



November Calendar

- 3 & 17** Village Board Mtg.
- 4** **Election Day**
- 5** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 11 & 25** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 11** **Veterans Day**
- 12** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 18** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 19** Visual Environ. Board
- 19** Water Control Comm.
- 26** Trails Committee
- 27** **Thanksgiving**

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Croton Landing Opens

A time-line to the creation of the park.

The opening of Croton Landing Park, extending approximately a mile along the Hudson River, represents the fruition of a lengthy process begun in 1996 with the acquisition of the land. Over that period of time, a myriad of decisions and steps have been taken to enable Croton Landing to come into being. The formerly vacant and overgrown piece of property has become a jewel in the Village.

Projects of this magnitude, involving government, take many years, lengthy negotiations and a great deal of funding to come to fruition. The following documents some of the important steps along the way to Croton Landing's opening.



The main steps leading to its development have been the improvement of the site, installation of infrastructure, and improved access to it. Before its acquisition in 1996 the former industrial site had been vacant and trash strewn for many years. In the late 1980's it was the subject of a large condominium proposal known as Mariner's Cove which was subsequently dropped for lack of access. The following is a general time-line of events since 1996.

1996 - the 30-acre property, known as the Sepreio property, is acquired jointly by Croton and the Open Space Conservancy for \$2.4 million. Croton paid \$1.2 million for the southern portion with the northern portion remaining in the hands of the Open Space Institute (OSI), (known as the Beaverkill portion). The same year, the Village acquired the Half Moon Bay bridge and the land to the north of it as a step to providing a new access point for the Hudson River parks - both Senasqua and Croton Landing.

1997 - A NYS grant of \$65k is received for a feasibility study of future uses at the Sepreio site; the pedestrian bridge paid for by the NYS DOT is completed providing new and safe pedestrian access to the Hudson River.

1998 - A Clean Water/Clean Air (CWCA) grant of \$200k provides for the extension of the sewer line from Senasqua Park to the Croton Landing site. A County CDBG grant is awarded for the clean-up of the debris strewn and overgrown site. Additionally, a separate CWCA grant of \$50k is awarded for the construction of a handicapped accessible trail on the Village-owned portion of the site.

2000 - Sewer line work is completed.

2001 - Improved access to Croton Landing and Senasqua is assured through the agreement by NYS DOT and Metro North to close the Brook Street track crossing and construct a new road from



the Half Moon Bay Bridge north to Senasqua Park. The \$4 + million cost is funded by the DOT, the federal Inter-

modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and Metro North.

2002—the former Sepreio property is officially named Croton Landing based on historic maps showing that name for the area dating from 1865.

2003 - The Open Space Institute deeds the northern portion of Croton Landing to the Village for \$1 with a conservation easement to preserve its future as passive open space.

2004 - Construction of the new road is completed and opens in December. At the same time, the Village extends a new

Online Bill Payments Alert!



Many residents pay their water bills through online banking accounts. Payments, such as water bills, must be received by the due date, beyond which mandatory penalties apply. If you authorize a water bill payment from an online account, do not assume that the bank transfers your money immediately. Sometimes it can take 3 or more days before the bank sends your payment to the Village and when it does, there is no date stamp reflecting when your payment was authorized. This can result in late payment fees. Online banking customers should find out what time frames their bank guarantees. The next Water bills will be sent on Dec. 15.

Additionally, it is also important that you have the correct Village address for payment listed with your online bank account. The old address was a post office box which no longer applies. The new billing address for all Water bills is 1 Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. If the bank forwards your payment to the old address this can also result in a late fee due to it not being forwarded to the Village by the deadline.

November Polling Places

On November 4, the Presidential election will occur along with many other national and state elections. This election is managed by Westchester County which designates the polling places for the Village election districts. The Village has 8 election districts. Be aware that Washington Engine Firehouse is no longer the polling place for district 6; it is now at the Grand Street Firehouse. The County has determined that Washington Engine Firehouse does not meet requirements for handicap accessibility.

Polling places are as follows:

- District 6 Grand St. Firehouse
- District 7 Croton Municipal Building
- District 8 Grand St. Firehouse
- District 9 Croton Municipal Building
- District 10 Harmon Engine Firehouse
- District 25 Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- District 31 Sky View Nursing Home
- District 39 Croton Municipal Building

Polls are open from 6 am to 9 pm.

Croton Landing cont'd.

water line to Senasqua Park.

2005 - Croton receives \$150k from NYS Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation for construction of a field or great lawn and comfort station in the southern part of the park.

2006 - Westchester County and Croton agree to combine their efforts and funds for Croton Landing improvements including the County's proposed Riverwalk trail addition in the northern portion of the park. The 2300-foot trail addition is part of the County's 46.6-mile RiverWalk trail system along the Hudson River from NYC to Putnam County. The County provides \$1,750,000. Croton assumes responsibility for awarding contracts and administering its construction. Croton's improvements in the southern portion include a raised field or grassy area with an irrigation system, landscaping, additional 42 parking spaces, lights and a comfort station. Croton's cost is approximately \$1 million including the \$150k grant received in 2005.

2007 - Construction bids are received and work begins in August. Croton Landing is closed during this period.



2008 - Construction is completed and Croton Landing Park reopens for use in late October!

While the weather is still nice, take a walk along this magnificent stretch of the Hudson River. It was worth the wait and will be enjoyed forever in the future.

Community Blood Drive

The 77th semiannual Blood Drive is set for Sunday, December 7, from 9 am to 3 pm at Croton-Harmon High School. Giving blood takes no more than 1 hour. Donors must be at least 16 but not yet 76 and at least 110 pounds. Sixteen year olds need a parents permission and over-76ers need a Doctor's note. Blood donation is simple, painless and harmless.

Please call for an appointment: Carol Shanesy @ 271-7645 or Rosalind Morrissey @ 271-8449. Appointments help the staff to know how many to prepare for.



Reminder!

Village Offices will be closed

**Tuesday, November 11 for Veterans Day and
Thurs. & Fri. November 27 & 28 for Thanksgiving!**



Spotlight on Anne Minihan

Anne Minihan was appointed Croton's Acting Village Judge in April of 2008. Village Court convenes every Wednesday in the Municipal Building and Anne presides over it on one Wednesday a month.

Since graduating from law school, Anne worked for several years as an Ass't. District Attorney for Westchester County. In this capacity she appeared regularly in many local court rooms, including Croton's, appearing on behalf of the District Attorney's office. Based on her experience in many towns and village's, Anne feels that Croton's court office is one of the best run and most professional of them all. The court staff and the police department together achieve a very smooth operation.

A resident of Croton since 1997, Anne feels she has a much longer association with the Village in many ways. She grew up in nearby Ossining and while in college at Pace University and in Pace's Law School, she worked at Van Cortlandt Manor as a tour guide. After graduating, she rented an apartment in Croton while working for the DA's office.

As an Assistant DA, Anne's background is mostly in criminal cases. After leaving the DA's office, she worked independently on local cases for several years while her children were very young. Returning to part-time work as a Law Secretary to Judge Spolzino, she worked on criminal appeals. Currently, Anne works part-time in the Law Dept. under Judge Frances Nicolai where she drafts decisions—mostly pre-trial summary judgments. Anne and her husband, Chris, who is also an attorney, moved to Croton in 1997. Their children, Ollie and Ned, are in 5th grade and 3rd grade, respectively. With her children in school, Anne is busy with their activities as well as being active in the Middle School PTA as Secretary. She also continues her love for Van Cortlandt Manor, spending time as both a worker and volunteer.

Anne and her family enjoy traveling with frequent visits to Maine and, next Spring, they are looking forward to trip to Ireland.



"I love the court environment and, in my experience, Croton's court is one of the best managed in the County."

Anne Minihan

Seasonal Parking Permits

When a snow event occurs, the Village prohibits on-street parking to enable the DPW to properly plow the streets. A snow event is when snow accumulates or is expected to accumulate to 2 inches or more.

However, recognizing that Croton has some residences with no off-street parking, a "Seasonal Overnight Street Parking Permit" is available. These permits are intended only for residents who have no alternative location for their vehicles such as a driveway, garage, carport, or other available parking area. When none of the above is available, a resident may obtain up to 2 free permits. If one off-street space is available only one free permit may be obtained. Each additional permit is \$100. The permit allows on-street parking.

Permits may be obtained at the Village Office in the Municipal Building. Village personnel may visit the location to verify the need for a permit and ascertain how many off-street parking spaces are available, if any. Last year the Village issued 58 such Seasonal Parking Permits, village-wide.



Solar Installation at Grand St. Firehouse

A grant to Croton from the New York Power Authority in 2007 funds a \$75,000 installation of photo voltaic solar panels on the roof of the Grand Street Firehouse. Croton is one of seven Westchester communities selected for this solar power demonstration project. The projects are intended to show that solar power can be a practical and beneficial way to meet electric needs of public buildings and reduce petroleum dependence. The original plan was for the solar panels to be installed at the Harmon Fire House but further study showed that the panels would be more effective at the Grand Street location.

The NYPA plans to install the equipment in the next month. The PV solar system is estimated to generate from 10% to 20% of the electrical power for the firehouse.



Local Shopping Bus

Did you know that a shopping bus is available twice a week, Tues. & Thurs., for seniors who need to go grocery shopping. The bus takes residents to ShopRite, the bank or to the Post Office. Anyone who wishes to participate should call the Recreation Department at 271-3006 for more information and to sign up.

November, 2008

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

Gregory J. Schmidt, Mayor
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Susan Konig, Trustee
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Got a Question?



**I am busy raking my leaves. Will the Village
pick up my loose leaves? How will I know
when they will pick them up?**



The DPW began vacuuming your loose leaves in late October. Your leaves should be raked to the curb but NOT into the street. Vacuuming will continue through November and December. The weekly schedule of streets to be vacuumed will be posted on the Village website each week.

Beginning December 1, the DPW will begin the final loose-leaf cleanup going street to street. Once your street is cleaned of loose leaves after Dec. 1st, it will not be vacuumed again. Loose leaves must be bagged after that. (Only biodegradable paper bags are acceptable.) Bagged leaves will be picked up during the months of Nov., Dec., and, if necessary, Jan., as follows:

North of Maple Street (Route 129):

Nov. 5 (Wed.), Nov. 19 (Wed.), Dec. 3, (Wed.),
Dec 17 (Wed.), Jan. 7, 2009 (Wed.).

South of Maple Street (Route 129):

Nov. 12 (Wed.), Nov. 28 (Fri.), Dec. 10 (Wed.),
Dec. 31, (Wed.), Jan. 14, 2009 (Wed.).

Cold War Exemptions

Croton homeowners who served on active duty in the US Armed Forces between Sept. 2, 1945 and Dec. 26, 1991, and who are not already receiving the Alternative Veteran Exemption, may apply for the newly adopted Cold War Veteran Exemption. If qualified, a reduction will be made in the applicant's assessment for the next tax year and the reduction will continue for 10 years.

To file for this exemption, provide proof of home ownership and a copy of a DD 214 form or other appropriate evidence of service with the Village Assessor no later than December 31, 2008.

Applications and instruction are available in the assessor's Office in the Municipal Building or can be downloaded at: nysorps@orps.state.ny.us Look for form RP-458-b under "Forms and Publications."