



The Year Behind - The Year Ahead

January

Calendar

- 2 New Year's Holiday**
- 3 & 17** Village Board Mtg.
- 10 & 24** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 4** Cons. Advisory Council
- 11** Zoning Board of Appeals
- 16 Martin Luther King Day**
- 18** Water Control Comm.
- 18** Visual Environ. Bd.

In this issue

- Pipeline update 2
- Croton Seniors 2
- WSWC Decision 2
- Lightpath System 2
- Employee Spotlight 3
- Duck Pond skating 3
- Tree Pickup 3
- Community Ctr. Comm. 3
- Got a Question? 4
- Shoveling 4

2005 saw the completion of many long-planned projects in the Village, the largest of which was the Harmon water main replacement. After a lengthy design and approval process, the work on replacing old water lines along Benedict Blvd. and its intersecting streets finally began in late spring and was substantially completed by late fall. Other infrastructure improvements included the rebuilding of the Kaplan's Pond spillway as part of the Brook St. improvement project recommended by Dvirka & Bartilucci in their Village-wide 2003 drainage study; the sidewalk extension along Old Post Road North from Lounsbury to Mt. Green Rd.; the dredging of the basin at the Yacht Club. Other non-construction projects which reached fruition were the implementation of the MUNIS financial accounting system; a groundwater study that resulted in the determination by the Westchester Health Dept. that Croton does not need a costly filtration system; the closing of the Metro Enviro waste transfer station after a favorable decision by the NYS Court of Appeals; the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan; implementation of new residential zoning requirements limiting the maximum building sizes for houses; a new Village logo; and planning for the multi-use field, or lawn, at Croton Landing.



New Kaplan's Spillway

These are just the highlights of a year that also saw the continuation of ongoing projects that include new sidewalks and curbs, repaving of streets, building maintenance and improvements, improvements to the bathhouses at Senasqua Park and at Silver Lake, as well as regular parks maintenance and parking improve-

ments along North and South Riverside Ave.

2006 will see some additional long-planned projects come to fruition. The work to create the new field/lawn at Croton Landing will be put out to bid with construction under way by summer or fall. A restroom facility, storage area and additional parking are included in the plans. In the same time frame, the Riverwalk trail extension through the northern section of Croton Landing will be under way, funded by the County.

Plans for the Symphony Knoll Senior housing, on which the Village and the Croton Housing Network are collaborating, should be completed, approved and construction begun during the course of the year.

The Village also hopes to start an organic waste recycling program which will reduce our solid waste stream considerably thus reducing our costs for tipping at the Charles Point Recovery facility. Spring implementation of this new recycling plan is planned with regular pick-up schedules and an accompanying community education program.

In the Municipal Building, the basement renovation to expand the community room space is expected to begin in late spring and be ready for summer or fall use by seniors and youth groups. A sidewalk improvement project funded through the County will improve the curb and sidewalks in front of the strip mall on Maple St. at the corner of Hudson St., and another drainage project proposed by the Dvirka & Bartilucci study for the High St. drainage area will move forward.

Additionally, work on reviewing and revising the Village's array of environmental laws is continuing and is expected to

2005/2006 cont'd.

reach completion during this year. Most of these laws were passed in the late 80's and need to be brought up to date and strengthened in accordance with current standards. Among them are the Wetlands Activities, Steep Slopes, Trees and Environmental Compliance laws. The Village Engineer is also working on making the Village's Geographical Information System (GIS) available to residents through the Village website. This will include aerial photos of the entire village with the ability to zoom in on additional information such as parcels, buildings and streets. Also, based on an energy audit performed by PASNY, the Village will examine ways in which to reduce energy consumption in their operations. It is also estimated that another 50 sidewalks will be replaced through the sidewalk replacement program offered to residents.



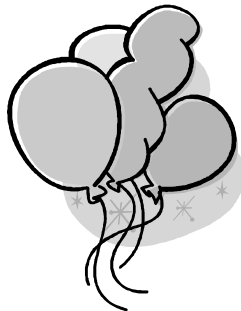
As all projects take time to go from conception, through planning, design, bidding and implementation, the Village administration will also be laying the ground work for projects they hope to implement in coming years.

Croton Seniors

The Croton Seniors Club Lecture Series will hold two events in January to start off the new year. A slide and talk about the Stony Point Lighthouse will take place on Mon., Jan. 23rd at 12:30-2 in the Community Room. On Jan. 30th, also at 12:30-2 in the same place, club member, Oscar Scherzer, will talk about his experiences during the Nazi occupation of France during WWII.

The Book Discussion group will begin a new season starting Mon. Jan. 23rd, 10-11:30AM in the Community Room at the Municipal Building. Under the leadership of Amy Melman, Reference Librarian at the Croton library, a new book will be discussed each month. You can check the library for the book selection for January where multiple copies will be available. The discussion group will continue through April.

Due to snow, the December Holiday party was postponed and a New Years Lunch will be held in January instead. Call Yvonne, MWF, at 271-5804 for information.



Millennium Pipeline Update

In November, 2005, the Village's special counsel on the Millennium pipeline lawsuit filed Croton's final brief with the D.C. Court of Appeals. The brief is in response to the Millennium Pipeline Company LP brief seeking to overturn the decision of the U.S. Secretary of Commerce that found the proposed pipeline project inconsistent with the federal Coastal Zone Management law. Millennium appealed it to the District Court of Appeals. Croton has intervenor status in this case along with NY Dept. of State, the Town of Cortlandt, and the Village of Briarcliff Manor. Additionally, the US Dept. of Justice and the City of New York have filed supporting briefs. Oral arguments on Millennium's appeal are expected to be scheduled in January.

In the meantime, Millennium has also applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to amend their application to a two-phase plan. The first phase would not cross the Hudson River and no information has been supplied about the path of the second phase. The Village's counsel, Kirkland & Ellis LLC, is protesting this amendment of the application and calling for an entirely new application to be submitted to FERC.

WSWC Decision

At its meeting of December 15th, the Westchester Solid Waste Commission (WSWC) voted unanimously to grant a license to Northeast Interstate Railway (NIR) to operate in the county with the condition that NIR accept an environmental monitor to be chosen by the WSWC to provide oversight.

The application by NIR for a County license, which permits them to operate at waste transfer sites in Croton, Mamaroneck and Mt. Kisco, had been under consideration by the WSWC for three meetings. In October and November, the commission adjourned the proceedings in order to allow more time for the Village to provide more information about operations in Ohio and Massachusetts associated with Regus Industries, the parent company of NIR as well as for the WSWC to investigate further. Executive Director of the WSWC, Bruce Berger, made a positive recommendation regarding the granting of the permit.

Village Saves on Internet/Phone Systems

By converting its Verizon-based system to a fiber optic cable and Lightpath system, the Village receives high speed voice and data communications under a County contract. The Village projects substantial savings over its previous costs with Verizon.

Reminder!

**The Village Offices will be closed on Mon., January 16th for
Martin Luther King Day.**



Spotlight on Lynn Sorenson

As Croton's full-time Parking Enforcement Officer, Lynn is a familiar figure to most residents. She is regularly seen at the railroad station parking lot and in the commercial areas of the Village.

Starting as a part-time Parking Enforcement officer in 1991, Lynn assumed full-time responsibilities in 1996. She is also a Crossing Guard; both positions require passing a County test. In both capacities, Lynn has been involved in the training of new and part-time enforcement officers and guards.

At the station parking lot, Lynn monitors the permits on cars and the meters. In the last few years, the use of a hand-held computer allows her to check the validity of license plates and

permits on the spot. The device is updated each day from the main village parking permit data base. Lynn's familiarity with the cars and parking patterns helps her spot new cars and those which may be parked illegally. A check on her computer can let her know for sure. A summons is written for cars with no permit or an expired permit. Sometimes this requires Lynn to go to court but, according to Lynn, this happens less now than in the past. Because of her familiarity with the cars and permits, she has been instrumental in catching counterfeit permits and altered handicapped permits.

Parking in the Upper Village and shopping centers is also monitored by Lynn where time limits, fire lanes, and

permits are enforced.

Growing up in Mamaroneck, Lynn moved to Croton after marrying her husband, Fred, a life-long resident. Their three children, Andrew, Matthew and Jessica, are all young adults now.

In her free time, Lynn enjoys visits to the family farm near Hamilton, NY where the family has been working on turning the property into a forest by planting thousands of trees over many years. At home, Lynn likes to garden and is very knowledgeable about herbs, homeopathy and aromatherapy. She also enjoys helping repair cars with her husband and knows her way around a transmission.



"I have been fortunate to be able to work in the village I live in especially during my children's growing up period."

Lynn Sorenson



Duck Pond Skating

Skating at the Duck Pond is one of the really nice things about winter in the Village.

Unsupervised ice skating is permitted on the Duck Pond, weather permit-

ting. The Recreation Dept. requires that there be 6 inches of ice before skating is permitted. A green flag on the pole at the pond indicates the ice is safe. A red flag indicates it is unsafe and skating is not permitted.

Tree Disposal

The Dept. of Public Works will pick up discarded trees in the first two weeks of January. The trees should be left outside at the street. They should not be in bags and there should be no trimmings, tinsel or wire on them. Trees will not be picked up with the garbage, but rather by trucks driving the streets for this purpose. All will be chipped.



We're on
the Web. Visit us at:
<http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov>

Community Center Committee

The Community Center Committee has begun its meetings to identify Croton's needs for a Community Center and possible sites. All interested residents are welcome to attend and comment. Monthly meeting dates will be posted on the Village website. The next meeting is Wed., January 11th at 7:30 in the Municipal Building.

Emergency Notifications

In case of a major emergency, Westchester County would like to contact you. By giving the County your email address or cell phone number, you will become part of its emergency notification system. They will be able to provide you with information before, during or after a disaster.

Depending on the type of emergency, you may get emails, text messages or automated phones calls about: How to prepare; Protecting your family; Where to go; and Steps to recovery.

Sign up by going to www.westchestergov.com and clicking on the emergency banner at the top of the page. Your information will be kept confidential and ONLY used in a major emergency.



January 2006

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT NO 111

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

Gregory J. Schmidt, Mayor
Thomas P. Brennan, Trustee
Charles A. Kane, Trustee
James M. Steinberg, Trustee
Leo A. W. Wiegman, Trustee

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

Got a Question?



Where am I allowed to park my vehicles during the winter months?



The Village parking laws require all vehicles to be off the street when two inches or more of snow has fallen and remain off until the street is cleared. If you have no off-street parking available to you, you may apply for a

hardship permit to park on the street. When you apply, your property will be inspected to verify that no, or insufficient, off-street parking is available for use. If so, up to two free hardship permits may be issued; additional permits cost \$100 each. All such permits must be annually renewed.

The parking law was also recently changed to eliminate an exemption that permitted vehicles to pull up on the village right-of-way or the sidewalk or curb during snow events. This is no longer permitted. Cars without hardship parking permits must be off the streets and off the sidewalks as well.

Sidewalk Shoveling

Please remember that it is each resident's responsibility to clear the snow from the sidewalks bordering their property.

Please do not push, shovel or blow the snow into a previously cleared street as this is a safety hazard and a NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law violation as well. Keeping the streets and sidewalks cleared of snow will help keep the Village as safe as possible when conditions are bad.



Planning Board Changes Schedule

After many years of regularly meeting on the first and fourth Tuesdays of each month, in 2006 the Planning Board will change its schedule to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Meeting dates and agendas are always available on the Village's website.



