

The Piermont Newsletter

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Working to Solve Our Traffic Problems

On a chilly Thursday morning this spring members of the Piermont Traffic Committee hiked up steep Ash Street from Main Street with a traffic expert from New York City. They were headed to the dizzyingly sharp turn Ash takes at Hudson Terrace before continuing up to 9W. They wanted to show the visitor the safety improvements the village had made to that uniquely Piermont corner.

Those changes – the installation of a convex mirror and the clearing of view- blocking vegetation – had improved visibility and traffic flow. The visitor was impressed by what was done, and that the village's Traffic Committee had suggested the changes. It's a group of more than a dozen citizens, led by village Trustee Ivanya Albert. Mayor Bruce Tucker, Police Chief Michael O'Shea and Department of Public Works Director Tom Temple attend most meetings. That gives the Committee unusual political punch and expertise.

After just a year in business, the Committee has racked up some other successes: It surveyed Piermonters about their traffic concerns; it had the Village use grant money to buy three solar-powered signs on Hudson Terrace and Piermont Avenue. The signs get drivers to slow down by showing them how fast they're going. The Committee also had our DPW talk the state into studying the feasibility of putting a traffic light on 9W at Ash Street, the scene of many accidents. If one was there, drivers wouldn't have to dare the fates when turning south on the state highway.

The visiting traffic expert was Dan Suraci, from TransPro Consulting. He had come to lead a daylong workshop on the national Complete Streets movement. It offers ways to design streets with safe access for everyone, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. The idea is to make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work.

After visiting Ash's big bend, the Committee took Suraci on

a short walking tour, ending on Piermont's block-long Main Street. It has challenging traffic problems at both ends. Drivers coming down Ash have trouble seeing northbound Main Street traffic. Across the street, the M&T Bank sidewalk lacks curb cuts. (The bank owns the sidewalk, but it has so far been unwilling to pay for the ramps.) The Rubik cube of an intersection at the south end of the block has traffic coming from at least five directions.

Committee members came up with many ways to deal with these problems. Their ideas ranged from making Main Street one way to having raised cross walks at both ends and in the middle of the block. Nothing was decided.

After the workshop ended, Trustee Albert was pleased with how it had gone. "I would like to regroup again with the Traffic Committee," she said, "to decide together on our next steps." She thinks the Committee now needs to:

- Update everyone in the village on what we have been working on and thinking about
- Host a presentation for the village about what we have done to date as a committee and where we would like to go from here.
- Plan for a few short weekend walk-audits open to all Piermonters so that others can start to think through some of these ideas along with us.
- Form a Complete Streets committee that will take over where the Traffic Committee left off. It would work on a master plan for the village and would review all new projects to make sure that future development is consistent with the overall master plan.
- Start coming up with designs so we can do the "tag-along" projects. Those would add traffic design to plans for work our DPW and contractors have scheduled.
- Start applying for grants to pay for some of these initiatives.

—Staff written



Traffic expert Dan Suraci makes a point to members of the Piermont Traffic Committee at one of the village's more perplexing intersections. Photo by Betsy Franco Feeney

Memories of Commercial Fishing in Piermont

Spring's forsythia bloom signals that bass and shad are making their annual run up the Hudson River to spawn. It is one of nature's extraordinary events and it always thrills me.

When I was growing up in Piermont in the 1960s it was the most exciting time of year. That's because each March, April and May my brother, Don, and I helped my father with the commercial fishing business he ran near our riverside home.

We began getting ready for the season early in winter. That involved checking gill nets, caulking and painting our three flat bottomed 22-foot work skiffs and checking the more than 70

muddy bottom of the river by attaching a cross piece to the pole with a chain and repeatedly jumping on it.

We put most of our nets just a couple of hundred feet south of the Tappan Zee Bridge and just north of the Piermont Pier. The catch was mainly shad. We also strung some near the Piermont Marsh where there were abundant schools of striped bass. We needed to get the fish from those nets before the raccoons did!

Once the nets were set, we picked the fish from them twice a day. If we didn't, more than half the catch could escape our nets with the change of tide. On a good day we could bring in 10,000 pounds of fish. We had our biggest catch ever in the



Piermont fisherman headed out to their in the early morning. The state halted commercial fishing in the Hudson in 1975. Photo by Greg Tavarone



Shad fisherman use their own weight to drive poles into the Hudson River's muddy bottom. Photo by Greg Tavarone

poles we needed. We had cut them ourselves from trees in local wooded areas like the Cowboy Fields. They varied in length, depending on the depth of the water. Some were 45 feet long.

With the help of our crew of other Piermonters who my father hired each year, we set lines of 24 poles with nets strung between them every 200 feet. We would drive them into the

1970's -- 11,800 pounds of roe shad. To maintain the fish population, the DEC mandated a 36-hour net lift period on weekends so some fish could make their way upriver to spawn.

After going out and getting the catch, which often included catfish, perch, carp and other fish too, we hauled them to our dock for sorting, icing and boxing. Every night our truck would haul them down to the Fulton Fish Market. That's when it was still in lower Manhattan where the South Street Seaport is now. We also sold some to residents and customers waiting at our dock to buy fish caught just an hour earlier. If they were willing to pay an additional 50 cents, I would clean them for them!

In 1974, my fishing partner Don Piesco and I were thrilled to net a 200-pound, 7-foot, 10-inch sturgeon. The Piermont Rotary Club generously paid to have it mounted, with the stipulation that it remain in Piermont. It hangs today in the main entrance of Cornetta's Seafood Restaurant.

In addition to our family, Lou Hurban, Ray Holmes, Angelo Caputo and their families also ran Piermont fishing operations. Though at times there was competition between our operations, there was also a lot of camaraderie.

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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 volunteer Richie Stark.

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Piermont Reflections



We didn't have mail delivery here until the late 1950s or early 1960s. You had to pick it up at the post office. I don't know why that was, but I do remember when a post office stop was part of each family's daily routine.

Piermonters complained about the inconvenience less than you might think they would. Maybe it was because mail was more important in those days. There were no text messages or email and using a telephone to call outside our immediate area cost serious money. If you wanted to let the folks back in St. Louis know how you were doing, you picked up a pen or sat down at a typewriter, wrote your letter, put it in an enveloped, addressed it and mailed it.

At the post office, there was always the possibility of running into friends you hadn't seen for a while. Those unforeseen meetings are one of the gentle pleasures of small-town life. They still happen today at the post office, on Main Street, in our shops and restaurants, the farmers market, the library, the pier and at those Flywheel Park summer concerts.

Village Board meetings are another place where you might unexpectedly meet neighbors but, sadly, unless there is a red-hot controversial item on the agenda, not many people bother going.

On the other hand, you were always sure to see familiar faces at the Piermont Democratic Party caucuses. They always packed the Village Hall. In our solidly Democratic village, just getting nominated guarantees you the election. The Republicans rarely take the trouble to run anyone.

The caucuses weren't always dramatic, but they were always tense. Even if an incumbent mayor or trustee seemed

confident that they would be renominated, they could never be sure. Any registered party member could raise their hand and nominate someone else for the office. If that happened, both candidates would be given a chance to speak before the caucus voted.

If there was a vacancy on the Village Board, the Democratic Committee would pick a candidate and sometimes someone would nominate another person. That happened a few years ago. Both candidates spoke and both proved to be intelligent and informed. Either would make good Trustees but I thought the one who hadn't been backed by the Committee, and who happened to be sitting near me, was slightly better, so I voted for her.

The room was tense as they counted the votes. Finally, they announced the results. The woman I backed lost by just two or three votes. I could see that she was very upset, and I tried to console her. I told her that she'd made a terrific speech and that I'd voted for her. "You only lost by a few votes," I said. "You'll do better next time."

"There won't be a next time," she told me angrily. I don't believe I ever saw her again after that.

I surely won't see her at the next Democratic caucus because Albany recently changed the voting laws, insuring that we'll never have another one. We'll have primaries instead. This year they'll be on June 25. If you want to know more, contact the Piermont Democratic Committee at PiermontDems@optonline.net, or the Rockland County Board of Elections at 845-638-5172, or by email, voterinfo@co.rockland.ny.us.

I'll miss the caucuses, but, hey, we're sure to run into each other soon somewhere around the village. —Bob Samuels



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Sylvia Carbonell Is Piermont's Friendly Face

Everyone who's ever walked up to the office window in Village Hall to ask a question or get a permit or sign up for a pier or parking permit or a veteran's exemption—or to ask a question about anything—has been welcomed by her smile, though perhaps not everyone knows her name. It's Sylvia Carbonell and for many of us she IS the Village Hall, and has been for going on 25 years.

Sylvia seems always to be pleasant, no matter how many times her work has been interrupted by a question, though she admits that being tactful is not always easy. She's usually pretty busy when you step up to the window; because she's really good at keeping records, she's involved in almost everything that gets accomplished in the clerk's office.

One way or another, she also ends up helping out in every department: the folks in court and everyone else in Village Hall knows whom to ask when they need a Spanish translator; the police know whom to ask when they need a matron to accompany a woman arrestee, and sometimes, when the restroom in the Village Hall needs paper towels or bathroom tissue, she does that too, just to save the DPW folks the trip.

Sylvia was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and her parents came from Rincon, now a well-known surfing town. They traveled back and forth from Puerto Rico to New York so one of her siblings was born in Rincon and the other in New York. Her father was superintendent in a sixth-floor walkup apartment building on east 50th Street and doorman at a building on 66th Street. So, she grew up in a neighborhood where the outrageously glamorous restaurant Lutece was just down the block and she baby-sat for the family as well as sometimes watching over future actress Melanie Griffin for her actress mother Tippi Hedrin of "The Birds" fame.

Because her parents spoke only Spanish at home, Sylvia began school as a non-English speaker at a time when there was no bilingual teaching in public schools. That, and the fact that she was left-handed at a time when right-handedness was still being strongly promoted, meant that she entered school with a double handicap, but she worked hard and persisted with her education until she was just 11 credits short of a B.A. at Queens College.

Her first post-college job was as a Board of Education paraprofessional—a bilingual teacher in second grade, a job she loved and kept for five years until she married in 1976. The

next year, she and her husband bought an apartment in Parkchester in the Bronx where they lived until 1983 when their first son, Brian, was born and they moved to Rockland. They lived first with Sylvia's sister in Tappan where a second son Brandon Lee was born in 1985.

After 13 years there, the family moved to Piermont and rented an apartment over what was then Mom Miraglia's, now 14 & Hudson. When Miraglia's was sold they moved to another apartment over what is today the Rivertown Tap-house. Sylvia began work in Village Hall in 1995, when John Zahn was Mayor, as a part time clerk-typist, and has been at her post in Village Hall ever since.

But she couldn't keep living in Piermont. In 2006—after a divorce—she and her sons moved to the Bronx from now unaffordable Piermont. A friend told her about a concierge at the Harbor Cove condos who commuted from the Bronx to here. For three years, she was blessed with a cheap/fast ride with him, but he retired to another state. For the next three years she endured what has to be one of the worst commutes on record. She was up at 4:30 and out of her Bronx apartment in time to walk several blocks to a 5:35 bus that took one hour and 15 minutes to get her to the George Washington Bridge bus station. There she took the first Red and Tan bus north which got her to Village Hall by 8 am opening time. When

she left the village at 4:15, she did the whole thing in reverse, and got home at 6:45.

In the face of her daily slog, Sylvia began to think that she needed to retire. But luckily for all of us, six years ago, she found an apartment at Orangetown's a senior housing complex, Cortwood Village in Orangeburg. Sylvia doesn't drive so her friends at work see to it that she gets to the office on time every morning. This has allowed her to stay put in Village Hall.

She has no immediate plans to retire, now that she lives so nearby. Her long-range retirement plans include spending significant time with her brother and sister in Florida, with the hope of one day becoming a snow bird who commutes between NY summers and Florida winters. She also hopes to visit Puerto Rico which she has not seen for many years. Whenever it comes, Sylvia says, her retirement "will be bitter-sweet because I love what I do." — Joan Gussow



Sylvia Carbonell Photo by Betsy Franco Feeney

Farmers Market Opens Under New Management

Spring was slow to arrive in Piermont this year, with persistent unseasonable chill, “March Madness” spilling into April, and a later-than-usual Easter and Passover. Another long-awaited harbinger of the season turned up on the last Sunday in April, when the Piermont Farmers Market celebrated its 15th year in the M&T Bank parking lot.

But, true to spring’s celebration of renewal, the 2019 Edition of the Farmers Market has had an imaginative reboot. After 14 years of operation by a Westchester-based firm, Down To Earth, two residents, Joe Serra and Bill Walsh, now run it.

The pair are well known Piermont entrepreneurs. Their “OUTSIDE IN” gallery/ espresso bar/event space has been a Ferdon Avenue landmark since 2007. Five years ago, the duo created The Souk, a Sunday afternoon marketplace and bazaar where local purveyors showcase their specialty foods. When Joe and Bill learned that the year-to-year lease M&T had with Down To Earth had not been renewed, they took notice.

“As a customer of the Piermont Farmers Market for years,” said Joe, “I could see that the number of vendors had declined, as had the quality of what was offered. We saw an opportunity to improve it. I just walked over and asked the bank’s manager, ‘Would you be open to hearing our proposal?’ and he said ‘Sure, why not, we have no long-term agreement, there’s no (financial) benefit that we get from doing it, and no one ever asked us before.’”

Joe says the Souk taught him the importance of the customer experience. He has seen how Tarrytown and Pleasantville and other places evolved their Farmers Markets once they dumped their outside corporate operators. They

became community-based enterprises, keeping the money in their villages as much as possible.

“One of my beefs with the old management,” Joe says, “is that it never put anything back into the community – monetarily or otherwise. Yes, they set up the market and that was good for the residents but not always good for some of the business owners.” Now, along with the fresh vegetables, artisanal cheeses and pasture raised meats, you’ll find a side order of community involvement.

“We allow non-profits to promote their activities,” explains Joe. “Piermont businesses that want to advertise, or put their menus out, or have promotional things to say are welcome. We really want to help the businesses in town. Not only by bringing people in, but taking those same people, and giving them an incentive to go into the shops.” Joe and Bill have a shuttle for customers who need a restroom.

Many booths are staffed by the actual makers, growers and owners, and their families. Even when the product is not from the New York area, there will still be a local connection. “For example,” he says, “the woman who sells Kontoulis Olive Oil lives in Larchmont, but her family is from Greece. It’s her family’s grove. She goes there every year.”

The market is open from 10 am to 3 pm, Sundays, rain or shine, until November 24. They’ll soon have a Facebook page with announcements and vendor updates. But maybe the best way to discover the Piermont’s Farmers Market is to go and experience it first-hand.

“We’re hoping to bring some new excitement to Piermont,” Joe declares. – *Julie Harman*



Everyone – especially the bunny -- had a good time at the Piermont Civic Association’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Photo by Joanne Ottaviano

Our Navy Seals: Piermont's Volunteer Fire Department

Need rescuing from a smoky fire, Tallman mountain, the Hudson River, or a mucky section of the Piermont Marsh? For all of these and more, call Piermont's A Team—The Piermont Fire Department.

The department has been responding to village emergencies for 168 years--since 1851. Last year, 78 active volunteers--51 men and 27 women--responded to 396 emergencies in Piermont and Grand View. Of those, 196 were rescue and fire calls; 200 were ambulance calls. (The ambulance will deliver patients to a hospital of their choice for free.) When there is an emergency on the Hudson, the first responders are the Fire Department's scuba divers.

The Piermont Civic Association recently invited Fire Chief Don Hardy and former Chief Daniel Goswick to talk to the public at the Village Hall. They spoke compellingly and answered questions about Department's role and experiences.

Chief Goswick explained that it is organized into specialty teams for rapid response. "Many of the other fire departments in the country focus on fires," he said. "But in Piermont we are like the Navy Seals of fire departments, we do everything." One team is expert scuba divers who plunge into the Hudson year-round to save victims of boating accidents. They also recover bodies of accident fatalities and suicide from the bridge and other locations.

It takes 170 hours of training to be a Piermont firefighter; 180 to 250 hours to become an Emergency Medical EMT on the ambulance; and to qualify as part of Piermont's dive team requires even more training; you are ready to join the team when Chief Goswick, head of the unit and chief trainer, says you are ready.

Chief Goswick always tells new recruits that this is their community and they need to protect it. But the reality today is that half the fire department volunteers live outside of Piermont because the village has become unaffordable for them. The chiefs would like more residents to volunteer. "We would really like to get more people involved in the fire department," said Chief Goswick. "We recently revamped our bylaws to allow people who were not firefighters, EMTs or divers to become



Fire Chief Don Cocker and former Chief Dan Goswick tell the audience about the Village's Empire Hose Company at a meeting hosted by the Piermont Civic Association. Photo by Betsy Franco Feeney

part of the department. It needs help with fund raisers and other activities.

Last autumn a Piermont woman, known to be depressed, disappeared. They found her bicycle at the end of the pier. The scuba team went into the water to search for her. Chief Goswick was convinced her body was trapped among the pilings at the pier's end. After three days searching the dark and dangerous waters, he discovered her there.

"I promised her husband that we would never give up until we found her," he said. "When it is one of our own, we never give up." —Ron Derven

The Do Not Knock Law

The last thing most people want after a long workday, or on a relaxing weekend, is someone at their door trying to buy their house or sell them something.

That's why the Village Board recently passed a law that stops people from bothering homes and businesses that are listed on the "Do Not Knock" registry. To be on it all you have to do is to sign up on the village's website (<http://piermont-ny.gov/do-not-knock-registry>), or stop by the Village Clerk's office. It's that simple.

The law applies to commercial solicitation – an offer to buy or sell goods or property. It does not apply to charitable organizations, political candidates or other non-commercial enti-

ties. They are not required to have a village permit and can go to any residence or place of business. Companies or individuals that wish to go door-to-door for commercial reasons must first get a special permit from the village. They are then shown the "Do Not Knock" registry. They are not allowed to visit any of the addresses on that list.

Call the Piermont Police if you are on the registry and a solicitor or peddler comes to your home or business? Violators face stiff fines and will have their permit revoked.

The "Do Not Knock" registry is voluntary. If you don't mind strangers coming to your door, you don't need to do anything. —Joe Serra

Piermont's Ironmen

Louis DeGennaro first hung his sign at the rear of Gerhardt's service station on Main Street in 1975. He was opening L&M Iron Railing Co., a fabricator of fine wrought iron railings and metalwork. The sign was there until last month. That's when the business's new owner, Leonard (Len) Hunt, packed up the anvil, the welding torch and other tools and moved to Pearl River. He left because the Gerhardt building's new owner wanted the space and Len wanted more room.



Anthony Hunt (left) with his father, Len, and Louis DeGennaro. Len bought DeGennaro's wrought iron railings and metalwork business and has moved it to Pearl River. Photo by Elizabeth Dougherty

You might know Len, a home improvement contractor, as the drummer in the Old No. 7 Band. He is the son of Piermont's original "Tin Man," the late Leonard Hunt. That Len was a popular jack-of-all trades handyman who, in the 1970s, opened a small shop called the Tin Man in a storefront across Main Street from Gerhardt's. He filled it with interesting small iron-works and metal gizmos. You might say it was a continuation, of sorts, when his son bought the L&M and took up metal railing work under DeGennaro's mentorship.

Len was familiar with L&M because he and his Rockland County Home Improvement business partner, John Steiner, had ordered custom railings from L&M for their clients. Len had a lifelong interest in metal arts, perhaps started by his dad's quirky collection, then nurtured by classes at the Rockland Center for the Arts. So, it wasn't surprising, when Louis put his

business up for sale, that Len and his son Anthony bought it. "Len came with all the right know-how from his construction business," says Louis who worked with him a short while after the business changed hands. "Most important, he already knew all about angles."

Their new space in Pearl River is much larger than what they'd had in Piermont. It is filled with the many metalworking tools Louis invented, including a metal bender that shapes the curved termination or "end vole" of a stair railing. "This is one example of Louis's genius, says Len. "We can now do this detail 'cold' without forging."

Len and Anthony just completed a beautiful balcony that reproduced one that Louis made decades ago for the Silk Mill in Piermont. They are now working on a "picket fence" of arched rods for a carpenter gothic house's garden in Tarrytown. There is a portfolio of more traditional stair rail work they have completed here as well.

"Downtown Piermont" Len says a little wistfully, "now has just one metalworker left - A&B Artisans. There used to be more industry here. Times change."

When he retires from the home improvement business he and Anthony will focus on metalwork. Len clearly loves having his son by his side for this new venture. He promises that they will maintain the fine reputation for craftsmanship Louis brought to Piermont more than 44 years ago. — Margaret Grace

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From The Library

Teen Film Festival

The Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library will partner with the Michael J. Armstrong Memorial Foundation on Friday, June 7, to host "Five-Minute Flicks," a new annual competition in collaboration with the film program at South Orangetown's Tappan Zee High School.

The competition, which will award three cash prizes, provides an opportunity to remember the life of 9/11 victim Michael J. Armstrong while celebrating the creative talents of local teenagers. The challenge for entrants will be to tell a compelling story, in any theme or genre of their choosing, in five minutes or less. Prizes will be awarded for First Place (\$500), Second Place (\$300), and Third Place (\$200) at the end of the evening. The Foundation hopes that the prize money will be spent to further enhance the students' love of film.

Doors will open at 6:30 pm. The viewing of entries will begin at approximately 7 p.m., and admission is free.

Concert Series

The Library will host its second concert in its Spring Concert Series: Flashback Fridays on Friday, June 14, at 7pm. The concert will feature Reflections Jazz & Swing Orchestra. The band was formed by its present leader, Paul Bastone, in the spring of 1999. It is a traditional 18-piece big band with a vocalist, based in Rockland County, that plays a wide variety of popular music including hits of the 30's and 40's. All the members are volunteers and are rewarded by the good feeling they get from performing for diverse audiences and the knowledge that they are helping to preserve the Big Band sound. Their dedication is further bolstered by the applause and verbal appreciation they receive from their audiences.

Please register for the concert online at www.piermont-library.org

This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by ArtsWestchester.

Adult Summer Reading Program: A Universe of Stories

The library's annual Adult Summer Reading Raffle will be held for 8 weeks. Submit an entry form for each book you read over the summer. A winner will be chosen every Friday, July 12 – August 30. Prizes will include gift certificates, gadgets, books and more.

This year's theme is all about outer space and our universe, so what better time to check out our museum pass to the Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum to see the space shuttle Enterprise and much more! Ask a librarian today for more information about this and all of our other exciting museum passes!

Piermont Welcomes New Director

The Piermont Library welcomed a new face to the family; in March when Kristine Palacios came on as the new Director. For the past five years, Palacios worked at the Willington Public Library, in Connecticut. She's excited to join this vibrant community. The Library held a welcome reception in April, but if you missed that Palacios said you should stop by to say hello. "I love meeting all the library patrons," she said "I hope that they will let me know how the library can best meet the community's needs!"

Summer Art Shows

For the month of June, the Library will present its Annual Student Art Exhibition: Adventures in Mexico. An Artists' Reception will be held on Sunday, June 2, from 3 - 4 pm. All are welcome. Throughout the year, the Library offers free art classes focusing on a variety of materials and techniques to students in grades 1 - 8 taught by Alexis Starke. This year, the focus is on Mexico and Frida has hit the Library! Ask any of our young artists about all things Frida and you are sure to be impressed. Projects are inspired by Frida Kahlo and the less well-known volcano-loving Mexican artist, Dr. Atl, as well as traditional Mexican crafts. Patrons are always delighted to see the creations of our youngest artists.

In July, the Library will present the work of Piermont artist, Mary Mclean-Hely. Her exhibition focuses on animals both wild and tame- many from a trip to Africa and others, of the domestic variety, from around New York state—dogs, chickens, cows, a guinea pig. The pieces are all created with watercolor pencil and picture the animals in their natural habitats. Several show a mother with her young, and as "I try to capture animals being animals," she says.

For the month of August, the Library will show Jorli Peña: Be the Moon. Peña is a Piermont-based artist and writer who uses digital tools to manipulate and expand upon hand-drawn sketches. This whimsical series

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Gardening With Native Plants

When Piermont Community Garden members Sandy and Ken built a deck on their property, they regrettably had to take out a large native Mountain Laurel. They have been trying to replace it yet have been having a hard time finding one. One of the advantages of being in a community garden is that you have a large base of gardeners you can query!

Sandy sent out an e-mail and thanks to another garden member she heard about a Native Plant Sale in Westchester. While the sale will be over by the time you receive this, the good news is that the sale is being sponsored by a great local-ish organization – The Native Plant Center. This organization can be a wonderful resource for gardeners interested in adding more native and wild plants to their gardens.

Located on the campus of Westchester Community College, the Center's mission statement reads "To educate people about the environmental necessity, economic value and natural beauty of native plants in the Northeast".

The Center was established in 1998 and was the first national affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, which is based in Austin Texas. The first demonstration garden at the Center was named for the former First Lady. She and her daughters visited Westchester for the garden back in 1999.

Their annual Native Plant Sale is open to the public, but it is a membership based organization members are able to enter the sale earlier and get the first pick of the plants. The organization also hosts free, guided field walks in several locations, and it holds a multi part workshop called Confronting Climate Change.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's online database www.wildflower.org of thousands of wildflower species is another online resource. You can use it to search for native plants, learn their botanical and common names, find out what plants are recommended for various locations, as well as information on blooming time, color, and more.

I would like to encourage more people to plant some of our wonderful spring ephemeral wildflowers. They grow and bloom in the early spring before the trees leaf out. After that, they die back and "disappear" underground again till the next year. There are wonderful wildflowers in this category and some of my favorites can be seen blooming annually in Tallman Mountain Park, right next to Piermont. In fact, every spring I do at least one personal wildflower walk through Tallman Mountain Park to see these flower friends. My many favorites include Trout Lilies, Dutchman's Britches, Spring Beauties, Wild Violets, Jack in The Pulpit and May Apple. Some spring ephemerals bloom at the same time, some bloom at different times, some grow near each other, some have more specific habi-

tats and require knowing where to look to see them.

To see the Dutchman's Britches, for example, you need to be able to walk/hike on the trail that goes along the top of the cliff because this species does not grow along the berm trails or the other trails the way the Spring Beauties and Trout Lilies do. The May Apples grow in three different colonies in specific places as well. To grow these plants at home might require a bit of research, and maybe some garden adjustments, but they are wonderful plants that can bring great cheer in the spring.

Native and wild bushes and small understory trees like Mountain Laurel, Witch Hazel, Shad Bush, Striped Maple and many more can also be great home garden additions. These also might require a few garden adjustments, but as per Ken and Sandy's example, it is also possible for these to grow right in your yard, as is, with no special treatment what so ever. Assuming you can find a plant or seeds to put in the ground!

For help and guidance, circle back to the Native Plant Center previously mentioned. Its website is: wccnative-plant@sunywcc.edu. They have much more info on their website including an interesting little blurb that reads "Save Time. Save Money. Go Native! -- Susan Freiman

From the Library, continued from page 8

explores the feminine principle of drawing in the world you want to create—like the moon draws in the tides—instead of chasing after it.

For Kids

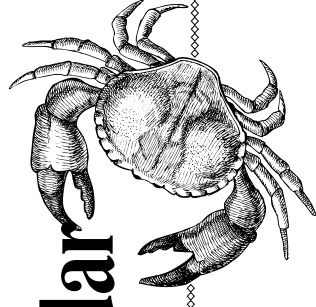
We will continue with our popular Summer Art Classes for children entering grades one and up. Classes will cover a variety of materials and techniques in drawing, painting, design, sculpture, mixed media, collage, print-making, and crafts. Inspiration will be taken from the greats of art history, contemporary artists, and our beautiful surroundings in Piermont on the Hudson River. Classes are free and all materials are included. Older clothes and/ or smocks (provided by the library or by students) are recommended. Classes are held outside when possible in the Library's gardens and in adjacent parks and open space.

The Library will also offer a fun and inspiring Summer Reading program to encourage our young readers. This summer's theme is A Universe of Stories and different prizes and activities will be available at the Library each week with Ms Nancy. Plans are still in the making, but there are many surprises in store with an outer space theme.

www.piermontlibrary.org

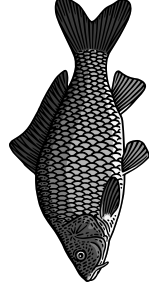
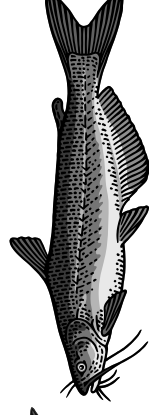
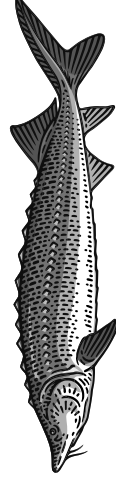
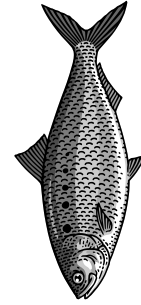
PCA 2019 Summer Calendar

Piermont Civic Association



Monday, May 27	Memorial Day Parade from Firehouse to Kennedy Park, followed by Memorial Day Program of Remembrance. Parade starts at 10am.
Wednesday, May 29	Veterans Watchfire , Piermont Pier. Starting before midnight on Wednesday.
Saturday, June 1	Dennis P. McHugh Foundation 15th Annual 5K Run/Walk . 9:30am. Flywheel Park, followed by family fair. Register online at active.com .
Sunday, June 2	Piermont's Historic Train Station Museum open Sunday 1-4 pm.
Sunday, June 2	Piermont Public Library Annual Student Art Exhibition: Adventures in Mexico. Reception 3-4pm.
Friday, June 7	Piermont Public Library "Five Minute Flicks" . Screening of teen film competition entries, in collaboration with Tappan Zee High School. Doors open at 6:30. Free.
Friday, June 14	Piermont Public Library Spring Concert Series featuring Reflections Jazz & Swing Orchestra. 7:30pm, register online at www.piermontlibrary.org .
Sunday, June 15	Piermont's Historic Train Station Museum Family Fun Day open 12-5
Monday, June 24	Piermont Library Summer Reading Program begins. June 24-August 9. 3-6pm. Ages 3 & up.
Sunday, June 30	Piermont Community Dog Run Fundraiser co-sponsored with High Tor Animal Shelter. Goswick Pavilion, 10am -12noon. www.piermontdogpark.com for information.
Sunday, June 30	Piermont's Historic Train Station Museum open 1-4 pm.
Thursday, July 11	Music in the Park featuring the Sam Waymon Group. Sponsored by the Piermont Civic Association. Flywheel Park, 7-10pm (rain date July 18th).
Saturday, July 13	Bastille Day Celebration! Noon - 10pm, Main Street and Flywheel Park.
Sunday, July 14	Piermont Public Library Reception for Piermont artist Mary Mclean-Hely. 2-4pm. Exhibit on view thru July.

- Sunday, July 14** **Piermont's Historic Train Station Museum** open 1-4 pm.
- Thursday, July 25** **Music in the Park** featuring the Old Number 7 Band. Sponsored by the Piermont Civic Association. Flywheel Park, 7-10pm (rain date August 1st).
- Sunday, July 28** **Piermont's Historic Train Station Museum** open 1-4 pm.
- Sunday, Aug. 4** **Piermont Public Library** Reception for Piermont artist Jorli Peña: Be the Moon. 2-4pm. Exhibit on view thru August.
- Thursday, Aug. 8** **Music in the Park** featuring the Deep Dig Band. Sponsored by the Piermont Civic Association. Flywheel Park, 7-10pm (rain date Aug. 15th).
- Saturday, Aug. 10** **Great Hudson River Fish Count**, Organized by DEC's Hudson River Fisheries Program, Piermont Pier 2-4pm.
- Sunday, Aug. 11** **Piermont's Historic Train Station Museum** open 1-4 pm.
- Saturday, Aug. 17** **Catfish Fishing Derby** for kids and adults, Sponsored by Hudson River Fishermen's Assoc., Piermont Pier till 3pm. Go to: www.hrfanj.org to register and for details.
- Thursday, Aug. 22** **Music in the Park** featuring Tequila Soul Project. Sponsored by the Piermont Civic Association. Flywheel Park, 7-10pm (rain date Aug.29).
- Sunday, Aug. 25** **Piermont's Historic Train Station Museum** open 1-4 pm.
- Sunday, Sept. 8** **Lobsterfest** at the Goswick Pavilion, with music by the Flying Fingers Jug Band. Sponsored by the Piermont Civic Association. 2-6pm.
- Sunday, Sept. 8** **Piermont's Historic Train Station Museum** open 1-4 pm.
- Sunday, Sept. 22** **Piermont's Historic Train Station Museum** open 1-4 pm.



Hudson River fish, left to right: Shad, Striped Bass, Sturgeon, Catfish, Carp

Commercial Fishing, continued from page 2

After the spring fishing season was over, we began crabbing. Blue claw crabs were abundant in the river from June until October. We would lay out 200 baited pots and pull out hundreds of crabs each day. We sold most of them locally to restaurants and small fish stores.

Commercial fishing suffered a fatal blow in 1975 when the DEC banned the sale of striped bass because PCBs had contaminated them. Two upriver General Electric plants had inexcusably dumped the poisonous stuff into the Hudson. We were still allowed us to catch shad, but separating them from the bass at the nets made it not worthwhile. It was the end of commercial fishing in the Hudson.

To fight back we formed the New York State Commercial Fishing Association (my father Don Hardy was its first President). It, along with Long Island commercial fishermen, sued GE in a class action suit and were successful in getting some minor compensation. Eventually, GE was ordered to dredge the upper Hudson (north of Albany) to help rid the river of PCB's. Though the quality of the river water has somewhat improved, commercial fishing remains totally banned today. The DEC has posted ominous warnings for recreational anglers about eating their catch.

Fishing the Hudson was a way of life for me and my family. Being out on the boat twice a day was magical, and the anticipation of each new fishing season was so exciting. Fortunately, we hired a local photographer in 1989 who took hundreds of photos over a two-week period, documenting our fishing operation. Recently, I showed some of them at a public meeting of the Piermont Civic Association. It was an honor to give people a glimpse my family's fishing operation, and Piermont's commercial fishing past. — Dennis Hardy



*Top: Because of a dispute between the condos and the Village, weeds blocked river views from the pier's North Shore walkway for years (as they did in this 2015 Newsletter photo). The argument has finally been settled.
Bottom: Walkers like Andrea Sherman and her dog Louie can see the river now. Staff photos*

Union Arts Center salutes
Bob Samuels
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the Piermont Civic Association

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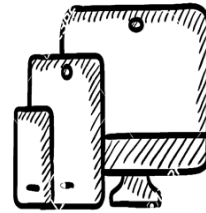
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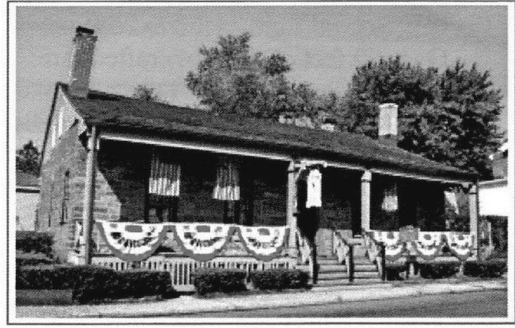
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Unit sales in Piermont for single family homes in the first quarter 2019 vs. 2018 are the same. Dollar Volume went down by almost one-third and average selling price decreased about 27% to \$566,250.

This simply translates to less expensive homes are selling. Good news is our listing on Stevenson Street is now under contract, asking \$1,550,000. This is the first home to sell over \$1M in the village in 2019.

To learn more about the local market or value of your property, contact Ellis Sotheby's International Realty.



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