



The Croton-on-Hudson Village Newsletter

November 2003

Number 55

November Calendar

- 3 & 17 Village Board Mtg.
- 4 Election Day
- 11 Veterans Day
- 4 & 25 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 19 Visual Environment Bd.
- 5 Cons. Advisory Council
- 12 Zoning Board
- 19 Water Control Comm.
- 27 Thanksgiving Day

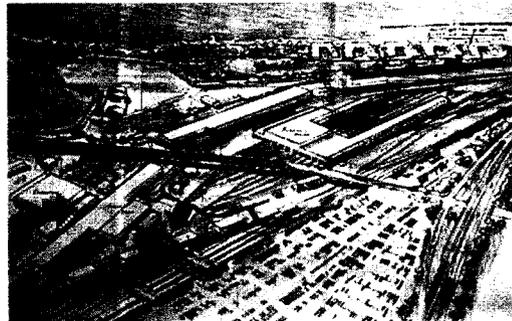
Metro North Improvements

Village Board members, along with the Village Manager and Engineer, recently met with Metro North representatives at the railroad station. The purpose of the on-site visit was to see the improvements made so far at the Metro North railroad yards as part of Metro North's 10-year, \$500+ million dollar program to upgrade its Croton facilities. To date about \$60 million has been spent on numerous improvements. A new pedestrian overpass has been constructed to the yard from the second floor of the station over which employees now get to and from the trains. Electric power has been brought up from Ossining with all the feeders buried underground at the station. Three structures have also been installed in the vicinity of the station which

viously, toilet clean-out required diesel engines to be moved to take them to the clean-out areas north of the current electric shop building. The presence of



these diesel engines was responsible for many noise complaints in the Village. The picture above shows some of over 100 clean-out stations that now exist along the tracks near the station. Each station is positioned to clean-out one car so all can be done without moving the train.



Future improvements will include the addition of a new electric shop south of the Croton Point Bridge. Both electric shops will be able to service entire trains without coupling or uncoupling. This is expected to reduce noise from the yards even further. The arrows on the diagram to the left show the area of the current and future improvements to the south of the bridge.

allow for trains to undergo wheel sanding, refueling and clean-out of their toilets. Pre-

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Fee Changes Adopted

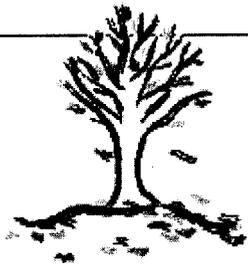
Until recently, fees and penalties imposed by the Village were actually written in the Village Code. To change a fee/penalty a Local Law had to be enacted—a costly and time-consuming way of doing this. Following a Public Hearing in October, the Trustees adopted a new Local Law for fees/penalties. The Code will now refer to a Resolution set by the Trustees rather than individual, specific fees/penalties. In

the future, the Board will be able to change fees/penalties by Resolution rather than amending the Code itself. At the same meeting, the Board adopted a Resolution setting forth the current fees in the form of a Master Fee Schedule. This schedule covers fees for Recreation, Public Works, Police Dept., Parking, Building, Planning, Zoning, Wetlands, Plumbing, Water, Licenses and Certificates.

cont'd. on p. 3



Fall Leaf Pick-Up



Starting at the end of October, the DPW will pick up loose leaves with vacuum trucks. Leaves should be raked to the curb but not into the street which is both a violation of the law and a safety hazard. Vacuuming will continue through the end of 2003. Beginning December 1, the DPW will begin the final vacuum leaf pick-up, going street to street. Once your street has been vacuumed after December 1, any remaining leaves you may have must be bagged in biodegradable paper bags only; no plastic bags will be picked up. Leaves packed in trash cans or boxes will also not be picked up and bagged leaves will not be picked up with the garbage.

Bagged leaf pick-up will be done on alternate weeks during November, December and January (if necessary). They will be picked up on Monday or Wednesday according to the following schedule:

North of Maple Street (Route 129)

Weeks of November 2nd & 16th

November 30th & December 14th

December 28th & January 11th (if necessary)

South of Maple Street (Route 129)

Weeks of November 9th & 23rd

December 7th & 21st

Jan. 4th & 18th (if necessary)

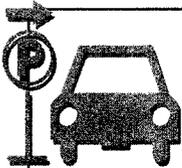
NOTE: There will be **NO** Leaf Pick-up the week of December 21 to 27, 2003.

OOPS! A Mistake Was Made.

You recently received a bright orange 2003-04 Garbage Holiday Schedule on which there is a mistake in Christmas week. The DPW is actually off on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 **NOT Dec. 24 & Dec. 25 as the schedule indicates.** Recycling, throughout the entire Village, will be collected on Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve.



Parking Changes in Local Plazas



Parking in the Van Wyck Shopping Center and at Croton Commons will soon be enforced by the Village as a result of agreements reached between the Village and the shopping center owners.

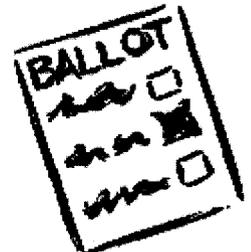
As a result of current over crowding at some locations due to unauthorized cars parking there, and in anticipation of increased parking needs with the opening of a new store, the parking lots will soon have signs limiting parking to 2 hours. In addition there will be designated parking spots for employees who will be issued permits for these spots. Permit parking for employees will also be allowed for more than 2 hours along the west side of South Riverside Ave. in the blocks north and south of Municipal Place. These changes should allow for more customer parking in the respective plaza parking lots.

November Polling Locations

Election Day is November 4th. Croton's 7 Election Districts will vote at the following locations:

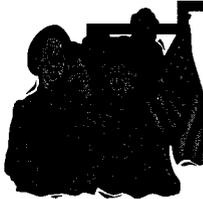
- District 6 at Washington Engine
- District 7 at Municipal Building
- District 8 at Grand St. Firehouse
- District 9 at C.E.T. School
- District 10 at Harmon Engine
- District 25 at Lutheran Church
- District 31 at Sky View Haven

Polls will be open from 6 AM to 9 PM.



Reminder!

The Village Offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 11 for Veterans Day and Thursday and Friday, November 27 & 28 for Thanksgiving.



Spotlight on Russ Harper

Lieutenant Russ Harper completed 23 years on the Croton Police force last month. Starting as a Patrol officer in 1980, Russ became a Sergeant in 1988 and then was promoted to Lieutenant in October 2002. In this position, Russ supervises the Patrol Division and is in charge of scheduling and training. He also oversees the Emergency Response team. As a Certified Accident Investigator he investigates car accidents where there are serious physical injuries or fatalities, prepares reports for the State, insurance companies and also court testimony.

One of the things that Russ likes about his job is the satisfaction of knowing, over the years, that he has been able to help residents when they needed it. Russ grew up in Croton and graduated from Croton's schools, before getting his Business degree from Pace University. He loves the Hudson River and Croton's "special qualities". With his wife, May, also a long-time Croton resident, they have lived here since their marriage and have raised their two daughters, Renee and Rose, and son, Russ Jr., here as well. In his free time, Russ and his wife are avid motorcyclists. They ride together to motorcycle conventions

throughout the country on his Harley-Davidson. Russ is also Chairman of the Tri-State Conference of the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club. With his daughter, he took a motorcycle trip to the Rockies and Yellowstone—a very memorable experience. He also enjoys playing the guitar and singing as well as boating on the Hudson River.

Russ wanted a career where he could assist people and feels the Croton Police has been a great opportunity for him, especially the friendships developed with his co-workers on the force.



*...been good to
...place to live
...family."*

Harper

Hudson River Walk

The Westchester County Planning Dept. has recently published a Hudson River Trailway Plan booklet. The trailway, called River Walk, will provide a continuous trailway along the entire Hudson River shoreline in Westchester County, spanning 46.6 miles from the Town of Cortlandt border in the north to the City of Yonkers border with New York City in the south. The County Planning Dept. coordinated the planning and implementation through the consortium of communities known as the Historic River Towns of Westchester (HRTW).

The entire River Walk, from north to south, consists of 29 segments. Several of these segments are already completed and available for use; others are in various stages of planning or implementation. Thirteen of the segments are located in the Village of Croton or in the Town of Cortlandt.

The booklet provides colored photographs of each segment along with details about the route of that trail segment, what it links to, agreements and easements that facilitated it, future proposed actions pertaining to the segment and any issues to be explored further. Segments 9 to 13 are in the Village of Croton:

Segment 9—Oscawana County Park to Croton Landing Park—1.0 miles.

Segment 10 -Croton Landing Park to Half Moon Bay Bridge—1.50 miles

Segment 11—Half Moon Bay to Croton Point Park—.6 miles

Segment 12—Croton Point Park Loop—3.0 miles

Segment 13—the Crossing from Croton Point Ave. to Route 9/North Highland Ave. in Ossining—1.25 miles

Over 7 miles of trailways in Croton are described. The booklet is available by emailing kdd4@westchestergov.com or calling 914-995-4418.

Fees, Cont'd.

Many fees remain the same (parking, recreation, public works) but some have increased, primarily in the Engineering Dept. These include fees for Building permits, excavation permits, subdivision and site plan fees, as examples. Fees for Zoning Amendments, special permits, wetlands permits, code violations and some Water Dept. fees will also increase. A complete schedule of fees is available on the Village's website.



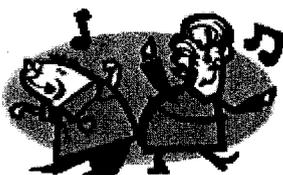
We're on the Web. Visit us at [Http://village-croton-on-hudson.ny.us/](http://village-croton-on-hudson.ny.us/)

Got a Question?



I turned 65 years old this past year and will be living on a relatively fixed income. I understand that I may be eligible for a Senior exemption which could reduce the taxes I pay to the Village. How can I get more information about this exemption?

The Senior tax exemption is available to Seniors who are property owners in the Village whose annual income does not exceed \$28,899.



Seniors earning less are entitled to an exemption, the amount of which is determined by the amount of their income. (The less an individual earns the greater the exemption is.)

There are also other exemptions available for Veterans, disabled persons and Fire Department personnel. For more information on the

Senior exemption and the others, you can stop by the Engineer's Office to pick up a handout with more detailed information and an application. You may also call the Engineer's Office at 271-4783. The filing deadline for the exemption application form and supporting documentation is December 31, 2003.

Gordon K. Cameron

In June of this year, Croton's first Village Manager, Gordon Cameron, passed away in Louisiana at the age of 78. Many long-time residents will remember that Mr. Cameron was first hired as Village Clerk in 1969 and then became the first Village Manager in October 1971 after a Village referendum approved the Village/Manager form of government. He remained Manager until 1981 when he was appointed executive director of the NYS Bridge Authority. He retired in 1985 and relocated with his wife to Baton Rouge where his children resided.

November 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. 111
Carrier Route
Pre-Sort
Yorktown Heights
New York 10598

Postal Patron

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520