



Newsletter

December, 2015

Number 188

2015 - The Year in Review

December Calendar

- 7 Village Bd. Mtg.
- 8 & 22 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 9 Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 2 Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 3 Bike/Ped Comm.
- 8 Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 16 Visual Env. Board
- 23 Trails Comm.
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day

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2015 was a year filled with many projects, events and transitions for the Village. Below is a recap of highlights from the year as it comes to a close.

January - Plans for the roof and masonry repairs at the Municipal Building were authorized. As well, a site-feasibility study was begun to identify possible solutions to Police and DPW space requirements. A bequest of 15+ acres at 1300 Albany Post Rd. and \$1 million endowment from Ms. Laurel Gouveia was accepted.

February - Approvals were authorized for work on the Village's well fields, including the Well #3 refurbishment and electrical upgrade, and planning for the bridge rehabilitation and culvert repair at the Water Dept. offices.

March - The Tentative budget for 2015/2016 was filed at \$18,620,523, within the Tax Levy Cap. Harmon Firehouse was approved as the School District's Emergency Center. The Village entered the NYSEDA Community Microgrid Grant Competition.

April Manager Zambrano submits letter of resignation. The 2015/2016 budget was adopted at \$18,612,643 - a 1.04% rate increase. The first public input workshop was held on updating the 2003 Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). Janine King was appointed as Acting Village Manager. OpenGov software was implemented on the Village website to enable interactive views of past and present budgets by the public.

May - Water infrastructure work continues into its second season with work on Phase 2B able

to be undertaken due to the rapid progress on earlier phases. Waterline re-lining and replacement in Harmon area and also on Wolf Road and Cook Lane, enters second and final year. A new section of Hudson Riverfront path is completed. The NYS-mandated Government Efficiency Plan (GEP) is submitted to Dept. of Taxation and Finance.

June - Work on the Municipal Building roof and masonry commences. The Village takes title to the Gouveia property. The Village starts selling E-ZPass. The second public input session on the draft LWRP is held. The Cablevision franchise renewed with new fee paid to Village of 5% of gross receipts. The Village accepts a NYSEDA grant of \$95,780 to assess microgrid options to aid in the event of major outages.

July - The Village's participation in Community Choice Aggregation to obtain lower electric rates for residents is authorized. Repairs to the Grand Street

Fire house garage doors, apron and drainage begin.

August - Janine King is appointed Village Manager. Summer movies, concerts and entertainment programs were well attended; Black Rock Park

undergoes landscaping and parking renovations. Nordica Pump Station planned Phase 2 upgrades designed. **Continued on Page 3**



Exterior renovations at Municipal Building



Well #3 Pump



Grand St. Firehouse



Riverfront Path



Black Rock Park

Holiday Happenings!

Santa's elves are busy putting red mailboxes at the Municipal Building and at Save Mor drugstore in Croton Commons. Letters to Santa must be placed in these mailboxes from December 1 to December 15, to guarantee an answer. No postage is required but a return name and address must be included.



The Village's Menorah, located at the intersection of Benedict Blvd. and South Riverside Ave., will be lit at sundown on December 6 and will continue for 8 nights.



The Recreation and Parks Dept. is holding its annual Tree Lighting event at Vassallo Park on Wednesday, December 2. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities starting with caroling at 5:30 pm. The evergreen growing in the park is scheduled to be lit at 6pm. Light refreshments will be served.



Join your neighbors in celebrating the season!

Tree Disposal

Discarded Christmas trees will be picked up by the Village DPW during the first two weeks of January. All trees should be free of all trimmings, tinsel or wires. Discarded trees should **NOT** be in bags.

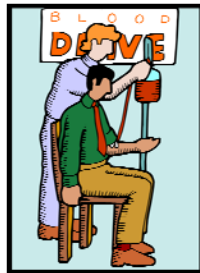
Reminder! Fields Are Closed!

Village fields are CLOSED for the Winter. Playing on fields is not permitted when a "Fields Closed" sign is posted.

Blood Drive Coming Up!

Croton's 91st semi-annual Community Blood Drive is coming up on Sunday, December 6 from 9am to 3pm at the Croton-Harmon High School gym.

Giving blood can save a life. Donors must be at least 110 lbs, 16 to 75 years old and healthy. Donors 76 and older must present a doctor's note. Those age 16 need parental permission. A valid photo ID must be presented. To help the committee plan for the event, please make an appointment by calling 271-7645 or 271-8449 or contact: communityblooddrive@gmail.com



Winter Snow Rules

Parking. Unlike some municipalities, Croton does not prohibit on-street parking during the winter months. However, when snow does fall, there are regulations that apply.

When snow accumulates to 2 inches or more, all vehicles must be removed from the street to enable the DPW to properly plow the streets. Plowing will continue until snow stops accumulating and, thereafter, until the streets are cleared of snow.

Residents are requested to listen to weather reports and remove their vehicles in advance of forecasted snow. Those residents who can demonstrate that they have no feasible on-site parking available, can obtain a Seasonal Overnight Parking permit at the Village Office. Fees for Seasonal parking permits vary from \$25 to \$100 depending on the number of permits needed.

Vehicles with Seasonal permits, however, must still be removed from the streets no later than 12 hours after snow fall ends. The same time frame also applies to vehicles 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 restrictions will also be in effect on the following streets:

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

Sidewalk clearing. Residents are obligated to clear their sidewalks of snow. Keeping our Village streets cleared of snow helps keep the Village as safe as possible when winter conditions occur. If the roadway has already been plowed, please do not shovel or blow snow into the plowed street. Doing so is a violation as well as a safety hazard. Residents' help in clearing around fire hydrants is appreciated.

Snow and ice must be removed within 18 hours after a snow fall ends. Commercial establishments are required to keep their adjacent sidewalks clear between 9 am and 5 pm.



Reminder!

Offices will be closed Thurs, Dec. 24 and Fri. Dec. 25 for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!



2015 - Year in Review Cont'd.

A new Sidewalk program is approved to help residents when a Village street-tree causes a sidewalk problem. Mt. Green Road undergoes improvements including widening and installation of new curbing, storm drain pipes, catch basins and repaving. The first two (of four) Open Houses are held at Gouveia Park.



Gouveia Park

Houses are held at Gouveia Park.

September - The Village is awarded two electric vehicle charging stations from NYPA. Con Ed performs extensive



Mt. Green Road

“storm hardening” work throughout the Village.

October - Elliott Way Improvement Project Phase 2 design work is authorized. Amendments to Chapter 225 of Village Code, streamlining procedures for LWRP reviews, were adopted. The Accessory Apt. Law was amended to remove age restrictions and reduce renewal requirements. A Public Hearing on the proposed update to the LWRP is held and the draft is sent to the State for final approval.

November - NYS accepts the Village's GEP thus enabling Tax Freeze rebates for this fiscal year. The Village receives final NYSDOT approval on design of Croton Point Avenue Traffic Improvement Project. Election results bring a new Mayor and two new Trustees.

December - New Board members will be sworn in for two-year terms at the December 7 Reorganization meeting. Work completes on the Municipal Building exterior restoration.

Croton Seniors

Organized by Senior Coordinator Valerie Nolan, Seniors in Croton have been enjoying a number of exciting trips. A recent trip to Ellis Island and one to Villa Roma (December 1) were fully booked. These trips are open to all Village and School District residents age 60 or older. New trips will be scheduled after the new year. Look for them on-line at the Village website and in the Recreation brochure.

The **Croton Senior Club**, which meets weekly on Fridays at 11 - 1 pm, is holding its annual Holiday Party at the Pleasantville Country Club on Tuesday, December 8. Annual Senior Club dues are \$10.res/\$20.nonres. Contact the Recreation Office at 271-3006 if you would like to receive a membership packet.

December Recreation

The Recreation Dept. is, once again, offering its popular **Make Your Own Gingerbread House** class for youth in grades 4 to 6. In this one-evening class, you will make and design your own Gingerbread House! All supplies will be included so come and join the fun! Create a festive house just in time for the holidays. Sign up by December



11 for the class on Friday, December 18 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the Community Room of the Municipal Building. Fees are \$20.res/\$25 non-res.

Youth Employment Service (YES) reminder. If you are looking for someone to do a one-time or on-going job, try the YES Referral list available at the Recreation Office. Some of the jobs that have been filled include babysitting, pet sitting, light house cleaning, yard work, party helpers, and more. (Note: it is up to you to check references.)

Take advantage of a wide selection of activities this winter offered by the Recreation Dept. Look for the new **Winter Recreation Brochure** online at the Village website beginning December 1.

Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

An annual ceremony in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941, is hosted by the Town of Cortlandt, Village of Buchanan, City of Peekskill and Village of Croton-on-Hudson on a rotating basis. It will be held this year on Monday, December 7 at 1pm at the Senior Citizen Center at the Field Library in Peekskill. The annual commemoration ceremony is coordinated by the Cortlandt Hudson Valley Veterans' Committee.

Pearl Harbor in Hawaii was attacked on that date and was declared by then-President Franklin Roosevelt as “a day that will live in infamy”.



Village Election Results

The Westchester County Board of Elections unofficial election results as of November 20 are as follows:

Mayor (2-yr term):	Gregory Schmidt	1200
	Leo Wiegman	939
Trustee (2-yr term)	Ken Walsh	1206
	Robert Anderson	1144
	Maria Slippen	994
	Andrew Levitt	939

Got a Question?



I am an Armed Services veteran and Village homeowner. I have heard that I can apply for a Village property tax exemption? How do I do this?



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Village residents who are income-qualified seniors, disabled, Volunteer fire personnel, or are Armed Services veterans may apply for Village property tax exemptions.

Applications are accepted at the Village Engineering

Office in the Municipal Building. The last day an application can be accepted is Thursday, December 31, 2015. Allowable income levels are set by New York State for people age 65 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. Exemptions for Armed Services Veterans vary according to the time period served, disabilities, etc. Currently, property tax exemptions are available to veterans who served during Cold War periods. This exemption is limited to 10 years in duration.

Questions should be directed to the Village Assessor, Joe Sperber, at 271-4783.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



December, 2015

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

Gregory Schmidt, Mayor

Robert Anderson, Trustee

Ann Gallelli, Trustee

Brian Pugh, Trustee

Ken Walsh, Trustee

Janine King, Village Manager

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Croton Gifts

At this time of year gift-giving is both a pleasure and a challenge. Consider giving a "Croton" gift as a creative solution. The following items can be purchased at the Village Office during regular business hours.



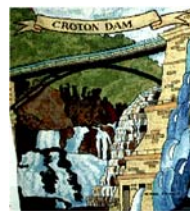
Croton Cap

Baseball caps with the Croton logo in a variety of colors (\$15). Croton logo Rocks glasses (\$4). Croton lapel pins (\$3).

The Croton Historical Society also has a variety of items that make good gifts. A woven tapestry-like coverlet depicting scenes in Croton is available in red, blue or green stitching at \$50; perfect to display



**Croton
Logo glass**



**Fabric Tote
Bag**

on your couch. Keep in touch with your friends using note cards depicting local scenes (\$12), Give a Croton History book or DVD (\$20) or a T-shirt depicting the Croton Dam (\$10). Travel with a sturdy tote bag woven with scenes of the Hudson River and the Croton Dam (\$35).



Croton Coverlet



The Winter Solstice

December 21, marks the longest night and shortest day of the year.