

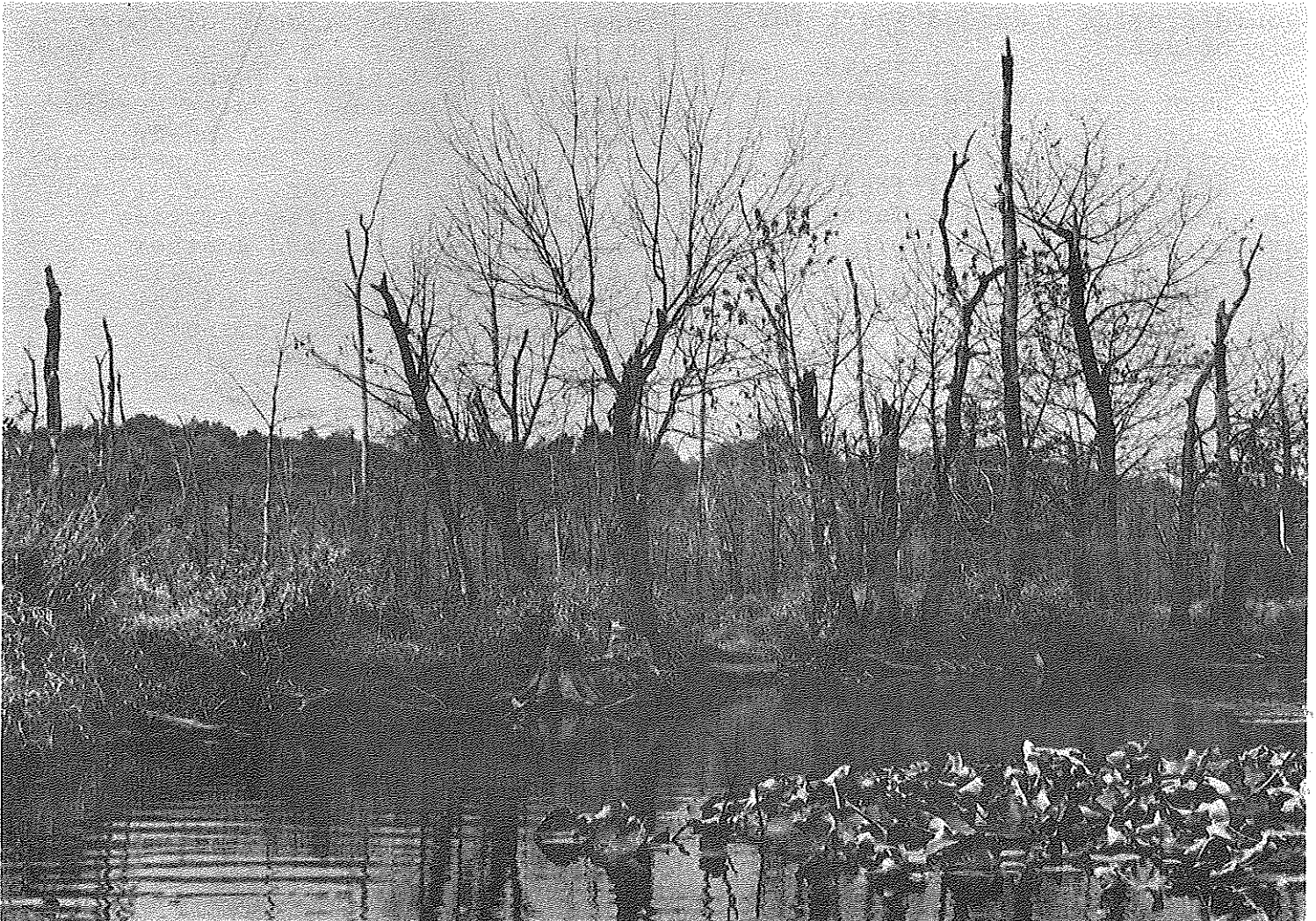
# THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII

NO. 3

PUBLISHED BY THE PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1978



THE WEST NYACK SWAMP

One recent fall morning, a cop (who works the night shift), a housewife and a visiting artist packed up the picnic basket, filled the thermos with hot chocolate, put the canoe on the top of the car and drove out of Piermont heading for Route 59. On the west side of the parking lot behind Pathmark, in West Nyack, we tipped the canoe over a metal guardrail and down into a narrow stream--the upper reaches of the Hackensack River.

Heading downstream\* we maneuvered our way past submerged auto parts, over fallen logs and a small rock

dam. This was accomplished with a fair amount of sweating and swearing as the river wound back and forth, finally passing under the railroad bed and the Western Highway Bridge. Here the water was so shallow that we had to get out on slippery rocks and drag the canoe over several hundred feet.

A few bends further, the stream widened out into a vast expanse of

\*Upstream the river eventually reaches the Lake DeForest Reservoir. When the water is as low as it was this day, a better place to put in is by the Deer Head Inn on Western Highway.

continued page 2

Piermont has had a good year in 1978. We had our first Block Party/Street Dance which was enjoyed by many young to old. The trucks were banned on 9W giving us all a safer, more enjoyable environment. The Community Market reopened which should provide a needed spark for Main Street.

It's been an enjoyable year for me as PCA President. I want to thank the Board and all the others who have helped so much. I feel the PCA has been a positive factor in Piermont. Many people worked on the dinner, the Blue Grass Fair and the Block Party. They did it because they have a great deal of affection for Piermont. It is a good place to live!

All of you can and should share in the work and fun of the PCA. The Board welcomes new faces, hands and arms. What we can do is limited only by the energies of the people who participate. Join us actively, you will enjoy it. ■

A FOND ADIEU

The PCA will sorely miss former NEWSLETTER Editor Carole Novick who has moved with her husband Lloyd and two children to the Green Mountains of Vermont. Dr. Novick, former Deputy Commissioner of Public Health in New York City, has been named Commissioner of Health for the State of Vermont.

Carole edited the NEWSLETTER for the last several years and was in the forefront of many Civic Association projects since moving to Piermont six years ago. This year she received the PCA Award as the citizen who had performed outstanding service for the Association and the community.

Carole and Lloyd, who enjoy skiing and canoeing, will find ample opportunity to follow their pursuits from their new home near Burlington. We wish them well. ■

Rarely does the history of a village and the history of a family unfold in such a closely connected way. But then, how many families contribute two Mayors, two Village Trustees (four, if you count the ones who later became Mayors), numerous Fire Department officers, three Fire Chiefs, a Village Clerk-Treasurer, a Building Inspector, a Plumbing Inspector, a Parks Commissioner, a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, a Town Supervisor, a School Board member. And, if you include members of the families they married into, add another Village Trustee, another Village Clerk, a Charter Member of the Planning Commission, another Fire Chief and an Environmental Commissioner.

October 28 saw a gathering of over a hundred members of the Masucci clan, descendants of brothers Anthony and Vito Masucci. At eighty plus, Edith Masucci Streppone is la grande belle dame. Unbelievably alert and lively, keen sense of humor intact, she proudly presided as her own sons and daughter, and

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THE WEST NYACK SWAMP...cont'd.

the West Nyack Swamp and except for a distant view of power lines, we felt we were a thousand miles from civilization.

In spite of the fact that it was late in the year and most of the birds had migrated south, the swamp still abounded with wildlife. Flocks of crows and cowbirds filled the air and sandpipers stalked the mudflats. Schools of carp with yellow bellies and grey backs were everywhere, even where the water was so shallow that their backs were out of the water. We saw plenty of ducks, a hen pheasant, and once one of our paddles nudged a baby snapping turtle out of his hibernation in the mud.

Further south the swamp becomes a river again at the "Forty-Foot Hole" where the Spring Valley Water Company is currently doing a lot of

their sons and daughters and their children, and her cousins, nieces and nephews and their children, and grandchildren gathered at the Village Hall for a family reunion. Though many members of this family remain in Piermont and Sparkill, others live a half continent and even oceans away. Wherever they are, these are good people: strong, upright, gifted, hardworking. They have had their share of heartaches, but they are overwhelmingly joyous and optimistic. They know who they are and what they stand for. United in family affection, active in Church and community, they can truly be characterized as "the salt of the earth." □



*Edith Masucci Streppone*

When a large family lives in a small village there seems to be relatives all around. This is no exception. In fact, just to list the names is somewhat mind-boggling. Begin with Masucci--add Streppone, Wamsley, diFrancesca, Leote, Weber, Ianucci, and Davolio in one generation; then Hunt, Hardy, Timpson, Marino, Cassidy, Veen in the second; and remember that in-laws include and are related to Sedlacks (twice), Auryensons, Hickeys, Leitners, Ledigers, Sisolaks, Abderhaldens, diCasolis and Codellos. Add a third generation of Moores, Viggianis, Abels, McClures, Smuteks, and pretty soon there's quite a crowd! ■

*Ed. Note: As of press date photo of Masucci Reunion not available.*

bulldozing. Further downstream the river widens again out into the reservoir area near Blue Hill Golf Course. However, we stayed in the swamp and had a leisurely picnic on a small plank platform which, from the scattered spent shotgun shells, had obviously been used by hunters. Then we headed back to Pathmark, weary but renewed by a trip into a different world.

Back home, we did some research and gathered a few facts about the swamp. According to the history books, the West Nyack Swamp had been kept clear by the Indians who burned the area either to plant or drive game from cover. While settlers built drainage ditches and before the Revolution, the upper portion of the swamp was highly prized as grazing meadow by neighboring farmers. It lost its usefulness during the Revolution when the farmers were off fighting and the drainage ditches closed off and vegetation sprang up in the

fertile soil. By the time the Nyack Turnpike (now Route 59) was built across it, it had become an "apparently bottomless morass covered by trees, brambles and bushes."<sup>1</sup>

The swamp has had a long history of flooding. Now the water level is controlled by the Spring Valley Water Company which owns the bulk of the swamp and incorporates it into its reservoir system.

Barbara Porter, Director of the Rockland County Environmental Management Council wonders whether the Water Company drains and fills the reservoir at different spots so frequently that some organisms, especially at the shoreline, can't possibly survive. The Water Company claims that the damage is minimal. Mrs. Porter said that

<sup>1</sup> Wilfred Blanch Talman, How Things Began in Rockland County, p. 66.

## PIERMONT AVENUE GARDEN

Anyone passing the area of 129 Piermont Avenue this summer or early fall could not help but notice a lovely floral display along the bank of the railroad there. Stretching for more than a hundred feet was a garden of many colors, thoughtfully laid out and obviously well-maintained by an expert hand. But whose hand? That was the question that came immediately to many minds.

The public-spirited person responsible for the Piermont Avenue garden can be often seen either weeding, planting, watering, or sitting in contemplation of his work in a bright blue, garden chair behind the flowers. He is Mr. Clifton Oakley, who resides at 129 Piermont Avenue, across the street from the garden.

Mr. Oakley is a longtime resident of the Village and recently retired after 37 years at Clevepak. His interest in gardening dates from his childhood in North Carolina some 50 years ago, where, he said he "grew a lot of flowers for my mother." Even as a youngster Mr. Oakley remembers having a green thumb, and the love of beauty, as well as the gardening know-how gained then has never left him. He has always grown a vegetable garden here, as well as flowers on his homesite.

About four years ago, when the Village cleaned out the poison ivy and weeds growing along the bank, Mr. Oakley stepped in to make sure it stayed clean. "I hate poison ivy," he said, "and I promised it would never come back. The Village did a good job of cleaning it up, but I knew they couldn't afford to do much more, so I said I would take care of it."

From then on, he and his grandsons, Clifton and Charles Bullock, as well as his daughter and Mrs. Oakley, have worked from spring to fall to create and expand this garden. It's gotten more ambitious each year, and Mr. Oakley says it's definitely a "family proposition" for which he couldn't take the entire credit.

They grow a mixture of perennial and annual plants which include zinnias, marigolds, impatiens, hollyhocks, Japanese and American sunflowers, pinks and others whose names have been forgotten. Mr. Oakley carefully saves the seeds from the biggest blossoms to grow the following year, and never buys a seed, although his daughter does on occasion buy some new seed. This fall he has for the first time put in tulip bulbs, so the garden will start even earlier in the spring.

As for now, the old frost has got most of the plants, and except for the hardiest of marigolds, the garden is pretty bare. Not too long ago Mr. Oakley was out doing some fall chores, pulling up the withered plants he commented, "It'll take another year. Yes, it'll take another year now. Then we'll have more flowers."

Thank you, Mr. Oakley and family. We'll be looking forward to it. ■

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## WEST NYACK SWAMP...cont'd.

years ago when she was on the Orangetown Park Development Commission, the Water Company before digging out the watershed area to make the reservoir at Blue Hill, gave the Commission a verbal promise that the Town could use the reservoir for recreation, including bathing--a promise that was not kept. Mrs. Porter feels that the people of Rockland County lose out compared to people in other areas who are allowed to use unfenced reservoirs for boating, fishing and even sometimes swimming. Although the waters are public domain, the Water Company discourages boating on the swamp and allows fishing only by permit.

According to George Hadelor of Pearl River, the swamp abounds with fish. Besides the very visible carp, there are black crapias, catfish, sunfish, yellow and white perch, some bass and an occasional chain of grass pickerel. All but the carp which are bottom feeders are very good to eat. ■

# Notes Around the Village

## NEW POLICE OFFICER SWORN IN

Thomas Gaynor, a Tappan Zee High School graduate and U.S. Navy veteran, was sworn in as a Piermont Police Officer on September 11. Gaynor, a lifelong resident of the Village who was hired to replace Officer Charles Edwards, is presently attending N.Y. State Basic Police School. Tom, his wife Patricia and their six month old daughter Kate, make their home on Hudson Terrace. □

## CURB YOUR DOG

Perhaps the time has come for our Village to have a law like New York City--people have to clean up after their dogs or otherwise face a fine.

How many times have you seen dog owners walking their dogs without a leash? Or, walking with a leash and when the owner comes to a wide open area releases the dog. Does the owner realize that children play in that same area? Besides, dog urine kills green plants. A dog should be trained to either use his own backyard or the curb if the owner does not have a backyard.

For many owners it is unpleasant to clean up in front of other people's property after their dogs have used it as a toilet. I would like to see dog owners correct this kind of behavior and make it their civic duty to curb their dogs.

[Written by Ruth Brawner, Co-Chairman, Piermont Park Commission in response to receiving many complaints about the dog situation in the Village.] □

## BROKEN GLASS

Broken glass is a constant problem in and for the Village. Can you think of any effective measures for dealing with this? □

## VILLAGE FILLS PLANNING BOARD VACANCY

The newest Village official, Mildred Burck, was sworn in on November 13 by Mary Hardy, Village Clerk. Appointed to fill Bob Bradbury's unexpired term on the Planning Board, Mildred has been a prime mover of two of Main Street's attractive and successful businesses, the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop and the Piermont Exchange. In addition, she was very influential in securing mortgage money for Sugby, the group which restored the buildings at 512 and 516 Main Street.

Her interest and proven ability in the Piermont business district is chief among the reasons for her selection. Mayor Bryan gave the Planning Board several charges in addition to the activities required of it by law. These include planning to continue the revitalizing of Main Street business and to upgrade and provide for full use of the Village's waterfront. The latter is really an extension of the former, since the marinas may be considered a special kind of Piermont Avenue business.

Brad's resignation was accepted with deep regret because he has contributed so much to the planning process in the Village. However, his exceptional talents and viewpoint will still be available because he has generously agreed to continue to serve as needed on special projects.

Mildred has long believed in and practiced volunteerism as a way of achieving goals. In addition to her work on behalf of the Village, she served many years for the cause of mental health in Rockland County. Her ability to work well with people, her enthusiasm and realistic approach to the Village's present and future prosperity, her concern for the quality of life of Piermont's residents make her a logical choice for this important post. □

## SENIOR CITIZEN ALERT!

Your applications for tax exemption are due in the Clerk's office by December 15. If you have any question about your eligibility, stop in or call 359-1258. ■

## GHOSTS AND GOBLINS ON MAIN STREET

The Chemical Bank of Piermont, Piermont Rotary and Fire Department jointly sponsored the Annual Village of Piermont Halloween Celebration and Parade. The event began with Brian the Magic Clown performing his tricks at the Fire House. Led by the Orangetown Midgettes approximately 250 costumed children paraded to Kane Park and back to the Chemical Bank where judges made their decisions on the winners for best costumes. 40 separate prizes of silver dollars to good costumes were handed out and the three top winners for best costume were: First prize of \$5 to Tom Caputo, 9 years old from Kinney Street for his teepee costume; second prize of \$3 to Joe Cornetta, 11 years old from Hudson Terrace for his Ace of Hearts; third prize of \$2 to Meadow Linder, 2 1/2 years old



from Ash Street who was a butterfly. Refreshments and treats were given out by the Chemical Bank to all the participants. ■

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## VILLAGE SPLIT OVER TRUCKING ISSUE

BY Julio Alonso, III

The Village of Piermont is currently facing a lawsuit in New York State Supreme Court filed by local residents. The dispute stems from the operation of a small cafe and trucking company on Ladik Street, in the Piermont business district. The trucking company, J. Marc's, operates out of a building owned by longtime Village resident Rene La Tour. Mr. La Tour also owns and operates a small coffee shop adjoining the company.

Village residents have raised claims of diesel fumes and noise coming from the trucking company and took their complaint to the Village Zoning Board. The Zoning Board heard both sides of the issue and then granted a variance to Mr. La Tour and the trucking company, allowing them to continue to operate under certain conditions. The trucking company is limited to the amount of trucks it may have on the property, all repairs must be made inside and the hours of operation are limited (no trucks may depart or enter after 9 p.m). Mr. Marc feels he has made concessions and that Village residents must do the same.

The residents, however, do not agree and have filed an Article 78 in State Supreme Court against the Village. A decision on this matter has been postponed and is still pending. □

### From the Editor

The PCA NEWSLETTER welcomes Julio Alonso, III to its staff. Julio, a 16 year old senior at Tappan Zee High School, is managing editor of Tapress (school paper) and a delegate to the Student Organization. He does volunteer work at the Piermont Library and has worked in political campaigns on both the local and state level. Julio hopes to attend Indiana University at Bloomington and major in political science. Moving from the Bronx to Piermont over two years ago, Julio says he is "absolutely crazy about Piermont and its citizens." ■

### IN MEMORY

Andrew Ciganek who was born and raised in Piermont recently passed away. A former Village trustee, member of the Fire Department and Knights of Columbus Council 2320, he will be missed.

# ORGANIZATIONS

## ACTIVE LIONS

By Ed Boyle

Although Autumn is the harbinger of nature's period of rest, the vitality of the Piermont Lions Club is steadily growing. At the recent Block Party the Lions organized a health care day utilizing the Lions Mobile Unit. Many Piermont citizens availed themselves of the opportunity to have their hearing and blood pressure evaluated. With the assistance of volunteers from Dominican College and the Piermont Fire Department 129 people were tested. Our congratulations to both the volunteers and the test applicants.

The Piermont Lions are anxiously looking forward to establishing the Frank Parelli Park to be located at the site of the former Mill Beach. This park, facing the Hudson River, will have shade trees and benches for the use of our citizens. In addition to the Park we have already begun the leveling of the ground in preparation for constructing a pavilion and picnic area to be adjacent to the Little League field.

The Piermont Lions would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated and helped make our second annual Penny Sale on October 27 a success.

Nature may be getting ready to rest for the coming months but Lions are pressing on without pausing for a rest.

\* \* \*

## COMMUNITY UNICEF COLLECTION

For the past eight years the young people of the Reformed Church in Piermont have taken a Sunday afternoon to canvass for UNICEF. This year's collection brought in \$111, bringing the cumulative total of all collections in excess of \$1050.

## ECUMENICAL ADVENT PILGRIMAGE

The local churches are hosting the fourth annual Ecumenical Advent Pilgrimage on Sunday, December 10 at 3 p.m. The successive worship services, spaced at half hour intervals, will begin at 3 p.m. at St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church in Sparkill, moving to the Reformed Church, the Macedonia Baptist Church and concluding at St. John's R. C. Church at 4:30, followed by light refreshments in their hall. The brief worship services held in each church will consist of hymns, scripture readings, an anthem by the choir of the host church and the lighting of an advent wreath by a member of another congregation. The community is invited to attend.

\* \* \*

## Senior News

### PIERMONT'S SENIOR CITIZENS

A great many people who move to Piermont need never be lonesome. If you are 60 years or over, you have the good fortune to join the Piermont Senior Citizens Club.

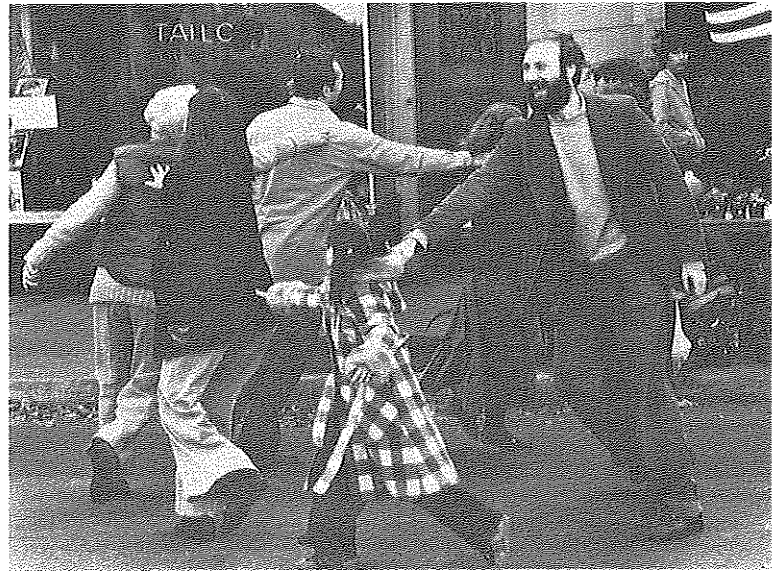
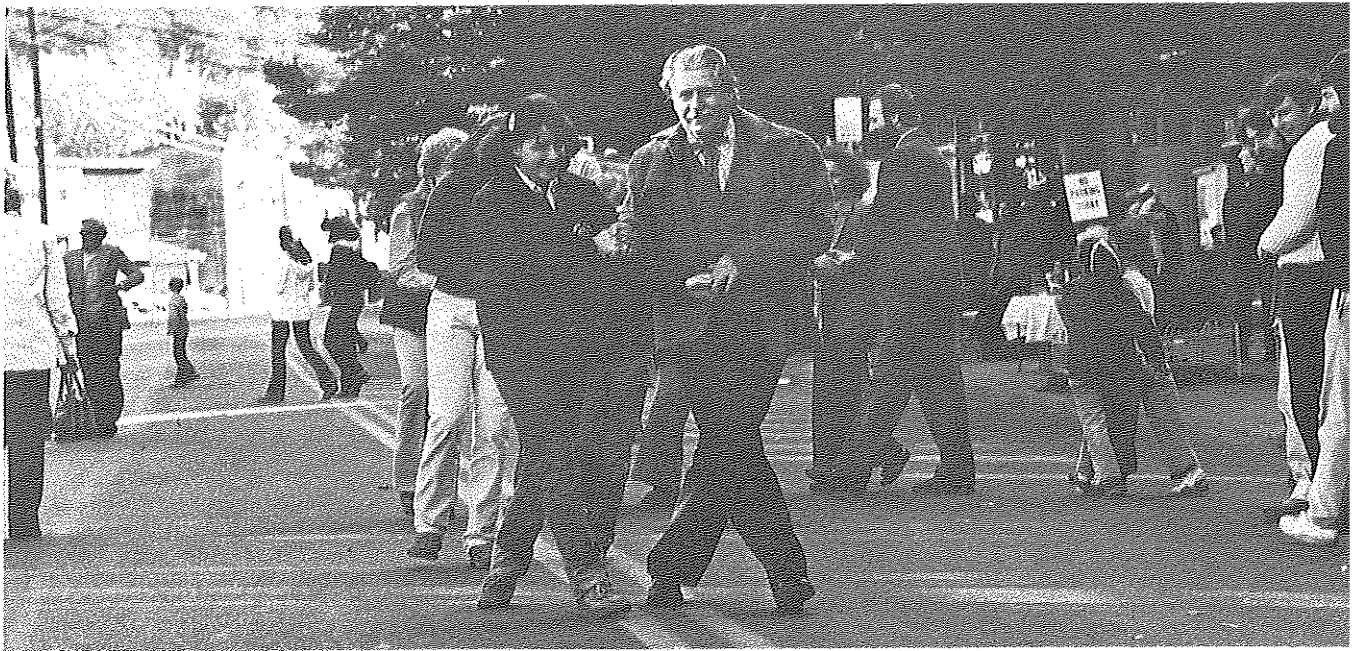
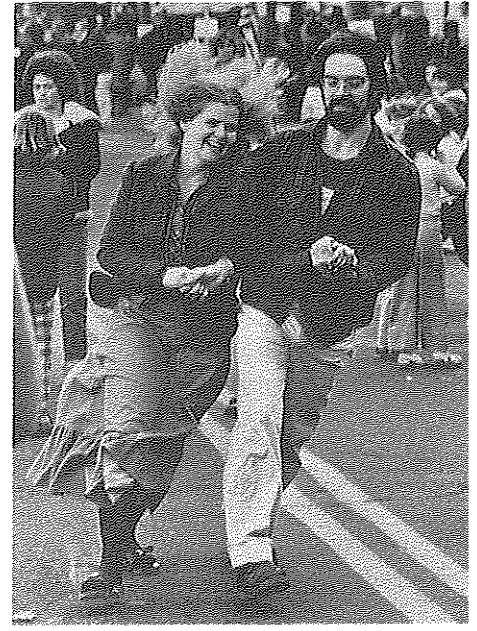
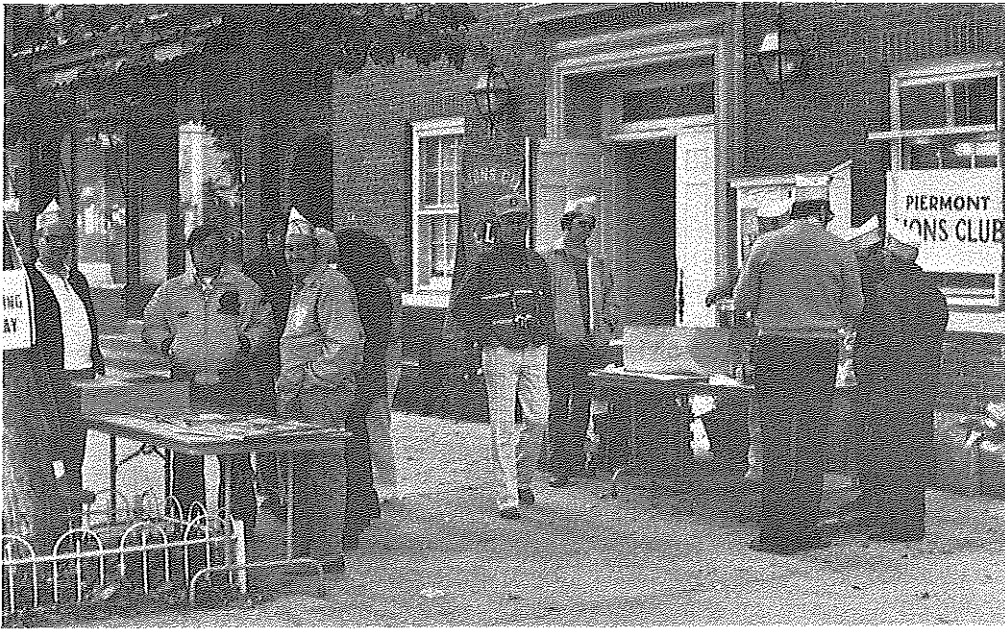
Meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Village Hall in Piermont. You will find the members a congenial and happy group, who look forward to planning bus trips, luncheons and theatre parties. Our last meeting of each month is generally a short one and then we have a social. We play cards, dance and gab, etc. We also have lectures, movies, and educational programs for the benefit of our members. Come on down, you will be very happy that you did.

Other Senior Citizen News....  
Kurt Gerhardt, named Man of the Year by Piermont's Rotary.

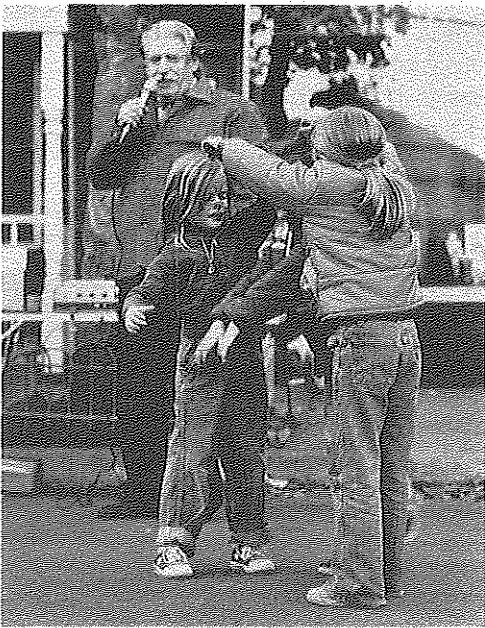
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Join the PCA, come to our meetings, meet your neighbors and voice your opinion. Send in your dues now.

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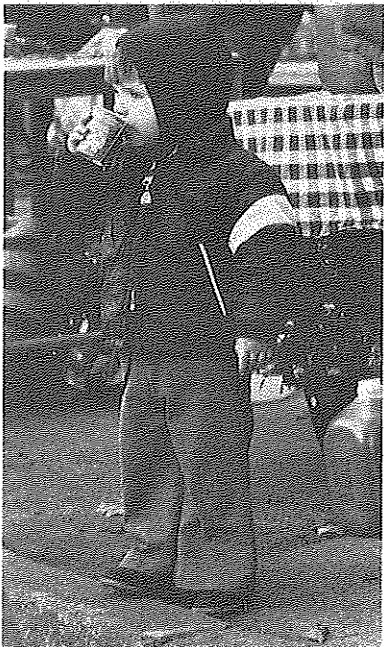




# THE BLOCK PARTY

On Sunday, October 15, the PCA hosted its first Block Party/Square Dance on Main Street. Various Piermont organizations had tables selling food, white elephants, plants and activities for the children. The day was a little chilly but everyone was warmed by the foot tapping music and square dancing led by caller John Callahan.

Now swing your partner.  
Now promenade.  
Now do-si-do.



# shop talk...

"Largest collection of giant stuffed toys on the East Coast," say PIER 9W owners Richard Schneider and Frank Hodges. Stuffed animal collection includes Road Runner, Bugs Bunny, Tazmanian Devil, Pink Panther, Jaws, life-sized bears, lions, tigers and much, much more. For the holidays there are special gift items of miniatures, antique wooden plaques and a special decoration of two 16 foot wooden soldiers. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.□

\* \* \*

DAN'S DELI at Diplomat Gardens on Route 9W is now owned by Armando Valdes and offers Cuban sandwiches, in addition to Boar's Head cold cuts and traditional deli items. Former owner, Dan Passeri, will continue to do the catering. Hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.□

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Mike Manfredi at MANFREDI'S PIZZA continues to make the best pizza in town. Closed Monday. Hours Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 12 midnight.□

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The DIPLOMAT HEALTH SPA on Route 9W had a facelift over the summer. The exercise rooms were enlarged and repainted; a whirlpool bath was installed; and a treadmill has been added to the many pieces of exercise equipment designed to provide the ultimate in physical fitness opportunity. Optional exercise classes are held throughout the day at the SPA. A ping pong table, and Olympic pool and saunas round out the facility. If you feel like shaping up, or just want the pleasure of leisurely swimming, call owner-manager Bruce Woolley for details of membership, or stop by and see for yourself. Open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Telephone 359-2401.□

The PIERMONT COMMUNITY MARKET has reopened. Huzza! Quality products are featured: prime meats and poultry, cheeses, brioche and sour dough bread, nitrate-free bacon and frankfurters, gourmet items, whole grains, and the service the Hudson River Community has enjoyed and respected in the past. Traditional fruit baskets will be available for the holiday season. For those special holiday meals the COMMUNITY MARKET will have fresh duck, goose and cold turkey, and anything special ordered will be gotten. Welcome and good luck.□

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At PIERMONT ANTIQUES, owner John McGahan has original oil paintings by James Francis Brown, a turn of the century Rockland County artist. John's entire stock of antiques is being sold at cost. Open Saturdays and Sundays only. John's wife Rosella operates a BEAUTY SHOP in the rear of the building. Her hours are by appointment only, phone 359-1111. Part of the ANTIQUE shop is now HELEN SKJERDING REAL ESTATE office, specializing in Hudson riverview properties. Both John and Rosella McGahan are licensed real estate sales persons.□

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A great variety of stocking stuffers for Christmas and always good buys in clothes and household necessities are to be found at the TAPPAN ZEE THRIFT SHOP. Recently the Macedonia Baptist Church in Piermont joined with the THRIFT SHOP and will be donating volunteer services and receiving a share in the proceeds from the shop.□

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George Walters at the PIERMONT LIQUOR STORE has a new rich and smooth red wine from Algeria by the name of Dahra, at a very fine price of \$1.49 a bottle. Also available is a good white wine from the same area. Special gift packages of both domestic and imported wines are available for the holidays.□

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ELISE PICARD-GASTON has a most beautiful selection of baby quilts and pillows for that special new baby.□

At MARDY ALLEN'S SHOP is the Gnome Book, that gloriously illustrated and documented bestseller about the wee people. And to supplement it, The Gnome Home, a 24"x20"x12" gnomicile of heavy cardboard which houses a full gnome family plus pet field mine. Christmas items are blown glass ornaments, miniature ships' lanterns, dried and silk flowers for bouquets, dried flower pictures, and more. Open until 9 p.m. on Fridays, December 8 and 15.□

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The PIERMONT EXCHANGE had a very exciting showing and quilting demonstration by the Cabin Creek Quilters from West Virginia. Selections of their handwork will remain on sale at the EXCHANGE throughout the holiday season. New pottery from a young potter in Maine has arrived and is being very well received as well as a collection of antique Christmas cards--one of a kind mounted on colorful board. Handmade gifts are here for all ages, note especially the colorful, wooden, handcarved birds. For your shopping convenience the EXCHANGE will be open until 9 p.m. on Fridays, December 8 and 15.□

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For your Christmas shopping, a great new book has arrived at the CLAUSSLAND BOOKSHOP, Leading Lady: The World and Theatre of Katherine Cornell, written by Gert Macy with Tad Mosel. A beautiful reminiscence. Books are great gifts anytime.□

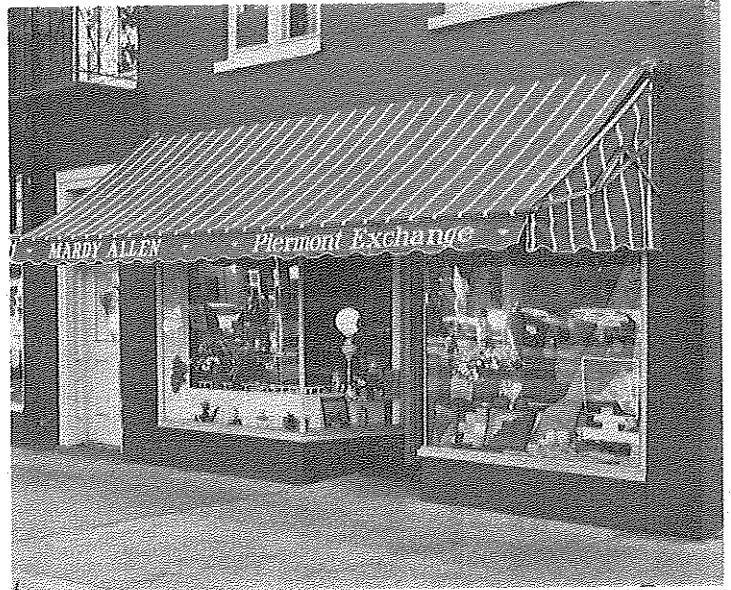
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Formerly Big Tony's Jumbo Wedge and Rispoli Deli at 587 Piermont Avenue is now called DAMIAN'S PIERMONT DELI, same owners and management. Open since January of '78, the service is good and the atmosphere is friendly.□

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On those hectic shopping days when you don't feel like preparing lunch or eating out, stop in at JIMMIE'S GROCERY AND DELI on Piermont Avenue for a quick takeout. Owner Jimmie Artrip is pleased to serve you.□

Our veteran Senior Citizen of tailoring fame has returned from three weeks in Rome and Sicily where he visited the church where he was baptized in Caltanissetta. Naples and the Blue Grotto were also on Sal's itinerary. On Columbus Day Sal was interviewed from the reviewing stand in New City by Station WRKL. He expressed his regrets that at the time of Columbus sailing, the Italian government did not have sufficient funds to sponsor him and hence, the Spanish queen received that honor.□



New awning for the Exchange.

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THE TURNING POINT has an ever increasing loyal clientele and small wonder--even Gourmet Magazine has requested their recipes for two popular dishes on the menu, Cheese Cake and Ginger Beef Casserole. A projected date for the opening in their new building is early spring. Hours are: Lunch 12-3 p.m.; Dinner Monday-Thursday 6-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 6-10 p.m. and Sunday 5-9 p.m. The Obscene Brownie is heavily recommended from noon on! THE TURNING POINT looks forward to serving all their friends in the holiday season.■

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1979 PCA Dues  
are now being collected.

Mail it now.

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## at the Library...

Bob Pelletier, local artist and designer for the New York Times, is exhibiting his watercolors-- many familiar scenes--at the Library for the month of November. In December, Piermont shops will have some of their wares on display to give people ideas for "shopping Piermont" this Christmas. The Library's annual children's Christmas Party to decorate the tree in the children's room will be Tuesday afternoon, December 19 at 3:45 p.m. Children will learn how to make a special handmade ornament. Refreshments will be served.

Harriet Hasbrouck, who teaches the early American art of making rag dolls at the Historical Society of Rockland County, will have a display of her dolls at the Library for the month of January. The Library will be celebrating the New Year with an Open House on Sunday, January 14 from 3-5 p.m.

Preschool story hours continue meeting each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. and films for elementary school children are every Tuesday afternoon at 3:45 p.m. You can pick up a monthly sheet at the Library for specific programs or see it posted at the Post Office, Village Hall or Bank.

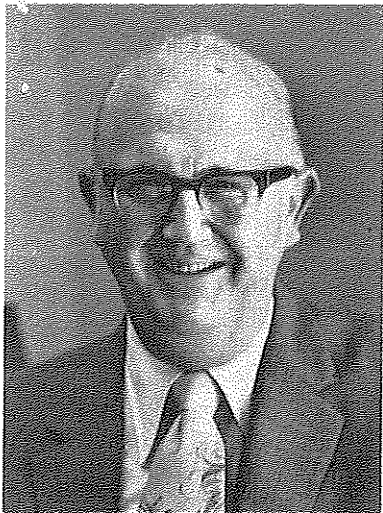
**HOT OFF THE PRESS!** Our Librarian, Grace Meyer, has just accepted the nomination to be President of the Rockland County Public Librarians' Association. Elections will be held as the Piermont NEWSLETTER is going to press.

### Community Resource File

Rockland County libraries have been working for several years on a "Community Resource File" to be housed in each public library. This huge project, spearheaded by Lida Verdesi, Reference Librarian at Finkelstein Memorial Library, is finally completed. This file lists information about organizations

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## PEOPLE



### NATIVE SON...

"I appreciate Piermont more now than I ever did before." These are the words of Frederick Stewart, a lifelong resident of Piermont, who was named Manager of Piermont's Chemical Bank last April.

Mr. Stewart brings a unique understanding of the Village to his job. He makes a point of keeping friendly contacts with downtown merchants and older Piermont families, yet welcomes later arrivals to Piermont for the interest and enthusiasm they bring to Village life. He

finds much that is the same as it used to be here and much that is new.

As a boy growing up by the Creek on Paradise Avenue, Fred Stewart remembers swimming in the then unpolluted Hudson River, exploring the marshes, and catching Blue Claws "by the bushel" from the Pier during July and August. The Community Market supplied fish heads and meat scraps to use as bait. There was the suspense of pulling up the baited string "ever so slowly," the quick dart of the net to catch the prize, and the hardest part which was getting the crab out of the net with fingers intact. Despite these active pursuits, he claims that he and his Piermont peers spent half of their lives playing marbles.

The biggest difference between Piermont today and the Piermont of his youth was the number of shops and downtown businesses there used to be. One did not have to go anywhere else, for right at hand

that is not available through any other source. Through it libraries will be able to answer questions more accurately about recreational, cultural, educational and social agencies, clubs and/or services in the county. A system has also been developed to keep it continually updated. Stop in at the Piermont Library and ask to see it and how it might serve your needs or interests.

#### Piermont Library Starts Endowment Fund

When Mrs. Jean Thompson Eddy of Pittsburgh, Pa. died recently, she left a bequest to the Piermont Library in memory of her sister, Dorothea Thompson.

Miss Thompson, in the words of the plaque over the fireplace in the upstairs reading room, was "President of the Board of Trustees and a devoted friend" of the Library for many years. She always said that she planned to leave some money to the Library, but

she died suddenly without making provisions in her will. Her family knew of her devotion to the Library and at the time of her death turned over many books to it, including her gardening books which became the base for the Library's "Dorothea Thompson Gardening Collection."

Mrs. Eddy has honored her sister's memory and fulfilled her intentions for the Piermont Library with her gift. Grace Meyer, Librarian, says that the Library Board is particularly pleased with the gift because it continues the memory of Miss Thompson's concern for and generosity to the Library. The Board has determined to use the bequest to start an endowment fund, drawing the interest for special projects. They hope that others will remember the Library in a similar manner--either by direct gifts, monies for a special book collection in someone's memory, or in a bequest to establish an endowment fund. If you have any questions, call or write Grace Meyer at the Library. ■

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were a hardware store, market, drug store, butcher shop, several candy stores and three barber shops. And just where the Bank now stands was a diner where the men working at Robert Gair used to lunch. It languished after a cafeteria was installed in the plant.

Sharp among Stewart's school memories was "the hose," the threat of which by the principal kept many a youngster in line. Piermont then housed the regional school facilities and children as far away as Palisades came in a tiny little bus.

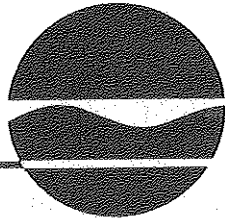
The school did well by Fred Stewart, for upon graduating among a class of 32 students from Tappan Zee High School in Piermont, he went to work in the mortgage department of the New York Life Insurance Company, New York City. He commuted there for 20 years. It was when he was doing some moonlight accounting that he came to know Harry Hoyle, who founded the Tappan Zee National Bank. In 1958

he became manager of its first branch in Orangeburg. [In 1973 Tappan Zee became Chemical Bank/Hudson Valley which then merged in 1977 and became Chemical Bank, New York.]

Fred Stewart married Madeline Andre of Ramsey, New Jersey a week before Pearl Harbor. An unexpected four years serving in the Army medical department in Europe followed. The Stewarts have four children and five grandchildren. They live with their son, Robert, on Piermont Place, in the home that belonged to Fred's grandfather.

Mr. Stewart feels that he understands Piermont and its needs. He finds people responding to Piermont now in a way they never used to. "Piermont seems to be on an upswing and I want the Bank to be helpful in any projects which further this trend." Certainly his friendly presence in the Bank goes a long way toward creating the solid rapport between bank and community that makes good things happen. ■

# The Ecological Perspective



## ON THE WATERFRONT

Village officials have met twice during the year with personnel from the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to discuss Piermont's tidal wetlands. DEC has expressed interest in acquiring several acres of this now undevelopable marsh in several plots adjacent to Sparkill Creek. The Village has passed a resolution approving of the transfer to N.Y. State, in concept, but indicating that the Village would like to manage the area. The project has gained official status at DEC, but still needs approval at several levels and will be scheduled for the next fiscal year. Thus a formal plan and negotiations with landowners are not anticipated before early spring.

What Village residents think of as "The Pier" is not included in the DEC parcels. The Pier continues to be neglected by owner and Village alike. Motor vehicles,

many bearing New Jersey licenses, are unrestricted by the open gate with its continually broken or missing lock. Local Law 17-1977, which seeks to keep all waterfront property safe and sanitary, goes unenforced. Because of repeated acts of vandalism, the Coast Guard has abandoned efforts to maintain a valuable navigation beacon at the Pier's end. Obviously some management scheme of the Pier is long overdue. The Conservation Advisory Commission would welcome specific suggestions from any quarter.

The Village has obtained a lease on the ball field adjacent to the Pier Road, and on the "beach" area near the Chemical Bank. The former Village dump has recently been recontoured, and piles of trash reduced to smaller dimensions. The possibility is being considered of utilizing some of the accumulated leaf compost as a component for even-tilial garden plots. This type of program, where municipal land is made available to residents who desire to raise food but lack the space, has been highly successful in other areas. If such a venture was embarked upon here, we hope the necessary security which is presently lacking would be ensured. ■

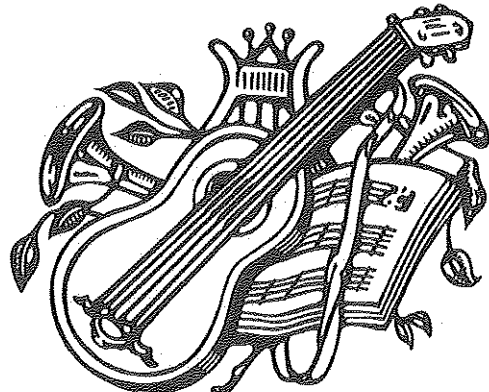
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## THE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

The Playgroup is moving closer to its dream of full day care while still providing a preschool experience for three and four year olds. If you haven't seen the building lately, stop by. Our staff has done a great job with the help of two carpenters who were provided by the Day Care Council. As soon as we raise the additional money, we will tackle the major renovation--the kitchen and fire alarm system. Both preschool classes are full, but there are a few openings for child care. If you need this service or would like any information on the school, call Eileen Burge at 359-9174. ■

## NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to Piermont....  
The Farwells on Orchard Terrace;  
Nilda and Dan Alvarez, new superintendents at Roundtree Condominiums. ■



# Christmas Activities



## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The annual Christmas Bazaar to benefit the Community Playgroup will be held Saturday, December 2 at the Village Hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you enjoyed the lovely handcrafted items last year, you'll be even more pleased with what is available this year. There will also be home baked goodies, plants, white elephants and crafts for children.

## REFORMED CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The "Very Merry Christmas Fair" of the Reformed Church will be held on Friday, December 1 from 2-5 p.m., and Saturday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be available on Friday and a complete luncheon will be served on Saturday. The fair includes a variety of baked goods, hand knit items, nick-nacks, white elephant table, toys, tree ornaments, etc.

## CANDLELIGHT CAROLING

Candlelight caroling on December 14 begins at Piermont and Valentine Avenues at 7 p.m. and will proceed to the Village Hall for more singing and refreshments. All are welcome.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

The Reformed Church in Piermont has scheduled its Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service for Sunday, December 24 at 8 p.m. This year's service will include the participation of the youth as well as the church choir, culminating by the lighting of individual candles by the entire congregation. All are welcome to attend.

On Tuesday, December 19 at 3:45 p.m. the Library will hold its annual Children's Christmas Party. See "At the Library" section of this NEWSLETTER for more details.

## HOLIDAY SHOW FOR CHILDREN

There's a treat in store for Piermont's children during the Christmas holidays at the Village Hall. A fairy tale, The Fir Tree by Hans Christian Anderson, will be presented by Kathy Ford and Roberta Jahn. This performance is a gift to the Village. Tickets are free--available at the Clerk's office.

## Compliments of the Chef

The Christmas holiday season is a time for baking all sorts of special foods and treats. Cookies baked during the holidays can be given as gifts to friends and neighbors or served to guests who drop in.

Phyllis Brunson was thoughtful enough to provide the cookie recipe below.

### CREAM CHEESE COOKIES \*\*\*\*\*

1 C. Soft Butter or Margarine  
8 oz. Cream Cheese  
2 C. Sifted Flour  
2 T. Powdered Sugar  
1/4 t. Salt  
Jam

Blend soft butter or margarine with cream cheese until light and fluffy. Blend in flour, powdered sugar and salt. Chill several hours.

Roll to 1/8" thickness on board, sprinkled with powdered sugar. Cut dough with donut cutter. Half should be circles with no hole, half with hole in center. Put a small spoonful of jam on bottom half, cover with dough with hole in center and press edges together with tines of fork.

Place on ungreased cookie sheets and bake at 375° about 15 minutes. Makes about 4 dozen.

(If you don't have a donut cutter with removable center, use a round cutter and thimble to cut center holes.)

THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER is published three times a year by the Piermont Civic Association. This issue was compiled and written by: Mardy Allen, Julio Alonso, III, Ken Barnes, Ed Boyle, Ruth Brawner, Gaby Bruno, Phyllis and Doug Brunson, Mimi Bryan, Helen and Mike Catron, Mary Hardy, Stan Jacobs, Pauline Lewis, Lisa Merrill, Grace Meyer, Grace Mitchell, Margie Spring, The Rev. Donald R. Veltman and Maggy Voorhees. Photographs by Chemical Bank, Mary Hardy, Sally Savage, Margie Spring and Charlie Windisch. Art Director Lori Joseph. Edited and Typed by Liz Barnes.

# Reminders

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## CURFEW REMINDER

Children under 16 should not be on the street after 9:30 p.m.

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1979 PCA Dues are now being collected. The PCA encourages active as well as supportive members. In order to keep publishing the NEWSLETTER your support is needed. So please join or renew your PCA membership now.

## SNOW SHOVELING REMINDER

Most Village regulations only enforce what good neighbors practice anyway-- consideration for one another. This is especially true of rules for the winter: shoveling snow within 24 hours of snowfall, not making huge mounds in the street which freeze and cause problems for motorists, not leaving a car where it blocks traffic, or prevents plowing.

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Piermont Newsletter  
Piermont, New York 10968

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Piermont, New York 10968



# JOIN US!

## From the PCA Bylaws

"It is the purpose of this organization to work for the betterment of Piermont and its immediate environs; to keep the membership and citizenry informed of any new business arising at public meetings of the Piermont Village Board; to plan and promote projects that would beautify the Village; to promote social and civil equality of all its citizens and to guard against discrimination in any form whatsoever; to promote new business for and increase the number of visitors to the Village of Piermont; and to conserve the natural setting in which the Village of Piermont lies. This purpose shall be served by the members of this Association through their efforts and respective individual talents."

The PIERMONT NEWSLETTER is a Piermont institution. It's something special which most other communities don't have. Our readers depend on it to keep them informed of important issues, and in touch with history, happenings, people, both in the Village and in the surrounding area.

So much of what effects Piermont effects all of the south-eastern Orangetown region--problems on 9W, taxes, sewers, ecological issues, history, we cover it all. The Piermont Civic Association initiates community projects done in behalf of the Village and its residents. Membership in the PCA is a voice in the community. Active members are always welcome, but supportive members are just as important and are kept informed of all PCA activities.

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Join the PCA, come to our meetings, meet your neighbors and voice your opinion.

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The PIERMONT NEWSLETTER is published three times a year, March, July and November by the Piermont Civic Association. The PCA is supported solely by membership donations and fund raising events. Family membership in the PCA is \$5.00 per year. A NEWSLETTER subscription rate of \$2.00 a year is also available.

By filling in the coupon below, you will be helping the PCA keep a tradition going. Thank you.

DUES, DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1979 ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED.

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SEND TO PCA, BOX 22, PIERMONT, NEW YORK 10968

I have enclosed \$5.00 for 1979 PCA dues, which includes the NEWSLETTER.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ additional donation.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$2.00 for a year's subscription to the NEWSLETTER.

Send to: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_