

# PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

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## NEW VILLAGE BUDGET UP, TAXES DOWN

Piermont property owners will pay 7% less in Village taxes this year than they did last year. The rate -- \$6.24 per \$100.00 assessed valuation -- is down from \$6.69. The tax reduction was made possible by the Village's receipt of \$72,000.00 from the federal government and \$68,000.00 from the state in grants-in-aid towards Piermont's \$660,000.00 sewer project.

Piermont's budget for the new fiscal year (June 1, 1971 - May 31, 1972) totals \$306,130.00 -- an increase over last year of \$26,426.00. The increase provides for new outlays necessary to improve physical conditions and upgrade village services.

The allocations for all village departments, as compared with last year's budget follows:

	<u>1970-71</u>	<u>1971-72</u>	<u>Change</u>
Executive, legislative, judicial....	\$5,876	\$6,376	Up \$500
Staff.....	16,401	25,510	Up 9,109
Fire Department.....	14,500	17,950	Up 3,450
Police Department.....	50,075	56,400	Up 6,325
Road Department.....	69,788	73,849	Up 4,061
Youth and Recreation.....	5,200	13,355	Up 8,155
[Village General Expenses.....	91,990	100,690	Up 8,700
Debt Redemption.....	25,874	12,000	Down 13,874
Totals	\$279,704	\$306,130	Up \$26,426

The largest department increase, \$9,109.00, comes in staffing the Village Hall and in maintaining and repairing the building. The part-time offices of Village Treasurer and Village Clerk have been combined into a single full-time office, making it possible for Piermonters to transact business or seek information in the Village Hall between 9 A.M. and 4 P.M. five days a week. The budget also contains \$1,000.00 to hire an assessor to assist the trustees in assessing new construction and to prepare for a possible reassessment of existing

### REMEMBER:

Paper Drive --- June 12th (page 7)

Register for Summer Youth Recreation Program by June 14th (page 5)

properties to eliminate long-standing inequities. It also provides \$3,000.00 for repair of the Village Hall and its continued maintenance.

Most of the \$8,155.00 increase in the allocation for youth and recreation consists of \$6,000.00 for repairs to the vacated school annex building. An additional \$2,000.00 within this budget item assures continued operation of the Teen center.

The allocation for general village expenses includes such new amounts as \$5,000.00 towards the cost of eventual demolition of the old high school and an increase of \$1,000.00 to bring the Village's contribution to the Piermont Public Library to \$6,000.00 for this year. Increased insurance rates and payments to the State retirement fund are also factors in higher estimated general expenses.

The new budget figures for the Police Department are most interesting because of concern that the proposed salary increases to which our policemen were entitled would inflate the police budget by \$20,000.00 this year and another \$20,000.00 next year. Actually the budget, including salary raises, has gone up only \$6,325.00. The budget also includes \$6,000.00 for six months of the \$12,000.00 annual salary for the post of police chief, which has been vacant since last fall and can be filled only after the state civil service commission gives an examination in November. The village was able to eliminate \$4,000.00 for school crossing guards because pupil busing has made them unnecessary.

The Road Department's \$4,061.00 increase provides for enlarging the three-man road and sanitation crew to four full-time employees. It also increases the salary of present employees and contains \$3,000.00 for the purchase of a mechanized spreader to sand the roads more efficiently in winter and eliminate the hazard of having men standing on top of the moving truck to shovel out sand and salt.

The Fire Department's budget increase, totalling \$3,450.00, is due largely to a \$2,000.00 increase (from \$5,300.00 to \$7,000.00) in annual hydrant rentals demanded by the Spring Valley Water Company. Funds have been allocated also for new fire equipment.

The Village will save \$13,874.00 on its debt redemption costs this year through retirement of that amount in tax anticipation notes.

#### BOARD GETS TO WORK WITH SCHOOL DECISION, MARINA CONSIDERATION

Piermont's new Village Board got down to business on April 26th with the first general meeting since the election. The meeting was the occasion for the long-anticipated official decision to purchase the former high school property on Hudson Terrace from the Orangetown Board of Education for \$1.00. The Board voted to do that, leaving the future of the land in the hands of the Village.

Questioned at the meeting by residents about the ultimate disposal of the now-decrepit high school building on the property, the Board said that it had decided -- unofficially -- to demolish it in order to prepare for a Community Center to be based in the annex building. Funds for the renovation of the annex to working condition

were voted by the Board. Later, the Mayor told the Newsletter that demolition of the high school would probably occur relatively soon, because the condition of the building is a hazard.

Another highlight of the meeting was the swearing-in of new officers of Piermont's Volunteer Fire Department. The officers, in dress uniform, were presented to Board members in a brief ceremony. Charles Griswold was named Chief and Francis Taulman and Raymond Holmes first and second Assistant Chiefs. Other officers are: Allen Lynch, Foreman; Robert Pagnozzi, Assistant Foreman; William Goswick, Captain (ambulance); Albert Purveya, Assistant Captain (ambulance); August Reissman, Jr., and William Kruk, First and Second Lieutenants (underwater). In honor of the event, Mayor diFrancesca proclaimed May 8 as Volunteer Firemen Recognition Day.

A special hearing early in May produced other board actions. One was the adoption of a new Village ordinance giving the Board power to remedy derelict and unsightly property. The ordinance, while making sure that property owners are protected, defines procedures that the Board can take to compel owners to improve such properties, and -- failing that -- to relinquish them.

At the same hearing, a discussion was held on a proposal for a new marina on Main Street. The marina, on property owned by Anthony Piesco and leased to Richard A. Kracke, would reputedly have space for 40 boats plus parking. Several villagers stated their reservations about the project, especially in regard to whether adequate parking facilities would be provided. The Board deferred decision on the proposal pending its investigations.



First public meeting of the new Village Board drew a near-capacity audience of citizens to the board room.



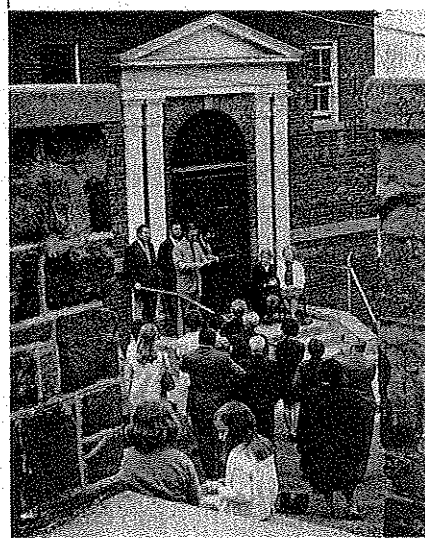
New Trustees Mimi Bryan and Matt Rotelli examine request for a building permit under watchful eye of Village assessor Charles Fasano



New officers of the Fire Department took their oath of office at traditional Village Board ceremony

The South Orangetown School Board presented the deed to the old Piermont High School property. Eugene Polinsky, representing the school board, built in 1899, was the first consolidated school in the district. Other speakers were Joseph Perotta, South Orangetown Superintendent of Schools, Mayor di Francesca, Anthony Barone, former principal of the old high school, and Mr. Joseph Hemmerle recalled that during his tenure his school taxes were \$13.00 a year.

Two members of the class of 1914, Mrs. Margaret Smith and Mrs. Helen Cassidy, also attended the ceremony which was followed by a supper at Cornetta's restaurant.



#### EXPANDED SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM PLANNED

Now that the new Community Center -- old annex -- is available, the summer recreation program will make it headquarters for a new and expanded program. Sports and games will remain a mainstay of the planned activities, with the addition of swimming and tennis instruction; the arts and crafts program will be enlarged; music and nature studies will be added. The staff for the program will be:

Youth Program Director --- Patricia Sedlack  
 Sports Director & Swimming instructor --- Cecelia Hickey Prediger  
 Counselors --- Charles DeKranis, Diane Goswick,  
 Genevieve Goswick, Cheryl Lewis, Molly MacQueen, Ken Wilhelm.

Also working with this staff will be a group of women who have volunteered their considerable talent and experience to organize and conduct the program -- Mrs. Carolyn DeLisser for Arts and Crafts, Mrs. Judi Hayes for Music, Miss Grace Meyer for Nature Studies. Others in the community have already volunteered their time to assist in special areas of the program -- any more who have ideas or time to contribute should contact Lisa Merrill, who is coordinating the activities. Teenagers who wish to work regularly will be building up experience which will give them first consideration for the staff next year.

The Community Center will be the headquarters for the program, but the facilities of the entire area will be utilized for activities -- tennis at Tallman, swimming at the center, softball at the Little League field, arts & crafts at the center, music at the center and the library. Nature studies especially will be able to take advantage of the wet lands and woods nearby.

Registration forms have been distributed through the school and are also available at the Village Hall, Post Office and Library. They should be filled out and returned to the Village Hall by June 14th. The program will run five mornings a week from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., July 6th through August 13th. It is open to all Piermont children 6 - 12 years old, but on one can be accepted who has not registered.

#### TEEN PROGRAM CONTINUES

Although all final plans have not yet been determined, the Teen Center will definitely be open during the summer months in the evening as it has been during the winter. Undoubtedly, there will be some special events worked out by the members. The swimming pool will be open in the afternoons for the use of the community, and hopefully there will be some night openings this season.

#### P.C.A. RESPONDS TO COMPLAINT

Excerpt from the P.C.A. meeting of May 4, 1971: "The Piermont Civic Association shall notify the FAA that the recent helicopter overflights have irritated and annoyed residents of several parts of Piermont and we hope the recent discontinuance of such flights will be permanent."

Explanation from complainant Edward O. Noyes:

"President Kennedy's 1963 arrival at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia was preceeded by a shaking in the air, growing into an echoing rumble of 30 matched Harley-Davidsons cruising down Broad St. The motorcade's sound of many engines almost, but not quite, running at the same speed, recalled a 1953 memory of squadrons of trainers flying over my home near Oneida, N.Y. It only happened once or twice and was an exciting event for a 10 year old.

"Time passes and aesthetics change. Betty and I moved to Piermont in 1969 in an escape from the general madness of Brooklyn, and a particular escape from the aircraft noise of LaGuardia's approach patterns.

"This spring, the madness seems to be following us; Zeckendorf and Rocky want to turn Newburg (and probably Piermont's skies) into a great metropolitan jetport. Westchester County Airport seems to have doubled its population of business jets and our own backyard mountain seems to have become some kind of bat-cave for an Army helicopter squadron.

"The sound of these heavy military helicopters is nothing like the buzz and whine of traffic-copters or executive taxis. From a long distance, they first sound like a neighbor's, slow moving Volkswagen with a leaky muffler. As they fly low over Piermont the windows rattle and the house sounds like it is being hit rapid-fire with huge boxing gloves...thumpa Thumpa THUMpa THUMPA!

"A series of calls to the FAA in New York seems to have changed the situation for the better. Now the pilots seem to prefer going over Sparkill and Orangeburg or cut over the Hudson on flights to and from the bat cave."

#### ECOLOGY GROUP PLANS SECOND PAPER DRIVE

Piermont will have its second paper drive on June 12th -- same time: 10 AM to 4 PM and same place: Federal Paper Company (con Can) north parking lot.

Herb Schlobohm, who heads just about every environmental action group in the vicinity, stresses that this time the emphasis must be on newspapers. Well-meaning souls neatly parceled all their junk mail and magazines for the February drive and carted them down to the trailer hired by Schlobohm's CEA Committee (Citizens for Environmental Action) only to have their efforts rejected. The paper must be newspaper and nothing but newspaper, Schlobohm said.

Nevertheless, the first drive netted the CEA \$182.00 -- the bulk of which went to the Clausland Mountain Fund. The June 12 drive proceeds, plus those from a subsequent drive, Schlobohm feels will produce enough money for the CEA to buy its own paper bailer. The Federal Paper Company in Piermont is committed to accepting all Piermont used newspapers if bailed into 150 pound packets.

At that point, Schlobohm sees a door-to-door paper collection in Piermont, carried out by volunteers organized by the CEA. Ultimately, he hopes -- "after all the bugs are ironed out" -- the Village can take over the operation.

In other environmental action, Piermont Civic Association members, under Schlobohm's leadership, recently put in a strenuous Saturday morning cleaning up the banks of the Sparkill Creek along Ferdon Avenue from the silk mill to the skating rink. There were no major problems reported, other than the lifting, bending and hauling. They dispatched bottles and aluminum cans for recycling; other refuse waited in neat piles for the Village highway crew to cart it away. Working with Schlobohm were the Hiestands, Denny Hayes, various Bradburys and Sandy Ward.

The Environmental Ecological Display on view in the upstairs gallery of the Piermont Library tells you all you ever wanted to know about ecology, whether or not you were afraid to ask. It also posts a volunteer sign-up sheet for future Piermont cleanup projects.

#### PLAY BALL!

The Piermont T-Shirt League opened its twelfth year on Sunday, May 2 at the Continental Can field. Opening Day ceremonies included a parade and the presentation of a check for \$520.00 from the Miraglia's Social Club to the T-Shirt League (they raffled off a radio - stereo tape deck and donated the proceeds). The Rotary Club is erecting bleachers on both sides of the field so parents and friends will have a good seat for all the ball games.

There are about 95 boys 8 - 12 years old from the Sparkill, Piermont, Grand View area in the T-Shirt League. The League is run

with donations from the people of our area. The annual fund drive is under way and letters have been sent to all residents asking their assistance. It costs about \$1,200.00 a year to run the program. The boys in the League are keen supporters; the response from the adults of the community has always been equally gratifying.

T-Shirt League ball games are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the field, off Paradise Avenue. More help from parents can always be used, but mostly the boys and their coaches would like to have a larger spectator turnout -- remember those new bleachers to make your watching more comfortable!

## LIBRARY SCHEDULE

### June Films-

June 2 (Wed.) 4 P.M. (4 to 8 year-olds)

Little Blue Apron  
Anansi the Spider  
Cuckoo Clock that Wouldn't Cuckoo

June 16 (Wed.) 4 P.M. (8 to 12 year-olds)

Ghosts and Ghoulies  
Magician

June 4 8:30 Special Friday evening program for adults and young adults.

Pharmacist - W.C. Fields  
General - Buster Keaton  
Immigrant - Charlie Chaplin

The regular schedule of story hours will continue in June: Monday afternoons at 2:30 and Wednesday mornings at 10:30, story hours for pre-schoolers; Wednesday afternoons at 4, story hours and sing-alongs for school-age children alternate with films.

The summer schedule begins July 6 and runs through August 13.

Every Monday at 10:30 A.M. - Story Hour for School-Aged

Every Wednesday at 10:30 A.M. - Story Hour for Pre-schoolers

Every Friday at 10:30 A.M. - Films

The Beachcomber Reading Club will run from July 6 to August 13. Registration will be held at the library from June 21 to July 2.

August 6 (Friday) 8 P.M. Family Folk Sing

August 13 (Friday) 3 P.M. Family Origami Demonstration by  
Misoko Tanaka.

## PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

In recent weeks the Planning Commission has assisted the Village Board on three important issues:

1. The old Tappan Zee High School property. At its first regular meeting the new Village Board asked the Planning Commission



and Brian Holihan's School Site Committee to meet and jointly make recommendations to the board on the use of the property. This was done at the regular May meeting of the Commission, at which the following recommendations were made:

- A. Demolish the old high school building
- B. Repair the old annex building as necessary, and use it as a recreation center and meeting hall for the Village.
- C. Landscape the grounds to provide an attractive setting for outdoor activities, including handball and basketball courts, protected play areas for small children, bocci courts, and garden settings with benches for quiet relaxation by older people and mothers with baby carriages; all to be accessible by ramped walks from both Hudson Terrace and Piermont Avenue.

The Planning Commission recommended that the planning of the outdoor areas be done by a qualified landscape designer, and hope to obtain such a person at no cost to the village.

2. An application for a permit to build a new marina behind the Fragiacomio and Piesco properties on Piermont Avenue. Most of the members of the Commission attended the public hearing on this application, and the Board has stated that it will not act until it receives the recommendation of the Planning Commission. As this issue of the Newsletter goes to press those recommendations have not been made public, but it is understood that they have been conveyed to the Mayor and the Trustees.

3. The Planning Commission wrote a letter for the Mayor's signature to the Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District, and sent copies to state and federal granting agencies. The letter protested that Piermont was not represented on their committee, which had made application for state and federal assistance for improvements to the Sparkill Creek Watershed. Hopefully, this will result in Piermont's being given its proper role in any further planning affecting the Sparkill Creek.

#### CRACK DOWN ON DOGS AND TRASH

The Village plans to act on two frequent complaints, according to Mayor diFrancesca. He asked the cooperation of Village residents in complying with ordinances concerning pet supervision and rubbish disposal.

The Mayor said the Village will take a hard line on the often-heard complaint that dogs are running in packs on the Village streets. Ordinances state that pets must be restrained unless under the immediate supervision and control of the owner; violators will be issued summonses by the police. At the same time, the Mayor issued a warning against those who would take the law in their own hands if a stray pet comes on their property. "It is a crime to poison or shoot a dog, and there are alleged instances of this happening in Piermont," he says. If an owner suspects that his animal was poisoned, he should contact the police and a vet to determine if such is the case.

The Mayor also reminded Villagers that rubbish and garbage must be separated, and must be put on the street no sooner than 12 hours before pick-up. Garbage must be placed in metal or plastic containers with close-fitting tops (no paper bags). Cans must be removed within 12 hours of pick-up. Rubbish is defined as the large items which are collected on the first Tuesday of each month, except during the winter. These items should be properly bundled, so as not to be scattered while awaiting pick-up.

MEMORIAL DAY BOX LUNCH PICNIC

As this copy of the Newsletter goes to press, plans have been made by the PCA for a gala Memorial Day picnic following the traditional parade. The picnic is billed as "Fun - Raising" -- fund raising is a minor goal -- and if successful it may well become another annual tradition for Piermonters.

FLOWER POWER

The PCA has announced plans to sponser a "Flower Power" contest open to all residents, organizations and business owners. The contest will reward the best use of "Flower Power" -- including flower and vegetable gardens, landscaping, orderly appearance of grounds and use of flowers and plantings in any other form, i.e. planters, window boxes, tubs, etc.

Awards will be announced in the next issue of the Newsletter. The smallest property will be on an equal footing with the largest. The Nyack Garden Club will do the judging. All applicants who fail to send in their applications -- non-applicants will be judged from the street side only.

The contest closes June 30th and judging will commence immediately thereafter. We urge you to send in your application today.

---Ruth Brauner, Mimi Bryan, Ed McPherson contest committee.

Mr. E.B. McPherson  
Box 135  
Sparkill, New York

I wish to enter the flower power contest for awards in the following category:

Private dwelling \_\_\_\_\_  
Business property \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We seem to be off to a good start -- the new budget is up, but the tax rate down; the tradition of Volunteerism long ago established in the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps and Library is being extended to other activities in the Village -- notable, the volunteer time given the summer youth recreation program, Jack Parker's efforts at the teen center, and Donald Kopf's planting of the 500 seedling evergreens the Village bought to eventually screen the Piermont dump. Hopefully, a renewed PCA effort to spearhead cleanups and beautification projects will result in a permanent arrangement for recycling under Village auspices. Let the spirit of Spring keep blooming!

P.S. Join the PCA to keep it flourishing too.

ADVERTISEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT: Boy of 16 looking for summer jobs. Yard work, painter, etc. Any one who needs a helper call: Fred Holmes, 359-0597.

WANTED: Custodian for Village Hall and Annex. Contact: Village Clerk's office, 359-1258.

THIS ISSUE was produced by the Newsletter Committee of the Piermont Civic Association: Robert Bradbury, Rosemary and Bob Cone, Cynthia Crippen, Charles Grutzner, Margaret Holihan, Lisa and Ted Merrill. Ed Noyes was a special reporter, Ron Appelbe took pictures, and Lisa Merrill was the editor. The committee always welcomes new members or special feature writers. Please contact any of the above people if you want to join.

The PCA NEWSLETTER is published for all of Piermont and anyone else who belongs to the PCA.

The PCA always wants new members, their ideas and their participation. It costs only \$5.00 to join, per family per year. Just fill in the form below and mail it or bring it to the next PCA meeting. Mailing address: PCA, Box 365, Piermont, N.Y. 10968.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Interests \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL NOTICE:

A SALE OF THE FURNISHINGS OF THE OLD TAPPAN ZEE HIGH SCHOOL ON HUDSON TERRACE WILL BE HELD BEGINNING AT 11 AM JUNE 19 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER (OLD SCHOOL PROPERTY). FURNISHINGS INCLUDE CHAIRS, TABLES, SCHOOL DESKS, AND SLATE BLACKBOARDS.  
COME TO THE SALE ON SATURDAY JUNE 19 AT 11 AM.

