



# Newsletter

November, 2014

Number 176

## November Calendar

- 3 & 17** Village Board Mtg.
- 25** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 11** Veterans' Day
- 12** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 5** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 6** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 12** Comp. Plan Comm.
- 19** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 26** Trails Comm.
- 27** Thanksgiving Day

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## MN Station Improvements

Metro North has notified the Village of its plans to perform upgrades of its station in the Village. The timing of these improvements is not definitely established yet as the proposed work has to be put to bid. It is likely that work will begin in Spring of 2015.

Among the planned improvements are upgraded customer bathrooms, all new air conditioning, a new ticket office and concession stand, new stair portals to the tracks and new signage throughout. All the walls and ceilings will be replaced or retrofit with new materials and hardware. The entire station will be freshly painted and new LED lighting will be installed throughout. Metro North is



**Station to Undergo Improvements**

also planning to install new artwork which will be coordinated with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA).

An optional item to be included in the bid documents is for improvements to the exterior of the station and marquee area. This improvement will depend on the results of the bid prices received for the overall project.

During the project work, Metro North will be using the area in front between the fence and the sidewalk for the staging of materials so no spaces will be lost.

Once completed, commuters from the Croton-Harmon Station should have a much improved, cleaner and well-lit station.

## tip411 Program

The Village's Police Department has joined the tip411 program to enhance their ability to respond to potential crimes even as they are occurring.



**PLEASE NOTE: This does not replace "911".** Use 911 for emergencies. Residents should also program 271-5177 in their cell phones for direct contact with the Croton Police Dept. as calling 911 from a cell phone may go through a management center in Valhalla.

Tip411 is a nationwide texting code reserved for anonymous 2-way texting. Residents can now anonymously text tip411 on their mobile phones with information relating to potential violence, accidents, drugs, or other sensitive information.

In addition to providing the ability to respond to tips in real-time, the program also provides a dynamic data base for correlating tips for investigations.

It is expected that this program, in use across the United States in many localities, will help our Police Dept. to cultivate ongoing communications with the public and create an ongoing connection with a younger demographic who regularly communicate by cell phones. Information received can help reduce investigative costs in the long-run as well as provide actionable information which may help close ongoing cases.

Residents who may not want to come forward personally with important information are encouraged to text tip411 to keep the Village safer.

## Croton Coalition Grant Renewal

The Croton Community Coalition, formed in 2009, has been awarded its second 5-year Drug Free Communities grant.



The Coalition works with all sectors of the community in its mission to "proactively keep our teens safe and drug free." according to Coalition Coordinator, Laurie Dean.

The Coalition conducts programs throughout the year to increase awareness of underage alcohol and drug use in the community. Among the programs are Games Nights at PVC and CHHS, parent/student presentations, school assemblies, a Candlelight Vigil and VassalloFest.

The Croton Coalition is a member of the national Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA) a group of over 5,000 such coalitions. CADCA has recognized the Coalition for its Tool Kit for Parents, developed by the local committee. The Tool Kit is a series of six postcards sent to parents to help them identify and talk to their children about facts of drug and alcohol use. The first in the series is shown below.



**First of six Coalition Tool Kit postcards**

The Village of Croton acts as the recipient of the grant money and the fiscal agent of the Coalition. The funding is from the Dept. of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) in the amount of \$125,000 per year with in-kind

matches. A renewal application must be made each year for a maximum of five years. This is the second five-year grant received by the Coalition.

## Farmers' Market Season Ends

The Farmers' Market held on Sundays at Municipal Place and South Riverside Ave. will end its season on November 23.



Down To Earth Markets, which operates the market, began this season on May 24th. The weekly market features multiple produce vendors with fresh fruits and vegetables along with specialty vendors offering seafood, cheeses, baked goods, pickles and prepared food to go.

The Farmers' Market is completing its 7th year in Croton.

## LELE Medallions Available

Residents who are interested in volunteering to be part of the Village's promotion of the Love 'Em and Leave 'EM leaf program pick up a medallion for their lawn to demonstrate their participation.



The medallions are available at the Village office where a name and address will provide the Village a way to perform a follow-up survey. To learn more about this voluntary program and the science that supports it, as well as other municipalities where it is endorsed, go to [www.LELENY.org](http://www.LELENY.org).

## Mobile Shredder

The County's Mobile Shredder will be available on November 15, 10am to 1pm, at the Hendrick Hudson Library at 185 Kings Ferry Road. This service is available for residential users only, no businesses.

## Field Closings

Village fields will close completely for the winter season on or about November 17th. They will re-open sometime in April. No playing on athletic fields is permitted when a "Fields Closed" sign is posted.

## Election Polling Places



Tuesday, November 4 is Election Day. The polls will be 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)

On the ballot will be candidates for New York State Governor and Lt. Governor, NYS Comptroller, US. Congressional Representative, NYS Senate - 40th District, NYS Assembly - 95th District, Supreme Court, Family Court, and County Court judges, Village Trustees and Village Justice. There will also be three NYS referenda on the ballot.

## **Reminder!**

**Village Offices will be closed**

**Tuesday, November 11 for Veterans Day**

**Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28 for Thanksgiving!**



### **Ad Hoc Committee Appointed**

After issuing a request for interest in help to study potential uses for property at 1300 Albany Post Road, a committee of volunteers has been appointed. The Village has been named as the beneficiary of the 15+ acre property at 1300 Albany Post Road. Fifteen members were appointed to the ad hoc committee by the Mayor after each had submitted a letter of interest. The committee has been asked to provide a report to the Board and Village staff in a six-month time frame on potential long-term and short-term uses for the property.

### **Superintendent's Day Program**

The Recreation Program is offering a program on Superintendent's Day, when schools are closed.

**Mad Science: Mission Nutrition** is a new offering. The program will consider how important science is in sports. As part of the program, participants will learn and explore the physics of athletics and use the scientific method to create their own version of protective gear. They will also examine the science of their bodies and healthy choices. Everyone will get pedometers as part of learning the importance of exercise for their health. The program is designed for Grades K to 4 and will be held in the Municipal Building Community Room on Dec., 3, from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. Registration is due by November 26. \$60/res and \$70 school dist./non-res.



### **Croton Seniors**

Croton seniors have many activities to choose from in November.

Creating a beautiful floral arrangement for your table or as a gift can be as easy as attending the **Fall Cornucopia** class on November 10 from 10 to 11:30 AM at the Municipal Building. Katherine Brechner of Lasting Nature, will guide you and provide a rattan shaped cornucopia along with varied dried and fresh floral selections. Registration is due by Nov. 3; \$25res./\$30 non-res.

Croton's Senior programs are open to all residents & school district residents 60+. One program, the Senior Club, has weekly meetings on Fridays at 11 am at the Municipal Building. The Club holds luncheons and special events throughout the year. Also on the 1st Friday of each month, a nurse from the Dominican Sisters Family Health Service in Ossining is available for free blood pressure screenings, education, supervision and follow-up. For info on joining and to get a membership packet, please call the Recreation Office at 271-3006 or come to one of the weekly meetings.

### **Westchester Magazine Recognition**

The October 2014 Westchester Magazine feature story on "Best Places to Live" identifies Croton as the best for Starter Homes. The list was compiled by the magazine by asking real estate agents, residents, local ex-



perts and bloggers about a variety of home categories including starter homes, dream homes, empty-nesters and retirees.

Among the aspects of Croton that were identified as making it ideal for young families or couples were the good commute to NYC, its landscape and water views of the Hudson and Croton Rivers, and its potential for water-related activities, its green spaces "like living in a park" including spots for picnics, sports and hiking. Also mentioned were its dining options, boutiques and "artsy vibe". Lower taxes than other comparable municipalities was also mentioned.

The "Best Places to Live" article included a chart of 45 communities in Westchester of varying sizes and their estimated average property taxes among other statistics including crime rate statistics, commuter times and school districts. Of the eleven communities whose population was within 2000 plus or minus of Croton's, Croton's estimated property taxes were the lowest. The latter was based on median home sales prices using 2012 full-value tax rates from the NYS Comptroller's Office.

### **Yacht Club Annual Vets Luncheon**

The members of the Croton Yacht Club will again host their Veterans' Day Luncheon at the club on Tuesday,

November 11 from noon to 4 pm, immediately following the Veterans' Day ceremony.



All veterans and active military, including their spouses, are invited to attend free

of charge. Other non-veteran attendees are welcome with a suggested \$10 donation per adult to offset the luncheon expenses.

The event includes a turkey dinner with trimmings, desserts, coffee and tea and a cash bar.

Those who would like to attend this Veterans' Day event are asked to contact Dennis Kooney, Director, by email at [dennis@kooney.net](mailto:dennis@kooney.net) or by phone at 914-271-6384.



## Got a Question?



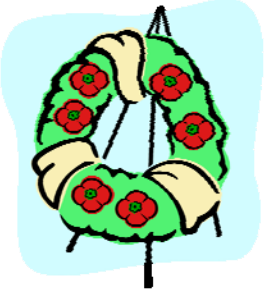
**Will there be a Veterans' Day ceremony in the Village which I can attend?** Croton's Central Veterans Committee will conduct its annual Veterans' Day ceremony on Tuesday, November 11th at 11 am at the Veterans Memorial plot at Veterans' Corners (Old Post Rd. South and Cleveland Dr.). Everyone is invited to attend this ceremony which has been growing in participation in recent years. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved inside to the Municipal Building.

Veterans' Day initially commemorated the armistice which ended fighting in World War I at the

11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. It was known as Armistice Day and intended to honor WWI veterans. The first Armistice Day was observed in November 1919. It became a federal holiday in 1938.

In 1954, Congress, after World War II and the Korean conflict, amended the 1938 act to change Armistice Day to Veterans' Day.

Since then, November 11 is a day dedicated to all American veterans of all wars.



November, 2014

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

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Kevin Davis, Trustee

Ann Gallelli, Trustee

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### **Drug Take Back Results**

Croton Police participated in Drug Take Back Day on September 27 at Croton Commons. Det. Sgt. John Nikitopoulos and Sgt. John Baride manned the event. The Croton Police have collected 142 lbs. of drugs and returned them to the DEA since April 2014, the last Drop-Off day. It is estimated that half was collected at the Take Back event and half accumulated in the Drug Drop Off box in the Police Dept. vestibule. The drugs are destroyed by the DEA.

Costs for the two officers are covered by the Croton Coalition. (See article on p. 2).



### **Daylight Savings Time Ends**

On Sunday, November 2 at 2 am, will be time to turn your clocks and watches back one hour. Daylight Saving Time (DST) will end for 2014.



Since 1976, the schedule for DST has been from the first Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November.

Due to the oil embargo in 1973, DST was extended to as much as 10 months in 1974 and 8 months in 1975, before reverting back to its previous, and current, schedule.

Almost all of the United States participates in DST except Hawaii and a large part of Arizona. DST will return on Sunday, March 8, 2015.