

February Calendar

- 7 & 22** Village Board Mtg.
- 8 & 22** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 2** Cons. Advisory Council
- 8** Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 9** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 15** **Grievance Day**
- 16** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 21** **Presidents Day**
- 23** Trails Comm.

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Memorial Steel Accepted

Steel from the World Trade Center will be picked up on February 10 and will be used for the construction of a memorial to be located at Croton Landing Park on the Hudson River. An Escort Party consisting of members of the Fire Departments, the emergency providers, personnel of local, county and state police, elected officials and volunteers will travel to Hangar 17 at JFK airport where salvaged steel from the World Trade Center attacks is stored. The steel piece weighs approximately one ton and is 14 feet long.

To design and construct this memorial, a volunteer Task Force was established consisting of various disciplines such as architecture, engineering, landscaping, construction and fundraising. The group met for the first time on Jan. 6, 2011. The plans and fund-raising strategy will be submitted to the Executive Committee which consists of the Cortlandt Town Supervisor, Linda Puglisi, Village Manager Abraham Zambrano, the Mayors of Buchanan and Croton-on-Hudson, Sean Murray and Leo Wiegman, respectively, and Janet Mainiero who initiated the memorial project.

In the coming months, an event will be planned on Memorial Day that will outline the progress of the Task Force. It is their goal that a memorial will be erected by the 10th anniversary of 9/11 which is in 2011. However, if this is not possible, a rendering of the memorial will be on display for all to see.

On Thursday, February 10, at Cortlandt Town Hall at 2PM, there will be a brief ceremony hosted by the three communities for a viewing of the steel girder transported from JFK airport before it is taken to a secured storage location for safe keeping. All are welcome to attend and observe this important moment in the construction of the 9/11 memorial.

Snow Removal Amendment

A section of the Village Code having to do with snow and ice removal from Village sidewalks will be the subject of a Public Hearing at the Village Board meeting on Monday, Feb. 7 at 8pm. The need for the amendment resulted from many sidewalks not being properly cleared of snow and ice. Additionally, the Village became aware that, in some cases, it was clearing sidewalks that were the responsibility of the property owner.

The proposed amendment to the Chapter 197, Section 15 clarifies that all sidewalks adjoining or abutting a property must be cleared. Sidewalks adjoining any front, side or back yards must be cleared of snow and ice. If snow or ice is frozen and cannot be removed, the amendment provides for temporary spreading of ashes, sand or other suitable material until such time as the snow and ice can be removed.

Snow and ice must be removed within 24 hours of the snow event or with 6 hours of receiving a written notice from the Village. Sidewalks adjacent to commercial parking lots or establishments must be kept free of snow and ice from 9am to 5pm.

As in the existing law, snow and ice not removed in the required timeframes will be cleared by the Village at the expense of the owner.

No snow or ice may be placed or thrown in the Village streets or roads nor may it be put on another's property without their permission.



EagleFest Reminder!

The 7th annual EagleFest is right around the corner - Sat., Feb. 5 from 9 am to 4 pm. Sponsored by Teatown Lake Reservation, you can take advantage of eagle viewing from several locations along the Hudson, including Croton's Echo boat launch.



The event headquarters, in heated tents, is at Croton Point Park. Eagle viewing bus rides to all locations with an environmental educator on board will start from there. Advance tickets at \$20 are required. Six bird shows will be held during the day at the Croton Point Park headquarters site. Show tickets are \$5 both in advance and at the door. To obtain tickets call 914-762-2912, ext 110. The headquarters tent will also feature informative displays, information and activities. Twenty-four organizations are collaborating to sponsor this popular event including Croton-on-Hudson. Over 4,000 have attended in past years! The snow date is Sun., Feb. 6th

Seniors Have Busy February

Cold winter weather passes quickly for Croton Seniors who participate in a wide variety of February activities. Membership is open to all residents of the Village or School District for an annual fee of \$6/\$12 (res./nonres.).



The popular Winter Film & Discussion Series will begin on Feb. 24 from 12:30 to 3 pm. With facilitator, Lorraine Ferguson, the group will see and discuss *Greenfingers*, *Big Night*, and *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*. Sign up by Feb. 18.

An exciting trip to Mt. Airy Casino in Mount Pocono, PA will take place on Feb. 23. The full-day trip costs \$4/\$5 (res./nonres.) and includes bus transportation, \$30 of slot play money and a \$10 food coupon.



Now is the time to sign up for a March 31 trip to the Westchester Broadway Theater presentation of *Singin' in the Rain*. Sign-up ends on Feb. 17. The cost of \$53/\$64 (res./nonres) includes the show and meal.



And if that is not enough, Croton Seniors will be enjoying their annual Valentine's Day Pot Luck Party at their regular meeting time on Friday, Feb. 11th. So much to do!

Agenda, Meetings and Minutes Software

Beginning in March, the Village staff will begin using improved software for preparing meeting agendas and their minutes. Following a move to paperless meetings two years ago, in October 2010 the Board approved the implementation of NovusAGENDA software. This software improves the paperless agenda process by making agenda and minutes creation a more streamlined and automatic process.

Documents related to agenda items can automatically be tracked and included in each agenda. The relevant documentation will then become part of the ongoing record trail of each item going into the future. This will save hours of tracking and gathering documents and scanning them into the agenda package that Board members receive. Board members will be able to log in and make comments for their use at meetings. For residents, it also means much more transparency as much of this backup documentation will be available when the agenda is posted online.

The accompanying software, NovusMEETING, enables minutes to be easily posted to both the internet and to Laserfiche (the digital archive system) which is currently a manual, time-consuming process.

Training for using Novus software is being provided as part of the agreement and is currently under way.

Finnerty History Museum Dedicated



The Croton History Museum, located on the first floor of the Municipal Building, was dedicated to Joyce Ottaviano Finnerty in a ceremony on January 31. A life-long Croton resident, Ms. Finnerty was Village Historian from 1999 to the time of

her death in 2010.

Ms Finnerty instituted the use of current archival techniques in cataloguing Croton's collection of artifacts and papers.

She also established the Croton History Museum and extended the History library's books about Croton and written by Croton residents. In 2009, in recognition of her work, Ms. Finnerty was elected to the Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame. A noted local artist, several of her paintings also hang in the Municipal Building.



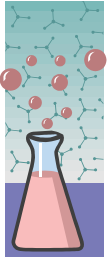
Reminder!

Village Offices will be closed Mon., February 21 for Presidents Day!



Winter Break Recreation Program

The winter school break means that students from grades 2 to 6 can take advantage of the Weird Science program being offered by the Recreation Dept. On February 22, from 9 am to 3 pm, participants can take advantage of a fun-filled “magical” laboratory experience, Harry Potter style. Everyone will make and take home Flubber, a Mushroom Monster, Silly Putty and much more! The magical lab will be in the Community Room of the Municipal Building. The sign-up deadline is Feb. 16 at \$50/\$60 (res./nonres.).



Four New Retirees

In August 2010, the Board of Trustees authorized eligible employees of the Village to participate in the NYS Retirement Incentive Program. Six employees were eligible and four decided to retire by the end of 2010.

From the Department of Public Works, Robert Barrett and Mark Pennington have retired from the Laborer and Skilled Laborer positions respectively.

In the Village Engineer's office, Janice Fuentes, Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary, and Sylvia Mills, Planning Board Secretary, have retired.

Croton Coalition

In late 2008, the Village of Croton and the Croton-Harmon School District took the initiative to form a community-wide coalition to promote substance abuse awareness and prevention. As substance abuse is a community-wide problem, the coalition was made up of community stakeholders from businesses, service organizations, religious institutions, law enforcement, parents, students and others.

To fund its organization and efforts, the Coalition applied for a federal grant from the Drug Free Community Support program—part of the Dept. of Human Services. A grant for \$125,000 was received that was renewable for an additional 4 years. The Coalition committee administers the grant with the help of a part-time Coalition coordinator, Ginny McLoughlin. They identify issues and implement prevention strategies and programs in the community. Janine King, Assistant Village Manager, administers the Coalition's funds. Additionally, Student Assistance Services Corp., a Tarrytown-based organization, works with the Coalition as an interface between it and the federal program requirements.

After a very successful first year, during which many outreach programs were held and students and parents were surveyed, the Coalition applied to renew its grant. Recently, the Coalition was awarded the same grant funding for its second year.

Mid-Year Budget Review

Six months into the budget for fiscal year 2010/2011, the Village Treasurer has reported that the Village finances are currently on-target for the year. Current collected revenues are at 87% or \$13,698,660. The largest portion of revenue comes from property taxes which were paid early in the fiscal year. Parking lot revenue to date stands at \$1,727,501 and is projected to meet the budget estimate. Westchester County sales tax revenue is at 42% or \$336,241 and, according to Treasurer Bullock, is likely to exceed the budgeted amount. Some additional areas where revenue exceeded budget projections were from ambulance charges at \$104,453 to date and beach charges. On the expense side, the Treasurer projects that both the Legal account and the Unemployment Insurance account may exceed the budgeted amount.

In a memo to the Board of Trustees, the Treasurer notes that continued conservative budget management should allow the village to reach the end of its fiscal year without any significant negative budget impacts.

Work on the budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 has begun. The budget will be presented in late March for adoption in May of this year.

Build-A-Snowman Contest

The Recreation Dept. is continuing its Build-A-Snowman contest. There are two categories for entry:

1) Typical Snowman and 2) Snow Sculpture. To enter, build a snowman or sculpture anytime between now and March 18th. Submit a 4" by 6" picture of it along with its builder to the Recreation Dept. By that date. Be sure to include your name and address on the photo back. Prizes are awarded for both categories.



gories.

Last year's winners were the Flaherty family with a sculpture of Snoopy and Woodstock on top of the doghouse. Sophia Ilardi, 4 years old, won the Snowman category.

Mobile Shredder Day

The County's Mobile Shredder will be available on Friday, February 4, 10am to 2pm, at the Yorktown Town Hall at 363 Underhill Ave. Three to four boxes of personal papers can be shredded on the spot for no charge. No papers from businesses, institutions or schools will be accepted. Other recycling is not available at this Shredder-only event.



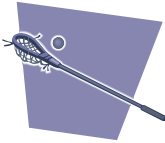
February Programs for Everyone

In addition to the special Winter break program noted on page 3, the Recreation Dept. has many programs that begin in February for all ages. Details on all the dates and costs of these programs can be found at the Village website. Click on [Winter Recreation Brochure](#) found in the center of the Home page.

Children aged 3 1/2 to 5, can be introduced to Ballet and Modern Dance fundamentals through creative movement play. [Pre-Ballet/Modern Dance](#) begins on Feb. 5; ten sessions will culminate in a May recital.



Children in grades 1 and 2 can get an introduction to the fundamental skills of the game of Lacrosse beginning Feb. 26th in [Co-Rec Youth Lacrosse](#).



Prepare to provide CPR in a safe, timely and effective manner with the American Heart Association [Heartsavers-CPR](#) course on Feb. 8th. This course is designed for people with limited or non-medical training and is taught by a certified CPR instructor. A credential will be given on completion.



Guy Adami, 1938 - 2010

Former long-time Village Justice, Guy Adami, died on December 29, 2010 in Arkansas at the age of 72. Mr. Adami was initially an appointed Village Judge and then, beginning in 1982, served six terms as Croton's elected Village Judge. He is survived by his wife and long-time law partner, Nancy, and their five children,

Farmers Market

The Croton Farmers Market has entered into a new 2-year contract with the Village extending to the end of 2013. Located at the intersection of Municipal Place and South Riverside Ave., the market will continue to be open on Wednesdays from June 1 through November 23 offering fresh fruits and vegetables as well as other items like cheese, pickles, breads, and desserts.



Year end studies for both 2009 and 2010 by Community Markets, Inc., the market operator, showed a 20% increase in overall attendance. There was also an increase in vendors. The Village receives \$75/week from the market.

Got a Question?



What is Grievance Day? I have heard this term and I see it on the Village Calendar of events.

Grievance Day is the one day of each year that a property owner can "grieve" their property tax assessment. In Croton, the Board of Trustees acts as the Board of Assessors on Grievance Day. They are required by law to meet annually to consider the applications of property owners who feel their village property assessment is not correct. This year Grievance Day is Feb. 15. The Board of Trustees will be available to review applications for a modification in assessments from 4pm to 8pm at the Municipal Building.

Property owners whose assessment has changed in the last year will have received a letter from the Village Treasurer's office to that effect. That usually occurs as a result of a property improvement. However, any property owner can "grieve" their assessment.

For a residential property owner to understand what their assessment represents in terms of market value, they should divide their assessed value by the residen-



tial assessment ratio. This will yield the market value. As an example, an assessment of \$15,000 divided by the ratio of .036 will result in a market value of \$416,667. Performing this calculation may help you in deciding whether to file a grievance.

Applications to grieve your tax assessment must be completed and filed with the Village Assessor, Joe Sperber, prior to 4 pm on the day of the hearing. Applications are available at the Assessors office, located in the Engineering Office in the Municipal Building. There is also a publication available that contains procedures for contesting an assessment. If you have further questions regarding filing a grievance, you may call 271-4783 during business hours.

Collection Calendar

The Village's Sanitation color-coded Collection calendar was recently sent to all households. The complete year's collection schedule is shown along with a list of holidays on which there will be no collections. Please save it for reference. The calendar is also available from the Home page of the Village website.

