

The Croton-on-Hudson **Village Newsletter**

November 2004

Number 66

November

Calendar

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9 & 23 Planning Bd. Mtg.
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Sidewalk Program Nears Phase I Completion

In an effort to improve walking conditions in Croton, in June, 2000, the Village embarked on a sidewalk program in which costs were shared between the property owner and the Village. The



Solving a tree problem on Radnor Ave.

first 5 years of the program, the share was set at 50/50 as an incentive for a homeowner to repair their sidewalks and, additionally, to make Croton a more "walkable" village. On May 31, 2005, this 50/50 split will end to be followed by 2 years of a 25/75 split with the Village paying 25%. After that, on May 31, 2007, the sidewalk program will end.

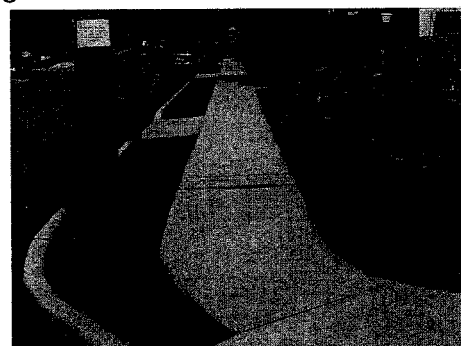
The sidewalk program provided for replacement of existing sidewalks that needed repair, not new sidewalks. \$50,000 has been included in the budget each year to meet the Village's obligation. New sidewalks have also been constructed but with grant money or as part of the Village's capital plan.

The program is managed by Joe Sperber from the Village Engineering office. Each year applications are grouped into target areas, enabling the contractor to be most cost-effective. About 40-50 sidewalks are done each year. Once an area is selected, Joe measures the length and amount of new sidewalk needed for

each owner and develops a cost estimate (no healthy trees are removed). A letter is sent to the applicant at which point the owner must commit by sending the 50% share. Joe also informs the DPW so they can decide if they want to do curb work at the same time.

Sometimes neighbors see the work being done and want to join in too. They are often accommodated because a lengthy contiguous stretch of sidewalk increases the quality of the job and keeps costs down.

Sidewalk work usually starts in mid-May and ends in early December. It is currently being done by Acocella Contracting, Inc. of Scarsdale.



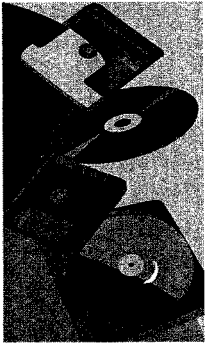
Lengthy continuous stretch of sidewalk along Radnor at Elmore.

To take advantage of the 50/50 split, a property owner needs only to fill out an application in the Village Engineer's office before May 31, 2005. No money is required until the job is scheduled. After that date, applicants will receive only a 25% share from the Village although the work may actually be done at the same time as work for applicants who applied earlier and get the 50/50 sharing. As pointed out, scheduling is done by location and not by time of application. Work under this program is estimated to take until 2011 to complete.

MUNIS System To Be Implemented

The Municipal Information System (MUNIS) has been approved by the Board of Trustees to be the software package used to integrate information across all Village departments. Recommended by Treasurer Abe Zambrano and Deputy Treasurer Lorry Pennington, MUNIS will provide a streamlined information flow among departments and become a strong management tool for decision-making and greater control.

Scheduling for the implementation of MUNIS began in late October and is expected to take up to a year. Even though not fully in place, it is expected to be used for



preparing the 2005-2006 budget next spring. When fully implemented, it will track information in all areas of village government including budgeting, accounts payable, account receivable, fixed assets, property taxes, water billing, personnel information, building permits, violations, variances and approvals, as well as other items. Implementation will require conversion of the Village's current information

system, KVS, to the MUNIS format and integration of additional data.

MUNIS is a product of a nationwide company, MUNIS Inc., and is widely used in over 15 municipalities in Westchester County.

Playing Fields Close For Winter

As of Wednesday, November 3rd, all of Croton's playing fields will be closed for the winter months. Keeping people off the fields during this time is important for promoting root growth and giving the fields a rest. No one should be on the fields after Nov. 3rd.



The Recreation Dept. plans on covering all of Manes Field and the Dobbs Park outfield with tarps as a protective measure. Both sun and water can penetrate the tarps. The fields will re-open for the school spring sports season.

Croton River Acquisition

Croton has recently purchased 4.5 acres along the Croton River, just south of the Village well fields. The acquisition of this property will help the Village ensure that this area will remain in its current, largely undisturbed condition and not be developed in a way that could jeopardize the Village well fields. The site may also be the site of a future well if and when one is required in coming years.



Property overlooking Croton River south of Village well fields

The existing house on the property and a small building on the second lot, both overlook the Croton River. Both the house and land may be suitable for some Village uses such as small group meetings and display or performing areas. However, no plans are currently in place. Access is from Route 129.

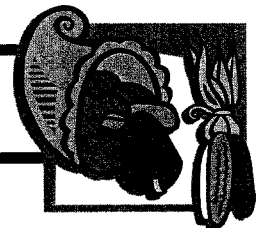
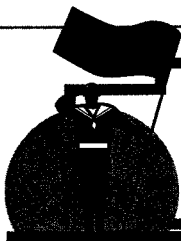
The cost of the two lots was \$950,000. With \$95,000 from the Village's Fund Balance Account, the remainder will be paid for by the proceeds from \$855,000 in serial bonds. Since the primary purpose of this acquisition is to provide for future water improvements, the payments will be from the Water Fund.

Community Blood Drive

On Sun., Dec. 5, from 9am to 3pm, the 69th community blood drive will be held at Croton-Harmon High School. Donors must be at least 17 and 110 lbs., not yet 76, and in general good health. Appts. are essential. Volunteers are also needed to help. For appts., information or to help, call Rosalind Morrisey, 271-8449, Carol Shaneshy, 271-7645, or Natalie Rotkoff, 737-6165.

Reminder!

The Village Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 11th for Veterans Day and Thurs. & Fri., November 25th and 26th for Thanksgiving.



Spotlight on Joe Sperber

As Assistant Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer and Village Assessor, Joe Sperber is a man who wears many hats. In addition he is liaison to the ZBA and the VEB. Hired in 1995, Joe previously worked for the Westchester County Dept. of Planning.

Between 15 and 25 inspections are on Joe's schedule every week. A single new house may result in as many as 10 inspections: footings, foundation and drainage work, framing, insulation, plumbing, sewer, water and final—to name a few.

In the area of code enforcement, outside of building inspections, he investigates complaints as

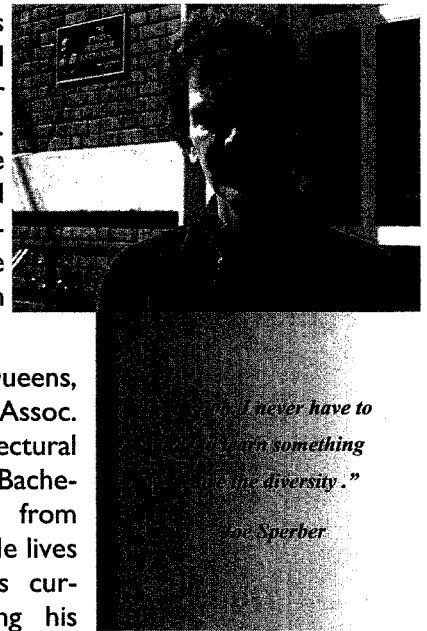
soon as possible to determine if a violation exists. He tries to resolve the issue informally. Ultimately, if it is not resolved this way, he issues a summons for the owner to appear in court. When this happens, Joe may be required to attend as well.

Joe's main focus from November to January is on his job as Assessor. During this period, he has to review all outstanding permits and finished projects to determine their assessment based on their degree of completion. Working with the Treasurer, the Tentative Assessment Roll is published by Feb. 1. Part of this task also involves administering exemptions for seniors, disabled, veterans and volunteer fire personnel.

As liaison to the ZBA and

VEB, he attends their meetings and does follow-up for future meetings. On top of this, Joe has also managed the Village's sidewalk program since its inception in 2000.

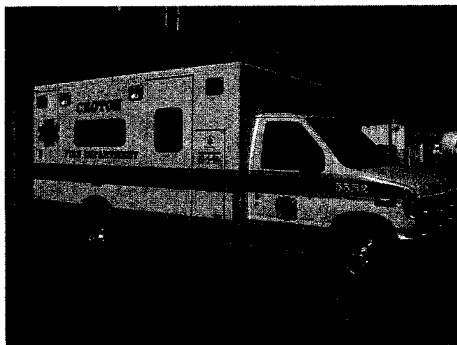
Growing up in Queens, Joe received his Assoc. degree in Architectural Technology and a Bachelors in Planning from SUNY Purchase. He lives in Peekskill and is currently busy helping his daughter look at colleges. In his spare time, he enjoys biking through Blue Mountain Park and looking at sculptures, especially at Storm King Mountain.



"I never have to learn something about the diversity."
Joe Sperber

New Ambulance in Use

Located at Harmon Engine Company, Croton's new ambulance has been in use since July when it received



Croton's New Ambulance

certification from the NYS Dept. of Health. It is designated as a Basic Life Support ambulance.

One of the features of the new ambulance is its interior arrangement.

The patient is now located in the middle of the compartment and not against the wall so the patient can be addressed from both sides. The ambulance is also equipped with 3 radio systems to maintain communications at all times. Ambulance drivers are given special training by the Dept. Both the new ambulance and the older one respond to more than 500 calls annually.

Welcome Booklet Available

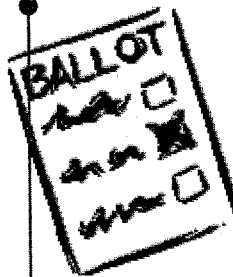
The Village has published a "Welcome to the Village of Croton-on-Hudson" booklet that provides up-to-date information on all aspects of the Village. It should be particularly helpful to new residents.

Its contents include village and school office phone numbers, a brief Village history, 2000 census data, website information, and overviews of all the Village's departments. It also includes an overview of key local laws and regulations, tax payment schedules, and garbage and recycling requirements. A complete list of Village Committees, Boards and Councils, will help residents know how they can become involved in local government. The list of Community Organizations and their purposes provide a synopsis of the variety of activities available in Croton. Houses of Worship and Parks, Playgrounds, Preserves, Fields & Museums are also included in the 29-page booklet.

Booklets are available in the Village Office or by calling 271-4781.

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

Got a Question?



Where should I go to vote in the Presidential Election on November 2?

Croton's 7 Election Districts will vote at the following locations:

District 6	at Washington Engine Co.
District 7	at Municipal Building
District 8	at Grand St. Firehouse
District 9	at C.E.T. Elementary school
District 10	at Harmon Engine Co.
District 25	at Lutheran Church
District 31	at Sky View Haven

Polls will be open from 6 AM to 9 PM.

Exemption Reminder!

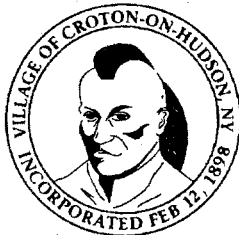
Residents wishing to apply for tax exemptions on their taxes should do so by December 31, 2004. Exemptions are available for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and volunteer fire personnel. Questions may be directed to the Village Engineer's office at 271-4783.

County Clean-Up Day

The next County Clean-Up is scheduled for Friday, November 5th (1 to 3pm) and Saturday, November 6th (9am to 3pm) at Playland Park, Rye.

Properly labeled household chemicals, car tires, fluorescent light bulbs, fire extinguishers, small propane tanks, rechargeable & button cell batteries and TVs and computer monitors ONLY may be dropped off. For information call the Household Chemical Info line at 914-813-5425.

November 2004



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

Robert W. Elliott, Mayor
Georgianna K. Grant, Trustee
Charles Kane, Trustee
Gregory J. Schmidt, Trustee
Leo A. W. Wiegman, Trustee

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

Bulk Rate
Permit No. 111
Carrier Route
Pre-Sort
Yorktown Heights
New York 10598

Postal Patron

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520