



December Calendar

- 4 & 18** Village Board Mtg.
- 12** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 6** Cons. Advisory Council
- 13** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 20** Water Control Comm.
- 20** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 22 & 25** Holidays

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Weather or Not?

The decision on whether Croton's railroad station parking lot needs to be closed due to weather conditions is being aided by the recent acquisition of sophisticated weather forecasting equipment.



Weather Station on Roof

The Village already subscribes to a weather forecasting service, National Weather Station, that provides localized forecasts. The installation of a new weather station and a river level gauge at the parking lot site will further improve the weather service's ability to provide accurate, site-specific forecasts on impending weather conditions that may result in flooding at the lot. The new weather station provides the ability to measure the effects of local wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, humidity, and a rain gauge which daily and monthly readings. The river gauge measures the level of the river and water temperature.

The weather station is located on the roof of the Municipal Garage and the river level gauge is located by the Croton River near the salt shed. The information from these devices is being transmitted to the weather forecasting service.

Although the forecasting equipment was purchased to help make decisions regarding the closure of the parking lot due to potential flooding, it will also provide additional benefits to the Village. When snow storms are forecast, having information about their local intensity and amount of snowfall will aid the Department of Public Works in preparation for the storm fighting effort. Knowing when

a storm is going to start and end can help in the scheduling of personnel and



River Level Gauge

could have a positive effect on overtime costs. Additionally, having accurate rainfall data will be useful to the Village in the ongoing development of its plans for complying with the federal and state imposed Phase 2 stormwater regulations.

Planning for Snow

Village residents are urged to listen to weather forecasts in anticipation of bad weather. When snow is forecasted, residents should plan on removing their cars from the street in advance of any accumulation. On-street parking is not permitted when snow measures 2 inches or more. Keeping your car off the streets aids the DPW in keeping the streets cleared of snow. Violators of this prohibition will be ticketed. If you have no other option than to park on the street, you can apply in the Village Office for a seasonal parking permit for on-street winter parking. (See November Newsletter for details.)

Residents are responsible for clearing the sidewalks bordering their property. Please do not push, shovel or blow snow into a previously cleared street. Doing so is a violation of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law. Cleared streets and sidewalks help keep the Village as safe as possible.



Tax Exemption Reminder

Residents wishing to apply for tax exemptions on their property taxes should do so by January 2, 2007. Exemptions are available for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities and volunteer fire personnel.

NYS recently increased the allowable income level for partial real estate tax exemptions for persons 65 years of age and older. Croton has implemented this change through a new local law taking effect on January 1, 2007.

Exemption percentages now are 5% on a total income range of \$33,500 to \$34,399 up to 50% on a total income of less than \$26,000.

Questions should be directed to 271-4783 and application can made at the Village Engineer's office in the Municipal Building.



Number of Hybrid Parking Permits Increase

Under a program coordinated by the NYS Dept. of Transportation, (NYSDOT) to help reduce overall vehicle miles and lower harmful vehicle emissions, in July 2005 Croton began offering a 50% reduction on parking lot permits to those commuters who can verify ownership of a hybrid or electric car. The program applies to both residents and non-residents.

The Village is reimbursed for the difference between the full permit rate and the 50% reduction by Metro-Pool, Inc., which is facilitating the program for the NYSDOT. Croton recently received a check for \$4,222.50 and numbers of qualifying cars are steadily increasing.

To receive the rate reduction, the title or bill of sale and the car registration must be presented at the Village Office.

Please Return Your Survey Response

Surveys included in the November Newsletter must be returned by December 15th to be included in the results. The bright pink sheets have a pre-paid return address. Please take the time to fill it out.

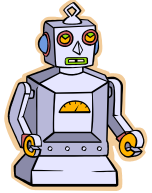


Holiday Happenings

The Recreation Dept. has a very full December planned including a school vacation science program and several holiday-related events.

At the Super Science **Roly Poly Robotics**

program on Wed./Thurs., Dec. 27 & 28 for grades 2-6, students will have fun learning how robots work, about their history and their future. The ROBOTIX building system will be used to build a wide range of robotic creations. Students will learn to program their creations, participate in a robotic billiards competition, battle bots, and robot Olympics. All students build and take home a Roly Poly Robot kit. The program runs from 9am to 3 pm both days. The fee is \$90./\$108 for resident/non-residents.



A new winter event, replacing Winterfest, will feature a party on Saturday, Dec. 9th at the Harmon Fire House from 12 noon to 2 pm.

Santa Claus is Coming To Town!

will have entertainment by "Circus in Toyland", a two-person act that will include songs and skits aimed at younger children. Refreshments will be provided and Santa Claus has promised to stop by as well. This is a great opportunity to kick off the holidays. More information will be available on flyers distributed in school.

Santa's Letters will once again be forwarded by the Recreation Dept. to the North Pole. Letters received by Dec. 15th are guaranteed a response from Santa's elves. Mailboxes for letters to Santa will be located at the Municipal Building and at Save Mor in Croton Commons by Dec. 4th. No postage is needed but a return name and address are a must.



Bike/Ped Interim Report

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee has completed a Phase I report based on its outreach to the community. It includes a summary of the results from its public input session on September 28th as well as written input received. Both a long-range and short range plan for the village will be developed based on this information and future outreach to residents. The report is available on the Village's website.



Reminder!

The Village Offices will be closed Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25 for the Christmas Holidays and Monday, Jan. 1 for New Years Day.

Spotlight on John Barirde

John Barirde has been a Police Officer in Croton since 1990, coming here from the NYC Transit Police. While there, John worked primarily in the subway system and was part of a robbery plain clothes task force. Here in Croton, in addition to being on patrol around the Village, John is on the emergency response team-Croton's SWAT team, where he is the assistant team leader and is responsible for training. As an accident investigator for Croton's police, John gets called out at any time to investigate and photograph a serious or fatal accident. John is the boat engineer for the Police Dive team and is also involved with the new Croton River task force in patrolling the Croton River to keep it safe and fun for

the community.

Additionally, John is an Arson Investigator for the County Arson team. In this capacity, he investigates potential arsons in Northern Westchester. In preparation, he attended over 80 hours of training for arson investigating at the National Fire Academy in MD, 40 more in NYS and attends regular updates in this as well as accident investigation to keep him up to date for his responsibilities. He estimates that he works on 40 to 60 arson investigations annually.

John has also been a volunteer firefighter with the Harmon Engine Co. #3 since 1980 and is 1st Vice Pres. Of the Westchester County Police Benevolent Assoc. Inc. John's second passion is auto mechanics.

For the last 26 years he has worked in this capacity at Osceola Garage in Baldwin Place.

John was born and raised in Croton-on-Hudson. He still resides here with his wife, Kim, 10 1/2 year old handicapped son, John, and 6 year old daughter, Hannah.

In whatever spare time he has, John likes to spend it with his family going on day trips or riding bikes. He has many hobbies such as model railroading, photographing trains, restoring his classic Bronco and maintaining his yard. He and his family also enjoy an occasional trip to Florida's west coast.

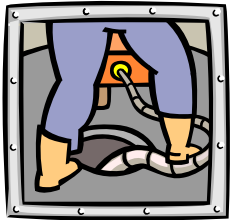


"I feel a close connection to Croton; it is perfect for me. I like to think I do make a difference."

John Barirde

Water Bill Addition

On December 15th, the semi-annual water bills will be sent out. A new item, the sewer charge, will appear on the bill as a separate line item. The Sewer fund was established in late 2005 to provide a source of revenue for the operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system. Prior to its passage, sewer costs were taken from the General Fund. All premises that are connected to or served by the Ossining Sanitary Sewer system will be billed.



The water rate for this bill is \$4.014 times the usage rate which is measured in hundreds of cubic feet. The sewer rate is \$.3717 times the same usage rate for the premises. The bill is payable by January 15, 2007. Bills which are not paid by the due date incur a 5% penalty. A delinquency letter will be sent for which there is a \$5. charge. Each additional month of delinquency results in an additional 1% increase in the penalty and additional letters at the \$5. charge. After 90 days, a \$100. fee is also added to the combined water and sewer bill.

Village Tries Ebay

Selling old equipment which is no longer used by the Village frequently requires significant staff time in locating buyers or placing ads in appropriate journals or newsletters. The Village is experimenting with using Ebay by becoming a registered seller. To see what is offered for sale and what the bids are, go to www.ebay.com. Click on advanced search on the upper right and then select "items by seller" on the left side of the screen. Type in "villageofcrotononhudson" as the seller name.

McMahon Decision

An October 23, 2006 decision by federal judge Colleen McMahon said that Buffalo Southern Railroad (BSOR) was not precluded from transloading gypsum at its site at 1A Croton Point Ave. She determined that gypsum is not solid waste and that such an operation does not conflict with her earlier Preliminary Injunction decision in June, 2006. In that decision, Judge McMahon excluded solid waste from what BSOR may transload and transport but granted their motion to halt "enforcement of local zoning, permit or preclearance requirements against the Yard."

The recent decision does not address the legality of BSOR's status as a common carrier which the Village has raised before the Surface Transportation Board.

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December, 2006

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

Got a Question?



Wondering what to give your favorite Croton Senior for the holidays or another special occasion?

Consider giving a day trip gift certificate to a member of the Croton Seniors Club. Certificates can be applied to the costs of any Senior trip and are available in \$25, \$35, and \$50. amounts. They can only be used by the person to whom the certificate is issued and are honored for one year from the date of issue. They cannot be used for other Club events or activities. There are no refunds but any unused portion will be applied as a household credit and used for a future trip. Contact Yvonne Beldotti, Sr. Coordinator, at 271-5804 for more information.



Tree Disposal

The DPW will pick up trees in the first two weeks of January. Trees should be left at the street, with no trimmings, tinsel or wire. They should not be in bags. They will be picked up separately from the garbage and chipped.

New Bike Rack

A new bicycle rack has joined the many new racks installed around the Village in the last year. This one, provided by the shopping center owner, is installed in the nook next to CVS. Ideally located, it does not impede pedestrian traffic, is centrally located and is sheltered from rain or snow.



Bike rack near CVS

Other bicycle racks that have been installed in the past year are located below the south stairway at the train station, at the high school and middle school, and at Dobbs Park. The effort to install bicycle racks was begun in 2005 by the Village's Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) to encourage an environmentally friendly alternative to car usage. The recently formed Bike/Ped Committee is further pursuing this initiative to locate additional bicycle racks around the village as part of its goal to provide more non-vehicle connectivity between Croton's neighborhoods, schools, and commercial areas.