



February Calendar

- 4 & 19** Village Board Mtg.
- 12 & 26** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 6** Cons. Advisory Council
- 12** Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 13** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 18** **Presidents Day**
- 20** Water Control Comm.
- 20** Visual Environ. Bd.

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Croton River/Indian Brook Action Plan

The Final Report on the long-awaited Croton Gorge-Indian Brook Watershed Conservation Action Plan has been issued by Westchester County.

First conceived over 35 years ago as a Croton River Compact, the recently issued plan calls for a cooperative effort by the governmental entities that share ownership or governance of the land in this important watershed. The list includes the Villages of Croton-on-Hudson and Ossining, the Towns of Cortlandt, New Castle and Ossining, and West-



View of the Croton River

chester County and the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary program. The action Plan is the first comprehensive watershed program developed along the Hudson River in Westchester County.

Work on the Action Plan has been under way for several years with representatives from the various entities above working with the County's Planning Department. Croton's representatives in the development of the plan were Engineer Dan O'Connor, former DPW Superintendent Ken Kraft, Trustee Charles Kane and Waterfront Advisory Chair Fran Allen.

A major portion of the plan development was devoted to documenting the existing conditions in the watershed. This included the compilation of data on the physical and natural resources, wildlife and significant wildlife habitats and land uses. Once the data was gathered,

the analyses of the state of the watershed led to the development of 29 recommendations to improve the current water quality conditions. Implementation of these recommendations will require inter-municipal cooperation and coordination among all the municipalities and agencies in the watershed.

Croton has already begun this effort of cooperation for the benefit of the watershed. Through the Village's Croton River Compact Committee and the Town of Cortlandt's Croton River Committee, the Town and Village have initiated efforts to improve and safeguard the watershed. This has included initiatives for a patrol boat on the Croton River manned by Croton police, stricter parking regulations on both sides where access to the river is possible, trash management improvements, and plans for re-vegetation to prevent



Along the Croton River Shoreline.

further erosion where denuding has occurred.

The next step is for Croton to engage with the other municipalities to develop land use regulations for the entire watershed area which will be consistent across all the entities involved. Where resources can be coordinated or shared, municipalities will enter into Intermunicipal Agreements (IMAs) to formalize their arrangements. The plan is available at www.westchestergov.com

OOPS! Stickers

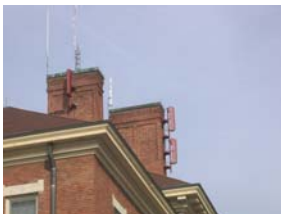
Did you get a yellow OOPS sticker on your garbage last month? At the mandate of Westchester County, the Village DPW tagged garbage bins which contained garbage and recyclables that were not properly separated. In December, 2007, all residents also received a yellow card from the County notifying them that the County's Recycling Law would begin to be regularly enforced in February 2008.



Garbage picked up after February 1, that contains recyclables, will be tagged with a red OOPS! Sticker and will not be picked up. The color-coded DPW flyer sent to all residents at the end of 2007 contains information on what should and should not be recycled. You may also check at www.westchestergov.com/recycling or call 914-813-5420.

New York State has mandated a goal of 40% recycling of the waste stream. Westchester County is currently at 42% but wants to improve on this number. Croton's own record has been very good and the Village has been among the leaders in municipalities in the County. Reducing the tonnage in our waste stream is not only good for the environment but it also saves money spent on tipping fees at the Charles Point Recovery Facility.

Cellular Antennae at the Municipal Building



Cellular antennae for Nextel are currently in place on the Municipal Building chimneys. The brick-red colored antennae are attached to the outside of the chimneys as shown in the accompanying picture. Another service provider, T-Mobile, is in the process of installing their equipment and will be operating soon. Nextel service in the area of the Municipal Building is said to have improved.

Parking Lot Lights



New lights have been installed along the west edge of the parking lot below the DPW garage. The old lights which had been located among the parking spaces made plowing difficult and have been removed.

Winter Break Program Science Program

Young scientists will discover the exciting science of archeology and paleontology during the 1-day Winter break program offered by the Recreation Dept.



Diggin' For Dinosaurs, Rockin' Rocks & Crystal Creations

will feature excavation and assembly of skeletal replicas from simulated "fossil" rock. Dig for Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops, Brachiosaurs, and more. Participants will make plaster replicas of dinosaur teeth, claws, trilobites, and ancient snails. Fascinating facts about rocks, minerals and crystals will be unearthed. Participants will take home a unique rock and mineral collection, a rock and mineral book, unearthed treasures, fossilized shark teeth and crystals.

The program, available for students in grades 1 to 5, is being offered on Tues., February 19 from 9am to 3pm in the Municipal Building Community Room. Registration is due no later than February 14th. The fee is \$57.(resident)/\$68.(non-resident).

Striclin Property Acquired

The closing on a 2.4 acre parcel, also known as the Katz property, was finalized in early January. The property at the intersection of Municipal Place and Maple, shown with arrow) was purchased from Striclin Realty for \$900,000.



Location of new Village property

Before finalizing the purchase, the Village had environmental assessments performed to ensure the viability of future development of the property. The property is zoned for commercial uses, (C-2), and is located in the Municipal Place Gateway. The Village also owns the former sewage treatment plant property at Municipal Place and S. Riverside Ave. (shown with star).

Reminder!

Village Offices will be closed Mon., Feb. 18

For Presidents Day!



Washington



Lincoln

Spotlight on Art Roosa

Last month Art Roosa became the new Chief of Croton's Fire Department. His new position is the cap of 21 years of service in the department.

Art moved to Croton 22 years ago and moved into a neighborhood where he was surrounded by Fire Dept. volunteers. It wasn't long before he became a member too. Over the past 21 years, he has had many positions with the Washington Engine Company including driver, Engineer, Lieutenant, and Captain, then on to Dept.-level 2nd and 1st Ass't. Chief. As Chief, Art will provide oversight for Croton's 5 fire companies. At emergency scenes, he is the Incident Commander. His responsibilities include department finances, purchasing, managing on-going projects

such as 60-control, the Knox box installation program, and training programs. With his assistant chiefs, he will also develop the Fire Dept. budget that is adopted as part of the Village's Budget. Although it varies, the job of being Chief can take anywhere from 20 to 30 hours per week. A great deal depends on the number of emergency calls that are answered. Of his goals as Chief, Art says he would like to improve on the training of the membership, bringing every one to a higher level. He also hopes to improve on communications between the members and the companies. As a Conductor for Metro North, Art works a split shift which allows him to be in Croton during the mid-day period enabling him to attend meetings and take care of

Dept. business matters. Art grew up in Dobbs Ferry and graduated from Ardsley High School. Before joining Metro North, he was a bus driver, a Coop Superintendent and a real estate appraiser.

Croton's Fire Dept. is a family affair with his wife, Pat, being a member of Fire Patrol, and his son and daughter, Arthur and Ashley, both being members of Washington Engine Co.

Although their membership and commitment to the Fire Dept. takes up most of their spare time, Art and his wife like to take cruises, finding them an excellent way to really relax. They have cruised to Bermuda and are looking ahead to the Bahamas.



"Joining the Fire Department was the best move I ever made. My whole family is part of it."

Art Roosa

New Parking Lot Notification

The Village has added a new method of notification for parking permit holders about flooding conditions or section closings at the rail station parking lot. A text message will now be sent to the cell phones of permit holders who sign up for this service. This notification would be in addition to the email notification which has been in place for some time.

Since permit holders may not always be connected to their email, text messaging provides another alternative for flooding notifications.

Sign up for this service by clicking on 'Train Station Parking' from the Home page of the Village's website. Your name, cell phone number, service carrier, and your email address are required. Alternatively, you may fax the Village Office at 271- 2836, or email, parking@crotononhudson-ny.gov.

Webcam at Canoe Launch Site

A webcam donated to the Village by Canon USA, through the efforts of local resident Mitch Bring, will bring "real-time" views of both the Croton and Hudson Rivers via Croton's website. Viewers will be able to zoom in and focus on birds, wildlife, cargo ships, weather conditions, etc. It is expected to be available in mid-February.

Tree Trimming

Con Ed will begin their 2008 tree trimming in Croton in late February. The anticipated area for trimming trees near Con Ed's distribution lines covers much of the Village. Con Ed will provide the Village with a schedule of streets where trees will be trimmed.

If Con Ed identifies any trees which it thinks should be removed, the Village will be informed in advance. Croton's consultant on this process, Peter Woodcock, will work with Con Ed in reviewing the list to avoid unnecessary removals.

The area designated for the pruning of street trees includes all of the Village streets south of Maple (Route 129) as well as Grand Street and Old Post Road north to its intersection with Grand Street.

Hudson River Eagle Fest



Teatown Reservation will sponsor its annual Eagle Fest on Sat., Feb. 9 from 9 to 4. The event coincides with the winter gathering of Bald Eagles along the Hudson River. Croton's Echo Canoe Launch is one of several viewing sites that will be staffed with eagle experts during the day. There will also be a heated tent headquarters in Croton Point Park with Bald Eagle exhibits, displays, and activities.

February, 2008

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

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Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager
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One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2
www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Got a Question?



I received a letter from the Village Assessor stating that the assessment on my property has changed. I do not agree with the new assessment. Is there anything I can do about it?

Every year the Assessor's office sends letters to property owners whose property assessment has changed notifying them of their new assessment. Changes in assessment are usually the result of improvements to the property.

If you received such a letter and you disagree with your new assessment, you may file an objection and "grieve" it, at a once-a-year meeting held on Grievance Day. Regardless of whether your assessment has changed, you may always file a grievance if you feel your assessment is incorrect.

The Board of Trustees in the Village of Croton also act as the Board of Assessment Review. They are required by law to meet once a year to consider the applications of property owners who feel their assess-

ment is not correct. This year Grievance Day is Tuesday, February 19 from 4pm to 8pm. The Board will be available during that time to review applications for a change in an applicant's property tax assessment.

Applications for grievances are available in the Village Engineer's Office. There is also a publication available there containing procedures for contesting an assessment. All applications for grievances must be completed and filed with the Village Assessor, Joe Sperber, prior to 4 pm on Grievance Day. If you have questions about filing a grievance, you may call the Assessor's office at 271-4783.

See How Recyclables Are Processed

If you are interested in seeing how recyclables are separated and processed, you may want to take the tour at the Material Recovery Facility in Yonkers. The free tour is offered by the County Recycling Office and is given four times/day on Monday to Friday. It takes about 45 minutes to an hour. The tour provides first hand insight in the recycling process. Sign up online at www.westchestergov.com/recycling or call 914-813-5441.



