

The Piermont Newsletter

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WINTER 2022

Piermont Takes a Position on The Marijuana Regulation and Tax Act

“What a long, strange trip it’s been” ...The Grateful Dead

Yes, it has been a long, strange trip. A journey through marijuana’s history has taken us through the hysteria of Reefer Madness in the 1930s, 40s and 50s, to the counter culture embracing getting high during the 60s, head shops in the 70’s, and the War on Drugs initiated by President Richard Nixon that is still being waged today. And now, a new stop on the trip has recently been added.

The Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA) was signed into law in New York State on March 31, 2021. This law legalizes the adult use of cannabis (marijuana) in New York State. An important word here is “adult” as you must be at least 21 years of age to consume it. The legislation created a new Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) governed by a Cannabis Control Board. When assembled, this entity will comprehensively regulate adult use, medical and hemp cannabis.

As a community, Piermont had an important decision to make regarding this law. Within the MRTA, all NY municipalities (cities, towns, and villages) are included in the licensing for retail operation of marijuana dispensaries and on-site consumption lounges. However, the MRTA allows New York State municipalities to take the action of opting out, excluding their jurisdiction from dispensary and/or lounge licensing and operation. To be clear, a municipality cannot prohibit the legalization of marijuana, in general of-age residents can still possess and consume within the municipality. Yet the municipality can prohibit the opening and operation of cannabis dispensaries and/

or consumption lounges by opting out of participating in their local licensing. But here is the rub. In order to benefit from the tax revenues generated from the sale of cannabis across the whole of New York State, the municipality cannot opt out.

There is a lot of money at stake in a

saries and/or lounges, they cannot opt out later.

So, what would dispensaries and lounges look like in a local municipality? It depends in part on how village local zoning and business operation codes are applied. Municipalities that allow dispensaries and /or consumption lounges can use zoning laws and other reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions to regulate their operations.

At the November 16th Piermont Village Board of Trustees meeting, Mayor Tucker stated that he would want Piermont to take the action of opting out of licensing consumption lounges. He does, however, favor dispensaries to be licensed in the village, which would require no village action. The rest of the Board was supportive of the mayor’s stance.

There was a public hearing on this issue for residents to voice their opinions on December 7th. At that meeting, one resident spoke in favor of dispensaries, and no one spoke against dispensaries. The Board of Trustees (BOT) adopted a new chapter 80 of the village code, after deciding to “opt-out” of on-site consumption sites, meaning they would be prohibited from opening and operating in the village. The village will remain included for licensing of retail dispensaries. One Piermont business, Flower Power, has indicated an interest in licensing as a dispensary. More work needs to be done as the State continues to develop the OCM and Cannabis Control Board and the village continues to review local zoning and business operation codes.—*Steve Kulovits*



“Holiday Season in Piermont” Photo by Betsy Franco Feeney

municipality’s decision to opt out. The MRTA established a sales tax rate of 13% on cannabis products. Of the 13%, 9% will go the state to fund education, community grants and drug programs, and 4% will go to local governments. Of the 4% going to local governments, 75% will go to municipalities based on the adult use sales in their jurisdiction. The county will get 25% of the 4%. This means that \$200,000 in cannabis sales in Piermont would bring the village \$6,045.

Municipalities had until December 31, 2021, to declare their intention to opt out of local participation. If a municipality chose to opt out, they can opt in at a later date. But once a municipality has permitted the licensing of dispen-

Piermont Reflections— Our Ship (Almost) Comes In



This past fall, American Cruise Lines approached the village to inquire about dockage at the end of the Piermont Pier during the height of their Fall Foliage cruises up the Hudson. The Village Board, supported by the Piermont merchants, and a few people in the audience, like myself, agreed with the concept, and the board gave a tentative nod to the idea, with the caveat that the engineering firm who did a structural study of the end of the Pier in 2019 for a different proposal, weigh in on the suitability for that size vessel to tie up there. The answer was a certain “No” from the engineers, and consequently a “No” from the Village Board. Meanwhile, on Social Media, some residents expressed concern about possible tourist-driven chaos arriving in Piermont by boat.

What happened next was interesting. For several weeks in October, Piermonters saw American Cruise Lines’ river-sized cruise ships (each carrying 100 - 175 or so passengers) anchored off of Piermont, just outside of the shipping channel.

American Cruise Lines would each day lower a transport boat, or launch, full of passengers, into the river from its stern. The launch would then motor those tourists, about 50 at a time, over to Tappan Zee Marina on Piermont Avenue, where they would walk up a gangplank and board a waiting Leprechaun bus that took them across to Westchester! Either a tour and lunch at Lyndhurst, or a trip to Sleepy Hollow awaited them. Now I ask myself – how great would it have been, and how lucky for them, if they were shuttled (many of the guests were older) into Piermont, and offered an opportunity to do some mid-week dining and shopping, or stroll out onto the Pier, or take the Piermont Historical Society’s historic walking tour?

Piermont’s businesses clearly need more low-impact visitors, especially mid-week. There are nine months till our next leaf-peeping season. Piermont merchants – there may still be an opportunity here.—*Margaret Grace*



American Cruise Lines off Piermont. 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 Richie Stark.

Calling Piermont Writers!

The Piermont Newsletter staff is looking for volunteer writers for our Summer and Fall 2022 issues. We have lots of reporting to do, and you may have a great story to tell. Please contact Margaret Grace if you would like to join our Newsletter team!
margaretnrod@gmail.com

Meet your Neighbor... Jimmy the Mailman

Jimmy Walsh never even heard of Piermont until he was an adult.

"I grew up in Congers but it wasn't until I saw the USPS job advertised in the Journal News in 1989 that I first came here. Now, on occasion, I help train new recruits from the county, and you can't imagine how many of them marvel when they see this town, unaware such a place exists. I like taking them out to the end of the pier for their lunch break, to show it to them."

25 years later, Jimmy is firmly ensconced in our community. From his cheerful demeanor and wardrobe of holiday hats to his proclivity for wearing uniform shorts long past the end of summer, his spirit is greatly appreciated.

In addition to his walking route, he also delivers packages in the classic square box postal truck with its right side steering wheel and funky, oversized bumper. It's an upgrade from the retro, 1972 Ford Pinto, 2 door hatch-back with the official red, white, and blue stripes, and post office logo on the doors he drove when he was hired. Jimmy recalled the broken windshield wiper system he had to contend with by crawling on the floor, sometimes with a leg stretched out the open window, rain gusting in, as he made makeshift fixes.

When asked about extreme weather, the December 1992 nor'easter, known for



Jimmy the Mailman. Staff Photo

record high tides and snowfall, immediately came to mind. "That was the one with 130 mph winds, where all the boats landed on Piermont Avenue. We got two feet of water at the post office. We were running around trying to lift things off the floor, the safe got flooded." The other extreme, 110 degree weather we had last summer, made him shake his head. "I prefer the cold to heat any day because in winter I can add layers for warmth." After a pause, he adds "Our official 'weather-proof' gear is not truly waterproof."

Another discomfort of the job: unruly dogs. "I am a dog lover. I have always

had dogs, but sometimes dogs off the leash are bad. Most of the year I wear shorts, and I have had lots of close calls. At least once or twice a year, I need to use the official USPS issued pepper spray. I hate using the spray but I hate dog bites more."

As for joys of the job, there are many. Jimmy, a photography buff, appreciates the beauty of being outdoors in nature. "Back in September, I saw a falcon on the loose. The bird was perched on a wire, its leather falconry jesses dangling in the air". Along his route he showed the photo to Fara, at her shop, Presence of Piermont. She posted it on Facebook and within hours the bird was reunited with its owners. His phone also has a photo of an osprey on the Sparkill Creek. Other fond memories include "the best lemon cake ever, brought to the post office by a lovely lady who made it for the holidays. I don't recall her name but I remember she used to live at 720 Piermont Avenue."

And about those hats: "The first one, in 1990, was a basket, shaped like a turkey, which I attached to a plastic helmet. The next year was a little Christmas tree, with lights and gifts, glued to a helmet. I like to make kids smile. I have two boys of my own. When I see a kid smiling, it makes me feel good." Thank you Jimmy, it makes us feel good, too!—Kathy Baruffi

The PCA Food Pantry Donates to School District Families

Thanks to a partnership between the Piermont Civic Association and Canzona's Market, the South Orangetown Central School District (SOCSD) Food Pantry received bi-weekly shipments of groceries totaling \$1,800 to support roughly 60 South Orangetown families in need. Canzona's Market, a family-owned business in Piermont, packs and prepares the groceries, which are sold to the PCA at a significantly discounted price to be donated to the Food Pantry.

"This partnership is tremendously beneficial for our school district community," said SOCSD Family Engage-

ment Center Coordinator AJ Walker. "With the generosity of the PCA and Canzona's Market, we are able to stock more food items and keep our pantry sustainable for families."

"The kind-hearted folks at Canzona's Market and the hard work and dedication of the SOCSD Food Pantry is truly inspiring," added PCA Secretary Joe Serra (pictured). "We've worked with Canzona's Market to supply multiple shipments of groceries and will continue to do so going forward to help feed families who are struggling financially in the SOCSD community." For more information and for a list of items

needed, visit the SOCSD Food Pantry webpage.



The PCA's Food Pantry partners. Staff photo

Half Moon Rising—A Park Plan Anchored in Eco-Sustainability

Plans have been discussed for some time to give the rocky stairway between the Community Center Building on Hudson Terrace and Piermont Avenue, known as Half Moon Park, a cleanup or facelift – a toning down of the haphazard rocks and weedy borders. The discussion has involved work that can be done within the maintenance work by the DPW and by volunteers rather than launching a new capital improvement project. The general plan has been to remove the two lower wooden platforms and any rocks not needed for the retention of the switch back walkway and steps.



Mich heads to work. Staff photo

A theme for the overall park planting has been developed by park neighbor Mich Brisson (Meesh), one of the founding members of the Piermont Community Garden and a recently retired middle school teacher from Tenafly NJ. Mich has raised monarch butterflies (egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly) for years. The local milkweed plants are essential since that is the only food monarch butterfly caterpillars eat. She has also created two pollination median gardens in the north parking lot near Parelli Park.

is on the site’s map (where people can register their yards, gardens, patches, adding to the acreage of increasing North America’s biodiversity through native planting).

Working largely alone, but in coordination with the Department of Public Works, she has planted small seedling trees, native perennials as well as some mature shrubs hoping they will all establish themselves on the rock slope. Included amongst the trees are Northern Red Oak, Swamp White Oak, Elm, Hickory and Tulip Poplar. She is planning to add at least one more Dogwood and a native Cherry. Shrubs added to the park include the shadblow serviceberry, chokeberry, and soon - NJ tea and arrowwood viburnum.

To control poison ivy, Mich has experimented with applying a mixture made with vinegar, Dawn dish detergent and Epsom salts - a formula also used by the DPW. The results have been encouraging, but she must be persistent!

Along the second level of the park, native pollinator flowers are planted and bordered with driftwood found out on the pier.

There is a small pocket garden on the south side of the park. Tom McArde, another neighbor and local artist, created the beautiful birdbath using local materials. Around the birdbath some painted and decorated rocks are scattered. A small tag hanging from a peony stake invites people to contribute their own painted rock to the others, adding their own small creative touch to the beauty of the natural environment.—Dan Sherman

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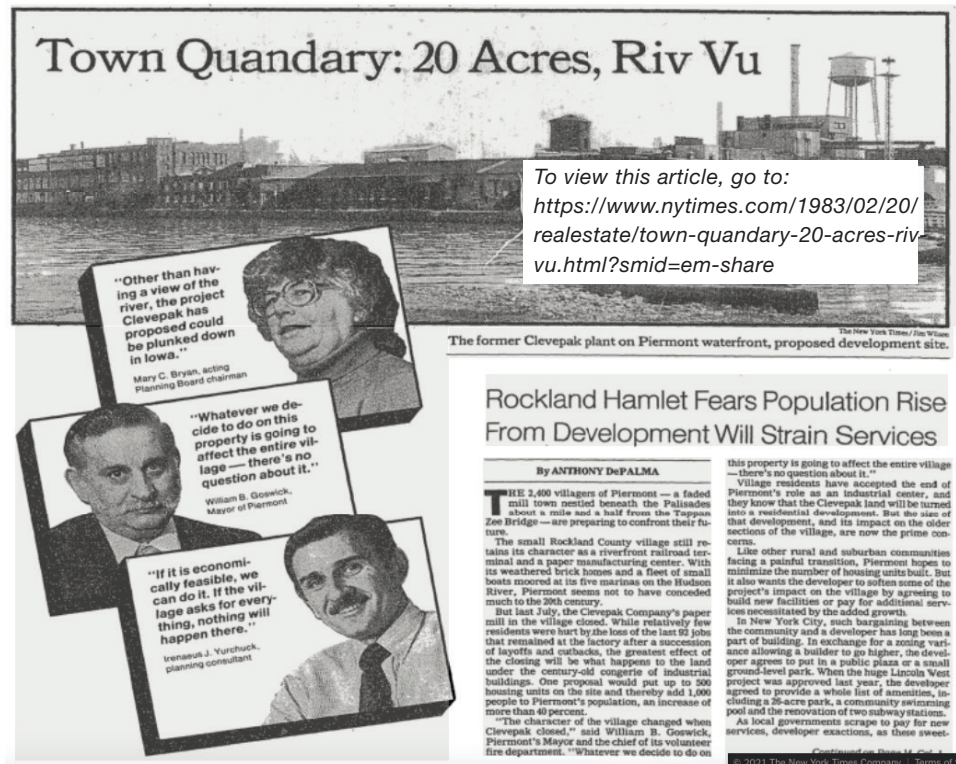
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Part 1. Piermont's journey from factory town to Piermont Landing

On February 20, 1983, just hours after the Sunday Times was delivered to my Piermont home, there was a knock at my door. "Did you read it? This has the makings of a DISASTER for Piermont!" It was my friend Charlie Berger. "Can you meet with me and some other folks at my house tonight?"

The delivery of this Sunday paper was the spark that ignited a Piermont movement. It was the beginning of Piermonters for Piermont (P for P), a group of residents that had not, until now, paid much attention to the workings of the Village Board and Planning Board. Those boards had been dutifully engaging in discussions about development of the Pier, particularly the Clevepak property, one of the two industrial parcels on the Pier. The Clevepak paper factory closed a year earlier, in 1982. It was the beginning of one of the most fraught and divisive periods that Piermont had ever experienced.

Now, through the extremely unlikely coverage of The New York Times, the Piermont community had a handle on where decisions were heading regarding the changes in store for our village. It had been a factory town for as long as we had all been here. But by 1983 only handful of Piermonters still were employed at the remaining operating factory. The folks gathered at the first meeting of Piermonters for Piermont on Hudson Terrace, a meeting called just hours after that Times article arrived at our doors, included Charles and Rena Berger, John Zahn, Stafford Ordahl, John DeFrancesca, Bob Sennish and Bob Cone. We were happy to be living in this factory village, appreciative of its hardscrabble nature. The joke was often made that Woody Allen had to spend thousands of dollars to doll-up the village, so it would look good enough to pass as Depression-era. True. But we believed the current boards were heading straight-away into high-density, possibly high-rise condo development that would overwhelm our village of 2,400 residents. We would later see this possible reality in a presentation before the Village Board by local architects, of Fort Lee-like residential towers on the Pier. The new steering committee of Piermonters for Piermont spent



Above is the cover page from a New York Times article published in 1983.

the summer of 1983 building anti-development support, attending board meetings, and seeking out advice from professional city planners.

In the Fall of 1983 Clevepak presented a proposal for 475 condos on their property to the Village Board. Piermonters for Piermont supporters and residents howled it down. Clevepak then returned with a request for development of 374 units. In November of that year the Planning Board proposed to the Village Board a zoning package that would allow 314 residential units on the Clevepak parcel. It is important to remember that Clevepak was only part of possible developable land on the Pier - another large center parcel was owned by Federal Paperboard, which was still operating. Potentially this could mean as many as 500-800 residential units out on the Pier. Two years later, as anticipated, Federal Paperboard put its property on the block.

What did P for P want for the Pier?

Low density residential use, some industrial/commercial use, reuse of some of the buildings on site, water-related uses, and a plan that considered the entire industrial pier. Most of all, it wanted a slowed-down approach to re-zoning driven by a Piermont-generated plan, not by a developer.

It is now January 1984. The South Orangetown Central School District proposed the sale of the Tappan Zee Elementary School and property on 9W, another huge potential development challenge for Piermont. The Village Board unanimously endorsed the sale, but in a referendum, voters reject the sale 3-1. The members of Piermonters for Piermont fought that sale. And now having lost confidence in the Village Board's judgement regarding development and fearing the consequences of the Planned Unit Development zoning being revised by the Planning Board, it became clear

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Piermont Takes First Step Toward Clean Energy Program

At a Public Hearing on December 7, the Village Board voted unanimously to adopt CCA-enabling legislation, thereby taking the first step towards joining a Community Choice Aggregation program.

Community Choice Aggregation is a program that helps communities transition to clean energy while protecting them from rate increases. Piermont is on the front lines of climate change and is very much aware of the need to plan ahead and adapt. But we also know that adapting to climate change is not enough - we need to do all that we can to mitigate it. Transitioning to renewable energy as a community is one of the most effective actions we can take. This is why New York State has adopted this program and encourages communities to join by providing funding opportunities through the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program.

A CCA is formed when local municipalities join together to create a large buying group for electricity supply, and this in turn allows them to negotiate contracts for renewable energy at low, fixed rates. Once the program takes effect, the default option for electricity supply switches from O&R's variable rate largely fossil fuel mix to the municipality's choice of default option - usually 100% NYS-produced renewable energy at a fixed rate for the length of the contract.

Consumers do not sign any contracts under CCA and can

opt out of the program at any time with no exit fees. They can also opt for a different choice than the municipality's choice of default option. Only those consumers who are on the O&R default option will be switched over. Those who have previously selected a supplier will remain with their supplier, but are free to join the program if they choose to do so. Additionally, if community solar is part of the program, individual rate-payers also benefit from a discount on their entire electricity bill (both supply and delivery charges).

The CCA movement started in Massachusetts in the late 90s. At this point, ten states have passed legislation enabling CCAs. In New York, the first CCA was Westchester Power, formed in 2016, which has now grown to comprise 2/3 of the municipalities in Westchester County and 1/3 of the residents. Last winter, six communities in Rockland (Orangetown, Clarkstown, and the villages of Nyack, South Nyack, Upper Nyack, and Haverstraw) joined together to form Rockland Community Power (RCP), the first CCA in Rockland.

Piermont, which held off on making a decision a year ago, is now looking at joining a new group which will probably launch next fall. The Village makes its final decision when the negotiations are complete, i.e., the cost and terms of the contract are set. As Bob Samuels used to say, "stay tuned...."
—*Marthe Schulwolf*



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Down at the Bistro

When the state of New York, alarmed by the spread of COVID-19, issued a stay-at home order that shut down our village (and everything else) in March of 2020, lots of Piermonters, already frightened and disoriented by the threat of the virus, found themselves shut out of a major source of comfort. The Sidewalk Bistro, a place they were used to dropping into with some regularity for a reliably delicious meal, was closed. After a month or so, regular patrons began to worry about the restaurant's future, and wondered what they could do to help the Bistro's always welcoming owner, Daout Celestin, survive the shutdown. But though a lot of people offered to help, Daout—not knowing what the future would bring—refused their assistance

Little did most Bistro fans know that even before the shutdown, Daout himself was struggling to survive the virus! And when, fully recovered, he reopened the Bistro in June for outdoor-dining-only, happily liberated eaters sat at its outdoor tables—on the street and in the back garden, feeling—briefly—as if things were getting back to normal. Of course they weren't.

So how did Piermont end up with a bistro in the first place? And why a "bistro" and not a plain old café like the eating establishment it replaced? Well, technically a bistro is a small restaurant in a modest setting, that serves moderately priced meals with alcohol. And since the concept is French, and a Frenchman started our moderately priced eating place, we have a bistro.

Daout Celestin, its owner, came from Nice, a seaport city on the French Riviera, and attended Nice University (now Cote d'Azur University) where he majored in mathematics. You will search his early life in vain for some sign he would grow up to become a restaurateur, although he will admit to having done a lot of wine tasting—and briefly considered becoming a sommelier.

In 1986, at the age of 28, Daout came to the U.S. with the somewhat vague notion of starting a computer company but found his first employment as a waiter at the historic New Jersey restaurant, the Hohokus Inn. Two years later, on a trip to Nyack to visit a friend who lived there, he met Chef Peter

Kelly and the rest is history. Daout took a job in Piermont at Peter Kelly's Xaviars and worked there eighteen years until the neighboring Sidewalk Café prepared to close.

At that point, Daout decided to go out on his own. He opened the Bistro on May 24, 2008, originally with a partner, Alain Eigenman, who eventually left to start his own restaurant in Nyack, and a chef, Sergio Vargas who is still in the kitchen. And in the years that followed, some of us got addicted to *salade nicoise*.

Twelve years later COVID-19 arrived. After the initial March shutdown, the restaurant's spring reopening lasted as long as the mild weather, but the bistro closed its doors again in December of 2020. Was this for good? Fortunately not. As Daout explains, the restaurant's indoor space is quite limited, and only six people can be properly spaced out at the bar, so he lost less money when he closed in the winter than if he stayed open to serve so few customers. The real re-opening had to wait until April of 2021

when the bistro reopened for five days a week—and is closed on Tuesdays as well as on the Mondays that are standard for Piermont.

But of course things are not quite the same; the staff is smaller and many of the regulars are gone. Sergio Vargas, who has been in the bistro kitchen from the beginning, remains. But where there used to be five bodies in the kitchen, there are now three, one of them new. And only a few of the waitstaff have faces familiar to the Bistro's regulars. Hiring—as we have all learned from the press—is a problem. One of the reasons Daout is now closed two days a week is because he can't hire enough people. And they want a lot more money. Daout fears for the future of the restaurant industry because higher labor costs will inevitably raise the cost of the meals, perhaps higher than the customers will tolerate.

But, as long as he can, he plans to stay in this place where he is so invested. He and his wife Diana Spain have lived in Tappan since 1995. She is a long-time math teacher in Teaneck, New Jersey, where she was born, and her parents are the older couple who are sometimes seen around the Bistro, tidying up the window areas or arranging flowers. Say Hello.—*Joan Gussow*



Daout Celestin, photo by Betsy Franco Feeney

In 2021, Piermont Celebrated the Holidays, with Joy...



Piermont's December 2021 Holiday Celebration. Photos by Betsy Franco Feeney

...and Generosity



Photos by Dan Goswick, Sr.

Members of the Piermont Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary assembled and wrapped over 500 gifts and \$2500 in gift cards that were donated to families impacted by the tornadoes in Kentucky. Members of the Fire Department then drove these gifts to the Cuba Kentucky Fire Department in time for Christmas.



From The Library

There is always so much going on at Piermont Library- to stay up on the latest, make sure you are receiving our emails- message us at info@piermontlibrary.org if you are not. Our website (www.piermontlibrary.org) always has a full list of events on our calendar and you can follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

We have a special new event to brighten up the winter- on Saturday, January 29th, we will host our first ever Winter Arts and Crafts Fair from 11:30 – 3:00 pm. The event will feature unique crafts and gifts from local vendors and a 50/ 50 raffle. We are currently looking for vendors, so if you are a home crafter, please reach out!

On March 12th, we will host a book sale. We will be collecting books from February 28th through March 11th for the sale. Stop by anytime we are open to drop off your donations- details to follow. The sale itself will take place from March 12 – 19th. Come find some new books for your home library while supporting the Piermont Library!

We have some great new events for adults in January including Monarch Butterflies and Eco Gardening; an Estate Planning and Elder Law Seminar; Susan and Art Zuckerman Present: Mayhem, Murder, and Scandals; and a virtual tour of the New

York Public Library. Our Adult Book Discussion Group will be meeting in person at the library once again and will be discussing Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead. New members are always welcome.

February will include a Create Your Own Cocktails Event just in time for Valentine’s Day as well as another entertaining historical lecture by Susan and Art Zuckerman on New York’s underground. This New York-themed virtual series will continue into March and April with Women of New York and Nostalgic New York.

We invite you to check out the many fascinating stories that are part of our oral history project! In collaboration with the Piermont Historical Society, we undertook a zoom-based oral history project to collect the stories of our village. We hope you’ll take the time to listen! You can find our project at www.piermontremembers.org and also on our YouTube channel.

We are hoping to resume our popular monthly art exhibition in the library soon as well! At the moment, we have on display the captivating local and New York scenes of celebrated Piermont artist Dan Lukens.

For kids, we always have a full array of programs from Story Time on Mondays for the youngest to Story and Craft on Thursdays for ages 3 – 7. 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.

Finally, our popular Art Classes for Kids, Teens, and Adults with Alexis Starke will be resuming later this winter! These unique creative classes draw inspiration from a variety of sources contemporary artists, art history, our gorgeous Hudson River Valley.

A reminder that our building is open and we would love to see you! We are always getting in new books and other media. 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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Piermont Government's 2022 Reorganization Meeting

On Tuesday, January 4th, the Village of Piermont's Reorganization Meeting was held via Zoom. The following elected officials took their oaths of office: Piermont Mayor Bruce Tucker, Trustee Mark Blomquist, Trustee Michael Wright and Piermont Village Justice Mark Ruby. Trustees Rob Burns and Nathan Mitchell continue for their second term year as Trustees.

Piermont's Trustees were also appointed as Liaisons to Village departments. Those appointments are as follows: Mark Blomquist – Deputy Mayor, Liaison to the Police Department, and Department of Public Works; Rob Burns – Liaison to Piermont's Justice Court, Building Depart-

ment and Land Use Boards; Nathan Mitchell – Liaison to the Fire Department and the Parks Department; Michael Wright – Liaison to the Clerk's Office and the Chamber of Commerce

Many thanks to those Piermonters newly elected and appointed, and to those currently serving Piermont on its Boards and Commissions.





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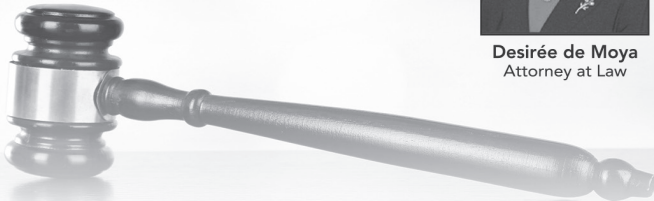
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Front Line Report

From Tom Temple, Director, Piermont DPW:

Piermont's final day for Christmas Tree Pick-up is Wednesday, January 19th. Please remove lights and decorations before bringing your tree to the curb. We would like to remind Village residents that when it snows to avoid throwing snow into the street when clearing their driveways and sidewalks. Snow thrown back into the street after the DPW has cleared the road could refreeze and cause potential accidents for both motorist and pedestrians.

From Piermont Police Chief Hurley:

I would like to start by saying Thank You to Bruce Roeder and his brother at Blatt Billiards for donating a pool table to our PAL program. The PAL program has been getting great use of the pool table.

If you plan to do some traveling this winter, here are the Piermont Police Department recommendations: If you go away for a few days get an automatic timer for lights and TV. Have a neighbor watch your house, shovel snow, pick up mail and newspapers.

- o Contact the police department and advise us that you will be going away. Officers will check your residence for you while you are away.
- o Take photos or video of all items of value in your home, and list each item's make, model, serial number, and other information.

- o Engrave new items to help identify them in the event they are stolen

From Piermont Fire Department Chief Sam Kropp:

The department presented its 2021 annual department report to the Village Board, which listed 408 calls in 2021 – 175 of those calls were fire and rescue calls, 230 were EMS calls. Chief Kropp also announced that the Piermont Fire Department was the recipient of a U.S. Congressional Citation, entered into the Congressional Record by Hon. Mondaire Jones, "Recognizing the Piermont Fire Department for their Heroic Rescue Responses to Hurricane Ida".

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Piermont's Journey continued from page 5

that to stop the proposed zone change, the Village Board had to change. The proposed "change of use" zoning, would require a "super-majority" vote, so the only way to stop the zone change would be to vote out not one, but two, of the current board members, both ensconced members of the Democratic Party.



So Piermonters for Piermont created a new Political Party, the "Village Party"*. Its symbol was a light bulb, its slogan was "Let's shed some light on the issues". The leaders of the P for P, none of them eager to enter political life – drew straws among themselves, and John Zahn, a Republican, and an

accountant working in NYC, and Charles Berger, a Democrat and mathematician at Yeshiva University, both of whom lived on Hudson Terrace, became the Village Party's first candidates for office. They ran against two hard working and respected sitting members of the Village Board, Katherine Smith and Donald Cocker, solely to stop the proposed zone changes on the Pier. John and Charles won the March election, and the Village Board's approach to zoning made a distinct change of direction. The Piermont Community itself was deeply wounded by the political battle. Some scars still remain among long-time Piermonters.

In early 1984, trustee Katherine Smith, before leaving office, led the village to contract with the NYS Dept. of State for the preparation of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). It was this program, funded by and recognized by the State of New York upon its completion, that became the framework for the zoning decisions for Piermont going forward, regarding land use, density, and environmental quality. This early LWRP, contributed to by Katherine Smith, Mimi Bryan, Mildred Burck, Stan Jacobs, Beverly Houghton, Herb Schlobaum, and later, Tom Mitchell, Rod Johnson, Charles

Berger, myself and others, structured the decision-making process for the new Village and Planning Boards as Piermont made the rough transition from an industrial waterfront to the Piermont Landing of today. The LWRP, completed and approved by NY State in 1991, was Piermont's guiding legal document that could stand up in court to outside challenges to Piermont's decisions about future development, an essential protection in future planning negotiations.

Development proposals continued to arrive throughout the 80's, as did mountains of paperwork and plans, negotiations, changes, reviews, and lawsuits. The factory buildings came down and the land was cleared. For all of the differences of opinion, everyone involved agreed, "This is exhausting!". The final approvals of the Carlyle Piermont Landing plan took almost a decade from the time the NY Times article Town Quarry: 20 Acres, Riv VU landed on Piermont's doorstep. —Margaret Grace

**The Village Party remained an active political party in Piermont from 1984 - 1996*

Part 2. Piermont Landing – a decade of decision-making. Coming in the next issue.

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1989 Piermont Newsletter illustration by Grace Mitchell

Pickle Ball, Salsa, Boxing, Chess, Aikido and Art! The Piermont Community Center's Great 2022 Schedule

Tahlaad Mahboeb, program director for the Piermont Police Athletic League (PAL) has organized weeks of activities for Piermonters of all ages, right in our own backyard. These programs are available under the supervision of PAL staff at the Piermont Community Center at 204 Hudson Terrace.

Coming later this month - The PALCAST, the PAL version of a podcast where local youth will interview local politicians, musicians, businesses, etc., and an A/V "Audio Video" program that will be an introduction to internet radio and streaming video and conducted at the center by the Gumbo YAYA radio show.

Tahlaad encourages Piermonters to join the Piermont PAL Facebook page for schedule changes and new activities.

Community Center notes: Pre-registration may be required for some activities. Recreation room and instrument practice time is scheduled based on availability – contact Tahlaad at the Community Center at 845 359-1258 ext 6, or go to www.piermont-ny.gov > departments > pal. All activities are subject to CDC and Village guidelines.

Here is the schedule in progress right now. Stop by, meet your neighbors and join the fun!

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Friday	Saturdays	Sundays
Open Gym 5pm – 6pm Women's Pickle Ball 6pm – 7:30 Computer Class TBD	Children's Tennis 5:30pm – 8 pm Youth Boxing 6:00pm – 7:30, Rm 1&2 Salsa Class 6:30pm – 7:30 Men's Pickle Ball 8pm – 9:30	Open Gym 5pm-6 Women's Pickle Ball 6pm – 7:30 Adult Art Class 6pm -8:30 Aikido Class 6pm – 8:30	Open Gym 5pm-6 Youth Boxing 6pm – 7:30, Rm 1&2 Men's Pickle Ball 7pm-8:30 Yoga Class TBD, Rm 4	Closed	Men's Pickle Ball 9:30am-11 Women's Pickle Ball 11am-12:30pm Chess Club 11am Open Gym 12:30am -2:00pm	Aikido Family Class 10am-12 Family Pickle Ball 10am – 12 Open Gym 12 – 2pm



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.snbll.com/giving-portal>