

The Croton-on-Hudson Village Newsletter

April 2003

Number 49

April Calendar

- 7 & 21 Village Board Mtg.
- 1 & 22 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 2 Conservation Advisory Council
- 9 Zoning Board
- 16 Water Control Commission

Croton Landing Acquisition OSI donates Northern Parcel to the Village



Officials of the Open Space Institute the Village at the Ribbon-cutting event marking the

On March 10th, the Open Space Institute (OSI) officially transferred its portion of the Croton Landing waterfront property to the Village at a ceremony and ribbon-cutting event attended by Mayor Elliott and OSI and Village officials.

OSI's land acquisition affiliate, the Open Space Conservancy, purchased the land in 1996 as

part of its strategy to protect the shoreline along the Hudson River for Public access. The purchase was funded by a grant from the Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Fund

for the Hudson Highlands. After acquiring the 16.7-acre park, OSI entered into an agreement with the Village pursuant to which the Village improved and managed the property as a public park. In a related transaction, the Village purchased an adjoining 13.4-acre parcel with the assistance of OSI and its joint venture partner, the Trust for Public Land.

Once the two parcels were acquired, the Village took over the management of the property. A former industrial site, the property was littered with trash. The Village has made considerable progress to date in cleaning it up and reclaiming it for recreational use. According to OSI President, Joe Martens, the Croton project was a win for everyone. The creation of a mile-long park helped protect water quality and the scenic beauty of the riverside for area residents and railroad riders as well. A new waterfront trail linking the Village parcel with the property donated by OSI has recently been completed. Ultimately, the trail will extend all the way to Oscawana Road in Cortlandt.

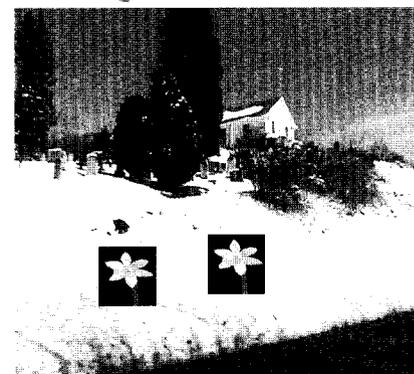
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Earth Day Plans by the CAC

On April 26, the CAC will be sponsoring their annual Earth Day activities. Co-sponsored by the Recreation Dept. and River Lovers, the day will kick off at 9 AM at Senasqua Park. The plan is for the regular clean-up activities along the Croton and Hudson Rivers, but this year 4 additional projects will be undertaken. At Silver Lake, a garden will be planted, at the canoe launch there will be clean up and planting, at the intersection of Benedict Blvd. and S. Riverside, resident Bruce Laemmel is sponsoring the planting of a garden and there will also be Trails maintenance work done.

Every year many resident families join in this activity. This year Mrs. Kaplan's 3rd grade class at CET is designing the tee shirts for the day and writing a song and planning other activities to take place at Senasqua.



Watch for the 911 daffodils planted here last Fall by the CAC.

This is a big annual Spring time event so plan on joining your neighbors. The rain date is May 3rd.

Stormwater Phase II Regulations



The January Newsletter let you know that the Village was complying with the new Storm Water Phase II regulations promulgated by the EPA and identified the six minimum control measures that must be met by us. Our Notice of Intent

was filed February 28, 2002. This article is about the plan for meeting the first and second minimum control measures.

#1 is Public Education and Outreach. Under this element, the Village is required to plan and conduct an ongoing education and outreach program. Over the course of the next year, the Village will establish a Stormwater web page at the Village's web site. The Village will also set up a library of educational materials, put up posters and make available to residents various printed materials relating to stormwater. The Village wants to encourage all residents to not sweep grass clippings or driveway debris into the street where it may ultimately reach the Hudson River. Grass clippings should stay on the lawn where they are a good source of nitrogen and organic matter for the soil. Sweepings should be disposed of in the garbage. Residents should also attempt

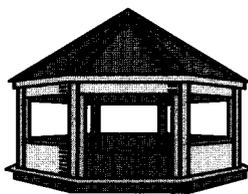
to limit or eliminate the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer. When these chemicals run off your lawns in a rainstorm, the stormwater flows to the Croton and Hudson Rivers and adds to the pollution of our waterbodies. Pet waste must be picked up and if you see litter in the street, please pick it up. In addition take advantage of the County Household Chemical clean-up days. Watch for the dates in a future Newsletter.

#2 is Public Involvement and Participation. The Public Works Dept. will prepare a public presentation and/or annual meeting to encourage participation. The DPW will also begin labeling the estimated 350 storm drains or catch basins in the Village with the wording that "dumping is prohibited, this catch basin drains to the river."



Croton Takes Third in County Recycling!

The Village of Croton took third place in Westchester County for its recycling efforts. Its 7600 residents recycled 309 pounds apiece last year. The Village of Hastings was first with 417 pounds per person and Rye was second at 341 pounds. Overall the County's recycling amount declined from 178 pounds per person to 177 pounds.



Pavilion Parties

Croton residents wishing to book the Senasqua Park Pavilion for a special occasion such as a family birthday party or reunion should do so soon. Reservations must be made through the Recreation Office at 271-3006. Saturdays and Sundays, the most desired days in the summer, are already being booked extensively. Plan ahead for your occasion and reserve now. Business events will only be scheduled on weekdays.

Check your Insurance

The Village is in the process of relining and cleaning sewers and is undertaking water main renovations. In the unlikely event of a backup, many homeowners have coverage for such events through their home insurance. The Village recommends that residents obtain an endorsement to their homeowners policy to cover sewer/water damages. This insurance, which can be obtained at a minimal cost, will protect the homeowner for sewer backups and drainage damages.

Spotlight on Carmen Smith

Carmen Smith recently celebrated her 25th year as a Village employee in the Treasurer's Office. In her official capacity as Computer Operator I, she handles your Village property taxes and water bills. She also handles the Payroll and check-cutting for Village employees. When first employed, Carmen operated a bookkeeping machine that read cards with data on magnetic film. At that time she handled all bookkeeping—

including the General Ledger, Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable. Since then, she has worked in a progressively automated computer environment. Using a Report Generation Program, Carmen can formulate specific queries to the Village's tax data and provide answers and input used in many management decisions. According to Carmen, she enjoys her job and has appreciated the opportunity to learn more as the technology has changed over the years. Living in Croton from 1956 to 1987, she raised three children who attended Croton schools. During this time, she was active locally including spending two years as Council President of Our Savior Lutheran Church. Carmen has three stepchildren in addition to her own, 16 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren which keeps her pretty busy. In her spare time, she enjoys reading novels and traveling to Florida.



"I really like what I do and work with very nice people. I love keeping up with changes in the technology."

Carmen Smith

Metro Enviro Decision

The Village Board's decision to deny a renewal of Metro Enviro's Special Permit was overturned on February 20, 2003 by Judge Francis A. Nicolai of the NYS Supreme Court in Westchester County. The Court ordered the matter to be returned to the Village for the purpose of issuing a permit "upon such reasonable conditions as it may deem appropriate."

After meeting with its Special Counsel on this matter, Micihael Gerrard of Arnold & Porter, the Board agreed to take the steps to appeal this decision.

Village Election Results

The results of the March 18th Village Election are as follows:

Mayor:

Robert Elliott 1068

Gregory Schmidt 1013

Trustees:

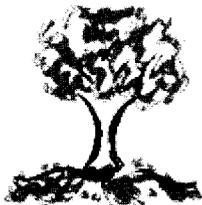
Leo Wiegman 1135

Georgianna Grant 1067

Don Daubney 1019

Tom Brennan 912

All who participated as a candidate or a voter deserve thanks for their effort.



Street Trees Available

If you are interested in getting a street tree planted in front of your home this Spring, call the DPW at 271-3775 and leave your name and address.

We're on the Web. Visit us at [Http://village-croton-on-Hudson.ny.us/](http://village-croton-on-Hudson.ny.us/)

Got a Question?

Now that Spring and Summer are coming, what passes do my family need to enjoy our Parks?

The Recreation Dept. issues photo ID's to Village and school district residents for access to Senasqua Park and Silver Lake. The ID is also needed to sign up for play at Hudson National Golf Course and for a resident Skatepark pass. Photo ID's are currently being taken on Tuesday and Thursdays in the Recreation Office on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building. The cost is \$5 for a Village resident and \$10 for a school district resident. It is good for three years.

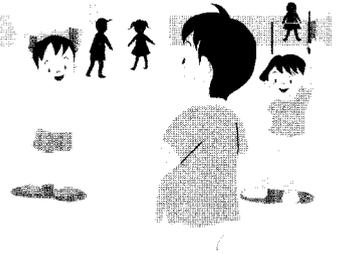
Although there is not yet a Spring opening date for the Skatepark, passes can be obtained now in the Recreation Office with a Photo ID. For Village residents, a pass is \$75 for the season and \$105 for school district residents.

Silver Lake swimming permits and sign ups for playing at Hudson National Golf course will be available later this Spring.



When should I sign my child up for Summer Camp or Tiny Tots?

Summer camp registration forms are now available in the Recreation Office. Camp registration will once again be held on a lottery basis. The lottery registration deadline for Day Camp and Tiny Tots is Thursday, **April 10 at 12 noon**. Your form(s) must be in the Recreation Office at this time, completed and paid in full. You must register using the appropriate Day Camp or Tiny Tots triplicate form. The Recreation Dept. suggests that you bring your form(s) to the office in person, weekdays between 8:30AM and 4:00 PM. Call the Recreation Office at 271-3006 for further information.



April 2003



Published for the Residents of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson

Robert W. Elliott, Mayor
Georgianna K. Grant, Trustee
Deborah Y. McCarthy, Trustee
Gregory J. Schmidt, Trustee
Leo A. W. Wiegman, Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2

Bulk Rate
Permit No. 1
Carrier Route
Pre-Sort
Croton-on-Hudson
New York 10520

Postal Patron

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520