



### January Calendar

- 1** **New Year's Day**
- 6 & 21** Village Board Mtg.
- 14 & 28** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 8** Zoning Board Mtg.
- 7** Conserv. Adv. Comm.
- 7** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 14** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 20** **Martin L. King Jr. Day**
- 15** Visual Envir. Board.
- 22** Trails Comm.

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## High Street Drainage Project

Construction on the High Street Drainage project will begin this month. The project will improve the storm water drainage system in an area from Mt. Green Road to North Riverside Ave. The improvements will be made on Old Post Road North between Prospect Place and Mt. Green Road and on the north side of properties along High Street to the dead end of Hillside Ave. Properties along this drainage route have long experienced problems with run-off, erosion and sedimentation, including the Washington Engine Company Fire House.

The High Street drainage area was first identified in a 2003 Village-wide study performed by Dvirka & Bartilucci Consulting Engineers (D&B). The study identified thirteen sub-drainage areas within the Village. In the same analysis D&B identified four drainage basins of primary importance for improvements: Brook Street basin, High Street basin, Grand Street basin and Batten Road. Over the ensuing years, Brook Street, Grand Street and Batten Road have undergone drainage improvements.

In 2012, D&B was hired by the Village to develop the design, plans and specifications for the High Street project. The project involves work on private properties in the drainage area and it was necessary to obtain easements from the various owners prior to work beginning.

The Village had previously received a \$200,000 Water Quality Improvement grant from the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation for improvements to this drainage area. In November 2013, the Village Board awarded the contract for the work to Bilotta Construction Corp in the amount of \$570,240 and also approved an additional \$200,000 for the project.

Work on the project will include the creation of a retention basin on the

property at the corner of Mt. Green Road and Old Post Road North (owned by IAHD). This will allow downhill runoff to be collected and released in a controlled manner. From there, drainage will go under Old Post Road North through the properties between High Street and Prospect Place. Easements and drainage improvements in this area were previously implemented with the subdivision approval several years ago. A drainage pond and emergency spillway built as part of that 3-lot subdivision site plan approval provides a second collection basin for runoff. Drainage improvements will continue along the rear of houses going west on High Street and continue to the dead end of Hillside Ave.

These drainage improvements will then be tied into the existing storm water drainage system near the foot of High Street. Drainage from this area



**Mt. Green Rd./Old Post Rd. N location for retention pond.**

crosses under Route 9 and the railroad tracks, exiting into the Hudson River in the area of Croton Landing Park. The completion of the High Street Drainage Improvement project will not only decrease runoff problems for the properties between Mt. Green Rd. and North Riverside Ave. but also decrease the amount of erosion and resulting sedimentation flowing to the Hudson River. Completion of the project is another step in the Village's being compliant with the federally required Storm Water Phase 2 regulations.

Weather permitting, the project should be completed in three to four months.

## Eaglefest Returns

Eaglefest is returning to Croton Point Park and locations along the Hudson River for its 10th year. The



event headquarters is located in heated tents at Croton Point Park on Sat., February 8 from 9 am to 4 pm. (Snow date - Sun. Feb. 9). Sponsored by the Teatown Lake Reservation with support from 30 additional organizations, the event seeks to promote appreciation of the environmentally healthy and vibrant bald eagle population in the Hudson Hills and Highlands.

At the headquarters, there will be informative displays and exhibits. Hourly shows featuring live eagles, hawks, owls and other raptors will provide entertainment and information in the Eagle and Eaglet Theaters. General admission tickets may be pre-purchased and allow entrance to all exhibits and shows (bus trip excluded.) Activities and crafts will be ongoing during the day in the Children's area and there will also be guided bird walks around the park. Pre-purchased general admission tickets are \$10/adults (14+), \$8/child (5-13), free for ages 4 and under. Seating at the shows is on a first come, first seated basis. Shows begin in the Eaglet Theater at 9:15 am and in the Eagle Theater at 10 am and last about 30 to 40 minutes. More information on the shows and exhibits, online ticket buying and bus reservations is at [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org). Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Ten viewing areas along the Hudson River will be manned with experts to help visitors spot eagles at those locations. Croton's Echo Boat Launch site, south of the railroad station parking lot, is one of those locations. It will be set up and manned by volunteers from the Saw Mill River Audubon Society. Maps will be available for driving to the other sites as well as scheduled two-hour bus tours for which tickets must be pre-purchased (\$25). These tours are geared to adults and teens and will be accompanied by an environmental educator. For further information, call 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

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## Croton EMS News

The officers of Croton EMS will be sworn in at the January 6, 2014 meeting of the Board of Trustees. William McCabe will be President, Philip Dinkler, 1st Lieutenant and Anita Dominello, 2nd Lieutenant. The terms are one year.

Croton EMS also sponsors a youth group known as the Venturing Crew. Members are boys and girls ages 14 to 18. Members must also fill out an application for the Boy Scouts of America as well as for Croton EMS. But the program is open to both boys and girls. The fee is \$20 which partially covers the Boy Scout fee with the remainder being picked up by EMS.

The Venturing Crew meets on Sundays at 3 pm at Harmon Fire House. Members, ages 14 to 16, are asked to attend weekly meetings where they will learn some basic First Aid skills and also learn about the ambulance equipment and how it works.

Members, ages 16 to 18, may start riding on the ambulance with parental permission. They will also be required to take a First Aid and CPR course prior to riding the ambulance as are all regular adult EMS members.

Venturing Crew members who are over 16 may take a NYS Certified First Responder certification course and/or take a NYS EMT class. However, the final State test for certification requires the person to be 18 or older. After passing their certification test, Venturing Crew members may apply to become regular EMS members while continuing to ride and provide assistance in the ambulance.

To join the Venturing Crew, interested teens can stop by the Harmon Fire House during the Crew's Sunday afternoon meeting or call the Croton EMS office and leave a message at 914-862-1600.

Croton EMS also continues to recruit and welcome new adult members. No previous experience is required. To find out more about becoming a volunteer, stop by the Harmon Fire House on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm when the adult core meets or call the above number.



Reminder!

Village Offices are closed Wed., January 1 for New Years and

Mon., January 20 for Martin Luther King Day



## Auditor's Report

The Annual Auditor's Report to the Village was received and reviewed by the Board of Trustees in November. The Village's Auditors are the firm of O'Connor Davies LLP. The report covered the 2012/2013 year. Among the highlights were that the General Fund completed the fiscal year 2013 with a fund balance of \$7,231,235, an increase of \$243,164 from the prior year. Of this amount, the unassigned fund balance totaled \$4,890,443. The remainder is either assigned for encumbrances or future retirement expenses or restricted for employee benefits such as accumulated vacation and sick leave.

The net position is considered a useful indicator of the Village's financial position. For the Village of Croton assets exceeded liabilities by \$12,047,208 for the fiscal year 2012/2013.

Overall, the auditors reported that the results for 2012/2013 were "very good" and reflected good management within the Village.

## Build-A-Snowman Contest

Anytime the snow falls this winter, you have a chance to enter the Build-A-Snowman contest. Just take a picture of the snowman and the builder and mail a 4"x6" photo to the Croton Recreation Dept by Friday, March 14. There are two categories for entries: a) Typical snowman, and b) Snow Sculpture (animal, etc.). Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number on the back of your photo (which will not be returned).



Prizes will be awarded in both categories. Participants must be Village or School District residents.

## Duck Pond Skating

If the winter weather is cold enough, ice skating may be possible at the Duck Pond - one of the pleasures of winter in Croton. A green flag flying at the pond means it is okay to skate; a red flag means **NO** skating is permitted. New York State requires that there be at least 6" of ice measured at several locations in the pond before skating is allowed.



When permitted, skating is at your own risk as there are no attendants at the pond. It is recommended that skaters do not skate alone and parental supervision is encouraged.

## Help Remove Invasive Vines!

The Croton Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is sponsoring their first vine-cutting of 2014 on Saturday, January 18 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Invasive vines are threatening our eco-system and diminishing the beauty along the stretches of the Croton River. Join CAC members Guy Pardee and Judith Coleman who are leading the effort. Any amount of time you can provide will have a positive impact.

Participants are asked to meet at the entrance to the Pump House property on Route 129. Please park on Dailey Drive as the entrance to the facility needs to be kept clear for emergency access. It is a short walk up 129 to the Pump House. Dress accordingly and bring pruning tools, hand snips, loppers and pruning saws. Severe weather will result in the event being rescheduled.

This property is not open to the public but permission has been received from the DPW so the vine removal can proceed. It is an opportunity to enjoy a stretch of the Croton River not otherwise seen by the public.

## Yoga Classes

Four Yoga classes are scheduled to begin in early February but all require preregistration in late January. Gentle Yoga I (Mondays 9:30-11am) and Gentle Yoga II (Wednesdays 9:30 - 10:30 am) begin Feb. 3 and Feb. 5 respectively. These are nurturing yoga classes designed for students at all levels. Sign up for Yoga I by Jan. 27 and Yoga II by January 29.

Gentle Yoga III begins Wed., Feb. 5 at 7:30 - 9:00 pm This class is an introduction to yoga and as a continuing gentle practice. - \$115 res./\$140 nonres. Deadline for sign up is January 29.

YOGA: Strengthen, Relax, Renew is offered Thursdays beginning Feb. 6 from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. It is designed for students with some yoga experience. Deadline is January 30.

Fees are \$115 res./\$140 nonres.; except for Yoga II which is \$85 res./\$105 nonres.



## Alarm Permits

Residents with private burglar and fire alarm systems are required to have a Village alarm permit. Alarm permits are renewable annually for a fee of \$50. Renewal notices are sent out in January. The initial application fee is \$150. Fines for false alarms from non-permitted alarm systems may result in daily fines up to \$250.



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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor; Kevin Davis, Trustee; Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee; Andrew Levitt, Trustee; Casey Raskob, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager

Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building, One Van Wyck Street

(914) 271-4781-2, [www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov)

# Got a Question?



**When the train station parking lot was being raised and resurfaced a few years ago, daily parking was made available along a stretch of South Riverside Ave. from Croton Point Ave. South. As the Daily parking lot often reaches capacity, I wonder if I can still park along that South Riverside area?**

Yes, there are about 50 parking spots available along South Riverside south of Croton Point Ave.



**On-street daily parking on South Riverside Ave.**

Each spot is marked with a number as are the Daily lot parking spots. Using these spots is a good way to save some money on parking and also get a little exercise as they are about a quarter mile from the station. While the station Daily rate is \$9/day, these spots are just \$5/day. - good until 3am.

To use these spots, park your car in one and make note of its number (from 801 to 850). When you get to the station, use the pay machines to pay for your spot. The machines accept credit or debit cards or the exact amount of cash. They do not return change.

## Chief Tramaglini on Chiefs Board



Croton's Chief of Police Anthony Tramaglini has been elected to a 2-year term on the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association Board of Directors (WCCPA).

The WCCPA works to build a mutually beneficial network between its members to benefit all Westchester communities and to promote public safety.

They work to improve police methods and the enforcement of laws.

## Official Village Election Results

The Westchester County Board of Elections certified the Village election results in early December as follows:

Mayor:	Leo Wiegman	1476
	Mark Franzoso	22 (write in)
Trustee:	Andrew Levitt	1262
	Casey Raskob	1278
	Virginia Calcutti	555 (write in)

## Water Foreman Resigns

Tom Brann, the Village's Water Foreman since 1999 has resigned to accept a new position as Chief Operator with the Westchester Joint Water Works. Licensed to run water and waste water facilities, Tom came to Croton after running these facilities for the Town of Carmel.

Since coming to Croton, the Village's well operations have been automated and radio meter-reading has become the norm, both saving substantial personnel time in running the water distribution system. Additionally, substantial water infrastructure improvement projects have taken place with pump and well improvements, new lines in Harmon, and creation of water loops where dead end lines existed. Tom and his fellow water department employees have established a good reputation for being on the spot in emergencies and being helpful to residents with water-related problems. We wish Tom

## Eaglefest, cont'd. from page 2.

Bald eagles are the national emblem of the United States. They were classified as an endangered species prior to



1995 and as a threatened species until 2007 when they were removed from the list. The lower Hudson Valley is one of the largest winter areas for bald eagles in the eastern lower 48 states outside of the Chesapeake Bay

area. Between December and March, bald eagles from Canada and northern New York and New England fly south to the lower Hudson valley to feed on fish and waterfowl in unfrozen waters.