



### March Calendar

- 3 & 17** Village Board Mtg.
- 11 & 25** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 12** Zoning Board Mtg.
- 4** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 5** Cons. Adv. Comm.
- 11** Rec. Advisory Bd.
- 19** Visual Envir. Board.
- 26** Trails Comm.

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## Water Infrastructure Update

Plans for the water infrastructure improvements in the Harmon area and the Wolf Rd./Cook Lane areas received final approval from the Westchester County Board of Health as of early February. The Harmon area includes the neighborhoods from Cleveland Drive to the Croton River. It also has been expanded to include both Munson and Loconto Streets. Homes in these areas have been subject to brown water problems for several years. The completion of this water infrastructure should result in substantial improvement in brown water occurrences for these homes.

The infrastructure project for both of these areas calls for the cement lining of approximately 22,000 linear feet (4.2 miles) of existing water mains. Additionally 6670 linear feet (1.25 miles) of new water mains will be installed. The new water mains will create new loops in the distribution system where existing water lines currently reach a dead end. These new lines will also improve the fire flow where existing lines are under-sized.

New fire hydrants (45) and water line valves (133) are also part of the approved plan.

WSP Sells, the Village's engineering contractor for the project, has reviewed the final technical specifications and prepared the bid sheet in preparation for putting the entire project out to bid in early March. The bid period is 30 days after which the returned bids will undergo review for their completeness in meeting the bid specifications. It is anticipated that a contract for the work will be awarded in April with work beginning in May. The selected contractor will work with Village officials to establish a work plan and schedule. The schedule will pinpoint where work will begin and how it will progress, neighborhood by neighbor-

hood. As each neighborhood is addressed, and prior to replacing or relining the water lines, temporary water mains must be installed above ground and individual connections made to each house. Access to each home will be necessary to turn off the existing connection and connect with the temporary line. The reverse will happen as the work is completed.



The Village will hold an informational meeting with all affected homeowners prior to the scheduled work. During this meeting, homeowners will learn more about the timing and specific details as it applies to them.

During this period, many residents may wish to take the opportunity to upgrade the lines from their homes to the new or cement-lined Village water mains. The Village will facilitate a program to enable residents to participate in such an upgrade with the expectation that the aggregation of multiple homeowners doing this will result in a lower cost to each of them than would otherwise be the case.

Work on the project is expected to continue through 2015. Cement relining of existing water pipes will not occur over the winter months as above-ground temporary water lines are impractical at that time. The installation of new water lines, however, can continue during the winter months.

The estimated cost of the entire project is \$4,415,898.30 which will be funded through bonding and paid through the Water Fund.

## Green Living Series for March

The Croton Conservation Advisory Council continues its Green Living Series of lectures on Tuesday, March 18 at the Croton Free Library.



50 Beautiful Deer Resistant Plants will be the subject of the presentation by Ruth Clausen, Award-Winning Garden Writer and Horticultural Expert. Ms. Clausen's latest book,

subtitled: *The Prettiest Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs and Shrubs That Deer Don't Eat*, is a handbook and guide for gardeners who live in deer country.

The program will run from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

## Historian's Annual Report

Dorothy Pezanowski, the Village Historian, recently submitted her annual report to the Board of Trustees. The Village Historian is officially appointed each year by the Mayor. A law passed by the NYS Legislature in 1919 required each city, town and village to designate a historian. The Croton Historical Society, a group of local volunteers, supports the Historian in obtaining, cataloging and providing information on the history of the Village.

Ms. Pezanowski describes a regular flow of questions by email, phone and personal visits over the course of 2013. Most questions involve information on ancestors or a particular house. In addition, many questions are received about Croton Dam, Croton Point, the brickyards, Underhill winery and local Indians.

The Historian and Historical Society mounted the Croton Postcard exhibit in 2013, featuring postcards about Croton. It is ongoing and can be viewed in the first floor hallway of the Municipal Building.

Ms. Pezanowski presents an interesting aspect of how preserving Croton's past is an ongoing effort. Many past efforts to utilize what was, at the time, "state of the art" technology to preserve information, have since proved to not be as long-lived as was anticipated. As a result information that was preserved on microfilm and/or VHS tapes in past years are now being converted to CDs and hard drives.

For a brief synopsis of Croton's history, search on 'croton history' from the Home page of the Village website.

## Where Does All the Snow Go?

Even with Spring right around the corner, there are still plenty of reminders in the village of one of the snowiest winters in many years. With over four successive storms in 6 days in February, on top of snow already on the ground, the DPW and residents just ran out of good places to put all the snow. Although plowing removes snow from the driving lanes of streets, there are many places where the snow must be physically removed using backhoes and dump trucks. Large piles of snow at intersections which impair lines of sight for drivers are removed. Snow in Village-owned parking lots is also removed as well as



**Municipal Place Snow Piles**

where the streets have been narrowed as a result of accumulated snow on the sides.

Where does all this snow go?

The village-owned lot at Municipal Place and South Riverside is the main location for stockpiling snow.



**Sidewalk or Snow Tunnel?**

This location was filled to capacity early in February.

Van Cortlandt Manor permitted the DPW to utilize the end of its road inside its gates for dumping more snow.



**Snow piles at Van Cortlandt Manor**

Elsewhere around the village, as residents cleared their own sidewalks, pedestrians were channeling through tunnels of snow as the snow banks became

higher and higher.

## Snowman Contest Deadline

The deadline for submitting an entry in the Build-A-Snowman Contest is March 14th. A 4" by 6" photo must be submitted to the Recreation Dept for entry into either the Typical Snowman or the Snow Sculpture categories. Name, address and phone number must be on the back of the non-returnable photo. Prizes are awarded for both categories.



**Reminder!**

**Daylight Savings Time begins March 9!**



## **Senior Trip to Pennsylvania**

Seniors will take a day-trip to Mercer Museum & Peddler's Village in historic Buck's County, PA on



Wednesday, April 30.

Participants will discover early American crafts and artifacts at the Mercer Museum Castle. Lunch will be at Peddler's Village where over 65 unique shops and 42 acres of beautiful

gardens can be enjoyed.

The charter bus will leave at 8:15 am from Shop-Rite parking lot and return approximately 6 pm. The cost is \$32/res. And \$40 nonres. Checks should be made payable to the Village of Croton".

For more information call Valerie Nolan at 271-5804.

## **Online Payments for Utility Bills**

Since December 2013, the Village has implemented online payment for its utility bills. There are 2 options: either by ACH (checking account) or by credit/debit card. Paying through a checking account is free. The payment system also accepts Master Card credit/debit and Discover card credit payments. The credit card service provider charges a convenience fee for each online payment.

For more information call the Village Office during business hours at 862-1419.

## **Paddlesport Contract Extended**

A 5-year contract with Hudson River Recreation (HRR) has been approved for seasonal operation at the Echo Canoe Launch on the Croton River. HRR provides kayak rentals, lessons and tours at that location from May 1 to November 1. The contract



runs to 2019 with a renewal option.

This year is the third year in which HRR has operated from the Echo Canoe Launch location. HRR has non-exclusive use of the village-owned location and will locate a storage container there during its season.

The Village will receive a \$650 annual fee for the storage location and the greater of \$1,125.00 or 5.5% of HRR's gross income on an annual basis.

**For up-to-date information about the Village, "LIKE" us on Facebook at Crotongov!**



## **Budget Schedule**

The official start of the budget season to set the 2014/2015 Budget for the Village will begin on Thursday, March 20. Village Manager Abe Zambrano, in his capacity as the Village's Chief Financial Officer, will present his tentative 2014/2015 budget to the Board and the public.

The tentative budget proposal will be available on the Village's website.

In the following weeks, the Board will meet with all the departments to review their proposed budgets on the following schedule: All meetings will begin at 7:30 pm at the Municipal Building and are open to the public. At the Village's invitation, Governor Cuomo's Regional Director, Samantha Diliberti, will attend the March 24th work session.

Monday, March 24	DPW/Water/Sewer
Wednesday, March 26	Recreation/Capital
Wednesday, April 2	Fire/Police
Monday, April 7	Public Hearing on Budget
Wednesday, April 9	Administration/EMS/Parking
Wednesday, April 16	Budget review and wrap up
Monday, April 21	Budget Adoption

The Tax Cap levy percentage is set at 2% or the rate of inflation whichever is less. For the coming fiscal year, the NYS Comptroller has set the allowable levy increase at 1.46%.

## **Daylight Savings Time and Spring Return**

Daylight Savings Time will return as of 2 am on Sunday, March 9. Clocks should be turned ahead one hour.

Over many years since Daylight Savings Time was first implemented in 1923, the start date and end date each year for DST has varied. As a result of the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, Daylight Savings Time begins the second Sunday of March and ends the First Sunday of November. This year Daylight Savings time will end on November 2.

Spring also returns during March. The Spring Equinox will occur on March 20th.



## **Potassium Iodide (KI)**

Free KI pills, provided by Westchester County, have been available at the Village Office since 2004. KI is a mineral salt that can help prevent thyroid cancer in a nuclear accident by preventing absorption of radioactive iodine into the thyroid.

It is intended for residents of Westchester who live within a 10-mile radius around the Indian Point Power Plant. It is taken only in the event of radiological incident. Further information is available at 271-4781.

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

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# Got a Question?



**I understand that the Village has some summer employment opportunities for its summer programs. What are they and when must the applications be submitted?**

Each year the Croton Recreation Department offers summer employment opportunities in its Day Camp, Tiny Tots camp, as lifeguards, park gate attendants and in park maintenance. Applicants for these paid positions must be at least 16 years old.



Applications will be accepted through March 14. For an application or further information, contact the Recreation Department at 271-3006.

## **Is Your Dog Licensed?**

NYS Law and Croton's Village Code require the licensing of dogs in order to control the nuisance of dogs running-at-large, uncontrolled barking, and uncurbed dogs. Running-at-large applies to dogs running on property other than the owners', without permission. Specific definitions and prohibitions are in Article 108 of the Village Code.

Article 7 of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law requires licensing of dogs which is implemented through the Village Clerk's Office.



Village-issued dog licenses are valid for one-year. All dogs of age 4 months and older must be licensed. Proof of rabies shots must be presented as well as for neutering or spaying if it has been done. Surcharges apply for non-neutered/spayed dogs. The surcharge is returned to the State for support of their neuter/spay programs.

Dogs are required to be leashed and curbed when not on the owners' property. No dogs, leashed or unleashed, are permitted in parks or school district property except at Croton Landing Park Riverwalk Trail where a maximum 6 foot leashed is allowed. Dogs at the Village Dog Park at Black Rock Park require an additional permit.

## **Year-end Engineering Department Numbers**

The 2013 year-end report of the Village's Engineering Dept. provides some insight to the types and numbers of projects undertaken during the year in the Village.

The report itemizes all the permits issued by the department for a large variety of projects. There were fifteen building permits related to commercial properties during 2013. Commercial building permits often entail the necessity of obtaining other permits such as plumbing, street opening and sign permits.

Similar permits are issued for residential properties. In 2013, this included building permits for four new single-family houses and site plan approval for 2 new two-family houses.

Permits for properties in the Village were also issued for solar panels, in-ground pools, deck additions, tree removal, wetlands activity, and adding wood stoves among others. Each of these projects, when completed, requires inspection and the building permits require the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

Utility companies also regularly apply for street-opening permits to perform necessary work on their underground infrastructure.

In addition to providing oversight on all these projects, the Engineering Department staff regularly reviews applications that require Planning Board or Zoning Board approvals to ensure that the proposals are in compliance with local requirements.

In total, permits issued by the department in 2013 resulted in \$136,678.00 in fees.

Additionally, the Village Board waived the fees on building permits, demolition permits and Certificates of Occupancy for buildings determined to have been damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Waived fees amounted to \$4,177.50.



## **Camp Applications Available**

Applications for Day Camp and Tiny Tots Camp will be available the week of March 10th. Applications can be picked up in the Recreation Office or at the Croton Free Library.