

The Piermont Newsletter

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FALL 2024

Piermont's Mine Hole Community is Celebrated



Photo by Barbara Scheulen

Pictured left to right: Dursilla Kinzoni, member of the African American Historical Society (AAHS), Rev. Dr. Brandon McLauchlin, Rockland County Legislator Dana Stilley, Minehole resident, Francine Shiles, Lorraine Cook and Lloyd Stansbury - former Minehole residents, Jamila Brathwaite - Pres. of AAHS, and Roy Paisley - former Minehole resident.

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The Triangle, the Zoning and the Lawsuit – Latest Developments

On April 24, four Piermont residents opposed to the new zoning the Village Board had enacted for the downtown filed a lawsuit against the Village Board, the Planning Board, other Village officials, and the developers who, had proposed a 14-unit building on Main St.. One of their arguments was that the zone change had not been properly referred to the County Planning Board, as required by law. On October 11, the County Court ruled in their favor, declaring the zone change “null and void,” ordering the Village to file an appropriate referral, and denying the Plaintiffs’ request for reimbursement

of legal fees.

Preserve Piermont, four of whose members were the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, responded to the Court’s decision in part as follows: “We sincerely hope that, going forward, the Village will engage the public in a fully transparent and sound process, one that prioritizes the input of the residents and respects the integrity of Piermont.”

The Village Board electronically submitted the required documents for the Central Business Multi-use Zoning district (“CBM”) to the Rockland County Planning Board (“RCPB”) for review. On October 23, the RCPB sent a letter to the Court stating that the submission

did not meet the legal requirement, as it was not for a proposed law but rather for a law that had been adopted and nullified.

Meanwhile, in the late summer and early fall, everyone seemed to be FOILing everyone else. In August, the attorneys for the developers FOILed (Freedom of Information Law requests) Village officials’ communications with those opposed to the project. After review, those attorneys sent the judge a letter, alleging that Trustee Mitchell may have “violated the code of ethics” by communicating with various people about the lawsuit. Incidentally, this let-

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Piermont Reflections—



The Village of Piermont adopted an Open Space Preservation Program on May 21, 2002. You may not know about it, because it was never codified by being entered into the Village Code Books. But here is the title: Resolution of the Board of Trustees to establish the Open Space Preservation Program and authorizing the Mayor to (A) Maintain and update a list of Open Space areas or Properties; (B) Identify appropriate means of Open Space Preservation; and (C) Promote the preservation of Open Space areas, and (D) Recommend and present Open Space preservation measures to the board of Trustees for Approval as required by Village Code.

My husband, Rod Johnson, was instrumental in the development this program as a Piermont Trustee more than 20 years ago.

It is hard to imagine now, but when the Papermill was in operation and until Piermont Landing was built, the downtown riverfront, from the north public parking lot to what is now Gair Street was blocked off by high chain link fencing, much of it covered by black tarp. The stunning viewshed of Flywheel Park only opened up with the construction of Piermont Landing.

Many of the remaining places for the public to catch a glimpse of the river along Piermont Avenue are narrow and



Staff Photo

perilously close to high tide level. Not great for building, not even with stilts. But wonderful places to look. When we walk down to our village downtown along Piermont Avenue, we see that just a few pedestrian views of the magnificent Hudson vistas remain along our route.

Piermont's leadership should do whatever it can to encourage keeping those vistas open. It could use acquisition, easements, or tax assessment incentives – these ideas have been there, in the Open Space Preservation Program, since 2002.—Margaret Grace

Triangle continued from page 1

ter was not referenced in the judge's decision to nullify the zoning.

In September, the Village put an item on its meeting agenda about hiring an outside attorney to review and investigate potential breaches of ethics. Before the meeting at which this action was to be taken, Mitchell resigned from the Village Board. The motion to hire the outside counsel was unanimously passed by the four remaining members of the Board. Also in September, an interested member of

the public FOILED the communications between Mayor and other Village officials with the developer.

The property involved in the development proposal that triggered all of this actually consists of three individual parcels of land with three different owners. At some point during this process, one of the owners backed out. Therefore the proposal as originally drawn cannot go forward. However, as of now, the developers have not yet formally withdrawn their application.

On October 8, Mayor Tucker appointed Rondi Casey to fill Mitchell's Trustee position for the remainder of the term, which ends January, 2025. Ms. Casey is a member of the Piermont Traffic Commission and a Board member of the Piermont Historical Society.

The November election ballot was finalized some time ago. Nathan Mitchell and Christine McAndrews are running unopposed for two Village Trustee positions with two-year terms beginning January 2025. Therefore they will both be re-elected, and Mitchell has stated that he will rejoin the Board.

At this point, the Village Board may have several options. Among them would be appealing the decision of the Court to nullify the CBM. Another would be updating the downtown zoning from scratch. The next Village Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12.

Stay tuned....—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 John McAvoy.

Meet Your Neighbors – Diego Garcia and Annaliesa Place

Ten years ago, on a wintry December evening, musicians Diego Garcia and Annaliesa Place were invited to dinner by their boss. At the time they were living in Manhattan, but working at the Dwight Englewood school in nearby Englewood, NJ. The restaurant - Xavier's. The evening- life changing.

"The holiday lights were lining the streets and it had this vibe that we loved," recalled Annaliesa.

The young couple was so enchanted by Piermont they decided to return a few days later to explore the village in the daylight. That enchantment became a mission - especially when the daylight revealed that Piermont is on the water - a dream location, especially for Diego. They turned to each other and said "we are going to live here".

Piermont had "checked every box" for Annaliesa and Diego. Water side living, close to Manhattan, great restaurants, excellent schools, and welcoming neighbors. It took some time to find the ideal home but they persisted and landed on Upper Ritie Street where they reside to this day.

Though they grew up in different hemispheres, Diego in Colombia and Annaliesa in rural Ohio, their music- and perhaps fate - brought them together.

Their incredible collaboration began in 2011, after a chance meeting between the two while they were teaching at a music festival in Bogota.

Neither Diego nor Annaliesa were born into families of professional musicians, but both come from homes where music was played and loved.

Annaliesa began to study violin at the age of 3 with the Suzuki method. She went on to join the Young Artist Program at the Cleveland at the age of 13 and received her Bachelor of Music from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University. She arrived in Manhattan just two weeks before 9/11 to study at the Juilliard School.

Diego, a cellist and conductor, began his studies in his native Colombia. Music had provided a safe haven during the strife-ridden 80s. Encouraged and inspired by his family and their circle of "bohemian" artistic friends Diego took up the cello. He came to the United States in 1993 to study at the Manhattan School of Music and conducting at Bard Col-

lege's summer program.

Annaliesa and Diego share a strong belief in the power of music to shape young lives. During the day they share their expertise and passion for music with the students of the Dwight Englewood school where Annaliesa is Director of Strings and Diego is Director of Orchestras.

Coming from a family of educators, Annaliesa fell into teaching quite naturally. Diego found himself coaching his peers and assisting his teachers in Colombia. Once he came to New York and graduated from the Manhattan School of Music he taught cello. From NYC Public School performing

arts programs to graduate programs at NYU, Diego continues to teach students at all levels.

They also continue to work as freelance musicians. Both are in constant demand and choosing to work freelance keeps their evening and weekend schedules fluid. That means they can spend time with their daughters, both budding musicians in their own right with 8-year-old Calima playing the violin, and Vera, 6, choosing the cello.

You might suspect there was some campaigning at home to influence their

instrument choices but it was actually a staffer in a music shop in Rochester, NY that "cast the die". Diego was in the shop with Calima to pick up a new cello for himself, when the clerk brought out the tiniest violin in their stock. Calima fell in love instantly and the violin found a new home in Piermont.

Collaboration has always played a central role in Diego and Annaliesa's personal and professional lives. Their days are filled with new experiences, new music and even new colleagues. Rather than be overwhelmed by the constant change they embrace the excitement of the new.

"You have to put the ego aside," Diego says. "Each one of us has the calling for being an interpreter for what the music is trying to say...then what we try to do is find common ground in the way that you view the music."

"Then you start to build something special."

To learn more about Diego Garcia and Annaliesa Place and their music you can visit their websites at: diegogarciamusica.com annaliesaplace.com

—Joan Chiarmonte



Annaliesa Place and Diego Garcia. Photo by Betsey Franco Feeney

The Piermont Historical Society Helps Celebrate Local History With Two Wonderful Gatherings

In September, the Piermont Historical Society helped celebrate local history with two groups who have important and fascinating ties to our community's history.

Piermont's Mine Hole Community is Celebrated

On Saturday, September 28th, the Society dedicated a new historic plaque at the Mine Hole. Although the day was overcast and rainy, the weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those who gathered. The dedication was attended by PHS Board members, African American Historical Society of Rockland County President Jamila Brathwaite and former Mine Hole neighborhood residents including 96 year old Lorraine Cooke and her children Francine Stiles and Roy Paisley, Lloyd Stansbury, and Rockland County District 17 Legislator Dana Stilley who is still a resident of the community. Reverend Brandon McLaughlin gave a blessing. The plaque recognizes not only the physical mine hole on South Piermont Avenue but the entire neighborhood that borders the Sparkill Creek and has existed since before the Revolutionary War era. **The Plaque reads as follows: "Named after this mine hole, the area along the creek was settled primarily by Blacks who created and maintained a thriving community. They were homeowners, families and churchgoers. It is said that this mine hole was a silent observer of a 'colorful, fun loving, dignified, ambitious and surviving folk'".** The mine consists of two shafts, one a freshwater spring, the other may have been mined for stone. "O Traveler" has been above the entrance since the 1800's. The "O Traveler" reference refers to the wooden sign that has been displayed over the entrance of the physical mine hole by an unknown source. This poem carved on the sign is based on a Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem. Longfellow is famous for such poems as "Paul Revere's Ride" and "The Song of Hiawatha".



The 65th Infantry Returns

On Thursday, September 26th, the 65th Infantry Division Association visited the Hudson River Valley to honor the group's service in World War II and revisit places the 65th men passed through. The 65th Infantry Division Association, comprised of living 65th Veterans as well as children and grandchildren of the veterans, has held annual reunions since 1955 at various locations throughout the U.S. . As reported by Nancy Cutler of The Rockland/Westchester Journal News, veterans "Norvin McClure and Edmund Lewis joined a recent tour of Camp Shanks, the place known as Last Stop, USA. But the two special visitors had been to Camp Shanks before – they were among the soldiers of the 65th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army to ship out from Camp Shanks to France in January 1945". Once leaving Camp Shanks the division landed at the French port of Le Havre and saw action in France and Germany. In April, the division overran a sub-camp of the Flossenbürg concentration camp. Members of the 65th Division, upon their return stateside after the completion of their tour of duty in Europe, first set foot on Piermont's Pier before returning to Camp Shanks. McClure is now 100 years old. Lewis is 99. This year's tour also visited the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where they paid respects to lost members of the 65th. Barbara Scheulen, President of the Piermont Historical Society, presented both men with a Proclamation from the Village of Piermont, signed by Mayor Tucker, thanking them for their service.

The board members of the Piermont Historical Society welcome everyone to visit the Mine Hole and see the new, historic plaque. In addition, they also invite you to visit the Piermont Train Station Museum for their annual holiday boutique on Sunday, December 1st, from 12-5pm. You can learn more about the Mine Hole and other Piermont historic sites by downloading the TravelStorysGPS app and selecting the Piermont Audio tour as well as visiting our website www.piermonthistoricalsociety.org — *Steve Kulovits*

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Stiltsville in Piermont?

Piermonters are seeing a new building type along the Sparkill Creek and into Bogertown. Two dwellings, elevated on long piles above the adjacent grade are currently under construction – and they aren't the only such elevated buildings in the Village. The added elevation isn't there to provide enhanced views; it is required as a result of changes in the New York State Building Code that pertain to structures in areas that flood. It is probable that there will be more such structures in the Village's future. Climate change has affected the entire state of New York. Part of the state's response includes revision of the State's Building Code which, importantly, establishes the minimum standards for construction in



Photo by Molly MacQueen

flood zones. For those living along the Sparkill Creek below the dam and along Piermont Avenue, flood and inundation zones have been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Go to: <http://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery+Piermont%NY>. The "A" zone is the area where inundation would be expected, and the "B" zone is where during a flood event, an additional 1.5 feet of wave action should be expected, and where one foot of "free-board," or height above the flood is required. For each of these flood zones, the requirements of the revised State Building Code pertain. The Waterfront-2 zoning district encompasses much of this area. Villagers can review the flood zone mapping online at or in the Village Hall. According to Nate Mitchell, wearing his Village Board and Waterfront Resiliency Task Force "hats," there have been several modifications to the State building code since Sandy. He cited the 2019/2020 revision which allowed for pile-elevated buildings to cover the

open, elevated area with "break-away walls." One such residence exists in Piermont, but no others will be allowed in the future: the State has found that when the walls do breakaway in a flood event, they become debris hazards, and can impede rescue efforts or evacuation. Therefore, this option has been removed from the building code. The prevailing standard contained in a more recent update of the State Building Code is that, where new construction or substantial expansion by 50 percent or more of a building's area is proposed, that construction must be elevated out of the flood plain. As a result, recent building applications in Village flood zones have been obliged to set their base elevation at up to 13 feet above the adjacent

grade. The two elevated buildings in Bogertown and to the west of the Post Office are the most recent allowed under this requirement, but the elevation addition can result in other problems, such as provision of infrastructure connections and emergency access and evacuation. One such example was the proposed new construction of a restaurant and event facility at the former Knights of Columbus site. The proposal as submitted failed for several reasons, including height which was determined to be excessive, and because of the square footage of the project resulting in inadequate on-site parking. It is not known whether there will be a redesign and submission, but it is certain that the elevation of the base level of the building will be above the determined flood level. Past experience has informed the position of the State of New York and the Village of Piermont. The distinct danger posed by the potential

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for flooding and climate change effects in Piermont was clear to long-time resident, Klaus Jacob. He and his wife bought their house on Paradise Avenue in 2001. Shortly thereafter, the Jacobs applied to the Village for permission to elevate their house some seven feet. The request was denied, as that additional building height would have exceeded the permitted zoning by three and 1/2 feet. A building height variance request was similarly denied, where the Zoning Board of Appeals expressed their concern that an undesirable precedent would be set. The Jacobs would have to be content with raising their house by the allowable 3.5 feet, which they did. Fast forward to Hurricane Sandy in 2012, and the Jacobs had 2.5 feet of water in their somewhat elevated house. If they had been able to undertake the requested seven feet elevation, there would have been one foot of freeboard between the level of the storm water and the bottom of their house, minimizing the destruction they suffered. One week later, Dr. Jacob reports, he got a letter from the Village authorizing him to elevate his dwelling by the full seven feet. Those involved in the preparation of Piermont's Comprehensive Plan are considering how to balance how to accommodate building in flood zones with the issues of community character, infrastructure and public safety. All the Village's primary infrastructure elements – the Firehouse, Village Hall and Police station, and the DPW garage are all within a flood

or inundation zone. Somewhat different requirements pertain to municipal infrastructure, but the Village's planners are mindful of these critical services as future land use plans come into focus. While the State building code is updated in shorter increments, Nate Mitchell reports that the Comprehensive Plan seeks to envision conditions in 2100, to predict required elevations above grade, and establish a performance standard for building heights in the Waterfront-2 zoning district. Piermont's planners and residents can certainly attest that past is prologue, recognizing how flooding designs and affects our waterfront community. —*Molly MacQueen*




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Community Policing at its Finest

What makes Piermont such a peaceful, ideal village? The picturesque main street with its restaurants and quaint shops? The parks and amazing walking paths? Or the pier, proudly stretching into the majestic Hudson river? Imagine strolling the pier one magnificent Sunday afternoon, your five-year-old on his little bicycle, pedaling right there in front of you, exactly where you can see him. Until suddenly you can't. And just like that, you're stranded on an inhospitable spit of land, surrounded by a most sinister, dark, child tempting river. One recent Sunday, this was the frantic call placed to the Police Department.

Who composes Piermont's finest? Chief Hurley graduated college fully intending to become an accountant. But he took the police academy exam and found himself headed in a whole new direction. He loved the challenge, loved following in his father's footsteps, and excelled. In 2014, following ten years as an officer in Orange County, Hurley came to Piermont and worked his way up from detective, to sergeant, to chief. He now oversees thirteen officers in a village that sees the same crimes as larger locations—larceny, felony, sexual offenses, domestic violence, suicide—although on a much smaller scale. Piermont, the Chief explained, embodies the concept of 'community policing'. All the departments, and even the residents, work together to keep the community safe.

Officer Hanson began her policing career with a college internship. By the time she graduated, she was a full-time officer. She is now in her final four years before taking retirement. Hanson began her career in Orange County, then moved on to Spring Valley. Years later, when an opening in Piermont arose, she jumped at the opportunity. Like the Chief, Hanson speaks of community ties, community policing. She is gratified that residents feel comfortable looking past the uniform and approaching her to discuss their concerns. Often someone doesn't want to make a formal report but will sit with her on a bench and vent, ask questions, or discuss issues. Hanson volunteers at a local shelter and has ten pets. She is also a newlywed!



Chief Hurley



Detective Boutros



Sergeant Gaynor



Officer Hanson

Photos by Jackie White and Elizabeth Khan

Sergeant Gaynor grew up on Hudson Terrace. His father was Piermont police chief, his grandfather an officer. Gaynor served in the Marine Corps before eventually finding his way back to his home turf. He emphasizes the now familiar theme, it's the community, and how it comes together, that makes this Village special.

In 2016, Detective Boutros and his wife got married at The View and discovered Piermont. When an opportunity arose, he became an officer; seven years later he was promoted to detective. Boutros remembers that call from the panicking mother who lost her son on that Sunday afternoon. And with three children of his own, he knew the magnetic attraction of water. Out on the pier, all eyes were searching for the boy. The fire department was involved as was a quickly organized network of residents from the community. With the pier covered, Boutros felt comfortable racing to the family's home address. Along the way, he spotted a young boy on a bike.

“There was a lot of crying,” Boutros recalled. “A lot of sobbing. It was a very emotional reunion. He took a moment to reflect. “You really get to know people here on a name-to-name basis.” He paused again. “I hope to see that kid grow up,” he added.—Jackie White

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From The Library

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Each month we have a new art show in our gallery spaces as well as an opening reception to which all are welcome. October is Piermont artist Owen Gould: Elements of My Life and November is Piermont photographer Daniel Kazimierski. If you are interested in having an art show at Piermont Library, contact Alexis Starke at astarke@piermontlibrary.org.

Save the date- Sunday, December 8th, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm is 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.

Upcoming adult programs include a special film screening of Secret Song with Hilan Warshaw on October 20th. Secret Song tells the gripping true story behind a work of mysterious musical genius- weaving together dramatic reenactments, documentary, and vérité footage of legendary musicians Renée Fleming and the Emerson String Quartet. Then join us on Wednesday, October 23rd for Presenting Todd Ehrlich: A Reading and Q&A from "The 20 Greatest Moments in New York Sports History." On Sunday, October 27th, you can enjoy a special program with Eric DiVito- The Blues and Early Jazz. The first part of the multi part performance / lecture series, The History and Evolution of Jazz in the 20th Century Through Performance, this session will focus on the origins of Jazz.

November will bring a cello concert with Alex Prizgintas; a poetry reading with Piermont poet William Huhn; Gentle Yoga with Katie Stoeckeler; and Amazing Sicily, an illustrated Zoom talk with Loretta Tito. In December, the library will be offering a class in healthy holiday appetizers; Create and Sip with Alexis Starke; and Gentle Yoga with Katie Stoeckeler.

We have book clubs for all ages at the library, starting with our popular Adult Book Discussion Group which meets on a Wednesday afternoon each month. For October, we are reading The Paris Novel by Ruth Reichl and for November, it's As a River by Shelley Read. Ms. Nancy offers a range of book clubs and literacy activities for kids including Baby Story Time; Talking to Two's and Three's; Story and Craft for ages 4 - 6; She

Persisted Book Club for grades 1 - 3; and Booksters for Grades 4 and 5. Whatever your age, why not start on a new reading adventure with us?

A new season means a new season of Art Classes for Grades 1 - 12 with Alexis Starke- fall's theme is Adventures in Maine! These classes fill up quickly so sign up right away or join the waitlist today. Also for young people, Thursday Family Bingo is a fun evening each month with snacks and prizes. And speaking of snacks, Caitlin will be coming back twice this fall to show kids how to create delicious and nutritious snacks to keep them going strong.

Finally, if you are a teenager (ages 11 - 18) and would like to shape what goes on at your local library, we invite you to join YAK! You will be part of a youth group that goes from brainstorming ideas for events and programs that you would like to have, to planning for them, and finally, making them happen. In addition, you will earn one community service credit hour for each meeting you attend, and additional hours for other service that you provide at the library. - Alexis Starke



WANNA GROW AS A SINGER AND ACTOR?

"I've enjoyed working with your former students... They're awesome singers and wonderful humans. Thanks for sending our way!"

- Raymond Sage, Voice Professor (Penn State)

Becky Baxter's been helping kids and adults of all levels achieve their goals for 23 years. She studied musical theater and opera at the renowned University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music (CCM).

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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The Local Spotlight Presents the Inspiring Story Behind Sabi Sushi

The Piermont Newsletter is pleased to share this article, written for the Piermont Library's Local Spotlight initiative by Shauna Wennerod.

A pop of cornflower blue framing a menu might catch your eye as you walk by this modest, brick building near the corner of Piermont Avenue and Ash Street — but don't just pass on by. Follow the steps up and walk inside the space, where you'll be elevated to an elegant and upscale culinary experience at Sabi Sushi.

Owner Doug Nguyen opened Sabi Sushi back in 2022. Locals know him as the well-loved former owner of Wasabi Restaurant in Nyack. But Doug's journey to the Hudson River Valley began much further back, when in 1982, he escaped his war-torn country of Vietnam at the young age of 12. "I was in a refugee camp in Thailand, and had left my mom and siblings behind. She was a single mom and made the decision for me to go by myself." Thanks to his Italian-American foster parents who lived in Stony Point, he was able to come to the United States and was welcomed into this new family which included four children of their own. "Freddie and Maria Nardone — I don't call them foster parents, they're like my own parents. They raised me." They gave Doug an opportunity for a different kind of life.

As he was growing up, Doug divided his day between school and BOCES, which is where he learned how to cook. He also got his first job as a dishwasher at Maiko, a Japanese restaurant in New City, where he worked his way up from dishwasher to busboy, sushi helper to teaching helper. He eventually bought the restaurant in 2006. "I didn't love it right away. It was a job, I'm an immigrant, I worked to survive, and I sent money back home to my family in Vietnam." His drive to work hard and support his family would lead him to open more restaurants — Sakana in Nanuet, Wasabi in Nyack, and four restaurants in Manhattan, which mainly served lunch to the tourist crowd. When Covid hit in 2020, everything shut down. "I had to lock the doors and walk away," never to open those restaurants in the city again. "It was a big change, but I don't ask for a lot. What God gives, God takes. You have to enjoy what you have."

It is that belief which prompted him to open Sabi Sushi. "I decided to come to Piermont because it's like coming back home. I live in Palisades, and coming here is like stepping into my own dining room. This is my dream." From the moment you enter the zen-like restaurant, the warm wood décor coupled with the leather banquettes and cool, modern

features all set the tone for an elegant and intimate dining experience. As you sit back in the seat and feel your heart rate slow, allow yourself to open to the clean, fresh flavors of each course as it's carefully and thoughtfully prepared for you.



Owner Doug Nguyen. Photo by Shauna Wennerod

Start with the miso soup which will warm your belly and cleanse your palate. Then move onto the fried gyoza dumplings where one bite into the crispy edges brings you to the chewy interior for a multi-textural sensation. Follow it with the freshest sushi of your heart's desire. While the fan favorite is Tuna Millennium — tempura-encrusted seared tuna with creamy wasabi sauce — Doug encourages patrons to try everything, and the best way to do that is to choose omakase, a chef-curated tasting menu.

Doug relies on a hardworking team of chefs and staff, all of whom have worked with him at his previous restaurants, some for as long as 15 years. The service is welcoming and attentive, and the chefs prepare each dish with precision and care. To Doug, "Food tastes like your personality. As you press [each sushi roll], it comes through. You put your personality and heart into the food." At Sabi Sushi, that comes with a depth of life experience that is hard-earned and courageous.

"I think back when I was a refugee and cooked then to survive. I was a kid, but I needed to eat." That Doug was able to take a skill that he had no choice but to learn and turn it into something that would enable him to thrive and achieve success in this country is no small feat. It's the American dream. — Shauna Wennerod

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A Message from the Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance – Fall Yard Clean-Up

Did you know that disposing of organic matter like grass clippings in the creek endangers the ecosystem of the watershed?

It may seem counter-intuitive, but grass clippings and leaves damage vital watershed ecosystems. Introducing organic matter where it does not belong contributes to the overabundance of nutrients and fertilizers that feed algal blooms in our waterways, disturbing lifecycles of native creatures.

Avoid polluting our waters with these approaches:

- ✓ Let your grass clippings mulch right in the lawn to re-route those nutrients directly back to the lawn.
- ✓ Compost your yard waste to help prevent soil erosion and nutrient run-off
- ✓ Follow Village and Town guidelines for bagging and disposing of clippings
- ✓ Up your environmental game and adopt an overall natural lawn care plan



Organic lawn care can be easily implemented on any lawn. Safe and effective alternatives exist for most chemical pesticides and fertilizers, which can run off or leach away, ending up in ground or surface water, including wells, affecting drinking water supplies and animal habitats.

Depositing yard waste in the Sparkill Creek is actually against the law.

- ✓ Do not dump lawn clippings anywhere near the stream
- ✓ Don't put leaf piles in the stream or floodplain.

Yard waste can impede stormwater flow, especially in big piles; branches can wash downstream and clog culverts causing more flooding.

Help protect our magnificent Sparkill Creek Watershed as you prepare your yard for the coming months.

For more information, go to sparkillcreek.org

The Front Line

From the Department of Public Works

The DPW's Leaf Collection will start the week of October 28th and will continue through December 6th. We ask that all loose-leaf piles should be placed at the edge of your property. All leaf pile should be clear of rocks, brush and any other debris which could either clog or cause damage to our collection unit. Leaves that are to be bagged should be placed in biodegradable bags. The DPW supplies these bags to Village residents free of charge and can be obtained from the DPW garage during regular business hours while supplies last. The Department of Public works encourages the use of the biodegradable bags and will not collect leaves that are placed in plastic bags. Please do not block any sidewalks with loose or bagged leaves as this creates an unsafe condition for pedestrians. – *Tom Temple*

From the Piermont Police Department

The Police Department would like to make the following recommendations to the residents:

1. Safety on Darker Streets- With shorter daylight hours, ensure you wear bright or reflective clothing while walking or biking. Carry a flashlight when walking at night.
2. Vehicle Safety- During the Fall wet, slippery roads occur due to rain and fallen leaves. Residents should drive cautiously, maintain safe speeds, and keep safe distance

from other vehicles. Ensure your tires and windshield wipers are in good condition.

3. School Zone Awareness- With schools in session, be mindful of children crossing streets, especially during the early mornings and afternoons. Always follow school zone speed limits and stop for school buses.

4. Home Security- As the days grow darker earlier, it's a good time to check outdoor lighting and consider installing motion activated lights.

5. Halloween Safety- For those celebrating Halloween, ensure costumes are visible and avoid dark, unlit areas when trick-or-treating. Parents should accompany younger children, and drivers should be extra cautious during Halloween night.

6. Neighborhood Watch- Stay alert and report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Fall can see an increase in thefts or burglaries as the holiday season approaches.

– *Police Chief Hurley*

From the Piermont Fire Department – Empire Hose Co. #1

Volunteers are urgently needed to join Piermont's Fire Department and EMT services. Training is provided for this essential work - fire fighting, river rescue, and a 24 hour community-based EMT teams all need Piermont volunteers to continue their vital services to our residents. Stop by the Firehouse any Monday evening for more information. – *Staff*



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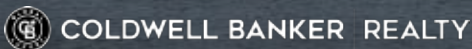
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Thanks to Phil and Stephen Griffin for making Flywheel Park available for our concerts.
And special thanks to the Piermont Police, Department of Public Works
and our Fire Department and EMS volunteers.



Support the PCA The Piermont Civic Association's Piermont Newsletter, Summer Concerts in Flywheel Park and many other community events are made possible by a group of dedicated volunteers and contributions to the PCA by Piermonters like you. We ask for your continued financial support. Please contribute \$25., \$50., or more toward our efforts.
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