



November Calendar

- 2 & 16** Village Board Mtg.
- 3** Election Day
- 11** Veterans Day
- 10 & 24** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 4** Cons. Advisory Council
- 10** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 10** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 18** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 18** Trails Committee
- 26** Thanksgiving Day

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Symphony Knoll Opens

Symphony Knoll will officially open on Friday, November 13 at a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception from 2 to 5 pm. Five years after its conception, the 11-unit senior housing complex on Mt. Airy Road, is ready for occupancy. Everyone is encouraged to attend this celebratory event hosted by Croton Housing Network (CHN), the not-for-profit organization that developed the site. State and local officials will be attending as well as representatives of the many funding sources and the contractors, all of whom made the project possible.

CHN, formed in 1990, was initially organized as the Croton Housing Task Force in the mid-80's with the support of then-Mayor Roland Bogardus with the mission of addressing affordable housing needs in Croton. Since then CHN has increased housing opportunities in Croton through a variety of partnerships with the Village. With the opening of Symphony Knoll, CHN will have brought 35 units of affordable housing to the Village. Units include rental apts., owner-occupied townhouses, and one and two-family homes.

Village government has supported CHN projects by providing either land, initial financing and/or necessary approvals. CHN has also worked with private developers such as Spectrum/Skanska and Wilder/Balter in developing housing.

Symphony Knoll is named for the music school operated by the previous owner of its site, Lavina McClure, who gave that name to her property. The Village helped CHN on this project by providing the initial purchase price to secure the property and helping CHN to get overall funding. The 1/2 acre McClure property was combined with 3 1/2 acres from the adjacent 8-acre Mt. Airy Woods property to create a 4-acre site. The Symphony Knoll site was then sold

to Westchester County in an amount that included both the initial purchase cost and investments made in the property in preparation for construction, thus enabling the Village to recoup its money. CHN also received approvals from the Planning Board and the Zoning Board.

Arranging financing for the construction was a lengthy process with many sources of funding ultimately involved -



Symphony Knoll Apartments

both private and public. It was not until Spring 2008 that ground breaking actually occurred. Spearheaded by CHN President, Nance Shatzkin, the Symphony Knoll development has relied on the support and efforts of three Village administrations - those of Mayors Elliott, Schmidt and Wiegman.

Eight of the 11 units are 650 square feet and three are 800 square feet, renting for \$793 to \$975 per month respectively. A lottery was held on August 1st to sequence the 58 applications received. Eleven tenants are being qualified now. The new residents will move into Symphony Knoll in December of this year.

The celebration on November 13th is an opportunity to thank all those who helped bring this addition of senior affordable housing to Croton. Ms. Shatzkin and the members of the CHN board look forward to all residents taking this opportunity to visit the site to see the final results of this 5-year effort and join with them in the celebration.

Parking Lot Garage Feasibility Study

A feasibility study to explore the potential for a structured parking facility at the Croton-Harmon train station was authorized by the Village Board in late September. A requirement to perform such a study had previously been approved in February 2009 in conjunction with the authorization for the parking lot improvement project currently underway at the station. As a result, such a study was included in the capital budget for the FY 2009/2010.

Over the summer, the board entertained a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from qualified parking consultants and received responses from five such firms, four of which were subsequently interviewed.

Representatives from Tim Haahs Associates met in work session with the full board in August to discuss the feasibility process in detail and answer questions. A scope of services was authorized for Tim Haahs Associates in the amount of \$97,000 in September.

The study undertaken involves a comprehensive process which will look at (1) market demand for commuter parking, (2) geotechnical conditions under the existing surface lot, (3) financial feasibility analysis for funding and operating a structure, and (4) design concepts for a potential parking structure at the Croton-Harmon Train station. The study will also review the overall site to produce a master parking plan addressing how future work can improve traffic flow, enhance safety, and maximize commuter services.



Election Day Polls

Tuesday, November 3 is Election Day. The polls are open from 6 am to 9 pm. Croton's 7 election districts will vote in the following locations:

- District 6 Grand St. Firehouse
- District 7 Municipal Building (Community Room)
- District 8 Grand St. Firehouse
- District 9 Municipal Building (Community Room)
- District 10 Harmon Engine Firehouse
- District 25 Our Savior Lutheran Church
- District 31 Sky View Nursing Home
- District 39 Municipal Building (Community Room)

Farmers Market Ends Season

The Farmers Market in Croton will end its inaugural season on Wed., Nov. 18th, reopening in the Spring.



Reminder!

Village Offices will be closed Wed., Nov. 11 for Veterans Day
and Thurs. Nov. 26 and Fri. Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving!



Croton Seniors

Today's News Headlines. Croton Seniors can join lively discussions about today's news headlines by joining a Tuesday discussion group led by Vincent Bonelli, Ph.D., Fordham University. Starting on Tues., November 10, and continuing for 6 weeks, the sessions are from 10 am to noon. These sessions will help gain awareness of the news while analyzing the past and reach insights based on current events and topics. This program is provided through MAINSTREAM, the Institute for Mature Adults at Westchester Community College. Sign up and pay the \$24 fee at the Recreation Offices in the Municipal Building.



Harmon Gateway Re-zoning Hearing

A public hearing is scheduled on a local law to amend the Gateway Overlay Zoning district for the Harmon/S. Riverside Gateway area is scheduled for Mon., November 2 at 8 pm in the Municipal Building. Documents regarding the proposal are at:

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http://www.crotononhudsonny.gov/public_documents/crotonhudsonny_webdocs/seqra

79th Blood Drive



The semi-annual Blood Drive will be held at Croton-Harmon High School on Sun., Dec. 6th from 9 am to 3 pm. Appointments are needed to help the staff prepare. Call Carol Shanesy at 271-7645 or Rosalind Morrissey at 271-8449 for an appointment.

Receive Your Newsletter by Email



As mentioned in the October Newsletter, the Village would like to reduce the costs of printing and mailing and the use of paper by sending the monthly Newsletter to residents via email. Please help in this cost-savings effort by emailing rose@crotononhudsonny.gov with your name and street address. The street address will be used to remove your name from the Village mailing list.

A starting date for electronic distribution will be announced in an upcoming Newsletter prior to it commencing.

Spotlight on Ronnie Rose

If you have stopped in at the Village Offices recently, you may have met Ronnie Rose. Since November 2008, Ronnie has been a part-time employee there.

Ronnie began working with a focus on Records Management tasks but has since become involved with a number of special projects. Most recently, Ronnie gathered the data for the Village's Greenhouse Gas Inventory and inputted it into the software provided by Local Governments for Sustainability to provide a base line for analyzing the Village's energy costs. Handling press releases and learning how to put them on the Village website is her newest endeavor. Sitting in the front office, Ronnie also answers phone calls, responds to questions,

accepts tax and water payments and issues parking permits. To help her with answering questions, she has accumulated at her desk a "library" of materials with information about Croton. Ronnie says that she hadn't "realized how much the Village administration actually does in providing services."

Ronnie grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs, graduated from Hamilton College, and received Masters degrees in both Social Work and Library Science from Columbia University. She has been both a Reference Librarian and a Children's Librarian, mainly at public libraries. She held both positions at Croton Free Library on a part time basis in the recent past. Ronnie and her husband, Doug, a teacher in Scarsdale,

are 20-year residents of Croton and are the parents of three girls. Hannah is currently a Sophomore in college, Rebecca a Sophomore at CHHS, and Miriam a seventh grader at PVC.

Much of Ronnie and Doug's free time is spent in following the activities of their children especially cross country and track meets and music and dance recitals. They enjoy making short trips to places around the Hudson Valley and trips into New York City and an occasional trip to the beach. Ronnie is an avid reader of a wide range of books and enjoys quilting and walking as well.



"I really like working in the local government setting, helping residents.."

Ronnie Rose

Drug and Alcohol Awareness Grant

A Village/School District Liaison Committee was formed many years ago to facilitate the ability of the Village and School District to work together on community-related issues. Last year the Liaison Committee identified an opportunity to further collaborate on the issue of community-wide substance abuse by applying for a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, Drug Free Community Support Program.

A requirement for the grant was the formation of a "Drug and Alcohol Coalition" made up of members of the Village Board, School Board, Village and District staff, members of the business and professional community, students, media and clergy. The Coalition met on several occasions to further identify local issues that might be addressed with such a grant.

Under the requirements for the application, the Village made the application with the help of staff from the Student Assistance Services Corporation who work with the School District on a regular basis.

The grant was awarded in the amount \$125,000 for one-year and may be renewed for 4 additional years upon application. The Coalition will administer the program and the Village will manage the funds.

Croton EMS

Croton Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has established its headquarters at 44 Wayne street for the next two years. The building was acquired by the Village in August 2008 for potential use to support growth of commercial development in the Harmon area.

Croton EMS members have cleaned, painted and furnished the building at their own expense and through donations. The Village Board authorized the purchase and installation of a new heater and hot water burner for \$7,470 to replace the existing units which were in need of potentially costly repairs.

The building will house the office and records of EMS and will also provide facilities for on-duty responders .



Veterans Day Ceremony

The Village of Croton Central Veterans Committee invites all residents to attend its 2009 Veterans Day ceremony on Wed., Nov. 11 at 11:00 am at the Veterans Memorial Plot at Veterans Corners (Cleveland Dr. at Old Post Rd. South).

November, 2009

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the Village of Croton-on-
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Got a Question?



Our family enjoys canoeing and kayaking - one of the pleasures of living in Croton. Since we do not have our own boat, we have to leave Croton to rent a kayak or canoe. Has the Village considered allowing such rentals to occur at sites along the Croton or Hudson Rivers?

The Village Board is considering allowing such a use and have recently been engaged in discussions with two such providers in the area. The Echo Boat Launch on the Croton River and Croton Landing on the Hudson are both considered possibilities.

There are many issues to consider in such a program including how to provide a place to keep kayaks and canoes in those location, fencing the storage location and security considerations.

The Board would also want to ensure that renters were knowledgeable about using kayaks and canoes and would like to also see an instructional aspect to this use. Trying to assess the number of potential users is

also important, especially at the Echo launch site, as the Croton River is heavily used in the summer months. The Board will be pursuing more information on these issues over the winter to determine if a kayak/canoe rental use might be possible in summer 2010.



Kayak rack at Croton Landing

For those who have kayaks already, there currently is a rack available at Croton Landing. The rack allows up to four kayaks to be mounted and locked in place while the kayaker is onshore. There is also a lockable storage compartment at each rack for paddles and gear. The rack was installed this summer as part of NYS Greenway support of the Quadricentennial celebration of Hudson's sail up the Hudson River.

Winter Field Closings

Fields will be closed for use for the winter season on or about November 14 until sometime in April.

