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A Comprehensive Plan for Piermont

"There are dreamers and there are planners; the planners make their dreams come true." —Edwin Louis Cole

our readers can attest, Piermont is a uniquely blessed place to live and visit. To ensure this jewel on the Hudson that we call home remains vibrant and resilient, The Village of Piermont is undertaking the creation of a Comprehensive Village Plan . This critical initiative will shape our Village's future.

The NYS Division of Local Government Services defines a Comprehensive Plan as: "... the culmination of a planning process that establishes the offi-



The Yonkers Military Band—a Piermont tradition on Memorial Day. Story on Page 2. —Photo (detail) by Nicola Taylor.

cial land use policy of a community and presents goals and a vision for the future that guides official decision-making. The comprehensive plan invariably includes a thorough analysis of current data showing land development trends and issues, community resources, and public needs for transportation, recreation, and housing."

This project builds on previous efforts, begun in 2014 by the Piermont Waterfront Resiliency Task Force. It is funded by multiple grants from the Department of State, Department of Environmental Conservation, and FEMA. Leadership in Piermont is uniquely proactive in its planning and initiative, as most monies of this type are targeted at county governments. Piermont is the first municipality to receive such funding from FEMA directly.

The plan has a 5-to-10-year time horizon, but its recommendations will be grounded in a 50 to 100-year view of the Village's overall environment. This holistic approach will consider climate change, sea level rise, land use, growth, infrastructure development, community services, housing affordability, transportation, parking, and other elements. The plan will look to maintain a functioning community in the face of sea level rise, increasing severity of storms, and other ele-

ments of climate change. Also at center is the village economy, which includes our business district and marinas. affordable Making housing available, especially for our EMS and Fire Department first responders, is another key element. As Piermont derives its operating funding primarily from property taxes, the plan will consider how it maintains its tax base.

Whether you are a Piermont resident or business owner, on the river or up in the hills, there are important climate change factors to consider over this

extended timeline. Sea level rise projections average out to 16.8 inches by 2050 and 53.3 inches by 2100. And, we have seen how our infrastructure has been tested by the increasing amounts of rainfall during storms like Ida.

The goal is to have a plan that outlines a vision for the village with multiple recommendations that can guide zoning amendments and the implementation of land use policy. It will also create a foundation upon which future village leaders can use to guide decision making and assist in grant funding applications.

This plan is being driven by a Steering

continued on p.9

The Piermont Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee will hold public meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each Month at 10am at Village Hall. Next Meeting is June 27.

Piermont Reflections-



The Yonkers Military Band

For 29 years Piermont's Memorial Day Parade has been led by The Yonkers Military Band. Piermonters, hearing the distant brass of a Military march, the boom of the drum,know our Memorial Day Celebration is underway!

Frank Cardone, baritone horn musician and band leader since 1990, says that the band plays each of the five Armed Service themes, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard, as they march down Piermont's Main Street to the service at Veterans Memorial Park. Then they switch to favorite John Phillip Sousa marches – The Liberty Bell and Rifle Regiment as our Veterans, Gold Star Families, Officials and First Responders join Piermont families gathered to honor those we have lost.

The band's participation in our services was funded by the Piermont VFW in years gone by, but for the past three years, the band has been brought to our village courtesy of the Piermont Fire Department and the Piermont Sons and Daughters of Italy.



Gathering on Memorial Day 2023. —Staff photo

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This issue of *The Piermont Newsletter*, and many past issues, can be found online at http://www.piermont-ny.com/newsletter/ Thanks to website manager John McAvoy.

HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY TO PIERMONT'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA LOGGIA GIOVANNI DA VERRAZANO #1236



Piermont's Chapter of the Sons and Daugthers of Italy in America was founded on July 23, 1923. The National organization was established in 1905 in New York City's "Little Italy" neighborhood. It was created as a support system for Italian immigrants, to help them on the road to citizenship and assimilation into the United States. Guiseppe Stillo, a Piermont lodge member for 48 years, recalls meetings at the Sons of Italy's building at 455 Piermont Avenue-many older Piermonters will remember the "Sons of Italy Social Club" lettering on the building's facade. The building was sold, then demolished for new construction. The organizations' 26 members now meet twice a month at the Piermont Reform Church on Ferdon Avenue. Piermont's Lodge built and donated to the Village the bocce courts at the Goswick Pavilion. The proceeds from the sale of their building have, over the years, provided funding for a scholarship program at Tappan Zee High School, awarded to encourage the study of the Italian language. This year the organization awarded 14 scholarships to students. And, as they have for the past 3 years, Piermont's Loggia Giovanni du Verrazzano #1236 helped fund the cost of having the marvelous Yonkers Military Band play for our 2023 Memorial Day Celebration. Piermont is a grateful community.

Happy 100th Anniversary!- Margaret Grace



Piermont Underwater Rescue Team Celebrates 67 Years

Seven men, led by Phil (Fuzzy) DeLorenzo, Thomas (Bud) Sedlack, and Frank (Maxi) McDonald formed what is now NYS's oldest Underwater Rescue Team. You may think drownings, suicide attempts, distressed boaters. It is that but so much more.

Saying diving in the Hudson is not for the claustrophobic is like saying skydiving is not for those terrified of heights. Because in the Hudson, black water diving, where you can't even see your hand resting on



Piermont Underwater Rescue Team—Patrick Krummack at the bow. —Photo by Candace Goswick

your mask, is the only kind of diving there is. Each diver is attached by rope to their own tender–a person on the surface who tugs the rope with instructions. The diver uses a repetitive sweeping hand motion to feel the bottom for evidence, bodies, or anything else. Scott Silva emphasizes how easy it is to get turned around, up, down, or sideways. Abandoned fishing nets, hooks, logs, and assorted garbage, pose constant danger. In the blackness, things can instantly go wrong. "Your air hose can get hooked on something and pulled off, your mask can get yanked across your face," Silva explains. "You must keep calm, fix the problem, or abort." He has even been gut punched by what he believes was a large bass.

There are innumerable stories of wicked storms, whipping winds, seven-foot waves, surging currents. Boats break free, they must be checked for people. "We find an abandoned boat with woman's purse?" says Silva. "We need to dive in the immediate area."

Mark Blomquist tells of a situation when a police suspect ended up in the river. Blomquist was told the individual was armed. If he starts shooting, this is what you do ... "That," says Blomquist, "was my most frightening moment."

One winter night the captain of a tugboat pushing a barge suffered a heart attack. Blomquist remembers pouring rain and frigid winds. During the entire call, the tugboat never stopped. Blomquist watched in horror as Daniel Goswick, Sr. (Senior), crab-walked his way across cargo netting hanging off the back of the tugboat to board and render aid.

When the old bridge was standing, the Dive Team was called approximately

six times a month for suicides. Since the new span was built, there have been four. "We want to get out there quick, but mostly it's not a rescue. It's about closure," Silva emphasizes.

But not always. On the morning of December 7, 2020, Patrick Krummack was working at the highway department when a jumper call came in. The team sped towards mid-span. Aviation and marine units were already searching the north side of the bridge, where she jumped. Senior, however, noted the tide was pushing towards the City and instructed his team to look on the south side. Patrick soon spotted her head and immediately entered the water. Miraculously, the victim was still alive. Paralyzed with pain and cold, she let out a long, agonizing wail none of the men will ever forget. Patrick and Timothy Piesco transported her to the boat. In Nyack, the victim was loaded into an ambulance. The team returned to Piermont. Eventually Patrick headed back to work, his neon highway department cap still in place from the time he was dispatched. —Iackie White





How to Grow a Resilient Garden in Our Coastal Village

iermont presents challenges for gardeners - we have both waterfront and hillsides. Heavy rains bring torrents of fresh water from above. and tides send brackish water onto our properties. Choosing plants that cannot survive in this environment will only lead to costly replacement. So, before you start, do your research – pick plants that thrive in the specific conditions of your site and be sure to visualize how big they will be when fully mature. Consult the websites of NYS DEC, Bronx Botanical Gardens, NYC Parks Greenbelt Native Plant Center, and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), bearing in mind that, according to the 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone map, Piermont is Zone 7a. You can also call or email Rockland CCE – they will be happy to give you expert advice.

Whether you are on the hillside or in

the flood plain, look for plants with extensive root systems that will anchor the soil and minimize erosion. If you have a depression that holds water after storms, go for a rain garden – you can find a great example of this next to the Piermont Library. If you are near the shore, choose salt tolerant plants that can withstand wind and brackish flooding. As it happens, the Village is in the process of planting trees, shrubs, and perennials on the Piermont Pier; the list of plants for this project can be found on the Village website - some may be appropriate for your site, and others may need more space. An excellent choice would be Serviceberry or Shadblow (a/k/a Amelancher), which has an important place in our history. In earlier times, the plant's white flowers blooming in the spring indicated that the shad were making their annual run up the Hudson to spawn and that the ground was sufficiently thawed for horse-drawn carriages to take people to church again - hence the names "Serviceberry" and "Shadblow."



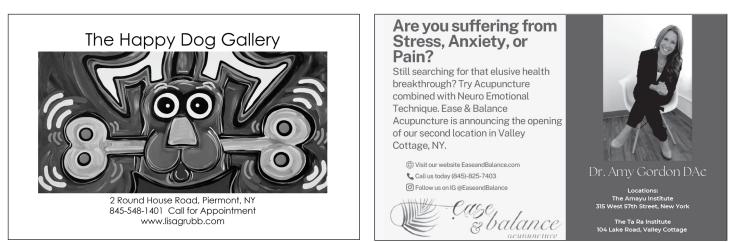
Swallowtail butterfly on Liatris Blazing Star. —Photo by Thomas Hughes

If your property borders the Sparkill or the Hudson, consider starting a garden at the water's edge with salt meadow cordgrass just above the high tide mark. This plant was the "salt hay" that early residents of Bogertown harvested to feed cattle. It grows well along the fresh water areas of the Sparkill; add a row every spring and you'll have a beautiful filter for runoff sediment and a buffer against storm surges. NYS DEC is adding smooth cordgrass in the intertidal wetlands of the Marsh both as wildlife habitat and storm surge buffer. Soft rush and broadleaf cattails will also clean fresh water and have even been used in small sewage treatment facilities. Common three-square and narrowleaf cattail will thrive alongside brackish water. Marsh fern and blue flag iris are also beautiful in wet areas. If you walk along Paradise

Ave., you'll see rosemallow and seaside goldenrod thriving at the Marsh's edge. Or step away from the water's edge and plant some swamp milkweed and NY ironweed to help the Monarch butterflies survive. A little farther from the water, dense blazing star will reseed readily and provide a haven for swallowtail butterflies

Purchasing native plants is becoming easier. I've found them at Arbor Hill in Sparkill, Van Houten in Pearl River, and Rohsler's in Allendale, and have ordered some from Pinelands Direct in NJ. The NYS DEC offers plant "buffers in a bag" free of charge for those with appropriate sites on a firstcome basis.

Everyone has a unique vision for their garden. Follow your vision, but remember to plant for the conditions of the site, and your vision will blossom. Start small – one tree, one perennial. Then watch your garden grow and become a wildlife sanctuary. *—Thomas Hughes*



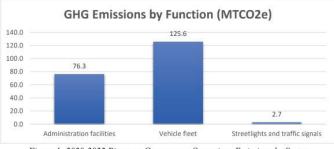
What's Piermont's MTCO2e?

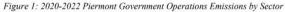
To begin with, what is MTCO2e? It stands for metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent and is the unit of measurement used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to measure pollution from Greenhouse Gas. "CO2e" represents an amount of a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) whose atmospheric impact has been standardized to that of one unit mass of carbon dioxide (CO2), based on the global warming potential (GWP) of the gas.

Trustee Nathan Mitchell, Chairman of Piermont's Waterfront Resiliency Commission, explains the context for quantifying MTCO2e data in a Piermont GHG Inventory Summary Report he prepared in 2023, as follows.

In 2018, The Village of Piermont, to demonstrate its commitment to addressing the growing threat of climate change, became a registered NY State Climate Smart Community (CSC). This program, administered by NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) provided the Village with a framework to identify its MTCO2e. The village then collected data and using the years 2020-2022 as a baseline (illustrated here) determined that GHG emissions from Piermont's government operations during that period were 204.5116 CO2e.

What's not included are emissions from contracted services, but facilities and vehicle fleet emissions are the most essential components of this analysis, with vehicle emissions producing 61% and facilities 37% of emissions. As Nathan explained, vehicles and facilities are also the most

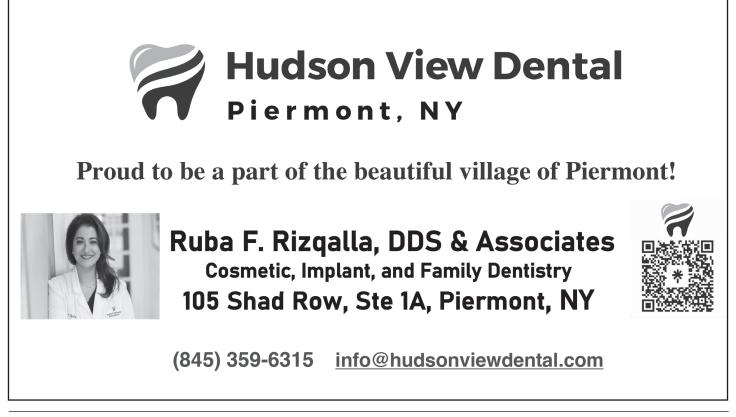




easily affected by local policy making, and it is policy making by the village government that will lead to continued reduction of Piermont's GHG.

Piermont, over the past two years, had already lowered the Village's GHG impacts by changing over to LED street and facilities lighting and replacing ineffective air conditioning units. Trustee Mitchell added that the village is exploring solar panels and electrification of vehicle fleets, but the costs and return on investment figures have been challenging.

The next steps for the Village government are to set up an emissions target, using the data gathered, in 2020-2022, and make a "Climate Action Plan for Government Operations" with strategies to meet that target, then track progress by conducting a new MTCO2e, in about 5 years.—*Margaret Grace*





From The Library

There is a lot coming up at Piermont Library! Full information and registration for all programs and events are found easily on our library website events calendar at piermontlibrary.org.

On display now until July is our (First since Covid!) Annual Student Art Exhibition: Inspirations from Ireland! Our students in grades 1 - 12 in Alexis Starke's library art classes have been working on projects inspired by a rich variety of Irish visual art. Come join in the excitement as our wonderful students share their artwork with the community!

Our popular art exhibition program continues into the summer with Piermont residents Dani ta Harold in July and Jorli Pena in August. Opening receptions are held each month and all are welcome to come and enjoy the art and socialize with old and new friends and neighbors! This is a great way to support the arts locally and find original works of art for your own home or for gift-giving.

Sunday June 11th brings the Piermont Film Festival to the library with two screenings- Stuart Udall and the Politics of Beauty and Through the Looking Glass by Michael Patrick Davidson. Next on June 13th, it's an art history Zoom titled Exciting Discoveries in Art History. This lecture explores the stories of ten different important and valuable works of art that had been rediscovered in unexpected places. The library will host a Juneteenth celebration on Friday June 16th. All are welcome.

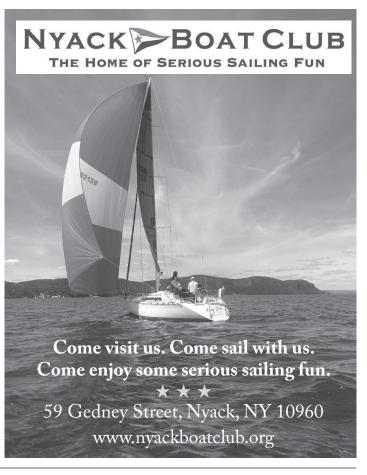
Weekly programs for June will include story time with Ms. Nancy; Art Classes for grades 1-3, 4-6, and 6-12 with Alexis Starke; Friday movie matinees; and mahjong lessons.

Of course, summer at the library means Summer Reading and Ms. Nancy will be hosting summer reading club Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30 – 6:30 with crafts and small prizes for reading- a great way to keep kids excited about reading throughout the summer! To kickoff the summer reading season, the Mighty Five Libraries of South Orangetown will host Two by Two Animal Haven. This is a traveling animal program whose purpose is to educate the public about animals, their welfare and conservation. Summer reading programs will also include a Teen Trivia Night; an interactive performance Saving the Earth Together; our Annual Summer Reading Club Field Day; and Summer Reading Finale Party. Adults will not be left out of the summer reading fun either- for each book read this summer, you earn one entry into our weekly raffle! In July and August, Alexis Starke will offer a series of Summer Art Classes for kids on Mondays for grades 1- 3, Tuesdays for grades 6 – 12, and Wednesdays for grades 4 – 6. Each week the students will explore different materials and techniques to enhance their creativity and problem solving skills and increase their artistic abilities. A great way to relax and have some creative time at the end of the day! We will enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings of Piermont on our artistic adventures.

We will present a fun range of virtual programs for adults this summer- Mario Medici is back with 1620 Plymouth, Massachsetts: Where the Pilgrims Landed and the enticingly titled From Queen Victoria to the Modern Royals: A History of Royal Weddings.

Our Adult Book Club is always looking for new membersthis is a great way to discover excellent new titles and have brilliant discussions with an enthusiastic and welcoming group of book lovers.

See you at the library! — *Alexis Starke*



Meet Your Neighbor – Michaela Duggan

Given all the other things she does outside of finishing up high school and planning for college, Michaela Duggan manages to find time to indulge in one of the nicest gestures imaginable. She writes friendly postcards to her friends, which she then hands to them. Imagine getting up in the morning and knowing you might get handed a friendly postcard.

Michaela has lived in Piermont for her entire 18 years, her mother, Marian Armstrong, having discovered the village and purchased a unit in Lawrence Park even before her future husband, Richard Duggan, joined her from Bucks County, PA. Her mother is the author of a popular "local author" novel Musings of a Mystery Sibling. And since her mother's parents, Gabriel and Mary Armstrong, subsequently joined them here there are now three generations of the family in the village plus an aunt who lives nearby in Tappan.

Michaela will graduate from Tappan Zee High School this spring with some regrets that so much of her Freshman and Sophomore life was upended by COVID. Although she makes clear that travel--especially to Spanish-speaking countries since she has studied the language-for years--is high on her agenda, she will be attending at least a year of college first, at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Michaela's departure will leave holes in an astonishing num-

ber of places--in a number of clubs to begin with and in the English Honor Society where she is co-president and helps plan their annual night of musical and literary performance. She also works as a trained docent at the Hopper House--they are called Nighthawks, by the way, after the title of one of Hopper's best-



Michaela Duggan-Staff Photo

known paintings. There, among other activities, she volunteers for Jazz Nights in the Garden. She also puts in hours at the desk in the library and helps in some of Alexis Starke's art classes. Fortunately, she doesn't have to leave behind her long-time love for writing poetry and for solving puzzles--of all kinds. She does Wordle every day (regularly earning 3's for those familiar with the game) but her favorites are jigsaw puzzles and Sudoku.

And her life plans? She wants to do something useful, the Peace Corps, or perhaps work with Doctors Without Borders. Meanwhile, she's enjoying her last months in Piermont,

including shopping the farmers' market every Sunday, so ask around and you might meet her before she goes.-*Joan Gussow*

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Source: OneKey MLS Solds/Pendings in 2022 for Zip Code 10968.





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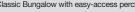


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Handy? A perfect fixer-upper!

View these marvelous houses in full color online at www.piermont-ny.com/newsletter/

Lots of storad

-Marthe Schulwolf

Comprehensive Plan continued from page 1

Committee comprised of 12 volunteers and takes in a wide range of perspectives, including planning and zoning, business community, historical, and climate experts. The Village has selected the planning firm Nelson Pope Voorhis (NVP) to facilitate the process. As there are many disparate opinions on how to properly plan for Piermont's future, this is not an easy task. "There are different voices on the committee, and they will need to sift through the public input and come up with a consensus." states Max Stach, one of the NPV planning consultants.

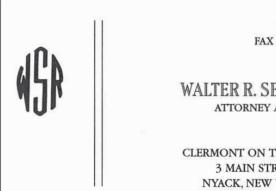
This committee kicked off an 18-month long process in March. As the committee meets and drafts aspects of the plan, there will be workshops for residents to provide input. "Participation by the residents and stakeholders at these public sessions is key" states Village Trustee and Steering Committee Chair Nate Mitchell. "People need to show up. We need involvement if this is to be a plan that is representative of the voice of the entire community".

The first Public Workshop will be held Tuesday, June 27th. This will be a "visioning session" and will set the stage for all the remaining work to be done. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this very important session. This is difficult work, and the final plan will only be as representative as the opinions that are provided. So come on Piermont, it's time to show up, get involved, and let your voice be heard. Our future might depend on it.

"If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up somewhere else" – Yogi Berra – Steve Kulovits

Editor's note:

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee: Mayor Bruce Tucker - Village Board, Trustee Nate Mitchell - Village Board, Chris Sanders – Former Mayor, Daniel Spitzer – Planning Board, Klaus Jacob – Piermont Waterfront Resillency Committee, Usha Wright - Zoning Board of Appeals, Paul Kadin - Traffic Committee, Kate Buggeln – Chamber of Commerce, Rod Johnson – Piermont Waterfront Resiliency Committee, Barbara Scheulen - Piermont Historical Society, Sylvia Welch – Grant Writer, Lino Sciaretta – Village Attorney – Dan Sherman Landscape Architect, Chair of Piermont Parks Commission



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The Front Line

From Police Chief Hurley:

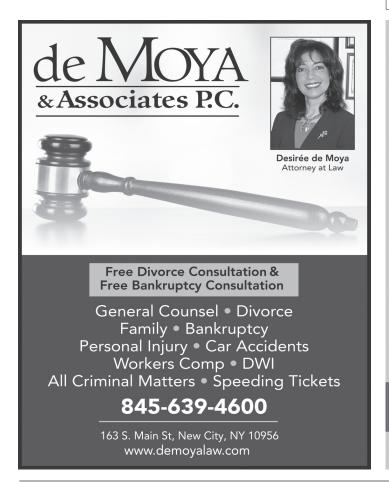
With the summer approaching the Piermont Police Department would like to provide vacation tips:

- 1. If you are going out of town, you can notify the Police Department and officers will check your residence while you are away.
- 2. Make sure your home is locked up and secure.
- 3. Stop your mail or have family/friends retrieve it for you.
- 4. Set a light on a timer inside of your home.
- 5. Use exterior motion sensor lighting to aid in deterring crime.
- 6. Keep valuables away from public view through a window. Place valuables in a safe if possible.
- 7. Do not post your vacation plans on social media.

From Tom Temple, Superintendent of Public Works

The Village's bulk collection will run bi-weekly until October 11th. We ask that all items be placed curbside for pickup in a neat and orderly fashion. We also would ask that residents be sensitive to the timing of when they put out their items for collection as it affects the appearance of our Village. Items should not be placed curbside until the weekend before the scheduled pick up date.

The DPW cannot accept any type of household hazardous waste (chemicals, paints, batteries, etc.) which includes all Electronic Waste (e-waste). For the full list of the types of electron-



ics covered by this law you can go to http://www.dec.ny.gov/ chemical/66872.html. All the listed items on this site are accepted at the Rockland County Household Hazardous Waste facility in Pomona. The Waste facilities drop off dates and hours of operation can be found on www.rocklandrecycles.com

From the Piermont Fire Department:

The department will be welcoming a new group of EMTs that have taken the required training and join the Department this summer. Congratulations to the graduates – your commitment is essential to the health and safety of our Community.

Fire Chief Larry Cabrera reports that so far in 2023, the Department has responded to 95 EMT calls and 58 Fire and Rescue calls.

Lisa Dente Vice President Commercial Branch Manager

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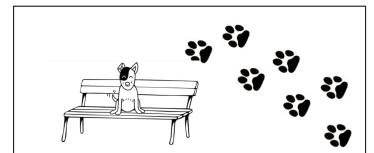
Independent K-8 School in West Nyack, NY www.bluerockschool.org

Hello Bunny! The PCA's Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Dani the Easter Bunny welcomed children of all ages to the Piermont Civic Association's Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Flywheel Park — Photos by Jack Miller





Join the **Piermont Community** Dog Run!

Membership open to all but registration required.

Separate areas for large and small dogs .

Located off Ferry Road after the ball field on the way to the Piermont Pier.

Natural, non-toxic cedar sprayed for tick prevention.

Support welcomed to help us maintain the dog run.

www.piermontdogpark.com

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Walking with my neighbors to defend democracy on the Piermont Pier (Event was hosted by Women Together For Rockland on 10/10/22

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June 11 June 25 July 9 July 23 August 6 August 20 September 3 September 17 October 1 October 15 October 29 December 9 - Holiday Boutique & Gathering

Find out what's new! It's Fun and it's Free!

www.piermonthistoricalsociety.org

This Summer Schedule Family Fun at the Piermont Community Center!

PAL Director Tahlaad Mahoeb will be there until 10 pm most week-day evenings. Piermontpal.org. 845 359-1258x6

SUN	9:30 am Pickleball Intermediate	
	10:30 am	PAL Aikido
	12:30 pm	Open Gym
	3 pm	PAL/RCTA Adaptive Tennis
MON	3:30 pm	Pickleball Intermediate
	5 pm	Children's Pickleball Lessons
	6:30 pm	Pickleball Advanced
	8 pm	Pickleball Village Employees
TUE	5 pm	Pickleball Open
	6 pm	PAL Boxing
	6:30 pm	Pickleball Intermediate
WED	6:30 pm	Pickleball Intermediate
	5 pm	PAL/RCTA
	6 pm	PA Aikido
THU	9:30 am	Pickleball Lessons
	5 pm	Children's Open Gym
	6 pm	PAL Boxing
	6:30 pm	Pickleball Advanced
FRI.	1:30 pm	PAL Chess Club
	5 pm	PAL/RCTA
SAT.	9:30 am	Pickleball Advanced
	10 am	PAL Chess Club
	12:30pm	Open Gym



restaurant & union arts center

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Summer evenings of music in Flywheel Park return on June 15th!

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

The 2023 Piermont Civic Association's Bob Samuels Summer Concert Series Presents:

June 15	Old #7 Band, rain date June 22
June 29	Jeb Jones, rain date July 6
July 13	WigJam, rain date July 20
July 27	Adam Falcon, rain date August 3
August 10	Particle Theory, rain date August 17

Please note that concert cancellations due to rain will be posted on Piermont Civic Association Facebook page 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