

June, 2009 Number 117

Summerfest - Parade, Ships, Food, Music

The Village's 22nd Annual Summerfest celebration is coming on Sunday, June 7th. This year's Summerfest promises to be among the best yet.

As usual, the main event will feature a parade, good food, live music and vendors. Summerfest is co-sponsored by the Croton Recreation & Parks Dept. and the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce Croton subcommittee.

Earlier that day, between 9 and 11:30 AM, a NYS Quadricentennial River Day event will be occurring at Croton Landing. The ship Halve Maen, a replica of Hendrick Hudson's ship, will sail into Haverstraw Bay. The Halve Maen will be part of a flotilla of 7 historic ships sailing up the Hudson River from New York harbor to Albany. It is expected that the ship and the Croton Yacht Club will exchange cannon fire to mark the event. (See accompanying article on p.2).

One of the biggest Summerfest parades in recent years will kick off at I PM from two locations. The traditional community group parade with Board members, staff members and community

nity groups marching will start off from Veterans Corners heading to the Upper Village. They will be led by the Hendrick Hudson High School



Marching Band. The Grand Marshall for this year's parade is the entire 2008 Section I Champion State Finalist Croton-Harmon Football team.

The Croton Volunteer Fire Dept. will also be hosting its Fireman's Parade

that day. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of Croton's Fire Patrol, the Fire Dept. and Croton EMS will host eight fire companies from around the County. The Fire Dept. parade will start at Gotwald Circle at I PM and proceed up

Cleveland
Dr. to Old
Post Road.
South,
where it will



end of the community parade. All will continue past the High School and into the Upper Village.

After the parade, the Upper Village will be alive with delicious food, vendors, and live music until 6 PM. Two bands, Second Wind and Nicole Hart and the NRG Band, will be playing at separate locations along Grand St. In addition to vendors selling a multitude of items, many community volunteer groups will host tables during the day. For the first time, the Village will have a table to distribute information of interest and importance to residents and will also be selling "green" water bottles at cost - \$2 each.

Collaboration between the staff of the Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Police Departments make this event possible. Croton's Auxiliary Police will be out in force to help with traffic control as well. Hudson National Golf Course will be providing golf carts to facilitate the logistics of parade and event management.

Special Note: Cleveland Drive will be closed to traffic on Sunday, June 7 from I to 2PM between Gotwald Circle and Five Corners at Old Post Rd. South. Residents in this section of Cleveland Dr. will not be able to drive in or out of their driveways during this period while the parade passes.

June Calendar

1 & 15 Village Board Mtg.

7 SUMMERFEST

9 & 23 Planning Bd. Mtg.

3 Cons. Advisory Council

9 Rec. Advisory Comm.

10 Zoning Bd. Of Appeals

17 Visual Environ. Board

24 Trails Comm.

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River Day Flotilla Events

In addition to being Summerfest, June 7 is also River Day. In celebration of the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain's discovery of



his namesake lake as well as the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's maiden journey up the Hudson on the 1st successful steamboat, New York State has planned a year-long series of events - called the Quadricentennial.

Seven historic ships will sail past croton on Sun., June 7 between 9 and 11 am. The ships include the Halve Maen (Half Moon), Clearwater, Onrust, Woodie Guthrie, Mystic Whaler, Riverkeeper and the fireboat John Henry.

This sail-by can best be seen from the pavil-

ion area of Croton Point Park.

After passing Croton Point, the Halve Maen will sail toward Croton Landing Park and

exchange a canon salute with the Croton Yacht Club. At Croton Landing Park a ceremony to inaugurate the site as a part of the Greenway River Trail will be held. Kayak racks are now installed for people to stop at Croton Landing as they paddle up and down the Hudson River.

Parking Lot Re-grading Under Way

Now almost a month underway, the filling and re-grading of sections of the station parking lot to mitigate flooding problems, is moving ahead smoothly. One of the thorni-



est problems of the project - displacing about 700 vehicles from the parking lot to alternate parking sites - has been successfully addressed. As the parking lot fills each morning, cars are redirected to sites at Croton Point

Park or Van Cortlandt Manor. Parking is also available along Veterans Plaza road, S. Riverside Ave. east of Shop-Rite, and along Croton Point Ave.

A number of small buses, operated by J&R Transportation,



ferry commuters to the station and back to their cars in the evening. This will continue until the project area has been filled - approximately late July. Parking will then resume in the project area while the fill settles and prior to the final phase in the fall when the area will be paved and re-striped and vehicles will again be displaced.

June Concerts at Senasqua

This year two of the concerts in the "Friday Evening Concerts" at Senasqua Park will occur in June. (One is on a Saturday). They are part of the Summer Concert Series that runs through July 31.

On June 19, <u>Larry Baskind & Mike Risko Music</u> will be playing. The Mike Risko Band plays an eclectic blend of rock and popular hits, new and old. The band features Mike on guitar, Miriam Risko on vocals, Dr. Larry Baskind on bass guitar and Franklin Jackson Jr., playing percussion. The concert begins at 7 pm. (Rain date is Sat., June 20).

On June 27 (<u>Saturday</u>) **Not Dead Yet** will begin playing at 8 pm. This sensational Grateful Dead tribute band brings electric repertoire and energy to Croton. You will hear Dead classics as well as songs from the Beatles, Clapton, Dylan, Stones and more. A Not Dead Yet performance is an exciting and memorable and not-to-be-missed experience. (Rain location is the Croton-Harmon High School Auditorium.)

Vendors Sought

The Village is seeking vendors to sell food and non-alcoholic beverages at Croton Landing Park on weekends during the summer and also on concert nights at Senasqua

Park. Details for applying can be found on the Village website at www.crotononhudson-ny.gov.

Senior Walkers

Croton Seniors have begun a weekly exercise walk along the Hudson River. Every Wednesday, weather permitting, Croton Seniors meet at the parking area at Croton Landing Park at 9:30 am. For an hour, they enjoy each others company while walking at their own pace, sometimes stopping along the way to sit on the benches and enjoy the scenery.

To join in this Senior activity simply register at the Recreation office. It is free. Appropriate walking shoes are required. This walking program will continue through August 26.

Community Meeting - June 11

The Village Manager and Dept. heads will be hosting a Community Meeting on June 7, 7-9 pm, at the Grand St. Fire House, to listen to residents' ideas and suggestions and answer questions.



Spotlight on CHOOSE Students at Work in Croton

Adriana Pepdjonvic and Cory Crosbie-Foote

Two Croton-Harmon High School Seniors are doing their CHOOSE project with the Village government. CHOOSE is an opportunity for students to get some real-life experience in a field they think they would like to explore or pursue. It encompasses an 7 to 8 week period at the end of their Senior year.

Adriana is working in the Engineering Office with Village Engineer Dan O'Connor as her mentor. She is participating in site visits at ongoing projects such as the parking lot re-grading and the Nordica Dr. pump station, looking at design drawings, and seeing how bid specifications are drawn up and evaluated.

Adriana is entering Went-

Worth Institute of Technology in Boston in the Fall to study engineering. She says that she enjoys seeing engineering projects in the context of her hometown.

Adriana has attended Croton schools from elementary through high school. She is an avid soccer player and also works part-time at the Kumon Math & Reading Center in Montrose.

Cory is interning in the Village Office with Village Manager Zambrano as his mentor. He is working on two independent projects. He is creating a survey for students to identify those community service projects for the Village that they would be interested in doing. To create the survey, Cory is

meeting with all the department heads to determine service possibilities. Students will then be able to match poteninternships their own interests. A second survey is also being developed Cory aimed at 9th and 10th graders to help the Village determine the types recreational of programs that would appeal to them.

Cory is interested in political science and will attend a post-graduate year at the Suffield Academy in Connecticut next year. He played football and wrestled on school teams and now enjoys informal rugby games with friends.



Adriana Pepdjonvic



Cory Crosbie-Foote

Village Taxes Due

Village property tax bills are payable by June 30th. By NYS law, late payments will be assessed a 5% late fee which cannot be waived. In addition to regular office hours, the Village Office will be open every Sat. in June from 9 - 12 noon for tax payments to be made in person.



Tax bills mailed to the Village must have an official postmark showing June 30 or earlier. 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 a payment is received with no acceptable postmark, the payment is deemed to have been made on the date the payment is received.

The 2009-2010 Village budget adopted by the Village Board calls for total appropriations of \$15,910,715.00 of which \$10,014,055.34 is to be raised through property taxes. This represents a 1.84% decrease from last year's budget and a reduction of \$4.274 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.

Farmers Market Starts June 10th

Community Markets is opening a midweek farmers mar-



ket in Croton starting June 10 and continuing into the Fall. Located at the former Skatepark at the corner of Municipal Place and N. Riverside, the market will be open from 2 - 7 pm.

Eleven vendors are lined up to be at the market. They will be selling fruits and vegetables - including organic produce, pasture-raised beef and kielbasa,

desserts, baked goods and bread, organic nuts and butters, quiches and soups, barrel pickles, goat milk cheeses and yogurt, homemade jellies and locally made wines.

Parking will be available on-site and along S. Riverside during the hours of the farmers market.

Reducing Paper Use

The Village Board has taken a first step in reducing paper use by receiving all their board information packets online. The average meeting generated from 60 to 100 pages of paper per Trustee. In going paperless, the hours spent by staff in copying and delivering Board packets are also saved. Further reductions are also being explored.



June, 2009

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

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Got a Question?

I understand that the Village Board is continuing to study the recommendations of the Harmon Economic Development Committee. Is this correct?

Yes, the Board of Trustees has taken two steps to continue the examination of the zoning proposal made for the Harmon Business District by the Harmon Economic Development Committee. The Board has asked the Village Attorney to draft a local law based on the current recommendations. Once drafted, the Board can accept it as a Type I action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and begin the formal study and review known as the SEQRA process. The Board has also contracted with the consulting firm of Sacaardi & Schiff to conduct an input and information session on June 3rd from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Harmon Fire House. The meeting will have a presentation of the committee's recommendations, including a discussion on mixed-use development and the planning and architectural design principles that shaped the recommendations. The public's vision for Harmon will be sought as part of this information session.

Information and suggestions gathered at this session may be used to further refine the recommendations. If the Board decides to move ahead with studying the proposed recommendations following this session, Sacaardi & Schiff will coordinate the SEQRA review on the draft local law.

Croton Landing/Riverwalk Award



County Planning Commissioner Gerry Mulligan and Village Manager Abe Zambrano at the official opening on May 13.

The Village is a recipient of the Westchester Municipal Planning Federation's Planning Achievement award for the Croton Landing/Riverwalk project. The completed park and walkway was County Executive Andy Spano, officially opened in May. The joint application Westchester with County will be presented on June 4.