

The Piermont Newsletter

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WINTER 2016

Piermont Foodies Rejoice

Attention hungry Piermonters. There is good news. The Community Market will reopen "sometime in April," its owner, Mark Pavlicek, told the Newsletter. "We plan to sell high end gourmet food." Also, this spring, the Piermont's Farmers Market will be starting up again, with many new vendors and new management.

Joe Serra and his partner, Bill Walsh, are taking it over. They've run the winter time SOUK Farm Market at their Outside In gallery on Ferdon Avenue for the past three years. Its vendors include sellers of special spices, barbecue, cheeses, stuffed breads, luxury chocolate and other deserts. Many of them have been urging Serra and Walsh to take over Piermont's Farmers Market from the corporation that had run it. "We finally decided to do it," said an excited Serra.

The Village Board had no objections to the change, and both the Piermont Civic Association and the Chamber of Commerce welcomed it. The partners are thinking about adding the SOUK to the Farmers Market name. (In case you're wondering, souk is the Arabic word for a market). They plan to continue the cold weather SOUK on Ferdon Ave. They plan to move the Farmers Market out of the M&T Bank parking lot to Flywheel Park

"Studies show that up to 70 percent of visitors at robust farmers markets spend money at businesses in the village where the markets are held," Serra pointed out. Piermont's businesses should get another shot of adrenalin when the Community Market reopens.

The closing of the grocery store last spring left a gaping hole on Main Street. Once a reliable village institution, it had slipped mightily since its glory days. Even so, people still missed the convenience of having a place to pick up a few forgotten grocery items.

The signs Pavlicek covered the windows with when he shut the store promised, "A culinary adventure in your neighborhood," a "Flat Bread Oven," and a "Seafood Bar." Food lovers were practically dancing on Main Street.

But as the month dragged on, many began to doubt if it would ever happen. Not to worry, said Pavlicek. "There are some issues with the building that first need to be resolved, some plumbing problems and things like that," he explained. "We have to make sure things get done prop-



A woman tries to peek into the closed Community Market. Fred Burrell photo.

erly before we reopen," he added.

Piermont's building inspector, Charles Schaub, was surprised when he was told that Pavlicek planned an April opening. "The whole place has been gutted," he said, "and I haven't seen anyone go in there for months."

Pavlicek has had a busy year in Piermont. Around the time he closed the Community Market, he opened Austin's, a sports bar, in the Flywheel Park storefront that had been Slattery's Steakhouse. Piermont's Austin's was a spinoff of a successful Austin's in New City.

What went wrong? "They made every mistake they could possibly make!" said a former local restaurant owner. He

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President's Corner



Here are three absurd Piermont stories about not seeing and not hearing:

I first viewed the Sparkill Creek from the Route 9W viaduct in the late 1940's. My aunt was taking 10-year-old me and my teenage cousin for a vacation at a farmhouse in the Catskills.

We were coming from the city on 9W because back then there was no Palisades Parkway or New York State Thruway. My aunt was a very slow and shaky driver so we crossed over the viaduct slowly. I had plenty of time to look down at the creek and the houses along its banks. I was impressed by the quaint scene.

I didn't know the creek's name. There were no signs. Now, attractive signs at each end tell people that it's the Sparkill Creek they're crossing. But no one in a car can see it. The high suicide prevention fencing put in when they rebuilt the viaduct in 2002 blocks the view. They could have used a see-through version but they didn't. I guess they value the name more than the view.

Something just as perverse is happening now on the Palisades Interstate Parkway. They recently put up handsome new signs suggesting drivers take Exit 6 (Orangeburg Road to the Piermont Marsh. Pity the poor nature loving innocents who follow that advice. There are no other signs telling them how to navigate the rest of the complicated maze to our phragmites.

Finally, our village government (you and me) invested our money in an excellent amplifier system for the Village Hall meeting room. Unfortunately, you still often can't hear what's going on at board meetings because officials don't bother using the microphones. Someone suggested that they spend a little more and get lapel mics. They've discussed that, they said. I heard them say it.

~Bob Samuels

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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 volunteer Richie Stark.



Piermonter Jerry Warshaw and Usha Wright stop at the newly installed plaque in Flywheel Park. It tells the story of the flywheel and pays tribute to the men and women of the village's industrial past. The Piermont Civic Association suggested the plaque more than 20 years ago. Now, with the help of Piermont's Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce, it is done. Sally Savage photo



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Nate Mitchell—Piermonter



Nate Mitchell Fred Burrell photo

It's probably not surprising that it was Nate Mitchell who volunteered when Mayor Sanders told the Piermont Fire Department that the county was asking local communities to put firemen on their planning boards as a way of increasing their fire-safety smarts. After all, Nate's father Tom had been the chairman of that board when the paper mill shut down. He later led the opposition against the Piermont Landing development because he believed it had too many housing units. He predicted that the new residents would create rush hour traffic jams at Ash and Piermont Avenue, and he ran for mayor to stop the project. He lost to Bill Goswick.

Nate was not born in Piermont,

although he arrived here with his parents at 11 months of age. His peers never allowed him to forget that he wasn't really a Piermonter, since his family had not lived here for at least two generations. It didn't help that his childhood home, where his mother Grace continues to live, was at the very south margin of the village, on Valentine Avenue where the Piermont post office still does not deliver mail.

Nate remembers that one of his childhood pleasures was playing in the water just beyond his backyard. Was it true, as someone had told me, that he was the last person to be seen swimming in the polluted Sparkill Creek? "Probably," Nate said. "The land behind my mom's house on Valentine was owned by United Water and edged by the creek. I always played out there; there was a rope swing on the Ferdon side where I used to swing and drop into the water." And when his father moved to a part of Piermont Avenue, where the creek ran through his backyard, Nate remembers rowing down to visit.

Since his mother Grace began work (originally as a volunteer) at the library in his childhood, he remembers that the bus dropped him off there after school. His father was good friends with Bill Herguth, so Nate also spent a lot of time in boats out in the marsh. He also remembers walking to the end of the pier with his father—who now lives in New Jersey—to catch crabs and fly kites, two activities that could be happily combined, with a bout of kite flying interrupted every 10 minutes or so to allow for checking the crab trap.

And once the factory on the pier

shut down, it was another great place to play—in and out of the derelict factory buildings later featured in several scenes from Woody Allen's *Purple Rose of Cairo*. And Nate remembers that Mom Miraglia's bar (now 14th and Hudson) opened every morning at 8 a.m. to serve drinks to the men coming off their overnight shift at the factory.

After graduating from the local schools, Nate went off to Evergreen State College in Washington. Why there? "It was one of the three colleges in the nation to allow you to write your own curriculum." And what was his curriculum? "Public Communication and Organizational Dynamics." And whatever that meant, it got him a long way from home just when he wanted it most.

But he came back and now works as an IT consultant—one of those people whom you call in desperation when something electronic goes wrong (now aren't you glad you met him?). Having spent much of his early life at the far south end of the village, Nate now lives with his schoolteacher girlfriend Melinda and her six-year-old twins near the north end of Piermont Avenue.

It was former Fire Chief Tim Temple who originally recruited Nate for the fire department about 10 years ago. He thinks that it was probably his "outsider" status—living as he did in the deep south of Piermont, with parents who hadn't lived here before he was born—that explained why he hadn't been recruited at the age of 16. That's when most of the firemen-to-be first begin training.

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Piermont's Eel Ladder Device Successfully Tested



Chris Bowser, Education Coordinator, Hudson River Estuary Program adjusts the eel ladder near the dam on the Sparkill Creek. Ron Derven photo

The New York DEC and local Piermont volunteers have successfully tested a device at the dam at Ferdon Pond to help baby eels and other marine life get over the dam and into the fresh waters of the Sparkill Creek, accord-

ing to Chris Bowser, Education Coordinator, Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve; NYS Water Resource Institute at Cornell University.

The device was installed at the base of the dam in October and tested for two weeks. It will be reinstalled in June. It consists of a pipe with netting in the interior that rests at a 45-degree angle with one end in the water and the other at the top of a large bucket. Lawn hoses are used to create siphons, pulling water from the Sparkill Creek, over the dam and into the top of the device where it then rushes through the pipe. The eels and other marine life twist and turn on the netting and work their way up to the top and fall in a bucket of water. The eels are then transferred out of the bucket and transported to another section of the Sparkill Creek where they can swim into the interior.

The lifecycle of these eels is complex and their journeys are long and arduous, according to Bowser. Young eels start life in the Sargasso Sea, that vast stretch of the Atlantic Ocean that is bounded on the west by the Gulf Stream; on the north by the North Atlantic Current; on the east by the Canary Current; and on the south, by the North Atlantic Equatorial Current.

The young eels spend a year or more drifting and swimming to East Coast tributaries such as the Sparkill Creek. These glass eels, and their older "elver" stage eels, seek out good, fresh water habitat in which to grow and thrive. Sometimes this means climbing waterfalls, scaling dams, even slithering across the ground on wet nights. Once they reach a fresh water habitat, male eels may stay in a stream for five or 10 years and grow just over a foot long. Female eels may stay in fresh water for 20 or more years and grow to three feet in length. At a certain stage in life, something "triggers" these eels to begin their journey to return to the Sargasso Sea where they will spawn and die.

The Sparkill Creek was one of those natural habitats for



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these eels, but most of the eels have probably been prevented from returning to the interior of the creek because of the Ferdon Dam, constructed decades ago. Now, thanks to the DEC and local Piermont volunteers, may hundreds or thousands of the creatures will find their way into the Creek and repopulate it for the first time in a long time.

Naturally, this eel ladder device will need to be checked frequently and emptied. If you would like to volunteer for this highly worthwhile project next summer, please contact:

Nicole V. Laible, Environmental Management Assistant, Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources, RC Environmental Management Council, RC Soil and Water Conservation District, RC Water Quality Committee, Email: laiblen@co.rockland.ny.us; Phone: 845-364-2669. Nicole helped install the eel later for the initial test and is excited to begin signing up volunteers for next year.

~Ron Derven



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How to Make a Documentary Without Really Trying



The Piermont Historical Society's movie making crew are left to right: Diane Walsh, Patti Panayotidis, Tom Chapin and Betsy Franco Feeney. Alan Rosenfeld photo

It all started innocently enough back in 2013. "Take some pictures of the inside of the train station", said Lola Esnard, vice chair of the Piermont Historical Society. She wanted people to see the budding Piermont history museum that was taking shape at the train station. The resulting slide show was played at our SOS fundraiser in 2014 to "Support Our Station." It became a YouTube video with a link to it on the Piermont Historical Society website.

The successful SOS fundraiser was to be followed by a USO Dance theme the next year. Another slideshow was

requested of me but this time, the Historical Society Board suggested interviewing long-time residents as well. A simple thing to put together, so I thought.

It quickly became clear that I needed help. Diane Walsh was eager to set up the interviews and Patti Panayotidis offered to write a script. If only the three of us weren't so passionate about sharing the history of Piermont! We had no experience and little idea what we were getting ourselves into.

With my iPhone camera and Diane's list of questions, we listened to stories that needed to be heard and not just to accompany a slideshow. There were sad stories of life during the war and some light moments. Anna Hickey described how "our girls would always be at the skating rink and that's where the all the soldiers would go." But, she was not allowed because "I was too young, you know what I mean?" Yes, Anna, we know what you mean.

Anna called Jake Miraglia a "street urchin" and we found the nickname fitting. Jake described how he and a cohort would sneak out onto the pier and watch the soldiers board the transport vessels. One time they were caught and the MPs threatened to throw them in jail. It scared them a bit but not enough to stop them from doing it again and again. Mildred Oslica described the haunting sounds of soldiers' feet marching at night and the air raid sirens. Millie Weber told of the conga dance line she led in the morning after soldiers spent the night in her family's home while on a weekend pass. Phillip Delorenzo was surprised at being drafted at 17, thinking he was too young but quickly finding out all the 17 year olds were given notice. Lola Esnard had an uncle who married a WAC who was stationed at Camp Shanks, apparently one of many romances that began there.

Meanwhile, Patti was uncovering a treasure trove of historic writings and images. Her script quickly grew to be something that had to be cut way down, to her dismay. It couldn't be helped; this was supposed to be a 15-minute



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video to play at the USO Dance. We soon found out that it was harder to create a 15 minute film than to make a 40 minute one – No editing needed!

We were also in need of a narrator. I approached Piermont's multi-Grammy award winner Tom Chapin. Not only was I fairly certain he would say yes with his history of generosity in his hometown, I suspected he was a history buff as well. Back in 2009, when the replica of the Half Moon set sail off Piermont pier at dawn, he and I were the only ones there with cameras ready to capture the moment. When I approached him about narrating our World War II video, he readily agreed.

A project we thought would take a couple of weeks turned into a two-month obsession for Patti and myself. I slashed her copy without mercy, knowing how brief we had to keep the film. She protested, as did I when she sug-

gested edits on the interviews. It was painful but necessary if we were to accomplish what was needed for the fundraiser. In the end, we were only partly successful. We did not limit it to 15 minutes; it totaled 19 minutes plus. The concern now was, would the audience lose interest half way through?

On the night of the USO Dance, Patti, and I were cautiously optimistic about how the audience would react. We were both excited and nervous as the 140 attendees viewed the film. When the credits rolled, the audience abruptly rose to their feet with great applause. Patti and I found each other in the crowd and celebrated our success by dancing to the Andrew Sisters' "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy"! Many asked about buying the video. Around that time, we realized what we had done; we created "Last Stop USA, Piermont's Role during WWII", a documentary, without really trying.

One more thing; this year, we entered "Last Stop USA" in the Nyack Film Festival where it won the People's Choice Award. So, to be more precise, Patti and I created an award-winning documentary, without really trying. Go figure.

~Betsy Franco Feeney

The Piermont Historical Society (PHS) would like to record your oral histories. Please visit our website to learn how: [www.peirmonthistorysociety.org](http://www.peirmonthistorysociety.org)

PHS is selling DVDs of "Last Stop USA – Piermont 's Role in WWII" along with this year's film, "Piermont's Papermill – Stories from the Factory". Proceeds benefit the Piermont Historical Society. To Order: <http://www.piermonthistorysociety.org/dvd-sale.html>



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## Piermont Votes—Update

On November 8th, 1386 Piermonters cast their ballots in the Presidential election at St. John's Church.

918 voted for Clinton  
399 voted for Trump  
28 voted for Gary Johnson  
14 voted for Jill Stein

18 wrote in a candidate for President

5 did not vote for any Presidential candidate, and 3 "over" voted

In 2008, 1387 Piermonters voted for President, the largest number of votes cast in a single election in Piermont up until that time - Obama's 944 to McCain's 417. With 1386 ballots cast this year, 2008 remains the record year for voter turnout in Piermont. 2016 comes in a very close second, with one less ballot cast.

In the election for two Piermont Trustee positions, Lisa Defeciani

received 949 votes and Rob Burns received 907 votes, with 10 votes cast for write-in candidates. Both of these Democrats ran unopposed, and the tally indicates that more than 400 Piermont voters, primarily non-Democratic voters, did not cross party lines to vote for Trustee positions. New York State races got more voter support. For example, 1272 Piermont voters cast ballots for NY State Assembly. Ellen Jaffee, a very popular State Assembly representative for Piermont, won a total of 948 votes of 1275 cast in her reelection race.

Note: In the last Piermont Votes column, 1980 Presidential candidate Johns Anderson was identified as a Libertarian. Anderson, in fact, ran on the Liberal line that year. Thank you, Harley Rutstein of Piermont, for the correction

~Margaret Grace



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## Gardeners, Watch Your Micro Climates

Many years ago, I took a class in Applied Terrestrial Ecology at Purchase College. The class was nearly all field work. A particularly memorable lesson started with us all hiking to the top of a mountain in Westchester. The professor had us survey the different types of trees that were growing on two slopes across the small valley. We were supposed to use our knowledge to figure out why the slopes had different types of trees growing on them.

We all knew that north and south facing slopes had different weather conditions, but these slopes faced east and west, so we were stumped. It turns out that east and west can produce significant differences in weather conditions too. It was a great lesson that I have never forgotten, and it applies to gardening as well.

Even if all areas of a garden get the same amount of sunshine, the differences in temperature and humidity that occur because the sun shines on a plant in the morning (when the air is cooler and the dew is still present) or the afternoon (when the air is hotter and the dew gone), can make a significant difference in how well different types of plants grow. It can even indicate which plants are suited to various locations in a garden. This applies to all sizes of gardens, even to a few containers on a deck.

These hyper-localized variations in sun exposure, soil and air temperature, and soil moisture are called micro climates. Winter is a good time to begin to study the micro climates in your garden plot. No matter how small your growing space is, watch the patterns of snow melt and water. Where does snow last longer, where does melt water pool and not drain as well. How does the sun move across your garden? The sun is still relatively low in the sky in early spring, it reaches its zenith at the summer solstice, then starts its downward path again. Knowing how the sun moves through your garden over the course of a day, as well as over the course of months and the entire year can help you decide what to plant where.

If you have a building wall or a rock wall adjacent to your garden, or if you have containers on a deck near a building wall or glass doors, observe the variations in the weather in these areas. If your garden has plants that create shade, and the shade plants are deciduous, see when the shade first develops in the spring and when goes away in the fall. When the shade plants finally leaf out in the spring, feel how the soil moisture and temperature are different in shaded vs. non shaded areas depending on when the shade gets to the area – morning, noon or evening.

Cold air sinks, and warm air rises. If you are gardening on a slope, and Piermont has plenty of those, or if your garden is relatively flat but has some dips and rises, observe whether those elevation variations create micro climates. Rockland also has areas where the bedrock is closer to the surface, areas where top soil is thin or has clay and poor drainage, areas where there are natural or man-made wind tunnels, and areas near banks of the Hudson. All of these things can also create micro climates. Wind can cool and dry an area, clay soil with poor drainage can cool and moisten an area, the Hudson is wide enough to act as a heat sink, which can reduce temperature variation compared to non-riverbank areas, and bedrock and thin top soil can create a variety of conditions.

Piermont, a small village with so much geographic variation that it has three planting zones. It is the perfect place for gardeners to pay attention to their own garden's micro climates. There are even ways gardeners can create micro climates where they do not naturally exist. More on that in a future column.

~Susan Freiman



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## From The Library

### Closing Out The Year

The 2016 Gift of Art show and Sale: A Day in the Life of Piermont will be on display in the library's gallery space until December 23rd. Stop in anytime during regular operating hours to browse and shop for the holidays.

Later in the month, teens and tweens are invited to a special Jewelry Making Workshop presented by Amy Kanarek on Wednesday, December 28th at 4 pm. Participants will make a woven bracelet in the colors of their choice, learning a technique that will expand their creativity and get them started designing on their own. Space is limited. Please call 845-359-4595 to register.

### Coming In 2017

The Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library will hold a 10th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, April 9, 2017, 12 - 5 pm, to mark its first decade in the McHugh building. The library, chartered in 1896, opened the doors to its newly built Flywheel Park location on a bright and brisk Hudson Valley day in March 2007.

Just what has taken place in that lit-

tle yellow building by the river since that day? Come find out. Festivities will include tech demos, children's stories, art and craft, specialty club expos, live music, grounds tours, and more. Our gallery space will feature a brief history of how the library came to be, how the current building got its name, and how the institution continues to evolve as a community hub.

As part of the 10th Anniversary Celebration, the library is offering two excellent naming opportunities for donors. First, there will be a 10th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign with a generous Matching Challenge. Donations to the 10th Anniversary Fund will be matched by longtime supporters Dale and Ed Nelson up to the first \$5,000 raised. This is a chance to make your contribution to the library go twice as far. Donors who give \$250 or more will have their names engraved on a 10th Anniversary Wall plaque. Double your impact and leave a lasting declaration of your support by giving to the 10th Anniversary Fund.

The second naming opportunity comes in the form of a special 10th

Anniversary Path of engraved bricks. This new walkway will connect the bench on the front lawn to the sidewalk that leads to the rain garden. This is a unique opportunity to commemorate your loved ones while contributing to your library. Donate just \$200, a discounted rate from the front Path of Friends, to inscribe one name in the 10th Anniversary Path.

All contributions are tax deductible. Donations to the 10th Anniversary Fund and Path will support the library's stated mission and future maintenance of a now aging and well used building. Contact Jessica Bowen, Library Director, for additional information or to make your donation. Help keep your little yellow library robust for the next 10 years and beyond.



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## Front Line Report



Recently hired Piermont Police Officer Paul Troy (right) is welcomed to the department by Chief Michael O'Shea (left) and officer Steve Leuthner. Leuthner and Troy are about to patrol in Piermont's new "ghost" car, behind them. It looks like an ordinary civilian vehicle in daylight. At night, its subtle markings come into sharp focus so that residents can identify it as a police vehicle. Ron Derven photo

With the holiday season and winter rapidly approaching, Chief Michael O'Shea, Chief, Piermont Police, urges residents to keep all packages out of sight in their vehicles when shopping and always lock car and house doors. Sound like

obvious advice? The chief says: "Ninety percent of our car larcenies are through open doors. We get some smash and grabs where crooks will break car windows. But many think, why break a car window and set off an alarm when all you have to do is open the unlocked

car door? Keep your neighborhood safe this winter. If you see something that doesn't look right, like a stranger walking around your neighbor's property, call the police. If you see something, say something."

Chief O'Shea says that Piermonters continue to get bogus phone calls and emails from criminals who purport to be the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). He urges residents to not interact with these people; hang up and call the police. He says that if you owe the IRS money, they won't call you on the phone or send you an email, they will come to your house.

Winter is on the way and we don't know whether we will be hit with heavy snows in Piermont or get away with just a mild winter. The chief recommends preparing for a cold, heavy-snowfall winter by getting your car ready for emergencies. He suggests getting your air pressure and fluids in the car checked. He also urges the purchase of a portable snow shovel for the car and a good flashlight that can also act as a warning light in case you have a road emergency.

Winter is the time that many Piermont residents get away from the cold and chill. Before you leave, however, let the police department know you will be out of town. Go to the police department email that Piermont shares with *continued on page 16*

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## Piermonter Bails Out For Charity

Sky diving wouldn't seem to be a direct way to fight cancer.

But last Fall Piermont resident James Dickson jumped out of an airplane 25 times in a single day, raising \$8,600 for the Friends of Jaclyn Foundation. The charity's mission is to improve the quality of life of children who are fighting cancer.

Dickson's sky diving marathon took place at Wallkill Airpark in Ulster County. Each jump he made took 15 minutes from take-off in a Cessna to landing. Dickson worked with three parachutes. While he was in the air the chute from his prior flight was being re-packed for his next jump.

The 38-year-old Piermont resident has a philosophy of "live in the moment; play in the moment." The first time he jumped out of a plane was in 1997. "After I landed, I fell in love with a whole new world."

Dickson grew up in Blauvelt and moved to Piermont in 1993. He played football at Tappan Zee High School

and went to Dominican College on a full academic scholarship.. He cut his college years short to pursue a career in acting. Hired by Gary Marshall for a role in Happy Days, he also had parts in the TV series One Life to Live and All My Children.

Dickson is a New York City police officer. He has been a volunteer fireman in Piermont's Empire Hose and he's qualified as an emergency medical technician.

What motivated him to sky jump for charity? "I've always wanted to do something to help cancer victims. So many people in my life have been stricken by it. My 6-year-old cousin lost her battle with the disease and my Grandpa died of it."

Dickson plans to repeat his long day of sky diving next year.

In the meantime he's studying to get a helicopter pilot's license.

~Fred Burrell



*Skydiver James Dickson is all suited up and ready to jump again.*

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## Piermont Foodies Rejoice continued from page 1

asked that we withhold his name. "They opened on Memorial Day weekend with a popular band out in front and were overwhelmed by the crowd. They couldn't deal with it.

"They'd handed the cooks a brand-new 77-item menu that day and told them this is what you're going to cook tonight. When things started falling apart, they came into the kitchen, screaming and cursing. They did it again the following weekend and the cooks said, 'We're not taking this. Goodbye! We quit!'"

Customers were unhappy too. "Eat elsewhere is my suggestion," an Edgewater, NJ, woman posted on Yelp. She was one of many complaining on the web.

Pavlicek wants to put all that behind him. He is now converting that space into what he's calling the North River Grill. "It's American grill but the menu isn't completely set right now," he said. The former restaurateur, who spoke about the chaos at Austin's, predicted that the new place will be a success.

The Community Market has been a Piermont mainstay for more than half a century. The Berardi family ran it for over 30 years and it flourished. It stocked the complete grocery needs of Piermont's blue collar workers and its more affluent customers, including many in Grand View and

Snedens Landing. Unlike Nyack's A&P and Grand Union, the Berardi's delivered and let its customers charge,

Some customers would order a week's groceries with a phone call. Berardi employees would bring the groceries right into their kitchen later that day. If no one was home, they would put milk and other items in the refrigerator and the frozen food in the freezer. Few people bothered locking their house back then. When the Berardis retired in the early 70's, the new owners failed and then, as now, the market shut down.

Alan and Sara Kravitz, parents of two young boys, bought a fixer upper in Nyack in 1974. A couple of years later, Sara began working in Piermont as a cook for the new Turning Point restaurant. "I was farm-to-table before there was farm-to-table," she said. Alan was a professor of city planning. He also was from a family that was in the food business. Before he knew it, he became the Turning Point's food buyer.

The empty Community Market dismayed Piermont activist Mimi Bryant. Mimi, who later became Piermont mayor, knew the Kravitzes and thought they would be the perfect people to reopen it. "We told her we didn't have two cents to rub together," recalled Sara. That wasn't a problem for Mimi. She rounded up a number of local people (Sara



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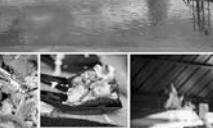
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thinks there were 25) who chipped in \$1,000 each. ("It took years, but we paid them all back!" said Sara)"

With the backing of those investors, Alan brought the Community Market back to life on Halloween day in 1979. He and Sara, who started working there a few years later, were both 37. They ran the store very much the way the Berardis had, with good butchers, home deliveries and charge accounts. Sara started cooking food people could take out around 1982. "It was just the beginning of prepared food," she said. "People would first apologize, then they'd buy it."

On Halloween day 25 years later, they sold the store to what turned out to be the first in a series of Korean-American families. "We got to know them and spent many hours telling them how the store was a real important piece of the community," Sara remembered. "We offered to stay and help through the holidays. They said, 'No, we can handle it. We'll be fine.' Then they weren't."

Reached at their home in Clinton, Connecticut, Sara was glad to hear that the Community Market will reopen. She very much wants it to succeed.

"Please tell the new owners that we're very available if they want a conversation with us or a visit."

~Bob Samuels



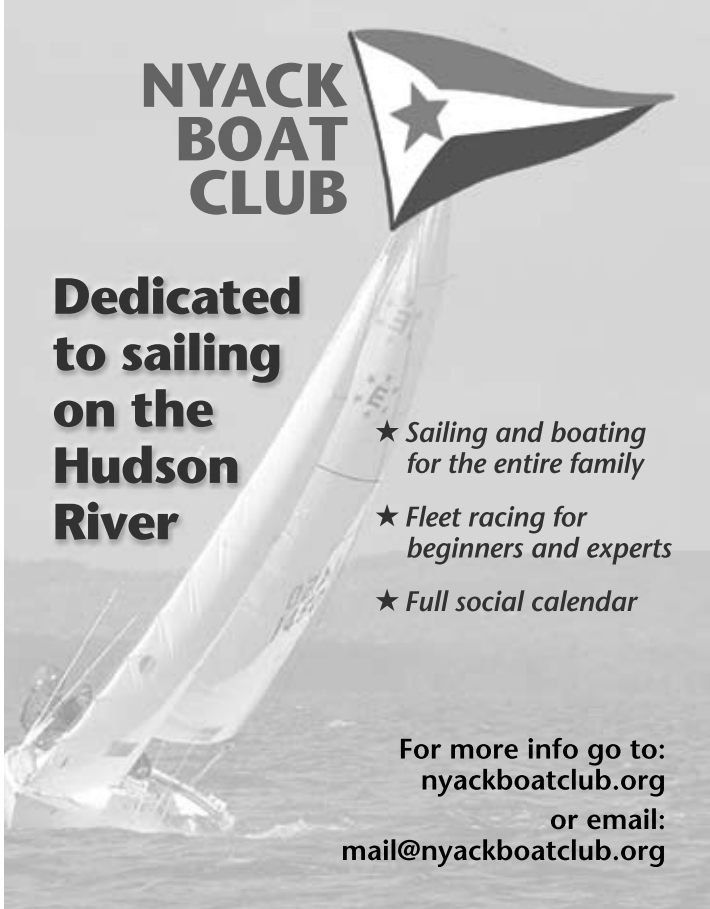
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## Front Line Report continued from page 11

Rockland County law enforcement and alert them that you will be out of town. In the title line, write: "Closed-Home Report." The email is: [piermontpolice@rcpin.net](mailto:piermontpolice@rcpin.net).

Chief O'Shea welcomes a new police officer to Piermont. Police Officer Paul Troy comes to Piermont from High Falls, New York where he served six-and-a-half years with that department. Prior to that, he worked one year at the Fayetteville, North Carolina Police Department and before that he worked with the Honolulu, Hawaii Police Department.

### Snow And Cold Are On The Way!

Winter is definitely on the way and Tom Temple, Supervisor of the Piermont Department of Public Works (DPW), is asking all residents to be mindful of where they place the snow as they clear snow from their driveways and sidewalks and not to throw snow back into the roadways that the DPW has already cleared. "It could refreeze and cause unsafe conditions," he said. "The DPW works hard to have the cleanest streets during the winter and snow put back in the roadway only impedes our progress."

The DPW set Tuesday, January 3 and Wednesday, January 18 for Christmas tree recycling. Trees should be placed curbside decorations and lighting removed.

If you have a fire hydrant on your property, you can assist the Fire Depart-

ment by clearing any snow from around the front and sides of it.

### Fire Department Looks For Volunteers

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

~Ron Derven

Piermont Government

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Department of Public Works  
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Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library  
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## Nate Mitchell continued from page 3

He was recruited to the Planning Board as an alternate two years ago and then elevated to full membership when there was opening. He was also recently appointed to the Piermont Waterfront Redevelopment Commission. He hopes he brings an awareness of fire and public safety issues, as well as climate and flood concerns to that board. And of course, he brings a deep love for the village as a place for children to grow up, which leads him to be very cautious about allowing overdevelopment. Recalling that the present plague (my word) of bicyclists arrived after the New York City Bicycle Association asked to place our village on their maps, Nate remarked that planners need to be careful.

~Joan Gussow

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*ART TALK: a page from Wade and Croome's circa 1846 panoramic guide of the Hudson River, from NYC to Albany. The Piermont or Tappan Landing page notes historic landmarks such as the pier, farmland on the hillside, steamboats in the river & cliffs of Palisades. Preserve Piermont's past for the future.*



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Homes in the Piermont area sold recently