

The Piermont Newsletter

VOLUME I NO. 3

PUBLISHED BY THE PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2020

How Piermont Is Coping with the COVID-19 Pandemic

Since COVID-19 struck, lives have been upended in ways large and small. The devastating national catastrophe has had well-documented disparate impact on the low income, working women, immigrant and people of color communities. This novel coronavirus triggered a cascade of three severe pandemics: health, financial and emotional. Our beautiful village has not been spared, although our rate of infection so far remains modest compared to other localities in Rockland County, due to implementing safety measures. See the latest impact on the county at the following link: <https://www.google.com/search?q=orangetown+covid+cases&oq=orange-town+covid+cases&aqs=chrome..69i57.15249j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Piermont has experienced serious impacts from COVID-19, including the passing of well-loved neighbors, disruptions in children's education and financial consequences for many families and our local merchants. With the heartening news that a vaccine may soon be available from BioNTech, Pfizer and other sources, our best defense in the meantime is following the science on how to control infections. Piermont is adapting to new requirements, improvising with different solutions and re-setting as this crisis unfolds.

Adapting to the Virus

Mayor Bruce Tucker attributes Piermont's relatively low number of COVID-19 cases to early actions by the village, county and state. In the beginning, "Closing the parks and the pier really prevented a major Piermont surge," he said. Once the parks re-opened, "having our police, especially on week-ends, enforcing social distancing," proved very effective. The village also passed a local law that mandated masks and social distancing, with fines for non-compliance. A challenge for the village during the summer was that "visitors increased by about 30 percent, because no one was going on vacation—they were coming here. It was a conundrum for police, and we added a patrol each summer weekend – with a focus on the Pier," the Mayor reports, with the upside that "a number of businesses did extremely well, and a couple of restaurants had their best summer ever."



Piermont on a recent sunny weekend. Photo by Kate Buggeln

For Mark Lepore, Confetti owner with his two sons, the Italian restaurant's careful implementation of safety protocols, including 6-8 feet of distance, sanitizer and masks, has led "customers to feel very safe," Mark reports. When the restaurant closed down for several months, the financial impact was dramatic. "We can't make up for those 3-1/2 months of lost revenue," Mark lamented. During the warmer months, as the Village allowed more sidewalk seating with diverted traffic flows, he was gratified to see many new and returning customers enjoying their Italian cuisine and beautiful Hudson River views.

As cold weather precludes outdoor seating, the financial impact on Confetti and other

local restaurants is still uncertain. Mark is planning dinner and lunch specials to draw people to the restaurant during the winter months.

Daout Celestin made the decision to close his restaurant, Sidewalk Bistro, from March to June; this lost revenue cannot be recovered. Known for its outside seating, Sidewalk Bistro could not further expand its footprint as did other Piermont restaurants during the summer. While Sidewalk Bistro is open for indoor dining, with careful safety protocols followed, Daout finds that people are reluctant to come inside. He is concerned that cold weather may close the restaurant for several months. "We would like to be open 100 percent of the time," he says. He encourages customers to "keep watching" and come back as soon as possible.

Improvising Service Offerings

Where possible, merchants have modified what they offer and how they conduct business. Ron Wohlgemuth, President/Manager of the cooperative Flywheel Gallery, reports that, like most businesses in Piermont, the art gallery went through difficult times. Out of an abundance of caution, the gallery shut down on March 15, even before government-mandated closures at that time. COVID-19 has prevented the traditional artist receptions offered during solo shows. Instead, the gallery is currently offering only group shows, with a maximum of 10 gallery visitors at a time. Although the gallery is much qui-

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Piermont Musings



In 1988, after the factories had closed and the two industrial parcels, Federal Paperboard and Clevepak, were combined into a single development project, the Piermont Village Board reviewed the preliminary concept for redeveloping the expansive, dilapidated factory sites. The property owner, Carlyle Corporation, and its architect, Conklin/Rossant, unrolled their plans for what would become Piermont Landing. I was on the Village Board at the time. I recall the gasps of wonder as we looked at those first drawings of a waterfront that for half a century was literally blocked from view by sheds, warehouses, trucks and fencing. Now before us were architectural drawings detailing an unobstructed village shoreline, with a view of sailboats in the distance – the extraordinary opening of a visual connection to the river from Piermont’s downtown.

Carlyle’s initial design featured a large parking lot by the river, which provided those new open vistas, and a community green that looked like a private lawn, tucked further inland. The initial design, for all its breathtaking openness, felt disconnected from Piermont and its historic downtown.

It was our very good fortune that Steven Kent Peterson of Peterson/Littenberg Architects and Urban Design Consultants was brought on board by the village to help us review those earliest plans from Carlyle. Funding for this design oversight on Piermont’s behalf was made available through New York’s State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). The members of the village board held a “plan-in” with Peterson, introducing him to Piermont’s Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP), as well as our individual ideas and concerns.

The collaboration resulted in Peterson making recommendations for significant changes to Carlyle’s proposal. He created a village square, now Flywheel Park, which moved the parking field to behind the commercial buildings. He designed what he called an “American grid” village on the waterfront, often referencing Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina, with existing village street lines

logically extending into the new waterfront development.

It was a streetscape plan that relied on trees, columnar maples, to create the boulevard, an all-of-a-kind look. “Trees were so intrinsic to Early American design that streets were named for them,” said Peterson. But trees at the waterfront? According to Peterson: “You need a foreground on the waterfront – trees are like a café umbrella, they provide a place to sit in the shade, they provide a place to be. They form high awning shapes and give context to the expansive view of Piermont Bay. Without trees, the waterfront would be like an unfurnished room.”

Over the years, some of those trees have been taken down and unfortunately not replaced in-kind. The beautiful effect of the symmetry of those maples can still be seen bordering the parking area at the rear of the commercial buildings of Piermont Landing.

I often think back to Steven Peterson’s work for Piermont, of how he told us that we must have a public building in the square if it was ever to feel like a Piermont space, a wish that the Piermont Library fulfilled. With each stroll through Flywheel Park I am reminded of the tangible importance of his contribution to our village. I think of Steven Peterson as Piermont’s unsung design hero.— *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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Photographer Betsy Franco Feeney Documents Piermont #girlsgotagoodeye

Yes she does! Betsy Franco Feeney can be found behind her camera lens at most every Piermont community event, afterwards generously sharing those images here in the Piermont Newsletter and online. This fall, the Piermont Historical Society had online showings of "Piermont's PaperMill...Stories from the Factory," Betsy's second documentary co-produced with fellow Historical Society board member Patti Panayotidis. The film's award this year at the Nyack Film Festival was actually the second win for the pair: two years ago, their film titled "Last Stop USA... Piermont During WWII" won the festival's People's Choice Award.

While many Piermonters know Betsy as BFF the photographer, only a few know that her number one passion is engaging children to learn through her picture books. Betsy has illustrated 12 and co-authored three



Betsy Franco Feeney. Photo by Espirit Basner

books, which center on the environment.

"Amoeba Hop," based on the song written by the award-winning singer-songwriter Christine Lavin, received a "Best Books Award" from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Her second collaboration with Christine, "Hole in the Bottom of the Sea," garnered a stellar Kirkus review: "If the future of the planet is in the hands of our children, then reading them books like this one might be a wise idea."

Just released this month, Betsy's "Jewels of the Sea...The Hunt for Floating Treasure," was a collaborative effort with Sheean Haley, Senior Staff Associate of Biology and Paleo Environment at Columbia University's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory. In a creative and engaging way, "Jewels of the Sea...the Hunt for Floating Treasure" entertains students K-3 and beyond.

More importantly, the book highlights the role of a microscopic organism that makes all life on earth possible. A science appendix explains how this mighty little life-form helps combat global warming, aids scientists in studying climate change, and so much more.

In the midst of those creative ventures, Piermont has had the benefit of Betsy's generous volunteer spirit: she photographed Piermont's children celebrating the holidays and handed out treats costumed as the Easter Bunny during the PCA Egg Hunt. Betsy dressed as Belle Kelly, Piermont's stationmaster, and taught children Morse Code at the train station during The Piermont Historical Society's "Family Days." She also serves on the PHS Board. Piermont's Bob Samuels used to call Betsy "Teach" as she helped him navigate the mysteries of MailChimp, an online marketing program, so he could communicate Piermont news to his PCA email list.

And the eye patch? In 2019, Betsy experienced a detached retina. Surgeries followed. She is now blind in her right eye and is often seen wearing a patch – usually a festive one.

Betsy's hashtag #girlsgotagoodeye tells you a lot about her. In that hashtag there is an affirmation of the fine vision of an artist and photographer. There is also a sly, humorous reference to "eye" in the singular. Watch Betsy reading "The Hunt for Floating Treasure" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEmmUSxSEXs&feature=youtu.be> as eye-patched Patty Pirate. The real treasure behind that tag.....it's Betsy. — Margaret Grace

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River Raptors Return

Raptors staged an impressive return to the shores of the Hudson River this past summer. An extended family of Osprey nested in the marshy area near Tallman Mountain and were often seen diving into the water, talon-first, then heading back toward the edge of the Piermont Marsh near the Goswick Pavilion to perch atop a tree and consume the meal.

Meanwhile, a pair of bald eagles raised three fledglings in a large nest just north of the Piermont-Grandview border, also feasting on the abundant supply of fish available in the bay just to the north of the Pier. Bald eagle nests are often reused for years by the same pair of adults, enlarging

as the mates repair and augment the structure. While the bald eagle nest along River Road is of only moderate size – the largest can measure 10 feet in diameter and weigh over 1,000 pounds – it is clear that this aerie has been in use for at least several years.

While ospreys and bald eagles are migratory, they often return to their prior territories, so it is quite likely that the same adults -- and even their offspring -- will return next spring. After thousands of miles on the wing, we hope to welcome back 'our' river raptors in the coming year.

—Daniel Spitzer



Having captured a large fish, the osprey wings back toward a tree near the Goswick Pavilion. The bird almost always holds the fish oriented head-first, the most aerodynamic configuration. In this photograph, both bird and fish are wide-eyed and mouth-agape, staring at the photographer. Photo by Daniel Spitzer



Just north of the Piermont-Grandview border, high in a tree, sits this large bald eagle nest. While the outer section appears to be roughly constructed, the branches are carefully interlaced, and the interior of the nest forms a smooth haven for the hatchlings. This image was post-processed to accentuate the nest – the large dark mass of intertwined sticks at center. Photo by Daniel Spitzer



An osprey demonstrates the classic claws-first dive in a high-speed sequence photo. Note that the legs - talons extended – pivot forward just as the bird hits the water; conversely, the wings are folded up and backward to protect the critical flight feathers. The force of the dive can plunge the bird three feet under the surface. Photo by Daniel Spitzer



One of the adult eagles has just consumed a large fish on a branch immediately adjacent to the nest. This view highlights the strong forward-facing rear talon which allows the raptor to capture, incapacitate and then carry its prey. This particular eagle is of medium size; a large female can weigh 14 pounds and attain a 7-foot wingspan. Photo by Daniel Spitzer

Piermont's William H. Whiton and the Civil War

William Henry Whiton was 19 years old when he lost his temper and quit his job as clerk and bookkeeper for a firm in Albany, New York. He proceeded to make 2,000 unsuccessful applications for employment in Albany, Troy and New York City before he finally decided to go into business for himself.

Whiton knew there was a good deal of construction happening on the New York and Erie Rail Road (it was 1843) and on lands along the roadway. He obtained credit, purchased building supplies and had them shipped to Piermont, New York. In June of that year, just 20 years old, he opened for business.

Two months later, Whiton and his sister Julia were at the home of Eleazar Lord, paying a social call on the wife of a local clergyman who was visiting the Lords. There he met Lord's daughter, Sarah Pierson Lord. Two years later he and Sarah were married at "The Castle," Lord's residence in Piermont, and made their home in a cottage in Piermont.

But around that time, Whiton heard of fortunes being made in pig iron in Ohio. Along with a brother and a cousin, he purchased iron and coal lands in Lawrence County, Ohio, and in 1847, he and his bride were on their way to Ohio, the first of several moves in pursuit of financial well-being.

He was nothing if not persistent. His business ventures usually lasted about two years, including a coal mine in Kentucky, a partnership supplying grading and masonry services to a Kentucky railroad, and a partnership supplying a railroad near Nashville. He was in Columbia, Tennessee in 1860 when he closed his business there and returned to Piermont.



Railroad engines (like ships) were usually given an identity by naming them to honor a person, place or thing.

Then the Southern Secession intervened. Whiton still had assets in Columbia, and in the Fall of 1861 he received a letter from a friend warning him: unless he became a resident of a slave state (Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland were suggested) the Southern Confederacy would likely confiscate the railroad stocks, bonds and moneys still due him in Columbia. To safeguard his assets, Whiton and family moved to Baltimore. Eventually they found a house in Georgetown, a D.C. suburb, and moved there.

While there, he frequently met with his old friend, Daniel C. McCallum, former superintendent of the Erie railroad. In February, 1862, McCallum was appointed military director and general manager of railroads for the U.S. Army. (A law had been passed a month earlier authorizing President Lincoln "...to take possession of any or all the railroad lines in the United States, their rolling stock, their offices, shops, buildings... To place under military control all the officers, agents, and employees belonging to the railroad lines.")

McCallum was building an organization and needed help. Until such time as he could find a suitable second-in-command – someone to take charge of the D.C. office while McCallum tended to the outside business – would Whiton be willing to fill in? Whiton reluctantly agreed to the temporary position, which he held until the end of the war four years later.

During that time, he was in frequent contact with Lincoln and with Edward Stanton, Lincoln's Secretary of War, and was directly involved in the planning and execution of the war's

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The Happy Dog Gallery

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Hail a Pedicab in Piermont

A new mode of transportation has come to the village in the form of a pedicab, a small pedal-operated vehicle. The Piermont Chamber of Commerce (PCoC) purchased two pedicabs (although only one is approved for use at this time) in September to transport residents and visitors from the various parking lots to our shops and restaurants, to the historic district and to the pier.

Branded "Piermont Pedals," the initiative's goal is to create a memorable, fun and unique experience for people by offering a simple solution, especially useful for those who may be challenged by longer walks from our more distant parking lots. We also hope to raise the village's profile as a leading-edge green community in New York, supporting the Sustainable Piermont program.

We are grateful to Piermont Bicycle Connection, a local bicycle retailer, for sponsoring the initiative and for housing and maintaining the cabs. Additional sponsorship opportunities will be available in the form of ads, which will be placed on the back and sides of the cabs,

as a means to help underwrite the initial and ongoing cost of operating the pedicabs. The pedicabs will be insured by the PCoC and will be operated by strong local individuals. There will be no charge to riders, however; they will be encouraged to tip the drivers.

We envision the service to operate Wednesday through Sunday with extended all-day hours over the weekends and holidays. Riders and drivers will be required to wear face masks and the cabs will be sanitized after each use to ensure the safety of everyone throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

The program, spearheaded by PCoC board members Doug Stone and Nancy Loving, is so far garnering positive feedback from riders. Started as a pilot in October, we hope to gain insights on what works well and what can be improved so we can make the experience as safe and as enjoyable as possible. We welcome suggestions and recom-

mendations by writing to info@piermontchamberofcommerce.com. Hop on and take a ride with us!—Joe Serra



Santa takes PCoC Board Members for a ride through the village.
Photo by Simone Eisold

Scarecrows Galore!

Scarecrows ruled the day in Piermont this Fall, thanks to a family Scarecrow decorating contest sponsored by the Piermont Civic Association. *Photos by Grant Scully.*



First Place: Jayne Ziegler, Dayna and kids.
"Scariest Pumpkin who lit up in the dark."



Second Place: Kelly Ruby and kids.
"Most Creative": Weeping Blonde with Creature on Shoulder.



The Flexible Scarecrow

Coping with COVID continued from page 1

eter than in pre-pandemic times, Ron emphasized that we all “need to stay safe and happy, our artists will keep making art and people still need art in their lives.”

Canzonas Market, in business for 32 years, has experienced an unexpected surge in business. “We changed the business around,” Mike Canzona explains. Seeing the shortages in many stores for staples such as meat, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, the family-owned store stocked up on these items and showcased its meat on Instagram, leveraging Mike’s expertise as a butcher. Photos of assorted meats for \$50 brought an influx of customers.

The store’s customer base has expanded from the usual neighborhood patrons and visiting cyclists stopping by for a tasty sandwich and cold drinks to “people from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and other nearby states.” “People want to stay out of big stores,” Mike explains, and with their safety protocols, which include required masks, social distancing and store-provided hand sanitizer, optional gloves and curbside pickup, Mike wants customers to “keep coming and stay safe.” Canzonas will also deliver when needed, on a limited basis, to customers who have mobility issues.

Nate Mitchell, Village Trustee, acknowledges that overall in the US, “numbers of COVID-19 cases are going in the wrong direction,” expressing additional consternation that guidance from the federal government has been limited at best and often with contradictory information. The Village has taken a number of preemptive actions, such as increasing transparent and frequent communications about the pandemic to residents, including through Piermont’s Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/VillageofPiermont/>. Employees in the Village Clerk’s Office are working in rotating shifts to allow for twin needs for social distance and coverage.

Nate reports the town secured a \$74,000 grant, thanks to Sylvia Walsh’s efforts, to cover “unforeseen PPE

expenses for our emergency service volunteers” without which, “Piermont would have been \$30,000 in the hole.” Other mitigating actions the Village has taken include identifying patterns of infection using data from EMS volunteer first responders. That data revealed that a disproportionately higher number of calls from people with COVID-19 symptoms were coming from renters in some multi-family homes. In response, the Village provided education about cleaning protocols for common areas and sanitizer supplies residents to reduce infection rates.

OutsideIn, the gallery space, espresso bar and event space, in business for 13 years, closed during the early phases of the pandemic and now is available for takeout, along with small event gatherings in outside tents. Joe Serra and his partner, Bill Walsh, have halted The Souk, the indoor winter Farmers Market, in response to COVID-19. In the meantime, OutsideIn has graciously built a community pantry for local people who are food insecure. (See sidebar for more information and to find out how you can help).

Resetting Our Priorities

We all need to follow scientific advice to wear masks, social distance, wash our hands and sanitize frequently. As Nate Mitchell said on the Piermont Facebook page recently, “These are not times when we can afford to relax and allow ourselves to become pandemic fatigued. The personal choices we all make every day are critical to our success. Each of us must take personal responsibility for limiting our own chances of exposure as well as transmission.”

As we adapt, improvise and re-set to address the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19 for our families, our neighbors and our merchants, “One for all and all for one,” is a fitting motto for Piermonters — let’s stay safe, support one another and our local businesses to preserve the health of our lovely community.—*Marjorie Derven*



Piermont’s Food Pantry. Photo by Patricia Lukes

PIERMONT FOOD CUPBOARD OUTSIDE IN

249 Ferdon Avenue,
Piermont

(under the white canopy)

Every Monday to Friday, 10am – 5pm / Bring a bag and feel welcome to help yourself.

This local resource, initiated by Nate Mitchell, is a community partnership created by the Piermont Civic Association, Piermont Chamber of Commerce, and N2N and funded 100 percent by neighbors and the Piermont Waterfront Resiliency Commission, Community Market, Piermont Fire Department and Sunday Farmers Market vendors, (including Orchards of Concklin, Satori Provisions and Gilded Farms). Non-perishables are all purchased at cost from Canzonas Market and the Community Market to support the local businesses.

Anyone wishing to obtain food can simply go to the shed and take what is needed, no questions asked. Together with the Piermont Civic Association, supplies are replenished as needed with local merchant support. Donors who want to help can send a check to the PO BOX 454 Piermont NY 10968, checks payable to PCA. Write “for pantry” on the check or envelope. Online donations are also accepted: go to piermontcivicasociation.org. —*Marjorie Derven*

Piermont Votes

Piermont has 1,848 registered voters. 1,512 of them voted in this year's election - the most ever in Piermont for a Presidential Election. Second place for turnout goes to the Obama/McCain race in 2008 with 1,387 Piermonters casting ballots.

In this year's General Election, 1,119 Piermonters voted on election day or on one of the nine early voting in-

son days, and 393 voted by mail. Biden won the Piermont vote with 1,063 votes to Trump's 421. About 25 votes were cast for other candidates and three voters didn't vote for president.

Full election results are posted on the Rockland County Board of Elections website. To see Piermont's full results for all down-ballot races, look under Election Results, District Details.

Piermont has two election districts, ED 1 and ED 33. Add those two district results together to get the complete Piermont election results for all the races.

Congratulations to Piermont Trustees Nathan Mitchel and Rob Burns, re-elected to serve as Piermont Trustees in 2021. They both ran unopposed as Democrats and won handily!—*Margaret Grace*



Piermonters line up at St. John's Church as polling doors open on Election Day. Photo by Margaret Grace



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From The Library

The Piermont Library is open once more. We are opening our doors to you, our beloved patrons, once again — we missed you. While things will look a little different during your visit, we are happy to offer time slots to browse or use the computer. We recommend making an appointment, and you can do that on our website welcome page at www.piermontlibrary.org.

Curbside pickup will continue to be available as well: no appointment needed, just call when you're outside. You can also ask a librarian questions by phone, or email. Remember, you can still use the Library remotely, anywhere and anytime.

For general information or to join our email list please email info@piermontlibrary.org or call the library at (845) 359-459. Find us on Facebook (Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library), Twitter (@mchughpmtlib), and Instagram (mchugh_piermont_library).

At the moment nearly all our programs are virtual – we know you'll find them to be engaging and easily accessible.

Our Gift of Art Show is going virtual. This favorite Piermont holiday tradition is the perfect opportunity to buy some beautiful art by local artists for holiday gift-giving or to cheer up your home for the holidays. Our theme this year is "Time at Home".

On Friday December 11th, we will offer a live virtual opera concert with Piermont resident Anna Veleva. On December 16th, we will present a virtual tour of New York City's holiday lights and decorations with Mario Medici.

We will start the new year off with an inspiring presentation by Piermont's own Jorli Peña who will lead a talk/workshop titled "Launching (or Growing) a Business During Uncertain Times" on Tuesday, January 5th at 7:00 pm. No experience necessary to join the session—just an interest and willingness to explore income-generating possibilities in a fun, low-stakes environment. Workshop includes some discussion time and small group breakouts (all via Zoom).

Our popular monthly "Create and Sip" events for adults that explore inspiring artists and include goody bags with wine and chocolates are continuing. We also have daytime art and craft classes for adults.

For kids, we will be offering some holiday art classes with Alexis Starke where kids that will explore their creativity, develop their artistic skills as well as their problem solving and visual design abilities and get into the holiday

spirit. In the new year, we will offer an all-new series of STEAM themed art classes as these have been very popular this fall. These classes are designed to explore and enhance creative thinking, problem solving and self-expression in a relaxed and inspiring atmosphere. We are also offering some "Grab and Go" craft projects which can be done independently at home. For more information visit our website or contact Alexis Starke at astarke@piermontlibrary.org.

Ms. Nancy has been offering a weekly "Story and Craft" Class for ages 3 – 7. Materials are available for pick-up at the Library before each class. She is also offering a "Thursday Book Club" for grades 4 – 6. The first five children who register receive a free copy of the featured book. So far, we have read "Holes" and "From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler".

Through our website, you can download e-books and comics, e-magazines and digital audiobooks from Overdrive or Hoopla Digital. You can download up to five songs per week and stream up to three hours per day with Freegal Music and borrow music with Hoopla Digital. Further, you can stream movies and television shows from Hoopla Digital or Overdrive.—*Alexis Starke*

SUPPORT THE PCA

The Piermont Civic Association (PCA) needs your financial support to continue serving the Piermont Community. The Piermont Newsletter is sent to every Piermont household three times a year. Our local history -- filled Newsletters dating back to 1966 -- are available online at www.piermont-ny.com/newsletter. When pandemic restrictions lift in the coming year, the PCA will be bringing you our Concerts in the Park and other community events, thanks to your generous donations. Please contribute \$25, \$50 or whatever you can afford. Send your check, made out to the Piermont Civic Association, to Box 454, Piermont, NY 10968. Remember to keep up with the latest village news and announcements by signing up for the PCA email newsletter. Send your email address to piermontcivicasociation@gmail.com today -- we promise not to share it!

Front Line Report

COVID-19 is ramping up once again in Rockland County and throughout the nation. With more and more visitors drawn to the Village of Piermont on weekends for delightful outdoor dining or to simply take in the waterfront or go for a walk on the pier, Police Chief James Hurley reminds residents and visitors alike to take the necessary precautions to prevent contracting COVID-19 or transmitting it to someone else.

There are extra police officers on duty on weekends in Piermont to educate residents and visitors to wear a face mask in public and to social distance. If you are out in public without a mask in Piermont, stop by at the police station to pick up a free one. If the police are out on patrol, call 845-359-0240.

The Chief warns residents that with the holiday season upon us, take extra precautions to keep your house and your car locked. He said that it is particularly important to remove all presents from your car or keep them well out of sight from anyone who is looking for an opportunity to break into cars.

At the Department of Public Works, "Winter is upon us and we would like to take this time to remind village residents to be cautious when clearing their driveways and sidewalks of snow and to avoid

throwing snow into the street," said Tom Temple, Superintendent of the DPW. "Snow thrown back into the street after the DPW has cleared the road could refreeze and cause potential accidents for both motorist and pedestrians."

Superintendent Temple said that after the holidays, the DPW crew will be collecting Christmas Trees on Wednesday January 6th and on Wednesday January 20th, weather permitting, as part of the village's tree recycling program. Please remove all lighting and decorations from the trees before placing curbside for collection.

The Piermont Fire Department and Ambulance have been extremely busy during the pandemic, according to Fire Chief Daniel Goswick Jr. Support the Fire Department with donations and consider volunteering to help the department. Call the department at (845) 359-1208 to learn more about volunteering. Further, the department needs donations of N95 masks and hand sanitizer. When the brave men and women of the Ambulance Corp go out on a call that involves a potential COVID-19 victim, the entire crew needs to wear Tybek suits to protect themselves. Each suit can only be worn once, which costs \$175.

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*

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP TIMES

The Department of Public Works will collect Christmas trees on Wednesday January 6th and on Wednesday January 20th, weather permitting, as part of the village's tree recycling program. Please remove all lighting and decorations from the trees before placing curbside for collection.—*Ron Derven*

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The advertisement shows four hoodies: a grey zip-up hoodie, a black long-sleeved hoodie, a black t-shirt with a logo, and a grey zip-up hoodie with a logo.

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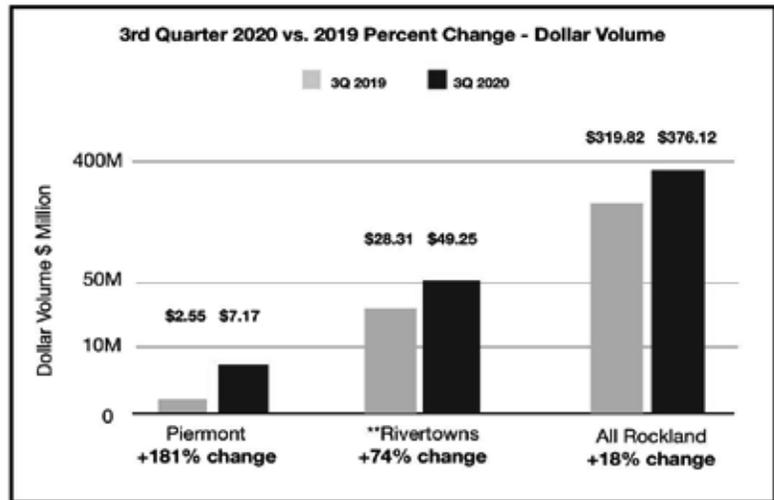
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William H. Whiton continued from page 5

most significant troop movement, the reinforcement at Chattanooga and the subsequent "March to the Sea" that brought the war to an end.

Troops had to be moved from Virginia to reinforce the Army at Chattanooga. An Army General estimated that it would take 40 days, too long to be of any use. McCallum, with Whiton's help, worked out the plan that transferred 23,000 troops 1,233 miles in less than 14 days.

General Sherman's campaign began May 1, 1864. From the time he left Chattanooga until the capture of Atlanta, he was dependent on the railroad. In his memoirs he stated: "That single stem of railroad supplied an army of 100,000 men and horses for a period of 196 days." Further, "The Atlanta campaign would simply have been impossible without the use of the railroads from Louisville to Atlanta."

In a letter dated May 13, 12 days into the campaign, Whiton wrote, "I am at the office, and have been day and night since General Grant commenced his great battles. Am nearly worn out."

"The war effort is summarized in a book by Thomas Weber The Northern Railroads in the Civil War, 1861 - 1864": "By the end of the war the department had operated 2,105 miles of railroad with a combined rolling stock of 419 engines and 6,330 cars, a record of 642 miles of track laid or relayed, 26 miles of bridges built or rebuilt."

At war's end, Whiton and family returned to Piermont for good. They are buried in Rockland Cemetery.—Ralph Titus



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Piermont Marks the Holiday Season



'Tis the Season! Photo by Patricia Lukes



Piermont Mayor, Bruce Tucker, suggests shopping locally this holiday season. We couldn't agree more! Photo by Tim Morales



Shoppers look at all of the wonderful presents available in Piermont. Photo by Tim Morales



Piermont marks the holiday season. Photo by Tim Morales



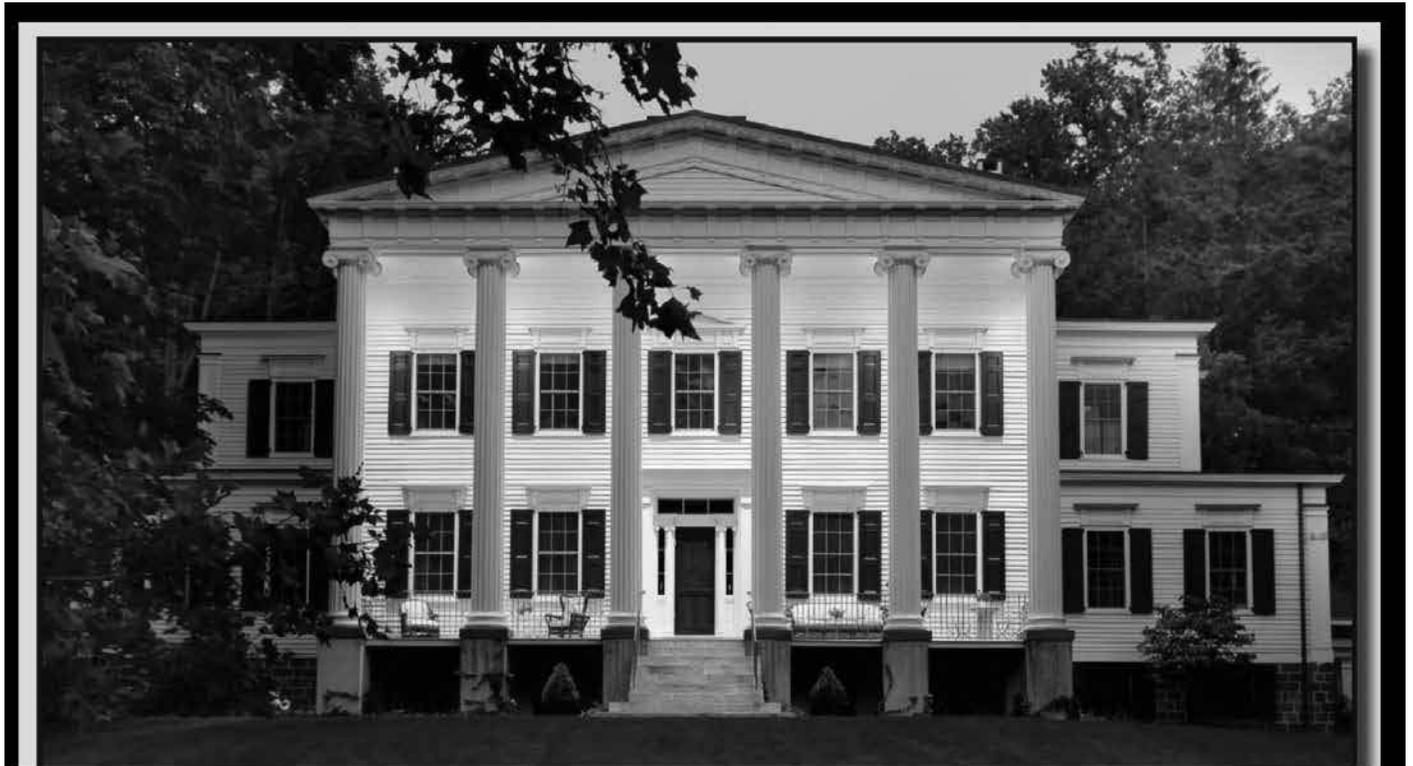
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It's back! The Piermont Historical Society's 2021 Calendar will celebrate Piermont's Rockland Road Historic District. The calendar will be available starting December 1, at piermonthistoricalsociety.org and at local shops.

Photo courtesy of Piermont Historical Society