



## December Calendar

- 7 Village Board Mtg.
- 8 & 22 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 2 Cons. Advisory Council
- 8 Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 9 Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 16 Visual Environ. Bd.
- 23 Trails Committee
- 25 Christmas Day

- Winter Recreation 2
- Duck Pond 2
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- Permits & Bills 2
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## History of Croton Point on Display

Croton's Historical Society has opened a new exhibit in their museum on the first floor of the Municipal Building. "Four Hundred Years of Croton Point History" documents the story of Croton Point for the four hundred years from 1609 to 2009. The exhibit is part of Croton's participation in the 2009 Hudson-Fulton Quadricentennial celebration. The exhibit was mounted under the direction of Museum Director Tom Simone along with Dennis Lund and other members of the Historical Society. The exhibit is open whenever the Municipal Building is open.

Covering such a long period of time in limited space was a challenge but visitors will see and learn interesting information about Croton Point's history. Some of the most interesting exhibits have direct relationship to people and events that shaped the Village.



**Lenni Lenape Indians**

Starting with a diorama of the Lenni Lenape Indians circa 1609, the exhibit shows life among the indigenous Indians who saw Henry Hudson's ship pass the Point. The diorama was created by Croton Historian Joyce Finnerty.

A representation of the HMS Vulture awaiting Major Andre just off the Point represents the importance of this location on the Hudson during the American Revolution.

The Underhill Farms and Brickyards covering the period from 1804 to the early 1900's show the beginnings of how Croton Point became developed. Towards the end of the 19th century and the early twentieth century, Croton Point became the location of campgrounds of

the American Canoe Association as well as the Croton Point Club. The latter was a private club on Haverstraw Bay with a clubhouse, bathhouse and vacation bungalows. Separately, the Croton Point Bungalow Colony developed around 1917. This colony of small, very rustic bungalows existed until 1963. The County operated an amusement park called Point Pleasant Park from 1912 to 1922. A ferris wheel and rides were popular among many New York city residents who traveled to the park on excursion boats which docked there. Perhaps given its location on the Hud-



**Wright Brothers at Croton Point.**

son River making it easy for hydrofoil planes to land, the Point also has an interesting aviation history. From 1910 through 1941, the Point was a focus of many noted aviators who saw its potential as a landing location. A notice of a meeting at Croton High School in 1936 shows the possible development of an airport at the Point being the subject of discussion. Reportedly this proposal had the attention of aviation luminaries such as Amelia Earhart and Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker. The meeting notice called on residents to inform themselves and discuss the proposed airport's "profound effect upon business interests" and real estate. As early as 1925, Croton Point also became the dumping ground for the County. After a long and controversial period during which its closing was required by regulators, it has been transformed into the beautiful park of today.



**Meeting Notice**

## **Winter Break Recreation Programs**

The popular Lego Star Wars & Motorized Machines two-day program is being offered again this year over the Winter school break by the Croton Recreation Dept. The program is designed for grades 2 to 6 on Tues. & Wed., Dec. 29 and 30. Sign up is required by Dec. 22.

Students will have fun building their favorite adventure from a Star Wars galaxy that is far, far away. Projects will depend on availability but will include most of these new models: Separatist Shuttle, all new Y-wing, Corporate Alliance Tank Droid and much more! Participants will also build a wide assortment of motorized Lego machines and create their own projects that are designed to illustrate science concepts.

The program will be held in the Community Room in the Municipal Building from 9 am to 3 pm both days. Students should bring their own lunches. The fee is \$95. (res) and \$115. (nonres).

**Letters to Santa** will also be received by the Recreation Dept. from Dec. 1st to Dec. 11th.

Mailboxes where letters may be deposited are located at the Municipal Building and at Save-Mor drugstore in Croton Commons. Only letters received by Dec. 11 are guaranteed an answer. A return name and address must be included but no postage is required.



## **SNOW ALERT!**

Residents are encouraged to listen to weather forecasts during the winter months. If snow is forecasted, residents should plan on removing their cars in advance of any accumulation. On-street parking is not permitted when snow measures 2 inches or more. Keeping cars 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 for a Seasonal Parking Permit in the Village Office which allows on-

street winter parking. Up to 2 free permits may be obtained. If there is one off-street space available at the residence, then only one free permit may be obtained. The fee for additional permits, if needed, is \$100 each.

A visit by Village personnel may occur to ascertain how many off-street parking spaces are available at a residence.

## **Duck Pond Park Improvements**

Improvements in landscaping around the Duck Pond include new sidewalks, a new bench area, and lighting improvements. The sitting area features a stamped concrete surface in a burnt clay color replacing the old asphalt surface.



**Duck Pond Bench Area**

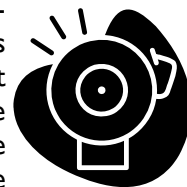
Regular sidewalk and curbing has been installed from S. Riverside to the parking area. A 2008 grant application that would have included a path around the entire pond was not approved.

This year the Duck Pond saw an unusually heavy amount of green algae covering the surface. There are currently several treatment options being considered to remove the rooted aquatic vegetation from the bottom and the algae.

The Pond was last dredged in December 2002 when 6,000 cubic yards of material were removed and taken to Croton Landing. Prior to 2002, the Pond was last dredged in 1983 to a depth of 8 feet over about 1/4 of its surface area. As the Duck Pond is the source of outflow from uphill neighborhoods, it is subject to much sedimentation and fertilizer nutrients flowing into it which results in the growth of algae and plant life.

## **Alarm Permits & Water Bills**

**Alarm Permits** Residents with private burglar and fire 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. The initial application fee for an Alarm Permit is \$150.00. Fines for false alarms from non-permitted alarm systems may result in daily fines up to \$250. Applications may be downloaded from the Village website. Search on "Alarm Permit" from the Home page.

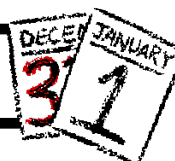


**Water Bills** The semi-annual Water bills will be sent out on Dec. 15th. The water rate is \$4.307 per 100 cubic feet of usage. The Sewer rate is \$0.3980 per 100 cubic feet of water consumption. The bill is payable January 15, 2010. Thereafter, penalties will apply on a monthly basis.



### **Reminder!**

**Village Offices will be closed Thurs., Dec. 24 and Fri., Dec. 25 for Christmas.**



## Spotlight on the Conservation Advisory Council

Maybe you have planted daffodils near by Bethel cemetery or on Benedict Blvd., done waterfront clean-up on Earth Day or helped put in the new plants at the railroad station. Or maybe you have just enjoyed the results. Either way, you have the Croton Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) to thank.

The CAC was formed by the Village Board in 1978 and has a wide variety of duties defined in Chapter 12 of the Village Code. The intent of the legislation that created the CAC recognition of the importance of the natural and manmade environment to the health, welfare and economic well-being of present and future inhabitants of the Village.

Population growth, urbanization and technologic change, with their accompanying demands on natural resources require protections. The CAC was estab-

lished as a "necessary step in fostering unified action environmental problems".

The council may consist of from 3 to 9 members appointed by the Board of Trustees for 2-year terms. The current Chair is Phebe Macrae, Joel Gingold, Rick Turner, Richard Zumbach, Bruce Laemmel and Mark Magel. Ellen Siracusa and Lee Streisfeld-Leitner are ex-officio members. Trustees Olver and Restuccia serve as Board liaisons to the CAC.

Duties of the CAC in support of their mandate include advising the Village Board, providing public education, keeping an inventory of open spaces in both public and private ownership and making recommendations to the Village Board relating to environmental improvements.



Bethel Hill Daffodils

Currently the CAC has been involved in drafting and recommending to the Board a revised Recycling Law for the Village.

The CAC also was responsible for bringing the recent Westchester County Deer Population and Deforestation Study to the attention of the Board and the public by arranging for the study's chairman to appear at a televised Board meeting. With the Friends of History, the CAC also presented a program on deer at the Croton Library in October. In October they also



2007 Station Planting

planted more daffodils along Benedict Blvd. and cleaned up and planted along the fence line separating the village parking lot from the tracks at the train station.

### Daily Parking Meters

With the completion of the train station construction project, daily parking permits at the Croton-Harmon parking lot will be sold at parking machines as shown in the picture.

Six parking meter machines, grouped in threes, will accept cash and/or credit cards. No change

will be made. Three of the machines will be located near the stairs to the station and three will be located on the west side of the daily lot near the old ticket office. All will be in shelters.

During the first days of the changeover from ticket sales, staff members will be available to help users learn the simple steps to obtain a ticket. Daily rates from Monday to Friday will be \$1/hour with an \$8. maximum up to midnight. There will also be options for weekend rates and multiple day rates. The choices appear as a menu on the screen of the meter. The ability to add hours to a parking space is also available through your cell phone.



### Morrissey in Senior Hall of Fame

Long-time resident and member of Croton's Senior Club, Rosalind Morrissey, has been elected into the Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame. She will be honored at the 27th Annual Senior Hall of Fame luncheon on Friday, Dec. 4th at the Westchester Marriott Hotel.

Ms. Morrissey, a former teacher in the Croton-Harmon School District, has been the long-time organizer of Croton's Blood Drives which occur on a semi-annual basis.

### Holiday Gifts from Croton

The Village may have the answer to your Holiday shopping needs. Items with the Croton logo include baseball caps (\$15), glass mugs (\$5), drinking glasses (\$4) and lapel pins (\$3). Items from the Historical Society include cotton coverlets woven with an array of local scenes (\$50) in a variety of colors. Croton Dam tee shirts (\$10), Croton Dam note cards (\$4), tapestry totes with Hudson River and Dam scenes (\$35), and Croton history books or DVDs (\$20). All are available at the Village Office during business hours.

If these items don't meet your needs, remember local stores throughout the Village would also appreciate your holiday shopping business.

December, 2009

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

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## Got a Question?



### What were the election results from Nov. 3?

The key County and local results were as follows:

County Executive: Rob Astorino (R, I)

County Clerk: Tim Idoni (D, WFP)

County Legislator, District 9: William Burton (D, WFP)

Town Supervisor: Linda Puglisi (D)

Town Council: Ann Lindau (D)

John Sloan (D)

Town Clerk: JoAnn Dyckman (D)

Receiver of Taxes: Mary Breining (D)

Town Justice: Gerry Klein (R, C, I)

### Potassium Iodide

Potassium Iodide (KI) pills continue to be available for distribution in the Village Office during regular office hours. KI pills are intended for those who live in the 10-mile radius of the Indian Point Power plants and are made available by Westchester County.

### Are property tax exemptions available to seniors? How do I apply?

Property tax exemptions are available for income-qualified seniors, veterans, people with disabilities and volunteer fire personnel. Applications for Village exemptions can be made at the Village Engineer's office in the Municipal Building no later than December 31, 2009. 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 \$36,500 to \$37,399 and up to 50% on a total income less than \$29,000. Questions may be directed to Joe Sperber, Village Assessor, at 271-4783.

### Blood Drive Reminder!

The semi-annual blood drive will be held at Croton-Harmon High School on Sun. Dec. 6th from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call Carol Shaneshy at 271-7645 or Rosalind Morrissey at 271-8449 for an appointment.

