



January Calendar

- 1 New Years Day**
- 5 & 20** Village Board Mtg.
- 13 & 27** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 7** Cons. Advisory Council
- 13** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 14** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 19 Martin Luther King Day**
- 21** Visual Environ. Board
- 21** Water Control Comm.
- 28** Trails Comm.

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Tips for Saving Energy and Money

Like many other communities across the United States, Croton is reaching out to its residents to take steps to reduce their energy consumption. Many of these steps have the added benefit of reducing costs for residents as well. Here is a compilation of steps that are relatively easy to take to save you money in the coming heating season.

Stop drafts and air seal any leaks. Cold air infiltration usually causes the largest amount of residential heat loss. Air sealing doors and windows can reduce cold air coming in and improve your comfort as well.



Install programmable thermostats. Taking this step will allow you to match your heating needs to the time of day and your absences from your home.

Use insulating window treatments. Shades, blinds and window film keep the warm air in and the cold air out at night. Open shades in sunny windows during the day.



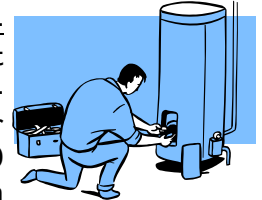
Keep your heating equipment well tuned and maintained. Well maintained equipment uses energy more efficiently.



Use timers for lights. Instead of leaving lights on while away, use timers on a few lights in your home to match the comings and goings

of your household. Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs. Replace four 75-watt incandescent bulbs with 23-watt CFLs. These bulbs will use 2/3 less energy and last up to 10 times longer with a savings of up to \$190. over the lifetime of the bulbs.

Lower your hot water temperature. Set the water temperature at 'normal' or no more than 120 degrees F. This can save your water heating costs by up to 10%.



Wrap your water tank with an insulation kit if it is older than 5 years and wrap your hot water pipes with pipe insulators.

Here are some more measures you can take that might have even more impact on your energy usage.

Get a Home Energy Audit. This will help you identify where even greater energy efficiency gains can be made. Check NYS's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program for more information on getting an audit performed at your house and eligibility for incentives or low-interest financing to make efficiency improvements more affordable. (www.getenergysmart.org) or call 1-877-NYSMART.



Perform Energy Efficiency Improvements. Possible improvements include replacing old windows with ENERGY STAR double-pane windows; insulating walls, ceilings, attic, floors and basements; eliminating or at least closing the flue in open fireplaces.

Consider Upgrading or Replacing Heating Equipment. New equipment should, at a minimum have the ENERGY STAR-certified specification. Home renovations to LEED or ENERGY STAR standards will provide long-term energy efficiency and savings.

Suozzi on Property Tax Relief

Nassau County Executive, Tom Suozzi, will speak at the Municipal Building on Thursday, Jan. 22 from 7 to 9 PM. Mr. Suozzi is the Chairman of the NYS Commission on Property Tax Relief. The Commission submitted their final report in early December 2008. Since then Mr. Suozzi had made series of presentations across the state on the Report's recommendations. The office of Assemblywoman Sandy Galef requested the use of Croton's Municipal Building for his final presentation on the report.



Tom Suozzi

The Commission which Mr. Suozzi heads, focused primarily on the school property tax burden and resulted in eight recommendations to that end. The Commission Report also adopted eleven recommendations from another report by the Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness completed in Nov. 2008.



Build-A-Snowman Contest

Build a snowman anytime this winter, mail a 4 x 6 picture of it and its builder to the Recreation Dept. by Fri., March 20th and you may win a prize. Include you name, address and phone number. Categories are a) "Typical Snowman" and b) "Snow Sculpture" Photos will not be returned.

Generator Landscaping

Landscaping has recently been planted in front of the large green generator that was installed in late Fall 2006 on the Brook Street side of the Municipal Building. In the next few years, the trees that were planted will grow taller and wider and eventually provide a visual screen for the generator.



Generator Landscaping

The need for the generator was identified as part of the Village's Hazard Mitigation Plan which called for a stand-by generator for use in emergencies in which there is a large scale power loss as well as for more localized power outages. The Village Offices in the Municipal Building have been designated as the emergency operations center in the event of major emergency. The Conservation Advisory Council advised on the screening.

Croton History Room News Flash

Have you visited the new Croton History Museum yet? The exhibit now showing, "1930 – Portrait of a Moment Past", will remain up through May-June 2009.



Since the Museum evolved early this year, the History Room of Croton has expanded its data base tremendously, but it is always on the lookout for new subjects to bring to the atten-

tion of residents of Croton.

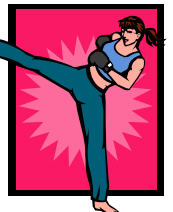
Please keep in mind that Croton's History Room is the official repository for your Village's artifacts. Just bring in your pictures or memorabilia. They will be gratefully accepted and carefully catalogued.

Winter Recreation Programs

Is it time to get back in shape again after the holidays? The Recreation Dept. is offering several programs designed to do just that. There are both morning and evening offerings held at the Municipal Building.

Total Body Workout, beginning Jan. 15, targets every part of the body using hand-held weights, muscle toning and full body stretches under the guidance of a certified personal trainer.

Beginner Kickboxing, starting Jan. 14, provides a basic introduction to kickboxing. The class is geared towards learning all basic moves while gaining cardio fitness.



There are also two new morning offerings:

T.R.I.M. Boot Camp, beginning Jan. 13 from 6:30-7:30 AM. This is a total body fitness routine focused on strength training and moderate to high cardiovascular activities.

MAT Pilates, on Saturdays, starting Jan. 10 from 8:45-9:45. This popular form of exercise emphasizes the balanced development of the body through core strength, flexibility and awareness to support efficient and graceful movement.

Signup deadlines for these classes are in the first week of January and can be done at the Recreation Dept. office. Call 271-3006 for information.



Reminder!

Village Offices will be closed

Thurs., Jan. 1 for New Year's Day &

Mon., Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King Day!



Spotlight on Margaret Morabito

Croton's Finance Department has had the benefit of Margaret Morabito's part-time help for the last eight years. Working three days/week, Margaret's job in Finance includes maintaining Vendor files, tracking revenues, Accounts Receivables, Purchase Orders and Invoices. She prepares daily parking lot reports and also helps prepare the Vouchers folder for review by the Village Board. At the beginning of her employment by the Village, Margaret worked directly with parking lot customers issuing permits and answering questions at the Village Office front desk. One of the things Margaret likes about her part time job is that it is completely different from the work she did for years as a Secretary in

the Croton-Harmon School District where she worked in all three schools prior to her retirement. After a brief move to the Poconos, she returned to the area and now lives in Peekskill.

Margaret's history with Croton extends back to her grandfather working at the Croton Dam. Her parents attended school in the Municipal Building when it was a school. She also attended Croton-Harmon schools with her two sisters as did all four of her children - two sons and two daughters.

At home in her condo in Peekskill, Margaret lives with a cat and a greyhound she adopted as a two-year old when it was retired from racing. Walking the dog twice a day assures Margaret

of lots of good exercise. Spending time with her children, grandchildren (1 grandson and 3 grand daughters) and her extended family is one of the things Margaret enjoys the most. Her love of traditional Italian cooking and baking adds to her enjoyment of family get-togethers. A secret family recipe for zeppolis provided the occasion for a recent party.

Margaret loves doing the Sunday NYTimes crossword puzzle. She likes visiting her children and trips to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. A trip to Calabria, Italy a few years ago to visit distant relatives is remembered fondly.



"I like everything about the job; the work that I do and the office environment. It's a great place to work."

Margaret Morabito

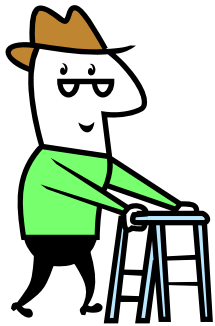
Special Needs Registry

If there is an emergency in Croton that requires an emergency response by either local, town, county, state or federal agencies, would you need special help?

Westchester County is putting together a list of residents who may require additional assistance, transportation or a place to stay in the event of a major emergency or disaster. If you are elderly or disabled and would have trouble leaving your home quickly if told to do so, you should sign up for the Special Needs Registry. In the event of such an emergency, agencies involved in the emergency response will know who is in need and where to focus their resources.

Any County resident with a physical or mental disability who would need special assistance, is eligible for this registry. However, it is only intended for use by those who live independently and not in a residential special needs facility.

To register for this Special Needs Registry, go to www.westchestergov.com/specialneeds. Alternatively, you may call 211 to sign up over the phone.



Senior Hall of Fame

Three Seniors from Croton were honored at the 26th Annual Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame luncheon on Dec. 5, 2008.

The honorees are Don Daubney, John Sekelsky and Joyce Finnerty. Mr. Daubney is a former Village Trustee, and longtime volunteer with many local non-profit organizations. Mr. Sekelsky, a well known local artist and photographer, also regularly



John Sekelsky, Joyce Finnerty and Don Daubney

provides the musical accordion accompaniment at Veterans memorial events and other community get togethers. Ms. Finnerty is the Village Historian and has recently led the relocation of the Historical Society's exhibits to the Municipal Building from its former location at the Croton Free Library.

Cell Tower Update

The cell tower proposed for location in the area of the railroad station parking lot has received both Special Permit approval from the Village Board and Site Plan approval from the Planning Board. Preliminary work on its construction is underway.

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

Gregory J. Schmidt, Mayor
Thomas P. Brennan, Trustee
Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee
Susan Konig, Trustee
Richard B. Olver, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
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(914) 271-4781-2
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Got a Question?



We love to ice skate and hope it will be cold enough for the Duck Pond to open this year. How will we know if it is open for skating?



Skaters at the Duck Pond

Skating at the Duck Pond is one of the real pleasures of winter in the Village.

The primary factor in opening the pond for skating is, of course, a long period of cold weather. According to

Recreation & Parks Superintendent Susan Snyder, the County requires there to be at least 6" of ice measured at several locations in the pond. When this condition is met, the Duck Pond will be open for skating. A green flag flying at the pond means it is okay to skate; a red flag means NO skating is permitted.

Skating is at your own risk as there are no attendants at the Duck Pond. It is best not to skate alone. Parental supervision is urged.

Although the ice is checked for thickness, it is not fool-proof and might be thinner in some unchecked places. When the ice is thick enough for skating, accumulated snow will be removed by the Recreation & Parks Dept. to facilitate skating.

Operation Snowflake

The Town of Cortlandt has two snow shoveling programs - one to hire shovelers and one to provide shoveling for Seniors.

The Town seeks teens to shovel the driveways, walkways and patios of Senior citizens. Teens will be paid \$7.50/hour. Contact Dawn Mahoney at 914-528-1572 for information and an application.

Senior residents of the Town (including Croton) who are unable to shovel their sidewalks may be eligible for snow shoveling services. For more info contact Nora Hogan of the Town of Cortlandt Aging Division at 529-8377.

