

The Piermont Newsletter

VOLUME LI NO. 2

PUBLISHED BY THE PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2022

Piermont's Papermill Dam on the Sparkill Creek is Given the Eye in Flooding Study



Flood gates are open at the Papermill Dam. Staff Photo

“IF THE GOOD LORD’S WILLING AND THE CREEK DON’T RISE”

This popular saying has several unsubstantiated origins. Some attribute it to Benjamin Hawkins, a North Carolina politician of the late 18th, early 19th centuries, who responded to the President’s order for him to return to Washington DC, “God willing, and the creek don’t rise”. The phrase is also associated with Hank Williams and was used in a 1955 country song by Jerry Reed, later covered by Johnny Cash.

In November 2018, New York State launched the Resilient NY program. According to the ny.gov website, “The overall goal of the ongoing program is to improve community resiliency to extreme weather events... Through the program, flood studies are being conducted across the state, resulting in the development of flood and ice jam hazard elimination alternatives to help guide implementation of mitigation projects.” A total of \$3 million has been committed to this fund, mostly coming from the state’s Environmental Protection Fund. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Office of General Services (OGS) are leading the studies. They contracted with SLR Consulting which completed a study of various watersheds in Rockland County. These target watersheds include the Minis-

ceongo Creek, Mahwah River, Hackensack River and Sparkill Creek. SLR Consulting’s website asserts itself as “a global leader in environmental and advisory solutions”.

Early in 2022, a draft report containing recommendations based on this study was shared and discussed with “stakeholders”, that is local government officials and agencies as well as environmental groups with an interest in the watersheds studied.

SLR’s study of the Sparkill Creek identified 8 high risk flood areas in this watershed, one of which is within the village of Piermont, from the Piermont Marsh inland to approximately the Valentine Avenue Bridge. The study inventoried stream water levels and provided projections that reflect increased rain and river elevations resulting from climate change.

SLR’s report provided several flood mitigation recommendations to address the lower creek flood risk, including floodproofing and elevating the pumps and electrical equipment at the sanitary pump station on Ferdon Avenue, relocating the Piermont DPW building to a location not prone to flooding, and having residents relocate or elevate flood prone homes.

SLR Consulting also addressed the area above the Piermont Paper Mill Dam. They recommend, among other mitigations farther inland on the Sparkill creek, the removal of the Papermill dam. The SLR report states that removal of the dam would result in a reduction of flood depths upstream of it. It also stated that the dam “does not provide significant flood storage and

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Piermont Reflections— The Remarkable Piermont Newsletter



This past week, when I was looking for information about Piermont's acquisition of the Papermill Dam, I finally found it in the December 1989 Piermont Newsletter. I've saved dozens of old Newsletter issues over the years, a collection that was added to by long-time Newsletter editor Bob Samuels. Decades of original Piermont Newsletters are archived in the Resource Room of the Piermont Public Library. Many Issues are also available online, thanks to our website manager Richie Stark, just go to www.piermont-ny.com/newsletter/. Friends of the Piermont Newsletter are hoping to fill in the gaps of missing issues, both at the library and online, in the coming months.

For 57 years the Piermont Newsletter has been a publication that has connected our community with the village's many organizations and activities. It's been a source of information about Piermont history, issues facing the village, and news from our neighborhoods. The Piermont Newsletter has been an unfailing historical resource for the Village of Piermont, always full of carefully researched, interesting reporting. It does "take a village" to make this happen. There have been many residents that have been Newsletter editors over the past decades: Mimi Bryan, Robert Bradbury, Bob Cone, Beverly Russell, Peggy Fox, Bob Samuels, among them. We have had hundreds of resident writers contributing as well. My call for writers in the last issue brought a number of new writers to the Newsletter. We are so appreciative of their fresh perspective and contributions to this issue.

...

While looking through past Piermont Newsletters, I came upon *The Birds of Piermont*, by Anthony J. Amos, last published in 1987, presented again in this issue. We are a village of bird lovers, myself included. I am adding to *The Birds of Piermont* a flock of birds I am particularly fond of, unique to Piermont. You'll find them perched next to the sidewalk,

just north of the Community Market. They are the creation of Piermont artist Young Kwon.—*Margaret Grace*



The Birds of Piermont, by artist Young Kwon, photo by Betsy Franco Feeney

Piermont's Papermill Dam continued from page 1

its removal would not exacerbate flooding downstream". Based on the data provided in this document, taking into consideration anticipated climate change, dam removal would result in only a 1-foot reduction of stream flood levels between the dam and the skating pond for all the 10-50-100-year flood projections.

The SLR draft report contains recommendations, it is not a roadmap of approved and funded projects. Multiple authorities will be involved in the evaluation and any implementation. The Sparkill Creek is a Rockland County regulated waterway while the Village owns the dam and surrounding shoreline. When asked for comment on which agency has the decision-making authority on changes to the dam, Piermont's Mayor stated that the decision lies with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Now for a little history on the dam. According to the Piermont Historical Society, "a stone dam was built in the early 1700's to provide hydraulic power to the early grist mill. The stone dam was replaced with the current structure in 1902 by Robert Gair to provide fresh water to the Piermont Paper Mill." Today the Piermont Department of Public Works operates the sluiceway when we are having heavy rainfall events to proactively lower the mill pond, so the Creek don't rise, and flood the Piermont yards lining its shores.

To Learn more: NYS DEC website under flood recovery and resiliency and The Resilient NY Program: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/121102.html>

Thanks to Nate Mitchell, Chris Sanders, and Dan Sherman for their insight and knowledge.—*Steve Kulovits*

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

Thanks to website manager Richie Stark.

Meet Your Neighbor Barbara Scheulen—Service with a Smile

Given Barbara Scheulen's exceptional commitment to local public service—she currently chairs both the Piermont Historical Society and the Piermont Democratic Committee, we're lucky that she ultimately married a man who lived in our town. Barbara first worked with Piermonter Ed Stanford as a long time member of the South Orangetown School Board. Years later, they each had jobs in two cities (fortunately the same two cities, Chicago and New York) so the courtship that developed was conducted partly in Rockland and partly in Chicago.

Barbara moved to Piermont to live with Ed in 2004 and, with permission of their children, they eventually married in 2010. Barbara had until then lived in Blauvelt, but Ed had had lived in Piermont since the 1970's, and they now share a home on Hudson Terrace where Barbara manages to raise "spectacular camelias" despite the persistent struggle against invading wild-life needed to cultivate a garden there.

Born in the Bronx not long before her parents moved to Blauvelt, Barbara attended South Orangetown schools and continued to live there with her first husband and their two daughters, Emily and Casey. Barbara's career started at Channel 13, a fortunate consequence of her participation in a Columbia University program called Women's Space that was meant to help women re-enter the work force or



Barbara Scheulen. Staff Photo

find new direction. The program placed her in an internship with Channel 13 in 1979, after which the station hired her, and she became Director of Community Affairs. It was there she won an Emmy for her work on the issues of Adult Literacy. Ten years later, she went to the American Diabetes Association where she was VP of Development. She ended her formal work-life in medical communications and pharmaceutical marketing, and last worked full time in 2016.

Then, about six years ago, she took on the job of Chair of the Piermont Historical Society, whose urgent task, she believes, is to keep our past alive. People new to Piermont don't know the village's long and rich history, she notes, and as the world

collapses into cell phones, and the "messy parts" of town gradually disappear, all of us need to be reminded of our richly layered past. The Historical Society's current projects include working with the Chamber of Commerce to erect a series of four panels around each of the trees flanking the Gair Memorial on Main Street, to share the unique history of the Village as well as provide information about the river, recreational opportunities, and our businesses. An audio tour for residents and visitors to Piermont is also being developed.

As for her involvement with the Democratic Committee, Barbara didn't even know there was a Democratic Committee in Piermont when she moved here, so she just acted as a politically committed individual. In 2008 she was working for MoveOn and giving Obama call-out parties in her home. Around that time, Fred Devan introduced her to the town's official Democrats and what with one thing and another, she now leads the local committee, a leadership role she says she shares with Margaret Grace.

As for her personal time, Barbara and her husband spend much of it with the younger of their seven grandchildren, although all seven are clearly a great source of delight to them both. She particularly recommends watching her husband play hopscotch with their youngest, who is five.—Joan Gussow



*Please join the
Piermont Historical Society
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enchancing gardens of the Mouquin
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the magnificent historic home.*

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Go to bit.ly/PHSGarden2022 for tickets and more information.

Piermont Moves Forward to Join Clean Energy Program

This spring, Piermont is taking the first steps to participate in an innovative clean energy program offered in New York State known as CCA (Community Choice Aggregation). The program allows communities to join together to leverage their collective buying power so as to negotiate lower electricity supply rates for their residents. The CCA negotiates fixed-rate contracts with electricity suppliers, thereby protecting consumers from surprise rate increases. The program is designed to promote renewables and make them affordable for the average ratepayer, although non-renewables are also available for those who wish to make that choice.

At present, ratepayers in Piermont who have not selected an electricity supplier are on the O&R default option, which provides electricity largely based on fossil fuels at a rate that varies month to month. The CCA will negotiate fixed-rate contracts with suppliers. It will pick one option as its "default option" (most likely renewables which come with several advantages), but non-renewables will be available to consumers if they want them. **Consumers do not sign any contracts and can change their minds at any time – they can pick among the options offered within the CCA or they can decide to leave the CCA entirely. But only those who are presently on the O&R default option will be enrolled automatically.** Those who have previously selected a supplier will need to termi-

nate their contract with that supplier if they want to participate (some of those contracts could have exit fees).

Community Choice Aggregation has existed in New York State since 2016. It came to Rockland in November of 2020, when six communities – Clarkstown, the Village of Haverstraw, Orangetown, and the three Nyack villages – joined together to form Rockland Community Power (RCP). **Over the last sixteen months, the ratepayers participating in RCP have collectively saved over \$3 million compared to O&R's variable-rate fossil-fuel based default option.** Piermont is one of several new communities that will be joining the RCP group, as they negotiate a new contract going forward.

Questions? Go to www.rocklandcommunitypower.com.
—Marthe Schulwolf

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O Oysters, come and walk with us!

*The Walrus did beseech. A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk, Along the briny beach.**

Google ‘Piermont Oyster’ and your first hits are Cornetta’s and Pier 701. But a group of passionate scientists just might change that. Ever wonder what goes on in that building at the end of the pier? It’s Columbia University’s Hudson River Field Station, and it houses a state-of-the-art laboratory run by Wade McGillis, an environmental scientist at Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Among other ongoing research, McGillis and his team study biogeochemical cycles. Every 15 minutes they collect data measuring the river’s oxygen, salinity, turbidity, temperature, acidity, PH and depth. Which makes it a perfect backdrop for marine biologist Luca Telesca’s Oyster Research Project.

What’s the big deal about oysters? These ‘ecosystem engineers’ attach to any hard submerged substrate, be it other shells, rocks, or piers, fusing as



Wade McGilles of Columbia Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory. Staff photo

they grow. Reefs, composed of thousands of animals, form. That’s when the magic begins. Mussels, barnacles and sea anemones take up residence, providing food for a wide variety of fish, invertebrates, and other shellfish. The reef also provides them shelter from predators. Oysters filter sediment and algae, and utilize nitrogen to grow their shells. The reefs create storm and tide barriers, preventing erosion.

Wow. Okay, so why here? In 1609, Henry Hudson arrived in New York harbor to the largest source of oysters in the world. Today, 85% of oyster reefs are gone. Overfishing. Dredge harvesting. Disease. Global warming. Erosion. Declining water quality.

Oysters, it turn out, are the canaries of the waterways. They are sensitive to acidification (lower pH resulting from

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STOP DOING STUPID THINGS

(But, if you do, I got your back...)

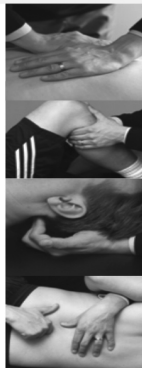
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Our Shoreline's Foam Hazard

When you walk down to the river edge and see the blue floats crashing against the pier and the small pieces and pellets on the shoreline, those are the remnants of EPS foam docks. Why does this happen? Simple wear and tear from wave action, and degradation from exposure to sun and elements. Also, both aquatic and land creatures like muskrats and crustaceans chew the material or burrow in to make nests. Seabirds scoop it up and fish eat it. It makes its way up through the food chain – from crustaceans and fish to waterfowl and humans. When ingested by birds and other marine life, polystyrene fragments can block the digestive system, killing the animals through starvation, or block the airways and choke them, as well as poisoning them.

Extruded polystyrene foam ("EPS") was developed in the 1940's and eventually marketed by Dow Chemical as Styrofoam. Styrofoam's uses include insulation, single-use food and drink containers (now banned in New York State) and floating docks. Although polystyrene foam breaks apart, it does not biodegrade, and it is not accepted by our county recycling facility.

As it happens, there is a simple and relatively inexpensive solution to this problem. Styrofoam used in docks can be "encapsulated in a hard plastic shell which prevents it from breaking apart in the water. It is also possible to use non-foam-based flotation devices.

These solutions are not new. A number of federal agencies require that foam docks be encapsulated, notably the US Army Corps of Engineers (since 1992), the Bureau of Reclamation, the US Forest Service, and the National Park Service. Several large utilities that control vast waterways do as well, e.g., the Tennessee Valley Authority. elimination 2014). Additionally, NOAA's voluntary Clean Marina Initiative (2008) requires that foam docks be encapsulated.

A number of communities around the country, with the State of Oregon leading the way in 1992, have adopted similar regulations, e.g., Miami-Dade, San Francisco, and Camden, ME, all in response to a growing grass roots movement to protect our waterways. Closer to home, the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) and Save the River (the St. Lawrence Riverkeeper organization) have been actively promoting this issue.

Do bans create an undue burden for dock owners? Hardly. The CRC has published a cost comparison table showing that using encapsulated foam costs less in the long run, with the added benefit of cleaner, healthier waterways.

In short, whether required by law or voluntarily done by dock owners, converting docks to encapsulated foam is a win-win!—Thomas Hughes

To learn more, watch the Connecticut River Conservancy's video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXwyhMyE7gs>

More resources are available on CRC's website: ctriver.org/swap-your-dock



Reed and Ella Thomas with hands full of shoreline Styrofoam. Staff photo

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Welcome to the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop

You've heard the popular expression, "one man's junk is another's treasure", and for decades, innumerable treasures have been donated, discovered and sold at Piermont's Tappan Zee Thrift Shop. Village old-timers may remember the former Miraglia's bar, at 454 Piermont Avenue, which poured drinks from 1931 to 1965. In 1966, the TZ Thrift Shop opened its doors there and has been serving customers ever since.

According to store manager Christie Black, most customers are locals, both donors and buyers. However, weekends attract out of town folks who stop in as they stroll the Village, visiting for dining, shopping or recreation. Board chair Charlene Palmer commented that there are a NYC couple who are regular shoppers and even have become donors. She noted that movie set prop designers are known to stop in often to check out items for their film sets. In fact, the TV series, "FBI Most Wanted" had taken over the shop as a location for an inside scene back in October 2020, which created revenue.

On a recent Sunday, the shop was a buzz with shoppers from all over. Marianne Coghlan-Vrlic, a nearby resident, frequently stops in to see what's new. In fact, she had an eye on a garnet necklace for a few weeks, and when she saw it was reduced, she purchased it. Often a donor as well, she and her son were in the shop one day and he picked up a toy and said, "Mom, look, this was mine."

Charlene explained that the shop is governed by a board of trustees who oversee the management, operations and publicity. Manager Christie is responsible for the wonderful merchandise and seasonal displays one sees in the windows and throughout the shop. She handles the training, scheduling, and supervising the volunteers.

There is no consignment, as all proceeds, after expenses, go to ten different Rockland-based organizations. (See list below.) Customers are asked which charity they would like the proceeds from their donations to benefit. "All the nonprofits sign a contract and are required to provide a specific number of volunteer hours for them to remain active as a recipient of revenue. "But we always have opportunities for additional volunteers if anyone wants to inquire, said Christie."

"Merchandise that is quick to sell and in demand at any season include jewelry and designer clothing and purses. We have lots of repeat customers who scour the shop for the thrill of the hunt", noted Christie. "Things that do not sell are donated to other charities. Often donated items are unsaleable, which leaves more work and expense for the shop to sort through and bring to the trash," she added.

Besides saving money and benefiting local charities, most regulars are intrigued by the adventure, as you'll never know what you are going to find, and every visit is a new discovery with what could be.

"Well, we never know what could come through the door - either with merchandise or people", Charlene declared.

—Mary Lukens



Christie Black with Lucy amid Thrift Store Treasures – Staff photo

CHARITIES TO BENEFIT:

- Center for Safety and Change
- Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library
- Hi Tor Animal Care Center, Inc.
- Macedonia Baptist Church
- Mental Health Association of Rockland County, Inc.
- Palisades Free Library
- Piermont Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary
- Piermont Reformed Church
- St. John's Roman Catholic Church
- Tappantown Historical Society

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Go Fetch! At the Piermont Community Dog Run

The Piermont Community Dog Run (PCDR) is celebrating its first decade as the go-to destination for the playful dogs of Piermont. It's here that the dogs and their owners enjoy a large fenced space within the village where dogs can run and play freely. In an agreement with the village of Piermont, this land was set aside for this purpose, with the understanding that an organized group of volunteers would be responsible for its oversight and maintenance. Piermont Community Dog Run volunteers raised the funds to build the large, fenced property with a separate section for smaller dogs, and benches for pet watching. The park is just past the entrance to Ferry Road on the Pier. You'll see dogs of all sizes wagging and tugging as they make the turn south, onto the charming woodland path that leads to the park gates.

Longtime resident and Piermont Village Parks Commissioner, Dan Sherman, serves as the dog park's liaison to the Village Board. Dan has been involved with the dog park since its beginning, guiding the park's landscape design. There have been 280 Piermont Community Dog Run members over the past decade, making for lots of happy dogs.

In 2018, Andrea Sherman (no relation to Dan) took on membership duties and maintenance oversight. Andrea's husband, Alan Sherman, built and manages a PCDR website, along with a Facebook page. The PCDR's Instagram account managed by volunteer Julia Schneider.

The Piermont Civic Association (PCA) has recently partnered with the PCDR, which is now under the auspices of their non-profit organization with its Taxpayer ID. The Piermont Community Dog Run is grateful to the PCA for extending its support under their community umbrella.

The dog run is open to all, beyond Piermont residents, upon an indemnification registration and payment of a membership



Playful tug of war at the dog run. Photo courtesy of Piermont Dog Park

fee of \$30. That income helps pay for the dog park's maintenance costs such as pruning destructive vines that grow into the fence, wood chip delivery/spreading, replenishing the pea gravel path, and repairing the fence and gates as needed. With spring's arrival, the run is resuming the organic spraying to prevent ticks and fleas. It's costly but important given that the

marsh is heavily prone to ticks.

The cash reserve has been depleting and donations and new memberships are welcomed to help continue to maintain such a special park in the community. If able, please consider a donation or membership at: <https://www.piermontdogpark.com/membership>.

Learn more about the dog park, and see photos of the happy dog members at: www.piermontdogpark.com Thanks again to the Piermont Civic Association, and to our community members for their support!—Andrea Sherman

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A Tango on the River



Rowing on the River. Photograph courtesy of Brian Evans

At 5 a.m. just about any day between May and November, Pascal Akesson's phone begins ringing. The members of the Piermont Rowing Club are anxious for his 'all clear' to wade into the inky black of the Hudson and dip their boats into the water. Why do our seemingly normal neighbors ache to launch themselves into the river while the rest of us want nothing more than to roll over in our warm (not to mention dry) beds and catch another hour or two of sleep? I decided to find out.

When we get to the water before 6 a.m. it's still dark, Akesson, President of the PRC, explains. We row out into the twilight, just before the sun rises over Westchester. And then, suddenly, there is an explosion of light as the sun clears the hills. It's exquisite, he exudes, eyes gleaming. What about the wildlife, I ask, certain I have this whole rowing-allure thing figured out. It's unbelievable, he assures me. The Hudson is a major estuary for sturgeon, living fossils dating back to the time of the dinosaurs. Although adults are bottom feeders, juveniles, which can reach several feet in length, often leap from the water, as do striped bass. Eagles and other birds of prey are very active in the morning, diving in front of the boats for their breakfast while gulls trail incredibly close behind. Rowing around the pier into the bay, members may witness a mother deer frolicking with her fawns. In short, sitting on top of the river one gets the sensation of floating in a completely wild environment, akin to paddling in the Atlantic itself. *Aha. It's all about nature*, I conclude.

Akesson shakes his head. Not all tangos happen on the dance floor. Rowing involves incredibly precise teamwork. Most boats at PRC are quads or doubles. The rowers necessarily have to engage in the same motion at the same time,

ROWING FUNDAMENTALS FOR TEENS

Who: Piermont residents, age 14-18

When: 10am, Saturday, June 25th, 2022

Where: Piermont Rowing Club boat rack
(by Parelli Park, opposite the library)

Learn About the Sport of Rowing

The Piermont Rowing Club invites Piermont teens to an on-land introduction to rowing.

- Learn the basic stroke
- Find out how you can get started

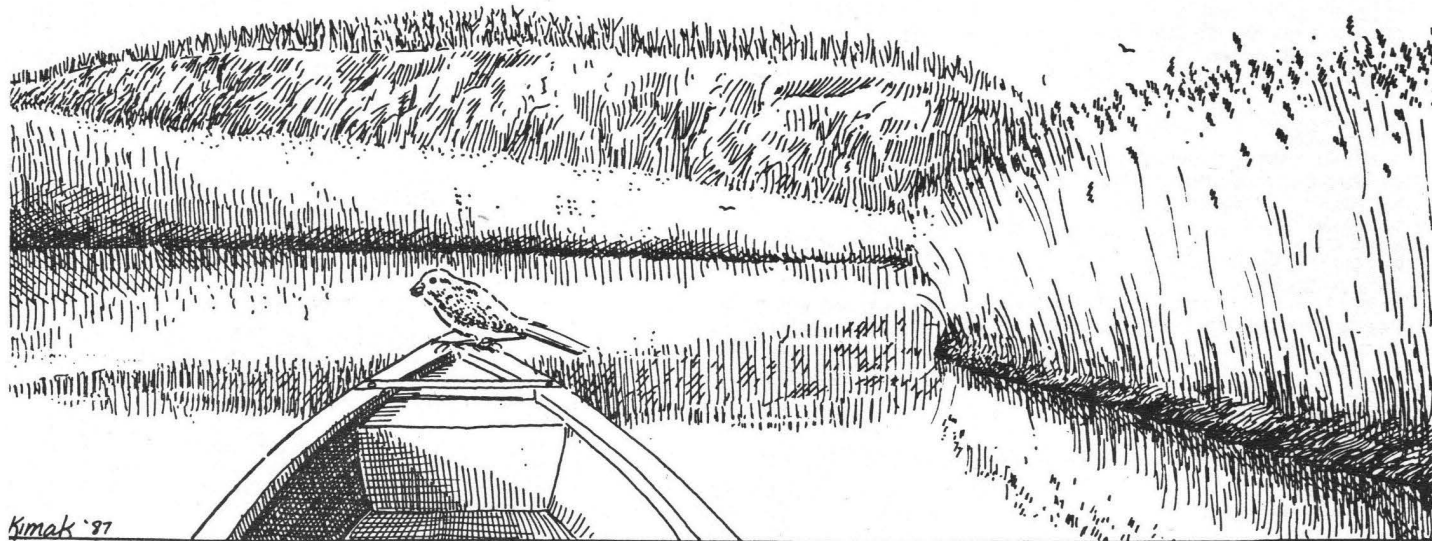
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The Birds of Piermont, 1973



Editor's Note: This report by Anthony F. Amos, a local, dedicated bird watcher, originally appeared in the Piermont Newsletter in 1973. The Newsletter re-published it in 1987 with this charming drawing by James Kimak. Below is an abbreviated text from Amos' article that accompanied his list of bird sightings. Our readers will particularly note that the Cormorant and Bald Eagle are not on the among the birds observed between 1969 and 1973.

How many different species of birds can be found within a mile of Piermont Village Hall? Fifty? One Hundred? The answer, to the best of my knowledge, is at least two hundred and ten. I have been observing local birds since 1965, and in 1969 I started keeping notes on the numbers and distribution of birds I have seen in Piermont. I have confined

my observations to three main locations: Piermont Pier, Tallman Mountain Park, and the Sanctuary on Sparkill Creek, as well as the Hudson River from my house on River Road and the birds that visit my feeder. I think that the list presented here will clearly show the ecological importance of one particular place – the Piermont Pier. At least 155 species have been observed from the Pier.

The Pier remains my favorite place for birding in Piermont. It is always a place of surprises: a Short-eared owl in winter, a Cattle Egret, Grasshopper Sparrow or Snow Bunting during migration, occasional flocks of Water Pipits and Bobolinks; so every time I hear of a scheme to erect high-rise apartments, make it into a recreational park, or channelize the Sparkill Creek, I fear for the future of this unique place.—*Anthony Amos, 1973*

O, Oysters continued from page 5

nitrogen run-off and other human pollutants), and the attendant reduction in oxygen (hypoxia). These conditions cycle in the waters at the end of the pier and are among those monitored at the Field Station. Harry Mumma's expertise is marine water chemistry. He is focusing on reversing acidification and decreasing Co2 in our waterways, making it more hospitable to animals. He works in conjunction with Telesca on his Oyster Project. Together they chronicle oyster responses to the changes in the water collected at the Field Station. Telesca studies how oysters affect the water and how changes in the water affect the oysters. Are they breathing? Gaining weight? Are their shells developing?

Down in New York Harbor, the Billion Oyster Project is in full swing. Oyster shells are collected from restaurants, sanitized, and submerged to create new substrate for juvenile oyster to attach. While the goal of oyster restoration is shared, Telesca's is a more nuanced, scientific approach. He researches the sur-

vivability of oysters, assessing what makes them 'go' or not 'go.'

*The time has come, the Walrus said,
To talk of many things:
Of shoes — and ships —
and sealing-wax —
Of cabbages — and kings —
And why the sea is boiling hot —
And whether pigs have wings.**

As any aficionado of *Through the Looking Glass* knows, the Walrus and the Carpenter then have an oyster feast. Does Telesca eat oysters? Absolutely. Farmed oysters are extremely sustainable. Consuming oysters from the Hudson? Not in our lifetimes. But now, when you google 'Piermont Oyster', scroll beyond the restaurants. You'll find the project which just might change that for future generations. —*Jackie White*

**Lewis Carroll, Through the Looking Glass, 1871*

Birds Observed in Piermont, 1969-1973

by Anthony F. Amos

SPECIES	P	T	S	SPECIES	P	T	S	SPECIES	P	T	S	SPECIES	P	T	S
COMMON LOON	*	-	-	COMMON GALLINULE	*	-	-	BARN SWALLOW	*	-	-	OVEN-BIRD	*	-	-
RED-NECKED GREBE	*	-	-	AMERICAN COOT	*	-	-	CLIFF SWALLOW	*	-	-	NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH	*	-	-
HORNED GREBE	*	-	-	SEMPALMATED PLOVER	*	-	-	PURPLE MARTIN*	*	-	-	LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH	*	-	-
PIED-BILLED GREBE	*	-	-	n KILLDEER	*	-	-	n BLUE JAY	*	-	-	n YELLOW-THROAT	*	-	-
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	*	-	-	BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER	*	-	-	n COMMON CROW	*	-	-	n YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	*	-	-
GREAT BLUE HERON	*	-	-	WILSONS SNIBE	*	-	-	n FISH CROW	*	-	-	n CANADA WARBLE	*	-	-
GREAT EGRET*	*	-	-	SPOTTED SANDPIPER	*	-	-	n BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	*	-	-	n WILSONS WARBLE	*	-	-
SNOWY EGRET	*	-	-	SOITLARY SANDPIPER	*	-	-	n TUFTED TITMOUSE	*	-	-	n AMERICAN REDSTART	*	-	-
CATTLE EGRET**	*	-	-	GREATER YELLOW-LEGS	*	-	-	n WHITE BREASTED NUTHATCH	*	-	-	n HOUSE SPARROW	*	-	-
n GREEN HERON	*	-	-	LESSER YELLOW-LEGS	*	-	-	n RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	*	-	-	n BOBOLINK	*	-	-
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	*	-	-	PECTORAL SANDPIPER	*	-	-	n BROWN CREEPER	*	-	-	n RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	*	-	-
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON*	*	-	-	WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER*	*	-	-	n HOUSE WREN	*	-	-	n ORCHARD ORIOLE	*	-	-
AMERICAN BITTERN	*	-	-	LEAST SANDPIPER	*	-	-	n WINTER WREN	*	-	-	n BALTIMORE ORIOLE	*	-	-
n LEAST BITTERN	*	-	-	DUNLIN*	*	-	-	n CAROLINA WREN	*	-	-	n RUSTY BLACKBIRD	*	-	-
n MUTE SWAN	*	-	-	SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER*	*	-	-	n LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN	*	-	-	n PURPLE GRACKLE	*	-	-
CANADA GOOSE	*	-	-	SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER	*	-	-	n CAROLINA WREN	*	-	-	n BROWN-HEADED COMBIRD	*	-	-
WHISTLING SWAN*	*	-	-	SANDPELING*	*	-	-	n CATBIRD	*	-	-	n SCARLET TANAGER	*	-	-
BRANT	*	-	-	GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL	*	-	-	n BROWN THRASHER	*	-	-	n CARDINAL	*	-	-
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**	*	-	-	HERRING GULL	*	-	-	n ROBIN	*	-	-	n ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK	*	-	-
SNOW GOOSE	*	-	-	RING-BILLED GULL	*	-	-	n WOOD THRUSH	*	-	-	n INDIGO BUNTING	*	-	-
n MALLARD	*	-	-	LAUGHING GULL	*	-	-	n HERMIT THRUSH	*	-	-	n EVENING GROSBREAK	*	-	-
BLACK DUCK	*	-	-	BONAPARTES GULL	*	-	-	n SWAINSONS THRUSH	*	-	-	n PURPLE FINCH	*	-	-
AMERICAN WIDGEON	*	-	-	FORESTERS TERN*	*	-	-	n GREY-CHEEKED THRUSH	*	-	-	n HOUSE FINCH	*	-	-
PIVOTAL	*	-	-	COMMON TERN	*	-	-	n VEERY	*	-	-	n PINE GROSBREAK*	*	-	-
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	*	-	-	n MOUWING DOVE	*	-	-	n BLUE-GREY Gnatcatcher	*	-	-	n COMMON REDPOLI	*	-	-
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	*	-	-	n ROCK DOVE	*	-	-	n GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	*	-	-	n PINE SISKIN	*	-	-
n WOOD DUCK	*	-	-	n YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	*	-	-	n RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	*	-	-	n AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	*	-	-
RING-NECKED DUCK	*	-	-	n BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	*	-	-	n AMERICAN PIPIT	*	-	-	n RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	*	-	-
CANVAS-BACK	*	-	-	n GREAT-HORNED OWL	*	-	-	n CEDAR WAXWING	*	-	-	n SAVANNAH SPARROW	*	-	-
GRATER SCAUP	*	-	-	SHORT-EARED OWL**	*	-	-	n STARLING	*	-	-	n GRASSHOPPER SPARROW*	*	-	-
AMERICAN GOLDENEYE	*	-	-	n COMMON NIGHTHAWK	*	-	-	n WHITE-EYED VIREO	*	-	-	n VESPER SPARROW	*	-	-
BUFFLE-HEAD	*	-	-	n CHIMNEY SWIF	*	-	-	n BLUE-HEADED VIREO	*	-	-	n SLATE-COLORED JUNCO	*	-	-
AMERICAN SCOTER	*	-	-	n RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	*	-	-	n RED-EYED VIREO	*	-	-	n CHIPPING SPARROW	*	-	-
RUDDY DUCK	*	-	-	n BELTED KINGFISHER	*	-	-	n BLACK AND WHITE WARBLE	*	-	-	n FIELD SPARROW	*	-	-
HOODED Merganser	*	-	-	n YELLOW-SHAPED FLICKER	*	-	-	n WORM-EATING WARBLE	*	-	-	n WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	*	-	-
AMERICAN Merganser	*	-	-	n PILEATED WOODPECKER	*	-	-	n ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLE*	*	-	-	n WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	*	-	-
RED-BREASTED Merganser	*	-	-	RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER*	*	-	-	n PARULA WARBLE	*	-	-	n FOX SPARROW	*	-	-
TURKEY VULTURE	*	-	-	n HAIRY WOODPECKER	*	-	-	n YELLOW WARBLE	*	-	-	n SWAMP SPARROW	*	-	-
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	*	-	-	n DOWNEY WOODPECKER	*	-	-	n MAGNOLIA WARBLE*	*	-	-	n SNOW SPARROW	*	-	-
RED-TAILED HAWK	*	-	-	n EASTERN KINGBIRD	*	-	-	n CAPE MAY WARBLE*	*	-	-	n SNOW BUNTING*	*	-	-
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	*	-	-	n GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER	*	-	-	n BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLE	*	-	-				
MARSH HAWK	*	-	-	n EASTERN PHOEBE	*	-	-	n MYRTLE WARBLE	*	-	-				
OSPREY	*	-	-	n YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	*	-	-	n BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLE*	*	-	-				
KESTREL (SPARROW HAWK)	*	-	-	n LEAST FLYCATCHER	*	-	-	n BLACK-THROATED WARBLE	*	-	-				
n RUFFED GROUSE	*	-	-	n EMPIDONAX' FLYCATCHER	*	-	-	n CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLE	*	-	-				
n RING-NECKED PHEASANT	*	-	-	n EASTERN WOOD PEWEE	*	-	-	n BAY-BREASTED WARBLE	*	-	-				
n KING RAIL*	*	-	-	n TREE SWALLOW	*	-	-	n BLACKPOIIL WARBLE	*	-	-				
n CLAPPER RAIL*	*	-	-	n BANK SWALLOW	*	-	-	n PINE WARBLE	*	-	-				
n VIRGINIA RAIL	*	-	-	n ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	*	-	-	n PALM WARBLE	*	-	-				
SORA	*	-	-												

LOCATIONS: P-PIERMONT PIER; T-FALLMAN Mtn. PARK (along river edge)

S-SPARKILL CREEK SANCTUARY; F-FEEDER ON RIVER ROAD

R-RIVER OR RIVER EDGE; RR-RAILROAD TRACKS

n nesting species; *-rare observation; **not mentioned in Deed et. al.



From The Library

Have you been to the Piermont Library lately? We'd love to see you! We are excited to have resumed in-person art exhibitions and receptions after over two years of a Covid induced hiatus. For June, we will feature the dazzlingly colorful paintings of local artist Diana Chelaru. A native of Romania, Chelaru infuses her paintings with the color and intricacy of Byzantine mosaics and the decorative patterning and stylization of Gustav Klimt. July will feature the sophisticated classical realist oils of Palisades artist Kathy Sykes and August will present the subtle tones and iridescent details of Sparkill artist Rose Pizzi. September will bring an energetic group show of talented local artists of the Nyack Art Collective.

Our popular art classes for grades 1 – 12 with Alexis Starke have resumed in person as well. This spring, the students are exploring South America through art. The focus has been on the natural world with an interdisciplinary approach drawing on biology and ecology as we have learned about birds of the rain forest as well as culture, life and dwellings along the Amazon.

Is film your passion? June will see both a Teen Film Festival and the Piermont Film Festival come to the library. On Sunday June 12th, Didi Conn will present the film *Raggedy Ann & Andy: A Musical Adventure*, sure to be a delight

We will celebrate Juneteenth with two special events. On the 16th, we will partner with Sparkill AME Zion Church to offer a special program for kids- Celebrating Juneteenth - Listen, Learn, and Create! Then on June 17th, the whole community is invited to join us as we again partner with Sparkill AME Zion Church for an outdoor Juneteenth Celebration.

Have you been interested in learning Canasta? We have just the program for you- Learn Canasta! with Linda Gottlieb on Friday mornings from 10:30 – 11:30 am. Canasta is a fun and social game and we invite you to give it a try at the library.

For those who prefer to avail of library programs from the comfort of home, we continue to offer virtual programming. Our Janet Mandel illustrated art history talks continue with a two part series in June and July: *The Dreyfus Affair*, *Anti-Semitism*, and *Art in 19th Century Paris*. June will also see the latest in our popular series of Create and Sip events with Alexis Starke which always include a scrumptious box of handmade chocolates from Matisse Chocolatier.

For young children, we remind you that Story Time with Ms. Judy and Ms. Nancy are back and in person with two different times on Mondays- 11:30 in the morning and 2:00 in

the afternoon. For the young child, we also offer our popular Music Together with Catherine Rubin on Friday morning, June 17th. Ms. Nancy has been offering two monthly book clubs for different age groups as well as Calling All Writers Writing Workshops for grades 3 – 6.

Summer at the library means summer reading! Once again this summer we will offer readers of all ages programs and prizes to encourage more reading in the community. Our Summer Reading Kick-off event, *Pirate School: Sea Dreams* will take place on June 15th.

We are continuously getting in new books and other media and can order materials from our extensive library system for you. We have museum passes available for check out to Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Children's Museum of Manhattan, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and Storm King Art Center. You can also book 1:1 tech help with a librarian. — *Alexis Starke*

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Front Line Report

From the Piermont Police:

The village will be installing a stop sign on the south side of Ferdon Avenue at the intersection of Rockland Road. The police department will monitor this temporary installation to see if it creates a safer traffic condition at this location before a permanent sign is installed.

From Police Chief Hurley:

In Rockland County we have seen an increase in vehicle thefts. I would like to make residents aware that police departments continue to receive reports of vehicles being stolen or valuables being stolen from unlocked vehicles. These thefts are occurring at all times of the day and often occur in driveways, streets and parking lots. Some tips to avoid these thefts are:

1. Do not leave keys in your vehicle.
2. Close all windows and lock all doors.
3. Never leave valuables in your vehicle.
4. Park in a well-lit area or inside a garage if possible.
5. Call the police to report a theft.

From the Piermont Department of Public Works:

The Piermont DPW is working to address the serious flooding problems on upper Hudson Terrace at First Street. They have provided water barriers at the curbs while they install catch basins and trench drains to alleviate the flooding coming down First Avenue off of Rte. 9W and the Erie Path onto properties on Hudson Terrace.

Piermonters who would like to participate in **Orangetown's Food Scrap Recycling Program** must use the lined compostable brown bags provided by Orangetown to bag their food scraps for recycling. You can pick up the bags at the Piermont Public Library, Piermont DPW garage, or at the Orangetown Highway Department at 119 Route 303 in Orangeburg, during regular workday hours. Residents drop off their bagged food scraps at the residential drop-off site at 119 Route 303, just beyond the Orangetown Highway Garages at that location. Look for the sign on your left and the large green bins. The Food Scrap Drop-off Site is open Monday – Saturday, 8am-3pm. For more information about the Food Scrap Recycling Program, go to: orangenetown.com>Sustainable Orangetown

From the Piermont Fire Department:

This Spring the department undertook the renovation of the old boxing room at the Piermont Community Center, turning it into a new gym for young First Responders and the PAL Boxing League.

The Fire Department is planning a special memorial service this summer to honor Piermont firefighter Thomas Pomplin, the first firefighter in the county to die in the line of service, back in 1854. The time and place of the service will be announced soon.

The Empire Hose Company #1 elected its first female president in their 171 year history. Congratulations to President Santina Peralta Stevenson.

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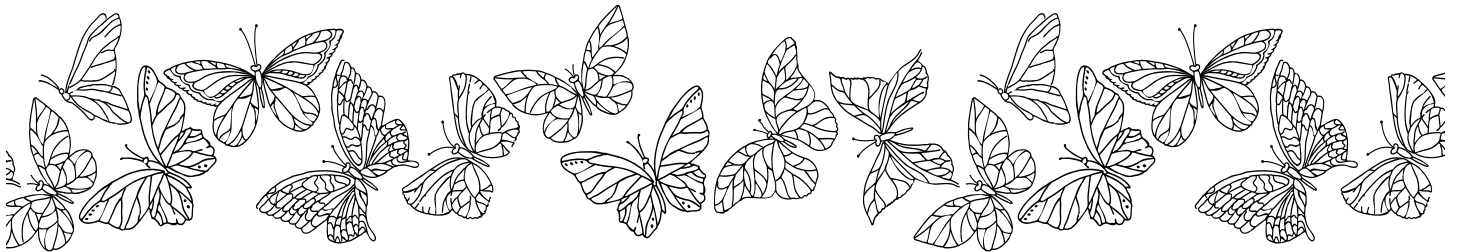
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Hello Bunny! The annual PCA Easter event at Flywheel Park



Photos by Betsey Franco Feeney



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Piermont Rowing Club continued from page 9

working with the waves and not against, to avoid tipping the scull, which is very light and very low to the water. Precise, powerful strokes, not aggressive, very organic motion, matching cadence to the river. Feet, legs arms. All muscles top to bottom are working. When executed correctly the dance is meditative, mind and body engaged, and strenuous. The more you are at one with the river, the faster you go. *Yes! I get it. Nature and teamwork!*

Don't forget the special sauce, he says. Comradery. We truly enjoy each other's company. The club holds social events throughout the year, both on and off the water. Long rows, picnics, races, pot-luck feasts. And they are a working club, as well. The member-volunteers maintain the boats, keep the adjoining park clean, and coach new members.

But above all else, the primary concern is safety. Which brings us back to those 5a.m. calls. The magic number members are gunning for is 100. The water and air temperatures must combine to at least 100 for Akesson to give the okay to launch.

Finally, I ask Pascal to summarize the rowing experience in one word. Fantastic, he says, without missing a beat. Simply fantastic.

I think I get it now.—*Jackie White*

For more information, visit: www.piermontrowing.org

For a short film about rowing with PRC: <https://vimeo.com/274808450>

Let's Meet at the Community Center this Summer!

Activities at the Piermont Community Center

The following activities are current.

- Children's Art and Playtime Group – Monday, 5pm – 6pm
- Boxing - PAL and Metro/US Tuesday/Thursday, 6pm - 8pm
- Chess Club – Saturdays, 10am - 1pm
- Pickle Ball (Intermediate, Men and Women) - Wednesday, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- Dance (Salsa) – Tuesday, 6:30pm - 7:30pm
- Pickle Ball lessons - Tuesday/Thursday, 11am - 12:30pm
- Men's Pickle Ball - Tuesday/Thursday, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- Aikido – Wednesday, 10am - 12noon
- Boxing Workout – Thursday, 7pm - 8pm
- Introduction Wing Chun & Jeet Kune Do concepts – Tuesday, 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Piermont Community Center summer activities starting July 2022

- Children's Art and Playtime Group – Monday, 5pm – 6pm
- Boxing - PAL and Metro/US Tuesday/Thursday 6pm - 8pm
- Chess Club - Saturdays 10am - 1pm
- Pickle Ball (Intermediate, Men and Women) - Wednesday 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- Pickle Ball lessons - Tuesday/Thursday 11am - 12:30pm
- Men's Pickle Ball - Tuesday/Thursday 6:30pm - 8:30pm

- Aikido - Wednesday - 10am - 12noon
- Boxing Workout Adults - Thursday 7pm - 8pm (Starts May 26, 2022)
- Introduction Wing Chun & Jeet Kune Do concepts- Tuesday (7:30pm -8:30pm)

And look for:

Rockland Rock Band (July 18th - 23rd) Monday - Friday (Start time will be posted on Facebook and website June 1st). Donations of Instruments (Drums, keyboard) and audio equipment (headphones, mics, mixing board) are needed.

Changes and additional programs may be added – stay current by checking the Piermont PAL website: [website www.piermont-ny.gov>departments>pal](http://www.piermont-ny.gov/departments/pal).

The Police Athletic League (PAL) was established over 100 years ago by the New York City Police Department as a crime prevention and community outreach program. Over the years it has evolved into a vibrant organization that oversees recreation and sports programs for children and youth in many New York communities under the auspices of local Police Departments. For decades, Piermont's PAL has sponsored sports programs and field trips, homework assistance and tutoring, and open gym time for the children and teens of Piermont at the Community Center 204 Hudson Terrace. The Police Athletic League Director at the Community Center is Tahlaad J Mahboeb. He Can be reached at 845 359-1258 ext. 6 or through their website [www.piermont-ny.gov>departments>pal](http://www.piermont-ny.gov/departments/pal).



Piermont Community Center, 204 Hudson Terrace – Staff photo



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The Piermont Civic Association's 2022

Bob Samuels Summer Concert Series

Flywheel Park • Admission is Free • Music Starts at 7pm

June 16	June 30	July 14	July 28	August 11
Rain Dates June 23	July 7	July 21	August 4	August 18

Summer evenings of music in Flywheel Park return on June 16th!

Gather your friends and family, pack a picnic, a blanket and your dancing shoes!

The 2022 Piermont Civic Association's Bob Samuels Summer Concert Series Presents:

- June 16** **Old #7 Band, rain date June 23rd**
- June 30** **Jeb Jones, rain date July 7**
- July 14** **The Deep Dig, rain date July 21**
- July 28** **Particle Theory, rain date August 4**
- August 11** **Wig Jam, rain date August 18**

Please note that concert cancellations due to rain will be posted on Piermont Civic Association FB page and nextdoor.com by 6pm on the date of concerts.



Support the PCA

The Piermont Civic Association's Piermont Newsletter, Summer Concerts in Flywheel Park and many other community events are made possible by a group of dedicated volunteers and contributions to the PCA by Piermonters like you. We ask for your continued financial support. Please contribute \$25., \$50., or more toward our efforts. You can donate online at <https://piermontcivic-association.snwbll.com/giving-portal>