

## May Calendar

- 2 & 16** Village Board Mtg.
- 10 & 24** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 4** Cons. Advisory Council
- 10** Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 11** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 18** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 25** Trails Comm.
- 30** Memorial Day Holiday

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## SEQRA and the Village

The New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, known as SEQRA, was passed in 1976. SEQRA requires all governmental agencies to consider environmental consequences when either taking or approving an "action". While the rules and regulations for SEQRA are set by the NYSDEC, every approving authority is responsible for meeting its obligations to comply. Generally, proposals requiring a SEQRA review are called "Actions" and the body who approves them is known as the "Lead Agency".

At the local level, Actions may include site plan and subdivision approvals, plan approvals, enactment of zoning regulations, special permits and variances, and more. Actions are divided into three types - Type I, Type II and Unlisted. The State DEC has established thresholds of activity which determine how the activity will be reviewed under SEQRA. For instance, a proposal for a subdivision that would alter 10 or more acres or adoption of a Comprehensive Plan, or a zoning change affecting 25 acres or more would be considered a Type I Action.

Type II Actions are those that never require SEQRA review. The DEC has established a list of activities for this category. Among these, as examples, are area variances for 1, 2, and 3-family houses, construction of non-commercial structures of less than 4,000 square feet, maintenance and repair work not involving substantial expansion, repaving of streets and highways, traffic control and most purchasing. In addition to the State's list of Type II Actions, each municipality may add to it with its own list.

Unlisted Actions are those that do not meet the Type I thresholds but still may have an effect on the environment and thus require review. Examples would be an activity that alters less than 10 acres of land or adoption of some regulations or ordinances.

For Type I and Unlisted Actions, an environmental review can include multiple steps. At a minimum, either a Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) or a Full EAF (FEAF) must be completed answering questions about the degree of potential environmental effect of the proposed action. The body that will make the decision must declare itself to be the Lead Agency (LA) and decide, based on the SEAF or FEAF, whether the action may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. If the LA decides that it will not have such an effect, it makes a Negative Declaration and can proceed to a decision on it. If the LA finds that there may be a significant adverse environmental effect, it must make a Positive Declaration. In this case, the activity must have further review - usually the preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by the body proposing the action. This would entail a public hearing and preparation of a plan showing how the adverse effects would be mitigated. A Final EIS (FEIS) would then be prepared by the Lead Agency and a decision would be made based on whether they find the adverse effects to be eliminated or sufficiently mitigated to proceed.

Croton's local Environmental Review law is Chapter 116 of the Village Code. Its list of Type II actions includes only two items - minor Village improvements to water, sewer or streets and seasonal salting and sanding of streets and parking lots. Currently the Village Board is considering a proposal to expand this local Type II list so that it would be more consistent with the DEC's list and allow activities such as sign permits, minor site plans not requiring wetlands or steep slopes permits, and variance extensions by the ZBA to proceed without SEQRA. It would also allow an applicant to proceed on a more timely and predictable basis by shortening the time required for review.

## Waldman Bench Dedicated

On Sunday, April 10, a memorial plaque and bench were dedicated to former long-time Village Attorney Seymour Waldman. The bench and plaque are located at the western end of Kaplan's Pond. The memorial was the inspiration of, and donated by, Mr. Waldman's former neighbors - Barbara Hart and Joseph Slakas. Approximately 50 people attended the dedication and a reception following it.



**Waldman Memorial Bench**

Mr. Waldman served as Village Attorney from 1972 to 2005. Prior to that, he served as Chair of the Village's Zoning Board. He was a village resident throughout his service.

## Photo ID's

A Croton ID is required of all persons 4 years or older for use of Senasqua Park, Silver Lake or to be eligible to play at Hudson National Golf Course. The fee for Village residents is \$6 and School District residents is \$12. Senior Citizens ID's are free. ID's are valid for 3 years.

ID photos can be taken at the Recreation Dept. office in the Municipal Building on Tues. and Thurs. from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. During May, June and the first week of July, additional hours are available as follows:

May 14	Sat.	9am to noon
26	Thurs.	4pm to 7pm
31	Tues.	4pm to 8pm
June 3, 24	Fri.	12:30pm to 3:30pm
15	Wed.	4pm to 8pm
11, 25	Sat.	9am to 12noon
July 7	Thurs.	4pm to 7pm

Two proofs of current residency are required not including an old Recreation ID.

## Blood Drive Reminder

The semi-annual Blood Drive will take place on Sunday, May 1 from 9am to 2:45pm at the Croton-Harmon High School. Make an appointment by calling 271-7645 or 271-8449. Donors must be at least 16 years old and not yet 76 (unless you have a Doctor's written permission) and not less than 110 pounds.



### **Reminder!**

**Offices will be closed on Mon., May 30 for Memorial Day.**

## 2011/2012 Village Board

The annual Organization Meeting of the Village Board was held on April 4, 2011. Newly elected members of the Board—Mayor Wiegman and Trustees Murtaugh and Raskob—will serve through Nov. 2013. Trustees Schmidt and Gallelli will serve through Nov. 2012.



Shown l to r: Dr. Gregory Schmidt, Leo A.W. Wiegman, Ann Gallelli, Casey Raskob and Ian Murtaugh.

## Summerfest!



On Sunday, June 5, the 24th annual Summerfest event will take place in the streets of the upper village. Celebrating the beginning of summer, street vendors, food vendors and entertainment will be available throughout the event. Many community volunteer groups will also host tables during the day.

Summerfest is sponsored each year by the Croton Recreation Dept. and the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce's Croton subcommittee.

## Autumn Leaves

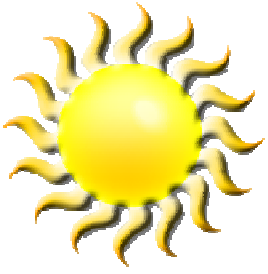
Although it is just May, with several months to go before autumn leaves become a problem, the Village has decided to limit leaf pickup to one option this year. In the past residents could either rake their leaves to the curb for vacuuming or they could bag them for pick up. This autumn, all leaves will be vacuumed and there will be no bagged leaf pickup.

Croton has been almost alone among Westchester municipalities in offering two types of leaf removal. Leaf vacuuming provides the best utilization of existing DPW equipment, manpower and scheduling. Picking up leaves both ways requires additional trips throughout the Village as well as overtime costs. The expected direct savings is between \$11,000 and \$12,000.

Bagged yard waste will continue to be picked up according to the published guidelines in the DPW's December 2010 brochure. Bags for yard waste can be obtained from local stores.



## **Solar Thermal Hot Water Incentive**



The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is offering a new Solar Thermal (ST) program to cut residential and commercial hot water costs by using solar power.

ST uses the sun to create hot water. It is not the same as photovoltaics (PV) which use the sun to create

electricity which can then heat water.

Con Ed customers who currently use electricity to produce hot water are eligible to participate. Incentives to install ST are available through the NYSERDA program. Up to \$4,000 per residential site and up to \$25,000 per commercial or non-profit site may be provided.

There are also federal and state tax incentives which, when combined with the NYSERDA ST program could cover as much as 70% to 75% of the installed costs. Lists of eligible ST installers and additional program information are available at [solarthermal@nyserda.org](mailto:solarthermal@nyserda.org).

## **Kite Day at Croton Landing!**



Practice your kite flying skills in preparation for an afternoon of kite flying at Croton Landing Park on Saturday, May 28. This Recreation Dept. event is free to all but registration is required by May 23 in the Recreation Office. Refreshments will be provided. What a great way to spend a Spring afternoon for the whole family.

## **Seniors Install Officers**

The Croton Seniors Club installed its new officers for the coming year at an Installation Luncheon held at Piatto Grill on April 15.

Dorothy Arensburg is the club's new President. Ms. Arensburg served as Vice-President under out-going President Connie Corry. Vice President is Elizabeth Faranda; Secretary, Bonnie Dietz; Treasurer, John Giglio; and Ass't. Treasurer, Mernell Calandro.

The Croton Seniors Club is open to all residents of the Village and School District ages 60 and older. The club meets weekly on Fridays at 11 am in the Municipal Building Community Room except during the summer months when it meets at the Pavilion in Senasqua Park. Annual dues are \$6 for residents and \$12 for non-village school district residents. Liz Thomas, Director of Senior Recreation, can be reached at 271-5804 for more information.

## **Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Budget**

The adopted budget for 2011/2012 reduced the tentative budget from a proposed 6.74% to 4.11%. The tax rate for the coming year will be \$237.182/\$1000 of assessed valuation. \$10,431,064.73 will be raised through property taxes while \$6,540,826.27 comes from non-tax revenues including parking lot revenue, sales tax and mortgage tax revenue, appropriated fund balance and retirement reserve. Total appropriations are \$16,971,891. Revenue increases in the budget for next year were anticipated from the Village's railroad station parking lot and from the sales tax.

The tentative budget proposed in March of 6.74% was reduced across all departments by leaving two current vacancies in Police and DPW departments unfunded, reductions in overall supply accounts, and elimination of the March 2012 election among many others. Departmental budgets remained flat or below last year's level except for contractual employment increases. Mandated increases in the State's pension fund required contributions, as well as in health benefits, account for much of the increase. Approximately every \$100,000 of expenditures result in a 1% increase in the tax levy. This year the State pension fund contribution was raised by \$322,000 over last year. Additionally, the bill for Workman's Compensation was raised \$81,000. These mandated increases of \$403,000 represented about 4% of the tax levy. A decrease in total assessed valuation resulted in an additional .3% to the levy.

## **Move Over Law**

The Ambrose-Searles Move Over Act is a law that requires motorists to slow down and to move one lane over from an emergency vehicle stopped or standing on the side of the road with its emergency lights on. If it is not possible to safely move over to another lane, then the motorist is required to slow down while passing the emergency vehicle.



A violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$275 and 2 points on a driver's license.

The law, which took effect on January 1 of this year and is being actively enforced throughout this area, is named after Trooper Robert Ambrose and Onondaga County Deputy Sheriff Glenn Searles who were both killed in the line of duty while conducting traffic stops.

## **Croton Census Fact**

According to Census information, the population of the Village in 1940 was 3,843, in 1970 it was 7,523, and in 2010 it was 8,070.

## **Golfing at Hudson National**

If you are a village or Croton Harmon school district resident and a golfer, you are eligible to play at Hudson National Golf Course on a once a month basis. A valid Recreation and Parks ID is required along with an annual \$10 registration fee.

A list of eligible golfers list is maintained by the Dept. Once tee times are distributed, eligible golfers arrange their own twosome or foursomes from the list. Greens fees of \$30 /\$40 res/district res. must be paid for each person before the reservation is confirmed. There are no rain dates unless the course is closed for inclement weather. More information is available at the Recreation office or at 271-3006.



## **Boat Basin**

The Boat Basin at Senasqua Park officially opens on May 8 for the season. In-water moorings, on-land storage spots and spots on the sunfish rack are available. A boat ramp pass allowing use of the boat ramp on a daily basis is also available. Passes may be obtained at the Recreation Dept. office.



## **The Capital Budget**

The General Fund capital budget for FY 2011/2012 calls for \$903,000 to be expended, primarily on infrastructure projects and equipment. Projects include general road repairs, replacement of sidewalks and curbs, improvements along Croton Point Ave. and Half Moon Bay Road, as well as the design phase for the Farrington Road CBDG work to replace water lines, sewer lines and sidewalks. Equipment for Police, DPW, Fire Department and EMS make up the remaining anticipated expenses. The money for the capital projects is borrowed either as long-term bonds or short-term Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN) and the debt service incurred will be included in the budget of 2012/2013. Additionally, capital improvements are planned for the Water Fund of \$250,000 for work to improve brown water issues and development of a distribution model Village-wide. Sewer Fund capital expenses of \$500,000 are anticipated for Phase 2 improvements to the Nor-dica Pump station and a Half Moon Bay pump genera-

## **Mobile Shredder**

The Mobile Shredder will be at the Community Ctr. in Mt. Pleasant on Wed., May 18 from 10 - 2 and at the Tarrytown Town Hall on Sat. May 21 from 10 - 2.

## **Got a Question?**



**I understand that the County Recycling program is changing in June regarding the recycling of plastics? Can you tell me more about this?**

You are correct. As of June 1, 2011, plastic containers coded 1 through 7 will be added to the County's list of mandatory recyclables under the Westchester County Source Separation Law. Currently, only plastic products coded 1 or 2 are accepted as part of curbside recycling efforts. Starting in June, municipal and private haulers are required to accept, and residents, businesses, schools and institutions are required to source separate plastics coded 1 through 7 in comingled recycling bins. This includes most plastic personal care and food packaging waste, such as medicine and shampoo bottles, yogurt cups and take-out food containers.

One significant way that everyone can contribute to environmental conservation is through waste reduction. Westchester County is a leader in recycling. In 2009, 61% of all solid waste was recycled, well above the national EPA goal of 35%. It is also an impressive improvement over the 2008 county recycling total of 46%.

Certain plastics should still not be recycled curbside including plastic bags, vinyl, Styrofoam, large rigid objects (pails, balls, pools, furniture), non-coded plastics, and building materials, and empty plastic containers that held potentially hazardous materials (solvents, pesticides, etc.)



All of the recyclables are delivered to the County's DEF Material Recovery Facility in Yonkers where they are sorted. In addition to the benefit to the environment, the market for materials coded 3 through 7, will generate more revenue to the County and its municipalities. Last year, the County received \$7.3 million from the sale of its recyclables. This will increase with the expansion of the list of recyclable items.

Later in the year, the County will add another recycling initiative by opening a permanent Household Materials Recovery facility on the Grasslands campus in Valhalla. This facility will accept hazardous waste and other items which cannot be put out for curbside pickup.

Detailed information is available at the County website: [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com) - click on "Departments" and then "Recycling" from the menu on the left side.