



## October Calendar

- 7 & 21** Village Board Mtg.
- 8 & 22** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 14** Columbus Day
- 16** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 1** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 1** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 8** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 16** Visual Env. Board
- 23** Trails Committee

## In this issue

- Fire Fair 2
- China/Croton Exchange 2
- Run Against Hunger 2
- Autumn Leaves 2
- Summer Numbers 2
- Town/Village IMA 3
- FEMA Reimbursement 3
- Water Bill 3
- BCC 9/11 Grant 3
- Halloween Doings 4
- Daffodil Planting 4
- Got a Question? 4

## Keeping Croton Green and Beautiful

Croton is fortunate to have many residents volunteering their time and knowledge to making it ever more attractive and environmentally healthy. The Croton Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC) is one of the groups that works year-round to promote Croton's attractiveness and environmental health. Over the past twelve months a subgroup of the CCAC, the Croton Garden Club, has also formed to focus on specific planting projects.



**Benedict/S. Riverside Median**

The CCAC was established in the Village by the Village Board in 1978. Its purpose is to provide attention to environmental issues that affect the Village and its residents. The CCAC makes recommendations to the Village and Planning

Boards on many projects and also makes suggestions for Village actions. Chairwoman Jan Johnsen is supported by members Cary Andrews, Judith Coleman, Bruce Laemmel, Guy Pardee, Richard Zumbach, Jen Pifer, Lauren Eberhardt and Ellen Siracusa.

Since 2012, the CCAC has been sponsoring the Green Living Series of lectures, 6 times a year, at the library. These popular presentations have included deer resistant landscaping, beekeeping, 'green' architecture, and invasive plants among others. For over a decade, the CCAC-sponsored annual daffodil planting has occurred in various parts of the village including the hillside by Bethel cemetery and the Benedict Blvd. median; about 500 bulbs every year. Each Spring, residents get a reminder of this effort as more and more yellow daffodils appear.

Each Spring, the CCAC sponsors and coordinates Earth Day activities in Croton - a popular day for residents with



many activities, information booths and music. Ellen Siracusa has been the chief organizer for this event. Several times a year, the CCAC also sponsors invasive vine cutting days, coordinated by Guy Pardee and Judith Coleman, to remove vines that are strangling our environment. This year the CCAC plans to have a "green" float in the Summerfest parade as well.

CCAC member Richard Zumbach saw a role for the CCAC in assuming specific beautification projects related to Croton's visual environment and formed the Garden Club in Spring 2013. Since then an active group of citizens has accomplished



**Croton Landing**

several projects aimed at improving the Village's appearance. Their unofficial motto is "Making Croton beautiful, one garden at a time." The Garden Club meets the third Thursday of each month at the Croton Free Library. So far about 80 people have indicated interest with about 20 participating on any one project. The group hopes that as a result of their efforts, more residents and business owners will take the initiative to plant and maintain a piece of the village.

Among the projects undertaken this past summer by the Garden Club were the Croton Landing Garden (shown above) that included a gift of a birdbath by an anonymous donor.

**Continued on p.4**

## China/Croton Police Exchange

Pace University is hosting a Visiting Police Scholar from China, Zhou Daiyan, for the Fall 2013 semester. He is conducting research focusing on a study of American policing and local governments, specifically on the topics of community policing, crime prevention and crime analysis. Croton Police Chief Anthony Tramaglini has offered to allow Mr. Zhou to interview and ride along with Det. Gabrielsen as part of his research and observe our Department's interaction with the school and the students in our youth programs.



## Run Against Hunger

The 33rd annual Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger is scheduled for Sunday, October 20. The events include a 1-mile Fun Run at noon, a 5k (3.1 mile) walk at 10:30 am and a

10k run at 12:45. Participants may pre-register online through October 18 at the [www.runagainsthunger.com](http://www.runagainsthunger.com) website. Packets with numbers and gifts can be picked up at Asbury United Methodist Church on Sat., Oct., 19th or on Sun., Oct. 20th at Croton-Harmon High school. In-person registration is also available at the church on Sat., from 10 am to 3 pm or at the high school from 9 am to 12 noon on the race day.

Participants and onlookers are urged to bring a non-perishable food item to help stock the Food Bank shelves.

Personnel from the Village Police, DPW, Fire Dept. and EMS departments are all involved in the annual race day logistics. The Run Against Hunger helps support the Croton Caring Committee and the Cortlandt Emergency Food Bank.

## Summer Numbers

The Recreation and Parks Dept. reported a very successful summer at the various movie and concert events, camps and at Silver Lake.

Swimming at Silver Lake was very popular with 7500 total attendees! Concerts and movies also had great attendance with anywhere from 200 to 1000 per event. Tiny Tots camp had 30-45 campers per session while Day Camp had 85-115 per session.

Congrats to all the Dept. staff for a very successful season.



## Fire Fair

The Croton Fire Dept. will kick off National Fire Prevention Week by holding their annual Fire Fair at the Harmon Firehouse on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 1 pm to 5pm. The theme of this year's Fire Fair is "Kitchen Fire Safety". Kids and adults will be able to go to several fire 'stations' to learn about kitchen hazards, calling 9-1-1, Stop Drop & Roll, exit drills for the home, escaping from a window, and escaping from an emergency ladder. Those that complete every station earn a ride on one of Croton's fire engines.



In addition, the Fire Fair will also feature a magic show, free snacks, an inflatable fire truck slide, fire extinguisher demonstrations and a display of old fire gear and equipment. There will also be information on how to join the Fire Dept. as a volunteer. Don't miss this worthwhile and fun day!

## Autumn Leaves

Beginning in November, the Village DPW will begin vacuuming up loose leaves left at the curbside (not in the street). Bagged leaves will not be picked up. Also twigs, branches and other yard waste should not be mixed in with the loose leaves. The Village recommends and encourages residents to mulch their leaves on their own property where possible. The Village endorses the "Love 'Em and Leave 'Em" approach to dealing with autumn leaves. (See accompanying article on page 3).

The list of streets where leaves will be vacuumed will be placed on the Village's website beginning in early November. Each week, the streets where the trucks will be for the following week, will be posted on Fridays. This will continue through December. You can also be notified by email by clicking on "Subscribe to News" from the Village website. Further information can also be obtained by calling 271-3775.

Yard waste - small twigs, clippings, flowers, etc. - as opposed to loose leaves - will continue to be picked up through October on alternate Wednesdays in biodegradable bags or open-top garbage cans.



## **Reminder!**

**Village Offices will be closed**

**Monday, October 14 for Columbus Day!**



## **FEMA Reimbursement Update**

The Village continues to work with FEMA to obtain reimbursements for the many costs associated with Hurricane Sandy. As of mid-September, the Village had submitted a total of \$414,558.28 of expenses to be reimbursed which FEMA approved. These expenses fall into various categories defined by FEMA. The largest amount of \$197,994.97 is for debris removal which includes labor including OT, use of Village equipment, contracted work and hauling of debris out of the Village. Of this \$178,195.47 (90%) is FEMA-funded and 10% is funded from NYS. The NYS portion is still pending as it is for all the approved expenses.

Expenses for Emergency Protective Measures includes Police Dept. labor during and after the storm, use of PD cars, and the rental of a temporary trailer at DPW garage which were approved at \$21,782.95 with 90% reimbursed by FEMA. Repairs to Parking Lot Pay Stations accounted for \$44,598.54. Repairs at Croton Landing Park and seawall repairs were approved for \$39,863.05. Additionally, repairs to the DPW garage of \$110,318.77 have not yet been FEMA approved but will be covered by the Village's insurance if not approved. To date, \$304,242.51 has been approved by FEMA of which \$273,815.57 (90%) will be reimbursed. The Village has received \$144,338.33 so far.

## **Water Bill Reminder!**



Unpaid semi-annual water bills sent out in mid-June will incur an additional \$100 penalty charge if not paid by October 15th. This charge is in addition to the monthly penalty of 1% and a \$5 delinquency notice charge for each month the bill is overdue. The next semi-annual water bills will be sent out on Dec. 15th.

## **Love 'Em and Leave 'Em**



The Village continues to endorse the benefits of mulching leaves in place as an alternative to raking and vacuuming them. Leaves that are mulched in place provide a good source of lawn nutrition and composted leaves provide nutritious organic matter for next year's garden.

Both reduce the cost and use of manufactured fertilizers. More information on this approach to Fall leaves is available at the Village of Irvington website, [www.irvingtonny.gov](http://www.irvingtonny.gov) (click on 'Green Policy Task Force' in the middle menu). Alternatively, similar information is available at [www.leaveleavesalone.org](http://www.leaveleavesalone.org) created by the Town of Bedford.

## **IMA with Town of Cortlandt**

The Village Board recently authorized a continuation of a shared-services InterMunicipal Agreement (IMA) with the Town of Cortlandt and the Village of Buchanan. The agreement extends the three municipalities' commitment to reducing costs and staff time for each for another year.

The IMA provides for (1) the sharing of equipment, (2) the removal and disposal of Freon from discard appliances, delivered to the Town, and (3) for bidding on commonly used materials and equipment by the Town Purchasing Director. The sharing of equipment includes the use of trucks, buses, other vehicles as well as tools.

## **Village Agendas**

Since June 2011, all Village Board Agendas have been accessible online from the Village's website. This includes Village Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings. For Village Board agendas, the published agendas also include the backup documentation pertaining to each agenda item.

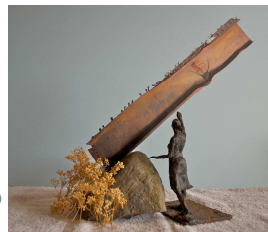


To access a Village Board agenda, from the Home Page of the Village website, click on Novus Agendas under the Quick Links section in the middle of the page. Other agendas can be found by clicking on the Events Calendar on the left side of the Home page.

## **BCC 9/11 Statue and Garden Grant**

On behalf of the BCC 9/11 Committee, organizers and supporters of the 9/11 Memorial located at Croton Landing Park, the Village applied for and received a \$50,000 grant. With the assistance of Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York awarded the money through its Community Capital Assistance Program (CCAP).

The money will support the construction of a statue and meditation garden at the 9/11 Memorial site which is part of Phase 2 of the memorial project. The casting and molding of the statue, designed by resident Lauren Davis, has been completed. It will take approximately 6 months for the statue to be cast in bronze from the clay model. The statue of the woman is shown with the piece of steel from the World Trade Center, already installed at the Memorial site.



**"Reaching Through the Shadow"**

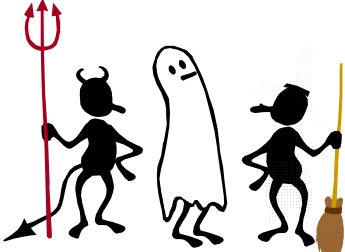
The establishment of the memorial is a joint effort of the Villages of Buchanan, Croton-on-Hudson and the Town of Cortlandt in conjunction with the BCC Memorial Committee.



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

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(914) 271-4781-2, [www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov)

### **Calling All Goblins!**



All local goblins, creatures and spirits are meeting at the Municipal Building on Sat., October 26 at noon to march to Vassallo Park. Young and old are invited. Some tricks and treats for everyone will be waiting at

the park. In case of rain, the Goblin Walk will be relocated to an indoor site.

The **Halloween Window Painting Contest** is happening again this year! Registration forms are available at participating stores (NOT in the Recreation Dept.). Completed forms must be returned to the Recreation Department office by October 11.

Window spaces will be assigned and painting will take place on Saturday, October 19 (rain date is Sunday, October 20) from 9 am to 2 pm. Space is limited so sign up soon to show your artistic talents and have some fun!



### **How can I find out more about opportunities to get a home energy assessment to help me reduce my energy costs?**

The Village's Sustainability Committee, Energize NY and the Croton Free Library have partnered in this effort. The Croton Library is now equipped to support local homeowners in saving energy dollars by creating safer, more comfortable and energy efficient homes. Residents can stop in to the library for information on home energy assessments and support with filling out online applications to get a free comprehensive home energy assessment through NYSERDA.

Once a month on October 10th or November 14th, come to the library from 4pm to 6pm to receive application support from an Energize team member. Appointments are recommended. Assistance is available in English and Spanish.

Call Lauren Brois, Community Outreach Associate for EnergizeNY for more info at 914-302-7300 or visit [EnergizeCroton.org](http://EnergizeCroton.org).

### **CCAC/Garden Club cont'd.**

The garden around the Railroad Station sign, the Dummy-Light planter in the Upper Village, a small triangle in the street at Oneida Ave. and Cleveland Dr., the east median on Benedict Blvd. at South Riverside, the Veterans Corner sign and the median along Cleveland at the circle are some of the other projects worked on this summer by the many volunteers.



At the train station itself, the garden strip to the north of the small building near the main stairs has been the effort of resident Karolyn Lamb (who also has worked on a planting scheme for the Duck Pond.)

The Dobb's Park Flagpole garden was initiated by the Garden Club but taken over by local Girl Scouts for planting and maintenance.

Much of the work performed by the volunteers consists of cleaning up overgrown weeds, adding topsoil and mulch, and planting additional or new plantings (mostly perennials). The Village has contributed materials such as the mulch and topsoil and the cost of plantings, although there have been personal contributions as well.

Having achieved so much and generated so much interest from residents, the club is proposing some more ambitious projects for next year including a butterfly and hummingbird garden, work around the WWI monument, more improvements at the train station, and possibly a plant swapping event.

It is hoped that, in the future, many of the improvements will be maintained by those residents who live or work close to them.

### **Daffodil Planting Event**

Each year the Croton Conservation Advisory Council organizes a daffodil planting in the Fall, usually planting about 500 daffodils. Residents are invited to come out and help plant the bulbs that will provide the first signs of Spring next March/April.

This year's daffodil planting event will occur on Saturday, October 19 at Vassallo Park from 9am to 12 noon. Come help with the planting!

