

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

September 2004

Number 64

September **Calendar**

- 1** Water Control Comm.
- 5 Labor Day**
- 7** Special Meeting of
Village Board
Re: Metro Enviro
- 7 & 28** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 8** Cons. Advisory Council
- 8** Zoning Board
- 13 & 27** Village Board Mtg.
- 15** Visual Environ. Bd.

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Croton Wins Greenway "Visions in Planning" Award

For over a dozen years, Croton has taken numerous steps towards the goal of achieving an overall plan that enhances the Village's small-town character while building on its unique location at the apex of two beautiful and historic rivers. On Sept. 16, 2004 at 2 pm, these efforts will be recognized by the NYS Greenway Council in awarding the Village its '2004 Visions in Planning' Award at a ceremony at the parking lot adjacent to the Half Moon Bay marina. Randy Daniels, Secretary of State, will be making the presentation.

Since 1993, when Croton was named as a Greenway Model Community, the Village has taken many steps to improve access to both the Croton and Hudson River fronts and to develop an overall plan for the Village. Some of these efforts have been undertaken by the Village itself such as formulating and adopting a new Comprehensive Plan, acquiring the Half Moon Bay Rd. and bridge, lobbying for a replacement pedestrian bridge as a link to the 30-acre Croton Landing property, requiring open space and trail easements as part of development approvals, and establishing Gateway zoning legislation to help guide commercial development at key village entrances. Other projects have been accomplished as a result of the leadership of the Village in gaining cooperation and commitments from other entities, both public and private. Among these are:

-The acquisition in 1995 of the Croton Landing property with the help of the Open Space Institute.

-The pedestrian walkway (the Crossining) on the Croton River bridge with the Village and Town of Ossining's help in convincing the NYS DOT to include this in

the bridge replacement project.

-Construction of the new road between Half Moon Bay bridge and Senasqua Park by bringing together Metro North, and the NYS DOT to design, build and pay for it.



New Road Construction and Trail Segment

Estimated to cost over \$4 million, the construction achieves the goal of improving safety by closing the Brook St. railroad at-grade crossing and providing an alternative route to the Hudson River waterfront.

-Creating a key link along the Hudson River waterfront between Croton Point Park and Senasqua Park with a trail segment through the Half Moon Bay/Discovery Cove development through cooperation between the developer, Spectrum Skanska, the MTA and Westchester County.

-Creation of a pedestrian access between the Croton River Bridge and Croton Point Park through the cooperation of the MTA, the NYS DOT and Westchester County in providing sidewalks on the newly constructed Croton Point Ave. bridge.

-Construction of a handicapped accessible trail along the Croton Landing riverfront with funding from the NYS Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act and from the Hudson River Foundation for the southern portion of the trail and with West-

Cont'd. on page 2

Village Audit Report

The Village's audit firm, Bennett, Kielson and Storch, have completed their audit of the Village finances for the 2003/2004 fiscal year. The report discusses three categories of funds—the general fund, the water fund and a fund designated for debt service. In the General Fund, the \$4 million fund balance covers such things as encumbrances, a reserve for compensated absences such as sick time and vacations, a year-end surplus, money designated for future retirement expenses, and an undesignated \$2.1 million fund balance. The Water Fund has a \$1.5 million surplus from which several capital projects such as the Harmon water line replacement and a possible new well will be funded. The fund designated for debt service currently has a \$700 thousand fund balance of which \$150 thousand will be used in the coming year.

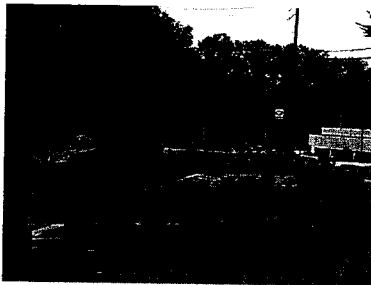
At a Village Board work session on July 26, Dominick Consolo from Bennett Kielson, reported that the Village is "in great financial condition".

Visions Award Cont'd.

Chester County funding from the NYS Legacy Fund in the northern portion of the property.

The achievement of the many trail links that ring the Village and bring access to both the Hudson and Croton Rivers, as well as the effort to preserve open space through both zoning and acquisition, have been key factors that have influenced the development of the Comprehensive Plan which will guide Croton's development in the coming years. The achievements recognized by the '2004 Visions in Planning' award will provide the foundation for future projects in the Village for many years to come.

Further information about all the projects for which the award was presented to Croton can be found at the Village's website by clicking on the "visionsinplanning" button on the Home page.



Municipal Place Gateway, one of 3 areas subject to new planning regulations.

Emergency Planning Exercise

At Croton Point Park

On September 19, a Mass Casualty Disaster Simulation drill will be held during the day at Croton Point Park. The drill will involve multiple local, state and federal agencies. Among those will be the Croton Police and Fire Depts., NYS Police, Hazmat teams, Town and County emergency planners, the NYS DEC and the FBI. Organizers of the drill are requesting that non-participants stay out of Croton Point Park on that day.

Croton Seniors Club News

The Croton Seniors Club has a new Director of activities, Yvonne Beldotti. Appointed in May, Ms. Beldotti has been busy preparing for an active autumn of Senior events.

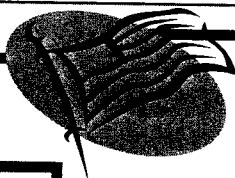
Weekly meetings continue on Fridays in the Community Room of the Municipal Building with refreshments available from 11:00 am. Yearly dues of \$6. may be paid there.

September events for members include a cookout at Senasqua Park on September 10 and a two-day excursion to Philadelphia on September 29/30. Member signup for the latter is going on now. The price of \$200 is all inclusive with transportation, tours, overnight accommodation, breakfasts, lunches and a Dinner Theater performance of Damn Yankees included.

A Book Discussion Group, a new feature this year, will begin on Monday, September 20. A Librarian from the Croton Free Library will lead a discussion from 10-11:30 am in the Recreation Conference Room in the Municipal Building. It will continue on the third Monday of each month through December.

Additionally, on Tuesday, September 14, an AARP Defensive Driving course will be held from 9:00am to 4:00pm in the Community Room. Registration and a \$10. fee is due by September 7 to secure a space in the class.

For further info., call 271-5804, M/W/F, 8:30-2:30.



Reminder!

The Village Offices will be closed on Monday, September 6
for the Labor Day Observance.

Spotlight on Bill Vlad

Fire Chief Bill Vlad is a familiar face around the Village for many residents. Bill is a life-long Croton resident. He attended Croton schools when growing up, married another life-long resident and, with their three children, continues to make Croton his home.

While his 'day job' is as a Locomotive Engineer for Metro North, where he has worked for 19 years, his avocation has been the Croton Volunteer Fire Dept.

Bill joined the Fire Dept. in 1982 with the Harmon Company and has come up through the ranks to become Fire Chief. His current

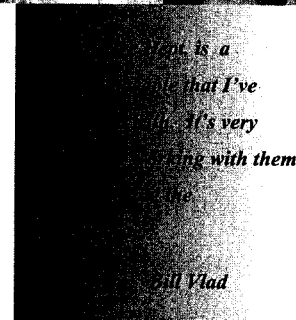
2-year term as Chief is his second time at being Chief. He also served as Chief from 1996-98. His active participation in several ongoing Fire Dept. projects is what led him to remain in a leadership capacity since his previous term. These projects include the new Harmon house construction and Grand St. addition, the recently adopted Service Award program, apparel and equipment replacement, and the radio tower, among many others.

There have been lots of changes since Bill joined in 1982. He noted especially the increasingly extensive training requirements. Also, firemen can no longer ride

on the top or back of equipment but now must be seated and belted while riding. OSHA and administrative requirements have also increased substantially.

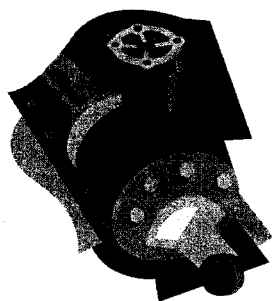
Recently Bill completed classes at the State Fire Academy and attended seminars at the Chiefs' Conference to help him in performing his duties.

In his spare time, Bill and his family enjoy their Lake George retreat where, in the winter, they like to snowmobile. He also enjoys driving his 2 antique cars and occasionally showing them.



Millennium Pipeline Update

In 2002, an order was issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granting certification of the proposed Millennium Pipeline project. The order imposed a number of post-certification requirements with which Millennium had to comply. Among them was the requirement that Millennium file an initial implementation plan for review and approval and, separately, the requirement that Millennium construct its facilities and make them available for service within a certain time period. Subsequent to this order from FERC, in a separate action, the US Secretary of Commerce upheld the negative finding of the NYS Dept. of State that the project was inconsistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. This decision was appealed by Millennium and is currently in front of the US District Court for the District of Columbia. As a result of this ongoing legal proceeding, Millennium has been unable to meet the post-certificate requirements imposed by FERC. Millennium has filed a request with FERC asking for an extension of one year on both the implementation plan (to July 2005) and the construction plan (to September 2005). In their request they state that certain aspects of the project are changing and they will be submitting to FERC a certificate amendment application in the near future.



Water Quality Grant

Croton is one of 4 communities in Putnam and Northern Westchester to receive grant money from NYS for water quality improvement projects. The Village will receive \$200,000 to build an urban runoff and sediment erosion control system to keep runoff out of the Hudson River. The other communities are the Towns of North Salem, Kent, and Putnam Valley. The projects receiving the awards are designed to help reduce pollution and runoff from reaching lakes, rivers and streams.

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

Got a Question?



In my neighborhood, there is a street light that has burned out. What is the best way for me to notify the Village and have it fixed?



If you observe a street light that is not functioning, you can call the DPW at 271-3775 to report it. However, now you have another option. Recently, Fred Sorenson, the DPW employee who repairs and replaces street lights, suggested that the Village's website could be used to report non-functioning street lights and this has been implemented.

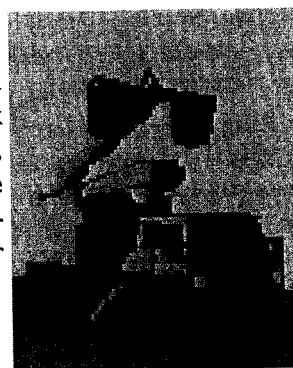
To report a broken street light using the website, follow these instructions:

- Go to Croton's website at www.crotononhudson-ny.gov
- Click 'Village Departments' on the Home page.
- Click on 'Public Works' on the next page.
- Click on 'Report a Street Light Out'.

- Read the information needed to report and then click the link to the form.

When reporting a street light out, please provide your name, address and phone number so that if there are questions about your response you can be contacted. Also please provide the number of the house opposite the dark street light, the pole number, and describe the problem (blinking, completely dark, etc.).

The light will be repaired as soon as possible. However, the replacement of street lights requires the use of the Village's truck that is equipped with a 'cherry picker'. Since this truck is in regular use for many jobs, reports of street lights that are out are often grouped and handled several at a time rather than on a single report basis.



September 2004



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

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Charles Kane, Trustee
Gregory J. Schmidt, Trustee
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