



December Calendar

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- 11 Rec. Advisory Bd.
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The Aftermath of Sandy

When the storm named Sandy was predicted to arrive on Monday, Oct. 29, Croton's emergency management team started meeting on Thursday, October 25th to prepare. Continuing through the weekend, as the predictions became both more exact and more dire, plans were laid to prepare for the aftermath.

DPW and Police vehicles were fueled up and moved to safe locations, park closures were announced and barricaded, rail station parking permit holders



Water reached 18" in the DPW Garage

were notified of the closure of the lots and Connect-CTY calls were begun on a twice daily basis to keep residents informed.

By the time Sandy left the area on Tuesday afternoon, roads were closed, severe flooding occurred in multiple locations, trees were downed, residences were damaged, and the majority of residents were left without power.

Over the next twelve days, the Village worked with Con Ed to return power, clear downed trees and open roads. Like residents with property damage, the Village also began its own assessment of municipal damage.

Just a little over a year ago in August 2011, Hurricane Irene left the Village with significant damage expenses and the lengthy process of working out the details of reimbursement from FEMA. While the Hurricane Irene process remains underway, the Village immediately began the lengthy documentation process for Sandy even as the storm was occurring.

During the height of Sandy, the Village's DPW garage had 18 inches of water in it. While vehicles are now able to work out of the garage again, there is damage to the building, its repair equipment and its offices. Office operations are currently and indefinitely disbursed to other locations including the Municipal Building and the Harmon Fire House.



Parking lot flooding destroyed payment machines

Three of the six parking payment machines at the rail station parking lot were submerged and destroyed. A boat damaged the comfort station at Croton Landing Park when it was washed against it in the storm surge. Clean up and repair costs overall will be significant and have yet to be tallied. Still, the Village survived better than many because of its emergency planning and preparation.

As President Obama declared Westchester a disaster area, government resources are available to both municipal governments and to qualifying residents with damage. For residents, low interest loans for repairs may also be available through the Small Business Administration (SBA). Assistance with applications can be found at the County's Disaster Recovery Center which was set up on Nov. 8 at the County Center Building at 198 Central Ave. in White Plains. Representatives from FEMA, SBA, the County, and ConEd are there daily.

The first step is to register with FEMA at www.disasterassistance.gov or calling 1-800-621-3362. The Disaster Recovery Center currently plans to remain open indefinitely.

Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

Croton's Central Veterans Committee will be hosting the annual Pearl Harbor Day ceremony this year. It is held in Croton on a rotating schedule with the Town of Cortlandt and Village of Buchanan.

The ceremony will be in the Community Room of the Municipal Building on Friday, December 7 at 5 pm.

All are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.



Tree Lighting & Holiday Boutique

The Village Recreation and Parks Dept. and the Croton Business Council are joining together to provide another enjoyable event at Vassallo Park for our residents. The festivities are scheduled for Saturday, December 1 in the Upper Village and at Vassallo Park. Merchants will be open for shopping and eating opportunities. You can bring a homemade ornament and add it to the tree located at Groovy on Grand at 4 pm. The Village lighting festivities will begin at 5 pm in Vassallo Park with light refreshments, caroling and a real Toy Soldier. The tree lighting is scheduled for 6 pm. Plan on joining your friends and neighbors in shopping, eating and getting into the holiday spirit throughout the Upper Village! (Rain date is Friday, December 7.)

The Village and Business Council are also collaborating on decorating small trees in barrels in commercial areas of the Village. The trees are provided and planted by the Village. The Business Council is requesting businesses to decorate them. Trees not adopted by a business will be offered to non-profits. Contact Bob Armani at feedthebirds@optonline.net or Gabe Bolvin at gabe@grouchygabs.com for information on decorating one of the trees.



Menorah Lighting

The Village's Menorah will have its first candle lit on Saturday, December 8 at sunset. Candle lighting will continue on subsequent nights until the end of Hanukkah. The Menorah will be located at the corner of Benedict Blvd. and South Riverside.

Shanesy & Seitz Enter Hall of Fame

Croton residents, Carol Shanesy and Laura Seitz have been selected to be in the Westchester County 2012 Senior Hall of Fame. Ms. Shanesy was nominated by the Village of Croton and Ms. Seitz was nominated by Assemblywoman Sandy Galef.

Ms. Shanesy and Ms. Seitz are both long-time board members of the Croton Housing Network and the Jane Lytle Arboretum. Both also serve as election inspectors at local polls.

Ms. Shanesy, a former IBM employee and Croton resident since 1993, has been Treasurer of the Arboretum and was a former Treasurer of the Croton Caring Committee. She also is a coordinator for the semi-annual Croton Community Blood Bank.

Ms. Seitz, a retired teacher in the Croton schools, co-chairs the annual Garden Tour for the Arboretum. She is active in the Vestry at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church where she organizes and cooks for their participation in a free-dinner program in Peekskill. Ms. Seitz also co-authored *Before the Throne of Grace*, a history of an evangelical family in the early Republic and is working on another related to Croton's history.

The 30th Annual Hall of Fame Recognition luncheon at which Ms. Shanesy and Ms. Seitz will be inducted will be held on Monday, Dec. 3 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown.

Water Bills



Semi-annual utility bills will be sent out on December 15 and are payable January 15, 2013. The water rate is \$5.025 per cubic feet of usage. The sewer rate is \$0.4759 per cubic feet of water consumption. The bill includes both the water and sewer fee.

After January 15, 2013 penalties apply on a monthly basis.

85th Blood Drive Reminder!

The 85th semi-annual Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, December 2 at Croton-Harmon High School from 9 am to 3 pm. For an appointment or more information, please call 271-7645 or 271-8449 or email communityblood-drive@gmail.com





Letters to Santa

Mailboxes for sending letters directly to Santa at the North Pole without postage will be placed at the Municipal Building and at Save Mor drug-store in Croton Commons. Letters to Santa received from December 1 through December 10 are guaranteed to receive a response. After that, Santa and his elves get pretty busy. You must include your name and address to receive a response.

Snow Removal

Keeping our streets, sidewalks and hydrants cleared of snow helps keep the Village as safe as possible when winter conditions occur. Clearing sidewalks of snow and ice is the responsibility of the residents of the adjacent homes. Help from residents in clearing snow from around fire hydrants is appreciated as well. Snow and ice must be removed within 18 hours after snow ends. Commercial establishments are required to keep their adjacent sidewalks clear between 9 am and 5 pm. If your street has already been plowed, please do not push, shovel or blow snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the plowed street. Doing so is a safety hazard and also a violation.

Seasonal Parking Permits

Parking on streets in the Village is prohibited when snowfall accumulates to 2 inches or more. This restriction allows the DPW to properly plow the streets. Residents who can demonstrate they have no feasible on-site parking available to them, may obtain a Seasonal Overnight Parking Permit from the Village Office. Fees for Seasonal Permits vary from \$25 to \$100 depending upon the number of available on-site spaces at the residence and number of permits needed.

Vehicles with these permits, however, must still remove the vehicles from the street no later than 12 hours after the snow ends. The same time frame also applies to cars parked in the Village-controlled parking lots at Asbury Methodist Church, behind Holy Name of Mary Church, the west end of Benedict Blvd., and the Municipal Building. Parking is also restricted on certain streets as follows:

- North side of Grand St. between Old Post Rd. North and Riverside Ave.
- Both sides of Benedict Blvd., Maple St., and Croton Point Ave.
- East side of Riverside Ave. between Brook St. and High St.
- East side of Old Post Rd. South (high school side) between Maple St. and Cleveland Drive

Sign Up For Notifications

The recent storm emergency after Hurricane Sandy made it clear how important it is to be able to get accurate and up-to-date information. Calls and emails from the Emergency Operations staff were sent out twice a day during the event to those who had signed up for the Village's Emergency Call and Email Notification Service. Unfortunately, some who had signed up were still unable to receive them because they lost their phone service and had not included their cellular phone numbers or emails in their registration. Many were able to receive the email notifications when they took their laptops to locations with power and WiFi availability.



The Village urges everyone to sign up for these notifications and provide as many numbers or email addresses for notification as possible to ensure that the important information regarding emergencies, street closings, power outages, water shut-offs and other quality of life issues is received in a timely way.

You can sign up or update your contact information from the Village's website. On the upper right side of the Home Page, click on Subscribe to News. Scroll down to the instructions written in red, click on the highlighted link, and follow the directions for enrolling in the program.

Alternatively, if you do not have computer access, please send a letter requesting your phone numbers (land line and cell) be added to the Emergency Notification Service to Ass't. Village Manager Janine King, 1 Van Wyck St., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 and be sure to include your name and address.

Tax Assessment Exemptions

Residents can apply for property tax exemptions if they are income-qualified seniors, have disabilities, are volunteer fire personnel or are armed services veterans. Applications for property tax exemptions must be made at the Village engineering Office in the Municipal Building no later than Monday, December 31.

Allowable income levels for partial real estate exemptions are set by New York State for persons age 65 years or older.. Exemption percentages vary from 5% on a total income range of \$36,500 to \$37,399 and up to 50% on a total income of less than \$29,000.

Veteran exemptions vary according to the time period served, disabilities, etc. Property tax assessment reductions are now available to veterans who served during the Cold War periods. This exemption is limited to 10 years in duration. Questions may be directed to Joe Sperber, Village Assessor, at 271-4783.

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

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Building Permit Fee Waivers

At the recommendation of the Village Engineer, following Hurricane Sandy, the Village Board approved a temporary waiver of Building Permit fees for repairs that are directly attributable to damage caused by the storm.



Applications must be made for such Building Permits by August 5, 2013 and the Village Engineer must certify that the proposed repairs are due to storm damage from Sandy.

Tree Disposal

The DPW will pick up discarded Christmas trees during the first 2 weeks of January. Trees should not have any trimmings, tinsel or wire and not be in bags.

The DPW will also continue to pick up branches and debris from Hurricane Sandy in the coming weeks as time permits. Leaf pick up will also continue with the schedule published weekly on the Village web-site.

Winter Break Recreation Programs

Two special programs are available for students in grades 2 to 6 over the Winter holiday school break.

ROBOTICS 2012, a favorite from prior years, is offered on Thursday, Dec. 27 from 9 am to 3 pm. Participants will use their imagination to construct a complex Battle-Bot robot from a huge modular ROBOTIX collection. Everyone will take home a robot.



LEGO NINJAGO, HEROES, STARWARS & MORE. Everyone who likes building LEGOs is going to enjoy this program. Participants get to choose from a huge selection of LEGOs. Themes include Heroes, Ninjago, Star Wars, Architecture and more. Everyone takes home a LEGO project.



The signup deadline for both programs is December 21. The fee is \$75 res./\$90 nonres. Participants must bring their own lunch.

Got a Question?



As recent residents of Croton, we enjoy the Hudson Riverfront immensely. We know that the waterfront access road, Elliott Way, is a fairly recent improvement. Can you tell us about its history?

Just eight years ago in November 2004, the Hudson Riverfront road, now called Elliott Way, was completed and opened along with its adjacent pedestrian and bicycle path. For most residents, even old-timers, it seems like it was



Clearing in July 2003

always there.

The road which offers spectacular views of the river was built at a cost of approximately \$4.2 million. Its funding came from Metro North, the NYS Dept. of Transportation, and Federal Intermodal



Under Construction

Transportation money. Metro North also contracted the design and engineering work.

By acquiring the Half Moon Bay bridge to serve as the entrance to the waterfront, the Village made the creation of the road possible.

Previously there were two ways to reach Senasqua Park and the Yacht Club and the newly acquired parkland which is now Croton Landing. In fact, it was the NYDOT's effort to eliminate railroad at-grade crossings such as existed at the Brook St. crossing by the Yacht Club, that brought about the entire riverfront road project. With the opening of the road, that crossing was permanently closed. Additionally,



Expanded Pedestrian/Bike Tunnel



cars could access the riverfront through a one-lane tunnel at the west end of Municipal Place. The current Elliott Way now passes over that tunnel. The tunnel, which is sometimes referred to as the "picture tunnel" because of the view it frames as you pass through it going west, is now open for bicycle and pedestrian traffic only.