

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

October 2003

Number 54

## October Calendar

- 7 & 20** Village Board Mtg.
- 13** Columbus Day
- 14 & 28** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 15** Visual Environment Bd.
- 1** Cons. Advisory Council
- 8** Zoning Board
- 15** Water Control Comm.

## **Inside this issue:**

- Daffodil Planting **2**
- Metro Enviro Update **2**
- Ballfield Permits **2**
- Employee Spotlight **3**
- Window Painting **3**
- Senior News **3**
- Got a question? **4**

## **Gateway Moratorium**

At its September 9th meeting, the Village Board adopted an Interim Development Moratorium in the proposed Gateway Districts of the Village.

Earlier this year, the Village adopted a new Comprehensive Plan that recommended the creation of Gateway Overlay Districts in three commercial areas at Croton's entrances. To implement this recommendation, the Board has determined to amend the existing zoning ordinance with a Gateway Overlay district.

The Village Board found that it was necessary and appropriate to place a moratorium on the issuance of certain approvals within the areas that are proposed to be rezoned to Gateway Districts. Without such a moratorium, the Village could be faced with further development activities in the proposed Gateway Districts while it is still in the process of completing the necessary studies, meetings, hearings, other actions and the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) that are part of the proper consideration of the proposed Gateway Overlay Districts. These studies are anticipated to be completed by the Village's consultant, Buckhurst, Fish & Jaquemart, (BFJ), in the late autumn.

The three Overlay districts are known as 1) South Riverside/Harmon Gateway, 2) Municipal Place Gateway, and 3) North End Gateway. The precise tax parcels that are involved are shown on a series of ten maps. The entire Moratorium Law and the accompanying maps are available on the Village's website and may also be viewed in the Village Office.

Certain actions are exempt from this Moratorium such as additions/alterations which do not add more than 20% to a building's gross square footage, interior/exterior renovations and Change of Use.



Intersection in the proposed Municipal Place Gateway area.

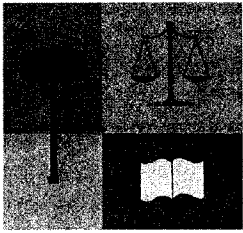
## **Village/School District Cooperative Efforts**

Village and School officials meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of common concern. The most recent meeting centered on the ongoing school construction and how best to compensate for traffic problems associated with it. Croton Police are working with the District to help manage traffic and parents are asked to utilize

the buses for their elementary school children. Ken Kraft, Superintendent of Public Works, also explained the Village's plans for implementing the federally mandated Stormwater Phase 2 regulations and how the District can help. Village Manager Herbek talked about the Village's ongoing

cont'd. on p. 3

## Metro Enviro Update



Since the Village Board denial of the Metro Enviro Special Permit in January and its reversal by Judge Francis A. Nicolai of the NYS Supreme Court in Westchester in February, the Village has moved ahead with its decision to file an appeal.

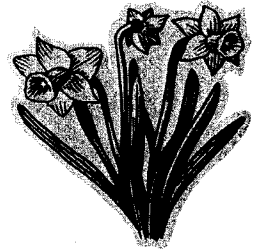
Recently the NYS Appellate Court denied a motion by the Village to expand the record to include the second report of Federal Monitor Walter Mack in the Village's appeal. (Mr. Mack had been appointed as a monitor of all Allied-owned businesses as a result of a different matter before the Federal court) The Appellate Court agreed to extend the date when the appeal must be filed to September 16th. Attorney Michael Gerard, of Arnold & Porter, acting as counsel for the Village on this matter, has filed the appeal and attorneys for Metro Enviro will now prepare their response to it.

The second Mack report is available in the Croton Free Library for viewing. The Village has also obtained copies of the depositions taken by Mr. Mack in preparing his report. They are in the Village Office and may be viewed there.

## Daffodil Planting

Croton's Conservation Advisory Commission is continuing its 9/11 Remembrance theme in its second annual planting of daffodils. The blooming of last year's plantings provided a welcome touch of Spring after the long winter. The location for this year is the same—the hillside across the street from the High School, with the new bed to be planted adjacent to the one planted last year.

The beautification event will be held on Saturday, October 18th, between 9 AM and noon (rain date is Oct. 25th). Volunteers are welcome to come and help—about 50 are expected based on last year. In addition to the CAC, event sponsors include the Croton Arboretum and corporate sponsor, JPMorgan. The CAC is seeking a \$1,000 grant from JPMorgan. The event ties into the bank's Global Day of Service and a number of bank employee volunteers are expected to participate along with local resident volunteers.



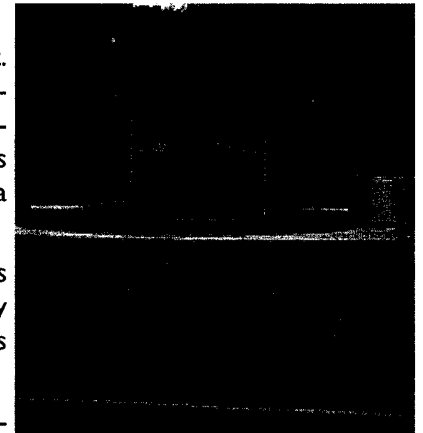
The Village government has supported this beautification project by providing the location while the Croton Police will assist with traffic safety.

## Ballfield Permits

The Recreation Department has recently put in place a Ballfield Use permit. Groups that use the various Village fields are now required to apply for a permit for their use. Rosters for each group must be provided. If a group seeking a permit does not have its own liability insurance, with the Village listed as an additional insured, then each person of the roster will need to provide a signed Medical Insurance Statement—essentially a registration/waiver form.

Although this is a new procedure and requirement, it is consistent with what is required already from most groups using the fields. Waiver forms are already required for any program administered by the Village's Recreation and Parks Dept.

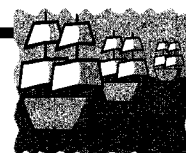
The impetus for this Ballfield Permit comes from the heavy use that many Village fields experience, not only from Village and school groups but also outside groups such as AYSO and Little League. There are also several other less formalized groups that use some fields for their own games on a regular basis—primarily men's groups on Sundays and during the Winter. In order to give these fields some rest for maintenance purposes and also to be able to inform appropriate people that a field is closed due to either field or weather conditions, the Recreation Dept. has implemented these new rules.



Dobbs Field, one of several ballfields in the Village for which permits are required.

### Reminder!

The Village Offices will be closed on Monday, October 13th  
for the Columbus Day Holiday!



## Spotlight on Peggy Keesler

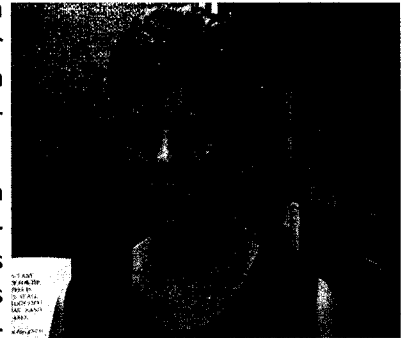
Almost 30 years ago Peggy Keesler took a part-time job with the Village while raising her young daughter. In July 1974, Peggy was hired to enter and index Board minutes into the Official Minutes book, all done manually. The job evolved from that as she was asked to handle correspondence for the then Village Manager Gordon Cameron and Mayor Stanley Kellerhouse, perform follow-up after Village Board meetings, handle Village elections, and then manage all the Village's insurance and human resources responsi-

bilities. With the title of Deputy Village Clerk since 1988, Peggy continues to handle all these duties. She also handles much of the contact with the press and fields questions and supplies answers for residents and other members of the public. Recently Peggy was awarded certification as a Registered Municipal Clerk by the NYS Association of Municipal Clerks and is now entitled to use the initials RMC after her name. She is the first and only Village official to have this certification. According to Peggy, one of her biggest challenges is the

Village election process. Each year it is different with different personalities involved.

Peggy grew up in Croton, first moving to Hastings Ave. when she was 3 1/2. After marrying, she moved to Verplanck where she resides now. She is particularly proud that her husband and her daughter have all been employed in public service.

When she has free time, Peggy enjoys reading and gardening and, of course, babysitting her new granddaughter.



*"One of the best parts of this job is the people. I love the residents and the people."*  
Peggy Keesler



### Halloween Window Painting and Goblin Walk

The Parks & Recreation Dept. and the Chamber of Commerce will hold their Annual Halloween Window Painting contest on Saturday, Oct. 18th from 9 am to 3 pm, (Rain date Oct. 19th). Registration forms will be available only in participating stores. Look for a flyer in their windows. The registration form should be returned to the Recreation Dept. The deadline is October 10th. Space is limited.

All Village goblins, creatures and spirits will meet at the Municipal Building on Saturday, October 25th at 2 pm to march to Vassallo Park. This event is co-sponsored by the Croton Lion's Club. Young and old are invited to join. Some tricks and treats will be waiting for everyone at the park. Don't be afraid to come!



### County Chemical Clean-Up Day Reminder

There are 3 more opportunities this fall to get rid of unwanted Household Chemicals. Saturday, Oct. 4th (9am to 3pm) at the County Recycling Center in Yonkers; Friday, Oct. 31st (1 to 3pm); and Saturday, Nov. 1st (9am to 3 pm) at Playland Park in Rye. Questions may be asked at 914-813-5425.

### Croton Seniors

Croton Seniors continue to enjoy a full schedule of activities. If you are a Senior, come to one of their weekly meetings on Fridays in the Community Room at the Municipal Building at 12:30. You can join at the meeting. Current members are looking forward to a Mystery Trip on October 9th (Who knows where?) and the annual Oktoberfest lunch on the 24th at the Municipal. Don't miss out on future activities—join now. For information call Marie Weigman at 271-5804 on M/W/F.

### Village/Schools cont'd.

sidewalk program which will improve safety for students who walk to school. Other topics discussed were child safety signs at various locations. This subject is under review by the Police and Public Works departments.



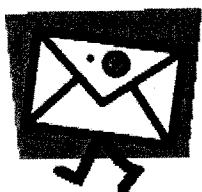
We're on the Web. Visit us at <http://village-croton-on-hudson.ny.us/>

## Got a Question?



**Why was my September Newsletter late and why does the Croton newsletter have a Yorktown mailing permit?**

The Village makes every effort to have you receive your Newsletter before the first of the month. Recently, however, the US Postal Service has changed its bulk mailing rules in this area. Previously, the Village's bulk mail (including the Recreation Newsletter) was taken to the Croton Post office for delivery to our residents. When the September Newsletter was taken to the post office at the end of August, the Village was informed that there are now only five post offices in the County to which bulk mail may be delivered and that it must be taken to White Plains. After discussion with the Post office, the September Newsletter was allowed to be taken to Yorktown instead but this caused a few days delay. This month, in order to accommodate with the new



rules, the Village delivered the October Newsletter to the Yorktown Post Office (the closest of the 5 centers). It was necessary to obtain and use a Yorktown Postal permit for this and other Village mailings.

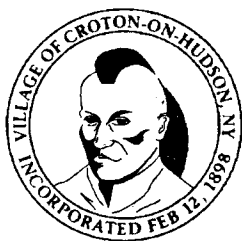
Once the bulk mail is delivered to Yorktown, it is then taken to the center in White Plains where it is rerouted to Croton's Post office for delivery!

### Run Against Hunger

The Annual Harry Chapin Memorial Run Against Hunger, held in Croton for 23 years, is scheduled for Sunday, October 19th. The event is for the Benefit of World Hunger Relief. The Village supports this annual event with help from the Police, Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Dept. Applications for both the Fun Run and the 10k Race must be received by Oct. 18th at Asbury Methodist Church, 17 Old Post Rd. South. Race Day registration will be at the Croton-Harmon HS prior to the races from 9-11:30 am.

Register online at [runagainsthunger.com](http://runagainsthunger.com)

October 2003



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

Robert W. Elliott, Mayor

Georgianna K. Grant, Trustee

Deborah Y. McCarthy, Trustee

Gregory J. Schmidt, Trustee

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Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager

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### Postal Patron

**Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520**

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