

The Piermont Newsletter

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FALL 2023

The Town of Orangetown—This is Us

Twice a year, Piermont residents are reminded that we live not only in our unique small village, but also within the New York State administrative division known as a “town,” namely Orangetown. This happens when we get our two town-based tax bills – the January Town/County bill, which includes charges for sewers, solid waste, and some state fees, and the September School/Library bill. Together these two bills amount to approximately 75% of our total property tax for the year. Throughout the rest of the year, it is easy to forget that we are very much a part of Orangetown, that its policies affect our lives, and that every two years we get to vote for the Town Board members who make these decisions.

Like the other incorporated villages,

Piermont has its own Village government and also provides many of its own services. Piermont has its own Police Department, which serves Grandview as well, whereas Nyack relies on Orangetown’s police. Both Piermont and Nyack have their own volunteer Fire Departments and EMTs, which they share with Grandview; these are separate from their counterparts in the rest of Orangetown. Of course, all these emergency services cooperate with each other. Orangetown also provides the entire town with paramedic services and the invaluable 911 dispatchers. Piermont and Nyack have their own Highway Departments that maintain their lands, roads, and municipal buildings. However, Route 9W and River Road in Grandview are main-

tained by the County. The Orangetown Sewer Department, which is part of the Department of Environmental Management and Engineering, processes our sewage and maintains our sanitary sewer infrastructure; it is overseen by the Town Board.

Piermont derives many benefits from belonging to Orangetown. We can access the town’s spectacular array of recreational facilities and programs on the other side of Clausland Mountain. These include parks, sports fields, and municipal golf courses. We also share a great deal of history going back to colonial times.

In addition to belonging to the town, we are also one of Orangetown’s

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Creek, rain and river combine, flooding low-lying areas of Piermont in late September. – Staff photo



Piermont - A Village of Scientists

In the late 1990's, while collecting data about Piermonters' commuting needs, I learned that the number one employer of village residents at the time was Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, NY. As I recall, the number of Piermonters working for Lamont, as researchers, teachers, and staff, was 32. Orange and Rockland Utilities held a distant second place.

I was reminded of this when Piermonter Stan Jacobs, a Lamont Special Research Scientist in Ocean and Climate Physics, emailed the Piermont Newsletter to comment on the Sea Level Rise (SLR) projections in the Spring 2023 issue – a rise of 16.8 inches by 2050. Stan copied fellow Piermont scientists Klaus Jacob, a geophysicist and member of the Piermont Waterfront Resiliency Commission (PWRC), as well as Dennis Kent, a geologist and geophysicist. The online conversation was joined by their former Lamont colleague Philip Orton, Research Associate Professor of Ocean Engineering at Stephens Institute.

To my good fortune, I was able to be a "fly on the wall" for this intense discussion among these esteemed scientists.

Klaus explained that the SLR numbers in the Newsletter were an arithmetic average of all the predictions by NYS DEC for the target decade for our region. Klaus added that, while he is not in favor of such averaging, these numbers were sufficient for the purposes of the PWRC – helping to develop Piermont's Comprehensive Plan. Klaus recommended the following weblink: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/slr-rulemaking2023publicwebinar.pdf

Emails back and forth ensued, carrying a flurry of data and questions. For instance, should the Battery Tide Gauge in NY Harbor, historically a source of baseline SLR data, still be used as such? Klaus commented, "Have you heard



In the early Fall, as temperatures start to cool, moist air warmed over the Hudson's deep channel rises and condenses. This forms a long string of low-level clouds that track over the channel as it weaves through the Tappan Zee and Haverstraw Bay. Welcome Autumn, welcome, Hudson River channel clouds.

—Photo by Margaret Grace

the saying, "The past is no longer a guide for the future?" In other words, should we rely on extrapolating past data, when the planet is experiencing entirely new factors, such as the accelerating contribution to sea level rise of melting ice at the poles? Here Stan was able to draw on his own experience, having first visited the Thwaites and Pine Island Ice Shelves in Antarctica in 1994. These discussions were just a small part of the email skirmish.

Thank you, Stan, for giving me this window into how our local scientists, all leaders in their fields, are grappling with understanding sea level rise. And, thank you, Klaus for keeping the science in our community's efforts to understand SLR and prepare for it as best we can.

I close with a discussion quote from Dennis Kent: "As Yogi Berra said, 'It is difficult to make predictions, especially about the future.'" — Margaret Grace

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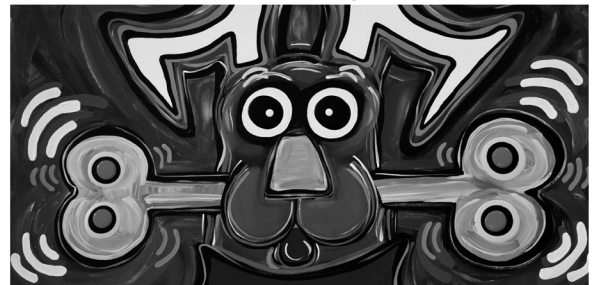
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This issue of *The Piermont Newsletter*, and many past issues, can be found online at <http://www.piermont-ny.com/newsletter/>

Thanks to website manager John McAvoy.

The Happy Dog Gallery



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Meet Your Neighbor – Tahlaad Mahboeb

It is not until Tahlaad Mahboeb lets drop in passing that he works 70 hours a week that one can begin to make sense of his own description of his life. Tahlaad is best known to Piermonters as the director of the Police Athletic League, (PAL), in which capacity he manages the Hudson Terrace Community Center in the evenings, scheduling and supervising activities there.

Tahlaad was born in the Bronx, grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, and lives now in Orangetown. He has five grown children, ages 22 to 38, and three grandchildren.

His connection to Piermont began in 2009 when he became a volunteer boxing coach with the Police Athletic League and moved up to become PAL's director in 2015. Piermont's PAL's headquarters is the Community Center. For those who have not visited the Center, it is a two story building whose lower floor is a large open gym room well supplied with nets and rackets allowing for active games of various sorts—including tennis and pickleball. The upper floor has four rooms devoted at various times to a pool table, ping pong, a boxing ring, and one dedicated to weight and exercise equipment for the village's police and fire departments.

The Community Center also has two video recording set-ups. One of the PAL activities Tahlaad supervises is the production of audio-visual podcasts—he likes to refer to these as "PAL-casts". They have made one for the village's Bastille Day and one for

the NAACP. Tahlaad is looking forward to expanding this program with the help of Trustee Michael Wright, who is a professional sound technician.

Tahlaad supervises all of this while working a regular 9-5 job with Advanced Distribution Systems and teaching martial arts which he has seriously practiced for 50 years, adding, "I live by the principles and values of martial arts". He is also deeply committed to producing what he calls "creative content" which varies from oil painting to occasional screen writing to video production.

It is clear that Tahlaad enjoys his work at the Community Center, and the Piermont PAL community greatly benefits from his immersive interest in both sports and the arts - martial, visual, audio. He adds "Here at the Piermont Community Center we are committed to growing the PAL program, so I urge other villagers to volunteer. The center needs people to supervise and chaperone the young people who want to use its facilities during the day." —Joan Gussow



Tahlaad being interviewed for a PAL podcast. – Photo by Scott Young



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Meet Our Piermont EMTs

It's a lazy Monday evening in August. Most of us are winding down at the end of our day. But not our local first responders. It's drill time for Piermont's Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) up at the Firehouse. These dedicated volunteers are constantly working to save lives. They are the ones who come out when help is desperately needed. Just remember – when you hear that siren go off, our Fire Dept. or our EMTs are responding to an emergency, and the siren lets the caller know that help is on the way. Calls average about 20 calls a month under normal circumstances, but double or triple that during the early days of the pandemic, when first responders were risking their own health by answering the call of duty. These EMTs, who must earn a NYS certification to serve, are basically working a second job doing something they love and providing us a life-saving service for free.

It is thanks to their diligent preparation that these EMTs have the ability to provide critical and sometimes life-saving care. Their rapid response times are often accomplished by using personal vehicles, in addition to the Fire Dept. ambulance.

Staffing the Dept. are two Lieutenants who not only respond to calls, but coordinate scheduling – Hope Goswick and Anthony Korimes. A third Lieutenant, Donna Alise, concentrates on training – both CPR Certification and Continuing Medical Training.

I was thrilled to attend a recent Mon-



Lieutenant Hope Goswick with new EMT member Ray Fusco practice CPR. At the table are EMT's Candy Goswick, Joan Chadwick, Liz Fagan and Donna Alise.
– Photo by Tom Hughes

day evening drill session. Lieutenant Alise was conducting CPR recertification for EMT Captain and PFD Safety Officer Liz Fagan, and EMTs Candy Goswick and Joan Chadwick. All three have 24 years of service to the village under their belts, and this long-time service has cemented their relationship with the community and each other. Their camaraderie is evident. It is sometimes challenging to get a full crew out during the day, when many volunteers are at work – Candy, one of the most active EMTs, always manages to fill that void.

As Hope Goswick says, "There is great satisfaction in doing this work. The thing I love most is the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life at their most vulnerable moments."

Piermont's newest EMT is Ray Fusco, who previously served as an EMT in Hoboken for over a decade. Upon moving to Piermont, he joined the PFD in 2022 and decided to get recertified as an EMT. He has found this work incredibly rewarding, recently having the pleasure of meeting someone he helped at a summer concert.

We are lucky to have a new group of EMTs who are scheduled to take the NYS certification test after training together in the spring. This group includes a number of veteran firefighters expanding their capabilities, along with fresh faces starting their own legacy. From the PFD, Chief Reece McNichol, Asst. Chief Lawrence Cabrera, and Firefighters William Jefferson, Phil Esnard, and Jake Silva. Also in this group are our Village Clerk, Jennifer DeYorgi Maher, and community members Hande Dogu, Joseph Gottlieb, Michael Guerrero Jr., Carolyn Herguth, Lori Lowell, Daniela Marquez-Moscatello, and Mary Saunders.

If you are interested in joining or donating to our volunteers, go to piermontfd13.com. And, when you hear that siren, remember to wish these "best of the best" a safe return to their families and express your gratitude.
– Thomas Hughes

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Fall 2023 Updates: Piermont's Comprehensive Plan and the Sparkill Creek and Pond and Dam

In our Spring 2023 edition, The Piermont Newsletter reported on Piermont's effort to create a comprehensive plan for the Village. As this is arguably the most important activity taking place in village government, we will continue providing updates.

As a reminder, this is an 18-month planning process, led by a 12-person committee with varying perspectives and experience, working with a planning firm, Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC. The end result will be a plan which details a vision for the village with multiple recommendations that can guide zoning amendments and the implementation of land use policy. It will also create a foundation which future village leaders can use to guide decision making and assist in grant funding applications.

Over the course of 18 months, the Mayor, Trustees and members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee will regularly meet with the public for input. The first of those community workshops took place on June 27th. This workshop was considered a "visioning session" to get public input that will ultimately assist the Comprehensive Plan Committee in the development of goals and objectives for the plan, and a vision for the Village. The session was attended by

51 members of the public. Attendees were organized into 4 groups, and led through a facilitated discussion on perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the village.

All of the information collected during these sessions was compiled, analyzed, and summarized. The following is just a snapshot of that information. These are paraphrased notes provided by the committee from very robust discussions across the groups.

The top 3 strengths of Piermont were identified as:

- Services/community resources
- Parks/recreation
- Village character

Top 3 weakness were identified as:

- Traffic/pedestrian safety
- Environment concerns – negative impacts of climate change
- Community services – not enough

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Top 3 opportunities were identified as:

- Marinas – more boating, ferries, tours
- Community resources
- Environmental amenities

Top 3 threats were identified as:

- Sea level rise/flooding
- Zoning/land use – over development
- High traffic/pedestrian safety – lack of

This is only a summary. There were a number of other topics identified across all four of these categories. More information about the plan and the results of this workshop are posted on the Village website. Go to www.piermont-ny.gov and click on “Comp Plan” from the top menu bar. Go to the “documents” section to view the full report from the workshop.

The committee will be using this information to craft the vision statement for the planning process. In late September, the committee focused on transportation.

There will be additional public workshops. On the schedule are:

- October 24th at 7pm will focus on sustainability and climate change
- November 28th at 7pm will focus on examining zoning and land use controls.

For those familiar with Stephen Covey’s *“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People”*, the comprehensive plan is an activity that falls into the bucket of things that are highly important but not necessarily urgent. Covey posits that effective people and organizations are not problem minded, they are opportunity minded. Creating a comprehensive plan is opportunity-minded, preventative thinking in action, ensuring Piermont remains a vibrant, verdant, and successful village that draws residents and visitors alike. The involvement of dedicated village residents is needed to ensure the best possible plan is created. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these important sessions.

The Sparkill Creek, Pond and Dam

Possibly unknown to most Piermonters, Veolia Water Utility owns the land of the skating pond. Veolia leases it to Piermont, which uses it for ice skating in the winter. Due to silt run off from upstream, the pond has begun to fill to the point that it is too shallow to support the fountain that used to operate during the warm weather months. If the current situation continues, the pond will eventually be completely filled in and most likely transition to wetlands.

To maintain the pond, it will need to be dredged. Piermont has obtained permission from Veolia and the Rockland County Drainage Agency, which controls all streams in Rockland County, to do this. Next, the village must find



Sparkill Skating Pond. — Staff photo

the funds and equipment to do the work, Piermont’s DPW is negotiating with Rockland County for use of the necessary equipment and manpower to do this. The village is still working on cost and availability. Everything is still being evaluated, so more to follow. The earliest something might happen is this Fall.

The Mill Pond and Sparkill Creek Dam

At the August 15th Piermont Board of Trustees meeting, the Board enacted a resolution “Memorializing the Importance of the Sparkill Dam and Millpond to the Village of Piermont”. This resolution was brought forward by the Piermont Planning Board in recognition of the historical significance and aesthetic contribution of these village resources. By enacting this resolution, “the Village Board of Trustees and the Mayor resolve that the continued presence of the Sparkill Dam and Millpond are of critical importance to the Village and will be maintained in their present configuration.” According to the resolution, any attempts to make changes to these resources would require the express approval of the Village of Piermont Board of Trustees. As reported here in the Spring 2022 edition, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Office of General Services (OGS) led a study, as part of the Resilient NY Program, focused on improving community resiliency to extreme weather events. One recommendation coming out of this report was the removal of the Sparkill Creek Dam. In light of this report, the enacted resolution appears to give Piermont more control over the future of these village resources. — Steve Kulovits

Fire On The Mountain

Does fear of rising river levels and Piermont floods keep you awake at night? What about a raging brushfire along the Erie path or in the woods around Tweed Boulevard? As residents of Piermont, should this be added to our collective nightmares about global warming?

It doesn't take much to start a brushfire. A tree interacting with a high voltage power line; a lightning strike on parched earth. If the undergrowth is brown and dry, things can accelerate quickly. Luckily, here in Piermont we typically don't have the kind of drought conditions that fuel wildfires. But if a fire did erupt in the wooded hillside of our village, how would the fire department battle the flames?

The Piermont Fire Department has three fire trucks. Each carries 500 gallons of water. Fires are fought directly from these trucks. Water is replenished by way of a hose connecting fire hydrant to fire truck, where it is then divided to provide water to several hoses at the same time. "One of the problems with fighting brush fires is the lack of a close water source," says Fire Chief Daniel Goswick. We are fortunate to have hydrants located in and around Tweed, 9W, and the Erie Path, he explains. If water deliv-

ered through the hydrants proves inadequate, river water is available during mid and high tides. Marine Unit 13, the department's rescue boat, can pump 3,000 gallons per minute. A mile of hose is needed to stretch from the river to Tweed. In this situation, adjoining departments would assist by adding their fire trucks to create a relay from the river to the trucks, to the fire.

What happens if things get really bad, and hoses are not enough? "We also have the ability to utilize helicopter water drops, in the event that the fire gets beyond our capacity to control it," Goswick says. Most helicopters won't take from tidal water because a running tide could cause too much stress on the helicopter. A three-knot current is the equivalent of 300 feet of movement per minute. Instead, the helicopters would source water from nearby reservoirs.

But what if things get really really bad? If, for some reason, evacuation were ever necessary, it's a safe bet that Piermont Avenue and Ash Street would fuse into impenetrable gridlock. In that situation, the river could also be used to evacuate members of the community. "The Coast

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Restoring and Revitalizing the Piermont Community Center

If you've passed by 204 Hudson Terrace in the past few months, you might have noticed a flurry of activity. (And if you've never stopped by... what's stopping you?) Our beloved and historic Community Center — which was built in 1900! — recently received a much needed new roof, thanks to a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The indoor gym has been cleaned and given a fresh coat of paint, thanks to a volunteer and our hard-working DPW. The Center also received a new boiler system to ensure efficient heating in the winter. You might have seen pickleball or tennis being played on one of the two outdoor courts. Inside, there's also a workout room used by village first responders and lots of activities planned by Piermont's Police Athletic League (PAL).

At the request of the Mayor, a committee has been formed to steward, protect and expand engagement with the Community Center, led by village trustee Mike Wright. Many longtime residents of Piermont have fond memories of the building and surrounding grounds, which have been used in different eras as a school, teen center, and a nursery school. In the years just preceding Covid, the center had a weekly family playgroup with a strong following.

Here are few ways to get involved with the Piermont Community Center (PCC):

- Check out our calendar on the village website (piermont-ny.gov/calendar.php), which is updated monthly with all events, including PAL activities and free pickleball classes and open play sessions
- Sign up for the PCC email newsletter (bit.ly/PCC-news) and be the first to hear of any news — including new some exciting changes and additions coming early 2024
- Get in touch with the PCC committee at piermontcc@gmail.com if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments.


—*Jorli Peña*

Remember the Cupola?



The Community Center renovations budget could only stretch so far, and the cupola that once sat atop the broad roof of the Community Center was

taken down when the roof was rebuilt. Neighbors made a commitment of \$2500 toward its replacement, and The Piermont Historical Society hopes to match that by donating all proceeds from its December 9th boutique and the sale of its annual calendar, to ensure this piece of history is restored. To donate, contact the Piermont Historical Society at info@piermonthistoricalsociety.org



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Fire on the Mountain continued from page 7

Guard would be notified for an immediate evacuation from the marinas and the end of the Pier," Goswick says. "This would bring any vessel in the area to assist, such as ferries from New York City, along with personal crafts."

Bottom Line: Wildfires are extremely unlikely here. Weather is critical. If everything is green, the chances are slim to none. Remember, compost heaps and other decaying matter can spontaneously combust. Keep them, and all combustibles, far from your home. Make sure fire-fighters can find your house by having legible numbers in clear view of the street.

"There was a brushfire on 9W recently, approaching a dwelling. We were there in four minutes and knocked it down. We are quick. Time is on our side." The Fire Chief smiles. "Relax. We have it covered."

Residents of Piermont, we can sleep easy.—*Jackie White*

SOUNDING THE ALARM!

What do all those emergency siren blasts from the tower in Parelli Park mean?

1 Blast: Medical Emergency, ambulance required.

4 Blasts: Fire or Mountain Rescue or River Emergency.

2 sets of 4: Major Incident Occurring.



Kindergarten Play Day Saturday, October 14 at 10am

Four and five year olds are invited to visit for a morning of storytelling, crafts, and play while parents learn about our progressive approach to education infused with the arts, nature, and imagination. Attendance is limited, please RSVP

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Her students have booked leads on Broadway and been accepted into the musical theater department's of Penn State, PACE, SUNY Purchase, and University of Michigan's MPulse summer program, to name a few.

Becky's performed principal work on Broadway, New York City Opera, and several Tony award winning regional theaters across the country. Her enthusiasm is sincere and her knowledge is vast having "walked the walk."

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From The Library

Happy Fall from Piermont Library! Full information and registration for all programs and events are found easily on our library website events calendar at piermontlibrary.org. The best way to keep up with all things Piermont Library is to join our email list! Please email astarke@piermontlibrary.org to have your name added.

We are excited to announce that we are embarking on a new initiative! With the goals of strengthening our ties with the community and raising funds in support of our library, we will feature a different local business and its owner on our website periodically along with an auction for exclusive opportunities/ items generously provided by the business. Funds raised will be used to enhance the library's quality programming for children and adults.

Have you been to an art reception recently? We host monthly art exhibitions and receptions in our gorgeous art gallery, and all are welcome! For October, it is Piermont artist Julie Scholz: Tell-a-Vision, abstract acrylic paintings inspired by color and chaos and November will see Piermont artist Trine Giaever returning to Piermont Library with *The Way I See it: Paintings and Prints* by Trine Giaever.

Join us on Sunday, December 3rd, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm for our Annual Holiday Gift of Art Show Opening Reception! This festive Piermont tradition is a must for your holiday calendar. The gala opening reception attracts the whole community with holiday cheer and delicious refreshments. This special group show of local artists presents beautiful and affordable works of art that are perfect for holiday gift giving or to brighten your home for the holidays. All artists donate 1/3 to 100% of sale prices to the library. Finally, we will have an artful start to the new year with Lisa D'Amico: *Sonic Stories*.

We have lots of great events coming up for adults. The next class in our popular Create and Sip for Adults class with Alexis Starke will be a Still Life Inspired by Cuban Artist Amelia Pelaez followed by oil pastel techniques in January inspired by California super blooms. These fun and creative classes include wine and chocolates!

We have a range of educational Zoom talks coming up including art history talks on Andy Warhold, Augusta Savage, and Elaine de Kooning; Mario Medici Presents Highlights of the Jersey Shore; *Gone With the Wind: An Iconic Tapestry of Costumes*; and *Silent Film Stars: Icons of a*

Bygone Era.

Daniel Spitzer will return to the library in person with a beautiful, illustrated talk *Sunrise to Sunset on an African Safari*. Our Adult Book Discussion Group meets monthly with a wide variety of excellent reads and our Friday Movie Matinee Series shows a different film each week at 1:00 pm in the Hudson River Room.

We are looking forward to so many fun events for young people from birth through high school! Our wonderful children's librarian Ms. Nancy runs weekly story hour for babies and toddlers; a new program called Talking with Twos meeting Twosday mornings; Afternoon Story and Crafts for ages 3 - 6; book clubs for elementary age students; and Youth Advisory Klub for middle school and high school students. This Klub is an opportunity for young people to earn community service hours and have an impact on programs and resources at the library.

Special events for families in October include an eclipse event with free eclipse glasses; pumpkin decorating on the library lawn; and Thursday Family Bingo.

This fall, join us for a fun and creative series of Art and Architecture classes taught by Alexis Starke for grades 1-3, 3-5, and 6-12. We will explore a variety of materials and techniques and draw inspiration from a range of sources from ancient to contemporary architecture as well as artists who use architecture thematically in their work. The series will be both creative and academically rich.

If you have not been to the library in a while, we would love to see you! Come in and discover all that your library has to offer! — *Alexis Starke*

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The Front Line

Leaf Collection Time

Piermont's Department of Public Works (DPW) will start leaf collection the week of October 23rd and will collect until December 1st. All loose leaf piles should be placed at the edge of your property. All leaf piles should be clear of rocks, brush, and any other debris, which could clog or cause damage to our collection unit. If bagging, use biodegradable bags. DPW supplies these bags to Village residents free of charge at the DPW garage during regular business hours, while supplies last. DPW requires the use of the biodegradable bags and will not collect leaves placed in plastic bags. Please do not block sidewalks with either loose or bagged leaves. This creates a hazard by forcing pedestrians to walk in the roadway.

Tons and Tons

Ever wonder how much material is picked up by Piermont's DPW? In his report to the Village Board in September, DPW Superintendent Tom Temple reported the following amounts collected in August 2023:

Garbage Collection – 52.29 tons; Rubbish/debris – 10.54 tons; Street Sweeping /Spoils – 13.75 tons. These three collections went to landfills.

Additionally, collected and recycled were: Brush Collection – 19.17 tons; Metal Collection – 2.17 tons, and Piermont's Thursday recycling pick-up - 19.85 tons.

So, in August, Piermont sent to landfills the tonnage equivalent of 2 male African elephants, a school bus, a large dump truck filled with gravel and the Hubble Telescope, more or less. —Margaret Grace

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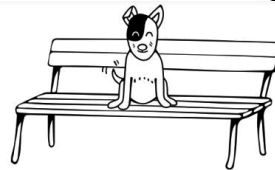
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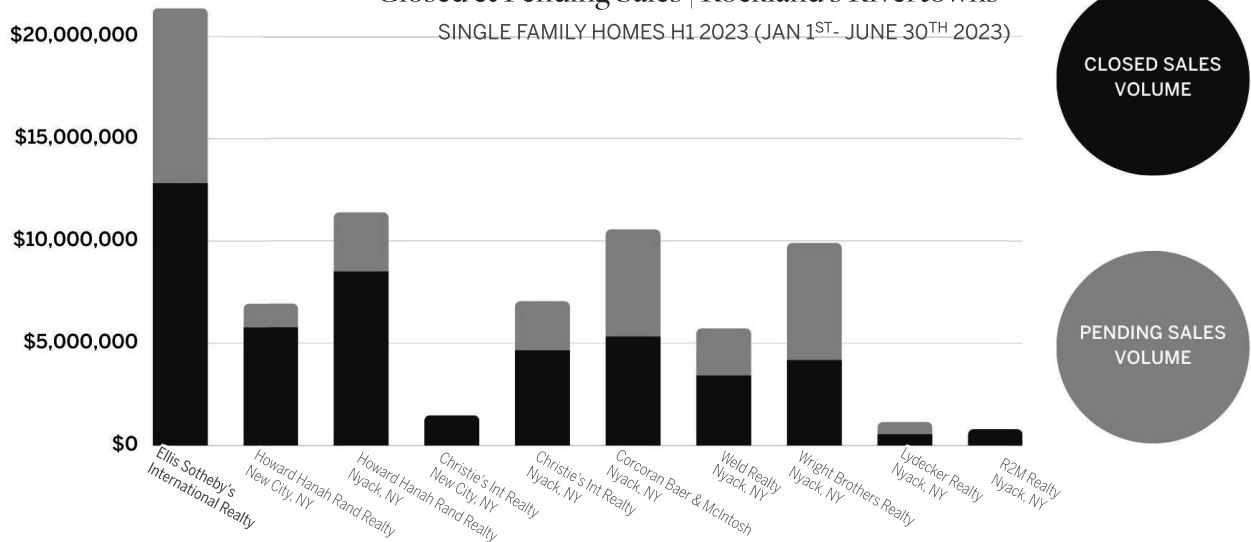
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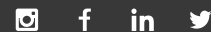
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This is Us continued from page 1

“River Villages.” This category describes the three incorporated villages of Piermont, Grandview, and Nyack (although a small portion of Nyack is in Clarkstown), the hamlet of Palisades, and South Nyack (which was an incorporated Village until 2022). Piermont and the other River Villages comprise Orangetown’s entire Hudson River waterfront. However, we are not always aware of the ways in which Orangetown’s decisions and policies, or lack thereof, affect us here in the River Villages.

Clausland Mountain separates Piermont from inland Orangetown and the Sparkill Creek connects us. Both have serious environmental impacts on our Village. The most egregious and constant impact is the flow of contaminated water and silt into Piermont from the Sparkill Creek. A decade of water sampling by the Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance in conjunction with Hudson Riverkeeper has shown that the Sparkill Creek – an eight mile-long waterway originating on Clausland Mountain – has high levels of a fecal bacteria indicator by the time it flows into Piermont. The sources of this contamination have yet to be identified and fully addressed by our town.

Piermont is also threatened by hillside runoff originating above 9W. This could be mitigated if Orangetown were to fulfill the aspiration in its Comprehensive Plan and enact steep slope legislation, as Piermont did in 2008. Putting appropriate controls on development along the upper parts of Clausland

would help protect Piermont from runoff and resulting mudslides during severe storms.

Since mid-2021, Orangetown has been working on updating the town’s 2003 Comprehensive Plan, with significant input from the public, including Piermont’s Waterfront Resiliency Committee. Piermont Village’s Comprehensive Plan is in its first stages (see page 5). Orangetown’s plan is in its final approval process. In a recent meeting, the Town Board struck out a number of critical references to sustainability and affordable housing goals, particularly centered on downtown areas with access to mass transit options. This earned Orangetown a stinging rebuke from the Rockland County Planning department in a letter expressing their dismay at these changes, and urging the town to reinstate the prior language regarding these essential goals. Additionally, in its present state the Plan does not address the serious environmental challenges faced by Piermont and the other River Villages.

In the final analysis, it comes down to this. We are citizens of Orangetown. The River Villages represent almost 30% of the population of Orangetown. Yet there has not been a single elected member of the Town Board from any of the River Villages since 2017. In 2023, Piermonters alone paid 1.36 million dollars in the January Town tax levies. Taxation without representation? Good question. This can only change if we use the power of our vote. – *Margaret Grace*



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Thank you to Stephen and Phil Griffin for the use of Flywheel Park. We appreciate the support of Piermont's Department of Public Works, our Police Department, Piermont's Village Board and our photographer Jack Miller.



Enter the Piermont Civic Association's Scarecrow Contest Saturday, October 21st Noon - 1pm

Rain Date Sunday, October 22nd



We supply the stakes and you supply your imagination and everything else you want to use – stuffing, fabric, hats, gloves, masks, etc. to decorate your scarecrow. Where? The Piermont Library's side yard at Ash Street. Cost - \$10. Per scarecrow. We have 15 scarecrow posts for your creations! Judging will be at 1pm in three categories: scariest, funniest, and most creative, by our guest judges. Cleanup your scarecrow on the day after Halloween.

Sign-up now at the Piermont Public Library desk, pay cash the day of. Questions? Call 917.629.8053. Sponsored by the Piermont Civic Association.

Thank you Piermont Public Library.