELECTION ISSUE....cont'd.

small picnic areas where villagers could relax and enjoy the superb views of the river. The owners of adjoining property should be permitted to use it for access only, not for parking cars or storing boats. I would want the Highway Dept. to clean it up and maintain it, and the Police Dept. to issue summonses to those who litter.

Question 4 -- Reassessment:

Mayor diFrancesca: This Village Board will be faced with the difficult task of reevaluating present village assessments. There are inequities in the new Orangetown assessments because the overall program did not reflect a full understanding of Piermont and many of its unique problems. So we cannot accept the Orangetown assessments. I believe it is possible to have a reassessment that reflects comparative land values more fairly, and that still meets the legal requirements of the tax laws so that the Village will not be further burdened by reductions in its legal equalization rate. The last Village tax assessment occurred in the 1940's and it is obvious that many changes have taken place since then and great imbalances do exist. With careful attention to the Village's special qualities and unique situation, I believe a fairer reevaluation is possible than the one we have seen from Orangetown.

Mrs. Bryan: Although we recognize that there are inequities in the present Piermont assessments, we don't want to swap one set of inequities for another. I hope that Piermont's assessments can be gradually brought into a balance, one property with another. I think, as a start, that every time a house changes hands or a building permit is issued that might make a material difference in the value of the house, that a new assessment should be made. The one fear I have, in the event of a new general reassessment, is that some people might be unable to hang onto their properties.

Mr. DeMaio: The Village should hire a professional tax assessor to advise on the merits of reassessment, and then do it if necessary. I am a house-painter not a tax-man; a professional should give us advice.

Mr. Rotelli: We should not adopt the assessed valuations Orangetown has set on properties in Piermont. There are many inequities both in the present Village assessments and in those of the township. A full study should be made of how a reevaluation can be made most fairly.

Question 5 -- Use of Pier:

Mayor diFrancesca: As with the school property, there is great potential in the Continental Can Co.'s pier property. Whatever takes place there must be thoroughly evaluated by the Village Board with the help of an effective planning commission to insure that the people's interests are protected. The land on the Pier is large enough to serve both public recreational needs and other uses that can result in new tax rateables. However, no one will invest money in such development unless we have a clear Village policy that meets all legal requirements to guarantee the direction of future development. One of the best ways to insure that everyone's interests are fully protected legally is to make the Village Planning Commission a recognized Planning Board. We created the commission to gain experience with this type of organization; it has proved successful and I think we should take the final step of making it a full-fledged Planning Board.

Mrs. Bryan: For the present, clean it up and let people use it as a walking place so they can enjoy the unexcelled location and its birdlife. I would hope that before too long the river will be clean enough for swimming; at that time, a

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small Village-owned park with swimming facilities should be provided on the Pier. I would also like to see a marina there. With the development of commercial ratables, it could provide many things: shops, boat yard, marina -- a situation similar to the one at Nyack. We are foolish if we don't take full advantage of the river -- it is what sets Piermont apart from the rest of South Orangetown.

Mr. De Maio: The Pier should be taken over privately so it can go on the tax roles -- it would be good to have restaurants, shops, marinas. The Pier is too nice a place to be held for private residential use; everyone should have the benefit of it. There should be a recreational area for all.

Mr. Rotelli: I understand that Con. Can Co. is at present considering what to do about the unused portion of the Pier. No specific proposal has been made to the Village, but you can be sure that if I am a member of the Village Board I will see that whatever program goes through will be for the good of the Village, and not just for any industrial corporation or real estate developer.

Candidates for the United Citizens Party

Mayor: PHILIP F. DE LORENZO (incumbent trustee) Phil DeLorenzo has been a trustee for a year and is now running for Mayor. He was the Village's Building & Zoning Inspector for 10 years. He has been a volunteer fireman for 26 years, served as Chief and is presently Vice-Pres. of Empire Hose Co. No. 1. He was secretary of the Ex-Chiefs Assoc. for 6 years. Member and President of Piermont Sons of Italy, member Piermont Rotary and Perry Post, American Legion. Phil attended local schools and Rockland Community College; he served in the U.S. Coast Guard and Maritime Service in W.W.II. A lifelong resident of Piermont, he is a licensed real estate salesman and notary public and is employed at Rockland State Hospital. He is married to the former Rachel DeMaio and they have three children.

Trustee: THOMAS A BOYAN (incumbent) Tom Boyan, who was elected to fill out an unexpired term, has served as a Village Trustee for the past year. Active in the Piermont Volunteer Fire Department for 36 years, he is an ex-Chief as well as past-President of the Ex-Chief's Association of Piermont. He is also a past-President of the Rockland County Volunteer Firemen's Association and was secretary of the New York-New Jersey Volunteer Firemen's Association. Native to Piermont, he has retired from Con. Can Co. and now is employed by Koppel Color in N.J. He is a graduate of T.Z., attended Rockland Community College and is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force School of Administration. A retired Air Force Major, he served in W.W.II and the Korean War.

Trustee: LAWRENCE E. GOSWICK During his 32 years in Piermont, Tex has served 26 years in the Volunteer Fire Department including 15 years as an officer and 2 years as Chief of the Department. He was with the Village Road Department for 12 years. He is married to the former Cecelia Hogan, daughter of Piermont's ex-mayor, Dennis Hogan. They have five children.

Trustee: FRANK KLINE (incumbent) An appointed Trustee of the Village for the past eleven months, Frank Kline has lived in Piermont for 24 years. He was employed by Continental Can Co. for 19 years, and is presently a building inspector for the town of Orangetown. He is a veteran of W.W.II, married to the former Eleanor Lombardi. They have three children.

Questions 1 & 2 -- School Property:

Trustee DeLorenzo: Yes, we should buy the school property for \$1.00; it is a very reasonable offer that should not be passed up. I would like to see it used as a Community Center. With a watchful eye toward spending, I would like to

VILLAGE ELECTION ISSUE....cont'd.

see a recreation commission set up by the Village Board for the purpose of controlling the activities of the teen center, summer youth program, and to provide some sort of recreation for senior citizens (such as a summer picnic or a stage show), and provide them with whatever space they need at the school property. At the same time it will provide Hudson Terrace with necessary off-street parking.

Trustee Boyan: Yes, I favor buying the property. We need a community and youth center. I would like to see a permanent organization set up with representatives from all groups who would be using the facility, under the official sanction of the Village Board. This group would be the governing body for all operations. The property could serve a combination of uses: a civic center, park area, and as a recreational facility with programs for children, teen-agers, senior citizens and any organization desiring to use it. It possibly could be used for a library, if the Library Association so desired. Part of the land area could be used for overnight parking for Hudson Terrace residents. I think we should also look carefully at the old school building to see whether it could be used if the cost of repairing it is close to the cost of demolition.

Mr. Goswick: Sure, depending on the cost. The survey of the demolition cost has not produced a firm contractor's price yet, that I am aware of. If the price is right, yes. As for its use, the most important is youth recreation first, then a park for the people of the Village. If any land is left after that, it could become a parking lot for off-street parking.

Trustee Kline: We are still waiting for a report from the committee investigating the property. We Trustees took the stand that we would pass on it at the time the report is made. It would be good for the Village if the Village could afford whatever is planned. Possible use is based upon the report of the committee investigating the site. I haven't decided what use should be made of it. Many people at meetings have said that it should be used for the youth of the Village. This decision should be based on the results of a feasibility study.

Question 3 -- Erie R.R. Right-of-Way:

Trustee DeLorenzo: I would like to see the Erie right-of-way, from the Grand View line to the Sparkill line, maintained in its natural state; used for public purposes (such as a bikeway, bridlepath, walking path) and emergency use for police, fire and ambulance. I would be willing to continue to provide parking from Ash Street to First Street.

Trustee Boyan: The Erie right-of-way should be used as a park and designated as a Village Park by the Board of Trustees. It should be preserved and maintained, but left in as much of a natural state as possible. It should be open to all the residents for their enjoyment of the river view and mountainside surroundings. A portion of the right-of-way should be for use as a bicycle path, bridlepath, or just leisurely walking. Provisions could be made for its use by adjacent property owners by special permit. The Village should make provisions for emergency use of the right-of-way for fire, ambulance and police, but in doing so should try to change its natural state as little as possible.

Mr. Goswick: If the Village of Piermont owned it, it could be used for bicycles, horseback riding, or off-street parking. There are some boats there now and it could be used for winter storage for boats for the residents of the west side of Hudson Terrace. But as to black-topping it and using it as a street, I'm strictly against it.

Trustee Kline: At the present time, the right-of-way is being used as a fire trail. I think it would be good to be used for community relaxation -- walking and bicycle trails. This could be done in conjunction with keeping it in shape as a fire trail in case fire equipment should have to get through there.

VILLAGE ELECTION ISSUE....cont'd.

Question 4 -- Reassessment:

Trustee DeLorenzo: I do not favor the adoption of the Orangetown assessment role. There were many inequities; this is supported by the fact that many property owners petitioned the Town Board and received an adjustment on their assessment. Also, Orangetown's assessment of the Continental Can Co. property is lower than Piermont's; if we were to adopt Orangetown's assessment role we would be lowering Con. Can's assessment. We are going to study the whole Village assessment with a professional assessor to determine the most equitable solution towards reevaluation.

Trustee Boyan: Due to the unfair reevaluation, discrimination and inequities of the present Orangetown assessment, I would be strongly opposed to its adoption by the Village. At the present time, we are making a study of Village taxes, and are working with a professional assessor toward the solution of the problem. There has not been a study of Piermont's taxes since 1943, and in order to equalize the tax burden for all property owners so that everyone pays a fair share of the tax load, a solution to this problem should be a number one priority for the Village Board.

Mr. Goswick: I'm strictly against Orangetown's assessment. Their last survey was way off; their assessments were much higher than Piermont's. We would stay with our own assessment.

Trustee Kline: At the present time, the present Board has hired a professional appraiser to take care of our assessments of construction in the Village and to pick up any properties not on the tax roles. He will look into the feasibility of what can help us in our assessments, but he is newly hired and hasn't had time to go into it yet. It's a matter of law as to what we can assess and what we can't.

Question 5 -- Use of Pier:

Trustee De Lorenzo: The Pier definitely should be put to public use. I would like to see a boardwalk on the north side to provide access for fishing, crabbing and boating and for other related uses. This would have to be done in cooperation with the owners of the property and the correct State and Federal authorities. Permit fees for use should be charged to cover the cost of maintenance and insurance.

Trustee Boyan: Maximum use should be made of the Pier by the Village in cooperation with Orangetown, Continental Can, the County and State, and the Hudson River Conservation Authority. It should be made available for use of the people of Piermont for community facilities. Perhaps we could have such outdoor recreational facilities as a swimming pool, roller and ice-skating area, and picnic and parking areas. Crabbing and fishing areas could be made available; for small boat facilities perhaps a fee could be charged to boat owners, as in Nyack's municipal marina, as a source of revenue for operation and maintenance.

Mr. Goswick: There's so much land; it could be used for fishing, bicycling, and so forth. Possibly a boat marina provided the money were available and Federal Paper allowed it. If it were open to the public, it would have to be carefully guarded to prevent tragedies such as have occurred in the past.

Trustee Kline: I think the question is premature as the property is not on the market. If it should become available, consideration should be given to forming a committee with a professional background to investigate the possible uses to benefit the Village of Piermont.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

If you live in Piermont, to be eligible to vote in the village election, as well as in the regular November election, on the day of election you must be:

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. Twenty-one years of age or older, with an exception noted below.
3. A resident of Rockland County for three months or more.
4. A resident of Piermont for 90 days or more -- this applies only for voting in the village election.
5. A registered voter.

There are two exceptions to the above in national elections. One, if you are between the ages of 18 and 21, you may vote only in a national election; that is for president, senators and congressmen. And two, if you don't have the required time of residency in Rockland County on election day but are eligible to vote otherwise, you may only vote for president.

Election and Registration dates

Registration Day for Piermont Village election: February 27, 1971 at the Piermont Village Hall, 12 noon to 9 P.M.

Piermont election day: March 16, 1971, 12 noon to 9 P.M. at the Piermont Village Hall.

National, state, town and county registration day: to be announced. You may, however, register on any week day at the county office building in New City, New York.

National, state, town and county election day is always the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. (In 1971 this is November 2nd.) You vote in this election at either the Village Hall if you are in Election District 33, which is located between and including the south side of Ash Street to the Piermont-Sparkill line; or at the Piermont Firehouse for Election District 1, which is located between and including the north side of Ash Street to the Piermont-Grandview line.

School elections: To vote in a school election you must also be 21 years of age and a U.S. citizen but you must be a resident of South Orangetown central school district No. 1 for 30 days prior to election day.

School election dates: School election day is always the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in May. There is a special school election on March 31, 1971 on whether or not to build a new central administration building.

Ed. note: This article was written for the Newsletter by David Watkins, a 7th grader in the Junior High School. David is interested in politics and volunteered to research and write the article as his contribution to the Newsletter Election Issue.

PIERMONT VOTES TO KEEP ITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Piermont resoundingly announced its intention to maintain its own police department, despite higher taxes, in a referendum held January 27th. The tally of almost 3-1 in favor of autonomy against those favoring Orangetown police protection was widely interpreted as a victory for Mayor diFrancesca, who was outspoken in advocating a local police department. The referendum was preceded by a lively "information" session in the Village Hall, at which a majority of the Trustees refused to take a stand on the issue on the grounds that the people should make the decision. With police department raises in the offing, the Mayor expressed his intention of taking a fair but realistic position in bargaining sessions with the Village officers.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has often been asked: Should the Piermont Civic Association be a "political" or "non-political" organization? Since these terms have different meanings for different people the answer has always remained somewhat ambiguous. Moreover, our membership represents a cross-section of the village, covering a rather broad spectrum of political opinion and affiliation. But there is one thing I think we can all agree on: The purpose of the PCA is to take up issues affecting Piermont, to take sides on these issues, and to influence those in a position to resolve these issues.

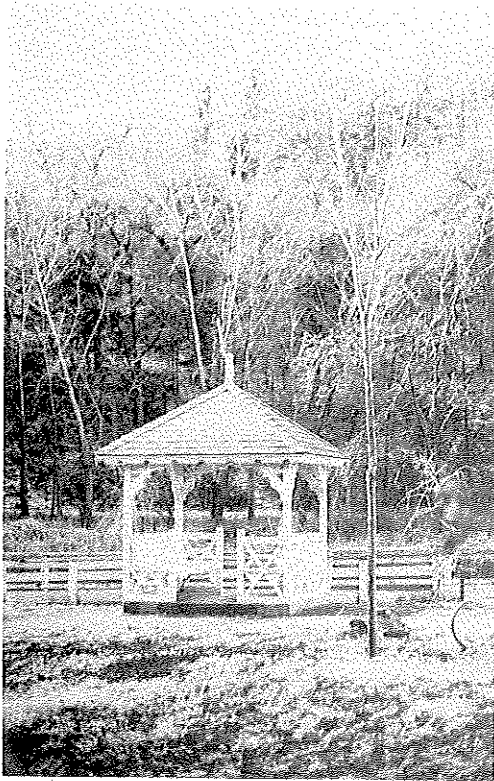
The more important an issue is, the more controversy it stirs up, and the more likely it is to be espoused, one way or another, by politically labeled partisan groups. Thus in confronting Piermont's more important problems, the PCA is apt to find itself aligned politically with one side or the other. As long as our stand on specific village issues determines the political alignment, and not the other way round, I feel that we are fulfilling our purpose. On the other hand, if we back away from important issues in fear of being called political, then we defeat the very reason for our existence.

The tendency for important issues to acquire political overtones is particularly evident in Piermont right now. Ordinarily the business of running this village would be largely independent of politics. In the past year however, several issues vital to the future of Piermont have split the village government along partisan lines. In each case the majority, all members or appointees of the United Citizens' Party, have, in our opinion, failed to act in the best interest of Piermont. Thus the political alignment has become quite sharp whether we like it or not. We know where we stand on these issues. It is time to recognize where that stand puts us politically and support the people who will act in the best interest of Piermont.

George Bryan, President
Piermont Civic Association

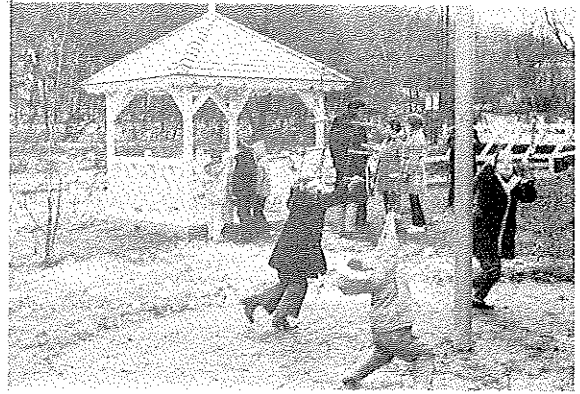
NEW SCHOOL DEDICATION

The P.T.A. of the Tappan Zee Elementary School has announced tentative plans for the dedication of the new school. The date is firm: Sunday, March 28th, from 2-4 p.m. There will be refreshments, tours, perhaps some programs, and volunteer help will be needed. If you can help beforehand, or on the day itself, please call the P.T.A. President, Mrs. Carol Walker, EL9-5131. We are all proud of our new school and this will be a special day for all Piermonters, not just present parents and students -- save the date and plan to attend.



Kane Park's new gazebo, a shady spot for mothers and children, was a major Civic Assn. project. It was designed by Bob Bradbury.

photographs: SALLY SAVAGE



Perched on the edge of Sparkill Creek, the gazebo splits its view between Tallman and children on the swings.

Daisy Spencer, the moving force behind the PCA's park projects, holds the ribbon for a valiant cut by Claudia Bradbury.



A new gazebo called for a dedication celebration, with music, talk and punch to ward off the winter's chill.



PAPER DRIVE TESTS RECYCLING POSSIBILITIES

Three committees with both objectives and members in common are trying to find out how much waste material destined for the Piermont dump can be recycled back to life again.

The first test was a paper drive on Saturday, February 27th. Residents, not only of Piermont but all of south Rockland, were asked to bring their old newspapers to a trailer truck stationed in the Federal Paper Company (Continental Can) north parking lot.

Herb Schlobohm, chairman of the Citizens for Environmental Action which sponsored the drive, said the results will be used in a fact-finding study by the Village of Piermont Committee to Study Recycling of Solid Waste. Schlobohm is chairman of the Study Committee as well as the PCA Ecology Committee, which is also interested in the problem. The Piermont Study Committee was appointed by the Village Board in response to inquiries by several residents about the feasibility of recycling some of Piermont's solid waste material.

Mr. Schlobohm allowed that wearing three hats was sometimes confusing, but that in the long run it made sense because all three committees wanted not only to work out a program which could extend the use of the Village's present limited dumping facilities, but also to promote recycling whenever possible. The results of the drive were not available when the Newsletter went to press.

COMMUNITY USES THE HUDSON TERRACE SCHOOL SITE

The old Hudson Terrace school building (the Annex) is rapidly becoming a real community center, as more and more local groups use the building for their activities. In addition to the Teen Center, which has been there for two years now, the 18 girls of Brownie Troop 383 meet there every Tuesday afternoon; on Sundays the men of the Veterans of Foreign Wars meet in the gym for some pretty rough basketball. The gym is also the home court for the St. John's Girls' CYO Basketball team. They practice there on weekends and play their home games there.

The Community Playschool has received authorization from the Village Board to use the building for their program when they move from their current quarters in Sparkill. A local athlete with a chance at a big league career has been warming up his pitching arm in the gym prior to a spring try-out with the Mets, and a rock group formed by Piermont boys has found the classrooms upstairs to be good spots to practice, undisturbed and undisturbing. Other Piermonters who might want to meet in the Center can get permission from the Village Board and set up a time through Brian Holihan, Chairman of the Center Committee.

Mr. Holihan reports that the Teen Center still needs the cooperation and help of the adults of the community; specifically, there is a desperate need for a volunteer to create and coordinate a program for teen-age girls. Perhaps some of the mothers of the girls who use the Teen Center could get together and work on this project?

REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The following statement was adopted unanimously by the Planning Commission at its December meeting, and forwarded to the Village Board by its chairman, Kathryn Smith.

"The Piermont Village Planning Commission considers that the offer of the old Tappan Zee High School property to the Village is a rare opportunity to obtain land and buildings near the heart of the village which could meet several areas of

REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION....cont'd.

desperate need in the village, such as recreation facilities, community meeting rooms, municipal offices, a new library, a new fire house or senior citizens' housing.

As the Village planning body we are also conscious of the fact that public use of the property would forestall undesirable private development of the land for such use as high-rise apartments.

The Commission is in complete sympathy with the Village Board's known determination to avoid any increase in the tax burden on the citizens of Piermont, and feels that sources for funds to renovate and maintain the property can be found either from private foundations or from federal or state programs.

In any case, the Commission feels that the property should be accepted and all sources for funding exhaustively pursued. If no funds are found and the village is finally convinced that the property would be an unacceptable tax burden, the property could then be returned to the Board of Education, according to the terms of the agreement by which it will be conveyed.

It is the unanimous decision of this Commission that the Village Board be urged to accept the property."

The Planning Commission members are: Kathryn Smith, Chairman; Eloise Bizzarri; Robert M. Bradbury, Jr.; Richard Bruno; Sal Conigliaro; James Francis; Kurt Gerhardt. Special Advisors: Milton Immermann; John Iurica.

THANKS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Librarian, the Board, and the Staff wish to send a thank-you to all the members of the community -- 76 families and businesses -- who contributed \$750.00 to the annual fund drive. It is great to know that even in hard times our friends still support us. A special thanks to our friends John Hennion, Frank Kline, Fred Miraglia and Walter Trask who washed and waxed the Library floors.

We have gratefully received an additional large donation of records to add to our record collection from Miss Ruth Gilbert of Grand View. And thanks to those people working at the Thrift Shop in the name of the Library. Still needed: Donations in the name of the Library to the Thrift Shop, and a volunteer to take the desk at the Library on alternate Wednesday afternoons, 3-5.

The pre-school and Wednesday afternoon story hours continue on the same schedule -- if yours doesn't come from school, check the bulletin boards in the Library and the Post Office for the latest schedules.

The following movies are scheduled for March & April:

March 19, 8:30 p.m. -- "Lonely Boy" -- Paul Anka; Aretha Franklin; Legend of Jimmy Blue Eyes.

March 24, 4:00 P.M. -- Peter and the Wolf; Gallant Little Tailor; Swimmy.

April 7, 4:00 P.M. -- Night in a Pet Shop; Thieving Magpie

April 21, 4:00 P.M.) -- My Name is J.T., Color Me Lonesome

April 23, 8:30 P.M.)

Gallery displays will be:

March -- Calligraphy, arranged by R. Ebbole.

April -- Summer activities for young people; travel, study, youth hostels.

May ---- Ecology, arranged by H.E.L.P, active ecology group from the Pearl River High School.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I have attended a good number of Village Board meetings in the past year, and from what I have observed and heard, the United Citizens' Party has not truly served the village adequately. The U.C.P. members obviously wasted much of the meeting time bickering and making personal attacks on our Mayor, rather than facing Village issues and trying to run an efficient government. They do not seem to realize that problems do not solve themselves, and that finding solutions involves a great deal of serious work.

Regarding the police referendum: why wasn't a public hearing called before a referendum was even considered by the U.C.P.? I certainly have never before heard of Village Trustees actively circulating a petition that petitioned themselves to hold a referendum on an issue they publicly insisted they were "neutral" on. So we had to pay for voting machines and the cost of a referendum to find out that the overwhelming majority of citizens wanted our own police for protection. I seriously wonder whether their disbandment would not have resulted in the eventual disincorporation of our Village, leaving us at the mercy of Orangetown and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Though I am a Conservative, these are the reasons I believe in supporting the Mayor's Democratic ticket. I feel that those running on his ticket are concerned enough about our Village and all its citizens, to work together diligently and cooperatively in order to get our Village running smoothly again.

Leonard L. Sullivan, II

Dear Editor:

From the very beginning the P.C.A. has always reserved the right to take a stand in Village politics when the need arose. In fact, the reason for the disaffiliation of the Thrift Shop from the PCA was the view of the tax authorities -- and our agreement -- that civic associations are by definition political organizations.

But from the outset, the PCA has also been determined to avoid taking sides in Village politics whenever possible. We felt it would only divide our membership and keep us from ever becoming an effective voice for a large part of the Village. In the last election the PCA did not even endorse Dale Hiestand, who was a past President. We were not always happy with the previous Board -- we questioned the need for apartments, it moved slowly on zoning and it never did act on the Erie right-of-way. But by and large we felt that the previous Board shared our concern about the Village and was making a sincere effort to guide it through a difficult transition. So we took no side.

This year the situation is different. We have in power a Board of Trustees which was elected on a tax reduction platform and which apparently feels that blind adherence to that one goal is all that is needed to govern. Every issue is weighed on that one scale and the decision is automatic. What is worse, they have not even had the courage to follow their one principle -- difficult decisions are thrown back to the voters. (There was to have been a referendum on the school property until the Village attorney advised the Board that it had to make the decision.) The result has been chaos and no government at all. Paradoxically, this approach will inevitably cost the taxpayers more money in the long run. The lost police rebate from Orangetown and the cost of the police referendum are but two examples.

During the first three years of the PCA, when I was President, I always said things would have to get pretty bad before the PCA would get mixed up in an election. Things are pretty bad. I endorse the Democratic slate.

Sincerely,
Robert Bradbury

THIS ISSUE was produced by the Newsletter Committee of the Piermont Civic Association: Robert Bradbury, Rosemary and Bob Cone, Cynthia Crippen, Charles Grutzner, Margaret Holihan, Lisa and Ted Merrill. David Watkins was a special reporter. Sally Savage took the pictures and Lisa Merrill was the editor. The committee always welcomes new members or special feature writers. Please contact any of the above people if you want to join.

The PCA NEWSLETTER is published for all of Piermont and anyone else who belongs to the PCA.

The PCA always wants new members, their ideas and their participation. It costs only \$5.00 to join -- per family, per year. Just fill in the form below and mail or bring it to the next PCA meeting. Mailing address: PCA, Box 365, Piermont, N.Y. 10968.

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