

10964

JANUARY 1978

NO. 8

This community newsletter publishes information, events, problems and concerns effecting 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.

A Brief History

Over one hundred and twenty five years ago, the town fathers of the hamlet of Rockland, New York applied to the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. for authorization to establish a Post Office in Rockland, New York. That application was denied on the grounds that there were too many Post Offices with the name of Rockland already in existence. Our local history shows that a further meeting of the town fathers was held and it was decided to change the name of the hamlet from Rockland to Palisades, and apply to the Post Office Department for the establishment of a Post Office in the new hamlet of Palisades, New York. This application was duly approved and on January 30, 1855, the residents of Palisades had a Post Office and a Postmaster, who was Henry Cole.

Since 1855 there have been 21 Postmasters serving the residents of Palisades in the various locations that have housed the Post Office. Finally after 106 years of transient housing, the Post Office Department approved the construction and leasing of a new Post Office for Palisades.

On December 1, 1961, the doors to the new Post Office were opened for business. What a busy, exciting day it was, assigning new post office boxes, giving out combinations to go with them, helping almost everyone get the new boxes open; all of this going on with the Christmas season upon us. Regardless of all the pandemonium, we at the Post Office were happy because everyone was pleased with the new office and for the first time in the history of Palisades, the Post Office had a permanent location.

The formal dedication of the building took place on January 27, 1962. It was a lovely day, brisk but clear. Mike Wallace, who, at that time was a resident of Palisades, served as the M.C. Also attending were representatives of the clergy, state, county and local officials, Post Office Department officials, all the Postmasters from Rockland County and some from around the State. Most important of all the guests were the residents of Palisades, who turned out for the occasion. Immediately following the dedication, there was an Open House of the new Post Office, and some local philatelists sold first day covers to collectors. The Trustees of the Palisades Free Library were very kind and offered the use of the Library to the Post Office staff for a reception. With the help of many the reception was held; it was a lovely day in more ways than one. Local photographers took pictures, which will be on display

at the Post Office during the month of January.

Many changes have taken place in Palisades since 1855 and since 1962, but one thing that never changes is our people. We at the Post Office consider all of them our friends and neighbors.

LAURA EBMEYER,
Postmaster



(Courtesy of Laura Ebmeyer)

Palisades School Council

We are very proud and happy to announce that Rockland Community College, in cooperation with the Town of Orangetown, will establish a Satellite Center at the Palisades School.

Starting in February and March accredited courses will be offered, as well as credit-free programs for children and young people, senior citizens, people with special needs and persons preparing for a second career. In addition, RCC will also hold forums, seminars and one day workshops covering issues of special interest.

Please watch for RCC's brochure in your mail within the next few weeks. Registration is open to anyone in the County. The programs offered will in no way conflict with those offered by Rockland Center for the Arts.

The establishment of this Satellite Center as well as Rockland Center for the Arts in the Palisades School was a result of joint efforts and cooperation between the Town of Orangetown, RCC, Rockland Center for the Arts and the Palisades School Council. These programs would not have been possible without the cooperation and generosity of the South Orangetown School District who made the building available to the town of Orangetown under a special lease arrangement.

Rockland Center for the Arts will hold an Open House at the Palisades School on January 22, 1978 from 3 to 5 pm. (Wine and cheese will be available). We hope you will come and bring a friend so that you might meet the staff of RCA and view the students' works which will be on display.

Registration for the Spring 1978 classes will be January 18-25 at RCA's main building in West Nyack or by mail. Copies of the Spring brochure and registration form will be available in early January at the Palisades P.O. and at the Palisades Library.

The following classes will begin during the week of January 30th: Evening yoga for adults; drama workshop for adults and teens; life drawing workshop; modern dance for adults and teens; Saturday craft workshop for teens and adults; and Saturday beginning writing workshop for teens and adults.

The following Fall classes will continue into the Spring semester (Beginner classes in these areas will also be available): Adult sketch, writing, publishing, folk dance, pre-school dance, pre-school piano, acrobatics, mixed media, painting, ceramics.

Parents are requested to be on time to pick-up their children after class. Those children who have not been picked up will have to wait outside the building unsupervised. In case of emergency, call 359-9670.

BASKETBALL - Children have been divided into two groups for Saturday basketball. Boys and girls, ages 7-9 practice from 1 to 3 pm with Mark Morris, Don Bracken and Mr. Jelnick. Children ages 10, 11 and 12 practice from 3 to 4 pm with Andy Foose and Bill Larkin. Any child interested may come to the school to sign up.

Acting classes for Youngsters will start in February for 8 weeks under the supervision of Leslie Price Kaplan, who will be conducting classes for 6 to 9 year old boys and girls in techniques of acting and scene study. For further information call 359-7392 or 359-2995.

The Community is invited to visit the school to see the picture display of homes in Tappan and Palisades which have historical significance. This was originally at the Rockland Center in West Nyack and is now at Palisades for a limited time.

EILEEN LARKIN

Tappan Zee Thrift Shop

Why not make a resolution for 1978 to clean out your house periodically of unneeded items? Such donations as seasonal clothing, working appliances and clean housewares can find a new life at the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop at 454 Piermont Ave., Piermont, New York. The hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 am to 3:45 pm with donations before 3:30 please!

PAULA SILVERMAN

School News

PTA Council

Much of the December meeting of the PTA Council Focused on the problems at Tappan Zee High School. With the impetus of the School Board designating improvements in the High School as a priority, the school has begun a careful self-analysis. At a recent Superintendent's Conference Day, parents and students submitted their specific concerns and recommendations, which administrative officials are now working to incorporate into better practices at the school in such areas as guidance, counselling, grading and absenteeism.

The Bus Safety Committee of the PTA Council, which has recently been reactivated as a result of parental concern, reported that much progress has been made to provide safe routes and appropriate conduct on the buses. Parents are urged to report any problems with bus safety to the principals of their particular schools.

ELENA MORRIS

School Board Meeting

At the December 20th School Board Meeting, School Superintendent, Dr. George Jeffers recommended the administrative appointment of Mr. Lawrence Glickman as Principal of the Middle School effective Feb. 1, 1978. Mr. Glickman is presently with the Byron Hill's school district in Westchester and is a Phd candidate in Administration and Supervision at NYU.

The district received 70 applications for the position. A number of universities recommended candidates from their schools, and NYU selected Mr. Glickman. A Screening Committee was formed consisting of parents, teachers and administrators. The Committee recommended four candidates to the Board and the Board ultimately selected Mr. Glickman.

A decision regarding grade reorganization will be delayed until the Board Meeting of January 17th. The Board held a workshop session at the Tappan Zee High School Library on January 10th where input from the community regarding this step was received.

CAROL ELEVITCH

Welcome!

10964 wishes to welcome to Palisades - Richard and Patricia Picchianti and their daughters, Theresa and Donna. The Picchianti's live on Oak Tree Road.

Palisades Free Library

During 1977 the Palisades Free Library has undergone a redecorating and refurbishing which, thanks to the efficiency of Beatrice Agnew and her staff, took place with a minimum of fuss and inconvenience to library patrons. The entire interior of the library has been painted, new air conditioning has been installed and the balcony now has modern lighting. In addition, there is a new parking lot complemented by attractive landscaping.

Also during 1977 the Library has sponsored several successful children's programs which have been a delight to children and parents, as well; needlepoint and quilting programs have also been held and they, too, have had an excellent turnout.

There have been many worthwhile additions to the Library this year which some of our neighbors may not be aware of. They include various pamphlets, games, puzzles, recordings for adults and children, and large print books. A reproduction machine is available at a nominal fee of 10¢ a copy; the New York Times can be found on microfilm; and local historians will find a nice collection of books to suit their various interests.

The Library's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th. All are welcome to attend; refreshments will be served.

BARBARA HOVSEPIAN

Palisades Community Center

The Palisades Community Center closed out the year with its annual Christmas Party which was a huge success thanks to Laura Ebmeyer and her helpers.

During the past year the Community Center has had many successful events: February - a Wine, Cheese and Art Show; April - a Flea Market; June - the interior murals were covered in order to prevent further deterioration and the back of the building was fixed and has a fresh coat of paint; July - a Fourth of July Celebration with local food; December - the Annual Christmas Party.

The Community Center looks forward to a new President and a slate of officers to be presented at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22nd at 3 pm at the Palisades School. Please come out and support your Community Center.

Thanks to all those who contributed time and money to the Community Center.

SALLY LO GERFO

West Hudson Environmental Assoc.

As many people probably know, the truck ban has gone through. By now this may be old news, but it is still good news! Trucks weighing over 10 tons will be banned from Routes 9W and 340 beginning February 1st (except for those making local deliveries).

9W was not built as a major truck route and cannot safely handle the big 14 and 18 wheelers which use it as a by-pass to and from the Thruway. Since the widening of 9W in 1974 truck traffic has increased 300% (approximately 1500 trucks daily) and would continue to increase with each passing year.

The West Hudson Environmental group has been fighting to control or lessen this heavy truck traffic for years. With support and help from Senator Linda Winikow, the group met with some success, such as a reduction of the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph on 9W north of the Sparkill viaduct, installation of a flashing light in front of the Tappan Zee Elementary School, reduction of the speed limit to 35mph and a no passing zone in front of the school.

But the big big break came this past June when Senator Winikow sponsored a new bill which Gov. Carey signed. This bill gave the Commissioner of Highways the authority to restrict heavy truck traffic on certain residential highways. Since there are over 100 private driveways and several apartment complexes on the stretch of 9W in question, it certainly qualifies as residential. Commissioner Hennessey signed the bill in November and it is now law.

There will be signs posted on all key roads leading to 9W and 340 in both Rockland and Bergen counties prior to the February 1 deadline. The West Hudson Environmental group will have a meeting in early January for the sole purpose of discussing the enforcement. Senator Winikow has said state police will be used at the outset to help enforce it and we plan to work very closely with Senator Winikow, the state police and Orangetown police. In a recent conversation with Mr. Steward, Supervisor Collello's assistant, he said they're most anxious to have this go through smoothly and effectively and will have a heavy concentration of town police out to work with the state police to give out summonses wherever necessary.

This is a tremendous victory and shows that "the people" can win if their cause is just. It's a good example of the way the democratic system should work.

DOSSI THAYER

Bonanza Accolades

10964's Winter Bonanza raffle was held on Sunday, December 18th at the Community Center's Annual Holiday Party at the Palisades School. Congratulations to the lucky winners! The weekend at the St. Regis was won by Lenny Diehl; theatre tickets to "Annie" won by Dionyse Price and "Saturday Night Live" tickets won by the Guilfoyle's. Other prize winners were: C. Price, Rita Norris, Dr. M. Meisner, the Suriani's, Walter Ostrom, E. Nelson, Bill Eberle and Kim Turner.

A special thank you to Chris DiCarlo who helped our staff organize the raffle and to all the willing volunteers who sold chances.

We would especially like to thank the Closter Travel Agency who made arrangements for the weekend and so generously contributed their commission, and Andy Boose who obtained our theatre tickets for us. Thanks also to Dennis Lo for donating the "Saturday Night Live" tickets; to Jerry Silverman for the two pair of beautiful gold earrings; to Peter Kiers for the Forbes magazine subscription; and 76 House for the dinner for two.

10964 WISHES ALL OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS A HEALTHY, HAPPY 1978!

Cub Scouts

The Cub Scouts had a good time last month touring the WRKL Radio Station and learning about its operation. They observed how a blind disc jockey was able to perform his job and each had a chance to see and feel some of his braille notes. All the people at the radio station were great to the Cubs and presented them with some records as they left.

The boys are looking forward to the coming year and to the many fun things planned for the weeks ahead.

IRENE DIEHL
MARJORIE OLSON

Health Notes

With the New Year here, some resolution ideas are important. Check medications and discard outdated ones....Seek medical attention if coughs or colds persist....On the national scene, surveys reveal that since the Ford and Rockefeller experiences, the number of breast self-examinations have declined. A monthly check is important. Contact us if further information is needed.

MYRA RICHARDSON, B.S.N.
VIRGINIA BARRETT, B.S.N.

THE FOLLOWING IS A PERSONAL LETTER REGARDING A PROBLEM THAT EFFECTS THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY AND IS NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWPOINT OF THE 10964 STAFF. WE WELCOME ANY COMMENTS PRO OR CON REGARDING THIS MATTER.

Having grown up in the City, I realize I've been carrying around a sort of Currier & Ives impression of life in the country - one of rosy cheeked children playing at their games while their pet dogs romp happily and safely beside them. In fact, since I am a dog owner, one of the reasons I wanted to move to the country was so my dogs could romp safely and happily too.

I've had to revise my Currier & Ives vision rather sharply and consequently, I've learned about the local leash laws and prevailing attitudes.

The law says that if you own or have custody of a dog, you may allow your dog to be loose on your own premises or those of someone else with his or her permission. Otherwise, the dog must be on a leash. It also says that the dog must be curbed on public streets. I'm told that means if you know your dog roams and is unlikely to curb him or herself, don't let the dog out alone.

An Orangetown policeman told me that there really is no objection to a dog being unleashed as long as the dog is accompanied by the owner or another person responsible for the animal's behavior.

The attitudes of some of our non-dog owner neighbors range from disregard for loose dogs to lodging active complaints with the owner and with the dog warden. Dog owners, I find, are either considerate and tolerant or defensive. Some even pay the fine each time if they receive a summons and then let their dogs out again.

My own feeling was benign annoyance if I thought a dog had rummaged in my garden, but also that it was part of living in the country to have animal visitors. It never occurred to me to be concerned about the safety of my dogs except to train them away from the traffic hazard on 9W. My four year old son had no fear about seeing an unleashed dog and we explained only that he should not startle any dogs. Any need for concern about aggressive dogs seemed to be absent.

Every morning my 70 lb., mostly Labrador - once a forlorn 16 lb. puppy rescued from U.S. Highway #1 and nursed to health - jogged alongside my daughter. They went down Washington Spring Road to the Hudson and back. Currier & Ives in action. I loved the thought of it and I loved to watch my dog run on his long, colt-like legs. Five weeks ago my daughter reported that two large dogs had started a brawl with our dog down near the river and she had broken it up and chased the other dogs off. She and our dog jogged on home. Four weeks ago there was a repeat and our dog ran off into the woods in the direction of home. As our daughter jogged away - also headed home - she noted the above

two dogs looking at the spot where our dog had run into the woods.

I guess because I was very rushed that morning I didn't notice that he wasn't home. He got home finally although I don't know how since there wasn't a spot on him that hadn't been punctured or torn. He died two days later. The veterinarian says he is sure the attack was by more than one dog.

The dog warden has advised us to call anytime we see a loose dog and I do. I know what this action by one neighbor toward another means since dog owners' emotions are usually fervent about their dogs; some people may feel angry and defensive. But this same fervor will cause injury, sadness, danger or all three if it's irrationally defensive. If your dog is a fighter, keep it home! If it's a pacifist - as Beau was - keep it home!

HOLLY M. REDELL

Classified

Classified ads are free. Please submit yours to Box 201 or call Jeanne Boose (7154). Last names and phone numbers must appear in the ad. (Donations to 10964 are requested from businesses or non-Palisadians wishing to place ads).

FOR SALE - 3 speed 20" girl's bike, blue, good condition. Asking \$25. Rasmussen (5188).

NEIGHBORLY REAL ESTATE ASSISTANCE in sales, rentals, appraisals and consulting - Margaret Anderson, Realtor (4225), Saleswomen: Sue Freil (2326), Ann Stern (2034), Paula Silverman (7881).

FOR SALE - Bloomcraft fabric, 14 yds, navy blue cotton with small red print. \$1.25/yd. Kiers (7142).

Thanks to the following neighbors for their contributions this month: the Finke's, the Haagensen's, Margaret Anderson, Helen J. Ostrowski and the Reg Thayers.

WRITING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME. CONTACT BARBARA HOVSEPIAN OR SEND YOUR STORY TO 10964, BOX 201, PALISADES, N.Y., FOR CONSIDERATION.

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