

The Piermont Newsletter

VOLUME I NO. 2

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SUMMER 2021

We Salute Piermont's Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 7462

Piermont's Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 7462 was founded in 1946 with 37 charter members, many having returned home at the end of World War II the previous year. The post celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 1996 with more than 100 active members. On April 27, 2021, Piermont's Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 7462 voted to close the post.

There are now just a handful of active members remaining; those men are all veterans of the Korean War. The members removed their Charter from the wall and sent it to the New York State Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars, closing this chapter of their history, our history, and after six decades, bringing an end to an honored Piermont institution.

The Veterans Memorial Association of Piermont, Inc. owns the small red brick building at 562 Piermont Avenue just north of the Firehouse. It houses their meeting room and was the repository of the organization's Charter, as well as years of assembled artifacts attesting to the members' service, including soldiers' uniforms, letters home, medals and photographs. It was in this post that the VFW members met to arrange honors for our fallen soldiers. They raised money for injured and homeless veterans, for those impacted by the Oklahoma City bombing and other national tragedies. VFW Memorial Post 7462 also offered Piermonters a place to take our worn American flags for an honorable disposal.

Charter post member George Lynch spearheaded the pur-



562 Piermont Ave., home to Piermont's VFW Post 7462 since 1946. – Staff photo

chase and placement of the bronze WW II soldier, standing at the corner of Veterans Park, that waves as he heads to his deployment. The Post also gave us the flag memorial at the end of the Pier, and the great stones out there, now often used as an outdoor classroom.

On March 30, the Piermont Lady's Auxiliary to Piermont's VFW Memorial Post 7462 held its last meeting. Ruth Jessup, wife of former post leader Ted Jessup, and a small group of auxiliary

women were present to turn over their records and Charter to the State Chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary after 65 years of dedicated service to our veterans at home and abroad.

So many Piermont families have such fond community memories of watching these men and women as they marched down Main Street each Memorial Day, headed to a solemn service honoring those Piermonters that served their country.

The Piermont Fire Department will keep this Piermont Memorial Day tradition going, says former chief Dan Goswick. There will be a parade, starting at 10 am, from VFW Memorial Post 7462 to Kennedy Park. The Yonkers Military Band will be there – this is their 27th year of playing for the Piermont community. Crosses will again be placed at the park to honor the 13 Piermont men that made the ultimate sacrifice, 11 in WWII, one in Korea, one in Vietnam.

“We are here because they were there.”

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Piermont Musings



When the news reached Piermont that New York State had passed a law banning the use of Glyphosate on state-owned land that takes effect at the end of this year, many Piermonters felt a deep sense of relief and vindication. Since 2013, they had been fighting to prevent the chemical's use in the Piermont Marsh, which was part of a stalled NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) plan to remove Phragmites, the marsh's predominant plant. This fight, spearheaded by a local organization, the Piermont Marsh Alliance, was just the most recent example of Piermont citizens working together to protect our natural environment.

In 1994, now a quarter of a century ago, the Village of Piermont passed a resolution affirming its commitment to using "safe landscape and building maintenance principles" and relying upon "cutting or other physical means" for dealing with problem vegetation on Village-owned land. This action was an outgrowth of the Piermont Landing Homeowners' Association's 1993 adoption of a ban on conventional chemical landscaping practices on their own property, in response to protests by both residents and neighbors and fueled by a local child's reaction to an

application of fungicide. It had been the concern of many in the village that the new development on the pier would become its own sort of suburbia, complete with hazardous lawn products. This was not the case.

In 1995, Piermont saw the creation of its Community Garden, which, from its inception, adhered to the rules and guidelines of the Northeast Organic Farming Association. In 2002, the Piermont Landing Homeowners' Association was awarded the New York State Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention in recognition of all the chemicals that were NOT used on its landscape.

And in 2019, the Piermont Village Board reaffirmed its commitment to ecologically sound landscape maintenance practices by passing a resolution specifically banning the use of Glyphosate on village lands. And now, three years later, the Governor and Legislature have put a break on the DEC's possible use of Glyphosate in the Piermont Marsh.

Piermont can take pride in its long history of environmentally sound landscape practices and look back and thank a group of Piermont Landing homeowners and their neighbors for their foresight and activism in 1993.

—Margaret Grace

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This issue of *The Piermont Newsletter*, and many past issues, can be found online at

<http://www.piermont-ny.com/newsletter/>

Thanks to website manager **Richie Stark**.

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Meet Your Neighbors—The Board of the PCA

If your major interaction with the Piermont Civic Association (PCA) has been with its newsletter (one issue of which you are now reading), you may not have known there is an actual Association — with a board — that has been responsible over the 54 years of its existence for a number of regular Village activities, including the annual Lobster Fests, the Scarecrow Contests, and Easter egg hunts, as well as the beloved concerts and movies in the park. And in this trying year, the PCA's joint fundraising campaign, Piermont Provides, brought hot meals to front-line workers at Montefiore Nyack Hospital and established the Piermont Food Pantry. Here, so you can get to know them, are the present officers of the PCA board:



President
Joanne Ottaviano



Vice President
Mary Lukens



Treasurer
Greg Barrett



Secretary
Joe Serra

Bob Samuels who was —with his loyal partner Karen—one of the village's earliest COVID victims.

Vice-President of the PCA, is Mary Lukens, a NYC native who moved to Rockland almost 20 years ago. Before going solo to form her own

marketing firm, Mary held a variety of marketing and PR positions in the corporate and nonprofit world. She is presently also a realtor with Howard Hanna/Rand Realty. Mary is a volunteer Master Gardener with Cornell Cooperative Extension, and gardens at the Piermont Community Garden. She also serves on the board of the Rockland Farm Alliance. Her husband Dan is a local artist whose artworks are inspired by familiar local scenery and exhibited locally.

Greg Barrett, an executive in the pharmaceutical/biotechnology industry for nearly 30 years, is Treasurer of the PCA. A devoted sailor and outdoorsman, he discovered our quaint waterfront village and moved here in 2019. Greg enjoys cooking and baking, and, once our year of restrictions is behind us, he will once again enjoy travel. Greg is President of EVOQ Therapeutics, a biotech start-up developing cancer vaccines and therapies for autoimmune disease.

Secretary of the PCA is Joe Serra, who has been a Piermont resident since 2002. Joe worked as an IT executive for Verizon

before he and his partner opened The OUTSIDE IN Gallery & Espresso Bar in 2008. Joe is co-founder of The Valley Area Network, a not-for-profit organization that promotes the awareness of Hudson Valley fine and culinary artists. He also operates the Piermont Farmers Market and "The SOUK". Joe serves as co-chair of the Piermont Public Arts Committee, and is currently the Secretary of the Piermont Chamber of Commerce.

The other hardworking members of the PCA include Patty Barrett, Dennis Hardy, Lori Lowell, Christine Cazzola, Margaret Grace and Klaus Jacobs. Honorary members include: Trustee Nate Mitchell and Tim Temple, the PCA's web designer.

So when reality allows the Village to resume its normal life, you'll know whom to thank for the extras.

— Joan Gussow

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Piermont's Mayoral Candidates Offer Plans for the Village

Editor's Note: This year's primary election for mayor of Piermont features two candidates who will face off in the Democratic primary on June 22. They include incumbent Mayor Bruce Tucker and Village Trustee Nate Mitchell. The Piermont Newsletter asked each candidate three questions about their plans for the mayoral term ahead. Here are their responses:

What are your three top priorities for Piermont in the next few years?

Tucker: My three top priorities for Piermont are:



Mayor Bruce Tucker

Maintain fiscal integrity with no change in taxes. I have kept our tax rate stable for the last two years, and I intend to continue to do so during my next term as mayor by controlling expenses and locating additional sources of revenue. For example, I have contracted with Grandview to provide policing along River Road in return for \$300,000 in additional revenue to the Village of Piermont, and I will continue to

actively pursue similar agreements as well as grant proposals to bring additional revenue to our village.

Continue to support and further develop a vibrant business district. To face the unique challenges of the COVID epi-

dem, I spearheaded a successful reworking of the entire downtown district, redirecting traffic and promoting safe walking, dining and shopping opportunities. Because of this, our businesses not only survived, but many reported excellent revenues results. New signs directing visitors to our Village's historical, natural and commercial areas will shortly be installed; we have also received several large-scale outdoor artistic donations, with additional works to follow. All these result in an ever more vital downtown business district – visitors see the desirability of living here, while also making the Village a great place to live for our current residents.

Continue to protect the entire Village, the waterfront and our Pier by promoting a Greener and Cleaner Piermont. I introduced a local law that allows residents to walk, jog and take their kids freely without worrying about cars and trucks on summer Sundays [on the Piermont Pier]. I intend to expand this access to include Saturdays so residents can enjoy safe river access all weekend. Additionally, I obtained grant money to raise Ferry Road so it will no longer flood, and then located additional grant money to repave the entire Pier. Even more improvements throughout the Village will follow.

Mitchell: My top three priorities are: 1) Developing a long-needed Comprehensive Plan to guide our evolution and reimagining in the face of growing sea level rise and flood risks; 2) Develop and adopt an investment policy for the Village supported by community priorities and 3) Developing additional state and federal funding streams to enable implementation of mitigation adaptations that are fiscally responsible and can be sustained by the Village.



Village Trustee
Nate Mitchell

Putting community first is my commitment for Piermont, and this principle will guide my administration.

What can be done during the next Mayor's term to make Piermont a more resilient community regarding climate change?

Mitchell: I will develop a Comprehensive Action Plan for Piermont, informed by my years of service with the Planning Board and Piermont Waterfront Resiliency Committee. Working with N2N (Neighbor to Neighbor, a grassroots effort of alerts and support during emergencies) and the Neighborhood Liaisons Project, (workshops that targeted communities in the Village to understand the flooding risks and identify mitigation strategies), has deepened my commitment to the value of community involvement.

I will continue to shepherd our application to the FEMA Community Rating System program, projected to save residents 15-20% on their National Flood Insurance (NFIP) insurance premiums. During this term, we will also begin

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the process of recertifying our Climate Smart Community and Clean Energy Community status to maintain our eligibility for grant funding, which I helped secure initially, making submissions to both programs successful. Developing a Climate Action Plan is a critical step towards both those re-certifications, as well as to guide future Village planning and investments. Incorporating electric vehicles into our municipal fleet is another option I would welcome.

I have worked closely with our grant writer to secure funding for both short term needs, such as the \$74K in grants to cover unforeseen PPE costs for our first responders dealing with the pandemic, along with long term needs for planning and flood risk mitigation and I will continue to build on those successes. We need to preserve our diverse community and economic vitality with a bold community vision for our future.

Tucker: Climate change is a major concern for our Village. I am encouraging residents to stormproof their homes to prevent flood damage by amending our Village Codes to make it easy for residents to do this work, as well as seek grants to assist residents in the costs. In my next term, I will promote the move of our essential Village services (government offices, police, fire/EMS, DPW) out of the floodplain.

During my two terms as mayor, I have successfully encouraged clean and green technology: I have: a) negotiated a new recycling contract for weekly pickup; b) converted our street lighting to LED bulbs—reducing the Village’s energy costs and preserving our environment through lower energy demand; c) passed a local law banning Glyphosate (an herbicide) on Village property; d) installed an electric car charging station; e) created a Plastic Bag Free Village by passing a Reusable Bag Law; and f) instituted a Sustainable Piermont Committee to advance these and other environmental issues.

How will you help restore greater prosperity to downtown Piermont as the pandemic hopefully recedes in the months ahead?

Tucker: I successfully maintained the viability of our business district throughout one of the greatest challenges that Piermont has ever faced. I will continue to create opportu-

nities for expanded outdoor dining and outdoor sidewalk shopping. I will continue my work with the Traffic Committee to improve traffic flow and address parking issues so residents and visitors can conveniently patronize our restaurants and shops. I am also working to create signage directing visitors to our historical sites, restaurants and shops, and adding outdoor art installations (with private donations) throughout the Village. I created (again with exclusively private donations) the new park in the center of town next to Gerhardt’s [the former service station at the bottom of Ash Street] for residents to relax and enjoy comfortable seating. All these efforts preserve the vibrant and unique character of downtown Piermont, which, in turn, are key to maintaining our home values by making sure that Piermont remains a prosperous and desirable place to live and work.

Mitchell: I will work with our Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to help them succeed and thrive. Our businesses have ridden the roller coaster of the pandemic right beside our residents and have shown exceptional support for our community. We need to acknowledge the challenges they face here, and work with them to build Piermont back better. My experience consulting with foodservice and retail businesses in marketing and operations gives me a behind the scenes perspective into how much local businesses give back to their communities, both directly and indirectly, making our Village so special. Advocating for improved public transit options for Piermont could help connect our businesses with more customers. Repurposing underutilized areas for overflow parking would also allow for increased tourism without oversized impacts on residents’ peaceful enjoyment. Improved pedestrian connections within the Village could encourage residents to leave their cars at home, walk to shopping and dining, and keep our dollars here in Piermont.

In my first term, I will ensure that all taxpayer funds are covered by FDIC insurance moving forward. I will build back community participation in our public meetings, making public comment our first agenda item, welcoming different perspectives into the conversation.—*Ron Deroen and Ralph Titus*

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Keeping the Flood at Bay: Update from the Piermont Waterfront Resiliency Commission



The Piermont Marsh at Sunrise. Photo Kate Buggeln

As you read this, Piermont will be entering into Hurricane season again. Many of us will be checking generators and updating emergency Go Bags to prepare our households. It will be nine years since Superstorm Sandy this fall, and in that time Piermont has adapted in many ways, at many levels... but there is still much work to do, and the risks remain real. We have been relatively lucky since Sandy, but even so, the impacts of Sea Level Rise (SLR) and climate change have been visible and continue to increase, adding to risks in future storms.

Piermont has elevated Ferry Road, added stormwater check valves, installed backup generators for critical facilities, created the Waterfront Resiliency Commission, and adopted new flood damage prevention codes. The Piermont Waterfront Resiliency Commission (PWRC) has worked with regional partners (Cornell, Columbia, CUNY and others) to explore future adaptations and mitigations, and funding options for them. The PWRC hosted a series of public outreach events educating residents about the risks and response to flooding; has created a flood guide with emergency instructions and resources; and sends out alerts when flooding is predicted, so folks can park their cars on high ground and prepare their homes. (see: www.piermont-ny.gov/government/waterfront_resiliency_commission.php).

Some residents have taken the initiative to elevate their homes, or otherwise harden them from flood damage, but for many homes and residents, that is not a feasible option due to financial or engineering constraints. Many homes have changed hands since Sandy, and some new residents are not sufficiently aware of the risks they face, so our education and outreach must go on, and continue to seek out support and

relief for our impacted residents and businesses, and the character of our community overall.

Serving on the Waterfront Resiliency Commission has given us the opportunity to participate in state and regional conferences and conversations related to dealing with sea level rise and evolving flood risks. The PWRC has been consistently recognized for how far Piermont has come in terms of planning and how sophisticated our approach has been. It's sad to say that most at risk communities have not made much, if any of the planning and actual progress we have made, and they will face much greater challenges the longer they delay taking decisive action. Many of our Piermont plans need external financing. This fall, New York State will most likely place a \$3 billion bond act on the ballot that – with your vote -- hopefully will pass; if it does, Piermont is well positioned to tap into this revenue source for further action.

Now is the time to bring all our community stakeholders together to create a *Comprehensive Plan* for Piermont, to lay out our evolution from high to low risk areas and ensure the safety and prosperity of our community and our residents to address a changing future. We need to secure property to increase our inventory of housing options to offset future losses and reimagine our zoning and building codes to address our unique challenges. Taking a proactive approach to planning for adaptations, supported by the collaboration and funding development done since Superstorm Sandy, will position Piermont favorably to receive significant funding through national and state programs and implement innovative solutions that can be reproduced in other at-risk communities.

—Nate Mitchell and Klaus Jacob

Piermont's Police Reform Plan

The death of George Floyd on May 2020 in Minneapolis shocked the conscience of the nation. The tragic event, captured on videotape and viewed globally, accelerated the Black Lives Matter movement, established initially in 2012 after the Trayvon Martin shooting death. Long-standing criminal justice inequities have been well-documented (see *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson). The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed and exacerbated fault lines in our society relating to healthcare, financial, housing, education and other disparities in the treatment of people of color and other underrepresented communities.

To improve policing practices, all municipalities in Rockland County with police departments have been required to respond with a plan for reform in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 203, issued on June 12, 2020, which states in part, "urgent and immediate action is needed to eliminate racial inequities in policing...to better address the particular needs of communities of color to promote public safety, improve community engagement and foster trust."

The Village of Piermont Police Department has responded with a 5-page Reform and Collaborative Plan Piermont Police Plan, developed following a public meeting and other venues to engage stakeholders. The plan covers the following six items:

1. Expand Training
2. Personnel Complaint Process/Internal Accountability
3. Strengthen Community Relations
4. Use of Force and Policy Updates
5. Recruitment and Hiring
6. Additional Recommendations and General Orders Updated or Added

The report is available to review in full here: <https://www.piermont-ny.gov/Village%20of%20Piermont%20Police%20Department%20Reform%20and%20Collaborative%20Plan.pdf>

Piermont Police Chief James Hurley said that in response to the plan, the department will begin more foot patrols in the village and will create a bicycle unit in the future. He is also creating community meetings in which citizens can voice any concerns that they may have. The first such meeting was at the Goswick Pavilion on May 11th.

With a police force of eight full-time, four part-time and one civilian employee, Piermont enjoys a very low crime rate and serves a population of 2,565 residents, which dramatically swells with tourists during the warm weather.

There is a process in place for collecting complaints, as well as commendations, on the Piermont Police, which can be found here https://www.piermont-ny.gov/Service_Evaluation_Form.pdf and emailed to police@piermont-ny.gov.

— Marjorie Deroen

The Rockland People's Panel on Policing has created a robust report on racially-biased policing in the county with 11 recommendations and has conducted campaigns and open forums to promote awareness and change, including a public hearing attended by over 150 on March 10, 2021.



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Front Line Report

Deep snows. Slippery roads. Whiteout conditions. It was a challenging winter for Piermont's Department of Public Works. But they worked their magic before, during and after major storms to keep Piermont's streets, sidewalks and paths clean and safe. Thanks Tom Temple and his team for a job well done!

"This winter we used over 1,100 man hours to plow and salt the streets, municipal parking lots and sidewalks," said DPW Supervisor Temple. "This includes hand shoveling the path from Hartz Terrace to Ash Street, the stairs and pathway at the Community Center on Hudson Terrace down through Half Moon Park to Piermont Avenue, bus stops and around all the Village-owned buildings during each snowfall."

In other news at the DPW, Supervisor Temple noted that the department started bulk debris collection on April 13th and that program will run bi-weekly until October 13th. "We ask that all items be placed curbside for pickup in a neat and orderly fashion. We also would ask that residents be sensitive to the timing of when they put out their items for collection as it

A Big Thank You to the DPW for a Job Well Done!



From left to right: Tom Temple, Phil Esnard, Michael Bettmann Jr., Eric Holmes, Lou Hurban and Patrick Krummack. Not pictured: Jason Mounier. Photo: Ron Derven

affects the appearance of our village. Items should not be placed curbside until the weekend before the scheduled pick up date. Also, any debris generated from work performed by contractors will not be accepted and must be removed by the contractor," he said.

The DPW cannot accept any type of household hazardous waste such as chemicals, paints, batteries, etc., including all electronic waste (e-waste). The DPW can no longer accept televi-

sions, 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 electronics covered by this law you can go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/66872.html>, which lists items on this site that are accepted at the Rockland County Household Hazardous Waste facility in Pomona.

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Piermont Fire Department Gets New Ladder Truck with 107-Ft. Reach



Photo: Betsy Franco Feeney

The Piermont Fire Department's new ladder truck, purchased at the end of March, was needed to reach more areas, provide better egress and enhance evacuation for off road and out of range areas. The new ladder truck spans 107 feet compared with 75 feet for the old truck. The cost of the new truck is \$1,030,000, replacing the previous 30-year-old ladder truck to comply with insurance regulations, as these emergency vehicles need to be replaced every 25 years or less.

The drivers of the new truck had to go through additional training to handle this new vehicle, according to Fire Chief Sam Kropp. The old truck was sold to the Bloomingburg, NY fire department. Piermont runs mutual aid with other local fire departments, but the new vehicle has not yet been dispatched to a fire. The new truck means a more effective response to fires and a safer Village for all residents.

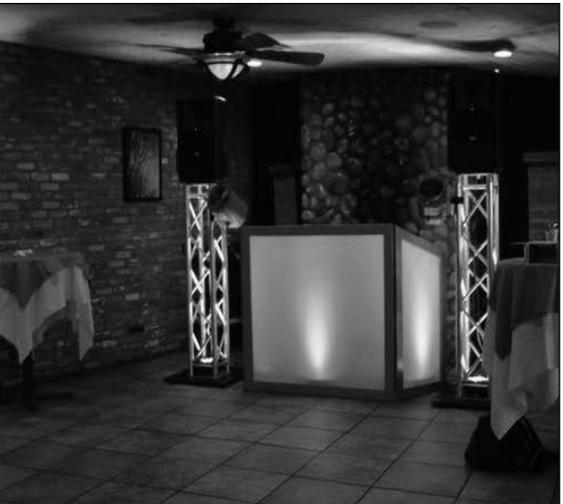
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From The Library

We are excited for summer at the Library and hope you will enjoy our programs and services as beautiful weather returns to Piermont. Our building is once again open with COVID safety precautions in place.

In commemoration of the Library's 125th anniversary and the Piermont Historical Society's ongoing commitment to preserve Piermont's history, we are inviting you to share your unique and intimate memories of Piermont in our oral history project, Piermont Remembers. Using Zoom, you will have an opportunity to record a video of your memories that will be shared in archives and special projects for years to come. We will help by providing a Piermont Remembers team member to chaperone you through the process. You can have a voice in how Piermont is remembered. To participate, send an email with your name and phone number to piermontremembers@piermontlibrary.org.

This summer, the library will have a 6-week virtual Summer Reading Program with reading logs, crafts and prizes available as curbside pick-ups from June 28th to August 5th. The theme is Tales and Tails so we'll have lots of fun with animal crafts! There will also be Mighty Five programs hosted by our five local libraries (Piermont, Palisades, Blauvelt, Orangeburg and Tappan). The Mighty Five kickoff for Piermont Library's Virtual Summer Reading Program (VSRP) will be on Tuesday, June 22nd at 6:30 pm. The program is called Eyes of the Wild and you will virtually meet at least five different animals. On Thursday, July 15th at 6:30 pm, we will host The World of Reptiles and Amphibians. Meet Odysseus the American alligator, Twinkie the 14-foot python, Dozer the giant tortoise and more reptiles and amphibians from all over the world! Each of our five libraries will have Scavenger Hunt for the month of August, starting Monday August 2nd. Check out the Piermont webpage for more information on the Scavenger Hunt and for additional programs.

Our virtual art shows will continue through the summer with a new exhibition each month. Works are for sale with 10% of all proceeds donated to the library. For May, we have Piermont's own John Vanden Oever with a gorgeous selection of paintings and works on paper. For June, we present a group exhibition by The Bluefield Artists, a local collective of artists, founded by Lisa D'Amico and Michael Craft. July will feature a special exhibit and talk organized by celebrated Piermont artist Margaret Grace, who will present her personal collection of art including many pieces from local artists. August will feature another Piermont favorite, Trine Gaever and some exciting new paintings. Visit our website anytime anywhere to view

these engaging exhibitions.

We will continue to offer art classes for all ages with Alexis Starke. Our popular Create and Sip events will continue virtually with wine, chocolate and a rich variety of themes and inspirations to help you explore your creativity. Afternoon art and craft classes will be offered for adults as well. For May and June, our kids classes will be outside and in person. We will explore Japanese art and culture in a relaxed, fun and creative atmosphere. During the summer, some of our art classes will tie in with our Summer Reading Theme of Tails and Tales.

Also for adults, we are currently offering two book clubs -- our Adult Book Discussion Group, which meets once a month on a Wednesday afternoon in the shade beside the river. This club reads a variety of engaging, mostly newer books that are sure to provoke lively discussion. New members are always welcome. We have a new book club just starting, our Anti-Racist Book Club. Inspired by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's *How to be an Antiracist*, we will take a deep dive into racist systems and policies. Exploring the call to action for actively pursuing anti-racism, personally and in our own spheres of influence.

Our popular virtual Mario Medici illustrated lecture series will continue and we hope you will join us for one of these popular talks. Again, please continue to check into our website and events calendar for the latest happenings at the library. If you are not receiving our emails and would like to, please email astarke@piermontlibrary.org. And don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We share art from our classes and info on happenings and new materials at the Library. We look forward to sharing the summer with you!—Alexis Starke



Ash Street curve—message delivered. Staff photo

COVID-19 Vaccination Van Comes to Piermont

After all of the chasing around that people did during February and March to get COVID-19 vaccinations, in April a fully equipped van visited Piermont to distribute the shots to all residents who wanted it. In early May, the van returned so that those who got the first shot could easily get the second shot.

"A few weeks ago I was contacted by our County Legislator James Foley that he was working with Refuah Health

Center to bring mobile COVID-19 vaccine vans to communities around Rockland County," said Piermont Mayor Bruce Tucker. "Overall it was a successful endeavor."



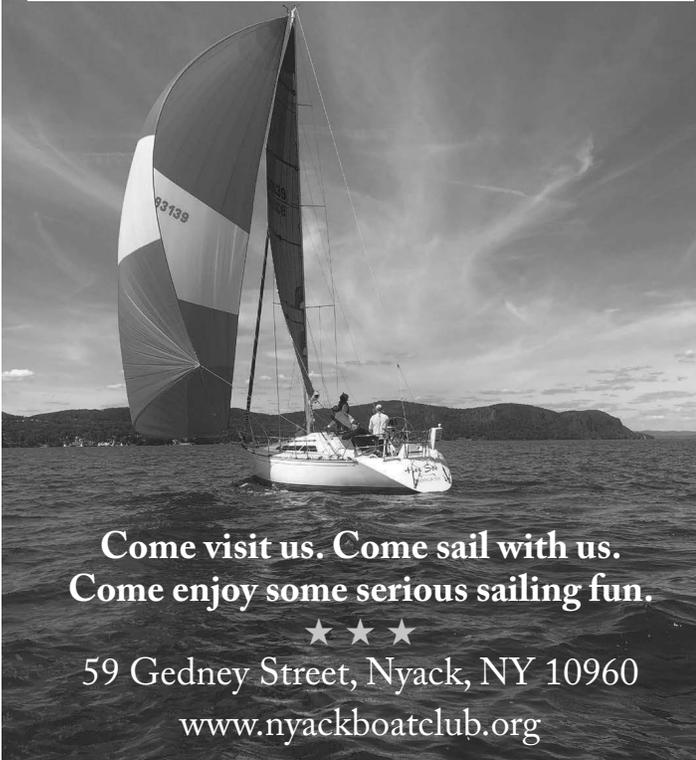
Vaccination Van that recently visited Piermont. Photo: Ron Derven



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The Front Line Report continued from page 8

The Waste facilities drop off dates and hours of operation can be found on www.rocklandrecycles.com.

Piermont Police Chief James Hurley reminds residents that if they are planning any trips this spring or summer, let the police department know ahead of time and they will keep tabs on your home while you are away. In case there are any issues or alarms go off, the department will contact you.

“When you are going away,” advised the Chief, “make your home appear that someone is there. You can do this by leaving a porch light or a living room light on.”

Many people love bicycling to Piermont and after a year of shut-downs due to Covid-19, the crowds are growing. Chief Hurley said that Piermont now has a Traffic Committee and the police and the committee are working together on ways to accommodate increased bicyclists as well as car traffic. The chief advised that during the warm season there are extra police on patrol so if you have a problem or issue with traffic, call the department.

Want to Reach a Village Official?

Bruce Tucker—Mayor, 845-359-1258 ext 304; Email: btucker@piermont-ny.gov

Jennifer Deyorgi Maher—Clerk Treasurer, 845-359-1258 ext 303; Email: clerk@piermont-ny.gov

Sue Yanitelli—Court Clerk, 845-359-0345 x2; Email: courtclerk@piermont-ny.gov

James Hurley—Chief of Police, Dispatch for non-emergencies: 845-359-0240; For all emergencies, call 911; Email: police@piermont-ny.gov

Tom Temple—DPW Supervisor, Phone: 845-359-1717; Email: TTemple@piermont-ny.gov

Charlie Schaub—Building Inspector, 845-359-1258 ext 311
— Ron Derven



845-358-5115
FAX 845-358-7092

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The Long Arm of the Law Gets Longer

The long arm of Piermont's police force will now extend to cover our neighboring village, Grandview.

Grandview's Mayor, Lawrence Lynn, and Piermont Mayor Bruce Tucker have been negotiating the agreement since South Nyack voted to dissolve its status as a village. South Nyack, which has been providing law enforcement services to Grandview, will no longer have a police force.

In an agreement reached in March, and approved by the boards of both villages, Piermont becomes responsible for law enforcement in Grandview. The agreement, with a start date of June 1 of this year, extends for five years.

Grandview encompasses 1.1 square miles, with a population in 2019 of 290 persons, according to Wikipedia. The village extends north from the Piermont border to the Tappan Zee/Gov. Mario M. Cuomo bridge. The east-west axis runs from the Hudson River up to, but not including, Route 9W. (9W is part of Upper Grandview, a hamlet that is a separate entity from Grandview.) A majority of its residences are located along River Road.

Prior to signing the agreement, Piermont's chief of police, James Hurley, advised Mayor Tucker that the added territory would likely be covered without the need for additional resources. Any increases in the police budget during the five-year term will be proportionately shared by Grandview.

In return for services, Piermont receives \$300,000 per year from Grandview. "It's found money for Piermont," says Mayor Tucker. "And it's a win-win situation." Grandview benefits by saving \$175,000 over what it had been paying to South Nyack.

As a side benefit, Mayor Tucker believes the extended presence of Piermont police should reduce residents' complaints about cyclists on River Road. Cycle clubs in the area have been advised that cycling rules will now be enforced along the entire length of Piermont Avenue/River Road. —*Ralph Titus*

Piermont Remembers! The Oral History Project

"Clothes lines crisscrossed between houses everywhere and when the wind blew the wrong way, the black ash from the factory would soil the sheets and they had to be washed all over again."—Patty von Sternstein

"I'd tell my parents we were going bowling but we really went dancing at the bars with the boys going off to war. We wanted them to be happy before they left the next day from the Piermont pier."—Millie Weber

"When the Turning Point first opened, Piermont was a real rough and tumble place."—John McAvoy

Those are some samples of memories recounted by Piermont residents whose stories capture a good sense of the spirit and happenings of village life in the early and mid-20th century. This oral history project was sparked when the Piermont Historical Society drew up a list of about 25 residents who are advancing in age and whose experiences they felt strongly needed to be documented.

In 2019 the library hired Bill Batson to develop and oversee the project. When the pandemic intervened and oral histories couldn't be done face to face, it was changed to a Zoom-based project in which subjects would simply record themselves. So far the Zoom platform is capturing high quality recordings (both video and oral) from subjects who are comfortable, and safe, in their own homes. Each story will be archived and available on the websites of the library piermontremembers.org and PHS. PHS plans to use footage from them in future documentaries about the village. The project will also be celebrated during the Library's 125th anniversary in September, 2021.

Anyone who wishes to share their story, or knows someone who should be interviewed, should email piermontremembers@piermontlibrary.org. —*Ruth Sullivan*

The PCA Easter Event at Flywheel Park



Thank you, Larry "the Bunny" Dvoskin, John Carey, and PCA hosts Lori Lowell and Patti Barrett for a wonderful event! Photos by Christine Cazzola



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VFW Memorial Post Closing continued from page 1

Former Mayor Chris Sanders, who for the past several years has been researching and sharing the stories of the experiences of our lost soldiers at Piermont's Memorial Day services in a series of "Gold Star" speeches, commented:

"Those brave men and women of Piermont, answering the call of our great nation, often found themselves in places they didn't necessarily want to be, sometimes sacrificing their lives far from home. They were there to support our belief in freedom. It is critical for us to recognize their sacrifice, and our responsibility to carry forth and support this democracy. We can't phone this in. We have come too far, and owe our steadfast diligence to those we commemorate on this day who have given so much."—Margaret Grace

★ Memorial Day Events ★
The Memorial Day events planned for Piermont this year:

Saturday, May 29: 11:00 pm, Vietnam Veterans service at the end of Piermont Pier, followed by the midnight lighting of their watchfire.

Monday, May 31: Beginning at 10am, Piermont's Empire Hose Co. #1 leads a parade from the VFW Memorial Post 7462 to Kennedy Park for a Memorial Day service.



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The Piermont Civic Association's 2021 Bob Samuels Summer Concert Series

Flywheel Park, Piermont NY. Admission is free. Music starts at 7pm.
Bring your family and friends and celebrate this great PCA tradition!

July 1 - Fat Boi's Brass Band (July 8-rain date)

July 15 - Tequila Soul Project (July 22-rain date)

July 29 - Jeb Jones (August 5-rain date)

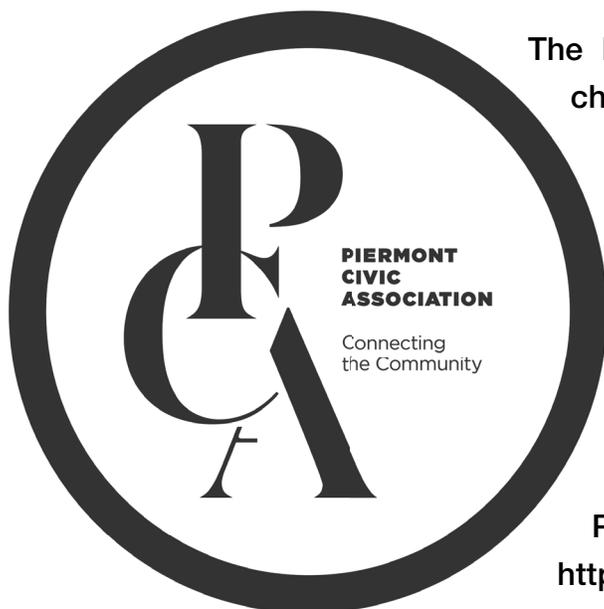
August 12 - Flying Fingers Jug Band (August 19-rain date)

August 26 - The Roues Brothers (September 2-rain date)

COVID-19 guidelines will be in effect.

If you would like to be a Concert Sponsor, contact Mary Lukens 914-629-8581.

Support the PCA



The Piermont Civic Association's Piermont Newsletter has chronicled community news and our history for 53 years.

It is delivered free to every household in Piermont, and it's available online. The Newsletter, as well as the PCA's Summer Concerts in Flywheel Park and numerous other Piermont events, sponsored by the PCA depend on the contributions of Piermonters like you.

Please support the PCA by sending us a tax-deductible check for \$25, \$50 or more. Please do it now!

Our Mailing address is Piermont Civic Association, PO Box 454, Piermont, NY 10968 or donate online at

<https://piermont-civic-association.snwbll.com/giving-portal>