



Scenes from the Village - 2008

December Calendar

- 1 & 15** Village Board Mtg.
- 2** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 9 & 23** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 9** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 10** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 17** Visual Environ. Board
- 17** Water Control Comm.
- 25** **Christmas Day**

During the year of 2008, many things occurred that have become part of the daily fabric of our lives but are nevertheless important to the Village.



New Police Dept. Sign

Most recently, new signage has appeared around the Municipal Building. Two attractive

new signs indicate your arrival at the Stanley Kellerhouse building and the location of the Police Dept. within it.

Another new sign, inside the building, highlights the location of the Croton History Museum on the first floor. The Museum is currently exhibiting a 1930's retrospective of the Village.



Did you notice our new Police Bike Patrol around the village this summer or at the newly re-opened Croton Landing Park?

Officers Gabrielson and Smith are shown below preparing for duty in early June. Officer Wingfield and Sgt. Oles also were also seen on bike patrols around the Village. Residents report liking this more informal Police presence on the Village streets and at special events.



Bike Patrol

In early summer, residents started seeing new trail connection markers on some Village streets. These markers identify the On-the-Road segments of

the Village's Trail system.

There are many wooded trail sections and these "on-the-road" connections help tie together the entire Trail system.



Link Marker

Last Spring a coordinated effort between the Village, the Town of Cortlandt and the NYDEC



resulted in a grant of 300 trees and shrubs for planting at Mayo's Landing along the Croton River. The revegetation project was implemented by volunteer planters in early May.

Also in May, along Mt. Airy Road in the Village, ground was broken for the 11-unit Senior Housing apartment



building supported by the Croton Housing Network, the Village, and County. The project is currently moving ahead with work on the building to be followed by site and

Symphony Knoll site



New Municipal Bldg Bench

the Croton Seniors to commemorate their 50th anniversary is enjoying a lot of use by the many people coming and going from the offices and activities at the building.

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Treasurer Appointed

Following a lengthy application and interview process, the Village Board has appointed a new Treasurer. Sandra Bullock comes to Croton with nineteen-plus years of experience in accounting and finance.

Most recently Sandra was a Budget Analyst for the City of White Plains where her primary responsibilities were operating budget preparation, capital improvement projects and the financial year-end close out process. Previously, Treasurer Bullock was Village Treasurer for the Village of Spring Valley. Spring Valley is not a Council/Manager form of government as Croton is. In Spring Valley, Sandra was the public official who served as the chief fiscal officer of the Village.

After her graduation from St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sandra spent a number of years in various accounting positions in the private sector before turning to municipal finance. She also provided consulting services to the Village of Spring Valley before becoming their Treasurer.

Sandra will begin her position with Croton on December 8 and will be involved in the annual budget process for the 2009/2010 fiscal year from its beginning, an ideal way to become familiar with every Village department. Currently, Sandra resides in Rockland County.

Croton Seniors

The Croton Seniors Club has returned to meeting in the Municipal Building on Fridays at 11:00 am. Recently they heard a presentation by County Clerk Tim Idoni on the subject of Identity Theft and Privacy. He presented situations that all residents should be wary of, including internet scams, and offered responsive measures. He also provided forms for "No Calling" and No Mailing" requests. The completed forms were then sent in by his staff to final-



County Clerk Idoni

ize the requests.

The Seniors Club is looking forward to their annual Holiday Luncheon on December 4th at Traveler's Rest in Ossining. They recently put on a Silent Auction of items donated by members. The proceeds help fund the Club's activities.

Holiday Tree Disposal

The DPW will pick up discarded Christmas trees in the first two weeks of January. Trees should not have any trimmings, tinsel or wire and not be in bags.

Permits, Bills, Etc.

Weekend Parking Permits Permits for weekend parking at the Croton railroad station must be renewed this month. All existing Weekend parking permits will expire at the end of December 2008. Permits are free to residents and may be obtained at the Village office with a copy of your car's registration.

Alarm permits Residents with private alarm systems are required to have an Alarm permit from the Village prior to installing the alarm. Alarm permits are renewable annually at a cost of \$50. The Village sends out renewal notices every January. Violations for false alarms from unpermitted systems may result in daily fines of up to \$250. Applications may be downloaded from the Village website. Search on "Alarm permit" from the Home page.

Water Bills The semi-annual Water bills will be sent out on Dec. 15th. The Water rate is \$4.307 per 100 cubic feet of usage. The Sewer rate is \$0.3980 per 100 cubic feet of water consumption. The bill is payable by January 15, 2009. Thereafter penalties will apply.

For more information on any of the above permits or bills, call the Village Office at 271-4781.

Snow is Coming!

When snow starts falling, the DPW starts plowing when it reaches 2 inches. They will continue plowing while the snow accumulates and thereafter until the streets are cleared. Parking is not allowed on Village streets without a Seasonal Permit.



Sidewalks must be cleared of snow by the owners of the bordering properties. Please do not push, shovel or blow snow into a previously plowed street. Doing so is a safety hazard and also a violation. Keeping the streets and sidewalks cleared of snow will help keep the Village as safe as possible when winter weather conditions are bad. Please also clear snow from around fire hydrants.

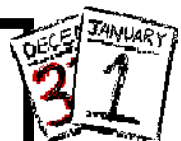
Blood Drive Reminder!

The 77th semiannual Blood Drive is set for Sunday, December 7, from 9 am to 3 pm at Croton-Harmon High School. Blood donation is simple, painless and harmless. Call for an appointment: Carol Shanesy @ 271-7645 or Rosalind Morrissey @ 271-8449.



Reminder!

**Village Offices will be closed
Thursday and Friday, December 25 & 26
for the Christmas holiday!**



Spotlight on Corey Velardo

Croton's newest Police Officer, Corey Velardo, joined our department in October of this year. Corey comes to Croton with 4 1/2 years of experience with the New York City Police Dept.

As a Croton Patrolman, Corey spends his shifts of duty patrolling the streets of the Village in which he grew up. After attending both C.E.T. and Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, he attended Cardinal Stepinac High School in White Plains from which he graduated in 1996.

After attending LaSalle University in Philadelphia for three years, Corey returned to Croton and worked for his father's contracting business while continuing classes at WCC and SUNY Purchase. His area of study was

Communications. It was during this period of time that Corey decided to go into Police work, particularly after 9/11. He was admitted to the NYC Police Academy for a 6-month program that included intensive study and physical fitness training. The 47th Precinct in the Bronx became his place of work for the next four years. While there he spent time on Foot Patrol followed by regular Patrol in marked cars. As an undercover plain clothes policeman, Corey spent another year in the Anti-Crime Burglary unit. This assignment was followed by being assigned to the School Unit which covered about 30 Bronx schools and dealt with truancy, youth-related crimes, 911 calls from the schools

as well as providing a police presence at school events.

As a Patrolman, Corey responds to situations he observes on his rounds as well as calls from headquarters. He looks forward to spending his police career in Croton's department.

Corey and his wife, Jennifer, currently live in Peekskill. Jennifer also is from Croton and is now a teacher in the Harrison school district. Corey still loves the sports he played in high school - football and baseball. He also likes to bowl and work out. He and Jennifer also enjoyed a recent vacation to St. Lucia in the Caribbean.



"Coming back to Croton as a Policeman has been an easy transition. I know the Village and I enjoy the community policing aspect of my job here.."

Corey Velardo

December Recreation

Lego Star Wars & Motorized Machines is the theme of the Croton Recreation & Parks Department 2-day Holiday School break program for grades 2 to 7. Sign up for the Dec. 29 & 30 program (Mon/Tues) is by Dec. 22. Students will build a favorite adventure from a Star Wars galaxy. Projects will include Sith Infiltrator, MTT, Naboo N-1 and more!. Students will also build an assortment of motorized Lego machines and create their own projects illustrating science concepts. The fee is \$95/\$115 (res/nonres).

Santa Claus is Coming to Town for his annual visit on Sat., December 6 at noon. Join the elves in welcoming him at the Harmon Firehouse at the corner of Wayne St. and Benedict Blvd. This program for children and their parents will feature holiday entertainment and refreshments. Look for a flyer soon.

Letters to Santa may be deposited in mailboxes at the Municipal Building and at Save Mor in Croton Commons from Dec. 1 to Dec. 12. Letters received by the 12th are guaranteed an answer. A return name and address is necessary. No postage is required.



Tax Exemptions

Residents wishing to apply for tax exemptions on their property taxes should do so by December 31, 2008. Exemptions are available for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities and volunteer fire personnel.

Allowable income levels for partial real estate exemptions are set by NYS for persons age 65 years or older. Exemption percentages now vary from 5% on a total income range of \$35,500 to \$36,399 and up to 50% on a total income less than \$28,000.

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

StopTheTaxShift.org

A new web site sponsored by the NY Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) focuses on the shifting of state taxes and costs onto local governments and property taxpayers. In an effort to educate policymakers, the media, the public and New York's overburdened real property taxpayer, www.StopTheTaxShift.org provides useful information to fully understand the local impact of decisions made in Albany. The site features information on over 50 state mandates that affect Village property taxes and focuses on a different one each week.

December, 2008

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

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Thomas P. Brennan, Trustee
Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee
Susan Konig, Trustee
Richard B. Olver, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2
www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Got a Question?



I recently moved to Croton and would like to give my friends and family some holiday gifts that will remind them and inform them about where I live. Any suggestions?



The Village and the Historical Society have many items for sale that would accomplish exactly what you are looking for. Shown at left is an array of possibilities. All of the items are available in the Village Office. From the Historical Society: cotton coverlets featuring an array of local scenes woven into it

(\$50 in red, green, dark blue and light blue); Tapestry totes with scenes of the Dam and the Hudson (\$35); Croton History books or DVD (\$20);

Croton Dam note cards (\$4); or a Dam coloring book (\$2). From the Village there are baseball caps with the Croton Logo in red, black or blue (\$15); glass mugs with a blue logo (\$5); rocks glasses with logo (\$4), logo lapel pins (\$3) and a matted color print of

a painting of Senasqua Park (\$35).

Additionally, the Recreation Dept. offers Trip and Travel Gift Certificates for

Croton Seniors (\$25, \$35, or \$50 denominations).

The Village Office is open from 8:30 to 4 on weekdays where these items can be purchased.

If none of these items are exactly what you are looking for, don't forget that our local stores throughout the Village would also appreciate your holiday shopping business for your gift giving needs.

