



**November
Calendar**

- 6 & 20** Village Board Mtg.
- 14 & 28** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 11** **Veterans Day**
- 1** Cons. Advisory Council
- 8** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 15** Water Control Comm.
- 15** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 23** **Thanksgiving Day**
- 24** **Holiday**

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Solar Message Board

As part of its plan to provide an alert system for flooding emergencies at the railroad station parking lot, the Village has acquired a solar message board. When the Village receives advance information indicating flooding may occur, the sign will be used to alert patrons that sections of the lot will be closed.



However, as its intended use will be sporadic, the Village will also use it to announce community events such as the Fire Fair as shown in the picture above, or Summerfest, or public works events such as hydrant flushing or road closings.

The board, which cost \$27,000. is made by SolarTech and operates on solar power which charges its long-lasting batteries. It does not require direct sunlight to absorb the energy it uses. A small keyboard attachment allows it to be programmed with the desired messages.

Pedestrian Lights

The Village was recently notified by Westchester County that pedestrian crossing lights at the intersection of South Riverside Ave. and Croton Point Ave. would be installed.



The lights will provide safe crossing for pedestrians crossing South Riverside at the corner of Croton Point Ave. at the site of the Exxon station. From this corner, a second pedestrian crossing light will permit pedestrians to cross Croton Point Ave. to the south towards Shop-Rite.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Village has recently developed and adopted a local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The act called for improved planning and the setting of standards for mitigation throughout the United States. In order to be eligible for mitigation project funding, a community must have an approved pre-disaster mitigation plan in place.

Village staff have worked with Town and County officials to develop a plan that focuses on methods of mitigation that will reduce exposure and vulnerability to the hazards identified in the HAZNY plan developed by the State. The Village plan evaluates a broad range of natural and man-made disasters and cost-effective means of minimizing risk to life and property in the village.



Croton's plan identifies the following natural hazards as affecting our area: drought, extreme temperatures, severe winter storms, hailstorms, ice storms, severe thunderstorms, hurricanes/tropical storms/tornados/high winds/straight line winds, flood/dam failure, and earthquake/landslides.

The plan was submitted to FEMA for review and approval in August 2006 and was adopted by the Village Board on October 4th.

Survey Insert

This issue of the Newsletter contains a Community Center Survey insert. The survey is intended to provide guidance to the Community Center Committee and the Village on development of a community center. Please fill it out, one per household, and return it by December 15th. The return postage is prepaid.

Lawsuit over Peekskill Permits

In late 2003, Croton joined the Towns of Cortlandt and Yorktown, and the Village of Buchanan in fighting the imposition of a \$250/truck permit fee imposed by the City of Peekskill on all waste-hauling trucks disposing of garbage, etc. within the city limits.



Enforcement of this permit against trucks from these municipalities resulted in several of them being ticketed by Peekskill police. Since conviction would result in these truck drivers getting

points on their Commercial licenses, the Village and the other municipalities purchased the permits. At the same time, however, Croton and the other municipalities fought Peekskill's action in court and were successful in getting an injunction stopping further enforcement until the court decided the legality of Peekskill's local permit law.

The group argued that Peekskill's action was meant to be a revenue source for the City, was inconsistent with intermunicipal cooperation and was unconstitutional.

In September, 2006, the NYS Supreme Court in White Plains declared Peekskill's law requiring sanitation vehicles to obtain a permit before using city streets to be unconstitutional and beyond the authority granted to it by the State legislature, thereby invalidating the law. This decision will result in Peekskill refunding all permit fees paid by the participating municipalities. Town of Cortlandt Attorney Thomas Wood represented the municipalities.

The ruling applied as well to the suits of several private waste hauling companies which brought similar actions against Peekskill.

November Recreation Programs

In addition to ongoing Fall programs, two programs, of 2 sessions each, will start in November.

De-Stress with Aromatherapy, Mon., 7:30-9PM, Nov. 13 & 20, will cover essential oils for meditation, concentration, focus and relaxation as well as for restful sleep. Sign up by Nov. 8.

No-Hassle Exercise, Mon., 7:30-9PM, Nov. 27 & Dec. 4, will have a personal trainer show you seven easy and effective exercises you can do at home in 20 minutes. Sign up by Nov. 21.

73rd Blood Drive

The Community Blood Drive program will hold its 73rd drive on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd**, from 9 AM to 3 PM at Croton-Harmon High School.

Donors must be at least 16 and 110 pounds, not yet 76, and in good health. Appointments are recommended so that the medical staff will know how many donors to prepare for. As blood is in short supply in this area, please try to fit this important date into your schedule.



For appointments call:

JoAnn Fannon 271-5529; Rosalind Morrissey 271-8449

Carol Shanesy 271-7645; Natalie Rotkoff 737-6165

November Polling Places

On November 7, national and state elections will be held. The Town of Cortlandt manages this election and designates local polling places for the election districts. A new election district has recently been created in Croton by the County Election Board consisting of parts of both Districts 7 and 10. All voters from Half Moon Bay are now in District 39 along with many other voters from these two districts. The County sent postcards recently to all registered voters telling them which election district they are in.

The polling places are as follows:

District 6	Washington Engine Firehouse
District 7	Croton Municipal Building
District 8	Grand St. Firehouse
District 9	Croton Municipal Building
District 10	Harmon Engine Firehouse
District 25	Our Saviour Lutheran Church
District 31	Sky View Nursing Home
District 39	Croton Municipal Building

The polls are open from 6am to 9pm at all locations.

Last 2006 County Clean-up Days

The final Household Chemical Clean-up days for 2006 will be held Nov. 3 & 4 at Playland Park. Call the Household Chemical info line (914)-813-5425 for details on what can be dropped off.



Reminder!

The Village Offices will be closed Friday, November 10th for Veterans Day, and

Thurs. and Fri. November 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving.



Spotlight on Genette Toone

Since April 2005, Genette Toone has been a Deputy Treasurer for Croton. In this capacity, Genette's primary responsibility is to manage the Village's payroll. Handling the payroll includes such jobs as maintaining time sheets for all department employees as well as accounting for personal deductions and accruals such as sick days, personal time, vacation time and overtime. On a monthly and quarterly basis several reports must be prepared which track health and retirement benefits, deferred compensation and also union dues. A Withholding Tax report is also required quarterly to New York State. Additionally, Genette works on Village tax collection by posting the tax revenue, sending delinquent notices and publishing lien notices in April before the fiscal year ends. She works with the Village Assessor to update property tax records to reflect new owners and also any tax exemptions that may apply. Genette likes the fact that the employees in the Finance office are cross-trained so they all know something about all the jobs that must be done. Genette came to Croton after two years doing Payroll for the Village of Sleepy Hollow, her first municipal job. Prior to that, she worked 15 years with a private company where she also handled Payroll but also Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable. She received her Associate degree in Accounting from Westchester Business Institute. Genette was born and raised

in Yonkers where she currently lives with her two daughters, Lula and Leah, ages 14 and 8 respectively.

In whatever spare time she has, she spends her time with her daughters primarily chauffeuring them through their active schedule of school activities, church, and 3 types of dance lessons. The family likes to spend their vacations at "hot" places such as beaches and just relax.

One of the best things about her job in Croton, according to Genette, is her co-workers. She hopes to stay here in Croton and eventually retire from here in the distant future.



"I don't get to meet the public as much as I would like to in my job but everybody I work with is a pleasure to be with."

Genette Toone

Seasonal Parking Permits

In order to properly plow the streets, the Village prohibits on-street parking when snow accumulates to 2 inches or more. However, recognizing that Croton has some residences with no off-street parking, a "Seasonal Overnight Street Parking Permit" is available. These permits are intended only for residents who have no alternative location for their car such as a driveway or a garage. Off-street parking space is defined as a garage, carport, or driveway or other available parking area. Where none is available at all, a resident may obtain up to 2 free permits. If there is one such space available, one free permit may be obtained. Each additional permit will be \$100. If 2 or more off-street parking spaces are available, each seasonal permit will be \$100.

Permits may be obtained at the Village Office in the Municipal Building. A visit by Village personnel may be required to ascertain how many off-street parking spaces are available, if any. Last year, the Village issued 80 such seasonal parking permits, village-wide.



Consultant for C&D Special Permit

After extensive deliberation and reviewing four proposals, the Planning Board recommended that the firm of Malcolm Pirnie be hired to act as the Village's consultant for the Special Permit application of Northeast Interchange Railway, LLC (NIR). Malcolm Pirnie will aid both the Village Board and the Planning Board in reviewing NIR's application to operate a construction and demolition processing facility on property owned by Greentree Realty LLC at 1A Croton Point Ave. NIR was directed to provide an initial escrow amount of \$25,000. to pay for the cost of the review.

Equalization Rate

The Village has received notice of its 2006 Final Equalization Rate at 3.69 - slightly less than 2005's 3.86 rate. The NYS Office of Real Property Services (ORPS) calculates equalization rates for each of the state's assessing units to assure equitable property tax allocation among nearly 4,000 taxing districts. The equalization rate is the ratio of total assessed value (AV) to the total market value (MV). The municipality determines the AV and the OPRS determines the MV. A falling equalization rate means that MV is rising faster than AV. In Croton the equalization rate has fallen from 4.93 in 2003 to 3.86 in 2005. This translates into rising property taxes.

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

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One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2

Got a Question?



I recently moved to the Village, in part because of the great views and access to the Hudson River. Are there restrictions on where I can go to walk and/or ride my bike at the waterfront? If I take my car, where can I park?

Croton is fortunate in having almost all of its Hudson River waterfront accessible. Some parts are open for walking only and some for both biking and walking. Parking areas are available at the entrance to Croton Landing to the north, along the road east of Senasqua Park, and at the bottom of the hill at the south end of Elliott Way.

Walking paths extend north from the parking at Croton Landing. Following the sidewalk south from this parking area, Croton residents may enter and walk, but only around the perimeter of the Yacht Club clubhouse, which has a private membership. Also, at this point, the pedestrian bridge over Route 9 connects to the river front

Walkers and bikers continuing south from this point must traverse the roadway toward Senasqua Park-resident-only park. Continuing further south along Elli-

ott Way. The bicycle/pedestrian pathway along the river terminates at the parking area at its southern end.

From this parking area at the southern end of Elliott Way, bicyclists and walkers can cross the road and continue on the paved path going under the bridge and along the east side of the Half Moon Bay development to County-owned land to the south. Alternatively, Croton residents and their guests may continue south from Elliott Way, along the path on the west side (river side) of the development to the County-owned land to the south. This pathway is for pedestrian use only and is only partially handicapped accessible.



At the south end of the development, where both the east and west pathways meet, there is a paved bicycle/pedestrian path which can be taken to Croton Point Park or over the railroad bridge to connect to the Crossing bridge over the Croton River and further south to Ossining.