



June Calendar

- 5 & 19** Village Board Mtg.
- 13 & 27** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 7** Cons. Advisory Council
- 14** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 20** Water Control Comm.
- 20** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 30** **Taxes Due**

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A Year of Sidewalk Improvements

Walking around the Village is getting better and better as more and more sidewalks are being replaced along residential streets. A report summarizing the 2005 sidewalk improvement program by Village Engineer Dan O'Connor indicates that 59 applications were completed throughout the Village. The total linear feet of replaced sidewalk and driveway apron amounted to 6177 linear feet or 1.2 miles of sidewalk.

Sidewalks were replaced on 12 streets. Lexington Drive led the way with 15 residences receiving new sidewalks followed by Truesdale Dr. which had sidewalk replacements at 11 residences.

These sidewalks were replaced as part of the Village's sidewalk replacement program begun six years ago to encourage property owners to improve the sidewalks in front of their homes. By law, sidewalks are the property owner's responsibility. The incentive program was



established for a period of seven years. For the first five years of the program, the cost of the sidewalk replacements was shared between the property owner and the Village on a 50/50 basis. The end of the 50/50 period was May 2005. Applications for sidewalk replacements starting June 1, 2005 are shared on a 60/40 basis with the property owner assuming 60% of the cost. The entire program will end on May 31, 2007.

For the 2005 year the total cost was \$217,626.58 with the cost to the Village at \$103,302.75 and the homeowner cost at \$114,323.83. The homeowner cost is slightly more than half because some of these applications were made since June 2005 when the 60/40 split started. Although the time in which the application

was submitted determines the cost basis, the actual scheduling of sidewalk replacement varies. To be cost effective Joe Sperber, Assistant Building Inspector and the coordinator of the sidewalk program, tries to group replacements together by location. Given the number of applications received and the amount of funding put aside each year in the budget, the work under this program is currently estimated to take until 2011 to complete.



New sidewalk at Truesdale Drive and Cedar Lane

In addition to the residential sidewalk replacement program, the Village also installed new sidewalks at several locations during the past year. New sidewalk was constructed along Old Post Road North between Lounsburry Rd. and Mt. Green Rd. Along Cleveland Dr. between Five Corners and Hughes St., approximately 1000 feet of asphalt sidewalk was replaced with concrete. In addition a new section of sidewalk was installed from the west end of Municipal Place to connect to existing sidewalk on Half Moon Bay Dr. completing the sidewalk to Half Moon Bay condominiums and Elliott Way. A small section of concrete was installed as well at the bus shelter at Municipal Place and Maple St.

Village sidewalk improvement plans for next year include the possibility of extending the sidewalk along Old Post Road North from Mount Green Rd. to Prospect Place. This would be timed to occur in conjunction with the High St drainage improvement project which is also planned for next year.

Summerfest is June 4th!

Croton's 9th annual celebration of the beginning of summer is on Sunday, June 4th. Known as Summerfest, the fun-filled day will kick off with a parade at 1pm starting from Five Corners, through the Upper Village to the Grand St. firehouse. From 1pm to 6pm, the Upper Village will be filled with street vendors, delicious foods and wonderful entertainment—non-stop fun and music. This year will feature a new attraction, the Magic of Christopher, a roving magician. There will also be two bands playing through the day: Sundown, a southern rock band, and Second Wind, a classic rock band.

Summerfest is sponsored each year by the Dept. of Parks and Recreation in conjunction with the Croton chapter of the Lower Hudson Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Millennium Suit Ends

After receiving a decisive loss in their suit to overturn the decision of the Dept. of Commerce which upheld the primacy of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) in the denial of Millennium Pipeline Co. LLC's proposal, Millennium has declined to appeal the decision further to the US Court of Appeals. The proposed pipeline would have crossed Haverstraw Bay and passed through Croton on its route through the county. This decision ends the litigation over whether the Village's Local CZMA plan, known as the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) and the NYS CZMA plan, was complied with by the pipeline company's proposal.

Millennium further filed an amendment with the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) to amend its proposed two-phase plan. They asked FERC to "vacate" the second phase of the plan which would have crossed the Hudson River from Rockland County. FERC had previously issued a certificate enabling the two-phase plan.

In its fight against the pipeline proposal, Croton was joined by the Village of Briarcliff Manor and the Town of Cortlandt. Croton's LWRP enabled Neil Levy of the Washington DC firm Kirkland & Ellis LLC to make the argument that prevailed in court. Croton has spent \$784,327.17 to date in this fight since the late nineties.

Village Taxes Due

Village taxes are due no later than June 30, 2006. Any payments postmarked after June 30th will be assessed a 5% late fee which, under NYS law, cannot be waived for any reason.

In addition to regular hours, the Village Office will be open for tax collection purposes on Saturdays in June from 9 am to 12 noon. If you are paying by mail near the end of the month be sure that there is a timely postmark affixed to your payment. The US Postal Service, Airborne Express, FedEx or DHL Worldwide Express are acceptable forms of timely postmarks. Postage meters (i.e. Pitney Bowes machine) or foreign post marks are not accepted. If an envelope is received containing a tax payment and has no acceptable postmark, that payment will be deemed to have been made on the date the payment is received.

Croton Seniors



Summer meetings for the Croton Senior Club will be held at the Senasqua Park Pavilion starting on Friday, June 2 and continuing through Labor Day weekend. Meetings start at 12:30. In the event of rain, meetings will be in the Community Room in the Municipal Building.

Over the summer, the last Friday of each month will be "Fun Fridays". Everyone should bring a bag lunch or a pot luck item to be shared. Beer, wine and soda will be provided.

On June 9 at 11:45 there will be a speaker from the Pace University Women's Justice Program to talk on the subject of "Protection against Financial Scams".

Two upcoming trips are scheduled and available for sign-up by members. (Remember, Senior residents may join for only \$6/ annually!)

On August 8, a Yonkers Heritage Tour includes a guided bus tour of historical and industrial sites in Yonkers. Lunch at the Full Moon Café on the Yonkers Pier is paid individually. The fee is \$17./\$20 res./non-res.

September will feature a 4 day, 3 night Walton's Mountain/Shenandoah National Park tour. Skyline Drive, Luray Caverns, Monticello, Michie Tavern, and the Walton's Mountain Museum will be visited. The price includes three nights of lodging and six meals. The trip starts on Sept. 17th. The cost is \$599 - single, \$459 - twin or \$449 - triple. The sign-up deadline is June 6th with a \$50. deposit. Call Yvonne at 271-5804 for more information.



Reminder!

Summerfest - Sunday, June 4th

Taxes due - Friday, June 30th



Spotlight on Dana Connors

Although many residents do not ever see Dana Connors, his work as a mechanic in the Dept. of Public Works garage significantly affects many of the services they receive.

As a mechanic, Dana repairs and maintains most of the Village's vehicles including sanitation trucks, sweepers, backhoes, police vehicles, ambulances, pickup trucks, salt spreaders, the leaf vacuum, the landscaping equipment, pump station generators and the asphalt roller.

Dana came to Croton's DPW a little over two years ago from a private sector Ford dealership in Yorktown. With an Automotive Applied Science Associates Degree from Columbia Greene College in Hudson,

NY, Dana worked for seven years at a Ford dealership in Dutchess County. His college program had a Ford sponsorship and provided a work-study component with the dealership where he continued after graduation.

Vehicle maintenance is now a highly computerized field. Nearly every aspect of a vehicle's functioning is controlled by electronics. Diagnosing problems requires extensive familiarity with the electronic schematics for each as well as the ability to use the appropriate computer software and interpret the results.

When problems occur, a computer is connected to the vehicle and its software programs perform various computer checks on the electronics installed in the vehicle.

Based on this, the appropriate

repair is made.

Dana grew up in Dutchess County and graduated from Arlington High School. In addition to his automotive education, he also became Novell certified and worked for IBM as an Engineering Technician. He feels that coming to Croton as a Mechanic was "the best thing I could have done."

Dana has a house in Hopewell Junction where, in his spare time, he works enlarging it and building a new garage. His black Labrador Retriever, "Sable", is a regular fixture at the DPW and adds to overall morale at the garage.



"It's great to be in a job where the emphasis is on actually fixing something so it will continue to work in the future."

Dana Connors

Tree City

For its 22nd year, Croton has been designated as a Tree City, USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Each year, Village Clerk, Peggy Keesler, applies for the award by supplying information on the number of trees planted and the Village's annual tree budget. This year \$10,000 is allocated for tree purchases. In addition, every year on Arbor Day, a ceremony is held at which a NYSDEC Forester presents the Village with a Tree City USA flag, posters and bookmarks. The Tree City flag is flying on the pole at the Municipal Building.



Parking Lot Permit Change



Under the new fee schedule adopted by the Board of Trustees in April, a maximum of two cars may be registered on any one railroad station parking permit for the quarterly fee. Additional cars registered to the same permit will be charged a \$15 per car/per quarter fee. Previously, up to six family cars could be registered on a single parking permit application.

Preliminary Injunction Granted

Judge Francis Nicolai of the New York Supreme Court in Westchester County granted a preliminary injunction enjoining Northeast Interstate Railway (NIR) and Greentree Realty LLC from commencing operation of a waste transfer station in the Village until they obtain a special permit from the Village.

In its brief, the Village argued that the use of the site as a transfer station was not an as-of-right use and therefore, was not a lawful pre-existing nonconforming use entitled to continue indefinitely. Judge Nicolai ruled that this issue regarding protected property rights would be consolidated with another ongoing lawsuit in his court, Greentree Realty LLC v Village of Croton-on-Hudson.

In an unusual step, Judge Nicolai also required the Village to post an \$25,000 bond.

Jet Skiing and Windsurfing

If you are interested in jet skiing or windsurfing from Senasqua Park and Boat Basin, Village permits must be obtained at the Recreation Office. Season jet ski passes are \$180. res./\$255. non-res. Windsurfing passes are \$50. and \$60. for residents and non-residents respectively.

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



June, 2006

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**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
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?



Dead animals such as deer, raccoons and skunks are occasionally found on our streets. What should be done to have them removed?



If you observe a dead deer on one of Croton's streets, you should call the DPW at 271-3775. They will contact an animal control service that will come and remove it from the road. If it is on a NYS State road (North and South Riverside and Maple St.), DPW will notify the State for the removal. If a dead deer is found on your private property it is your responsibility to call an animal control service. The DPW can give you the names of companies that offer the service. They are also listed in the yellow pages under Animal Control.

Small animals will be collected by the DPW when they see them or when they are notified. They are disposed of in plastic bags in the garbage stream. Small dead animals that are found on private property should also be placed in double bagged in plastic and placed in the garbage for disposal.

When driving down a street with a center median, such as Benedict Boulevard, do I have to stop for a school bus on the other side (the opposite direction) if the bus is stopped to discharge or pick up students?



The answer is YES. Recently tickets have been issued for infractions of this law along Benedict Boulevard. The law requiring stopping for school buses applies to all streets and roads in the Village.

There seems to be uncertainty among drivers on this point. Our Police Dept. reports that frequently when one driver makes this mistake and passes a stopped bus, others who are immediately following will do the same. On Benedict Blvd. children frequently cross the median for both pick-up and drop-off to reach the other side of the street. This is particularly dangerous when it occurs during the daily rush to the railroad station in the morning.

Although school buses do not normally stop on Route 9, which has a center median and metal guard rails between opposing flow of traffic, the same law applies.

