

December Calendar

- 6 Village Board Mtg.
- 14 & 28 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 1 Cons. Advisory Council
- 8 Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 14 Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 15 Visual Environ. Bd.
- 24 & 27 Christmas Holiday
- 29 Trails Committee

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Preparing for a Real Emergency in Croton

Developing an Emergency Management Program requires exploring the consequences of a lot of "what ifs." Emergencies can develop as a result from many different situations - weather, accidents, deliberate acts of disruption, dam failure, diseases, extended power outages, etc. Each of these categories could cause a range of disruptions in services to residents. To address these possibilities and ensure that essential services to residents continue with no, or minimal, disruption, in April 2010, the Village Board created the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) committee to develop an emergency management plan for Croton. The Mayor appointed resident Richard Nagle as Chair. Mr. Nagle, a former Chief of the Croton Fire Dept., has extensive experience in Emergency Management having directed such a program in Ridgefield, Connecticut, and participated in plan development for Westchester County. Police, Fire, DPW, Engineering and Management personnel make up the committee members.

The CEMP has been meeting regularly to identify and analyze potential emergencies for Croton and developing a plan for each situation. An essential aspect of the developing plan is assuring that services will continue to be delivered in the event the main government offices are unavailable.

On the morning of December 16, a simulation of a fire event at the Municipal Building will be held from 8:30 to 12:30. As part of this early morning simulated fire event, the Fire Dept. will shut off access to the building to fight the fire and all arriving employees will be directed to go to the Harmon Fire House. The Harmon Fire House has been designated as the backup location from which central operations will be directed in the event of an emergency which makes the Municipal Building unusable.

Although the employees will actually know about this event in advance, they will be required to set up their "normal" operations at the firehouse and conduct business there. Part of this training exercise is to find out what problems might be encountered in redirecting all operations to the firehouse, including rerouting incoming phone calls to new numbers at the firehouse, enabling computer access, and generally performing normal services.

In advance of this emergency training event, department personnel have been identifying key information and paperwork and storing it at alternative locations in case the Municipal Building cannot be occupied.

Residents who have business to conduct on the morning of December 16th will be directed to the Harmon Firehouse operation center. The normal business of issuing permits, applications, inquiries, paying fines and bills, etc. will all be done there. The offices that will be temporarily located to the Harmon firehouse are Management, Clerk, Treasurer; Engineering, Building, Code Enforcement, Recreation, and the Court Office. The Police Dept. will set up at Harmon but still remain at the Municipal Building.

Croton is one of very few area municipalities to simulate the circumstances of an emergency as training for a real situation. Mr. Nagle and the CEMP view this event as a public education opportunity. Local press and news outlets will be apprised of the event and it may appear on local television and radio outlets as it would be if it were real. Personnel from the County's Emergency Management office and from White Plains will be on-site to evaluate the success of the exercise. At the conclusion of the simulated emergency, participating personnel will also provide input on improving the provision of these services in a real emer-

Holiday Recreation Programs

During the Holiday break from school, the Recreation Dept. is offering two daytime programs for students in Grades 2 to 6.

Lego Star Wars lets students build their favorite adventure from a Star Wars galaxy including X-Wing, Home-One Calamari, Darth Vaders' Tie Fighter and more. Students will have fun working with motorized Lego Technic machines and everyone will take home a Lego project. This is a two-day program, on Dec. 28 & 29 from 9am to 3 pm. Fees are \$95 (res)/\$115 (nonres). Signup by Dec. 22.



Chemical Magic is a fun-filled "magical" laboratory experience Harry Potter style! Students will make and take home Flubber, a Mushroom Monster, Silly Putty, Sharpie Shirt and more. All chemists will also take home a recipe booklet and a mini chemistry kit. The one-day Chemical Magic program will be held on Thurs., Dec. 30 from 9am to 3pm. The fee is \$50 (res) and \$60 (nonres). The deadline for signup is Dec. 22.



Both programs will take place in the Municipal Building Community Room.

9/11 Memorial to be at Croton Landing



Croton Landing Park has been selected as the location for a memorial of 9/11 and the four local residents who died that day as well as for local emergency responders. The Town of Cortlandt and Villages of Buchanan and Croton-on-Hudson are collaborating on the memorial plans.

Croton resident Janet Mainiero, who initially proposed the idea, is acting as project director with Supervisor Puglisi, Croton Mayor Wiegman, Buchanan Mayor Murray and Village Manager Zambrano making up the Executive Committee.

Croton Landing met the criteria set by the executive committee: public ownership, tranquil setting, parking and rest room availability, and minimal or no impact on residential areas. The Village of Croton-on-Hudson originally requested from the NY/NJ Port Authority, and was granted, pieces of steel from the World Trade Center. These will be incorporated into the memorial. A volunteer task group will address the planning and design for the memorial.

Croton Seniors Club News

Hall of Fame Nominees. Croton Seniors club has nominated Sam and Karen Colombo for the 2010 Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame. Sam is a long-time supporter of the Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger, personally raising funds for the past 18 years. Over these years, Sam has raised more than \$110,000 for the fund with Karen as his constant companion and supporter.

Sam and Karen are also involved in the Croton Caring Committee helping Croton's frail elderly, homebound, handicapped, and families in need. Karen is a member of the Caring Committee Board and Sam is a special fund raiser.

This year's 28th Annual Hall of Fame recognition luncheon will be held on Dec. 3 at the Westchester Marriott where 30 Seniors will be inducted. Since its beginning, 870 honorees have been added to the Hall of Fame. Inductees are recognized for their contribution of energies and talents to enhance their communities.

Holiday Luncheon. The annual Holiday Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 10 at Sinapi's Ceola Manor. An afternoon of good food and dancing will be enjoyed by all with local resident, and fellow Senior Club member, Jesse Beller, playing the piano.

Tax Assessment Exemptions

Village property tax exemptions are available for income-qualified seniors, people with disabilities, volunteer fire personnel and veterans. Applications for Village exemptions can be made at the Village Engineer's office in the Municipal Building, no later than December 31, 2010.

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 less than \$29,000.

Veterans exemptions vary according to time period served, disabilities, etc. Recently the Village has made property assessment reductions available to Veterans who have served during Cold War periods for a period of up to 10 years as have both the Town of Cortlandt and New York State.

If you have questions on eligibility or how to file, contact Joe Sperber, Village Assessor, at 271-4783.



Reminder!

**Village Offices will be closed Fri., Dec. 24th
and Mon., Dec. 27th for Christmas.**



Snowboard and Ski Program



Last year's very successful Snowboard/Ski program is being offered again this year. Students in grades 8 to 12 can ski or snowboard at Mountain Creek Park in Vernon, NJ on 5 Saturday

trips beginning Jan. 8. Prepaid bus transportation is available for \$100 for 5 trips (no refunds) or \$25 for individual trips. A minimum of 15 students is required/trip. The Village is partnering with Briarcliff Manor Recreation in offering this program to ensure larger participation. In addition to the bus cost, a daily ticket at \$36 can be obtained in the Recreation Office in the Municipal Building.

The bus will depart the Municipal Building at 7:15 am and return at 5 pm. For more information, please contact the Croton Recreation Dept. at 271-3006.



Holiday Gift Ideas

Shopping locally is always good for Croton. Local stores have a wide variety of items that may meet your holiday shopping needs and merchants would appreciate your business.



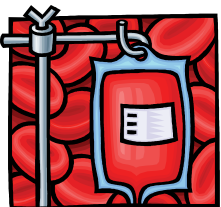
You might also want to consider some gifts that are Croton-related. Items with the Croton logo include baseball caps (\$15), glass mugs (\$5), drinking glasses (\$4) and lapel pins (\$3). The Croton Historical Society has cotton coverlets woven with an array of local scenes (\$50)

in several colors, Croton Dam tee shirts (\$10), Croton Dam note cards (\$4), tapestry totes with Hudson River and Dam scenes (\$35) and Croton history books or DVDs (\$20). All are available at the Village Office in the Municipal Building during regular business hours.

Blood Drive Reminder

The next Community Blood Drive is set for Sun., December 5th from 9:00 to 3:00 at Croton-Harmon High School. The Hudson Valley Blood Center reports only a one-day supply of blood for transfusions. The types most needed are A,B, and O-negative as well as O-positive. In this area, 2000 whole blood donations and 200 platelet donations are needed every day!

To make an appointment or for more information on eligibility, please call Carol Shanesy at 271-7645 or Rosalind Morrissey at 271-8449.



Energy Contract Awarded by NWEAC

The Northern Westchester Energy Action Coalition (NWEAC) has awarded the contract for the work to be performed under the \$279,800 grant they recently received. The vendor team of Energy & Environment Inc. and Blue Springs Energy, LLC (EEI/BSE).

The Croton-led grant is the largest joint effort in which diverse communities share the cost and beneficial pooling of resources to identify a vendor team to provide a scope of work. The communities of Bedford, Cortlandt, Croton, North Salem, Peekskill, Pound Ridge and Somers have a combined population of 121,000 and are part of the 14 municipalities that comprise NWEAC.

EEI/BSE will provide estimates and baselines for current energy-related consumption patterns in each community and use those facts to tailor specific recommendations for each on ways to reduce future energy-related expenses. For Croton-on-Hudson, a Climate Action Plan will be developed. Also an audit and analysis of our water delivery utility will be developed to the degree of specificity that it can be used for the specifications for future work to reduce water-related energy costs.

Croton's own Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory based on 2007 data showed that its water delivery system is the single most expensive Village activity in terms of energy costs at \$149,000. Overall, in 2007, Croton spent \$532,000 on energy-related operations costs.

The grant is being administered by Croton and work is expected to be completed by December 2011.



Alarm Permits and Water Bills



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

Water Bills. The semi-annual Water bills will be sent out on Dec. 15th. The Tier I water rate is \$4.500 per 100 cubic feet of usage. The Water bill also includes the charge for sewer usage which is tied to the amount of water usage. The Sewer rate is \$0.4139 per 100 cubic feet of water consumption. The bill is payable January 15, 2011. Thereafter, penalties will apply on a monthly basis.



Get Ready For Snow!

Residents are encouraged to listen to weather forecasts during the coming winter months. When snow accumulates to 2 inches, the DPW starts plowing the Village streets. Plowing will continue until snow stops accumulating and thereafter until the streets are cleared. During this period, on-street parking is prohibited. If snow is forecasted residents should plan on moving their cars off the streets in advance to clear the way for the plows. Violators of the on-street parking prohibition will be ticketed. Seasonal Parking permits are available from the Village Office for residents who have no other option than to park on the street.

Residents are required to clear their sidewalks of snow. If your street has already been plowed, please do not push, shovel or blow snow into the plowed street. Doing so is a safety hazard and also a violation. Your help in clearing snow from around fire hydrants is appreciated. Keeping our streets, sidewalks and hydrants cleared of snow helps keep the Village as safe as possible when winter conditions are bad.



Santa Letters

Santa's elves have been observed placing mailboxes at the Municipal Building and at Save Mor in Croton Commons. Letters to Santa received between Dec. 1 and Dec. 10 are guaranteed to be answered. No postage is required and a return address is a must!

Menorah and Holiday Tree Lighting



The Village will hold its annual Menorah and Holiday Tree Lighting event on Wednesday, December 1st beginning at 6 pm with the lighting to occur at



6:30 pm. Holiday music, refreshments (cookies, cider and candy canes) will be provided. Children will enjoy seeing a toy soldier on stilts. The tree is located at the corner of Benedict Blvd. and South Riverside Ave.

AAA Safety Awards

For the 17th year in a row, Croton is the recipient of an AAA Pedestrian Safety Commendation. The Village also received the AAA Gold Star award for Community Traffic Safety for 2010 which is based on the number of traffic accidents and lack of fatalities.

Got a Question?



In the event of an disaster emergency situation, is there a way I can be of help?

Disasters always require the cooperation of the communities involved. Those who are willing to help others during local disasters or emergencies are particularly welcome and needed.

If you would like to become a disaster relief volunteer, on Sat., December 11, the Westchester County Chapter of the American Red Cross is conducting a



**American
Red Cross**

Westchester County Chapter

free Disaster Reserve Institute. This training is one day from

8:30am to 5:00pm.

During the day of training, participants will become acquainted with Red Cross disaster response procedures and policies. Those who attend will become pre-qualified and pre-trained to provide immediate assistance and trained to provide aid and comfort to shelter residents who have been displaced by the events. All trainees must attend the entire one-day Institute, fill

out a volunteer application and complete a background check. The Disaster Reserve Institute will be conducted at the Pleasantville campus of Pace University. Registration may be done online at: www.westchestercounty.redcross.org. For more information call 914-946-6500 x260 or email Arcwcny@gmail.com.

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.

Household Recycling Days Renamed

Westchester County has recently renamed its "Household Recycling Days" to "Household Material Recovery Days". The rationale for the change is that most items collected at the events contain harmful materials which require special handling unlike items set out for curbside recycling. Go to www.westchestergov.com and click on "recycling" on the left of the Home page for the schedule of upcoming Material Recovery Days.