



January Calendar

- 1 New Years Day**
- 3 & 17** Village Board Mtg.
- 10 & 24** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 5** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 10** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 11** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 16 Martin L. King Day**
- 18** Visual Environ. Bd.

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Water Planning Underway

The Village has begun several steps to prepare for needed water main replacements and other water infrastructure improvements.

Already under way is the development of the computer model of the entire existing water system by the firm of O'Brien and Gere. Development of this model was part of the Water Fund capital plan for FY 2011/2012. The model is key to implementing improvements that will be of the correct size and capacity.

Two areas of the Village are priority areas for water main improvements - the Cook Lane and Wolf Road areas and the Truesdale/Morningside Drs. area including Nordica Dr. and Cedar Lane. These areas are experiencing severe brown water problems due to the age of the existing water mains, some over 100 years old.

The first step for both areas is survey work that is needed for the design. The Village has already engaged the firm of Badey and Watson to survey the smaller and flatter Cook/Wolf area. The Truesdale area is a larger project in area and topologically more diverse. The survey work for this area required the development of a Request For Proposal (RFP). The RFP has been sent to a list of surveyors with a return date of Jan. 5. A contract will likely be awarded in early February for this work. Concurrently, Village staff has developed a RFP for the actual design and engineering work on the infrastructure improvements and provided it to potential design and engineering firms. Proposals are due by Feb. 10. It is anticipated that by the time a design and engineering proposal is selected, the necessary information to complete the design work will be available from the computer modeling

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Eaglefest Returns

The 8th Annual Eaglefest is coming to Croton on Saturday, February 4th from 9am to 4 pm. The goal of this annual event is to promote appreciation of the environmentally healthy and vibrant bald eagle population in the Hudson Hills and Highlands. The event is organized by the Teatown Lake Reservation and the event headquarters will be located at Croton Point Park. At the heated headquarters there will be informative displays and exhibits by the event's many collaborators of which the Village of Croton is one. Hourly shows featuring live eagles, hawks, owls and other raptors will provide entertainment and information in the heated Eagle theater. Five dollar (\$5) tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance. A children's area will have activities and crafts and there will be hourly bird walks around the park.



Two Eagle Exploration Bus Tours will start from the park and visit multiple eagle viewing sites. The 2-hour tours are geared to adults and teens (12 and over) and will be accompanied by an environmental educator. The tours are at 9:30am and 2pm. The \$20 tickets must be pre-purchased. Call 914-762-2912 ext. 110 for bus and/or show tickets or visit www.teatown.org/eaglefest for more information.

At Croton's Echo Canoe Launch site, south of the rail station parking lot, one of the eagle viewing stations will be set up and manned by the Saw Mill River Audubon Society. Additional viewing sites which can be traveled to independently of the bus tour include George's Island in Montrose, the Annsville Circle Paddle-Sport Center in Peekskill, Riverfront Green in

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Croton Historian

Dorothy "Dodie" Pezanowski was appointed to the position of Village Historian by the Village Board at its December meeting. Ms. Pezanowski, a third generation Croton resident, will fill the position held by Mary Lambruschi who recently passed away.

The Village Historian, a position defined by New York State, is responsible for the organization and collection of documents and artifacts related to the Village of Croton-on-Hudson. The Historian is a volunteer as are the members of the Historical Society who support the Historian in maintaining Croton's records of its past.

Currently the Historical Society is pursuing an initiative started by Ms. Lambruschi to scan and store all of Croton's local newspapers dating back to 1894. The Society has a complete collection of The Croton-Cortlandt News (1955-1986) and The Gazette (1988-present). The Society has scattered issues of the Croton Journal (1894-1910), the Croton-Harmon News (1910-1930) and the Croton-on-Hudson News (1930-1955). They



would appreciate receiving any issues from this time period, particularly those pre-dating 1937. If you possess any of these issues and would like to donate them to the Village Historical Society for preservation, please contact

Ms. Pezanowski or other Society members at 271-4574 or visit the Society offices in the Municipal Building, 1st floor, on Mondays from 10am to 3pm.

The Historical Society is also preparing a new exhibition for its museum at the Municipal Building entitled "The Masses, 1911-1917: The Croton Connection" which will be featured in the February Newsletter.

Seasonal Parking

On-street parking is not permitted when snow measures 2" or more. Keeping cars off the street helps the DPW in clearing them of snow. Violators of this prohibition will be ticketed.

Residents who park in the Municipally-controlled lots must also move their vehicles from those lots within 12 hours of the end of snowfall (Municipal Building, Asbury Methodist, Holy Name of Mary and Benedict Blvd.). On-street parking permits may be available for residents with no other options. Cars with permits must be removed from the street no later than 12 hours after the snowfall ends. Call 271-4781 for more information.

New Croton Dam Rehabilitation

The NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) is moving forward with plans to rehabilitate the New Croton Dam but on a greatly reduced scale from the project that was proposed in 2008.

In 2010 the NYC DEP decided to give priority to those aspects of the project that they consider essential. The new proposal is for the reconstruction of the dam's low-level outlet works which provides critical operational and safety functions, including State-mandated releases of water to the Croton River and the capability to lower the reservoir level in the event of a dam emergency.



The 2008 proposal included major spillway and dam rehabilitation as well as tree trimming around the reservoirs in the system. At the time, the Village raised concerns about the amount of truck traffic that would be generated by the proposed project and the length of time it would continue. Subsequently the Village took the step of adding itself to the environmental review process as an "interested party", ensuring the Village would receive all updates on the project. The NYC DEP anticipates construction starting in Sept. 2012 and substantial completion by Sept. 2015.

A NYC DEP representative will make a presentation on the proposal at the Village Board meeting on January 17 which will be televised.

Duck Pond Skating



Ice skating at the Duck Pond is one of the pleasures of winter in Croton. A green flag flying at the pond means it is okay to skate; a red flag means NO skating is permitted. New York State requires that there be at least 6" of ice measured

at several locations in the pond before skating is allowed. Quite a long period of sub-freezing weather is required to achieve this depth of ice. The pond cannot be used for skating before that condition is met.

Skating is at your own risk as there are no attendants at the Duck Pond. It is also wise to skate with someone else and not alone. Parental supervision is encouraged.



Reminder!

Village Offices will be closed Mon. Jan. 2 for New Years Day Holiday and

Mon. Jan. 16 for Martin Luther King Day.



Water Infrastructure Planning Cont'd.

and survey work both of which are already underway. Based on the design and engineering of each project, bid documents will be developed and made available for contractors to submit construction proposals. Each of these steps: computer modeling, surveying, design and engineering, bid documents, and the actual construction phase must occur. By having the surveying and design and engineering steps occur in parallel with the current computer model development, it is expected that there will be a substantial savings in time before construction can begin.

In addition to the work above, the project must be included in the Village's Capital Budget for 2012/2013 and each contract must be approved by the Village Board.



Snowman Contest

The Build-A-Snowman contest is back again. Build your own snowman and send a 4" by 6" photo of it and its builder to the Recreation Dept. by

March 16 to enter. Two categories will be awarded prizes: a) "Typical Snowman" and b) "Snow Sculpture" (animal, etc.) Include your name and address on the non-returnable photo.

Holiday Tree Disposal

The DPW will pick up discarded Christmas trees in the first two weeks of January. Trees should be completely bare of trimmings, tinsel, lights or wire and should not be in bags.



Sidewalk Snow Clearing

Under the Village Code Section 195-15, it is the responsibility of each resident to keep the sidewalks adjacent or bordering their property cleared of snow and ice for the width of the sidewalk. If snow or ice is frozen so hard it cannot be removed, it must be covered with

ashes, sand or other material to prevent a dangerous condition until such time as the snow/ice can be removed. Snow should be removed within 18 hours of the snowfall end. Sidewalks adjoining commercial establishments must be kept free of snow at all times between 9am and 5pm.

NYSERDA Funds Energy Audits

Commercial businesses and non-profit organizations can take advantage of free (fully funded) energy audits funded by NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Additionally, most homeowners qualify for free or reduced-cost energy audits from NYSERDA. Eligible businesses and non-profits are those that have an average electric demand of less



than 100kW. Homeowners of 1 to 4-unit residential buildings can qualify by virtue of their income (from 200% to 400% of area median income). Information on both types of energy audits can be found at the nyserdera.org. For the information on the free audits or reduced-cost audits search on "FlexTech Program"

for businesses and non-profits or "Comprehensive Home Assessments" for residences from the Home Page.

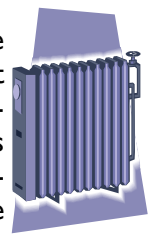
Business and non-profit audits are performed exclusively by a NYSERDA-licensed energy auditor for this region of New York State - the Daylight Savings Co. of Goshen, NY. Under this program, the auditor visits the site and takes an inventory of any energy-using equipment. A report is produced that provides recommendations for energy-saving changes. Changes that are subsequently made, as a result of this report, may be eligible for reimbursement from NYSERDA. Two non-profits in the Village have already availed themselves of this free service.

Residential owners who wish to participate can choose from a network of home improvement contractors accredited by the Building Performance Institute (BPI) which sets standards for assessing and improving the energy performance of homes. The contractor will perform the audit (free or reduced cost based on income) and provide a scope of work for the recommended measures. This is then submitted to NYSERDA for approval and determination of financing options for energy improvements.

No-Heat Complaints

Residents who live in rental units within the Village boundaries who experience no-heat issues should contact the Village Code Enforcement Dept. during regular office hours from 8:30am to 4pm at 271-4783. If the situation occurs outside of office hours, contact the Police dept. at 271-5177. Code enforcement personnel will visit the location to measure the temperature and contact the owners as necessary.

This applies to all rentals, including two-family houses, where the owner does not live on-site.



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

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(914) 271-4781-2, www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Eaglefest Cont'd.

Peekskill, Steamboat Riverfront Park in Verplanck, and at Kingsland County Park in Sleepy Hollow. At the headquarters in Croton Point Park an eagle viewing map will be given to all attendees. A donation of \$3 is requested.



Eagle nest construction exhibit from 2010

Bald eagles are the national emblem of the United States. They were classified as an endangered species prior to 1995 and as a threatened species until

2007 when they were removed from the list. The lower Hudson Valley is one of the largest winter areas for bald eagles in the eastern lower 48 states outside of the Chesapeake Bay area. Between Dec. and March, bald eagles from Canada and northern New

York and New England fly south to the lower Hudson Valley to feed on fish and waterfowl in unfrozen waters. A survey of lower Hudson Valley roosting bald eagles is conducted annually by the Bedford Audubon Society. They found, in 2009, there was an average of 74 bald eagles at the monitoring sites and a peak of 139. This was a 45% increase from the prior year.

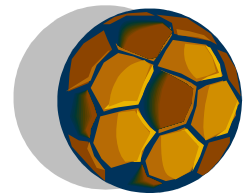
More than 4000 people have attended previous Eaglefest events. The snow date is Sunday, February 5th.

Winter Recreation Programs

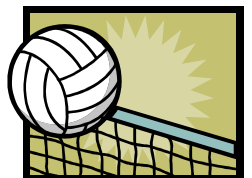
For children in K-2 grades who are interested in airplanes, the Recreation Dept. is offering a new program called **Aviation Club**. The club will meet on Thursdays, beginning Jan. 26th from 3:30 to 4:30 PM in the Municipal Building Community Room. In this weekly class, participants will learn how to design, build and fly their own real model airplanes made from scratch! Each student will take home four projects. The class is being taught by Hobby Quest. The registration deadline is Jan. 20 at a cost of \$80. res./\$96. nonres.



Adult Indoor Sports If you are interested in staying fit over the winter and having fun too, three indoor sports programs are being offered this winter: soccer, basketball and a new program of volleyball. While the programs are for adults, the basketball program is for those 30 years or older.



The programs will be held in the PVC Old or New gymnasium over 8 - 9 weeks. The deadline for registration for each is Jan. 6. Soccer will be on Wednesdays from 8-9:30 pm; Basketball on Tuesdays from 8-9:30 pm and Volleyball on Fridays from 7:30 - 9 pm. The cost is \$50.res/\$60.nonres.



These programs are a great way to have fun and stay fit and healthy.

Got a Question?



I heard that Westchester County has built a permanent Household Material Recovery Facility (H-MRF). Will this affect the Household Recovery Days that have been held around the County in the past? The County's new H-MRF is expected to open this month. It is located on the County's Grasslands campus in Valhalla. The County is no longer holding the Household Recycling Days around the County. The H-MRF will accept the same wastes collected as were accepted on the Recovery days including household chemicals, electronics, Freon-containing appliances, scrap tires, BBQ tanks and documents for shredding. The H-MRF will be open three days/week, including Saturdays. Residents will need to schedule an appointment to deliver waste to the site.

To insure you receive an official notice of the H-MRF's opening, days and hours of operation and instructions for scheduling a delivery, you should subscribe to the County's Environment/Conservation Quick News at www.westchestergov.com. Click on "Subscribe" to enter your contact information. You may also call the Recycling HelpLine at 914-813-5425.

The Village also picks up electronics and Freon-containing appliances. Metals are also picked up by appointment.