



March Calendar

- 2 & 16** Village Board Mtg.
- 10 & 24** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 4** Cons. Advisory Council
- 10** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 11** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 18** **Village Election Day**
- 18** Visual Environ. Board
- 18** Water Control Comm.
- 25** Trails Comm.

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Getting Around in the Village

The Village Board of Trustees recently heard presentations and recommendations on bicycle, pedestrian and traffic issues from the Bicycle Pedestrian Committee (BPC), and from the RBA Group. The BPC is a committee of Croton residents, formed in early 2006, to focus on developing a Master Plan for bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Croton. The RBA Group is the consulting firm contracted by the Village in early 2008 to focus on traffic issues as they affect bicycle and pedestrian safety. Their study was limited to the area between the railroad station entrance at Veterans Plaza and Croton Point Ave. and the S. Riverside Ave. and Benedict Blvd. intersection. RBA also used their preliminary recommendations made in June 2008 as the basis for a \$1.5 million Village grant application from the NYS DOT Transportation Enhancements Program (TEP).

An initial draft of the BPC Master Plan was reviewed by the Board and staff in late 2007. The revised draft plan responded to comments initially made by staff and board members. The plan puts forward village-wide recommendations based on input received from a public outreach program and a study of current conditions in the Village. The BPC Plan's objective is to improve bicycle and pedestrian conditions and to promote non-motorized means of travel in the Village and its environs.

The committee's report and recommendations were structured according to various ways people travel through the village: Commuting, School Access, and Neighborhood Connectivity and Shopping. Recommendations were made for all. For Commuting, the BPC focused on improved access to the Croton-Harmon Station, identifying the pitfalls for pedestrian and cyclists.

Among their many recommendations for this area were a multi-use path on Croton Point Ave., better lighting under the Route 9 overpass, increased signage, raised crosswalks and road markings. These recommendations were also identified in the RBA report which additionally called for added traffic lights and a reconfiguration of the highway off ramps.

In its section on Schools Access, the BPC called for traffic calming and physical improvements in areas that students frequently use to and from school. Specific locations were identified as having special importance. The goal is to make it possible for safe bicycling and walking to school which would ultimately lead to reduced traffic in the vicinity of the schools since many parents drop-off their children by car.



Neighborhood Connectivity calls for improving bicycle and pedestrian conditions along Maple St. to provide better non-motorized connections between the Village's three shopping areas—Harmon, Municipal Place and the Upper Village. Recommendations include continued improvements to sidewalks, striping of road where there is sufficient width, crosswalk markings, new paths and other traffic calming measures.

In addition to identifying areas in need of improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists, the BPC also recommends the addition of bike racks at all the locations where cyclists would go—schools, business districts, railroad station and parks and play grounds. Finally the BPC draft plan calls for the promotion of bicycle and pedestrian use through education programs in the schools, promotional

(cont'd. on page 2)

Hybrid Discount Discontinued

Since 2005, under a program funded by NYS, the Village participated in a discount program that offered a 50% permit discount for rail station parking permit holders who owned a hybrid vehicle. The program was offered by the NYS Dept. of Transportation and run by MetroPool Inc. Due to recent cuts in the NYS budget, the program is no longer available.

Parking Lot Improvement Bond

Improvements to the railroad station commuter parking lot to address flooding problems were funded in February with the approval of a \$3,060,000 bond. The funding clears the way for the project to proceed in the late Spring of this year.

Additional bonds were also approved for (1) \$984,300 for local road improvements including sidewalks and curbs, and roadway drainage improvements, acquisition of machinery and apparatus by the DPW and improvements for the Duck Pond Park; (2) \$91,800 for needed improvements to Village buildings - primarily the Municipal Building; (3) \$275,400 for sewer system improvements; and (4) \$632,400 for improvements to the water system - primarily associated with the well field and new Well #5..

Census Coming

The 2010 United States Census is coming soon and Westchester County needs the help of local municipalities in obtaining a complete and accurate count of all County residents. The U. S. Constitution mandates a complete country-wide census to be conducted on a ten-year basis.

Census data is the basis on which more than \$300 billion dollars is given to states, including \$31 billion to New York State. A complete count ensures that we maintain our voice in Congress and that we get our fair share of federal funding for programs and services.

The census will start on Census Day, April 1, 2010, but the County wants each municipality to form a Complete Count Committee. This committee of community residents will provide outreach and education to promote awareness and the importance of the 2010 Census. If you would be interested in being part of this committee, contact the Village Office at 271-4781. Many thousands of temporary Census jobs will also become available. For more information on these jobs, go to www.census.gov/2010census and click on 'Jobs' at the top. You may also call the local office in Harrison at 914-705-5290. Census taking jobs start at \$18/hour.

Bike/Ped Cont'd. (from page 1)

efforts by the Village such as sponsorships of bike repair workshops and cycling events and identification of the best and safest routes to various locations.

Last September, the Village sponsored its first annual Bike Week in conjunction with the Half Ironman Triathlon, an event the BPC hopes to see continued.

The BPC is currently drawing up a shorter Executive Summary of its plan highlighting its main recommendations. When this summary is complete, the Village Board will be considering adoption of the proposed BPC Master Plan. More public input will occur at that time. The Village is also awaiting action on the grant application submitted by RBA which is expected in the near future.



Village Elections Coming

The positions of Mayor and two Trustees are up for election on Wednesday, March 18. All Village residents vote at the Community Room in the basement of the Municipal Building. Polls are open from 6 am to 9 pm. The following candidates and their parties will appear on the ballot:

Mayor : Gregory Schmidt - Republican (R) and Alliance (A)

Leo Wiegman - Democrat (D) and Croton Taxpayers (CT)

Trustees: Vote for two.

Thomas Brennan - (R and A)

Susan Konig - (R and A)

Ian Murtaugh - (D and CT)

Demetra Restuccia - (D and CT)

The two Trustee candidates receiving the highest number of votes will win the election. Results will be televised on Channel 78 after the polls close and the votes are tabulated - after 9 pm.

County Cleanup Days

Drop off household waste that cannot be collected or recycled at George's Island Park in Montrose on Fri., Mar. 27, 1 to 3 pm or Sat., Mar. 28, 9 am to 3 pm. The Mobile Shredder will also be available for residents only.



Reminder

Daylight Savings Begins Sunday, March 8th
(Turn your clock ahead 1 hour Sat. night)



Spotlight on Sandra Bullock

Meet Sandra Bullock, the Village's new Treasurer. Sandra joined the staff in December 2008, just in time to begin the annual budget process for FY 2009/2010.

Sandra comes to the job with a great deal of budgetary experience. Her immediate past job was as a Budget Analyst for the City of White Plains. Previously she had been Village Treasurer for the Village of Spring Valley, beginning in 2003.

As Treasurer, Sandra's responsibilities are broad and include oversight of all Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Payroll processing, annual budget preparation, ongoing budget analysis throughout the year, maintaining daily receipts and deposits, monthly bank reconciliations, monitoring outstanding revenues, and filing

the Village's annual report with the NYS Controller's Office. On a daily basis she also approves requisitions, ensuring that they have been funded in the budget, and handles calls and questions from Village residents.

Sandra did not always work in the public arena. After graduating from St. Thomas Aquinas College with a BS degree in Finance, she worked for over 12 years as an accountant for a book publishing firm before making the transition.

Sandra commutes to work from the Town of Haverstraw. Doing so, she has demonstrated the efficacy of mass-transit. Until the Hudson River froze over this winter, she traveled by ferry from the Village of Haverstraw, arrived in Ossining,

took a 5-minute train ride to Croton, and then the BeeLine bus to within a block from the Municipal Building. The connections were all timely so the entire trip took less than an hour. She also got some good walking exercise - something that she also enjoys for recreation. Sandra and her husband, Henri, enjoy watching their children play on their sports teams for North Rockland Schools. Jessica is completing her Senior year and plays Varsity Basketball. Henri, in 7th grade, plays modified basketball as well. They enjoy traveling and look forward to a Savannah trip this year for a family reunion.



"I really like being here and working with a great group of people. I find that everyone, in all departments, are working towards the same goal."

Sandra Bullock

Hot Topics in the News

The Recreation Dept.'s Senior Program is offering a 5-session discussion on "Hot Topics in the News" in conjunction with Westchester Community College's MAINSTREAM program. The program will be held on Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 noon starting March 24 and ending April 28 (no class on April 17).

Vincent Bonelli, PhD, Fordham University, will lead the discussion covering current events in the US and around the world and their inter-relationships. Discuss how current events, news and issues can affect our lives. How do we separate fact from opinion? How do events in other parts of the world affect what happens here?

The class will meet in the Municipal Building Community Room. The fee is \$20/person. Sign up in the Recreation Office. Checks should be made out to "Westchester Community College."

QuadriCentennial Events

Throughout the Hudson Valley, from Lake Champlain to New York City, hundreds of events are celebrating the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's exploration and the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's first steamboat trip. See www.exploreNY400.com for a list of happenings.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Volunteers are being sought for the NYS Long Term Care Ombudsman Program to be trained to help residents in long term facilities including nursing and adult homes in Westchester County. Ombudsmen help to resolve complaints, monitor the quality of life and help preserve the dignity of residents in these facilities.

The program is being run by the Mental Health Association of Westchester. Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age and complete a 36-hour training program to become a NYS Certified ombudsman. The training program which starts in April 2009 is free.

Flyers are available in the Village Office. Call (914) 345-5900 ext. 298 for more information on this program.

Con Ed Reminder!

Con Ed reminds all of their customers to ALWAYS ASK for an ID card before admitting any Con Ed representative into your home. All Con Ed employees carry a photo ID.

Before admitting anyone, use your peephole or intercom to identify visitors. Always look at the card and check it carefully before admitting any Con Ed representative to your home. Know when your meter reader is coming—the date is on your Con Ed bill. Call 1-800-752-6633 if you have doubts.

March, 2009

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

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Got a Question?



There are many people in the Village who are wondering what is happening regarding the franchise agreement with Verizon that is being negotiated. What is the status of this?

The status of this potential service in Croton is often inquired about. The Village is in current negotiations with Verizon for the provision of their services in Croton. The law firm of Miller & Van Eaton PLLC, specialists in telecommunication, was hired by Croton in April 2008 to conduct negotiations on the Village's behalf with Verizon.

Since then there have been several meetings with representatives from both sides.

Verizon had requested a small change in Chapter 205 of our local law regarding Telecommunications Franchising and Licensing. This was agreed to by the Village and approved in September 2008 after a public hearing.

After a meeting of the parties in December at which final details of an agreement were worked out, the Verizon attorney agreed to return the revised draft document to the Village. This revised document was received by the Village in early February and is being reviewed again by the Village's attorneys.

Once this final draft agreement document is approved by the attorneys, the Village Board will put it on an agenda and call for a Public Hearing on it as required by law. If the agreement is approved by the Board, it must then be forwarded to the NYS Public Service Commission for their approval as well.

In the meantime, Verizon has been installing its new lines throughout the Village. They are working on a neighborhood schedule of their choosing. The Village has requested a copy of their installation schedule.

Many residents have also received mailings requesting them to sign up but the service is not yet available.

Once approved, individual households who sign up for the service will have to be scheduled and individually connected to the main service lines along the street.

