

SUSTAINABLE PIERMONT

NEWSLETTER

UPDATES FROM A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE TO RESPOND TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE PIERMONT?

Sustainable Piermont is a community initiative to protect our environment and prepare for the upcoming effects of Climate Change. In this newsletter, we'll outline what we're working on—and how to get involved.

MAY 4, 2019: SAVE THE DATE

Every year since 2012, Riverkeeper—a non-profit environmental group dedicated to protecting the Hudson River and its tributaries—has coordinated a massive clean-up along the Hudson shoreline.

This year, Piermont's event, held in conjunction with Keep Rockland Beautiful, takes place on **May 4 from 9AM to 1PM.**

Volunteers should meet at Goswick Pavilion, where they'll be directed to locations along the pier and shore. Wear sturdy shoes or boots; high tide is 10:22AM. Latex gloves will be available, though volunteers are encouraged to bring their own. Bagels and coffee will be available in the morning thanks to the Tallman Beach and Pool club. Later in the day, lunch will be provided by the Piermont Athletic League.

To sign up, visit bit.ly/piermontcleanup.

While you're there, from 12PM to 4PM, stop by Goswick Pavilion to learn about what Piermont is doing to prepare for rising sea levels—and what you can do to prepare yourself and your property. Hosted by the Piermont Waterfront Resiliency Committee (PWRC), this informal session will showcase



Piermont kids at last year's clean-up (photo courtesy of Kelly Evans Ruby)

climate adaptive design studio visions of what the future may look like for Piermont. You'll also be able to sign up for our Neighbor-to-Neighbor (N2N) alert and check-in program, learn about conservation steps to reduce your impact on the environment, and try your hand at turning off gas, electric, and water mains with help from our Fire Department.

Finally, be sure to check out the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop's fundraiser from 10AM to 4PM. The Thrift Shop is a volunteer run store located at 454 Piermont Avenue; all purchases, donations, and volunteer hours benefit a group of Rockland County non-profit organizations. At the fundraiser, as you hunt for bargains, you can also participate in

raffles, win prizes, and enjoy refreshments. Outside the shop, Hi Tor Animal Shelter's mobile adoption center will be on hand with adoptable cats and dogs.

WHAT ELSE IS ON THE AGENDA?

Committing to sustainable living can feel overwhelming and even impractical. It's Sustainable Piermont's goal to help our village do more to lower its carbon footprint—and help residents and businesses find ways to get involved, as well.

Keep reading for more about what we're doing and what's on the horizon, from an EV charging station to a comprehensive Complete Streets policy.

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COMPLETE STREETS

Safe, healthy, and enjoyable for everyone— young and old, visitors and residents, in cars, trucks, wheelchairs, or strollers, on bikes or on foot. That was the focus of a “**Complete Streets**” workshop that Piermont hosted on April 11. Provided by the New York Bicycle Coalition and supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency and the New York State Department of Health, the training was attended by the Mayor, Village Trustees, the Police Chief, the Superintendent of Public Works, the Chamber of Commerce, the Parks Commission, and the Piermont Public Arts Committee, as well as members of the community. It was organized by Piermont’s Traffic Committee, formed last year to help make Piermont a safer place for our residents and our visitors.

So what’s the best way to make sure that our village streets work for everyone?

Dan Suraci, AICP, a Senior Consultant at TransPro, led the workshop. His initial presentation defined Complete Streets and identified their elements, which can include sidewalks, bike lanes (or wide, paved shoulders), bus lanes, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent and safe crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, narrower travel lanes, roundabouts, and more.

Next, the group did a sample “walking audit” of the Village, starting from Village Hall and heading up Piermont Avenue, making a left on Ash to the hairpin turn, and then back down via Tate to the intersection of Piermont Avenue, Tate, Ohio, and Gair Streets. They evaluated current conditions and brainstormed potential solutions.

Upon returning to Village Hall, the group

read and compared Piermont’s Complete Streets Policy to Buffalo’s, looking for opportunities for improvement. Mr. Suraci led the group through a SWOT evaluation that considered the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to Piermont when it comes to transportation. The group discussed the wonderful, unique elements of Piermont streets and discussed challenges brought by the large groups of bicyclists in summer months.

Mr. Suraci outlined more affordable options for our Village to implement Complete Streets, including modifying the current maintenance schedule. He also spoke to how beneficial Complete Streets can be to the local economy. Finally, he helped the group set goals that would help measure success: a decrease in the numbers of traffic complaints to the Police Department and an increase in local sales revenue.

So what’s next? The Traffic Committee hopes to present their work to the Village and organize a few short weekend walk-audits that are open to all Piermonters to get feedback and ideas. Then, they’d like to organize a Complete Streets Committee that could take over where they left off. This committee would work on a master plan for the Village and start applying for grants to implement new initiatives. Finally, they would review all new projects to make sure that future development is consistent with the Complete Streets plan.

NEW EV CHARGING STATION

Own an electric vehicle? Soon, you’ll be able to give it a boost right here in Piermont, thanks to a **new EV charging station** that will be installed downtown, near the diagonal parking area on Piermont Avenue. Two parking spaces adjacent to the charger will be reserved for electric vehicles.

When will it be ready? The tube for the wiring is already in place and the concrete pad has been poured. The charger itself should be operational within the next few weeks.

RECYCLING: IT’S (NOW) THE LAW

For many years, Piermont has encouraged residents to participate in our recycling program. Now, **recycling is mandatory**: on April 2, 2019, Piermont’s Village Board approved a motion to make recycling mandatory for all businesses and households: if refuse is recyclable, it should be placed in the recycling bin.

If you need additional recycling bins, contact the DPW garage at (845) 359-1717 or stop by during business hours.

GET INVOLVED

Sustainable Piermont is a community led initiative, and we want to hear from you. If you’ve got expertise in waste management, alternative energy, or something else you think our village should be doing to combat climate change, please let us know. (A graphics expert would also be welcome to help with upcoming communications!)

In the future, we’ll be planning for an upcoming conversion to LED streetlights, educating residents about how to reduce food waste, and celebrating the climate resilience plans taking shape across the community.

Find us online at <http://piermont-ny.gov/sustainable-piermont> or connect with us on Facebook @SustainablePiermont.

GET IN TOUCH



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