

## *The Croton-on-Hudson*

# Village Newsletter

*Fall/Winter 2000*

*Number 42*

### Calendar

#### OCTOBER

- 2 & 16 Village Board
- 3 & 17 Planning Board
- 4 Conservation  
Advisory Council
- 9 Columbus Day
- 11 Zoning Board  
of Appeals
- 18 Water Control  
Commission
- 29 Daylight Savings  
Ends

#### NOVEMBER

- 1 Conservation  
Advisory Council
- 6 & 20 Village Board
- 7 Election Day
- 7 & 21 Planning Board
- 8 Zoning Board  
of Appeals
- 11 Veterans Day
- 15 Water Control  
Commission
- 23 Thanksgiving

#### DECEMBER

- 4 & 8 Village Board
- 5 & 19 Planning Board
- 6 Conservation  
Advisory Council
- 13 Zoning Board  
of Appeals
- 20 Water Control  
Commission
- 25 & 26 Holidays



### Fall Leaf Pick-Up

This fall the Department of Public Works will pick up loose leaves with the vacuum trucks beginning the end of October. It will work on loose leaf pick-up Monday to Saturday, weather permitting. Leaves should be raked to the curb, but not into the street — which is a violation of the law and a traffic safety hazard.

There is no schedule for the collection of loose leaves. The plan is to move through the village to streets that have the largest collection of leaves. In the beginning of December the DPW will commence the final leaf cleanup, going street by street. Leaves should not be raked to the curb after December 4. After that date any left over leaves must be bagged.

The DPW will conduct a bagged leaf pick-up on alternate weeks during the last week of October and the months of November, December and January (if necessary). Leaves will be picked up in biodegradable bags only. Leaves in plastic bags will not be picked up. Leaves placed in trash cans or boxes will not be collected. Bagged leaves will not be picked up with the garbage. They will be picked up on Mondays or Wednesdays according to the schedule listed below. Bagged leaves should be placed at the curb on the Sunday evenings of the weeks listed below.

### LEAVES MUST BE IN BIODEGRADABLE BAGS ONLY.

Plastic bags will *not* be picked up.

#### SAVE THIS SCHEDULE

The bagged leaf pick-up will be:

North of Maple Street (Route 129)  
Week of

October 22  
November 5 and 19  
December 3 and 17  
January 7 and 21  
(if necessary)

South of Maple Street (Route 129)  
Week of

October 29  
November 12 and 26  
December 10 and 17  
December 31 and January 14  
(if necessary)

NO BAGGED LEAF PICK-UP THE WEEK OF December 24 to 30, 2000

### Speeding Enforcement

In response to complaints, the Croton Police Department has increased the number of tickets given to speeding drivers. From July 1 through September 7, there were 399 tickets issued in the village. During the comparable period last year, 282 tickets were given out.

In the first week of October, thanks to an intermunicipal arrangement with Westchester County, an automatic speed monitor will warn motorists of the speeds they are driving. The device will be moved between several strategic areas in the village.

At the request of the Chamber of Commerce, Village Manager Richard Herbek has agreed to ask the Police Department to more strictly enforce the no parking rule on pedestrian cross walks.

New "Yield" signs at the cross walks will be installed within the next few weeks.

### Comprehensive Master Plan

The Village of Croton-on-Hudson is preparing a comprehensive plan to update the Village's 1977 master plan.

The first public input session, held at the Croton Yacht Club in August was well attended, and a report from that meeting is now available. Responses from a Village-wide survey mailed to all residents are proving very helpful in terms of numbers.

All of this will lead to future input sessions that will be more focused on particular areas identified through the survey results.

Meeting agendas are available on the village website and other information will be posted as it becomes available.



# Village Treasurer's Department

Robert T. Reardon was appointed Treasurer of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson in May, 1998. He is assisted by Lorry Penington, Deputy Treasurer; Carmen Smith; Julie Hannigan; Diane DeRuggiero; and Eleanor Soderland in performing the functions of the department.

The Treasurer is the chief fiscal officer of the Village, and, as custodian of all moneys and assets, is responsible for keeping accounts of all expenditures and revenues.

Whether these transactions are for dog licenses or real estate taxes they must conform to a uniform bookkeeping system formulated and prescribed by the State Comptroller. All accounts must be accurate.

Working closely with the Village Manager, the Treasurer has a major share of the work involved in developing the Village budget.

The Treasurer submits a monthly report on the status of Village accounts to all members of the Board of Trustees. This report serves as a formal notification of expenditures of money in the General Fund, Water Fund, Capital Fund, Trust Fund and Debt Service Fund.

The Water Fund is self sustaining and cannot be supported by taxes. New York State requires that costs to maintain a municipal water supply and distribution system must be balanced by water meter receipts. If a reduction of water usage or an increase in energy costs results in a deficit, the Village Board must increase water rates.

The General Fund includes all other expenditures - salaries, insurance, rental of equipment and routine expenses of all departmental budgets. Some 250 detailed accounts provide a profile of the fiscal stability of each department's area of operation.

Before a purchase is made, the department head submits a requisition to the Treasurer's Department. The Treasurer's staff checks the departmental budget balance to determine whether the account can cover the payment. After approval by the Village Manager, the purchase is made.

The Village Board's finance committee (three trustees) audits claim vouchers and purchase orders at each regularly scheduled meeting. Also, monthly internal audits of departmental budgets are made by the Treasurer. This makes it possible for department heads to be advised of any potential over

spending of their budgets.

Capital Accounts are earmarked to finance such projects as street resurfacing and/or for the purchase of such equipment as a new garbage truck or breathing apparatus for the Fire Department.

A plan of recommended capital improvements is prepared each year as part of the Village budget. The Village Board is responsible for the final decision on all capital budget items. Funds which are not immediately expended are invested in interest bearing accounts. The Treasurer, working within guidelines established by the State Comptroller's office, is responsible for investing all Village funds.

The Treasurer's Department must bill and collect all real estate accounts and water meter charges. Water bills are issued every six months.

New York State requires the Treasurer to prepare and publish a list of delinquent property owners prior to the annual tax lien sale.

The Treasurer is responsible for filing an annual financial report with the State Comptroller's Office. This report reflects the financial condition of the Village.

A compliance audit is conducted by the State Comptroller's office every five years. In addition an accounting firm is retained by the Village Board to do an annual independent audit. These reports are on file in the Village Office and are available for public review.

Preparation of the Village's Annual Budget begins in January when the Treasurer and the Village Manager hold preliminary meetings with department heads. In February, budget estimates, including projected capital projects with justification for all expense items, are

filed with the Treasurer.

Subsequently, the Treasurer and Village Manager meet again with department heads to discuss their proposals.

By early March, the process is far enough along for the Treasurer and Village Manager to work up a budget containing any modifications which they consider necessary — including a written summary for each department. The Treasurer then prepares the tentative budget proposal for review by the Village Board and the public.

As mandated by State law, the budget is filed with the Village Board by March 20. The Board then schedules work sessions for review and discussion of possible changes. Both the Treasurer and the Village Manager, as well as the appropriate department head, attend these sessions in order to answer any questions from the Trustees.

In addition to the formal public hearing required by State law, the Board schedules a series of informal work sessions for comments, questions and suggestions from residents. During this period the Board makes any changes it deems advisable.

New York State Law mandates that the Village Board must adopt a final budget no later than May 1.

The Village utilizes two Dell Poweredge file servers running Windows NT4.0 for all its processing. One server runs all the financial transactions while the other server handles everything else.

Mr. Reardon notes he has implemented many of the computer recommendations outlined in the report by Management Consultant Robert Frankel prepared in 1998.

## Croton Third in Flower Village Competition

The Village of Croton-on-Hudson received a bronze plaque in August, in honor of achieving third place in the annual Historic River Towns of Westchester Flower Village Competition.

The competition is sponsored by Ginsburg Development Corporation to encourage the beautification of the thirteen municipalities in the consortium.

The Town of Cortlandt was awarded first place, and Tarrytown came in second.

## Railroad Parking Lot

The remaining work on Phase 2 is near completion. It includes the installation of new overhead lights for the parking lot, signage to designate individual parking spaces, and work on the attendants' building. The Village is working on funding for Phase 3 improvements to include additional landscaping, curbing, bicycle parking area improvements, a ramp for those using the walkway over the Croton River Bridge and further improvements to the road in front of the station building.

## **<http://village.croton-on-hudson.ny.us/>**

The Croton-on-Hudson Village web site includes information on village government, the school district, history of the village, and current demographic statistics. It has a calendar of events, as yet underutilized, agendas of village board meetings and the possibility of posting minutes of village board meetings.

Other sites that may be of interest to residents of the village are:  
Town of Cortlandt

**<http://www.cortlandt.advinc.com/>**

Historic Hudson Valley

**<http://www.hudsonvalley.org/index.html>**

Historic River Towns of Westchester

**<http://www.hudsonriver.com/rivertowns/welcome.html>**

Metro-North Railroad

**<http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mnr/index.html>**

Westchester Bee Line Bus System

**<http://www.beelinebus.com/>**

Westchester County Department of Parks

**<http://www.co.westchester.ny.us/parks/>**

Westchester In Touch

**<http://www.co.westchester.ny.us/>**

## **The Croton Housing Network**

The Croton Housing Network is completing its fourth project in the Village, at 33 Brook Street where a new 2-unit building is under construction. The building will be sold to the occupant of the 3-bedroom unit. A one-bedroom rental unit on the lower floor will be priced well below market rentals and provide the owner with ongoing income. A 2-car garage has been included in the building to ensure the new units do not add to the tight parking situation in the neighborhood.

As with all projects of the CHN, income limits apply. And, in the case of home ownership, certain restrictive covenants limit the re-sale value of the unit. All projects have also provided priority opportunity to residents of the Village or those with a pre-existing connection to Croton before the general population. Other projects completed by CHN include four townhouses on Bank Street, two homes in the Westwind development at the north end of the Village, and a 12-unit rental development on lower

Mt. Airy.

Interest in applying for the house on Brook Street has been brisk. Approximately 15 potential homeowners have met with the Network's mortgage counselor to complete applications. After final review of the applications for eligibility, a lottery will determine the lucky family with the opportunity to purchase. Occupancy is scheduled for Fall, 2000.

The Network looks forward to developing its next project in cooperation with the developers of Half Moon Bay. In the next phase, scheduled to begin construction shortly, four one-bedroom units are earmarked for ownership by CHN. As plans currently stand, these units will be developed specifically for senior citizen tenants, offering a low-cost, low-maintenance alternative within the Village.

To learn more about The Croton Housing Network, contact Nance Shatzkin at 271-9464.

## **Year Two: Non-Traditional Holiday Trees**

Following the success of last year's holiday tree decorating project, the Chamber of Commerce is cooperating with the Croton Recreation Department to expand and improve the festive program.

Businesses, organizations, families and individuals are invited to reserve a tree in one of the barrels throughout the village and decorate it with their own creative theme.

The trees will be placed in the barrels by the Department of Public Works a week after Thanksgiving, to be decorated within the following week. The Recreation Department will complete decorating any trees that have not been adopted in time for the holidays.

Maria Tamaoka, Pinwheels, has once again agreed to accept reservations and assign trees by number. She may be reached at 271-1045.

## **Compost for Village Gardeners**

The compost from last year's leaves has been removed from the in-vessel composting system (bags). It should cure for a few months before it is used. However, it will be available for village residents at the former sewer plant on the corner of Municipal Place and South Riverside Avenue by the time this newsletter is published. The compost will be fully cured and usable to improve the soil in villagers' gardens by the spring of 2001. Any questions about the compost should be addressed to the Department of Public Works office at 271-3775.

## **Historians Want Photos**

The Croton Historical Society is planning the publication of a book of old photographs of the village. It requests that residents who have any appropriate material that could be used, to please contact them at 271-4574.

The Society has recently upgraded its technology, thanks to a \$7,500 state grant. Members are now using a new computer, color printer and scanner, a digital camera and a camcorder. They also plan to purchase tape recorders for oral history projects and a new slide projector.

## **61st Blood Drive**

The Croton Blood Bank will be held on Sunday, December 3 at Croton-Harmon High School from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Donors may make appointments by calling Judy Sullivan, 271-4137 or Roz Morrissey, 271-8449.

## **Croton Caring Committee Food Drive**

The Croton Caring Committee is preparing for its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Non-perishable foods may be left on the porch at 38 Elmore Avenue any time after mid-October.

## **20th Harry Chapin Run**

The 20th Anniversary of the Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger will be held on Sunday, October 15. The One-Mile Fun Run begins at noon, the 10K Race at 12:30pm, both at Veterans Corner. For information call 271-5309.

## **Duck Pond**

The Village is in the process of draining the Duck Pond in preparation for dredging after the first frost. The plan is to significantly improve the appearance of the algae-covered pond.

## **Vote! November 7**

## Winter Snow Removal

Although it is impossible to predict weather conditions for the winter, the Department of Public Works has to prepare the same way every year. Preparations are already underway.

The DPW intends to maintain the same high level of snow removal efficiency as in the past. Assistance from village residents is essential to maintaining safe and clean streets during the winter snow season. After a street has been cleared, no snow may be pushed, thrown or blown onto the street by residents or business owners. It becomes a safety hazard and is in violation of the N.Y.S. Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Village code prohibits on-street parking when the snow fall measures two inches or higher. Violators will be ticketed. Residents who have no option than to park on the street may obtain a permit to park on the street from the Village Office in the Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.

## Back Yard History and More

The Croton Recreation Department will present two hikes on the Old Croton Aqueduct with Carl Oeschner, President of the Croton Historical Society, this fall. The first will be on Saturday, October 7 with engineering highlights and sights along the trailway. The second on Sunday, October 15 will include entering the weir chamber and the aqueduct itself. Both hikes will be from 1 - 4 p.m. The fee is \$10 per person, per hike (no children under 10).

The annual Halloween Window Painting Contest will be held on Saturday, October 21 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Registration will be available at participating stores.

Don't be scared on Sunday, October 29 at 3 p.m. when the annual Goblin Walk will leave the Municipal Building for Vassallo Park.

Residents who have not received a copy of the Fall Recreation Brochure, may call 271-3006 and request a copy.



## Update on Firehouses

The Harmon and Grand Street Firehouse improvements are underway. The former Harmon Firehouse has been demolished and a foundation for the new, larger building is under construction. It will house Harmon Engine pumper, the village's rescue truck, two ambulances and a fireboat.

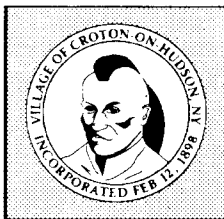
The Grand Street Firehouse will be substantially renovated with an addition to accommodate a new aerial ladder and Chemical Engine pumper. Both projects have been awarded at the same time to save on construction costs. It is estimated they will be completed within 12 months. The cost of these major projects will total about \$4 million.

## Handicapped Parking

Spaces designated for people who are physically disabled are restricted to vehicles identified by a handicapped tag.

Village residents may obtain a permit form from the village office that requires the signature of their doctor. The permit is then provided free of charge. Temporary permits are valid for six months.

The fine for parking in a handicapped area is \$150, plus a mandatory surcharge of \$30 imposed by the state.



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

Robert W. Elliott, Mayor  
Georgiana K. Grant, Trustee  
James Harkins, Trustee  
Deborah Y. McCarthy, Trustee  
Sam R. Watkins, Jr. Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager

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

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