



The Station Parking Lot - A Status Report

Remediation for the flooding problems at the station parking lot has been under study for some time. With the guidance of the Village's consultant, Dvirka & Bartilucci (D&B), several steps have been taken.

D&B first presented six conceptual alternatives for remediation to the Board of Trustees in February 2007. Based on a discussion of the key pluses and minuses of the six and on D&B's recommendations, the alternatives were reduced to three. In March 2007, the Village authorized D&B to proceed with an Engineering Design Report on the three alternatives.

In the same time frame, D&B identified a possible grant opportunity that the parking lot remediation project might qualify for. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) is administered by SEMO, the State Emergency Management Office. The Village authorized D&B to make the grant application on Croton's behalf. It was submitted in May. Since then SEMO has requested additional information which is considered a positive sign that Croton's application is under serious consideration.

With the submission of the additional information, it is hoped that SEMO will send our application on to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Assistance) for a decision. If granted, the award would cover 75% of the costs.

Meanwhile, D&B is moving ahead on the design and soil testing for the three alternatives deemed most effective. If the Village is awarded the grant, SEMO will want to see plans for a larger area of protection than is currently being studied. This would include raising the overall grade by at least 5 feet, thus extending the required work in to areas of the

lot not in the current designs. Ultimately, this would be beneficial for the whole parking lot but is not part of the current design plan because of the Village's desire to contain the project and its costs to the area most in need of remediation. However, with 75% of the costs covered, the larger area would be more cost effective for the Village than paying for the entire cost of remediation at the Village's sole expense.

The three alternatives being further reviewed and studied are all categorized as "surface fill and grading options".

The options under consideration are: Porous Asphalt/Partial Fill, Traditional Bituminous Concrete Pavement/Full Fill, and Open Graded Bituminous Concrete Pavement and Porous Asphalt/Full Fill. Each of these would be on a compacted subgrade with differing kinds and depths of materials on top. Advantages and disadvantages that must be considered are how "first flushes" are handled, ease of plowing, delineation of parking stalls, and on-going maintenance. Initial cost estimates range from \$1.1 million to \$1.6 million but there are many "unknowns" requiring further study which may significantly affect the final estimates. Among these unknowns are the results of soil testing and future settling, whether piles will be required, and costs associated with phasing the project. It is estimated that the project would require about 24 months under the fastest time-frame.

The Village hopes to learn whether its application for funding is moving forward and successful in the next six months. Meanwhile, D&B is moving ahead with the soil testing that would be necessary for the project regardless of its final funding source.



December Calendar

- 3 & 17 Village Board Mtg.
- 11 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 5 Cons. Advisory Council
- 11 Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 12 Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 19 Water Control Comm.
- 19 Visual Environ. Bd.
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
- 25 **Christmas Day**

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Holiday Recreation

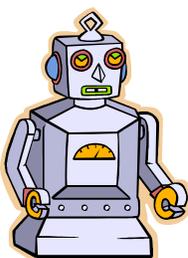
Croton's Recreation & Parks Dept., has several holiday events planned for December. **Santa Claus is Coming**



To Town will be on Saturday, Dec. 8 at noon at the Harmon Firehouse. The program for youngsters and their parents will begin with holiday entertainment followed by Santa's visit. The program is free.

Letters to Santa may be sent at Santa Mailboxes located at the Municipal Building and at Sav-Mor in Croton Commons between Dec. 3 and Dec. 14. Letters received by Dec. 14 are guaranteed an answer from Santa. Name and address are required but no postage is needed.

A Super Science vacation program is scheduled for Wed. & Thurs., Dec. 26 & 27 from 9am to 3 pm. Participants in this year's program, **Titan Tank Robotics**, will all build and take home a Titan! The Titan Tank is an infrared control kit. Its microprocessor provides different channels that allow up to 4 Titans to fight each other at the same time. The Titan has 6 wheels that allow it to move forward, backward, left and right. There will also be time for participants to use the ROBOTIX building system to design their own robots and enter them into the robot Olympics, battle-bot competition and tractor pull. Students will learn simple programming commands to make their robot do tricks and also explore and program new robots such as Robosapien, Roboreptile, and others. This program is designed for grades 2 - 6. The registration deadline is Dec. 20 with a fee of \$96./\$115. (res./non-res.)



Tree Disposal



The DPW will pick up discarded trees in the first two weeks of January. Trees should be left at the street with no trimmings, tinsel or wire. They should not be in bags. The trees will be picked up separately from the garbage pickups and will be chipped.

Blood Drive Reminder!

Sun. Dec. 2, from 9-3 at CHHS. More info. at 271-5529.

Tax Exemption Reminder

Residents wishing to apply for tax exemptions on their property taxes should do so by January 2, 2008. Exemptions are available for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities and volunteer fire personnel.

NYS recently increased the allowable income level for partial real estate tax exemptions for persons 65 years of age and older. Croton has implemented this change through a new local law taking effect on January 1, 2008.

Exemption percentages now vary from 5% on a total income range of \$34,500 to \$35,399 up to 50% on a total income less than \$27,000.

Questions should be directed to 271-4783 and applications can be made at the Village Engineer's office in the Municipal Building.

Seasonal Parking Permits

Croton offers seasonal parking permits to those residents who are unable to remove their cars from the streets to comply with the Village's on-street parking prohibition during snow events. A snow event is when snow accumulates, or is expected to accumulate, 2 inches or more. At this point, streets must be cleared by snow plows.

These permits are intended for those residents who have no alternative parking location such as a driveway, garage or carport. Under these conditions, it is possible to obtain up to 2 free permits. If there is one off-street space available at a residence, then only one free permit may be obtained. The fee for additional permits, if needed, is \$100 each.

Permits may be obtained at the Village Office. A visit by Village personnel may occur to ascertain how many off-street parking spaces are available, if any.

Water Bills

The semi-annual water bills will be sent out on Dec. 15th. It includes both a water and a sewer charge as separate line items. The water rate is \$4.307 times the usage rate which is measured in hundreds of cubic feet. The sewer rate is \$.3988 times the usage rate. The bill is payable by Jan. 15th after which there is a 5% penalty. Each additional late month will incur a \$5. delinquency letter fee and an additional 1% penalty increase.

Reminder!

Village Offices will be closed

Mon., Dec. 24 and Tues., Dec. 25 for the Christmas Holiday
and Tues., Jan 1 for New Years Day



Spotlight on Joe Hornik

Joe Hornik, the Village's Assistant Engineer, joined the staff in late October this year. A graduate of Cooper Union in NYC with a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering, Joe did graduate work at Columbia and further studies at Cornell. He is a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) and a licensed land surveyor. While he says he is "not sure exactly what's ahead" of him in this job, his years of experience have prepared him for all the possibilities.

For most of his career, 25 years, he was Rockland County's Superintendent of Highways and County Engineer - a dual position. Since retiring, he has been consulting and taking temporary job assignments. Joe has been a part-time Village Engineer in 6 municipalities in Rockland and Orange Counties. He

applied for Croton's position as Ass't. Engineer because he missed the broader perspective that comes with municipal engineering versus single construction projects. He also likes having a relationship with the public.

Joe will be involved in Croton's capital projects - the Croton Landing and River Walk construction, the Batten Road drainage improvements and the completion of the Benedict/Wayne/Clinton drainage and street improvements are among those projects he expects to be involved with. Additionally, Joe will be working on Building Permits and also dealing with utility companies and developers on Road Opening Permits.

Joe has headed up several professional associations in

his career. He is a past President of the NYS County Highway Superintendent's Assoc. and also the Rockland County Association of Highway Superintendents. Joe was also a Director of the National Assoc. of County Engineers.

With his wife, Barbara, Joe lives in West Nyack where they raised their 4 adult children - 2 boys and 2 girls. They have 3 grandchildren living in Texas and Connecticut.

A life-long tennis player, Joe enjoys both singles and doubles and plays as much as possible. He enjoys working around his house and yard, traveling to be with family and winter vacations in Naples, Florida.



"This job will permit me to use my background in municipal engineering on a variety of projects while being part of a great team."

Joe Hornik

Historian's Report

The annual report to the Village from Village Historian, Joyce Finnerty, shows 2007 was a very active and productive year. The Village Historian is a NYS-designated position and there is a requirement for an annual report to the Village. Ms. Finnerty along with a group of Historical Society volunteers help maintain and catalog the Village's historical documents and pictures. They also answer questions from people who visit their office space on the first floor of the Municipal Building and respond to email requests.



New acquisitions of documents and pictures are catalogued regularly. The Historian has increased the Village's historical information more than 50% by taking many new pictures and collecting information about any new development that occurs in Croton. In 2007, a museum/gallery was created in the Municipal Building for displays of Croton's history. A recent display of documents relating to Col. Harmon commemorating the 100th birthday of the Harmon area was highly successful. A new display from Croton's history is coming soon. This is a very rewarding stop on any visit to the Village offices.

Equalization Rate

The NYS Office of Real Property Services (ORPS) has set Croton's Final Equalization Rate at 3.45, slightly lower than 2006's 3.69 rate. The rate is set by ORPS for each of the state's almost 4000 assessing units to assure equitable property tax allocation across the state. The equalization rate is the ratio of total assessed value (AV) to the total market value (MV). The municipality determines the AV and OPRS determines the MV. A falling rate means that MV is rising faster than AV. In Croton the equalization ration has fallen from 4.93 in 2003 to 3.45 for 2007. This translates into rising property values.

Croton Seniors

After a busy autumn, with a 50th anniversary celebration in October, and a trip to Radio City Christmas Spectacular in late November, Croton's Senior Club has several more events planned before the end of 2007.

Club members will celebrate the holidays with a catered luncheon at noon on December 14th. Members must sign up in advance. Two weeks later, on Dec. 28th, they will bring their best recipes to a New Year's Pot-Luck party.

Interested Seniors can join at any Friday meeting by paying the annual dues of \$6/\$12 (res./school district).

December, 2007

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the Village of Croton-on-
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Got a Question?



With Hanukkah and Christmas coming, I would like to get something for my friends and relatives that will remind them of our village. Do you have any suggestions?

That's a wonderful idea and there are several items that the Village has available for sale that might be what you are looking for.

The Croton Historical Society has a range of gifts including a cotton coverlet with many Croton scenes woven into it, tote bags with scenes of Senasqua Park or the Croton Dam, a



DVD with pictures and a narrated history of Croton, boxes of notecards, two history books on Croton, t-shirts and six-packs of Croton postcards. Prices and descriptions can be found at Croton's web-site by doing a search on "Historical Soci-

ety" from the Home Page where you will find the "Historical Society Store".

The Recreation Dept. sells day-trip gift certificates for use by members of the Croton Seniors Club. The recipient can apply the certificate to the costs of any Senior trip. They come in denominations of \$25., \$35., and \$50. and are good for one year but are not transferable. These can be purchased in the Recreation office.



The Village is also selling rocks glasses (\$4.), mugs (\$5.), and caps (\$15.). All have the Croton logo on them. These items, and Historical Society items, can be purchased at the Village Office on the second floor of the Municipal Building during regular office hours.



If none of these items are exactly what you are looking for, don't forget that our local stores would also appreciate your business. Please be sure to consider shopping in Village stores for your other gift-giving needs.

