



Newsletter

January, 2008

Number 101

2008 - Looking Ahead

January Calendar

- 1 New Years Day**
- 7 & 22** Village Board Mtg.
- 15 & 29** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 2** Cons. Advisory Council
- 8** Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 9** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 16** Water Control Comm.
- 16** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 21 Martin Luther King Day**

At the beginning of 2008, the Village has several projects that are underway. For some, such as the Croton Landing/River Walk project and the granite curbing and final paving of Benedict Blvd., work is already under way. Others will begin construction and still others will be planned and evaluated.



Croton Landing Construction

At Croton Landing, the clean-up of the site, construction of the general purpose field, bathroom facility, parking area improvements and the 2300-foot River Walk extension are already under way. The work is expected to be completed in Fall of 2008 with the field becoming available in Fall 2009.

In the High Street area, two projects are expected to proceed. A drainage improvement project partially funded by a \$200,000 Water Quality Improvement grant from the NYSDEC will address problems with this major watershed, one of the top four in the Village. This project includes the creation of a new detention pond to help control the flow of water through the basin as well as benefits for the downstream property owners. Additionally, a project to improve water and sewer lines and make sidewalk improvements on High St. is slated to begin. The latter is funded partially by federal Community Development Block Grant funds (CBDG) allocated by the County.

Another of the Village's top four drainage basins along Batten Road (out of 13 identified basins), has been approved for major drainage improvements. Detailed design work is currently under way and work will begin in the Spring.

Along Route 129 in the Village, at its intersection with S. Riverside Ave. and Hudson St., a sidewalk and landscape improvement project has been designed and locally approved. Replacement of sidewalk, adding curbing and providing a defined parking plan are part of this project. It is currently awaiting a work permit from the NYS DOT so work can begin.



Rte. 129 at S. Riverside

Looking ahead to the future, the Village is also currently looking at planning for improvements to South Riverside Ave. to complement the improvements being made by Historic Hudson Valley on the S. Riverside Ave. extension that leads to the entrance of Van Cortlandt Manor. The Village will be evaluating the roadway, storm drainage in the area, and aesthetics such as lighting and landscaping. This work would be funded by money committed by the County as part of the Village's agreeing to take over S. Riverside and Croton Point Ave. from the County. A study of the traffic issues related to the Village's commuter parking lot is also being proposed. Village staff are currently working on development of a Request For Proposal (RFP) that will define the dimensions of the study. It will address possible measures to alleviate the congestion that occurs at commuter hours and also pedestrian/bicycle safety concerns.



Station Entrance to be Evaluated

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Radnor Ave. Traffic Changes

Changes are in store for two intersections along Radnor Ave. At Radnor's intersection with Olcott Ave., stop signs will be placed in all directions making it a 4-way stop. In addition, crosswalk markings will be painted on the pavement. These changes are being made in recognition of the high number of pedestrians using this intersection coming and going to the Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle



Radnor at Olcott Ave.

School.

At the same time, two blocks away, the intersection of Radnor and Emerson will become a 2-way stop with the removal of the existing stop signs on Radnor Ave.

Traffic arrows will also be placed in Gotwald circle reminding vehicles of the need to proceed around the circle in a counter-clockwise direction. Gotwald Circle is the point where Cleveland Dr., Truesdale Dr., Benedict Blvd., Arlington Dr. and Whelan Ave. all meet.

Appellate Court Decisions

Two decisions of the NYS Appellate Court regarding 1A Croton Point Ave. were made on December 4, 2007. They concern appeals by both the Village and Greentree, LLC. They are available for viewing on the Village website.

DiCioccio Inducted

Ray DiCioccio, two-term President of Croton's Senior Club, has been inducted into the Westchester County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. Ray was nominated by Croton's Senior Club. The newly inducted members were feted at a luncheon on December 7 at the Westchester Marriott Hotel celebrating the organization's 25th anniversary. Outstanding seniors are honored for exemplary service to the senior community in the County.

Senior News

Beginning in early February, Croton's Senior Club will move their weekly Friday meetings from the Community Room in the Municipal Building to the Harmon Fire House. The membership of the club has grown to the extent that the Community Room is frequently too small to accommodate the attendees and has caused the Club to put limits on their special events held there.

SNOW and ICE - Good News/Bad News



Snow and ice are both good news and bad news. The good news is that with sufficient ice, the Duck Pond will be open for skating. At least 6 inches of ice is required before skating is permitted. When the ice depth is adequate, the Parks Dept. will clear any accumulated snow and a **green flag** will be flying on the pole at the pond. A **red flag** indicates that the ice is unsafe and skating is not permitted. Skating is unsupervised and it is always advisable not to skate alone.

The bad news about snow and ice is that it has to be removed from the sidewalks and it is your responsibility to do so on the sidewalks bordering your property. It should not be shoveled or blown into a previously cleared street. Shovel-ing help is available for eligible Seniors through the Town of Cortlandt Aging Division. If you need this service, contact Nora Hogan at 528-8377.



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Additionally, as reported in the December 2007 Newsletter, train station parking lot improvements are under consideration with final design work awaiting the outcome of the Village's success in seeking a significant grant from FEMA through the NYS Emergency Management Office (SEMO). The Village has received notice in December that SEMO has included Croton's proposal in its group of potential grants to be considered by FEMA - a positive step.

Alarm Permits

Private alarm systems in the Village are required to have an Alarm permit. Any property owner or lessee must obtain such a permit from the Village office prior to installing an alarm. All Alarm permits require annual renewal. The initial permit fee is \$150, with a \$50 renewal fee. As all Alarm permits expire annually on December 31, any existing permits will need renewal.

Forms may be downloaded from the Village website (search on 'alarm permit' from the Home page. Alternatively, permit applications may be filled out in the Village Office. Violations for having false alarms from unlicensed systems may result in daily fines of up to \$250. Permit holders should also make sure to update their emergency contact information.



Spotlight on Cari Daddio

Cari Daddio is celebrating her two-year anniversary as Dispatcher for Croton's Police Dept. In addition to answering calls and dispatching services, Cari is the first person a visitor to Croton's Police Headquarters meets.

It is an understatement to say that this job is a very busy one. The most demanding aspect of being Dispatcher is the answering of calls to the main phone line and 911. These include police and fire emergencies as well as EMS calls. Sophisticated equipment at her desk allows her to communicate immediately and directly with all the response teams. She dispatches patrol cars, fire trucks and medical response units depending on the call. If necessary, Cari can communicate with the NYS State Police, Metro

North and County police, and other local police departments. Calls come in steadily all day but it gets especially busy during times of bad weather, infrastructure mishaps like water main breaks, electrical outages, and accidents. Whether on the phone or in person, Cari regularly fields inquiries about weather, directions, and general information such as finger print appointments, lost/found property, and accident reports. People often call to report something they have seen that bothers them, which Cari feels is the right thing to do. Additionally, she is sometimes asked to sit in on police interviews if a woman's presence is requested and she has assisted the Chief and Lieutenants with research for projects they are working on.

After high school in Mahopac, she received an Assoc. degree in Business Mgm't. from WCC and a Bachelors in the same field from SUNY Plattsburgh. Recently she also completed certification as a Para-legal from WCC and is a licensed Notary as well.

A Croton resident for 8 years, Cari spends her free time with her two school-age daughters and their sports and school activities - primarily soccer and gymnastics. She is the Vice-President of her Homeowner's Association and is on her children's Religious School committee. As often as possible she enjoys cooking and baking for friends and family.



"I love helping the community and knowing that our department does make a difference in Croton."

Cari Daddio

CAC Seeks New Members

The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is seeking several new members. The CAC advises the Village Board on environmental matters. Annually it sponsors Earth Day activities, the Daffodil Hillside planting, participates in Summerfest, and undertakes other environmental initiatives and reviews.

Members are appointed by the Village Board for 2-year terms and must be Village residents. If you are interested and have relevant environmental experience and qualifications, particularly in environmental sciences, please send a letter of interest and a resume to Mayor Gregory Schmidt at the Village Office address on page 4 of this newsletter.

Snow Parking Rules

On street parking is not permitted when snow measures 2" or more. When snow is forecasted, residents should remove their cars from the street in advance of any accumulation. Keeping cars off the streets aids the DPW in clearing the streets of snow. Violators of this prohibition will be ticketed. If you have no other option you can apply for a seasonal parking permit for on-street Winter parking. Call the Village Office at 271-4781 for details.

Recreation Dept. Offers WCC Program

A history course given by Westchester Community College's (WCC) MAINSTREAM institute for seniors will be offered in Croton on Thursdays from 1-3 pm for 8 weeks beginning Jan. 31st.

"Life Between the Great Wars" will be taught by Prof. Tabachnik, an adjunct professor at WCC where he has been teaching the history of the 20th century in the US, the Presidency, the Constitution, and the Holocaust.

This course will take an in-depth look at what life was like between World War I and World War II. It will address the question of what created the climate that resulted in war? Registration for this new class is due by January 25. Checks for the \$20. fee should be made payable to Westchester Community College.



Build-A-Snowman Contest

Build a snowman anywhere you find enough snow. Send a 4x6 picture of it to the Recreation Dept. by Mar. 21 and become a winner! Two categories will be evaluated - (1) Typical snowman, (2) Snow Sculpture—animal, etc. Put your name, address and phone # on the back.

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

Gregory J. Schmidt, Mayor
Thomas P. Brennan, Trustee
Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee
Charles A. Kane, Trustee
Susan Konig, Trustee

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

Got a Question?



It seems like a long time since the Senior Housing proposal known as Symphony Knoll was approved? Is this proposal still going to happen?

Yes, the proposal to build 11 apartments for Seniors on Mt. Airy Road near the intersection with Grand Street is still moving forward. The Croton Housing Network, the developer, hopes to begin construction this Spring.

The Village approved this proposal in 2005 after over a year of review by all the village boards. It began with the Village's purchase of the .6 acre property from the estate of Lavina McClure. The McClure property was surrounded by an approximate 10-acre parcel acquired by CHN in 1990 for affordable housing purposes as part of the River Landing subdivision approvals. The 12-unit Mt. Airy Woods development is located there. Subsequently, CHN transferred 3.5 acres of the larger site to the Village. The McClure property was merged with this to create a zoning compliant site for the Symphony Knoll senior housing proposal.

The original purchase price for the McClure lot, plus additional costs to support its development, created the basis for the Westchester County Board of Legislators approving an expenditure of \$791,000 to complete this proposal. The Legislators' approval in October 2007 includes the County buying back the property from Croton for \$340,000 with the remainder to be used for its construction. Additional financing will come from several federally funded agencies. With this sale to the County, the Village completely recovers its costs. The Village and County's support of affordable housing initiatives was key to the CHN proposal to acquire the McClure property and turn it into the proposed senior living project.

The lengthy approval process for Symphony Knoll is illustrative of the length of time it takes to accomplish this type of project with government approvals and money. Having begun the process in 2004, CHN is now in a position to move ahead with its actual construction. When completed, renters will be 55 years or older and earn less than half of the County's median income (about \$77,200 for a 2-person household), and have a Croton connection.

