

# 10964

March 15, 1985

This community newsletter publishes information, events, problems and concerns affecting the people of Palisades. 10964 needs your moral and financial support. Please send a contribution for 10964 to Box 201, Palisades, NY 10964. With your help you'll find 10964 in your mailbox every month.

THE EDITORS AND STAFF OF 10964 WOULD LIKE TO STRESS ITS NEUTRALITY IN THE HAMLET/VILLAGE STATUS DEBATE AND THAT THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY BOTH THE PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE PALISADES CONCERNING THIS ISSUE ARE STRICTLY NEWS ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION BY EACH ORGANIZATION.

## PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Palisades Civic Association has formed three subcommittees to study issues of concern to Palisades residents.

One subcommittee, co-chaired by Johanna Farley and Andrew Norman, is continuing its investigation into the feasibility of becoming an incorporated village. When they finish, the results will be presented to all Palisades residents at a public meeting in the Community Center, possibly as early as next month.

Unfortunately, coverage of this effort in the Journal News and Our Town has created a very wrong impression. To read those papers, you would think that there was a big battle going on between Palisades residents, some for incorporation and some against. Nothing could be further from the truth because there is no effort going on to form a village. There is only a study going on to see if it might be a good idea. It might not be, but we won't know until we carefully study all of the ramifications.

Why would anybody even consider the idea in the first place? The main reason (and that's the story the newspapers are missing) is that this community played by all the rules, took all the right steps, and got the responsible agencies and boards to turn down a harmful and invasive condo project. But then the town politicians overruled their own experts and thumbed their noses at Palisades while rewarding the same folks whose Rockleigh Industrial Park has crowded our roads, caused flooding problems and noise pollution, while doing nothing to help the community.

That's what the story is, and we ask all residents of Palisades to stand as one as they have done in the past. The village might be one solution to our problem, but we'll welcome constructive suggestions from all those who care about the quality

(cont. pg. 2, col. 1)

## THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE PALISADES

The Committee to Preserve Palisades is concerned about the proposal to change the hamlet of Palisades to a village by incorporation. There are several issues that need careful examination:

1. Do we need another layer of government? The proposed village would require these officials: Mayor, 4 Trustees, Village Clerk/Treasurer, Attorney, Judge, Court Clerk, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historic Area Review Board, Engineer, Building and Safety Inspectors, Assessor. Some of these positions would be elective; some would be appointive. As a recent article in the Journal News pointed out regarding volunteers serving in village government, many volunteer positions turn into paid positions, thereby requiring more tax dollars.

2. What services must the proposed village provide to its residents? (a) Police (b) Fire Protection (c) Ambulance Service (d) Highway Service and Road Maintenance (e) Snow Removal, Grass Pickup, Junk Pickup (f) Court System (g) Library (h) Water District (to maintain fire hydrant service) (i) Youth Recreation. These are the services we now receive from the town of Orangetown and pay for annually in our county and town tax bill. The proposed village would have to contract for all these services. Under the proposed plan, the taxpayer would receive three annual tax bills--county and town, school, and village. It is difficult to see how contracting for services would provide the taxpayer with our present quality of services at a reasonable cost.

3. Will the proposed village be able to control or improve zoning? The apparatus for zoning already exists in the town of Orangetown. We feel the citizens in

(cont. pg.2, col. 2)

(Palisades Civic Association - cont.)

of life here. Taking potshots at our study is not very constructive before we've even had a chance to present the results and when the so-called facts being presented have no basis in law or reality.

The sniping is particularly hurtful to those who spent time and money trying to stop the development when it comes from people who haven't done anything to help themselves. Whether the solution is a village or something else, we must work together and not appear in the newspapers as a community of divided, bickering neighbors. As the young radicals used to say in the 1960's, "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

Another subcommittee, chaired by Dossie Thayer, is looking into obtaining listing for Palisades in the National registry of Historic Districts. They are investigating how to do it and what good it might do us.

The third subcommittee, dubbed the "Truck Busters," is looking into the problem of increased truck traffic through Palisades. Chaired by Nina Prusinowski, this committee is keeping a log of all truck sightings in excess of the weight limit. If anyone sees such a vehicle, make a note of the date, approximate time and location, company name, license plate or other identification, and call it in to Nina at 359-4580.

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(Committee to Preserve Palisades - cont.)

the hamlet of Palisades should work within the existing system. In the past, Palisades has been successful in blocking undesirable developments, such as the 9W chain link factory, tandum trucks on Oak Tree Rd., and thru-trucking on Rte. 9W.

4. What will incorporation mean to the individual? (a) Probably increase in taxes, (b) Change in the quality of services, and (c) No visible effect on zoning. Another consideration is what effect will village status have on our new resident, IBM?

We urge all concerned residents to attend the meeting in April (date to be announced) to discuss these issues.

The Committee to Preserve Palisades: Nancy & John Hall, Edith & Jack Ryan, Laura Ebmeyer, Charles Vezzetti, Helene Stansbury, Carol & Gary Heinemann, Nellie Knudson, Mona Doyle, and Kay McNichol

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FAMINE RELIEF CONTRIBUTIONS

"We would like to thank our friends and neighbors who sent their contributions to us for Oxfam, making yet another contribution to famine relief," said Harriet Hyams, who along with Ann Tonetti is leading the appeal for collecting funds from Palisadians for Oxfam.

"We realize most everyone in this community has donated either through their business or religious affiliation; nevertheless, hunger knows no limits. We've all become accustomed to making annual contributions to conquer disease as we are bombarded with mail from all the many worthwhile causes, but we haven't gotten used to including the starving in our weekly budgets. Along with the impulse purchases we make, there has to be something left over for those whose stomachs are perpetually empty.

"There is no deadline for your contributions," Harriet adds. "Please keep sending them to Ann at P. O. Box 624 or to me at P. O. Box 178."

INTRODUCING: The Skakich Family

Zora and Nicholas Skakich and their two daughters, Annika and Ariana, moved to Palisades this past September from Denver, Colorado. Nicholas was transferred to the New York office of Integrated Resources, an investment conglomerate providing an array of financial services. As Director of Marketing, he is responsible for providing material and guidance to effectively promote and sell the company's services.

Nicholas, an Air Force "brat," spent his childhood in Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia, and then went to high school in Hempstead, Long Island. He later settled in the southwest. Zora grew up in Colorado, New Mexico, and California.

Zora and Nicholas are of Yugoslavian ancestry and spent one summer traveling through the country visiting relatives. Both speak Serbo-Croatian. At one time they considered living there but decided the adjustment would be too difficult.

While excited about moving back East, the Skakiches knew they did not want to live in the city. After looking in all the suburbs, they finally found their house on the river through The New York Times. Both love it here and find it peaceful and

rewarding after the excitement and stimulation of the city. Zora said she was used to the convenience of the western supermarkets, and her major adjustment was coping with shopping in this area. She too mourns the closing of the Grand Union.

An avid skier, Nicholas misses skiing in the Rockies but does not miss the cows! Zora, expecting a child in April, has not given much thought to skiing. Nicholas also enjoys restoring old cars, saving those he thinks will be collectors' items; he says he is living out his teenage fantasies. Annika, a fourth-grader at Schaefer, is busy making new friends; and Ariana, almost two, is simply enjoying herself.

We welcome them to the community and wish them well.

KAREN JEFFERIES

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HELPFUL HINTS

PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER

Letters asking for money are never easy to write, but it's that time of year when we start our annual membership drive. We are fortunate this year to be able to do it through 10964. We will save at least \$200 by doing so. The dues remain the same as shown on the form below.

Our expenses for 1984 amounted to \$3,591.68; and our income from dues, contributions, and use of the premises amounted to \$4,139.50. We were unable to change the lighting as not enough money was raised, but we hope to raise enough money this year through our 1985 membership drive to do so.

We have approximately 450 families in Palisades. If each family would send in \$5, we would realize \$2,250. Your \$5 would enable us to keep this historical building structurally sound and pleasant to look at.

Our annual meeting will be the same night as the next public Palisades Civic Association meeting which will be announced. We will hold election of officers and a copy of the 1984 year-end treasurer's report will be available.

We are always interested in having programs at the Center, both for children and adults. Please call me (359-6589) if you are interested in running a program.

IBM will be back again this spring with their site-plan model.

Please support our membership drive; we need your generosity.

EILEEN LARKIN

Thanks to Andy Norman we are hearing about colossal cures for warts and wasps and things that go bump on your arm!

Two local weeds, celandine and stonecrop, perform wonders on warts. Celandine has long multi-lobed leaves of a light bluish-green and mustard yellow flowers. The roots are orange and issue an orange-colored juice. Even more effective, claims Andy, is the juice of stonecrop, or Sedum Acre, a creeping succulent with little yellow flowers and small, solid, juicy leaves. Why, just applying this greenish liquid two or three times a week for about three months made Andy's ward completely disappear!

As for insect stings and bites, Andy says that nothing beats the humble ice cube as an example of 20th-century technology at its peak. If you press an ice cube against a wasp, hornet, or bee sting or mosquito bite and hold it there for a minute or two after the coldness begins to hurt, it will be just as if you had never been stung or bitten at all...says Andy. (This is obviously a theory from the Bang-Your-Head-Against-The-Wall school--it feels good when you stop, BUT if Mr. Norman swears by it...)

My own favorite remedy for itches is just to scratch until you make it bleed and then the itching stops because the pain takes over. And then I wrote...A poultice of Adolph's Meat Tenderizer and a drop of water does the trick in our family for all types of bites from mites. Really.

Our thanks to Andy Norman for his helpful hints about celandine and stonecrop uses; and please, folks, get those cards and letters coming in. We get lots of compliments on these homey articles, so how about a lot more submissions?

LESLIE PRICE HAYES

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PLEASE ENROLL THE FOLLOWING AS MEMBERS OF THE CENTER:

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\$10.00 per family (list all names)

\$3.00 senior citizen  
Associate--no dues

ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

\* Bob and Melissa Atchison of the Ozark Folk Center in Arkansas will lead a down-home country sing-along for senior citizens and the handicapped at the Center on Tuesday, March 19th at 1:30 p.m. There is no admission charge for this event; however, seating is limited and reservations are required.

\* Distinguished music critic Martin Bookspan will address the issue "How Jewish is Ernest Bloch's Music?" at the Center on Friday, March 22nd at 8 p.m. He will be joined by cellist Yosif Feigelson who will perform portions of "Schelomo" as well as selections from Bloch's other works. Tickets are \$12.50 general admission and \$10 for members, students, and senior citizens.

\* Earthworks, a one-day workshop led by Gertrude Simon, will enable participants to utilize vines, weeds, and weathered wood to construct wreaths, wall reliefs, or any of a variety of other decorative objects. Sunday, March 24th, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Cost is \$25 and pre-registration is necessary.

\* Rosemary Aiello will lead a one-day workshop on the ancient Japanese art of firing ceramic, known as raku. Cost of the workshop is \$25 with all glazing and firing provided. Students should bring three to five pieces of bisqued ware and a lunch.

To register or for further information, call the Center at 358-0877.

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Seminar - March 24th at the Palisades Free Library, 4 p.m. Alice Haagensen: A Reappraisal of her work on the history of Palisades.

Gardening Program: "How to Start an Organic Garden" will be held on Monday, March 25th at the Old Greenbush School Auditorium from 8 to 10 p.m. Leader: Mr. Farrell Freeman of Co-operative Extension.

Forthcoming Books:

- Ali -An Indian Dynasty: The story of the Nehru-Gandhi Family
- Ardagh -Rural France
- Fixx -Maximum Sports Performance
- Fraser -Weaker Sex
- Gordon -Men and Angels
- Levi -If Not Now, When
- Morris -Matter of Wales
- Mowat -Sea of Slaughter
- Paley -Big Fish
- Penn -Irving Penn
- Trillin -With All Disrespect

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VOLUNTEERING IN ROCKLAND COUNTY

This second and final article will concentrate on ways one can help the mentally and emotionally disabled and the physically handicapped.

ROCKLAND PSYCHIATRIC CENTER, Convent Rd., Orangeburg. (Heidi Kistler, 359-2111)

The Center offers a variety of choices for the volunteer.

One To One needs people to act as a companion and friend to the elderly. You can read, write letters, or take them for walks. Pen Pals - "Adopt" a patient and send him/her cards on holidays, birthdays, or any occasion at all.

Pet Therapy Program is a new program involving you and your dog. Bring your pet along and visit one of the geriatric wards. The patients look forward to such visits, and dogs are a great way to bring a little warmth and cheer into their lives. Volunteers will be assigned to a specific ward on a regular basis--once a week or every two weeks.

Spanish Speaking Volunteers are needed to visit patients, converse in their language, read Spanish newspapers and magazines. A good opportunity for students to practice their Spanish.

Miscellaneous - Those with special talents are in demand: artists to paint murals and decorate the wards; entertainers to sing, dance, and play some music; etc.

One local church collects toys, combs, lipsticks, mirrors, comic books, etc., giftwraps them and once a month distributes them to the patients.

ROCKLAND CHILDREN'S PSYCHIATRIC CENTER, Convent Rd., Orangeburg. (Ellen O'Hare, 359-7400)

The Center operates as an in-patient hospital for mentally and emotionally disabled children from ages 5 to 18. There are facilities for 80 children, and the average stay is 70 days.

One To One needs adult volunteers to act as role models, to spend some time with a child, talking, taking walks, writing letters. The Center asks for a minimum commitment of one hour a week.

Group Activities - Volunteers (16 years and over) would be welcomed to plan and oversee birthday parties each month.

Entertainment - Musicians, singers, dancers, mimes, etc., are needed to bring a little fun into the patients' lives.

VENTURE INN, Convent Rd., Nanuet. (Barbara Reece, 623-6091)

Venture Inn operates six group homes and four apartments for mentally and developmentally handicapped adults. The residents have outside jobs; therefore, volunteers would assist them during evening hours or on weekends. There is a new group home on Kings Highway in Sparkill. Barbara Reece said they really want to get the residents out to participate in community activities and need volunteers willing to lend a hand. Help is also needed to take the adults shopping, in writing letters, and in reading.

VENTURE DAY PROGRAM, Rosary Academy, Rte. 340, Sparkill. (Dolores Fraser, 365-1316)

This program essentially functions as a high school for mentally and developmentally handicapped adults with 45 minute classes in academic subjects and vocational instruction. They would appreciate volunteers to assist the teachers and aides in all areas. You can help one hour a week or every day. Hours are flexible.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM, (Betty Meisler, 947-1000, Ext. 2413, 2714)

This is a private, non-profit program for men and women over age 60 to help children with special needs, the emotionally and mentally disabled, and the physically handicapped. Volunteers are paid \$2.20 per hour plus transportation and lunch. There is an income eligibility level of no more than \$6,225 in social security payments for widows/widowers and \$8,400 for married couples.

The "grandparents" help out at both public and special schools, such as ARC at Cottage Lane and the Palisades Early

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Childhood Program on Oak Tree Rd. Charlotte Weiner is the official "Grandma" of the Palisades School and loves it. Her job is to give lots of love and attention to the children. She is there five days a week from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and can't imagine doing anything else.

The agency operates 23 stations (day care centers, schools, hospitals) in Rockland County and has about 70 volunteers.

NYACK HOSPITAL

(Shirley Coder, 358-6200, Ext. 2182)

The hospital has 34 different areas where volunteers can help the professional staff provide efficient service to the patients. Those working directly with the patients will be trained.

Volunteers are currently needed in the Emergency Room to assist the nurses and help transport the patients, and in the Family Waiting Room to tend to the families of patients in surgery.

There is a strong need for clerical help throughout the hospital. The thrift shop, The Dutch Treat, in Nyack needs volunteers, primarily on Saturdays.

Teenagers (ages 15 to 17) might be interested in the summer program similar to Candy Strippers. Orientation is in the beginning of July.

Three other programs require special training: SPA - adults to care for elderly; CARES - involvement with the terminally ill and their families at home; and PCP - a personal connection program dealing with the elderly and their families at home.

KAREN JEFFERIES

SCHOOL NEWS

"Annie" will be performed at the TZHS on Friday and Saturday, March 22nd and 23rd, at 8 p.m., matinee on Sunday, March 24th, at 3 p.m. Ilena Elevitch, Fiona Lawrence, and Heather Finke, granddaughter of Arnold and Elizabeth Finke, are members of the cast.

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NEW YORK PHILOMUSICA CONCERT

The third concert in this series of unique musical performances is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th, at 8 p.m. at the Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church, Sickletown Rd., Pearl River. The program will include:

- Beethoven - Serenade in D, Opus 8, for violin, viola, and cello
- Iain Hamilton - Sea Music for clarinet and string quartet
- Mozart - Divertimento #15 in B flat, K. 287, for five strings and two horns

Tickets can be obtained at the door or by calling Jennifer Shapiro at 359-5660.

Donations were received this month from Grace & Percy Hill and from Miriam (Sandy MacAllister. Thanks so much!

PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

There will be a Lenten Vesper Service on Sunday, March 24th, at 5:30 p.m. On April 4th, Maundy Thursday, there will be the traditional communion service at 8 p.m.

On April 7th, Easter Sunday, there will be two services: 6 a.m. Easter Dawn service conducted by the Sr. High's. 11 a.m. Family service with special music.

On Saturday, March 30th, Frances Pelegrini expects Mrs. Bunny Rabbit at a puppet show at "Buttercup & Friends" in Piermont. Free to all children, space is limited so please reserve for either 2:30 or 3:30 performance. Call 359-1669 and join in the fun.

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Aude Sebag (Heyhoe Woods) has two cousins, girls ages 14 and 17, who would love an opportunity to visit the USA this summer. They would be willing to work out an exchange-type program with some teens here or would come as paying guests or visitors. For further details, please call the Sebag at 359-5231.

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Deadline for all material is the fifth of the month, preceding publication date of the 15th.

10964 STAFF

Editor: Maryann Sahadi  
Asst. Editor: Karen Jefferies  
Treasurer: Boyce Leni  
Consultant: Carol Elevitch  
Contributors: Joan Bracken,  
Nancy Hall, Leslie Price Hayes

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