

# PITA NEWSLETTER

Sponsored by the Plum Island Taxpayers and Associates, Inc.

Bringing Plum Island Together

[www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org)

Fall 2021 Issue 3



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear PITA Members,

It's been another challenging year for everyone, but it appears that the light at the end of the tunnel is shining very brightly for all of us, and especially for your community organization. This past year, despite some COVID restrictions remaining in place, rental activity at the Hall increased dramatically, especially during the second and third quarters of our fiscal year. Our ship is back on course, thanks in large part to your continued support through membership dues and contributions as well as to the income generated through private and commercial use of our facilities. Also, I am pleased to announce that our Board has decided to continue our longstanding tradition of hosting the annual Christmas Fair at Plum Island Hall. Crafters have been invited back to our Hall, and we will continue the tradition of selling Christmas trees and wreaths in the parking lot on Saturday, 4 December. Our efforts, as follows:

**MRBA Working Group:** By establishing a virtual forum, PITA continued to perform as the sponsor and host to the Merrimac River Beach Alliance (MRBA), our working group of federal, state, town and city officials whose combined efforts have been instrumental in responding to the most pressing issues facing Plum Island residents.

**Blocking Restrictive Changes to Sections 69 & 71 of PIOD:** PITA played a major part in defeating an effort to incorporate additional building restrictions to Sections 69 & 71 of PIOD regulations.

### Plum Island Hall Landscaping:

Excessive overgrowth has been either cut back or removed from the beds surrounding PITA Hall in preparation for a Spring planting of indigenous flowers and shrubs.

### PITA Propane & Fuel Oil Buying Group:

As everyone knows, propane and fuel oil prices have been on the rise, but PITA members who participate in the Buying Group program will have a low, fixed price over the next two years thanks to our friends at Townsend Total Energy and the negotiating efforts of Diane Barrett.

As you know, we continue to be appreciative for the continuous support that PITA has received. Please remember that your membership dues help to keep our Hall open and available not only for your use, but also for use by all our Plum Island social, public and community organizations. Please take a few moments to fill out the enclosed membership renewal form. If you would like to enclose an additional contribution of support, any amount no matter how small will be greatly appreciated and will have an immediate positive impact. We continue to look forward to another great year with you and yours as members of PITA.

With kindest regards,

Ron Barrett  
President

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**PITA CHRISTMAS FAIR**

DECEMBER 4, 2021, 8AM-3PM

## PITA MEMBERSHIP ... it's time to Renew or Join for 2022

It's our Fall membership drive and we really appreciate your support! We are asking for renewals for 2022 to continue our efforts and we welcome new members!

See the President's Letter and Membership Form on our web site at [www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org)

The 2022 membership fee is only \$35/year individual or \$50/year for a family.

Now you can conveniently renew your membership or join online - via PayPal - just click the link "Join PITA online" on our website. You can also print out the Membership Form and mail it back to PITA with your paper check payment.

Some benefits of PITA membership:

- Significant Townsend Energy PITA Buyers Group discounts for propane and oil
- PITA hall rental discounts
- Knowing that you supported our Island projects

## Reservation Terrace Fall Update

by Lela Lischke Wright

It certainly has been a beautiful Indian Summer out here on the Island... almost makes up for the soggy Summer! Until...

The recent October 27, 2021 "bomb cyclone" Nor'easter hit Plum Island, further eroding Reservation Terrace and flooding the side streets from 71st to 77th threatening many homes in the area. The rocks and jersey barriers were tossed about like small stones and the wave action was devastating, washing piles of sand off the river beach again into homeowners' driveways and yards. Until then, we had been fortunate not to have any direct hits from major storms or hurricanes this season. The September 8th and 9th Tropical storm Larry sat off shore long enough to cause some serious wave action in the mouth of the river and along the shoreline. The section of Reservation Terrace roadway that has been closed since December 18, 2020 at the corner of 73rd street finally gave way, and with that went the waterline along that section, leaving 2 year-round residents permanently cut off from the city water service. Through the kindness of neighbors for the past month these 2 households have been receiving water from a hose attached to their spigot(s). About mid-October the city installed 2 new connection

*Reservation Terrace cont. on page 4*

## PITA CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 from 8 AM - 3 PM

The holidays are fast approaching, and our annual Plum Island Christmas Fair will be back this year! Mark your calendars now and plan to join us out on the Island. The Fair will be a little different this year. We will have Christmas trees and wreaths for sale outside (delivered free to Island residents' homes) and inside we will be featuring hand-made arts and crafts for sale by local artisans. Because many businesses are struggling to get back on track after a challenging couple of years, we will not hold the raffle (which is based on their donations). Also, we will have a limited food menu (sorry, no BBQ grilling this year), and limited seating inside.

We hope that Santa will make an appearance outside the building along his usual route around Plum Island bringing holiday cheer to all our Island children!

Join us at PITA Hall for the 27th Annual  
**Plum Island  
Xmas Fair**  
Saturday December 4th, 8 AM - 3 PM  
8 Plum Island Blvd, Plum Island



**CRAFTS AND GIFT ITEMS,  
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## PITA Board of Directors

Ron Barrett, President

Jerry Klima, Vice President

Frank Pierce, Treasurer, Hall Mgr.

Kevin Byrne, Secretary

Ron Perkins, Director

Maureen Trout, Director

Susan Grillo, Director, Membership

Lee Lane, Director

Kincade Webb, Membership

The financial support from the Fair is responsible for a large portion of the funds raised for upkeep of PITA Hall and we truly appreciate your participation. We look forward to seeing you in December!



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## PLUM FEST 2021 Final Wrap Up

PLUMFEST 2021 may be over, but what a smashing and successful event it was!

The weather was great and the crowd of hundreds of people were in such great spirits. There were over 38 locations hosting bands during the day, including 6 of the local restaurants and businesses. 73 Bands played and donated all of their time and amazing music for this event.



On behalf of the entire PLUMFEST Charitable Inc. organization, 2021 event manager Linda McKeehan and team... thank you ALL for your hard work, good spirits, and welcoming attitude to ALL THE ATTENDEES.... Plum Island must have been near capacity!

The T-shirts sold like wildfire, and a whole lot of money was raised! Thanks to the help of over 40 Volunteers, PLUMFEST was able to donate over \$11,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of the lower Merrimac Valley, to be used for their new music studio! Visit the Club's website for more information at <https://www.bgclmv.org>

For photos of PLUMFEST 2021, visit the website at [www.plumfest.org](http://www.plumfest.org) and the PlumFest page on Facebook.

PLUMFEST organizers are open to any ideas or suggestions for future events. Without your kind and gracious opening of your homes and restaurants for the bands to play, the enthusiastic crowd in attendance, the generous event sponsors, and all of the volunteers, PLUMFEST would not be able to continue. The organizers are hoping to do it again next September 2022.



**Bill Cooper**

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*Reservation Terrace continued*

points from 71st and 73rd Streets and the 2 residents were able to hire a contractor to install new connections at their own expense.

I think everyone had been looking forward to the long-awaited Merrimack River dredge, unfortunately that news was not good. The dredge has been delayed another year due to the poor bid response, which is likely due to sending out the RFP (Bid package) so late in the year. As of now they will resubmit in the Spring for the Fall of 2022 in hopes of a better response.

As a result of the dredge debacle, the State reconsidered the earlier denial of funding for a coir bag permit/project the city had requested. The permit/project was based on elevations from last winter and will prove to be challenging due to the changes that have taken place since then. Engineers from GZA GeoEnvironmental and Sumco recently did another site visit and are reconfiguring the plan to adjust to shoreline changes. The plan now will run from 69th Street all the

way to 77th Street. There is a holding area set up in the Plum Island Point parking lot staged with equipment for the project, which was set to begin October 25th at the 69th Street end, but got delayed due to the storm.

These drone pictures from 2016 vs 2021 document the severe erosion and vanishing shoreline along Reservation Terrace that has taken place over the last 5 years. The stone and concrete barriers the city placed as an emergency measure along the shore have certainly helped save the homes in this area. Unfortunately, the city Conservation Commission has determined that these barriers must be removed to install the coir bags. Local residents will continue to push for a permanent solution consisting of rock, stone, concrete or steel sheet piles. To join this effort, contact Lela directly at 978-815-6690 or via email at [lela\\_wright@hotmail.com](mailto:lela_wright@hotmail.com)

It is going to be a very long uncertain winter for the residents living on and around Reservation Terrace.



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## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT INTROSPECTION: “SPREADING JOY THROUGH HER LENS”

By Sandra Turner

Young hands eagerly reached out to receive the small Kodak Brownie Camera. Unknowingly, this gift would open up a new way in which to enjoy the world around her. Such was the beginning of Sandy Tilton's journey into the art of photography and her love of our Island.



“The beauty of Plum Island and this whole area never gets old... as many times as I walk the beaches and marshes, it always seems brand new and brings me much joy!”



Growing up in Ipswich, Sandy spent many childhood days on Cranes Beach, Castle Hill and Plum Island's Sandy Point. The beauty of the white and purple sands, blue skies, and clear ocean water always made her feel whole somehow.

A dream of creating a book that would appeal to all ages, with her own photos and story came true in early 2020 when her well received “Ralph ‘N Me” was published!

Through her daily posts and videos during the Covid pandemic, Sandy spread much joy to many viewers who then shared with her how much it meant to see them while in lock down. “Those messages touched my soul and helped to make my days brighter too... it's the way life should be... people sharing joy with each other... photography is a perfect way to do just that.”

**Sandy's photos can be seen on:**  
**Facebook @Plum Island & Beyond**  
**Instagram @ sandytilton10**  
**Her book “Ralph ‘N Me” is available for purchase at The Cottage and the Plum Island Kitchen as well as on Amazon**



**Sandra Turner**  
**Artist/Owner**  
**PlumIslander Art**  
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## PITA Hall Is Open!!

for Events once again, subject to Covid - 19 protocols.

**Weekend Rates Member ..... \$325**

**PI Resident Non-Member ..... \$375**

**Non-Member ..... \$450**

**Commercial ..... \$550**

**Weekday Monday-Thursday**

**\$100 half day / \$200 Full Day**

**Mercy Meals:** Free use of the Hall to Island residents for mercy meals, and recognition of your loved one on the PITA sign.

To rent PITA Hall contact Frank at [HallManager@plumislandtaxpayers.org](mailto:HallManager@plumislandtaxpayers.org) or visit [www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org) to fill out the PITA Hall Rental Agreement.



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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2022

**PLEASE NOTE:** You can pay conveniently online via PayPal at <http://www.PlumIslandTaxpayers.org>  
Or mail your completed Membership Application and check payment to the PITA at the address above.  
We do not sell or publish your membership for any reason.  
We will not call your mobile phone or send a text unless there is an island specific need.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: Street or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_ My E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  Please email the PITA Newsletter to me to save printing costs

Plum Island Address:  Same as above

<b>Individual Membership: \$35 per year</b>	<b>Dues Amount</b>	\$ _____
<b>Family Membership: \$50 per year</b>	<b>Additional Amount for projects:</b>	\$ _____
<i>Please consider additional contributions - any amount will be most appreciated and will be used for Plum Island projects.</i>	<b>Total Amount</b>	\$ _____

*I would like to be contacted for PITA volunteer projects:*  **Yes**  **No**

*If you like, tell us your special skills or interest for volunteering:*

\_\_\_\_\_

#### PLEASE COMPLETE THIS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS SURVEY:

Do you currently participate in the Townsend Energy Buyers Group for PITA members?  **Yes**  **No**  
For Propane?  **Yes**  **No** For Oil?  **Yes**  **No**  
If NO, would you like to participate in this Buyers Group Program?  **Yes**  **No**

>> **If Mailing, Please** make your check payable to "PITA" for the correct dues amount plus any additional funds, and your check and fold over your check and put it in the envelope (no staples please)

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