

# *The Croton-on-Hudson* **Village Newsletter**

December 2004

Number 67

## December

### Calendar

- 6 & 20** Village Board Mtg.
- 7 & 28** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 1** Cons. Advisory Council
- 8** Zoning Board
- 15** Water Control Comm.
- 15** Visual Environ. Bd.

## In this issue

- Robotics workshop 2
- Snow is coming 2
- Millennium Update 2
- Manager Installed 2
- Employee Spotlight 3
- Winterfest 3
- Garden dedication 3
- Got a Question? 4

## **Hudson Riverfront Road Opens**

### **Brook St. Crossing Closes**

The long-awaited Hudson Riverfront road is completed and open for use. The new road, along with its adjacent pedestrian and bicycle path, offers spec-



**New road and path, looking north.**

tacular views of the Hudson River for car passengers as well as walkers and bikers. Built at a cost of approximately \$4.2 million, the funding came from Metro North, the NYS Dept. of Transportation, and Federal Intermodal Transportation (ISTEA) money. Metro North also contracted the design and engineering work. The Village facilitated the new road through its acquisition of the Half Moon Bay bridge to serve as a new entrance to the waterfront. The road, as yet to be named, runs between the bridge and Senasqua Park to the north.



**View of Hudson through the tunnel.**

The two-lane road goes over the previously existing tunnel entrance. This was accomplished by extending the tunnel by approximately 25'. Landscaping as well as new lights are part of the completed project.

The project was originally brought about as part of an effort by the NYS DOT to eliminate railroad at-grade crossings such as exists at the Brook Street crossing by the Yacht Club. With the opening of the new road, the Brook Street crossing will be closed for use and barricades will be put in place at that location.



**Pedestrian/bicycle tunnel under road.**

The tunnel, the previous alternative vehicular access to the Hudson waterfront, will now be restricted to pedestrian and bicycle access. The tunnel has been renovated and repaved to create a smooth riding and walking surface.

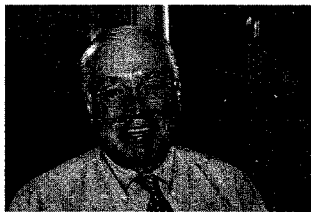
The new road will provide more convenient and safer access to Senasqua Park, Croton Landing and the Yacht Club as well as providing another link in the waterfront trail system. It will also result in a reduction in the number of train whistles and train-related noises in the Brook Street area.

## Millennium Pipeline Update

The resolution of the Millennium Pipeline proposal remains ongoing. Millennium, NYS Dept. of State, and the US Commerce Dept. are currently in settlement discussions in hopes of reaching an agreement on re-routing the pipeline. After Millennium filed its opening brief, and in order to allow settlement discussions to continue, Millennium and the government jointly asked the court to extend the briefing schedule. On September 20, the district court granted that request, making the Village's opening brief now due on December 6, 2004. Croton and Briarcliff Manor have intervenor status which allows the villages to participate in the proceedings on equal footing with Millennium and the other defendants. Millennium's response brief is now due on January 17, 2005, and our reply will be due on March 14, 2005. As intervenors, Croton and Briarcliff Manor must be included in any settlement discussions and they have the right to appeal any adverse decision to the D.C. District Court.

## Village Manager Installed

Village Manager Richard Herbek was recently installed as the Regional Vice President, Northeast Region, of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) at its annual October meeting. He will serve a three-year term in this capacity.



The ICMA is a professional and educational association for administrators serving cities, counties and local governments around the world. It provides technical assistance and publications for local government professionals and serves as a clearinghouse for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data about local government.

## Croton Seniors

It's not too late to join the Croton Seniors and take part in their planned holiday activities—a shopping trip to the Mall on Dec. 8th and their Holiday party on Friday, Dec. 17th. Call Sr. Director Yvonne Bel-dotti at 271-5804 between 8:30-2:30 M/W/F.

## Snow Is Coming!



When the snow starts falling, there are a few things residents should remember about snow removal. The Dept. of Public Works will remove the snow from the streets as it accumulates. Parking is not permitted on the streets when the snowfall measures 2" or more. Listening to local weather reports will help you know when snow is expected so that 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 regular 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.



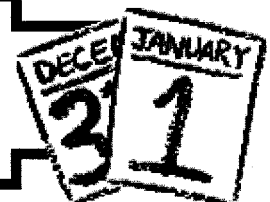
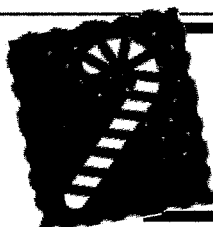
## Advanced Robotics Vacation Program

A 2-day program on Wed., Dec. 29 & Thurs., Dec. 30 for children aged 8-12 will explore the excitement of how robots work by building a wide assortment of real working robots. The program runs from 9am to 3pm and is \$80. for residents (\$96. for non-residents). The registration deadline is December 22nd.

Projects include: Lego Mindstorm robotic Bug, Hoop-a-Bot and Alarm, a Robot Dinosaur-Galactisaur, Mars Cruiser-Aquabot, Space Copter-Desert Rover, the 5 foot tall Commander Robot, Robo-Dog, and a 6 foot crocosaur alligator. With hand-held Robotix computers, you will also build your own robot to take home including either a sound-activated robot with a pre-soldered circuit board, or a complex motorized Robotix project. Lunch is not provided. For further information, on registration, call the Recreation Dept. at 271-3006.

## Reminder!

The Village Offices will be closed on Fri., Dec. 24 and Mon., Dec. 27 for the Christmas Holiday and on Fri., Dec. 31 for the New Year Holiday.



## Spotlight on Susan Menz

Since September, 2001, Susan Menz has been Croton's Superintendent of Recreation and Parks. Coming from Briarcliff Manor, where she was Recreation Supervisor for 5 years and a previous job with Nassau County Recreation and Parks, Croton is the beneficiary of Susan's years of experience.

Susan's job entails overseeing the maintenance of Village parks and fields and managing a year-round program of activities, special events, classes and camps. During the summer season, when parks and fields are being heavily used, Silver Lake is open, camps are operating, and special film and entertainment series are running, up to 140 seasonal employees are in-

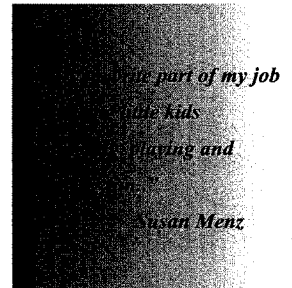
volved. Throughout the rest of the year, Susan manages 5 full-time staff and 4 part-time; a "hard-working group who all enjoy what they do".

In addition to program and parks responsibility, Susan is responsible for the department's budget preparation, purchasing, and preparation of RFPs and bid documents for services the department requires. Planning one or two seasons ahead is a necessity in order to have all the programs in place and the fields and parks properly maintained.

Susan tries to talk personally with residents who have ideas or suggestions and also works with the Recreation Advisory Committee on establishing goals and policies.

In addition, Susan and the Dept. work with community groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and with local businesses in arranging special events such as Summerfest, and the family entertainment series.

Susan grew up on Long Island and received her BS and MS in Recreation and Parks Management from West Virginia University with a minor in Public Administration. In her spare time she runs middle-distance track events, competing for the Westchester Track Club, and is an All-American Masters Runner. She is also involved with her church in Mt. Kisco.



### Arboretum Garden Dedication

A specialty garden at the Croton Arboretum was dedicated to Norma Salzberg on Nov. 21st at a ceremony attended by Mayor Robert Elliott and Supervisor Linda Puglisi. Named "Norma's Garden", it is made up of healing and healthful plants. Norma Salzberg was a founding member of the Arboretum and its 'guiding light'. The garden was donated by her friends and family in her honor. The long-planned ceremony sadly occurred after Norma's death on November 8th.

### Blood Drive Update

The 69th Community blood drive will be held on Sun., Dec. 5, from 9-3 at C.E.T. elementary school. (Note: This is a change from the information in the November newsletter.) Call Rosalind Morrissey, 271-8449, Carol Shanesy, 271-7645, or Natalie Rotkoff, 737-6165 for an appointment. Donors must be between age 17 and 76 and in good health.

### December Holiday Happenings!

The Village's 5th Annual Winterfest is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, December 5th at Vassallo Park. The Chamber of Commerce and the Village's Recreation Dept. sponsor the event. This year's Winterfest will feature entertainment, refreshments and singing by local school groups. Flyers with further information will be distributed through the C.E.T. elementary school.



The Recreation Dept. is also once again facilitating Santa's mail by placing mailboxes at the Municipal Building and at Save Mor starting December 1st through December 15th. Letters to Santa received by Dec. 15th are guaranteed an answer. A name and address are required but no postage is necessary.

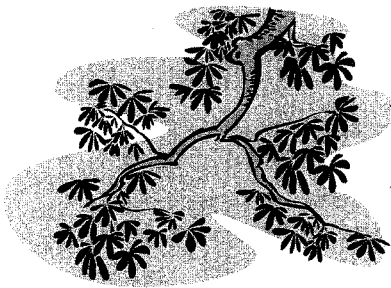


We're on the Web. Visit us at:  
<http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov>

## Got a Question?



In my neighborhood there are several trees whose branches have grown to the extent that they hang so low over the sidewalk that it is impossible to walk on the sidewalk without getting hit in the head. As a result,



many people are walking in the street. Are there regulations about how high branches must be over the sidewalk?

According to the Village Code 208-10, there should be a clear space of eight (8) feet above the surface off the street or sidewalk. Tree branches are also not supposed to obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection. It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep their

trees trimmed to accommodate the above regulations. Dead, diseased or dangerous trees or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a safety hazard must also be removed.

Generally speaking, trees that are between the sidewalk and the paved street are Village trees. Trees that are between the sidewalk and the home are usually the property owner's trees. If Village trees are overhanging the sidewalk or street in a dangerous way, you should call the DPW at 271-3775 and report the problem. The DPW has the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a streetlight or interferes with visibility of any traffic control device or sign. The Dept. may also cause dead or diseased trees on private property which are hazardous to be removed by notifying the property owner. The owner is responsible for the expense.

December 2004



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

Robert W. Elliott, Mayor  
Georgianna K. Grant, Trustee  
Charles Kane, Trustee  
Gregory J. Schmidt, Trustee  
Leo A. W. Wiegman, Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager  
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building  
One Van Wyck Street  
(914) 271-4781-2

### Postal Patron

**Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520**

Bulk Rate  
Permit No. 111  
Carrier Route  
Pre-Sort  
Yorktown Heights  
New York 10598