

## September Calendar

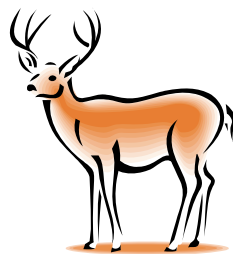
- 6 Labor Day**
- 7 & 20** Village Board Mtg.
- 14 & 28** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 1** Cons. Advisory Council
- 14** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 15** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 15** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 29** Trails Committee

- River Day 2
- Arts Liaison 2
- Water Emergency 2
- Recreation Programs 2
- Bike Week Events 3
- Emergency Management 3
- Cell Tower Update 3
- Sidewalk Work 4
- Dog Walking Reminder 4
- Got a Question? 4
- Seniors 4

## Deer Management Program

A Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, will focus on amending a current Village law to allow bow hunting of white-tailed deer. This is a necessary step if the Village Board initiates a deer management program in selected areas of the Village this fall.

The program under consideration was first proposed to the Village Board by the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)



and a presentation was made to the general public at a televised meeting in the Spring of 2010. Several reasons for having such a program were identified by the CAC. Mark Magel, a CAC member, has taken the lead on this program working with Westchester County, the Bowhunters Association, and the Village staff on identifying what is involved in starting this program and ensuring it is safe and successful. Several meetings have taken place between the Board, the CAC, Bowhunter representatives and property owners to lay out a plan. While the final decision has not yet been made, pending comments from the public, the Village has been proactive in identifying what needs to be done if approved.

The need for a deer management program was identified and described in the Oct. 2008 Westchester County Task Force report on White-tailed Deer and Forest Regeneration. This report indicated that the deer population has reached crisis levels. It has led to County-wide property damage, spread of tick-borne diseases, increased deer vehicle collisions, and a threatened ecosystem. The problem is that the extraordinarily large deer population has caused a dramatic imbalance with consequences throughout the ecosystem. Frequent

sighting of deer in our yards and open spaces, carcasses along the roadside, and devastated landscapes and woodland understories all confirm the overpopulation. Biologically sustainable levels for deer are estimated to be 8-12/square mile. At 22/square mile, studies have found severe destruction of the ecosystem and complete elimination of certain species. Croton's deer population is estimated to be 50 to 60/square mile! The direct threat from over-browsing is devastating to trees, shrubs, shrub-nesting songbirds, insects, amphibians, reptiles, smaller mammals, and the health of the deer population itself. Furthermore, with the denuded forest floor and loss of a health root system, deer over-browsing has led to soil erosion and contributed to degradation of water quality. Added to this, reduced bio-diversity has also been linked to increased incidences of Lyme disease as the decimation of some small mammal species has allowed an increase in white-footed mouse (a key host for deer ticks) populations. To protect our forests and natural wildlife, as well as address the other consequences of deer overpopulation, the Village in cooperation with Westchester County, the NYSDEC and the Westchester Bowhunters is considering initiating a highly-controlled deer management program monitored by the Croton Police at selected large sites in the village. The highest concern, of course, is ensuring public safety. Similar programs in Westchester and Fairfield Counties have proven controlled bow hunting is both safe and an effective means of reducing the deer population.

To be part of this program, local bowhunters will be required to take and pass a challenging application test. As with similar programs elsewhere, venison from the hunt is expected to help feed needy

Continued on page 4

## **Hudson River Day - September 11**

The Croton Yacht Club is sponsoring its 2nd annual "Hudson River Day" on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 11 to 4 pm at the Yacht Club on Elliott Way. The mission of the event is to promote interest in the history and ecology of the river, to cultivate future local environmental leaders and to promote, enhance and protect river-related recreational resources.



There will be a combination of presentations and hands-on exhibits for both children and adults focusing on river history, river ecology, environmental and conservation movements and an "armchair excursion" along the Hudson River.

This free admission event will include a seining exhibition where local marine life will be captured, displayed and later released; viewing tanks to observe local marine life; local Native American exhibits; colonial life; the Osborne Boat manufacturing industry and current marine research; toy sailboat making, fossil making and fish printing; sail boat rides; local artist displays and sales.

Food and beverages will be available including the best fish chowder on the Hudson. Email [dennis@kooney.com](mailto:dennis@kooney.com) for additional information.



## **New Fall Recreation Programs**

**Stroller Strides**, a fitness program for new moms with their babies, will begin on Saturday, Sept. 25 at Croton Landing Park. The classes will include power walking, body toning using exercise tubing and strollers. There are eight sessions with the first session free. The class costs \$110. Enrollment should be done online at [www.strollerstrides.net/northernwestchester](http://www.strollerstrides.net/northernwestchester).



**Pre-School Yoga** This new offering will start on Monday, September 20 at the Municipal Building. The class is from 1 to 1:45 and is intended for the 3 to 5 age group. Children will explore yoga with fun games incorporating yoga poses. The classes will help improve balance, strength and flexibility. Introduction of breathing exercises will help develop creative relaxation. The cost is \$75/90 (res./nonres.) Deadline for signup is September 17 with the Village Recreation office. Call 271-3006 for more information.

## **Arts Liaison**

The multi-faceted Croton Arts Community will now have a direct conduit to Village government through a new volunteer position - Village Arts Liaison. Marion Callis was recently named to this 2-year position by Mayor Wiegman. The goal is to foster even closer collaboration between the Village and its already vibrant and diverse arts community.

The new role of the Arts Liaison will be to provide a two-way conduit for arts-related issues, requests or questions between the local arts community and the Village. Ms Callis will be the "point person" for the Village on arts-related matters to whom the Village can send its questions and inquiries and vice versa. An initial task Ms Callas will undertake is compiling a list of contacts of local arts organizations, from non-profits to the for-profits, from children's theater to comedic arts education, from photography workshops to music studios, and more.

It is hoped that by tapping into Croton's history as a creative and expressive community, the Village can bring even more arts-related work and collaboration to our area and become a positive influence on our local economy.

## **Water Emergency**

Mandatory water restrictions were put in place for residents using the Village water supply on July 8. This emergency measure was taken after extreme heat and dry conditions contributed to a rise in daily water consumption. The water consumption peaked on July 7 at 1,852,900 gallons that day.



The Village has three operational wells that pump water to water towers from which water runs by gravity through the Village water delivery system to residents. When water usage reaches the levels that occurred in early July, the pumps run continuously and levels in the tanks drop. A sudden need for extra water such as a fire incident or a broken pump would severely impact supply.

Although daily consumption has leveled off since then, it still continues in the range of 1.5 million gallons/day as of late August.

It is anticipated that the emergency restrictions will be rescinded sometime in September. Until then restrictions remain in place and can be seen at the Village's web site.



## **Bike Week Events**

Croton's 3rd Annual Bike Week is scheduled for Sept. 4 through 12. Initiated and organized by the Village's Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (BPC), this event is an opportunity for Village residents to experience non-motorized



transportation. The event promotes three aspects of bike use and road safety - Bike to Shop, Bike to School and Bike to Train. Business owners are encouraged to offer discounts during this

week to bikers who show their helmets as part of Bike to Shop. Bike racks are available at Van Wyck Plaza and places to lock up bikes at Croton Commons and Shop-Rite plazas.

Students are encouraged to Bike to School during this week and in the future. Bike racks are available at all three schools. Biking to school provides exercise, a sense of self-sufficiency and is a confidence booster. Additionally, biking can reduce the morning drop-off traffic at the schools.

Bike to Train encourages commuters to learn about the potential cost savings and health benefits of both biking and walking to the railroad station. Not having a "station" car can result in large savings on insurance, parking fees, fuel and maintenance costs - potentially several thousand dollars each year. Additionally, with the new dedicated bike lane on South Riverside Ave., train commutation is made more user friendly. More information on all of these aspects of Bike Week can be found at the Village website including a list of the businesses providing discounts.

Bike Week is bracketed by two other bicycle-related events. On Sunday, Sept. 5, Westchester Cycle Club will

be holding its **Annual Golden Apple Ride**. These are not races but rather self-paced 25, 50, 75, 100 and 125-mile tours. Some of these routes pass over the Croton Dam. For more information go to [www.westchestercycleclub.org](http://www.westchestercycleclub.org).

A "Croton" ride will be offered on Sat., Sept. 11th at 8 am from the high school parking lot to those who are interested. It will be led by Bike Week organizer, Rob Olsson, for novice, easy and advanced levels. You must sign up in advance by Sept. 4th by emailing [rob39x17@gmail.com](mailto:rob39x17@gmail.com). All bikers must wear helmets and have bicycles in good working condition.

**The 3rd Annual Toughman Half Triathlon** will be held on Sunday, Sept. 12. Over 750 registrants will begin at 7 am at the beach at Croton Point Park for a 1.2-mile swim. Upon return to shore, they will take a 56-mile bike ride to Somers and back, followed by a 13.1-mile run - mostly through Vil-



lage streets. The day before, Sat., Sept. 11 the second annual **Toughkids Triathlon** will be held. Events for 4 to 6, 7-10, and 11-14 age groups will include swimming, biking and running entirely within Croton Point Park. There will also be relay races. For more information or to volunteer at the events, go to [www.westchestertoughman.com](http://www.westchestertoughman.com).



## **Emergency Management**

Richard Nagle was appointed as Director of Emergency Management by Mayor Wiegman in Spring of 2010. Mr. Nagle, a former Chief of Croton's Fire Dept. , has the responsibility for coordinating all emergency planning between the many departments of the Village. Police, Fire, DPW, Engineering and the Manager's office are all participating in the development of a plan that will ensure a continuity of operations in the event of a major emergency.

Various scenarios for different emergencies are being planned for. Among them are storms, flooding, long-term power outages, civil disorders, diseases, well field malfunctions, and others. A definitive plan will be in place for dealing with each set of circumstances and identification of the key personnel in charge and the locations from which they will operate at those times.

## **Cell Tower Update**



**Cell Tower at Station**

The cellular tower located behind the DPW garage at the rail road station is adding another service provider this fall. Verizon is currently installing their facility and expects to be in service in the next month or so.

Currently the tower has three providers co-located on it: Metro PCS, ATT, and T-Mobile/Omnipoint. With the addition of Verizon, there will be one more co-location place available on the tower. It is anticipated that Nextel/Sprint will be filing an application by the end of the year for this last spot on the tower.



## **Deer Management Cont'd.**

families throughout the county.

If you are interested in reading the Westchester County reports on White-tailed Deer and Deforestation (2008) as well as the results of the County-run deer management program last year (March 2010), these reports are available online at [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com). Search on deer report.

After the public hearing, the Village will make a final decision on enacting a statute that would permit a local deer management program. Several additional steps beyond changing its local law would then be required. Specific sites within the participating properties would need to be identified as locations for tree stands. A list of tested and certified bow hunters would be created. A complete list of regulations would need to be developed which would include, but not be limited to, a check-in, check-out system between the certified hunters and the Police Department (all hunters would have to report to the police station prior to and following their presence at one of the approved sites). Site-specific hours and days would need to be established as well. The deer hunting season in NYS runs from October 16 to December 31. Only bow hunting is allowed in Westchester County by NYS law.

## **Sidewalk Work**

Extensive sidewalk and curbing work has been underway during the summer months and it will continue into late Fall. Much of the work in residential neighborhoods is part of the Village's Sidewalk program which gave residents an opportunity to replace broken sidewalks with part of the cost assumed by the Village. Although the program has since expired, work will continue into 2011 to fulfill the commitments that were made. The picture to the left shows extensive replacement of sidewalks on Observatory Dr. Other areas where sidewalk and curb work will occur are Park Ave., Lexington Dr., Cleveland between Piney Point and the circle, Maple and Van Wyck, Old Post Road South, Truesdale and Morningside.



**Observatory Dr.**

Independent of the Sidewalk Replacement program, the Village will be installing curbing along Batten Road.

## **Got a Question?**



**I am planning a home renovation and I know I need to get some permits for the work. Can I get the necessary permits on line?** Yes, the applications for many of the permits you may need are available from the Village website. On the Home page, look under Department Updates.

Depending on what you need to do, you may need to apply for other permits beyond the Building Permit. If you are expanding your home, a zoning variance or wetland permit may be needed. Permits for water and sewer connection and a plumbing permit might also be needed. During construction a demolition permit, an excavation permit, tree removal permit, blasting permit and a dumpster permit might be needed. Each of these applications and others are available to be downloaded from the website. It is also possible to download instructions for filling them out.

They cannot be filled out online, however, and must be presented to the Village Engineer's Office along with the required fee. If you have questions about whether you need any of these permits or about the applications themselves, you should contact the Engineering Office at 271-4783.

## **Dog Walking Reminder**

More and more people, residents and non-residents, are enjoying the Riverwalk at Croton Landing. When walking your dog, it is important to remember that dogs must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and all dog walking must stay on the paved walkways. Additionally, all dog walkers must pickup and remove dog waste from the park.



Dogs may not be taken into other Village parks or roam free anywhere in the Village. Required licenses may be obtained at the Village Office on week days.

## **Croton Seniors**

Croton's Seniors Club will return to meeting in the Community Room in the Municipal Building on Friday, Sept. 10. Meetings begin at 11:00. All residents of the Village and the School District, 60 or older, are eligible to be members. Liz Thomas, the Village's Senior Coordinator, can be reached at 271-5804.