



February Calendar

- 1 & 16** Village Board Mtg.
- 16** **Grievance Day**
- 9 & 23** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 3** Cons. Advisory Council
- 9** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 10** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 15** **Presidents Day**
- 17** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 24** Trails Committee

Grievance Day	2
Winter Break Programs	2
Chiefs Installed	2
Employee Spotlight	3
Federal Parking Lot \$\$\$	3
EagleFest Reminder	3
Webcam at Echo Launch	3
Got a Question?	4

Recycling in Croton, Why It Matters



Recycling is important to Croton residents for health, environmental and financial reasons. The Village is committed to making recycling easy and efficient. Croton is also committed to enforcing recycling regulations.

Every week on Thursday and Friday, the Village picks up recyclable items - commingled items of glass and metal containers, and plastics with 1 or 2 on the bottom. Separately, paper and corrugated cardboard are picked up on the same day. On a published schedule, yard waste and leaves are also picked up. Every resident has received a schedule of collections from the DPW for the 2010 year. The back of this schedule has a detailed list of the proper disposal of all types of waste. If you have misplaced your copy, call DPW at 271-3775 for another copy.

Recycling is the law in NYS and Westchester County. DPW crews are directed not to collect any recyclables with household garbage which is collected on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Separating your recyclables saves the Village a lot of money which ultimately reduces costs for every property taxpayer. It costs \$25./ton to dispose of our solid waste but recyclables are disposed of free of charge. So every ton that is removed from the garbage stream saves the Village \$25. In 2008, Croton had 4,104.61 tons of solid waste - over \$100,000 of disposal costs. Maximizing our recyclables can greatly reduce this cost. Yard waste, when taken out of the solid waste stream, saves the Village an additional \$10/ton.

There are many items which are not picked up by the DPW but which are important to recycle. Hazardous house-

hold chemicals including antifreeze, petroleum products, pesticides and herbicides and drugs should not be thrown in the garbage or poured down a sink or drain. These items should be taken to the County Household Chemical Cleanup Day or recycled by a business qualified to handle them. It is illegal in the County to dispose of all phones in the regular garbage. Phones can be dropped off at the Municipal Building, the Library and at ShopRite. While AA, AAA, C and D cell batteries can be disposed of in the garbage, removing them from the waste stream saves money and eliminates any small amount of mercury they may contain. Any kind of rechargeable battery, or auto and marine batteries, should be disposed of properly either by the County or an auto repair shop. Compact Fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) also contain a small amount of mercury. Although allowed in the garbage stream, they are best disposed of at a County Recycling Day or at any Home Depot or IKEA. Computers, monitors, stereos, and other "e-waste" can be taken to County Recycling Days. These, as well as metals, can also be picked up by the DPW by pre-arrangement. Call 271-3775.

Prescription drugs should never be flushed down a drain or put in your garbage. Return unused drugs to your pharmacy. Save-Mor will accept all regardless of where they were filled. Needles and syringes also need proper disposal. They should never be included in garbage. Local hospitals and many doctors will accept these items for proper disposal.

What's next for recycling in Croton? While household recycling is becoming the norm, other entities, such as businesses and multi-family dwellings, still need to do a better job complying with the mandatory standards.

Winter Break Programs

Two great Winter Break programs are being offered by the Recreation Dept. on Feb. 16 and 17, respectively. The all-day, 9 am to 3 pm, programs in the Municipal Building Community Room are science oriented and aimed at students in grades 2 to 6. Registrations for both are open until Feb. 12th or until the program is filled.

Super Science Program “Robotics 2010”

lets students enter the world of robotic engineering with a program of exploring, designing and building robots. Students robots will be built to meet a wide array of interesting challenges.



Super Science Program “Building Big: Bridges, Towers and Famous Structures”

This course is designed to bring out the engineer in students. The program will focus on the architecture and design of large and famous structures throughout the world using Lego and K’NEX.



The fee for each program is \$65/res. and \$78/non-res. Please note that the fee printed in the Recreation Program

booklet is incorrectly stated for the latter program.

All students must bring a snack and lunch as they will not be permitted to leave during the day.

A new program, **Be-Tweeners**, for ages 45-59, on Sat. afternoons, is starting Feb. 13th, 3 - 6 pm, in the Community Room. Socializing will be the focus with movies, karaoke, crafts, etc. It is free but registration is required.

Fire and EMS Chiefs Installed

EMS Chief, Gary Diggs, was installed to his second one-year term as EMS Chief at a breakfast ceremony on Jan. 2. 1st Lt. James Ferguson and 2nd Lt. John Delaney were also installed. The first annual Executive Officer’s Award was presented to long-time volunteer and ambulance driver, Charlie O’Connor.

At an evening ceremony on Jan. 3, Croton’s Volunteer Fire Dept. installed their new executive officers. Phil Dinkler was sworn in by Mayor Wiegman as the new Chief. Mr. Dinkler takes over from Chief Art Roosa. John Munson was sworn in as 1st Ass’t. Chief and Bill Vlad assumed the 2nd Ass’t. Chief position. The positions are for two years.

Thank you and congratulations to all the volunteers who serve Croton residents in fire and emergency medical services.

Recycling Cont’d.

You can help make this happen by letting the people know that this is important to you. For its part, the Village DPW will make every effort to restrict its garbage pickup to only those items allowed - no recyclables. More recycling bins will also be made available at locations throughout the Village.

Also under consideration is a draft local law presented by the Croton Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) which would give the Village the option of expanding the list of recyclables beyond the NYS list and prohibit disposal of some items. Some municipalities throughout Westchester have adopted their own recycling laws to enable these prohibitions and expand their recyclables as well as enabling stricter enforcement authority. The Village Board will be reviewing the proposed law with the CAC in the coming months.

Tax Grievance Day

Village residents who believe their property assessment is incorrect, may ask for it to be reviewed and reduced at a once-a-year meeting known as Grievance Day. This is known as ‘grieving’ your taxes.

In Croton, the Board of Trustees acts as the Board of Assessors on Grievance Day. They are required by law to meet annually to consider the applications of property owners who feel their assessment is incorrect. This year Grievance Day is Tuesday, February 16. The Board will be available to review applications for a change in property tax assessments from 4 pm to 8 pm at the Municipal Building.

For a residential property owner to understand what their assessment represents in terms of market value, take their assessment value and divide it by the residential assessment ratio. This will yield the market value. As an example, an assessment of \$15,000 divided by the ratio of .032 will result in a market value of \$468,750. Doing this calculation may help in deciding whether to file a grievance to obtain a lower assessment.

Applications must be completed and filed with the Assessor, Joe Sperber, prior to 4 pm on the day of the hearing. Applications and further information are available in the Village Engineer’s office. For further information, you may call the office at 271-4783.



Reminder!
Village Offices will be closed Mon., Feb. 15 for
Presidents Day!



Employee Spotlight on Jason Gordineer



The next time you come to the Municipal Building, look for Jason Gordineer. As of December 30, 2009, Jason has taken over as the Municipal Building Caretaker following the retirement of long-time Caretaker, Evaristo Urbino.

As Caretaker of the Village's primary office building, Jason is in charge of its cleaning and general maintenance. Each day this involves office cleaning, vacuuming and floor polishing, and waste removal, checking the heating oil supply and furnace operations, and changing lights as needed. He also sets up rooms for meetings of the many boards and committees using the building and restores them after meetings are over. In bad weather, Jason frequently must maintain the stairways to avoid slippery conditions. He shovels and salts the building's outdoor entrances, arriving early, before the building opens, if it snows overnight. Recycling office waste is another aspect of Jason's job, separ-

ating all the office cardboard, paper and bottles into the appropriate dumpster.

Jason grew up and attended school in Ossining until his graduation in 1995. For the past 10 years, he has been employed with a local landscaping firm. In this capacity, he worked at the homes of many Croton residents and feels he knows Croton quite well. He hopes to run into some of his former customers who come into the building. Jason also hopes to use his landscaping expertise on the shrubbery and plants outside the Municipal Building during the spring and summer. One of the reasons Jason was attracted to his current job, is that it is steady as opposed to seasonal and he feels it holds a stable future. He thinks Croton is a "nice village" and he finds the people who work in the building "very pleasant."

Currently, Jason lives in Wappingers Falls from which he commutes on a daily basis. He and his fiancé, Jessica, are engaged to be married in Sept.

2011. In high school, Jason played both football and basketball. While he no longer plays, he enjoys teaching his son, Jason Jr., the fundamentals of the games. He also enjoys working out on the treadmill and

weight lifting in his spare time. Watching professional football and baseball is also one of his favorite ways of relaxing. He is a big Yankee baseball fan and a long-time San Francisco 49'ers football fan since being inspired by Joe Montana. His pick for the SuperBowl this year is the San Diego Chargers over the Dallas Cowboys! Be sure to congratulate him if he is right!

"Having responsibility for the Municipal Building is definitely very motivating for me."

Jason Gordineer

Parking Lot Gets Federal \$\$\$

Congressman John Hall announced on January 4 that he had secured an appropriation of \$750,000 to be used for the Croton Station Parking Lot Improvement project. The appropriation, not part of stimulus money, was passed in December by the U.S. Congress.

Work on the parking lot project, intended to mitigate flooding conditions in some sections of the lot, was completed in December 2009. The expected cost of the project is three and half million dollars. Funding for the project was approved in February, 2009 with Board approval of a \$3,000,000 bond. The Federal funds, announced by Congressman Hall, will be applied to either an early payback of part of the borrowed money or towards reducing annual interest and principal payments in the future. The best option for using it is being studied by the Treasurer.

The parking lot at the rail station is the single largest source of revenue for the Village outside of property taxes. Net revenue of almost \$2 million dollars directly reduces the amount that must be raised by taxes. The Village is studying how to maximize the parking lots' use in the future. Tim Haahs Associates has been hired to perform this study.

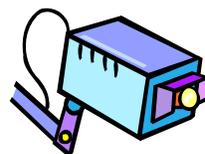
EagleFest Reminder



Teatown Reservation's 6th annual EagleFest will be held on Sat., Feb. 6 (rain date, Feb. 7) from 8 am to 4 pm.

The headquarters, in heated tents, is in Croton Point Park where exhibits and shows will be ongoing throughout the day. One of the many viewing sites, also in Croton, is at the Echo Boat Launch area at the south end of the railroad station parking lot beyond the salt shed. Go to <http://teatown.org/eaglefest.htm> for all the details on the events and times.

Webcam Up and Running!



A webcam donated to the School District by Canon USA and installed by the Village will bring "real-time" views of the Croton and Hudson Rivers from its location at the Village's Echo Canoe launch location. Viewers will be able to zoom in and focus on birds, wildlife, weather conditions, etc. by going to the Village website. It is expected to be available in time for EagleFest. The webcam project was facilitated by local resident Mitch Bring.

February, 2010

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT NO 111

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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor
Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee
Ian Murtaugh, Trustee
Richard B. Olver, Trustee
Demetra Restuccia, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2
www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Got a Question?



As a Village resident, I know my property taxes actually go to multiple entities. Since I maintain an escrow account for tax payments, I don't actually see the bills but I would like to know the breakdown of where my tax payments are distributed.

The property taxes each Village resident pays during the year are distributed to four entities - the School District, the Village, the Town and the County.

The amount of your School, Town and County tax bill is based upon the Town's assessment of your property value. Your Village tax bill is based on the Village's assessment of your property. Village taxes are the second largest component of your yearly taxes, with the School taxes being first and the County and Town taxes representing smaller portions.

Regardless of whether you pay your taxes through an escrow account or on your own, your property taxes are owed at four different times during the year. Your Village tax bill covers the period of June 1 to May 31 - Croton's fiscal year. The bill is sent out in late May, is

due June 1, and payable by June 30. It is paid to the Village of Croton-on-Hudson.



School taxes, based on the Town assessment, are payable in two installments. The first half is due Sept. 1, payable by September 30, and covers the period from September to December. The second installment, due January 1, is payable by January 31 and covers the

period of January through August. The School tax bill is paid to the Town of Cortlandt Tax Receiver as are your Town and County taxes. Your Town and County taxes are combined on the same bill, due April 1 and payable by April 30th. It covers the period of April 1 to March 31 - the Town and County's fiscal years. The combined tax bill is payable to the Town Tax Receiver. The Town then pays the County the amount owed. The Village Tax Office is in the Municipal Building at 1 Van Wyck St. and reachable at 271-4781. The Town Tax Office is located at 1 Heady St., Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567 and is reachable at 734-1030.