

# The Croton-on-Hudson Village Newsletter

January 2004

Number 57

## January

### Calendar

- 1 New Year's Day
- 5 & 26 Village Board Mtg.
- 6 & 27 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 7 Cons. Advisory Council
- 14 Zoning Board
- 19 M. L. King Day
- 21 Water Control Comm.
- 21 Visual Environ. Bd.

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## The Year Behind - The Year Ahead

As a new year starts, Croton can look ahead to adding to the many accomplishments of the past year. Some, but not all, of the most noteworthy of these follow.

**Sidewalks**—Over 60 residents had sidewalks done under the 50/50 replacement program. New sidewalks and curbing were also completed on Maple at Olcott, and between Grand and Old Post Rd. S., and along Old Post Rd. N. between Lounsbury and Terrace Place.

Water line replacements in Harmon were designed and are ready to put out to bid to address aging pipes and brown water. Automated water meters were installed in more than 50% of properties to enable drive-by readings.

Sanitary sewer lines were relined on lower Grand St. using trenchless technology. Piggings of the line on Albany Post Rd. addressed a sewer odor problem there.

A village-wide drainage study was completed with focused recommendations for 3 key drainage areas. Federally mandated Stormwater Phase II regulations were developed.

Resurfacing was done on Sunset (bet. Lexington and Old Post S), the lower part of Prospect, the Silver Lake parking lot, some parking rows at the RR station, the boat ramp area on the Croton River; microsurfacing was done on Michaels Lane, Arlington, and Franklin.

Parks & Recreation established a program to place memorials in parks; the skatepark completed a full year of operation within budget; Silver Lake swimming was lengthened through Labor Day and plans for a bath house renovation were completed; Recreation brochures are now available on the website as are Youth and Middle School programs; successful, fully-

enrolled summer programs for Tiny Tots, Day Camp and basketball camps occurred; Duck Pond dredging was completed.

Website improvements were made to add subscriber lists and provide more information to residents.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) was improved to help Village Depts. keep data on all aspects of infrastructure, zoning, topography and tax information, in a form easily displayed, to aid in addressing questions of zoning, steep slopes, drainage, utility locations, etc.

Additionally, working with Metro North, the design for the new waterfront access road was completed and bid. A new trail segment at Discovery Cove was officially dedicated. With the Croton Housing Network, 4 affordable rental housing units were provided at Discovery Cove. The railroad tie removal and study project was completed in the Croton River. A new Comprehensive Plan was adopted to guide future land-use decisions. Harmon Engine acquired a new pumper.

### The Year Ahead

In 2004, Croton will be continuing many of these projects and moving ahead on new ones. Street resurfacing will continue on selected streets; the sidewalk and curb replacement program will continue as many residents have availed themselves of this 50/50 opportunity. The water line replacement in Harmon will be bid and the work done. Required work under the Stormwater Phase II regulations will begin with a closed circuit survey of lines in Brook, Grand, Harrison and High Streets.

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## Old Post Rd. North



OPRN and Lounsbury

Lounsbury Rd. Much of this block had no sidewalks. This area was identified as a priority area by School and Village officials as being unsafe for school children walking to school from this area.



OPRN from N. Highland

## 2004—The Year Ahead cont'd.

The existing radio building on Glengary Rd. will be demolished and a new one built.

At Silver Lake, it's anticipated that the bath house will be renovated and the stairs to the beach will be re-done.

The basement in the Municipal Building will be renovated to accommodate the Youth and Middle School programs.

Automated water meter installation will be completed.

The GIS information about Croton will be made accessible to residents through the Village website.

Acquisition of 2 garbage trucks and an ambulance is anticipated.

Dredging of the Yacht Club basin, if approved, will enable the creation of a new lawn/field at Croton Landing.

This list of projects for 2004 highlights special projects, but the regular work of the village in providing all Croton's services will continue to be the focus of the employees.

## Cablevision Renewal



The Village has renewed its franchise agreement with Cablevision for a term of 11 years. As part of this agreement, Cablevision will pay the village 3% of its gross receipts for the preceding year. Cablevision also provides the village with Public, Governmental and Educational access feeds. In addition, a \$10,000 grant will be made to the Village to be used for any telecommunications purpose.

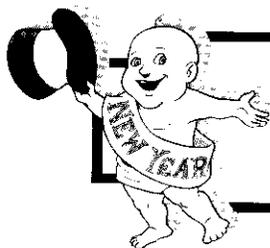
Village Board meetings are regularly broadcast on channel 78, the Government Access Channel.

## Lawsuit over Peekskill Permits



Croton joined the Towns of Cortlandt, Yorktown, Ossining and the Village of Buchanan in fighting the imposition of a \$250/truck permit fee by Peekskill. Enforcement of this permit against waste-hauling trucks resulted in some of Croton's sanitation trucks being pulled over and ticketed. Since conviction could result in Croton's truck drivers getting points on their Commercial licenses, the Village immediately purchased 4 permits. At the same time, however, Croton joined with the other municipalities in fighting the Peekskill action. Cortlandt Town Attorney Thomas Wood, representing the group, was successful in getting an injunction granted from the Supreme Court in White Plains against Peekskill, preventing further permit enforcement and ticketing. If Peekskill is unsuccessful in defending its practice, the fees will be returned.

The group of municipalities are arguing that Peekskill's action is meant to be a revenue source for the City, is inconsistent with inter-municipal cooperation and is unconstitutional.



## Reminder!

The Village Offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1 for New Year's Day and Monday, January 19 for Martin Luther King Day.



## Spotlight on Rudy Fasciani

Rudy Fasciani has had a long career with the Village starting over 25 years ago in 1978. He began work at the old sewage treatment plant when it was being phased out, then spent 20 years in the DPW and, since 2000, has been a Skilled Laborer with the Parks & Recreation Dept.

Rudy's responsibilities include park maintenance, inspecting, and sometimes fixing, park equipment and amenities. Special events such as Summerfest and the Concert series require preparing parade routes, setting up barricades, extra trash removal, and returning everything to

normal at the end. As a Recreation Dept. employee he is involved in setting up the Community Room for the weekly Senior Citizen meetings, meeting the needs of the summer Day camps, keeping Silver Lake, the Duck Pond and the Skatepark in good shape.

Holiday decorating and spring planting are particularly enjoyable for Rudy who loves gardening.

At the age of 1, Rudy moved to Croton resident, graduated from Croton's schools and he still resides here. One of the things he likes about his job is that it connects him with both the newer, and younger, residents and also the many long-time residents he

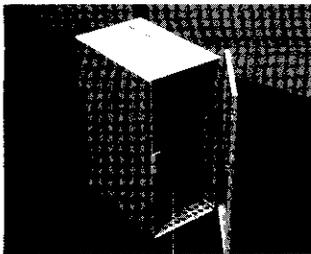
knows from his years of living here.

Rudy's love for the Croton area is reflected in how he spends his free time. He delivers care packages for the Croton Caring Committee, is a Teatown member and volunteer, and enjoys walking the Village Trails. Although he doesn't do much fishing here anymore, he remembers fishing as a teenager in the Croton River for herring and shad. Now he spends more of his time tending a large vegetable garden. He also looks forward to a two-week vacation every year at Chincoteague Island, VA where he has gone for 15 years to surf fish and relax.



*"I like the fact that my job keeps me in touch with Croton residents."*

*Rudy Fasciani*



This Spring you may notice some bright yellow boxes attached to hydrants around the Village. Croton's Water Dept. has recently purchased 3 auto-

matic hydrant flushers. Tom Brann, Croton's Water Foreman, says that these hydrant flushers will be moved around to spots in the Village as needed. Primarily, these will be areas of dead end water mains and any other areas with brown water problems.

Areas on dead end water lines are more likely to have brown water problems due to a lack of flow. Many of the Village's water mains are very old and a lack of flow allows corrosion to take place and rust to accumulate, causing brown water to come from some residents' faucets. The automatic hydrant flushers attach to existing hydrants and, when operating, flush out the rust and minerals that accumulate.

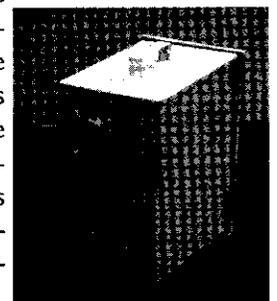
The automatic hydrant flushers are in a locked box of about 1 1/2 ft. by 1 ft. dimensions. Inside is a simple sprinkler valve. The volume of water that is discharged can be adjusted. There is also a timer to

## HYDRANT FLUSHERS

program when, how often, and how long it will operate on a daily basis. For example, a hydrant flusher might be programmed to flush at 2 am for 2 hours at a specific gallon/minute rate. The bottom of the box is an open grid which allows the water to discharge into the street.

The hydrant flushers cannot be used in freezing temperatures so their first use will occur when the temperatures moderate in the spring. Most problems with brown water occur in the warmer months, according to Mr. Brann.

It is expected that use of these hydrant flushers will help minimize the problem while the Village moves ahead with its long-range plans to replace aging water mains in the sections of Croton in which this problem is most severe. Water main replacement is expected to begin later this year.



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?



**My family are avid ice skaters. We have enjoyed skating at the Duck Pond in the past but in recent years it has not been open much even when the weather was cold. What governs whether it is open and does the Village plan on allowing skating this winter?**

A long period of cold weather is the primary factor in determining if there will be Duck Pond Skating this year. According to Susan Menz, Parks & Recreation Superintendent, the County requires there to be at least 6" of ice measured at several locations in the pond. When these two conditions are met, the Duck Pond will be open for skating. A green flag flying at the pond signifies that it is okay to skate; a red flag means NO skating permitted. There are no attendants at the Duck Pond so skating is at your own risk.



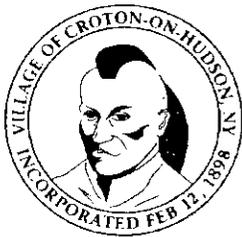
When skating is permitted, Ms. Menz emphasizes that you should never skate alone. Although the ice is checked for thickness, it is not foolproof and might be thinner in some unchecked place. The Duck Pond was dredged last year which may result in better freezing for skating, but it also means that the water is much deeper under the ice. Parental supervision is urged.

When the ice is thick enough, snow will be removed by the Parks and Recreation Dept. to facilitate skating.

### **Congratulations to Mary Santella**

Congratulations to resident Mary Santella. Mrs. Santella was inducted into the Westchester Hall of Fame for Seniors at a luncheon in December. Mary's husband, Benny, was previously inducted a few years ago. The Hall of Fame honors Seniors who are active volunteers in their community. It is sponsored by the Westchester County Dept. of Sr. Programs and Services.

January 2004



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

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