

## February Calendar

- 1 & 16** Village Bd. Mtg.
- 9 & 23** Planning Board
- 10** Zoning Board
- 15** Presidents Day
- 16** Grievance Day
- 3** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 4** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 9** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 17** Visual Env. Board
- 24** Trails Comm.

- Fire Dept. Installation 2
- Winter in the Parks 2
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- Snow Removal & Pkg. 2
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## Croton's Engineering Department

The work of the Engineering Dept. office is seen almost everywhere in the Village. Renovations, new buildings, signage, street openings, demolitions, tree removal, new sidewalks are a partial list of the activities that the office oversees. It is also known as the Building Department and includes the functions of Assessor, Building Inspector, Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement as well.

Village Engineer, Dan O'Connor, heads the department. In this capacity, he works with applicants and several permit-granting Village boards to provide guidance on proposals with regard to meeting the criteria of our local zoning and building codes. This involves a careful review of designs and plans. Projects being undertaken by the Village itself, are also reviewed before being undertaken.

Mr. O'Connor is also the Building Inspector. He is supported in this task by Ass't. Building Inspector, Joe Sperber. The building inspector function ensures that construction is performed as specified in their related permits.

Involvement with the public is a key aspect of this office. Residents, and others, come to the office to get answers about such things as whether their planned project needs a permit, how to file an application for a site plan with the Planning Board or to obtain a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals, the requirements for a sign permit or tree removal. A myriad of every day residential and business concerns comprise the daily work of this office.

The Engineering/Building Dept. is also the office charged with code enforcement; i.e. ensuring that existing buildings and property are in compliance with the building codes and local zoning. Code Enforcement Officer, Peter Anfiteatro, performs this function

which often requires multiple site visits, issuing violations and court appearances. Peter also performs the duties of Fire Inspector.

Buildings and property, both residential and commercial, in the Village constitute the overall assessed valuation in the Village and determine the tax base for Village budgets. As such the position of Assessor, Joe Sperber, is also located in this office.

Applicants needing approvals from various boards, including the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Water Control Commission, submit their materials for review and scheduling by the Planning Board Secretary, Ronnie Rose, and Zoning Board Secretary, Toni Cruz. Ms. Rose and Ms. Cruz are responsible for keeping materials for these applications up to date, publishing appropriate public hearing notices, neighbor notifications and recording the minutes of the respective meetings. Ms. Rose also acts as Office Manager for all the functions of the office. Part-time office assistant, Phyllis Bradbury, assists with many functions that need addressing by the members of the department and the Village Office.

During the past few years, Engineer O'Connor has also been providing oversight of the extensive water infrastructure improvements. He has been assisted in this by part-time assistant on the project, Jan Wines. Mr. Wines' extensive water infrastructure experience prior to his retirement, has benefitted the Village in this task.

Visitors who come to the department offices in the Municipal Building will get a friendly and informed response to their questions and guidance on how to proceed with their plans. They can be reached at 271-4783 or at [engineering@crotononhudson-ny.gov](mailto:engineering@crotononhudson-ny.gov).

## **Fire Department Chiefs' Installation**

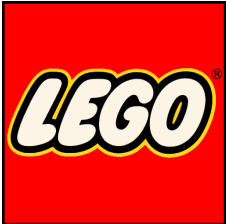
The new Chiefs of the Croton Fire Department were sworn in at an Installation ceremony on January 7 at the Grand Street Fire House.



Pictured at left is new Chief Matt Mansfield, center, with First Assistant Chief Chris Colombo to his right and Second Assistant chief Chris Pesavento to his left. The chiefs serve two-year terms.

## **Winter Break Recreation Programs**

Croton's Recreation Dept. is offering two new Winter Break Youth programs while schools are closed.



**LEGO Star Wars and MINE-CRAFT CREATIONS**, for grades 2 - 6, lets its participants build complex LEGO Star Wars projects. They will have fun building computer animated block structures to protect against

nocturnal monsters. A wide assortment of LEGO Star Wars models will be available. With the Minecraft server, participants will play in the same world with their friends. All students will take home a Minecraft or LEGO Star Wars t-shirt.

The program is on Wed., Feb. 17 from 9 am to 3 pm in the Municipal Building Community Room. The signup deadline is Feb. 10. Fees are \$80/res and \$95/nonres.

### **NASA: Journey into Out-**

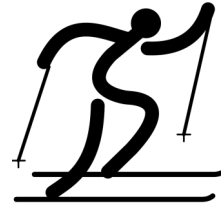
**er Space**, on Thursday, Feb. 18 is for youth in K - 4. The program is an exploration quest. Comets, planets, stars and more are all waiting to be discovered. Students will learn about the four forces of flight and the challenges of space travel as they construct their own rocket and participate in a launch. The program is from 9 am to 3 pm. The signup deadline is February 11. Fees are \$95/res and \$110/non-res.



Students must bring a non-perishable lunch as they will not be permitted to leave the building for lunch.

## **Winter Outdoor Sports**

Many Westchester County parks and all its golf courses offer opportunities for cross country skiing, sledding, ice skating, and ice fishing if conditions and weather permit. At ice skating locations, a white flag with a green ball on it **MUST** be flying. The facilities are open during daylight hours, seven days a week, free of charge (Ward Pound Ridge has a parking fee).



Closest to the Village, Blue Mountain Reservation in Peekskill offers cross country skiing with trails, skating and ice fishing. Croton

Point Park has cross country skiing with marked trails, Croton Gorge Park offers cross country skiing in open areas and sledding.



Equipment is not available at any of the parks. For more information and to check on conditions at the parks, call 914-864-PARK.



In the Village itself, the Duck Pond is open for skating during daylight hours when the **GREEN** flag is flying.

## **Snow Removal and Parking Reminder!**

While the winter of 2016 seems to be less severe than the past two years, the likelihood of one or more snow storms is still present. Here are some things to remember about your responsibilities in helping to keep streets and sidewalks safe and clear.



All sidewalks adjoining or abutting a property must be cleared of snow within 24 hours of the ending of a snow event.



Parking on Village streets is **NOT** permitted when snow measures 2 inches or more.

Seasonal parking permits are available in the Village Office for those without off-street parking spots with some restrictions.

Remember that keeping your car off the street helps the DPW properly clear them. Cleared sidewalks help keep pedestrians safe.



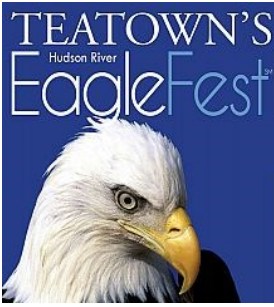
### **Reminder!**

**Offices will be closed Monday, February 15 for Presidents Day**



## **EagleFest is Coming!**

Teatown Lake Reservation's 11th Annual EagleFest event will take place on Sat., Feb. 6th from 9-4. The headquarters is at Croton Point Park but many viewing sites will be manned for visitors along the Hudson and Croton Rivers.



In the heated tents at Croton Point Park, multiple activities and events will occur. New this year is the addition of local musical acts including a performance by Grammy

award winner, Tom Chapin.

General admission tickets provide access to shows in both the Eagle and Eaglet theaters on a first come, first served basis.

Shows including live birds include *Skyhunters in the Sky*, *Close Encounters with Wintering Eagles and Owls*, *Birds of Prey*, *Talons! A Bird of Prey Experience* and *Raptors for Rookies*.

General admission tickets can be purchased online at a discounted price until 5 pm on Feb. 3. Go to [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org). Admission tickets will also be sold at the event on the day of the event. Two bus tours to viewing sites are also available by advance purchase from the Teatown website. Parking is free in the park and at the train station in Lot A. Free shuttles will go back and forth to the Headquarters tent in the park.

Twenty-five organizations are collaborating on this event and will be present with information, exhibits and demonstrations. Food vendors will also be providing food for sale. For more information, visit the Teatown website or call 914-762-2912 ext. 110.

## **February Middle School Youth Program**

The Middle School Recreation Program, directed by Doreen Petit, has two special events scheduled for February. Reservations are recommended for both.



Bowling at Cortlandt Lanes is on Friday, February 5. The bus will leave from the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm and return at 9:50 pm.

The fee is \$12.

On February 26, an Ice Skating Trip to Westchester Academy is planned. The bus will leave from the Municipal Building at 6:30 pm and return at 10:40 pm. The fee is \$15.

Call 271-8562 for reservations, information and updates.



## **Grievance Day**

Every year the Board of Trustees meets as the Board of Assessors for the purpose of evaluating property owners requests for a change in their property assessment. This is known as Grievance Day. This year, the Board will meet on Tuesday, February 16 to review applications from 4 pm to 8 pm in the Municipal Building.

Applications for a tax adjustment must be completed and filed with the Village Assessor, Joe Sperber, prior to 4 pm on Grievance Day.

To help you understand whether you should file a tax grievance to reduce your residential property assessment, perform the following calculation:

Divide your property's current assessed valuation by the 2016 Residential Assessment Ratio (RAR) which is .0391. The result will provide the estimated market value of the property.

For example, if your property is assessed at \$15,000, the 2016 RAR will yield a market value of \$383,631. This calculation may help you decide whether to file a grievance to try to lower the assessment. Commercial properties follow a different procedure.

Information is available on the Village website under Assessor, in the Village's Building Dept. office, or you may call 271-4783.



## **2014/2015 Fiscal Year Auditor's Report**

The Village Board met with the Village Auditor's, O'Connor Davies LLP, on January 11 to review their report on the 2014/2015 fiscal year. The Village has 6 governmental funds: General, Water, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Special Purpose and Sewer Funds. The following are the auditors' highlights from page 3 of their report:

- Assets of Village exceeded liabilities by \$14,390,037.
- General Fund fund balance totaled \$7,069,091, a decrease of \$67,533 of which \$4,934,653 is unassigned.
- Capital Projects fund expenditures were \$6,366,001. Its Fund Balance was \$8,496,643.
- \$691,287 of Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) were issued and \$939,896 of BANs were retired.
- Combined ending fund balances of governmental funds was \$15,975,761. The unassigned fund balance was \$4,708,213 or 29%.
- \$4,360,531 of serial bonds were issued and \$1,994,500 was retired. Total outstanding general obligation bonds payable at May 31, 2015 was \$30,165,531.

## Got a Question?

**I, or my spouse, frequently go to the Village Office to pay a bill or get a permit. What if anything can I pay for online to save a trip to the office?**

There are several bills or services you can pay for online. Taxes and utilities bills, train station parking permits, and parking violations can all be paid online.

In each case, you will need to establish an account. The accounts that can be charged vary with each of the above, including various credit and debit cards and checking accounts. You can sign up for

online payments by starting at the Home page of the Village website. On the left of the screen Click on Online Payments from the Citizen Action Center. From there you can pick the type of online payments in which you are interested. For additional information, call 271-4781.

### **Presidents Day**

'Presidents Day' is a federal holiday which is still, officially, named Washington's Birthday. It was set by Congress in 1879 to occur on Washington's actual birthday, Feb. 22. In 1979, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act set it between Feb. 15 and 21. In the mid-80's, advertisers began calling it Presidents Day.



February, 2016

**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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### **MONSTER Sewing!**

Another new program offered by the Recreation Dept. will teach youth in Grades K - 4 to have fun



while learning skills such as sewing on a button, threading a needle, tying a knot and stitching while creating fun monster softies and key chains they will be proud of.

The program will run over three Saturdays, February 20, 27 and March 5, from 10 am to 11:30 am in the second floor conference room at the Municipal Building. Sign up by February 12. Sew Happy ([www.sewhappyusa.net](http://www.sewhappyusa.net)) is the instructor. Fees are \$70./res and \$85./nonres. This is a great chance to have fun while learning useful skills.

### **Croton Seniors**

Croton Seniors Club returned to the Community Room of the Municipal Building following the completion of its exterior renovations. The Club meets Fridays starting at 11 am and is open to residents of the Village and School District, 60 years and older.

All Croton Seniors can take advantage of bus transportation to the Jefferson Valley Mall and Local Shopping (Village residents only) by calling Senior Coordinator Valerie Nolan at 271-5804. The bus to the Mall, on the 2nd Thursday of each month, leaves the Municipal Building at 9:30 am and returns at approximately 1:30 pm. The Local Shopping bus, operating Mondays and Wednesdays, will pick up seniors and take them to ShopRite, the bank or the post office.