

The Piermont Newsletter

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Warning Flags At Piermont Marsh Meeting

In January the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation held the third in its series of fact-finding meetings regarding the Piermont Marsh. This meeting, which examined the role the Marsh plays in protecting the Village during storms, was full of serious warnings.

Rob Busciolano of the US Geological Survey gave an overview of different types of storms and the damage they might cause. Sacha Spector of Scenic Hudson presented information from the Piermont Waterfront Resilience Task Force. He noted that previous projections of sea level rise and storm surge height did not take climate change into consideration. The rate of sea level rise is accelerating, leading to more frequent floods, as well as floods that will move farther inland. His conclusion was that Piermont will need whatever storm resilience it can get. Peter Sheng of the University of Florida addressed the role of vegetation in reducing the impact of storm surges. He presented data from his 3D modeling, which showed that, as height and density of vegetation increases, impact decreases. Klaus Jacob, a geophysicist at Lamont Doherty and resident of Paradise Avenue, reminded everyone that vegetation does not reduce still-water flooding, but does reduce the force of the wave and trap damaging debris. He added that Phragmites in the Piermont Marsh exceeds the height of the water level during a storm, so it even slows the wind. Klaus spoke to the risks of using herbicides in the Marsh, particularly as they are spread through high tides and flooding, and he invoked the "cautionary principle" – when in doubt, do no harm.

In his concluding remarks, Sacha Spector emphasized that, while the Piermont
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Down At Village Hall



*Sylvia Carbonell, Maggie Cavanaugh, Julie Pagliaroli and Jennifer DeYorgi.
Photo by Fred Burrell*

Those of you who have recently attended Village Board meetings may have noticed a woman with long curly dark hair, sitting quietly at a computer terminal at the right of the long front table. She is Jennifer DeYorgi, since December 1, the village's new clerk. Although she is a long-time Rockland resident and she worked doing market research in Pearl River in the year immediately prior to joining us, Jennifer spent the previous 20 years of her working life in the Bronx, running Jam Construction Inc. She had started work there in 1994 and stayed until the family that owned the company closed the business in 2013.

Jennifer was born and went to school in the Bronx, where her future husband lived just down the street.

At 15, she transferred to Lehman High School where she worked half time at Warner Communications as a receptionist and attended classes the other half. Keep an eye on this woman—she moves fast. After graduation in 1986, she went to work full-time for MTV as an Executive Secretary where she stayed until her first son was born in 1993.

By that time, she had moved to Congers ("I had a plan, get married, move to the suburbs, have kids") After taking a year off to be with her son, she began work as office manager with Jam Construction where she remained—as noted above, for twenty years. In 1999 she moved to Tappan and subsequently to Blauvelt. While she was doing market research, and even while she was working full time running a con-

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President's Corner



I've lived here, in or near Rockland's river villages, since 1949. Little has changed. It all looks pretty much the way it did when I was a Piermont elementary school sixth grader. What's more, every home I've lived in is still there. I take comfort from all that.

While the number of people along the river, from Palisades to Hook Mountain, is relatively unchanged, the population for all of Rockland County has more than tripled. You'd think that all those people and all those housing developments and shopping centers would have driven out the wildlife but, strangely, it seems to have had the opposite effect. Don't ask me why.

I can't recall anyone actually ever seeing a deer when I was young. Canada geese were known only to Canadians and members of the Audubon Society. Coyotes were an exotic animal from out west that you occasionally heard howling in the background on The Lone Ranger show. Wild turkeys were what the Pilgrims ate on the first Thanksgiving. The only black bear that I knew was the sad, mangy specimen behind bars at the Bear Mountain Zoo. Raccoons were from the days of Davy Crockett.

All this wildlife is now so abundant that most people consider it a nuisance. I admit that I could live without the geese, but I still hold my breath when I spot a deer. And despite its polluted waters, the Sparkill Creek, where I live, is an incredible nature reserve. I don't know if egrets and herons visited the creek in the old days, but they sure do now. The water also is home to carp, frogs, turtles and even beaver.

Occasionally, there is something totally unexpected. On a snowy Sunday afternoon in early March, a red fox slipped by my house. My dog, Lulu, who was looking out a front

window toward Ferdon Avenue, gave a serious bark, as if we were getting visitors. I looked out a sliding glass door in time to spot a small red fox, beautiful and delicate, going through the fresh snow, down the slope between my house and my neighbor's. It had a young, and presumably dead, squirrel, swinging from its mouth. Without hesitating, the fox crossed the frozen creek and followed the shore towards Sparkill until it was out of sight.

I had never seen a fox in the wild. Its red color was a unique shade, not shared by any other animal. It had a beautiful slender shape and moved with grace and confidence, as if it were aware of its own specialness. The sight of this gorgeous animal moving through the new snow blew me away.

When I was a kid my best friend lived in a house on the water in Grand View. We spent endless summer days fishing and crabbing from his dock. The only fish we ever caught were catfish, perch and eels. Today's Piermont pier fishermen catch those and a much classier and tastier varieties, including bluefish and striped bass – some of those huge. We didn't even know they existed and I've since wondered if they were there in the early 1950s.

The late John Iurica, a retired engineer, was a classmate from my days in the Piermont school system. He grew up to be a crusty and eccentric character. He also was a longtime Hudson River fisherman. I ran into him one day on the pier and asked him why my friend and I had never caught bluefish or striped bass.

"Because you didn't know what you were doing!" he snapped. I'm still smiling about that and still wondering if those fish were there in the old days.

~Bob Samuels

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Consider The Eco-Machine

The Sparkill Creek flows for 8.1 miles from its headwaters high atop Clausland Mountain to the Hudson River, and along the way repeated cycles of industrialization and settlement have left their mark. The accumulation of biological and chemical waste over time in our watershed has made the Sparkill Creek one of the most polluted tributaries in the Hudson River estuary.

The Sparkill Creek, as it makes its way along the Rte 303 corridor into NJ and then winds back through Tappan and Sparkill before descending along Ferdon Avenue to its mouth at the Piermont Marsh, picks up accumulated pollutants that are commonly found with highly developed commercial and residential areas.

There are sampling results from over the last four years from Riverkeeper and the Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance that show extremely high counts of Enterococcus bacteria (an indicator species of fecal contamination) throughout the watershed that far surpass the Environmental Protection Agency's safe swimming standards. Trying to determine the source of this contaminant has been difficult due to its broadly uniform distribution throughout the creek. The additional question of whether it is human or wildlife in origin is being studied

by the members of the Biology Department at Dominican College using DNA testing.

The Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance, in accordance with its mission, has been looking into various ways to improve the water quality in the Sparkill Creek. In doing so, they found a company in Massachusetts, John Todd Eco Designs (JTED), which performs this task with a very ecologically sustainable treatment called the "Eco-Machine". Depending on the types of contaminants that need removing, the actual "Eco-Machine" system directs the water channel through a sequence of dense plant assemblages whose root systems interact with the contaminants and remove or degrade them in the water column. The percentages of specific bacterial removal are well above 90% in these systems. The percentages for chemical, metallic, and pharmaceutical removal are lower, but still easily meet EPA recommended standards for water use (see: www.toddecological.com).

The developer of this technology and the founder of his company is John Todd. John is a firm believer in education and raising public awareness about this plant-based technology, so each installation includes space for an ongoing educational component. This usually involves having classroom or

a demonstration space built within the water treatment facility. These "Eco Machines" are now used in a variety of different wastewater treatment sizes and applications, from municipal and industrial wastewater systems to pond and canal restoration work. They can be small greenhouse-based fixed structures placed in a stream channel, enclosed plantings within a natural surrounding, constructed ponds or wetlands, or a hybrid combination. For example, the Baima Canal in Fuzhou, China, created by JTED is a plant-lined outdoor walkway that is used by the city's residents. In Peoria IL, the plantings will form a major riparian buffer/park trail along the Mississippi River bank as part of the city's planned "Green-Eco" water treatment facility. Depending on the stream flow these "machines" require little or no electrical pumping stations, which reduces energy costs.

Locally, one or several of these "Eco-Machine" facilities could be placed in the Sparkill Creek so that all of the water passing downstream would then be filtered and cleansed. In the Village of Piermont, a possible location for one of these installations could be near the skating pond on Valentine Ave or a little lower on the Mill Pond with the aim of returning the water quality to state mandated levels.

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Firefighting Program Aimed At Involving Local Youth



Piermont's Junior Firefighters (left to right): Back row: Jack Dee, Josh Riley. Middle row: Danny Albin, Rob Johanson, Kyle (Frodo) Weiss, Phil Esnard. Bottom row: Austin Skywark, John McCarthy, John Lowe. Photo by Carolyn Doyle

The Piermont Volunteer Fire Department proves to be of continued service to the community. Possibly one of the most beneficial programs developed recently in our village is the formation of a junior firefighters group. At seventeen-years-old, Kyle (Frodo) Weiss of Palisades, NY was contacted by First Assistant Chief of Piermont Volunteer Fire Department, Dan Goswick, Sr. to lead the

group. That was back in the summer of 2012. Weiss is now twenty and continues as leader.

There had been a similar program like this in existence about ten years ago, but as those teens grew up and either remained active in the department, or went their separate ways, the group dwindled. A new group was formed when Piermont's Police Chief recommended youth ages 13-17 in the

area that he thought might be interested in participating in a fire fighting group. The idea was to get youth involved and off the street—give them direction and create a spark of interest in becoming full-fledged firemen for the village.

Weiss enthusiastically accepted the offer to lead the group with four assistants, or helpers: Danny Albin, Phil Esnard, Nick Chodor and Sam Kropp. Other youth members currently include John Lowe, Austin Skywark, Jack Dee, John McCarthy, Josh Riley and Rob Johanson.

Suited up in firefighting gear and prepared to learn, the group meets every Sunday morning at 10 AM to learn about firefighting. Each week there's something else to master. Some of the skills taught are:

~Forcible entry—getting access to a locked door, or “defeating the lock” as they say.

~Advancing hose lines—getting the hose off the truck properly with the water flow.

~Mask confidence—wearing breathing apparatus properly.

~Ladder techniques—how to manipulate the ladders safely.

~Search techniques—how to find victims of a fire in a smoke filled room.

The teens also learn about ice rescues at the edge of the pier, rope rigging off the cliffs for mountain rescues, and plenty more.

There are currently eight regular members of the group, but the department is always looking for new teens

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Piermont Establishes A Waterfront Resiliency Commission

to join the group. "We never have too many," Kyle says, "especially from kids in the community. It feels good to know you could be protecting your own home community."

All youth members are supplied with a full set of gear (PPE). In addition, they are allowed to be "scene support" at actual fires. They help with carrying but cannot actually fight the fire or enter a burning building. They are trained in using "jaws-of-life" and are introduced to CPR and first aid.

When the member signs an agreement to participate, and is accepted into the program, his time and training counts for community service hours for school or the honor society. And it's not just work and training—there are fun things, too. There's preparing Santa to ride on the fire truck at Christmas, stand-by help during the Penguin Plunge in Nyack, and things like helping hand out water at the station for the bike and road races.

One of the most important aspects of this program is that it allows the teens an opportunity to prepare for the state required class, Fire Fighter I, presented at the Fire Training Center (FTC) in Pomona. You must be 16 to take the test. In order to be an active fireman, and official junior fireman, you must take this course and pass the state exam.

Kyle Weiss took the class and test. Now, at twenty, he is a firefighter, EMT and diver, and attends Monday night drills for all adult volunteer firemen. About the youth group and its members, Weiss says, "Give them a taste of everything. At least they'll be familiar with what to expect when they sign up for the state required class."

Once again, we are reminded of how fortunate we are here in Piermont to have such a dedicated community. Weiss reminds us, "All Rockland County firemen are volunteers."

~Carolyn Doyle

This winter, the Village of Piermont established a Waterfront Resiliency Commission, an outgrowth of the Piermont Waterfront Resilience Task Force, which presented its recommendations to the Village this past fall. Trustee Lisa DeFeciani is the Chairman of the Commission and its members are Sylvia Welsch, Laura Strauss, Klaus Jacob, Usha Wright and Robert Burns. Trustee DeFeciani identified the Commission's first focus to be emergency management. The Commission is meeting with the Piermont Fire, Police and Public Works departments to create a unified emergency management plan for the Village. The Commission will be meeting with the riverfront communities, Stony Point, Kingston and Catskill to share experiences and ideas for implementation of some of the Task Force's ideas. The Commission will be aided in its work by an intern from Adelphi University, a master's degree candidate majoring in Environmental Planning.

~Margaret Grace

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The Train Station's Rotting Floor Problem



Piermont's historic gem of a railroad station has a big problem – its floor is rotting and it will take \$100,000 to fix it. That's what Richard Esnard, Chairman of the Piermont Historical Society, told the Village Board at a recent meeting.

The 1873 station was built at ground level on a stone foundation. Over the years the ground around it has been built up so it now sits in a low spot. As a result, the station's floor is often

soaked with rain and runoff water. In order to raise the building, Esnard explained, contractors will first have to lift it and then pour a concrete foundation under it. "Then they lower it back down and you are done," he added. "The building is now raised above the grade and you're all set."

The late professional house restorer George Turrell, a Piermonter, had suggested moving the station further back from the walking path to create more

parking space. Esnard rejected the idea. "It would cost even more money than we are talking about now. We want to keep it simple," he declared.

Esnard and Piermont Building Inspector Charles Schaub got the \$100,000 ballpark price tag from a contractor they'd asked for an informal estimate. He told them that the foundation work would cost about \$60,000; another \$20,000 would be for raising and lowering the building, and the final \$20,000 would cover disconnecting and reconnecting the utility lines, landscaping and painting. All contracts would go out for competitive bid, said Esnard.

Just who would pay the bill, and whether the station will be open for events before the floor is fixed, remained open questions at press time. Although Esnard seemed to be asking the Board to pay for the repairs, he made it clear that he wasn't pushing them. "We do not want to create an adversarial relationship with the Village Trustees," he said "We see this as a partnership with them. We really can't function without not just their approval, but their enthusiastic approval."

Mayor Chris Sanders told Esnard that he wanted to make sure the building is safe before it is used again. The Historical Society has been running a series of well-attended events there.

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Esnard thinks the station can be made safe by replacing a few boards.

The station, which had fallen into poor repair and legal limbo, was rebuilt in 2005 for \$135,000, most of it in grants and donations. There were floor problems back then, according to Piermonter Karl Knoecklein. He had an active role in the rebuilding. "When we originally worked on it there were rotten pieces of wood in the floor," Knoecklein, a professional land surveyor, recalled. "We fixed a few soft boards and the floor looked great. We thought about putting in a foundation but someone had to pay for it. The Village never put any money into that train station except when it purchased it.


"Bill Elson (a former Piermont Historical Society President) and I discussed different ways to keep the water out and how to get rid of the dampness. The Village Board and the Mayor knew about this," he added. The vil-

lage's engineer has explained that the topography around the station was raised over the years. When the tracks were removed, the County put in a sewer line that lifted the former track bed. New house construction created a steep bank behind the station, added to the drainage problems. During Hurricane Floyd the water came down the hill, cascading across the Erie path, and down into the village. Water from a drainage ditch and a drain put in to solve that problem ended up making things worse for the station, according to Knoecklein.

In my opinion," added Knoecklein, who is no longer active in the Historical Society, "the train station now is a serious and important historical part of Piermont. The Village Board should seriously look at supporting it."

~Bob Samuels

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Gardening And Weather - Zones

What do gardeners look for when they study the weather? What decisions are we trying to make? How best can we use weather information to try and improve our gardens and our gardening?

Gardeners pay attention to long, medium and short range weather forecasts, as well as macro climate (large overall weather patterns) and micro climate (smaller local and hyper local weather patterns). We use this information to help us plant on time, (one of the many things I'm watching for in the fall is the correct weather for planting garlic), water on time and in the right amounts, and to know when to weed and when hold off on certain tasks. For example, picking string beans after watering or rain can spread a water born plant disease that strikes string beans. Sometimes the weather information is clear, sometimes we can only use it to make an educated guess and hope for the best.

One of the many weather aspects gardeners need to be aware of is planting zones. In their simplest form, planting zones are based on how cold it gets in the winter plus the average dates of first and last frost. Planting zones are aptly named and are used in conjunction with information about the cold hardiness or cold sensitivity of various plant species to help us determine when it is safe to plant.

While the back of a seed packet or a plant label will have a broad (macro) view of what planting zone Rockland

County and Piermont are in, searching reliable internet sites yields more than one option for Rockland County - different sources interpret Rockland's weather differently and place us in different planting zones. How is this possible? I called Rockland County's Cornell Cooperative Extension and spoke to Horticultural Educator Elaine Brown. What I learned was both surprising and made total sense. It turns out that Rockland County's geography gives it three planting zones. When the seed companies and agricultural colleges pick a general zone for Rockland they are making a decision about which of Rockland's three zones to put the entire county in. But, when we plant at home, it would be better for us to know which actual zone our smaller area is in so we can adjust our planting schedules to our truly local zone. Why does this matter? Plants have a variety of times it takes to go from seed or seedling to maturity. Planting zones help us to know whether our area has enough time to accomplish this. If we want a huge crop of tomatoes we need to have a long enough time of warm weather to accomplish this. If we are planting lettuce, a cold hardy crop, we need to plant well before the warm weather since heat makes it bolt and turn bitter. Planting zones can help us figure all this out.

So what is Piermont's actual planting zone? It turns out Piermont has more than one! According to the Cooperative Extensions Elaine Brown, because of its

proximity to the river, the lower parts of Piermont are in Zone 7. However, as you go up the hill, the higher elevations produce colder winter temperatures. That puts the higher parts of Piermont in Zone 6B, or even 6A. The rest of southern Rockland is in Zone 6B, with New City starting the northern section of Rockland, which is all in Zone 6A. As for the average dates of first and last frosts, no matter what zone you are in, the average date for first frost is between October 30 - November 10th, and the average date of the last frost is around May 15th. Our average date of first frost used to be October 15, but global warming has changed that.

Elaine recommends taking a conservative approach no matter what zone you are in. She advocates protecting plants (and produce not yet harvested) from frost and freezing that they can't handle (there are special fabrics that can help do this, as well as other methods), and, in the springtime, Elaine recommends planting on time and not too early. For cold hardy plants and seeds this may be before the date of average last frost. For cold sensitive plants this will be on or after the date of last frost. I have a lot of plants and seeds that go in before the last frost because I plant a lot of cold hardy plants. Other folks need to wait till after May 15th or even later to plant because they are planting cold sensitive plants.

~Susan Freiman



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Thirty Years ago, when the factories were closing and Piermont's storefronts were largely vacant, Woody Allen chose Piermont as the location for the filming of *Purple Rose Of Cairo*. It was said it took a lot of fixing-up to make Piermont look like a depression-era village. The rest, as they say, is history. Photo by Sally Savage

Mark your calendars!
**Piermont will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of
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From The Library

Get on your dancing shoes and tap, salsa, or waltz your way to the Piermont Library. Beginning in March, the library will have a two-month celebration of dance entitled Shimmy and Stomp: Dance Around the World highlighting different styles of dance. The first performance will take place on Sunday, April 19th at 1 pm. Please join us in welcoming Greg Melnick on Flamenco guitar accompanied by dancer, Juana Cala. Mr. Melnick trained in Flamenco guitar in both New York City and Malaga, Spain. He returned to Spain in 2007 to expand his knowledge of the Flamenco culture and has organized Flamenco educational programs throughout the Hudson Valley. During the concert, Mr. Melnick will discuss Flamenco culture in addition to performing. Ms. Cala has over 30 years of dancing experience and has performed, lectured and taught Flamenco dancing in both the United States and Italy.

Our second performance in the series will take place on Sunday, May 17th at 1 pm and will focus on Cabaret Middle Eastern dancing. Ms. Amira Iriz will be our featured performer and will be accompanied by a small troupe of professional dancers. Ms. Iriz began her studies in Middle Eastern dance at the YWCA in New York City and has

performed in the New York Grand Opera's production of Aida in Central Park and at Lincoln Center's Damrosch Park. Ms. Iriz teaches Middle Eastern Belly dancing and specializes in sword dance. Information about the historical and cultural context of Middle Eastern dance will be interspersed with the dances performed by Ms. Iriz and her troupe.

In observance of National Poetry Month, please join the library for An Evening of Poetry. We will welcome three local poets, Alison Stone, Nancy Gerber and Marjorie Tesser on Friday, April 24th at 6:30pm. The three poets will read their poetry aloud and, following these readings, there will be an open mic for audience members who would like to read their original work.

During the month of April, the Piermont Library will welcome artist Paula Lennard and her show "Animal Spirits." The reception will take place on Sunday, April 12th from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Ms. Lennard says, "I am delighted that the showing of Animal Spirits is occurring during Earth Month. I've always been an animal lover, and the importance of all species to the health and well-being of our planet is becoming increasingly obvious. Perhaps this

is why I have chosen this past year to focus my work on animals. I find their physical variety and their various personalities equally amazing, and I attempt to convey through my painting and drawing what I sense of their spirit and beauty."

Celeste Morton, a Brooklyn-based artist, who grew up in Piermont and Tappan, will have her oil paintings on display at the Piermont Library for the month of May. Her show is entitled, "Without Memory" and the reception will be held Sunday, May 3rd from 2 to 4 pm.

This summer, children ages 3 - 12 are invited to be Super Readers! Our six-week Summer Reading Program will run from June 29th to August 6th. The theme this year is "Every Hero has a Story". We'll have special programs, crafts, and weekly book check-ins with prizes. Come join the fun!

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 check us out on our website www.piermontlibrary.org, where you can join our mailing list to receive notifications of upcoming library programs.

~The Staff of The Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library

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Newsletter Follow-ups

Piermont's New Channel Markers were lost to the harsh, icy conditions of Winter 2015. They will be replaced in April by Tappan Zee Construction with removable markers that will be fastened to cement anchors to be set in the river in the same locations. Two additional channel markers will be added on the west end of the channel, closer to the village. The Village of Piermont has agreed to take responsibility for setting and removing the markers off-season, a job that will be done by the Piermont Fire Department Dive Team.

The Lighthouse Memorial proposal has received approval for its location between Flywheel and Parelli Park – the current location of the metal tower that holds TMobil hardware and the village's emergency siren. Design and technical aspects of the proposal will be presented to the Village Board in the coming months.



The ice was solid enough in February for Piermonter Lola Esnard to relax with the newspaper. Photo by Richard Esnard



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Piermont Events 2015

Thursday April 16

Girls Night Out: Mystical Night
CofC

Sunday April 19

"Dance Around the World", Flamenco Music and Dance
Piermont Public Library
1pm

Saturday May 2

Sparkill Creek Clean-Up
Sponsored by Keep Rockland Beautiful
Christ Church, Sparkill
9am - noon

Saturday May 2

Piermont Reformed Church Plant Sale and Fundraiser
With a special Presentation on Ecological Landscaping
At 2pm

Thursday, May 7

VOX Fundraiser: Signage & Maps for Piermont
CofC
at Ned Kelly & Co
6pm

Saturday, May 16 (rain date May 17)

PCA Village Wide Yard Sale
Flywheel Park
10am to 4pm

Sunday, May 17

"Dance Around the World", Middle Eastern Dance
Piermont Public Library
1pm

Sunday, May 24

Opening Day for Piermont's Down to Earth Farmers Market
Parking lot of M&T Bank

Monday, May 25

Piermont's Memorial Day Commemorations
Veterans' Park and Piermont Pier
Beginning at 10am

Friday, May 29

Watchfire
Rockland County Vietnam Veterans
Piermont Pier
Begins at Midnight on Friday

Saturday, July 11

Bastille Day
CofC
Piermont Avenue
Noon-10pm

Thursday, July 30 (rain date Aug. 6)

Movie Night in the Park
PCA
Flywheel Park
8pm

Thursday, August 13 (rain date Aug 20)

Music in the Park
PCA
7:30pm

Saturday, August 15

The Great Hudson River Fish Count
Sponsored by NYS Hudson River Estuary Program
Flywheel Park

Sunday, August 30

Lobsterfest
PCA
Goswick Pavilion
3-7pm

Sunday, September 20

Art in the Park
Piermont Straus Foundation / CofC
Flywheel Park

Sunday, September 27

Lions Club Apple Fest/CofC 3rd Annual Piermont Apple Pie Contest
Flywheel Park

Sunday, October 4

Purple Rose of Cairo 30th Anniversary Celebration
CofC and PCA

The Front Line

Don't Fall Victim to Fraud Scams

The Piermont Police are investigating fraud scams that have cropped up in the village, according to Chief Michael O'Shea. One that he mentioned is the so called "Greed Dot" scam. This is where a crook will mail a person a check—perhaps a grant award check that the victim never applied for—with a request that he or she wire back part of the payment to cover fees. The rest is obvious, said the Chief, the person writes the money and then the check bounces.

One variation on this scam is to send a check and ask for the fee using legitimate Green Dot Money Paks; the kind you can buy at a drug store. These Money Paks are used to top off existing debit cards. In this case, the victim sends details about his or her Green Dot card to the thief who then tops off his own card.

Chief O'Shea said that there is plenty residents can do to protect themselves. One of the most important things is to click on <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts>. This is part of the Federal Trade Commission's website that educates people on the latest scams being perpetrated.

"Locally, if you see something that does not look right to you," he said, "report it to the police and we will check it out. It could be an odd letter you receive in the mail or an ATM machine that does not seem to be functioning properly."

With the spring season upon us, Chief O'Shea said that the village is once again host to many hundreds of bicyclists on weekends. "Drive with care around bicyclists," he urged. "We want bicyclists and motorists in the village to use our

roads safely. We use a system of education and enforcement to help keep our streets safe for everyone."

Want to know about road closures and accidents that may be blocking roads in and around the village? Click on to the Piermont Police Facebook page where updates on traffic tie-ups and other news residents need to know is posted. Click on: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Piermont-Police-Department/302936943223599>

Rubbish/Debris Collection

Tom Temple, Supervisor of the Piermont Department of Public Works (DPW), said that the village's rubbish/debris collection begins April 7th and run bi-weekly until October 6th. "We ask that all items be placed curbside for pickup in a neat and orderly fashion," he said. "We also would ask that residents be sensitive to the timing of when they put out there items for collection as it affects the appearance of our village. Items should not be placed curbside until the weekend before the scheduled pick up date. Any debris generated from work performed by contractors will not be accepted and must be removed by the contractor."

Supervisor Temple said that the DPW cannot accept any type of household hazardous waste (chemicals, paints, batteries, etc.). As of January 1, 2015, this now includes all electronic waste (e-waste). "Under state law we can no longer accept televisions, computers, computer peripherals (i.e. monitors, keyboards, mouse), small electronic equipment (i.e. VCR's, DVR's, cable box receivers) and small scale servers. For the full list of the types of electronic equipment covered by this law you can go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/66872.html>. All of the listed items are accepted at the Rockland County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Facility in Pomona."

The Rockland County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Facility is open for drop-off every Monday through Friday from 8 am to 1 pm, except holidays. The facility is also open some Saturdays and Sundays during the year. Call (845) 364-2444 for a complete schedule.

~Ron Derven

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Warning Flags At Village Marsh Meeting continued from page 1

Marsh has been able to keep pace with sea level rise through sedimentation and peat accretion up until now, it is highly uncertain that it will be able to keep pace as sea level rise accelerates. Even Phragmites may not survive the accompanying rise in salinity. He added that dramatic measures might be required to save the Piermont Marsh - for example, bringing in additional sediment.

With this meeting, the DEC's original proposal to eradicate 200 acres of Phragmites in the Piermont Marsh in order to re-introduce plants that thrived three decades ago slammed up against the reality of climate change.

At the close of the meeting, Betsy Blair of DEC stated that the funds allocated must be used for "habitat mitigation". To the question "Who determines what habitat mitigation is?" no reply was given. No one wants to see this money left on the table -- not the DEC, not the Village of Piermont. The challenge to find finding the best uses for these funds that both meet the DEC's criteria and does not jeopardize the protection the Marsh provides.

A fourth and possibly last fact-finding meeting is being planned by the DEC for this spring. The topic will be marsh management.

~Margaret Grace

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## Down At Village Hall continued from page 1

struction company, she always did real estate on the side, as well as being a notary. And oh yes, she also had triplets, but without losing a day of work: "I bought the payroll to the hospital with me," she says. "The men needed to get paid, so when my boss came the next day I was able to give him the payroll sheet."

And so this energizer bunny now lives with her husband, an elevator mechanic, and her four children, a 21 year old son now in college and, as she said with a mix of pride and near embarrassment, three 17-year-olds, two daughters and a son. There are also two dogs, both of them of the infinitely cute variety—a Yorkie Poo and a Shih Tzu—the latter of which she carefully spelled for me. I thanked her saying I had thought it was one word and she remarked that she was a spelling fanatic—not a bad obsession for a village clerk. That and a truly awesome enthusiasm for work.

Jennifer is now working in Village Hall with a supporting cast of three, one of whom, Julie Pagliaroli is a Village Hall familiar, since she served as Deputy Clerk under mayors Goswick, Zahn and Hardy until she left to become Village Clerk in Wesley Hills in 1999. She became the Village Clerk of Grand-view in 2007, and when Sandy tore the back off the Grand-view Village Hall in 2012, she took over a spare desk in our clerk's office until she could move to space in the Community Center. When the personnel here in Piermont were rearranged after the departure of the former Village Clerk at the end of 2013, Julie took a part-time job as Piermont's Deputy Clerk Treasurer. Through all these moves Julie has continued to live in Piermont where she arrived 43 years ago Welcome back Julie.

If you peer in from the clerk's window before 3:00 on Tuesday Wednesday or Thursday, and look right, you might be lucky enough to see our

other part-timer, Maggie Cavanaugh, who has been doing the Village's payroll and accounts payable since October of last year. And if she speaks to you, you might even guess that she was born and schooled through business college in Ireland. In fact she grew up on a sheep and dairy farm near the ocean on Ireland's west coast, to which she now returns every summer with her children. In 1996 she came to the U.S. for what was intended to be six months—and never left. She found work as a waitress and bartender, first at Coogans on the west side of Manhattan and subsequently at the Green Tree in Riverdale where, to his great good fortune, a customer named William Cavanaugh, now Piermont's fire chief, came in one night for drinks and dinner—and the rest is history. The Cavanaugh's married in Rome in 1999 (a Roman wedding is an Irish tradition Maggie says) and they now have two children a 12 year old boy and a 14 year old girl. The family moved to Piermont's Patch from the Bronx in 2005.

And last, but by no means least, there is Sylvia Carbonell who really needs no introduction since her welcome at the Village Clerk's window has been lifting spirits since 1996. Officially listed as

Clerk-typist, and unofficially as Spanish translator, Sylvia has been the smiling heart of the clerk's office for almost twenty years. For most of those years, she lived and raised her two sons far away in the Bronx, riding back and forth to Piermont with the concierge at Harbor Cove.

When he retired just over 9 months ago, she began the commute from hell—two and a half hours each way by public transit beginning with a 4 a.m. wake up—a journey so endlessly stressful that those who knew her feared our beloved Sylvia might just give up and leave. So the grand news for us all is that she has found housing in Orangeburg where she is five minutes from work and gets a ride both ways with Charlie, our building inspector. Her sons, meanwhile, have grown and one is a Supervisor/Assistant at a building in Manhattan. The other—nearby—is employed at Summit School in Nyack and planning college on the side.

So it looks as if Sylvia will stay, as the familiar anchor of a new and already smoothly functioning team in Village Hall.

~Joan Gussow

**Join Us!** The Piermont Civic Association is a nonprofit group dedicated to the betterment of Piermont. Thanks to membership dues, numerous fundraising events and countless hours of volunteer work, Piermont has its Newsletter, Main Street has its trees, bike rack and flower pots, Kane Park has its gazebo and the Community Playgroup, Empire Hose and PAL have received generous donations, to name a few PCA accomplishments. Please mail this application to: Piermont Civic Association, Box 454, Piermont, NY 10968 I have enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ 2015 PCA Family Membership (\$25 includes the Newsletter)

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**Consider The Eco-Machine** continued from page 3

There are challenges involved in getting a project like this underway, not the least of which are funding, the governmental permitting process, ownership issues, resident's consent, storm and runoff siting, etc. But the benefits of having a clean running stream is of critical importance for both the community and the fish and wildlife that would flourish here. There are several national and state granting agencies that could provide funding for a potential "Eco Machine" along the Sparkill Creek. One such application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation by the Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance has already received provisional approval for a feasibility study to be done by John Todd Eco Designs, which will determine whether the physical location and contaminant residue of the Sparkill Creek meets their design capacities. Many other communities with tributaries that release water into the Hudson River are trying to find ways to increase the quality of their water. This may be one of the ways to accomplish that goal in an environmentally friendly way.

~Rob Sturgeon



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Piermont Civic Association

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**10am - 4pm**

**Flywheel Park**

\$20 for 10x10 space (rain date May 17)

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