

The Piermont Newsletter

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A Grand Vision For Our Pier

No one appreciates the beauty, history and unique location of the Piermont pier more than Chris Sanders, our village's Mayor. "It is a unique asset to our community, our county and the entire nation," he declares.

The village is tackling a list of pier maintenance and improvements, but Mayor Sanders believes that we should think about the pier as a whole and on a much grander scale. "It is a beautiful place for people to walk and bike and fish but it also is a great potential transportation asset for ferries which could revitalize our downtown.

"I know that when people hear the word ferry they want to run for their guns," he admits, but he thinks they'll change their minds when they hear what he's thinking about. That would include "a tasteful parking deck/garage to replace Parking Lot D with a tram, possibly automated, running from there to a ferry dock at the end of the pier. Private cars would be banned. People would ride the tram instead.

As part of an overall plan, he'd also like to redesign the World War II memorial at the end of the pier. It is the place, after all, where thousands of young soldiers last touched American soil (some for the last time) as they left to fight in Europe. It could be redesigned to have some of the emotional impact on visitors when they are at the Vietnam Wall in Washington or at many of the 9/11 memorials.

Mayor Sanders has asked some long term planners for help but he was immediately stymied by what seems like insurmountable snags. To start, he learned a professional plan would cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000, money Piermont doesn't have, and the job would have to go out for competitive bids. That doesn't strike him as the best way to choose a planner. So, for now the grand vision is on hold.

Meanwhile, sea rise, brought on by global warming, threatens the long-term existence of the pier. High tides and storms already shut down the dogleg portion of Ferry Road. That problem should be solved this spring when contractors raise its level from the beginning of the dogleg to the Fred C. Scheffold Memorial. The project is paid for by a \$250,000 grant from the new Tappan Zee Bridge rebuilding project.

The bridge people also gave the Piermont Rowing Club a \$35,000 grant to buy materials to improve its ramp. The vil-



A foggy fall day on the pier. Bob Samuels photo

lage's DPW will do the work on the facility, which is open to anyone with a non-motorized boat.

While the Ferry Road work is underway, a private donor wants to add an illuminated flag and flag pole to the Scheffold memorial. Scheffold was a New York City fireman and Piermont resident who lost his life on 9/11. The village's Planning Board is weighing the merits of adding the flag-pole.

Piermonters have long wanted to revamp the ugly block building near the end of the pier. It is owned by the Lamont-

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President's Corner



Four years ago Superstorm Sandy wrecked the Grand View Village Hall. It was a wonderful old building, put up in 1911 as a yacht club. This summer the Feds finally came through with the money to tear it down and put up a replacement. Until it is finished, Grand View will continue to run its village business from space it rents from Piermont in the old school annex on Hudson Terrace.

There must be many Piermonters with warm memories of the old hall. After all, it hosted over 100 years of weddings and social gatherings. For a few years after World War II it also was the headquarters of the Grand View Work and Play Club. My parents were part of the group that created it. They wanted a place for their preadolescent kids to get together. Because there weren't enough of us in the village, they also included some youngsters from Upper Grand View, Piermont and Nyack.

We had square dances every Friday night. The caller came dressed in boots, a western shirt with snaps and a cowboy hat. Even as a kid I thought his outfit was corny but the guy knew his stuff. From that first night he got us swinging our partners and dosidoing. He used a portable phonograph with a microphone, working his instructions into the calls. When you learn to square dance, you learn your right hand from your left, a useful life skill. You also are forced to talk to someone of the opposite sex, put your arm around them and hold their hand, more useful life skills.

Even then the village hall, which had been built on concrete pilings, seemed rickety, especially with 20 or so kids stomping on its wooden floor. On the hall's river side was a wide porch. Chief George Cline, Grand View's cigar chomping one-man police force, warned us never to go on it because it could collapse. We believed him. He and his wife lived upstairs in an apartment that took up the hall's



The old Grand View village hall is demolished, another victim of Superstorm Sandy. Vince O'Brien photo

entire third floor. It compensated for his low pay. Although the Chief was a well-known grouch, he and his wife never complained about the racket we made. Maybe they went to the movies on Friday nights.

We came back to the Village Hall on Saturday mornings for extremely boring sessions of Junior Village Government (it was the work part of the Work and Play Club) but once that was over things really got to be fun. Professional football then was a minor sport. Our parents were able to hire two New York Giant football players to coach us. I can't remember their names but I sure remember them. They were from Texas and had real cowboy drawls. They played touch football, kickball and softball with us on an empty lot near the Village Hall. Don't try to find it. Long ago someone built a big house there.

At Christmas time a nutsy lady with a vague theatrical background had us put on a holiday pageant. I remember wearing a wise man costume. We learned all the gifts that someone gave to their true love on the 12 days of Christmas, along with many other carols. Our director, realizing that I couldn't carry a tune, told me that they had enough singers, told me to stand behind the other kids and mouth the

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Piermont Marsh Update.

Grand Vision continued from page 1

Dougherty research laboratory in Palisades. Mayor Sanders would like to turn it into a Lamont field research center. Maureen Raymo, a Lamont scientist and Piermont resident, is helping him reach that goal. She's reportedly has found someone who is willing to fund the project. "We are going to put a very esthetic shell on the building to start," Sanders says.

Nearby, there will be a floating dock for a fire boat, if the fire department can come up with a grant to fund it. The department would like to keep its new boat in the water there, ready to go.

Still pending is the two-year old plan to put a faux lighthouse near the rowing club dock. It would replace the erector set-style steel tower that holds the fire department siren and cell phone antennas. The prefab structure would be a memorial to Mark Lennon and Lindsay Stewart, both killed in a 2013 boating accident.

Finally, the flywheel in Flywheel Park will at last have a plaque, explaining what it was and its history. The Piermont Civic Association, with an assist from the village's Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce, is the major sponsor.

~Bob Samuels

In August, Betsy Blair of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, followed up on the question of what progress has been made on their Piermont Marsh Management Plan. The plan, first introduced in 2013, was an outgrowth of a settlement and funding from the New York Bridge project. The original plan has been under revision in response to resident concerns over loss of habitat and use of herbicides in the Piermont Marsh. Ms Blair responded: "DEC and PIPC have been assessing a wide variety of possible management approaches for Piermont Marsh, including retention of a significant marsh buffer and modest habitat restoration activities. The draft plan is in internal agency review, and we hope to release it this fall."

This summer, folks from Ms. Blair's office, the DEC's Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, Division of Marine Resources, met with the Mayor to assess the feasibility of routing a boardwalk for Marsh viewing and education opportunities through the former landfill property east of the ball field, beyond the dog run. A walk-through determined there were significant health and safety concerns – among them virulent poison ivy growth. So this area will not be a component of the management plan. Another marsh location is being sought.

The Piermont Marsh was a busy research habitat this summer. Several programs, overseen by Robert Newton, Research Scientist and Program Director of Secondary School Field Research at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, engaged dozens of high school interns. On mornings throughout the summer, you'd see the students paddling out of Piermonter Bill Herguth's landing next to Kane Park, headed deep into the marsh. Their research included a continuation of a 3-year study of the use of geotextile as a ground cover to eradicate Phragmites, a study of the habitat value of common reed and salt hay for fiddle crabs, and a look at pollutants in the sediments.

Meanwhile, Peter Sheng a scientist at the University of Florida, introduced to Piermont when the Piermont Marsh Alliance requested his testimony at one of the DEC hearings on the Piermont Marsh, was awarded funding by the NERRS Science Collaborative to study the role of the Piermont Marsh in attenuating waves and providing a buffer for the Village of Piermont in a changing climate. Klaus Jacob will act as Piermont's Waterfront Resiliency Commission's liaison.

~Margaret Grace



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Piermont Votes

Piermont has 1637 registered voters among its almost 2600 residents: 851 (51%) Democrats, 278 (16%) Republicans, 405 (24%) Non-Affiliated voters, 86 (5%) Independent, 10 Conservative, 4 Green, and 3 Working Families Party voters.

Piermont has 2 Election Districts – ED 1, primarily north of Ash Street, Main Street and the Pier, and ED 33, south of Ash, southern Piermont and along Route 9W. Piermont is part of the 17th Congressional district. Our New York State Assembly district is 97, our Senatorial district is 38.

Piermont has long been a Democratic stronghold. “Blue collar” working families, with strong ties to their unions, made up Piermont’s voter base going back to the early 20th century, when the village was a factory town.

Long-time Piermont Democratic Committeewoman Ann Hickey remembers casting her first vote here for Harry Truman. In that upset presidential race with Dewey, Ann thought that her very own ballot made it possible for Truman to win. She says that vote helped to inspire her life-long political activism. Ann also recalls walking door-to-door in Piermont with her father, John Mercurio, a well-regarded spokesman for Piermont’s Italian community, as he encouraged neighbors to turn out and vote “La Stella”, the star marking the Democratic column of the ballot.

When Reagan ran against Carter in 1980, a changing household demographic meant a changing electorate. 904 Piermonters voted for president that year. Democrat Carter won 422 votes to Regan’s 384, and Libertarian John Ander-

son took 98. Regan won that race nationally 50.8% to Carter’s 41%.

By the 1990’s new political parties were appearing on the ballot in Piermont – Working Families, Green Party among them, and the fastest-growing segment – Non Affiliated voters.

In the Presidential race of 2012 Piermonters cast 1276 ballots. 848 of those votes were cast for Obama, primarily on the Democratic line, along with 25 Working Party votes. There were 351 for Romney on the Republican line as well as 33 conservative voters. Non-affiliated voters are somewhere in that mix.

In the Presidential Primaries of April 2015, Piermont votes were tallied with Grandview and the parts of South Nyack that vote at St. John’s Church.

Republicans gave Trump 61% of their primary vote, Kasich number two at 24%,

Democrats gave Clinton 59% of their primary vote, Sanders getting 41%.

At the Village level, candidates for Mayor, Trustees and Village Justice are chosen by party caucuses. Winners of those party contests are then put on the ballot for the general election. One reason Piermont prefers a caucus to holding a primary is an economic one—primaries are expensive to run. But Piermont Democrats, who caucus each year, also prefer the very interactive work of a caucus. Candidates appear and make their case in front of party members. Sometimes caucus-goers are surprised by a new entry into

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the political fray, as caucus attendees nominate candidates from the floor.

It has been more than 10 years since parties have held a contested Piermont Village race for mayor or trustees. The Piermont Republican Committee, led for years by veteran Ted Jessup, and most recently by Ann Putko, last put forth a candidate in 2002, Lou Terminello, against then mayor Ed Traynor.

Perhaps the most hotly contested village races were back in the mid 80's when a locally created Village Party ran candidates against sitting Democrats, the campaigns focusing on the future development of the Piermont Pier.

This year's September Democratic caucus unanimously nominated sitting Trustees Lisa DeFeciani and Rob Burns to

be on the ballot in November for the positions they currently hold, continuing a long tradition of an all Democratic Village Board and Mayor in Piermont.

It's been said that because only Piermont Democrats choose candidates for village office at the Piermont Democratic caucus, you surrender some voting power if you're not a Democrat in Piermont, especially in uncontested elections. But this does not seem to worry Piermont's non-affiliated voters, whose segment of the voting population is growing. Time will tell if the Piermont Republicans or another party will put forth candidates as Piermont continues to diversify politically.

~Margaret Grace



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Carol Cameron

How many people do you know who have lived in the same house for their lifetime? Well, you're acquainted with at least one person who fits that description if you've said even a passing hello to Carol Cameron, the person watering or weeding outside the flower-bordered lemon yellow house on the corner of Piermont Avenue and the Parking Lot B turn-in. Closer than zoning now allows to the next door home of Alfredo Rosa, Carol's house and his were originally constructed in the 1850's as the Macedonia Baptist Church and its next-door rectory. Subsequently, for a time, Carol notes, "next door" became a "house of ill repute."

After Carol's grandfather moved up from Brooklyn to be a supervisor for the Gair Company (then turning out paper on the Piermont Pier), his daughter Marge, met and married Carol's father Bill Cameron. The couple bought the house at 549 Piermont Avenue where Carol began life in the middle of the last century.

Throughout her childhood, Piermont



Carol Cameron. Fred Burrell photo

was a factory town; the parked cars of factory workers daily filled the large company parking lot that surrounded her house—a footprint now filled by the community garden, Parelli Park, the

library—and Parking Lot B. The village had a rough reputation in those days—Piermont schoolboys were referred to as "river rats," and Carol remembers being part of a gang of teens that hung out on Hudson Terrace.

Two active railroad lines ran through the village. The Erie line that passes the restored railroad station ran a regular schedule from Nyack to Jersey City. (check), and its 7:30 a.m. whistle was a signal for Carol's parents to leave for their jobs at Lederle, leaving her to catch the school bus.

Carol attended local schools through high school—the Diplomat Health Club has replaced her first school, Sparkill Elementary. Later, drawn by the sun and an interest in design, she headed South and enrolled in Bauder Fashion College in Miami. But she returned home after a year and commuted to Manhattan to complete a marketing degree at the acclaimed Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

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Tall and beautiful, Carol was on her way to a career in fashion when she got diverted. Looking for a summer job after her first year at Bauder, she was hired as a bookkeeper by Waldbaum's, (a local supermarket chain for those of you under 40). She continued working while studying, and after graduation, she simply stayed on the job. Waldbaum's and Carol were acquired by A & P in 1986 and by the time A & P filed for bankruptcy in 2015, Carol had put in 41 years, in a variety of positions, the last 15 of them as Pricing and Electronic Coupon Coordinator at the Montvale headquarters in New Jersey.

Meanwhile, Piermont was changing, a change that accelerated when Woody Allen transformed the village into a depression era set for The Purple Rose of Cairo. Several years later, when Carol's mother was looking for someplace that was "like what Rockland used to be," she moved upstate and sold Carol the house where she had grown up.

"I stayed because I liked the community," Carol says; "it was convenient to get to the city and you didn't need a car to get bread, milk or stamps. Years ago we had two gas stations, a Laundromat, a pharmacy, a hardware store, a barber shop, a ladies hair salon, and Harry's ice cream," among other long-gone conveniences.


And then, there's the Hudson River. Carol doesn't remember serious flooding in her family's basement when she was a girl, But by the 90's, when plans were drawn for paving the regularly inundated parking area just south of Carol's house, high tide flooding had become predictable, and her sump pump was in regular use. The planned parking lot included no berm to protect the two houses at its west end from drowning. The village engineer's response? The nested houses had been built too low! Indeed they had—over 150 years earlier! Fortunately a new plan—with a berm—was devised by a new engineer, and Carol's basement

has seriously flooded only once since—when Superstorm Sandy put the entire neighborhood under 10 feet of water.

A fairly regular attendee at the Village Board meetings, Carol serves on the Village Park Commission and has helped plant the parks for 15 years. She also helped start the butterfly and border gardens in Parelli Park and almost eight years ago became co-coordinator of the Piermont Community Garden.

And so, as the river rises, Parelli beach narrows, flooding threatens to become more frequent, and Piermont shows no sign of ever recapturing its handy shops, does Carol have any plans for moving to higher ground? Not at the moment, she says. All things considered, she thinks she'll stay planted, right where she started.

~Joan Gussow




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From The Library

In Memoriam

The library staff and Board of Trustees look back at the life and legacy of Grace Buhl Meyer who passed on July 3, 2016 at age 79. Grace served as Piermont Public Library's Director for 35 years, retiring in 2004. They say the heart of every community is its Library and the heart of every Library is its Librarian. Grace Meyer improved the lives of countless Piermont residents both directly through her work at the Library and indirectly by preserving the environment in which they live, securing her place at the heart of Piermont for generations to come.

Grace was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan in 1937. By 1969 she had taken up her post as Director of Piermont Public Library in its former Hudson Terrace location. In lieu of a salary, she received residency in the apartment above the Library, where she lived for seven years. During this time Grace completed her undergraduate degree in Botany and English at Columbia University, then went on to receive her graduate degree in Library Science, also from Columbia, in 1974. Library lore has it that a "cat ladder" hung from a window in the upstairs apartment by which Grace's cats could explore the Library and the village as they desired.

A dedicated and diligent Librarian, Grace truly enjoyed working with the public and taking the time to get to know her patrons. She creatively incorporated her love of Piermont environs with her Library work by creating the Beachcomber Book Club, a unique summer reading program during which children would receive shells Grace had collected from the edge of the water as their reward for reading. Each week the children would look forward to receiving a bigger shell for reading more books.

She demonstrated her dedication to the profession of librarianship as an active member of the Library Association of Rockland County for many years. After her retirement she continued to be an enthusiastic supporter of Piermont's library and was a faithful attendee of its many art openings and other events. In her spare time, she enjoyed square dancing and visiting friends on Martha's Vineyard.

Grace's contributions to Piermont extended beyond her work in the Library to tireless environmental advocacy. In 1974 she helped to develop the Piermont Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC), the first CAC in Rockland County, and served on the Village Board from 1979—1982. County Executive Ed Day presented her with the 18th

Annual County Executive's Outstanding Environmental Volunteer Award in April 2015.

The library staff and Board of Trustees are grateful to have had such a dedicated, warm-hearted, intelligent Director at the helm for 35 years. She will always be with us and with the library.

Library News

Over the summer, the library introduced Field Goods weekly produce delivery to the Piermont community. Founded five years ago, Field Goods is a one-of-a-kind, subscription-based business that delivers freshly harvested local fruit and vegetables to employees and consumers at workplaces and community locations. Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library is the first open-to-the public pick-up site in Rockland County.

Field Goods subscribers receive 5 to 8 different types of fruits and vegetables each week, sourced from over 80 small farms – the majority are located in the Hudson Valley. Weekly add-on options include local artisan bread, pasta, local cheese, extra fruit and more. A weekly e-newsletter, In the Bag, provides tips and recipes as a helpful guide for preparing the produce. For information on how to subscribe for your weekly order



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Shifting focus from buying produce to growing your own, the workshop Gardening in a Warming World will examine the definition of climate change and reflect on the strategies that will be required to minimize and adapt to this latest and perhaps greatest challenge to successful gardening. The conditions for a successful and healthy garden, namely good soil, ample water, suitable air temperature, manageable pests—and a dose of luck—all need to be in balance with each other. The weather extremes and seasonal shifts witnessed in our landscape are examples of what scientists tell us are impacts of a changing climate. These conditions can make or break successful gardening efforts. On Sunday, September 11th at 1 pm, Ms. Jessica Kesselman will present Gardening in a Warming World on behalf of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners.

Join us for the launch of two new adult programs in September. The first meeting of our new Cookbook Club will take place on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm. Our first book is Sandra Lee's Semi-Homemade: Cooking Made Light. You'll pick a recipe from the featured book, make it at home, and then bring it with you to the meeting for a roundtable tasting and discussion of the book. A weekly Intro to Mah

Jongg group will begin Thursday, Sept. 22nd, 12:30 – 3 pm. If you're interested in learning this fun tile game, call 845-359-4595 to register. Space is limited.

During the month of October, Sally Savage will be showing only her favorite photographs at the Library. With no theme, Sally (says she) sees this as a "farewell and thank you" to Piermont, her beloved home of 55 years. She moved to Nyack in 2011. All are welcome to the opening reception at the library on Sunday, October 2nd from 2 pm to 4 pm.

The library has a longstanding tradition of tapping into local knowledge for the benefit of the community. Please join us for our two Piermont Friends & Neighbors talks this fall.

On Sunday, October 16th at 2 pm, the library will host Cuba: An Arts and Culture Photo Journey – Through an "Ordinary" Tourist's Eye presented by Bruce Tucker, Sara Tucker, James Kimak and Angela Langston. These two couples beat President Obama and The Rolling Stones to Cuba! Come enjoy their photos and perspectives of this country, which had opened to US tourism groups just a year prior to their journey. Bring your questions for this open discussion of the country and its culture.

The second talk will take place on Sunday, November 13th at 2 pm. Daniel Spitzer will lead a photo/video tour entitled Antarctica: Birds, Beasts and Bergs. A land of desolation, Antarctica nonetheless teems with wildlife, supremely adapted to survive in this land of extremes. We will come

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Front Line Report

Police Warn of More Phone and Internet Scams

Residents should be alert to phone and internet scams, according to Chief Michael O'Shea, Piermont Police Department. The police are continuing to receive complaints from residents about a telephone scam where the caller purports to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and demands that back taxes be paid immediately. The voice is threatening.

"The IRS does not call you on the phone to collect back taxes," assured Chief O'Shea. "You will either get a registered letter on IRS stationery or an IRS agent will be knocking at your door."

The chief also reported another telephone scam that alarmed a Piermont resident and that other residents should be alert to: "The scammers hacked into a resident's Facebook page and obtained personal information on them," he said. "Then they called them

on the phone and told them that a family member had been hurt in an accident and that they needed to send money immediately for medical expenses.

"What we say to residents is that if we have to make a notification that a family member has been injured, we would call the police department in that jurisdiction to make the notification. If it is local or nearby, such as Clarkstown, a police officer from Piermont would make the notification face-to-face."

Chief O'Shea also explained that in an emergency, nobody will be denied medical treatment if they are hurt or injured.

The chief said that it is a good idea for residents to get a service like Life-Lock that monitors their credit reports. He also said to check in with the Piermont Police Facebook page frequently where it posts information on scams and other news.

Chief O'Shea also said that Piermont

received a special grant so that it can put more police officers on the road on weekends to better monitor bicycle traffic to keep the roads safe for both automobile traffic and bikers.

The Piermont Police have a new email address: PPD Piermontpolice@rcpin.netmailto:Piermontpolice@rcpin.net

Editor's note: You can and should file a police report if you are the victim of computer file theft, such as ransomware. Our family was. We took screen shots of the ransom demands and attached a copy to our police report of the crime. Margaret Grace

DPW Offers New User-Friendly App

The Piermont DPW has a new user-friendly app called "Recycle Coach," according to Tom Temple, Supervisor of the Piermont Department of Public Works. "This is a free app that is available and can be downloaded through The Google Play and App Store for either your Android or Apple device,"



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he explained. "With this app you can track our garbage, recycling and rubbish collection dates as well as dates for county-wide services such as the week-end operation hours for the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Facility in Pomona. There is also the "What Goes Where" function that will enable users to get specific information on where and how to recycle or dispose of different materials like batteries or fluorescent light bulbs. We are still working out a few kinks, but this is a useful tool for our residents to have. Informational postcards are available at the Village Hall that will provide you with the steps in downloading the app."

The DPW's leaf collection will start the week of October 17th and run through the week of December 5th. According to the supervisor, all loose leaf piles should be placed at the edge of your property. All leaf piles should be clear of rocks, brush and any other

debris that could damage the DPW's collection unit. Leaves that are to be bagged should be placed in biodegradable bags. The DPW supplies these bags to village residents free of charge and can be obtained from the DPW garage during regular business hours while supplies last. The DPW encourages the use of the biodegradable bags and will not collect leaves that are placed in plastic bags. Please do not block any sidewalks with loose or bagged leaves. This creates a hazard by forcing pedestrians to walk in the roadway.

Fire Department Looks For Volunteers

The Piermont Fire Department is constantly looking for new members to join its ranks. Anyone who is interested in joining the Department should come to the firehouse on any Monday evening between 7-9 pm.

~Ron Derven

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Piermont Community Gardener—What's New?

It was a hot but good summer in the Piermont Community garden. In June, at the garden's Summer Solstice Pot Luck, I went around asking new and long-time gardeners what new things they were trying this summer. It's now the August and I'm re-contacting them to see how things turned out. Here are the results, with the successful and the not so successful both noted. Hope you find something interesting to try in here too!

Denise is trying a new Brandywine tomato variety that she got from the Pfeiffer Center in Chestnut Ridge. The baby plants were grown biodynamically and she is using Epsom salts and chicken fertilizer to help them grow. In August Denise reports they have been the best Brandywines she ever had in terms of numbers and size. She said the weather might have helped too.

Joan is growing a dwarf blue sweet corn. She had a bunch of crows eyeing the new shoots. She may need row cover to protect them. In August Joan reports that the crows did not get the corn seedlings and that they are shoulder high and ears are forming.

Charlotte and Dan are planting Thai Basil and Jalapeno peppers. The basil struggled for a while but then started doing better.

Paola and Pier are growing melons for the first time and are also trying to plan their planting schedule a bit better. They report that the melons are doing so well they had to add supports so that the weight of the melons won't damage the rest of the plant.

Carol, Denise and Doreen are using

coffee grounds as a soil amendment. Doreen made a compost tea with coffee grounds, banana peels and egg shells. She steeped it for 4 weeks then added water and applied. Her plants "exploded" in a good way and she ended up with a 12 pound zucchini!

Arline and Eric planted more zucchini than usual. The plants did so well that by June the zucchini plants were already taking over their small plot.

Diane: Lettuce is usually a cool weather spring and fall plant since it bolts, turns bitter and goes to seed in the summer heat. Diane purchased and

planted a summer lettuce variety that is supposed to be able to withstand heat. She purchased the seeds from the wonderful Hudson Valley Seed Exchange.

Ellen wanted to plant more flowers this year. She saw a new-to-her flower called Ranunculus on sale and decided to give it a try. The root bundles arrived looking like a bunch of dried up spiders, but she planted them according to the directions. Some rotted quickly, but others came up. Eventually she had really wonderful looking blooms.

~Susan Freiman



Three members of the PCA's Board attended the 12 week Citizens Police Academy program in Pomona in 2016. Pictured left to right are Nancy Swaab, Patricia Lukes, Piermont Police Chief Mike O'Shea, and Kathleen Puder.

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Estuary Program Will Install Device To Help Eels Over Barrier

The New York DEC and local Piermont volunteers will set up a device at the dam at Ferdon Pond to help baby eels and other marine life get over the dam and into the fresh waters of the Sparkill Creek, according to Chris Bowser, Education Coordinator, Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve; NYS Water Resource Institute at Cornell University.

Dams like the one at Ferdon Pond and others up and down the Hudson River have long blocked marine life that spend much of their life in fresh water. Bowser had considered the construction of a fish ladder at the dam to help the marine life over the barrier, but his team has since developed a new, lightweight device (shown here) that could prove more effective than a fish ladder.

"The prototype eel trap-and-pass device is light-weight enough to be lifted and lowered from the dam's walkway by two people without any construction or alteration to the dam itself," explained Bowser. "The water will come from two siphon hoses at the top of the dam. We will paint the device a dark green so it doesn't stand out too much. We should be ready to try it out in a few weeks."

Although the glass (juvenile) eel run is in the spring, and the silver (mature adult) eel run is in the fall, eel ladders at other sites on the Hudson typically catch a steady trickle of eels throughout the May to October season.

According to Bowser, the life cycle of these eels is complex and their journeys long. Young eels start life in the Sar-



Dam on Sparkill Creek at Rockland Road Bridge. Ron Derven photo

gasso Sea, that vast stretch of the Atlantic Ocean—the only sea on earth without a coastline. It is a distinctive body of water with brown Sargassum seaweed and calm blue water, which is very different from the rest of the Atlantic Ocean. The sea is bounded on the west by the Gulf Stream; on the north, by the North Atlantic Current; on the east, by the Canary Current; and on the south, by the North Atlantic Equatorial Current.

The young eels spend up to a year drifting and swimming to East Coast tributaries such as the Sparkill Creek. These glass eels, and their older

"elver" stages, are seeking good habitat, which sometimes means climbing waterfalls, scaling dams, even slithering across the ground on wet nights. Once settled in the fresh water habitat, male eels may stay in a stream for five or ten years and grow just over a foot long. Female eels may stay in freshwater for 20 or more years and grow to three feet in length. At a certain stage in life, something "triggers" these eels to begin a journey to return to the Sargasso Sea where they spawn and die.

~Ron Derven

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TZ Bridge Info Meeting Nov. 10

Do you want to know more about the new Tappan Zee Bridge? Bridge spokesperson Daniel Marcy will get you up to date and answer your questions at 7:30 pm, Thursday, Nov 10, in the Piermont Village Hall. The Piermont Civic Association is sponsoring the free event.

Sign Up for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

At the time of the storm and in the days and weeks that followed Hurricane Sandy, did you wish that you could have done more to help Piermont as its police, fire department, department of public works and elected office struggled to contain the disaster? Now you can. Join Rockland County's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) that is actively training volunteers to assist emergency responders during times of emergency. This training is not only for people who want to work with the community during times of emergency. It is also meant for those who just want to be able to better care for themselves and/or their neighbors in emergencies. Classes are offered at the Fire Training Center in Pomona throughout the year. On September 17th, more than a dozen Piermont residents took the first part of a CERT training course in Piermont.

The CERT 8-part training program covers a broad range of disaster preparedness skills, such as disaster simulation and damage assessment – learning how to rapidly assess damage employing a standardized format used throughout the county. Also included in the training are team organization and disaster psychology, medical operations, fire suppression, and light search and rescue.

The September 17th session in Piermont was full of practical advice and wisdom, according to Piermont resident

Marjorie Derven. Volunteers learned how to partner with fire and police departments to help neighbors during a crisis. They discussed the vulnerabilities and conditions of specific neighborhoods in the Village. An electrical engineer demonstrated how to safely turn off power to minimize dangerous conditions. Trainees were also shown how to identify wires and voltage on local telephone poles, and how to exit a car that has a live wire on it. Hands-on demonstrations included putting out a fire with a fire extinguisher and extracting a victim from a car crash. Derven says that the best part of the training was the chance to interact with fellow Piermonters, strengthening her sense of community and empowerment in an increasingly dangerous and uncertain world.

The September 17th session will be followed by one that will focus on emergency medical aid, and will take place in Piermont in November at a time and place to be announced.

To learn more about CERT training courses and joining with other CERT volunteers, contact Lisa DeFeciani, Piermont Village Trustee: ldefeciani@piermont-ny.gov or Kathy Galione, Rockland County Project Coordinator: galioneK@co.rockland.ny.us.

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Little Free Library

There's a curious little house-shaped structure on the right side of Pier Road. It could be a vacation cottage for a doll or a mansion for a bird.

But it is, in fact, a little lending library. It is part of global organization of 40,000 Little Free Libraries. Its motto is "take a book; return a book."

The little library holds twenty or so books. You can look through them and take one with you. You can return the book after you've read it or donate a different book in its place.

The library was built by Isabella Jacob, who lives on Paradise Avenue. She keeps an eye on it every couple of days. "It's quite active," she said. "People sometimes donate a carton of books, leaving them by the library."

Isabella learned about the Little Free Library organization from her youngest son, who lives in Berkeley CA "I've always been a reader and I'm interested in small architectural structures." She built her library herself from scraps of wood and the glass door of a cabinet.

If you'd like to set up a Little Free Library, the organization will send you an already-built library. Alternatively you can build one of your own design or use plans provided by the organization.

There is another Little Free Library in the Patch. And Frances Wells plans to open a Library on River Road in Grandview.

Jessica Bown, head librarian of the Piermont Library, commented "It's a nice resource for the community to have. It's handy if you want to take a paperback to the beach. It's not competition; it's an addition".

Piermont Public Library accepts gifts of books but does not circulate them. Donated books are put in a green bin in the parking lot behind the library. Better World Books collects, sorts and either sells or recycles the donated books, giving 15% of the proceeds to the Piermont Public Library.

--Fred Burrell



Isabella Jacob. Fred Burrell Photo

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From The Library continued from page 9

face to face with penguins and whales, and marvel at icebergs and mountain chains, as Daniel Spitzer offers a photographic and video tour of the coldest and most windswept of continents. The presentation will be suitable for all, including children.

The library's annual Gift of Art Show & Sale will be part of the Piermont Chamber of Commerce's Holiday Festival. This year's theme is "A Day in the Life of Piermont" featuring work that captures slice-of-life images of Piermont. Artists will be free to interpret the theme in the form of vignettes, landscapes, portraits, architecture, wildlife, social life, or anything that says "life in Piermont" to them. The Gift of Art Show Open House will take place on Sunday, December 4th from 3 pm to 5 pm. Be sure to stop in, peruse the art and enjoy conversation and some holiday music with fellow village residents.

The Children's Department has a full slate of programs lined up for the fall including the launch of "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" for pre-schoolers. If you read just three books a day to your young ones, you will have read over 1,000 in just one year! Stop by the library to pick up your first reading log and we'll tell you all about it.

Family Movie Nights are scheduled for Friday, October 14 at 6:30 pm: Paddington (PG) 95min. and Friday, November 18 at 6:30pm: Minions (PG) 91 min. Family BINGO nights are scheduled for Friday, September 16th at 7 pm and Friday, October 21st at 7 pm. Make some great masks and play some fun games at a Children's Halloween Party for ages 4 and up on Monday, October 31st from 6 - 7 pm. Visit our website for the full schedule of weekly Story Times, Pre-

School Story & Craft, and monthly book clubs for grades K - 2 and 3 - 5.

For more information on any of the events at the Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library, please feel free to contact us at (845) 359-4595 or visit www.piermontlibrary.org, where you can join our mailing list to receive e-mail notifications of upcoming library programs.



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President's Corner continued from page 3

words. I knew the real reason she was doing it but my feelings weren't hurt.

As a kid I thought I wanted to be an astronomer so I was overjoyed when the Work and Play Club created an astronomy group. It was run by a Mr. Dee. He was an elderly English gentleman who lived with his wife in a Victorian house on the river. Mr. Dee was an avid amateur astronomer with a serious backyard telescope. He had the group (only boys had joined) over one bitterly cold winter night to look at Saturn. There was no snow on the ground but there was ice on the river.

We were all bundled up, including Mr. Dee who kept his ankles warm with spats. When it was finally my turn, I bent and looked through the eye piece and there it was – Saturn with its marvelous rings sitting out in space -- magical, mysterious and magnificent. After we'd all had a chance at the telescope, we were invited inside to warm up. Mrs. Dee served us hot chocolate.

Unlike Mr. Dee's Victorian house, which is still there, the Grand View Village Hall is gone but the memories of the good times we had there live on.

~Bob Samuels



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SF	210-214 River Road	Nyack	\$ 1,110,000	\$ 1,050,000	4	6	7/25/2016
SF	688 Piermont Avenue	Piermont	\$ 1,095,000	\$ 1,037,500	3	4	7/22/2016
Condo	212 Erie Court	Piermont	\$ 950,000	\$ 927,500	4	3	9/08/2016
SF	615 Route 9W	Piermont	\$ 819,000	\$ 800,000	3	4	8/15/2016
Condo	212 Devries Court	Piermont	\$ 550,000	\$ 549,500	3	2	7/01/2016

Homes in the Piermont area sold recently