



Riverwalk/Croton Landing Construction Agreement Includes County Roads Takeover

An agreement with the County allows the Village to combine the proposed county trail development known as "Riverwalk" with Croton's plans for development of a field or lawn at Croton Landing for the purposes of bidding and construction management of both sites. The Riverwalk trail will add a 2300-foot-long trail north of the existing trail at Croton Landing and is part of the County's overall plan for a trail along the entire Hudson River waterfront. The County will provide \$1,750,000 (including a \$250,000 NYS grant) for the construction. Additionally, the County is transferring County-owned roads to the Village. These roads include Croton Point Ave. (from the east end of the bridge over the railroad to S. Riverside Ave.), South Riverside Ave. (from Van Cortlandt Manor to its intersection with Route 129). As part of the road takeover, the County will provide an additional \$500,000 for road improvements on South Riverside Avenue.

Combining the bidding and construction of the Riverwalk plans with the Village's



Site of proposed Riverwalk

own plans for a multi-use field/lawn at Croton Landing will have several benefits. Considerable cost savings are anticipated by having both projects bid as part of the same development proposal.

Additionally, by having the Village manage the construction of both projects,

which are on adjacent parcels, the work can be staged so that similar types



Village to own Croton Point Ave.

of work can be done on both sites at the same time by the single contractor as well as minimizing the overall disturbance of the entire area.

At Croton Landing the Village is planning a multi-purpose field/lawn which includes a raised grassed area with an irrigation system, landscaping, parking, lights and a storage and bathroom facility.

The plans for Croton Landing have been developed by the Village's consulting engineer, Jim Hahn, who will also be providing oversight for the whole project on the Village's behalf.

The Riverwalk trail extension will include site clean-up, a 10'-wide asphalt trail, retaining walls, decks, fencing, sitting areas, and landscaping as appropriate along its entire length. The landscape design work for the Riverwalk was developed by the firm of Cherbuliez Munz.

The completed railway will be operated by the Village as a Village Park and will be available for use and enjoyment by all residents of Westchester County.

Planning for both projects has been underway for some time. It is anticipated that the overall combined project will be put out for bid this month.

January Calendar

- 1 New Years Day**
- 2 & 16** Village Board Mtg.
- 2 & 23** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 15 Martin L. King Day**
- 3** Cons. Advisory Council
- 9** Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 10** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 17** Water Control Comm.
- 17** Visual Environ. Bd.

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Community Room Expansion

Work on a new room to be used for the Croton Recreation Youth Program has started. The General Contracting and Electrical contracts to renovate space in the basement of the Municipal Building were awarded to J.T. Oronzio Contracting and Switch Inc. respectively. The addition of this space, which is down the hall from the existing community room, will give the popular youth program more space for activities such as ping pong and pool and a lounging area. Currently, the available space in the community room does not allow for much variety of activities and often becomes very crowded with a large number of attendees. The Croton Seniors also use the community room and it is anticipated that they will find the additional space useful as well.



Senior Hall of Fame Inductees

Two Croton Seniors, Charles Anderson and James Moore, were inducted into Westchester County's Senior Hall of Fame at a ceremony and luncheon on Dec. 1st.

Seniors throughout the county who have been exemplary in contributing their time and energy to enhancing the quality of life in their communities, are honored each year by the County Dept. of Senior Programs and Services. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Moore are new additions to the many Croton residents receiving this honor since its inception 24 years ago.

Child Passenger Safety Grant

Thanks to the efforts of Police Officer Daria Murtagh, the Croton Police Dept. has received a one-year grant of \$3,500 from the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. The grant provides for 35 child safety seats including both infant and booster seats, as well as for a permanent fitting station. The safety seats will be available on a need basis. All residents may contact Officer Murtagh for an appointment to have their seats properly installed in their cars. Call the Croton Police at 271-5177 for further information.

Child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71% when used correctly. More than 90% of such safety seats are used improperly.

Build-A-Snowman Contest



The Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a Build-A-Snowman contest this winter.

Have your family build a snowman anytime this winter, take a picture of the snowman and its builder and mail a 4" by 6" photo to the Recreation Dept. by Friday,

March 23rd.

There are two categories for which prizes will be awarded: (1) "Typical Snowman" and (2) "Snow Sculpture" (animal, etc.). Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number on the back of your photo. The photos will not be returned.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.....

Water Main Improvements Award

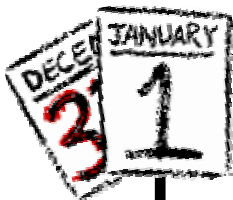
The Village has been awarded the 2006 Public Works Project of the Year award by the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the American Public Works Association. The award emphasized multi-party involvement and cooperation that occurred between the Village, Con Edison and the residents in the planning phase as well as their cooperation during the construction process.

The application pointed out the history and age of the Harmon area water mains, the area's long running problems with brown water, the new drainage infiltration systems installed, and the resurfacing of the streets that were affected. New curbing and repaving of Benedict Blvd. will be completed in early 2007.

Visual Excellence Award

The Village's Visual Environment Board (VEB) has awarded its first award for Visual Excellence to Jim Foley, owner of the Croton Exxon station. Mr. Foley's efforts and success in improving the landscaping and appearance of his station in its very prominent Gateway location at Croton Point Ave. and South Riverside were cited by the VEB.

The VEB is an advisory board of five volunteer members who advise the Planning and Village Boards on matters affecting the visual aspects of development proposals.



Reminder!

The Village Offices will be closed Monday, January 1st for New Year's Day and Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Day.

(No garbage collection on those days.)



Spotlight on Cliff Gabrielsen

A Croton Police Officer for ten years, since 1996, Cliff Gabrielsen is, perhaps, best known as Croton's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer. Cliff joined the Croton Police force after two years as a NYC Police Officer where he worked in the Bronx. After several years as a patrol officer in Croton, Cliff was assigned to the D.A.R.E. position seven years ago. In this capacity, Cliff trains 5th and 7th graders in the skills they need to make responsible decisions about drugs and alcohol. The program is offered for 12 weeks in the 5th grade and 10 weeks in the seventh grade in the fall semester in the Croton schools. In an arrangement with the Town of Cortlandt, he performs the same services in several

town schools during the spring months. Cliff particularly likes being involved with youth and he feels this helps them see police as "real people" themselves. In addition to these duties, Cliff is a member of Croton's Emergency Response team (ERT). With other ERT officers, Cliff receives training and prepares for addressing all types of potential emergencies in the Village.

Cliff grew up in Croton and graduated from Croton-Harmon High School. He received a 2-year degree from Westchester Community College and followed that with a Bachelor's degree in Business from Pace. Prior to his career in law enforcement, he worked for 5 years at the IBM Credit Corp. in Connecticut. He says he was

motivated by his long interest in law enforcement and the support of his wife, Susan, who works for IBM.

Cliff and Susan live in the Village and have two children, Michael-10 yrs. and Christine-12 yrs. who attend the Hendrick Hudson schools. In his free time, Cliff enjoys motorboating on the Hudson River, biking with his children, exercising and running. He has coached flag football and Little League baseball as well. Cliff likes traveling and he has enjoyed some worldwide travel in conjunction with his wife's job. As a family, they enjoy vacations that take them to warm spots in the winter—particularly beaches.



"I really enjoy my job. I meet someone new almost every day and every day is different."

Cliff Gabrielsen

Municipal Building Generator

The Village's recently adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) recommended the acquisition and installation of a stand-by generator for use in emergencies in which power is lost.

The HMP was developed in response to the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 which required local governments to prepare such a plan for eligibility for Hazard Mitigation grants. Croton's plan, reviewed and approved by FEMA, identified the Municipal Building as the Village's emergency operations center in the event of any large-scale emergencies. As such, the new generator will provide needed coverage in the event of a large scale power outage. The generator will also provide the same function for the occasional instances of local power outages to keep the offices and services up and running.

The generator project received seven bids and the project was awarded to J.T. Oronzio General Contracting for \$155,000 including the equipment and installation. The site, on the north side of the building, required the construction of a concrete platform, on which the generator will sit. The Conservation Advisory Council will provide advise on appropriate screening.

Defensive Driving for Young Drivers

A 6-hour defensive driving course for young drivers (up to 21 years old) will be offered in 2 sessions on Tuesdays, Jan 9th and Jan 16th from 6-9 pm. The fee is \$35./45 res./non-res.



Emphasis will be placed on recognizing that youthful drivers need strategies for safe driving. Upon successful completion of both sessions, enrollees will have 4 points reduced from the driving record point total. Additionally, if the driver is listed as a principal driver on an auto insurance policy, a 10% discount on collision and liability will be applied for a full three years. Registration forms are available in the Recreation Office. Participants must have a NYS Driver's license or permit. Registration will be accepted until Jan. 4th or until the program is filled.

Franchise Assessment Goes Down

The Village has received notice of its tentative Franchise Assessment for 2007 from the NYS Board of Real Property Services. The new equalization rate for local franchises is 3.69—a reduction of 4.4% from last year. Local franchises to whom this applies include Con Ed, AT&T, Verizon, Cablevision Lightpath and Teleport Communications. This represents a reduction in the franchises assessed value.

January, 2007

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(914) 271-4781-2
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Got a Question?



How can I get help with clearing my sidewalk and driveway of snow?

It is each resident's responsibility to clear the snow from the sidewalks bordering their property. The snow should not be

shoveled or blown into a previously cleared street.

The Recreation & Parks Dept. keeps a referral list of local youth who are willing to be hired for various tasks including shoveling. You can pick up the list at the Dept. office in the Municipal Building or you can call the office at 271-3006 to obtain the names and phone numbers of people on the list.

This is a referral list only and the Dept. does not offer any references on behalf of those on the list. All terms of employment are to be negotiated by you, the employer.

Duck Pond Skating

Everyone looks forward to skating at the Duck Pond, even those who just enjoy watching!



When the weather permits, skating is permitted on the Duck Pond.

Westchester County requires that there be at least 6 inches of ice before skating is permitted. The ice depth is measured at several locations on the pond. It usually requires a lengthy period of very cold weather to develop this depth of ice. When the ice depth is adequate, any accumulated snow will be removed by the department to facilitate skating. A **green** flag on the pole at the pond indicates that the ice is safe. A **red** flag indicates it is unsafe and skating is not permitted.

When skating is permitted, it is advisable to not skate alone. Although the ice is checked for thickness, it is not foolproof and might be thinner in some places. Parental supervision is urged because skating is unsupervised by the Recreation and Parks Dept.