



# Newsletter

### November Calendar

- 2 & 16** Village Bd. Mtg.
- 10 & 24** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 11** Veterans' Day
- 12** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 4** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 5** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 10** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 18** Visual Env. Board
- 25** Trails Comm.
- 26** Thanksgiving Day

- Polling Places 2
- Volunteers Sought 2
- Gouveia Open House 2
- Farmers Market 2
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## World War I Memorial

Five years ago, in 2010, the World War I Memorial located at the Municipal Building property, was restored after many years of neglect.

The four-side monument has four circular intaglios on its four faces. One is the shield of the Army, one of the Navy, one of the Red Cross and the fourth is a wreath with four stars inside representing the four Croton casualties of the war. The four veteran casualties were Charles Fox, Fred Cook, Phillip Van Cortlandt Warren, and Giuseppe Quatrocchi. In addition to the four deceased veterans, the Historical Society has identified 118 names of World War I veterans.

The monument is thought to have been erected in the early to mid-twenties although the date is not exact. It is not solid stone



but rather a stone composite mounted on an under-structure. At the time, the current Municipal Building was the Village's school and the School Board provided the site on which it was erected by the local American Legion Post, the Charles H. Fox Post #505, now called the Fox-Eklof Post.

Prior to the installation of the Memorial Plot at Veterans Corners, this monument was the site of the annual Veterans Day ceremonies. This year's ceremony will be held at Veterans Corners on Wednesday, November 11 at 11 am. (In the event of rain, it will be moved to the Community Room of the Municipal Building.)

## Efficiency Plan Accepted

The Village received confirmation that the New York State Division of the Budget has approved the Village's Government Efficiency Plan (GEP) that was required as part of this first year of the two-year NYS Tax Freeze program. The approval will be forwarded to the Department of Taxation and Finance. Since the Government Efficiency Plan has received State approval and the Village's 2015-2016 approved budget met the Tax Levy Cap requirements, property owners in the Village whose total household income is less than \$500,000 and are eligible for STAR, will receive a rebate check on this year's taxes.



The GEP must show how the taxing entity will reduce its tax levy by 1% in each of three subsequent years. The intent of the GEP is to encourage local governments (and school districts) to generate long-term tax relief for taxpayers by 1) sharing services, 2) consolidating or merging, and 3) demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies.

The rebate checks will be issued by the NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance. It will be the cumulative total of rebates from all the taxing entities that have met the Tax Freeze criteria - Village, School District, Town of Cortlandt and Westchester County. The Dept. of Taxation and Finance has not yet provided a time frame for issuing this year's rebate checks.

The Village's GEP plan demonstrated the required savings of \$110,651. While this meets the requirements, the Village is continuing to identify efficiencies and further savings.



### **Election Day Polls**

Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day. The polls will be open from 6 am to 9 pm. Croton's 7 election districts will vote in the following locations:

- District 6 Croton-Harmon High School \*
- District 7 Municipal Bldg. (Community Room)\*\*
- District 8 Croton-Harmon High School \*
- District 9 Municipal Bldg. (Community Room)\*\*
- District 10 Harmon Engine Firehouse
- District 25 Our Savior Lutheran Church
- District 31 SkyView Nursing Home
- District 39 Municipal Bldg. (Community Room)\*\*

Please note that two locations denoted with \* and \*\* have special accommodations being made for voting as follows:

\* **Croton-Harmon High School.** Vote here if you voted at Grand St. Firehouse in the past. Enter at front door and turn right to the Community Room. It is handicapped accessible. School is closed that day.

\*\* **Municipal Building** - Construction will be halted all day. All parking at both ends of the building, except Police spots, will be open to voters as will on-street parking on Van Wyck and Old Post Rd. North. Staff and Election inspectors will be asked to park elsewhere.

Candidates for County, Town and Village positions as well as Justice positions are on the ballot.

### **Farmers Market Composting Day**

Croton's Down To Earth Farmers' Market and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County will offer a workshop on composting on Sunday, November 1 from 11 am to 2 pm at its Municipal Place location.

Master gardeners will be demonstrating composting techniques and other environmentally sound gardening and landscape management methods.



The weekly Sunday Farmers' Market, located at the intersection of South Riverside Ave. and Municipal Place, will close for the season on Sunday, November 22, the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day.

**Turn Your Clocks Back 1 hour on Sunday, Nov. 1 at 2am**



### **Seeking Volunteers for Playground Group**

The Village is seeking volunteers to participate in a Sunset Park Playground working group. Members of this group will be tasked with evaluating options for updating the playground equipment at the park, and subsequently, making recommendations to the Village Manager and Board of Trustees. The equipment at Sunset Park was installed approximately 15 years ago and is approaching the recommended lifetime for the wooden structures. If you are interested in participating, please email Eric Morrissey at [emorrissey@crotononhudson-ny.gov](mailto:emorrissey@crotononhudson-ny.gov) by November 9th.



### **Gouveia Park Open House**

The 4th Open House at Gouveia Park is scheduled for Sat., November 7 from 11 to 2. Access is only by



shuttle bus from the Municipal Place Parking lot (Farmers Market location). The first bus will depart the lot at 10:45 am and the last bus will leave Gouveia Park at 2 pm.

Staff will be present at the site to answer questions. Residents are encouraged to hike, stroll, bring a picnic and enjoy the grounds. The residence will not be open. It is recommended that suitable walking shoes be worn for traversing the property.

### **Blood Drive Coming Up!**

Croton's next semi-annual Community Blood Drive is coming up on Sunday, December 6 from 9am to 3pm at the Croton-Harmon High School.

Giving blood does not hurt and it can save a life (or two or three). Donors must be at least 16 years of age and 110 lbs. Donors over 76 must present a doctor's note. Those under 16 need parental permission. The process takes about one hour of your time.



To help the committee plan for the event, please make an appointment by calling 271-7645 or 271-8449 or contact: [communityblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:communityblooddrive@gmail.com)

### **Reminder!**

**Offices will be closed Wed., Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and Thurs. & Fri, Nov. 26 & 27 for Thanksgiving Day!**



## **Accessory Apartment Law Updated**

The Village has updated its accessory apartment law, Article 230-41 of the Village's Code. The approval followed a lengthy process which started as a result of a recommendation in the 2003 Comprehensive Plan and culminated in a Public Hearing on October 19, 2015.

The primary change in the amended law was the elimination of the age restriction (55 years or older) that was previously a requirement under the law. The amended law also streamlines the procedures for obtaining approval, requiring Planning Board approval and not a Village Board Special Permit. In addition, approvals will only expire on a change of ownership, death of the owner, or change of address by the owner.

Other requirements of the law remain the same. Accessory apartments are also subject to size and appearance regulations. They are allowed only in a single family detached dwelling in a residential district. The owner must occupy one of the two units. The change was adopted following the Public Hearing on October 19, 2015.

## **Grand Prize Winner!!**

Congratulations to Katie Champlain, the Grand Prize Winner in this year's Halloween Window Painting contest.



Ms. Champlain is in 6th grade and 11 years old. Her winning painting was painted on the window at Croton Liquor, one of the many local businesses participating in the annual contest.

## **Annual Tree Lighting**

An early reminder to put these events on your calendar. On Wednesday, December 2, the Village Recreation Dept. will hold its traditional tree lighting event at Vassallo Park. Caroling will begin at 5:30 pm with the lighting scheduled for 6 pm.



Join your neighbors in lighting the ever-green growing in the park; a great event for the whole family! Light refreshments will be served.



For Hanukkah, the Village will also begin lighting a menorah located at Benedict Blvd. and South Riverside at sundown on December 6 and will continue for 8 nights.

## **Reminder!**

### **Open Enrollment Begins in November**

Open Enrollment for 2016 in the NY State Dept. of Health -Official Health Place Marketplace begins this month.



Watch for your renewal notice by mail or email. It tells you what programs you qualify for in 2016 and estimates what you will likely pay if you stay in the same plan you had in 2015. It also tells you what action you should take.

To enroll or for more information, call NYS of Health Customer Service at 1-855-355-5777.

### **Frederick Morrissey Joins Staff**

The appointment of Janine King to Village Manager in June 2015 left a key staff position vacant. After soliciting applications and interviewing several candidates, Frederick (Eric) Morrissey has accepted the position of Confidential Secretary to the Village Manager. He will provide the needed support for many of the staff functions formerly performed by Ms. King as Assistant Village Manager, not including managing the Train Station parking lot. He will also be taking on new responsibilities.



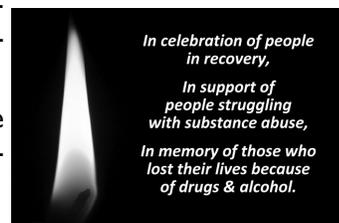
Eric joined Pace University in 2009, most recently serving as the Director of Government and Community Relations since 2012. Mr. Morrissey has dealt with issues of land use, budget, special projects and communications. He has a Masters of Public Administration (2010) from Pace University and a BA (2005) from Siena College.

### **Candlelight Vigil**

The Croton Community Coalition will hold its annual Candlelight Vigil on Thursday, November 5 from 6 - 8 pm at Vassallo Park.

The Candlelight Vigil is the Coalition's annual signature event.

Parents who have experienced losses due to drugs and students in the Teen Leadership Council will read and sing inspirational poetry and songs. Coffee and refreshments will follow at the Black Cow.



## Got a Question?

### Is there any change in the status of Verizon FIOS becoming available in Croton?

Unfortunately, the answer remains 'no'. As reported in previous Newsletters, Verizon will not be expanding its FIOS network beyond current franchise commitments. This was reiterated again in January 2015 by Verizon's CFO.

The Village remains committed to seeking a FIOS contract if possible. The Village retained Miller & Van Eaton PLLC (telecommunication specialists) to negotiate with Verizon as early as 2008. While negotiations proceeded smoothly until Verizon called off negotiations and announced in 2010 it would

not be expanding its FIOS services beyond current franchise obligations as they were committed to moving from wired networks to wireless. This continues to be the case and, effectively, has left Croton among many major municipalities in Westchester and on the East coast without the possibility of FIOS service.

In July, 2015 a letter from Verizon to the Village stated, unequivocally, that it "has no plans to expand FIOS, including FIOS TV, in New York".

In September, the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) offered municipalities an opportunity to comment on the state of telecommunication services in NYS. The Village Board sent a letter to the PSC decrying the lack of service for our residents. Since many residents signed up with Verizon in anticipation of this service, they are understandably unhappy.



November, 2015

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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor

Ann Gallelli, Trustee

Andrew Levitt, Trustee

Brian Pugh, Trustee

Maria Slippen, Trustee

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### Veterans Day Lunch at Yacht Club

On Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, Croton Yacht Club members will host their annual luncheon. The luncheon is a thank you to Croton's community of veterans and active military for their service and sacrifice.

The lunch begins at noon following the Village's Veterans Day ceremony (see page 1) and is free of charge for veterans, surviving spouses, active military and spouses. Non-military attendees are also welcome with a suggested donation of \$10/adult to offset the luncheon expenses. Any net proceeds from the event will be donated to Croton Harmon VFW Post 5197.

Residents who would like to attend this event should contact Dennis Kooney, by email at: [dennis@kooney.net](mailto:dennis@kooney.net), or by phone at 914-271-6384.

### Drug Take Back Day Results

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day was held September 26 at Croton Commons parking lot. Det. Sergeant John Nikitopoulos and Det. Paul Camillieri

manned the drop off along with a Drug Enforcement Agency agent. Over 190 pounds of prescription drugs were dropped off and turned over to the DEA.

The Police Dept. also has a drop-off box in its vestibule which receives 20 -25 pounds of drugs each month.

The overtime cost for the police is paid by Croton's Community Coalition Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse of which the Village is a member.



