

# *The Croton-on-Hudson* Village Newsletter

December 2003

Number 56

## December Calendar

- 1 & 15 Village Board Mtg.
- 2 & 16 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 3 Cons. Advisory Council
- 3 Water Control Comm.
- 17 Visual Environment Bd.
- 10 Zoning Board
- 25-26 Christmas Holidays

## **Inside this issue:**

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## Scenes from around the Village

As fall turns into winter in Croton, many Village projects are being finished up, boat-owners are taking their boats out of water and other residents are already looking ahead to next spring by adding fresh compost to their gardens.

New side-walks and curbs along both sides of Maple between Old Post Rd.



Maple St. looking to Old Post Rd.

South and Grand St. continue the Village's commitment to make Croton a more pedestrian friendly village as called for in the 2003 Comprehensive Plan. This project was funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by the County. Croton was funded \$105,971 for the \$197,980 project. The contract calls for the planting of 20 new trees in this section which will occur in the spring. At present, it is anticipated that they will be cherry trees. This project completes the sidewalk work in the Upper Village, Maple Street and Grand Street areas.

On the Hudson River, at Croton Landing, residents are seen every day taking advantage of the compost available from last



Compost piles at Croton Landing

year's leaves. This year's leaves will not be composted as the current site is slated to be turned into a field for general public use in the next couple of years. Until a new location can be located in the Village for composting and a decision made to resume composting, the leaves will be taken to Ossining for disposal. The current supply of compost is thought to be sufficient for supplying residents through next spring.

Other signs of winter approaching along the waterfront can be seen at the Croton Yacht Club where the boats have been removed from their slips and winterized. Many are stored at the Yacht Club site until spring.

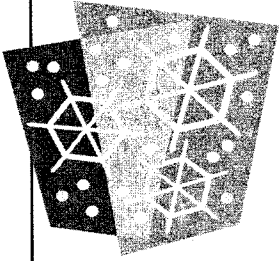


Empty slips and winterized boats

## New Logo Sought

With the goal of establishing a single logo to symbolize the Village of Croton, the Visual Environment Board (VEB) has developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) soliciting ideas and examples for a new logo. The current official logo is the Indian Head seen at the top left of this page and on the 4th page. Many of the direction-finding signs put up in the Village in recent years and the Village's website home page are using a different image—a graphic showing a sail boat on water with hills in the background.

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## Snow is Coming!

When the snow starts falling, there are a few things you should remember about snow removal. The Dept. of Public Works will remove the snow from the streets as it accumulates. You should re-

member that parking is not permitted on the streets when the snowfall measures 2" or more. Listening to local news reports will help you know when snow is expected so you can move your car off the streets. Violators will be ticketed. If you have no other option than to park on the street, you can apply for a permit for winter parking from the Village Office during office hours.

It is each resident's responsibility to clear the sidewalks bordering their property. Please do not push, shovel or blow snow into a previously cleared street. Doing so is a safety hazard and also a violation of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law. Keeping the streets and sidewalks cleared of snow will help keep the Village as safe as possible when conditions are bad.



## Seniors Holiday Sing

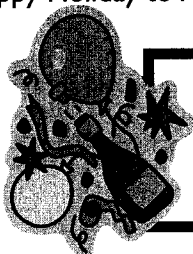
Croton Seniors will have a Holiday Sing at Skyview Nursing home on Tues. Dec. 16 from 2:30 to 3:30. All Seniors are welcome to come and sing along with them.

## Holiday Happenings !

Be sure to mark Sunday, December 7th on your calendar for the 4th Annual Winterfest sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Village's Recreation Dept. featuring singing, entertainment, refreshments and a tree lighting.

Starting December 1, Santa's elves will place mailboxes at the Municipal Building and at Save Mor. Letters to Santa received by Dec. 12 are guaranteed an answer. A name and address are required but no postage is necessary.

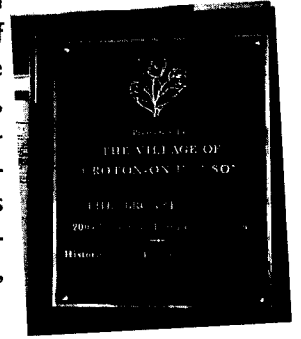
Contact the Recreation Dept. for more information and a Happy Holiday to All!



## Reminder!

The Village Offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 for the Christmas Holiday and

January 1 for New Year's Day.



## Flower City Award

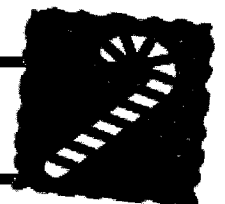
The Village of Croton has received the Bronze Plaque, the third place honor, in the Historic River Towns of Westchester Flower Village Competition. The contest, sponsored by Ginsberg Development Corp., encourages beautification efforts. The program has been in effect 4 years and Croton has won awards in 2000, 2002 and 2003.

## Pipeline Decision Date Extended

A decision due by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce on Millennium's appeal of a negative finding by the NYS Dept. of State on the proposed pipeline project has been extended for 45 days to December 15th. The reason given for the extension was to provide more time to fully consider the issues. The Office of Coastal Zone Mgmt. had previously found that the pipeline project was inconsistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program as well as Croton's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The development of the information supporting the State's determination was largely due to the work of members of Croton's Waterfront Advisory Commission. A decision could be rendered prior to the Dec. 15th date.

## Metro Enviro Reply Brief Filed

The Village's reply brief to the brief filed by the attorney for Metro Enviro has been filed with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. The brief was prepared by Michael Gerrard of Arnold & Porter. Mr. Gerrard is the Village's counsel for Croton's appeal of the decision by Judge Nicolai of the Supreme Court in Westchester County to overturn the Village Board's denial of a renewal of Metro Enviro's Special Permit in January of 2003. The attorneys for both Metro Enviro and the Village have requested time for making their arguments in front of the Appellate Court. The time frame for this to occur is likely to be the summer of 2004. The Reply brief is available on the Village's website.



## Spotlight on Stephen Dominello

Steve Dominello works for the Village in two capacities—in the DPW as a Motor Equipment Operator and as the Chief of Croton's Fire Department.

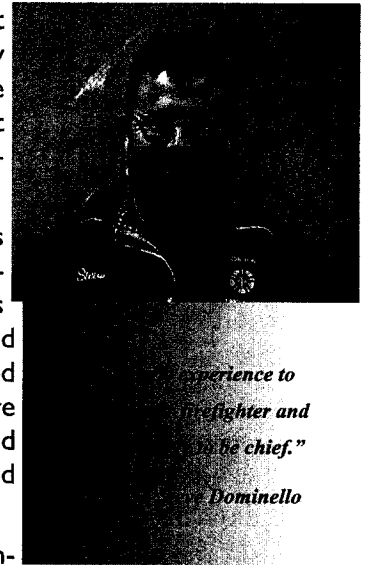
With the DPW, Steve drives the big trucks used in sanitation, recycling, snow removal and road maintenance. This job varies from day to day and brings him throughout the streets of the Village along with the other members of his crew. "Our crew is like a family—a good bunch of people to be associated with.", says Steve. Steve's career with the Fire Dept. has also been a long one. As a found-

ing member of the Fire Dept.'s Junior Corps—Explorer Post 2089, he joined Washington Engine Co. #2 in 1984, worked up to Captain and then was nominated and elected to 2nd Ass't. Chief in 1998. Steve became Chief of the entire department in 2002 and will complete his 2-year term this month. Being a volunteer fireman requires a great deal of training and Stephen has taken more than a dozen courses such as equipment use, tactics, fire scene management and leadership and Administration for Chief Officers. As Chief, he is responsible for 'incident command' when he is at a fire scene. Along

with the other Ass't Chiefs and the 5 Company Captains, he creates the Fire Dept.'s annual budget requests and has responsibility for administering it.

Born in Croton, Steve has lived here all his life except for two years in his teen years. He attended Croton schools, married here and now lives here with his wife, Anita, and children Samantha, 7, and Jake, 3.

In his spare time, Steve enjoys reading, especially Military history. He looks forward to spending more time in the future with his family and returning to being a firefighter when his term as Chief is up.



## Stormwater Phase II Regulations



In the April and September Newsletters, the first 3 of the 6 minimum stormwater control measures required by the EPA were discussed. This issue will cover the 4th measure—construction site runoff control.

Construction site runoff may contain sediment, solid and sanitary wastes, phosphorous, nitrogen, pesticides, oil, grease and other pollutants which may have negative impacts on our water bodies and ecosystems. Sediment is usually the greatest concern as its runoff rates from construction sites can be as much as 1,000 to 2,000 times greater than from forest lands, cause damage to water bodies, and also clog storm water pipes.

The Stormwater Phase II regulations require the Village to implement and enforce a program to reduce construction site pollutants. The following items are mandated:

- Establish a local law on sediment and erosion controls. Croton adopted its Erosion & Sediment Control law in 1988.
- Establish procedures for site plan review of construction plans to consider potential water quality impacts. The Planning Board does this review

for all site plans.

- Establish procedures for site inspection and enforcement of control measures. These procedures are in place in our Village Code.
- Establish sanctions to ensure compliance. Stop work orders and fines can be used under Croton's code to achieve compliance.
- Establish procedures for the public to provide input on their stormwater concerns. Attending Public hearings for site plan applications is one way to provide input. Residents may also call the DPW at 271-3775.
- Determine Best Management Practices (BMP') and measurable goals for construction site runoff control. BMP's and goals are part of Croton's Stormwater Management Program.



All of the above items are being reviewed to enhance and improve them. Erosion and sediment pollution can occur anywhere; only a community wide effort will provide the greatest protection of our water bodies.

We're on the Web. Visit us at  
<http://village-croton-on-hudson.ny.us/>

## Got a Question?



**When I am walking along the streets in my neighborhood, I have to be constantly aware of where I am stepping to avoid dog feces. Isn't there a law about pet owners cleaning up after their dogs and what can I do about it? Also, are dogs allowed in our parks?**

This issue has been addressed in earlier Newsletters, but it continues to be a problem judging by the questions that come in. Under Chapter 108 of the Village Code, dogs are regulated in the Village. They must be licensed and are not allowed to run at-large. In addition, when being walked, they may only be curbed in that portion of the street lying between the curb lines and the feces must be removed by the person with the dog, put in an airtight container and then deposited into a container used for the disposal of refuse. (Licensed guide dogs



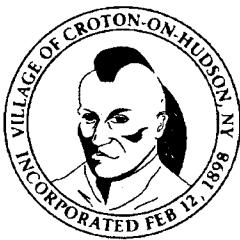
are excepted from this rule.)

Dogs are not allowed on any public park, playground or school property or private property without the owner's consent, whether or not they are restrained by a chain or leash.

If you observe a violation of this law, you may file a complaint, under oath, with a Justice of the Village, specifying the nature of the violation, the date it occurred, a description of the dog and the name and residence of the owner, if known. This can be done at the Court Office in the Municipal Building. Such a complaint may become the basis for enforcing the provisions of the law, including the serving of an appearance ticket for the violation.

**Logo, cont'd.** Responses to the RFP must be submitted by late January. Examples of where the logo will be used are: stationery, website, police uniforms, Village cars and trucks, storm drains, flags, awards, shirts, signage, press, promotional items, etc.

December 2003



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

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