

November Calendar

- 1 & 15** Village Board Mtg.
- 11 Veterans Day**
- 9 & 23** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 3** Cons. Advisory Council
- 9** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 10** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 17** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 24** Trails Committee
- 25 Thanksgiving Day**

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World War I Memorial Refurbished

A long-neglected monument commemorating Croton soldiers who died in World War I is being renovated in time for this year's Veterans Day ceremonies. The monument is located at the south-



Before refurbishing

at the site of the Municipal Building .

Details of the monument's history have been provided by the Croton Historical Society. An article from the Croton News of September 19, 1919 says that "Saturday was the biggest day Croton has seen. There was a parade to welcome home the servicemen from WWI." The



Newly refurbished

article further recounts that four blue spruce trees were planted at the site which was then the school building. The four trees were in memory of the four Croton residents who died in WWI - Charles

Fox, Major Fred Cook, Philip Van Cortlandt Warren and Giuseppe Quattochi. Although the date is not exact, the monument was erected in the early to mid-twenties. The local American Legion Post, the Charles H. Fox Post #505 (later to become the Fox-Eklof Post), paid for erecting it with support from the School Board who provided the site. The four

deceased veterans' names were reportedly on

the monument but have long since weathered away. Another version of the missing names is that



Red Cross Emblem

they were never actually added to the monument. The four-sided monument (a cenotaph) was apparently ordered from a catalogue of a New England firm and erected by several local contractors. It has four circle intaglios on its four faces. One is the shield of the Army, one of the Navy, one of the Red Cross and the fourth is a wreath with four stars inside representing the four Croton casualties. The monument is not solid stone but rather a stone composite mounted on an understructure.

Prior to the installation of the Memorial Plot at Veterans Corners, this World WarI monument was the site of Memorial Day services and a focal point of the annual parade.

At the request of the present Village of Croton Central Veterans Committee, under the Chairmanship of Patrick Calcutti, the monument has at last been restored. A new plaque is being designed for it as well. In addition to the four Croton residents who died in World War I, the Historical Society has been able to identify 118 names of World War I veterans from Croton.

This year's Veteran's Day ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 11th at the site of the newly refurbished monument at the Municipal Building at 11:00 a.m. The monument will be rededicated at that time.

Election Day Polls

Tuesday, November 2 is Election Day. The polls are open from 6 am to 9 pm. Croton's 7 election districts will vote in the following locations:

- District 6 Grand St. Firehouse
- District 7 Municipal Building (Community Room)
- District 8 Grand St. Firehouse
- District 9 Municipal Building (Community Room)
- District 10 Harmon Engine Firehouse
- District 25 Our Savior Lutheran Church
- District 31 Sky View Nursing Home
- District 39 Municipal Building (Community Room)



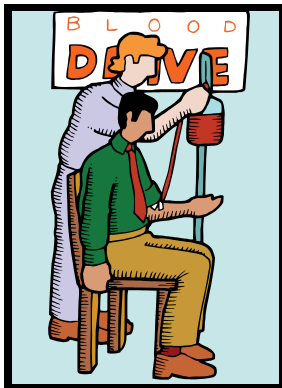
This will be the first General Election in which the new optical scanning machines will be used for voting. They replace the lever machines and booths of prior years.

With the optical scanning voting machines, voting is basically a three-step process: 1) sign in and receive paper ballot and marker, 2) go to privacy booth and mark your ballot, 3) take your ballot to the

machine and feed it in. The machine will read it and drop the ballot into a secure box.

Additionally, for those who are unable to physically mark their ballots, every voting location will have a Ballot Marking Device (BMD). Upon request, an Election Inspector will activate it and audio and visual instruction will guide the voter through the voting process.

Blood Drive Coming!



The next semi-annual blood drive will be held on Sun., Dec. 5 from 9 to 3 at Croton-Harmon High School. Donors must be at least 16 years old and 110 pounds and not yet 76 and in generally good health. Over 76'ers need a Doctor's note. 16-year-olds need parental permission. For information on eligibility to donate and to make appointments, call Carol Shanesy, 271-7645, or Rosalind Morrissey, 271-

8449. The need is great; it doesn't hurt; it could save a life.

Croton Seniors Club Happenings

After ending October with their traditional Halloween costume party, the Croton Seniors Club is heading into a busy November. Currently the club has 168 paid memberships.

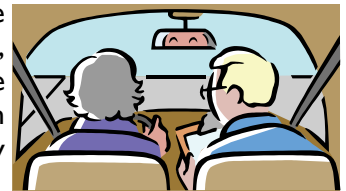
On November 10th, at its regular meeting, the club will hold its annual "Not So Silent Auction." Members contribute up to three items which can be bid on; proceeds go the Club fund to support activities during the year. The always popular holiday shopping trip to the Danbury Mall, Christmas Tree Shop and Trader Joes is already sold out.



Any Croton village or school district resident, 60 years or older, may join the club at any Friday meeting at the Municipal Building. Meetings start at 11:00 am. Annual dues are \$6(res.)/\$12(nonres.).

AARP Defensive Driving Class

A refresher course on the principles of safe driving, also referred to as the point/insurance reduction class, is being offered by the AARP.



The class will run from 9am - 5 pm on Thurs., Nov. 18 at the Municipal Building Community Room. Pre-registration is required no later than November 12. The cost is \$12 (AARP member)/\$14 (non-member). Forms are available in the Recreation Office.

Field Closings

Village playing fields will be closed for the winter season in mid-November. Signs will be posted at the fields and the fields will be covered with "blankets". During this period, no one is allowed to be on the fields. The fields will re-open in late March depending of weather conditions. Closing and covering the fields ensures a better playing surface during the warmer months.

Arboretum Trail Expands

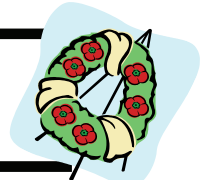
A new addition to the loop trail at the Jane E. Lytle Memorial Arboretum was officially opened on Sat., Oct. 23. The 224-foot segment of boardwalk, built from composite lumber, increases the trail's accessibility to visitors of all abilities.



Reminder!

**Village Offices will be closed Thurs., Nov. 11th
for Veterans Day, and**

Thurs./Fri., Nov. 25th and 26th for Thanksgiving



Croton's Sustainability Committee

The Mayor appointed a Sustainability Committee in Spring of 2009 to help the Village encourage environmentally sound and energy-wise policies in its operations. The Committee is chaired by Susan Lunden. Current members are Lindsay Audin, Niall Kelleher, Carl Grimm, Lee Streisfeld Leitner, Matthew Rubenstein, Taylor Vogt and Teri Lukin.

One of their initial tasks was to help the Village complete its Greenhouse Gas Inventory Analysis in Dec. 2009, which identified the sources and costs of energy use in various government operations. Since their formation they also participated in forming a Community Garden, partnering with the CAC on Earth Day activities, and working with the Northern Westchester Energy Action Coalition (NWEAC) in applying for a grant. NWEAC is a group of 7 northern Westchester municipalities who have joined together to share energy-cost containment ideas. NWEAC received a \$279,800 grant from NYSERDA with Croton's committee taking the lead on the application. The grant is 100% reimbursable. The grant authorizes the NWEAC to hire a consulting firm to conduct greenhouse gas emission inventories for 4 of the municipalities, update the greenhouse gas inventory for 1 municipality and create a Climate Action Plan for 6 municipalities.

Croton will be administering the grant through the work of the Sustainability committee. Currently the committee is in the process of evaluating potential contractors to perform this work and making a recommendation to the 6 other communities. They have five proposals from energy and environmental organizations. Croton's share of this grant will be \$40,000 to be used for developing a Climate Action Plan.

Additionally, the committee is focused on ways to reduce energy use and costs in its water system and in the firehouses. Croton's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory showed that these two areas are the biggest sources for energy costs in Village operations other than the Municipal Building. Since the Municipal Building is scheduled to undergo some renovation in the future, energy improvements will be undertaken for it at that time.

During the past summer, the committee met with representatives from the school district to develop small energy projects at the schools. This may include their own Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and establishing trash/recycling procedures. Looking ahead to 2011, the committee will be working on updating Croton's own Emissions Inventory as the baseline data currently available is from 2007. These studies are supposed to be updated every few years in order to determine whether progress is being made or not. They will also be working

Dam Repair Update

As shown in the accompanying pictures, work on the Silver Lake dam repair is moving ahead despite some high water conditions in the Croton River due to recent storm events. The picture to the right shows the forms being prepared before pouring the concrete to smooth the top of the dam and fill-in its eroded underpinnings. The picture (below left) shows the forms removed after the concrete was poured.



Rough edges were ground down and any voids were patched and filled.

The work shown is being performed from the middle of the river

to north side, while the water is being diverted to the south side by a temporary coffer dam. When this side of the dam is completed, the same work will occur from the middle of the river to its southern shore.



Seasonal Permits

When snowfall accumulates to 2 inches or more, the Village prohibits on-street parking so that streets can be properly plowed.

In recognition that some Croton

residences have no off-street parking available, a "Seasonal Overnight Street Parking Permit" is available. These are issued to residents only when they have no alternative location to park, such as a driveway or a garage. When none is available at all, a resident may obtain up to two free permits. If one such space is available, one free permit may be obtained. Additional permits are \$100 each.

Seasonal Parking permits may be obtained at the Village Office in the Municipal Building. A visit to the residence by Village personnel may be required to ascertain how many off-street parking spaces are available.

with the NWEAC consultant on developing a Climate Action Plan for Croton. More info on the committee can be found at the Village website. Click on Boards and Committees from the Home page.

New Veterans' Exemptions

The Village is moving forward to increase the maximum property assessment amount on which a Veterans exemption may be calculated. Westchester County and the Town of Cortlandt have already adopted the new ceiling of \$54,000. In 2009, the Village followed their lead and increased the maximum limit from \$12,000 to \$36,000. This will allow for veterans who qualify for the Cold War Exemption to reduce the amount of their assessment by the new ceiling amount. The purpose of raising the ceilings is to keep pace with the trend of falling equalization rates. By raising the ceiling, it allows the exemption to maintain its value.

The new ceiling would have the following effect given our current equalization and tax rates:

$\$54,000 \times 3.32\%$ (Equal. Rate) = \$1,793. At our current tax rate this would yield a property tax reduction of \$408.46.

There are currently 27 individuals who have the Cold War Veterans exemption. The adoption of the new assessment ceiling would reduce the total Village property assessment amount by \$37,773 or \$8,605.10 in tax dollars at the Village's current tax rates. Information on applying for this will be in the December Newsletter.

Yacht Club Hosts Veterans

On Veterans Day, Thurs., November 11th, the Yacht Club membership is honoring Croton's veterans and active military at a free luncheon at the club. The event will follow the Village ceremonies (see cover story) at 11am. Non-veterans who wish to attend are asked to contribute \$10 to help defer the costs. Any net proceeds will be contributed to Croton's VFW Post 5197.



Veterans, active military and other residents who would like to attend are asked to contact Commodore Dennis Kooney at dennis@kooney.com or at 914-907-3622. Attendees should identify in their response if they are veterans or active military.

Farmers Market Season Ends

After its second year, the last Farmers Market for the 2010 season will be on Wed., November 24th.

Got a Question?



I have heard many different stories about whether Verizon's FIOS television will be offered to Croton residents. What is the status of these franchise negotiations?

Unfortunately, there are no negotiations occurring at this time, nor are they likely in the foreseeable future. Negotiations with Croton were called off by Verizon in March 2010.

The history of the negotiations between the Village and Verizon is lengthy and has several ups and downs. In late 2007, the Village invited Verizon to begin talks for a FIOS television franchise. In April 2008, the telecommunications law firm, Miller & Van Eaton PLLC, was retained to represent Croton in negotiations. At the request of Verizon, in Sept. 2008, Croton also made a minor amendment to its Telecommunications Law in anticipation of reaching a franchise agreement.

During the following months a draft agreement was worked out. This draft agreement contained provisions that had been discussed by both parties at several prior meetings including the provision of public channels, method of calculation of the Village's franchise tax reimbursement, and the provision of a build-out schedule in the Village. In Fall 2009, Verizon changed its

attorneys in the negotiation process and, in Spring 2010, the Village learned that the draft agreement was set back to square one. In March 2010, Verizon Communications, Inc. issued a press release, reported in national papers, saying they would be "less aggressive" in marketing FIOS and would focus only on areas where there were existing agreements. This resulted in negotiations being discontinued in several Westchester municipalities, most notably in Harrison and Croton where negotiations were well advanced. Verizon never officially notified the Village of this and it was only learned when the Village Manager initiated the question.

Although Verizon had already installed its fiber optic network in much of the Village, newspaper accounts of Verizon's decision suggest that it was the high cost of individual customer connections (estimated at \$600/home) that caused Verizon to take this action.

From the early days of the negotiations, Verizon had conducted an aggressive marketing campaign in Croton. Many residents contracted for Verizon's phone and internet service in anticipation of getting its FIOS television service as well with the many incentives being offered. Verizon's decision has left many of these customers unhappy and confused about not getting the service they anticipated.

