



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

September 2005

Number 75

## September

### Calendar

- |        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
| 5      | Labor Day              |
| 6 & 19 | Village Board Mtg.     |
| 6 & 27 | Planning Bd. Mtg.      |
| 7      | Cons. Advisory Council |
| 14     | Zoning Board           |
| 21     | Water Control Comm.    |
| 21     | Visual Environ. Bd.    |

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## **Parking Fee Reductions and Ride Sharing Service Two New Programs to Improve Air Quality**

The Village has instituted two new programs to help save area commuters money, reduce overall vehicle miles and lower harmful vehicle emissions. These initiatives are part of Croton's efforts to meet the goals of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative proposed by Governor Pataki in 2001. The two programs, approved by the Village Board in March 2005, are being coordinated with the NYS Dept. of Transportation (NYSDOT).

The Village-owned, 2,000-space, Croton-Harmon Station parking lot mainly serves commuters who purchase quarterly parking passes. Permit holders may register up to 6 vehicles on their permit. Under a new program, quarterly permit holders, resident and non-resident, who can verify ownership of a hybrid or electric car will receive a 50% reduction on

To receive the rate reduction the title or bill of sale and the car registration must be presented at the Village office. The Village is reimbursed for the difference in the rate by the NYSDOT through Metro-Pool, Inc. of Stamford, CT which is facilitating this program as well as the second program described below.

The Village is also promoting a new and flexible service, NuRide, an incentive-based ride sharing network. NuRide is free to participating companies and organizations and riders and drivers. Participants can plan trips online and get rewarded for riding together. It is available to any area resident who travels regularly or irregularly, whether a car owner or not, who has registered from a participating organization at [www.nuride.com](http://www.nuride.com). The Village has registered itself at NuRide, enabling any Village employee to take advantage of the service. Participants can offer rides or seek rides to and from work, the airport or anywhere else.

Participation in NuRide is like earning frequent flyer miles—you earn NuRide miles, or reward points, every time you share a ride. These miles can be redeemed with participating reward partner companies. To see the list of reward partner companies go to [www.nuride.com](http://www.nuride.com).

Signing up for NuRide is free but does require an email address affiliated with an organization name such as a school or business or government entity. Although it is an ideal way for organizations to promote ride sharing and thereby lessen commute traffic and cleaner air, it is not necessary for the organization itself to sign up. A list of already-registered organizations is available at the website.



**Village-owned Croton-Harmon Parking Lot**

the cost of the permit.

The Honda Accord Hybrid, Lexus RX 400H, Toyota Highlander Hybrid, Ford Escape Hybrid, Hybrid Civic Hybrid, Toyota Prius, Honda Insight Hybrid and the Daimler GEM Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs) all qualify for this rate reduction.

## **Harmon Water Line Replacement Progress**

The Harmon water line replacement program begun in June this year is moving ahead on schedule or even a little ahead of schedule. The contractor, Bilotta Construction, has laid new lines along Benedict Blvd.



Water line trench on Penfield

and Oneida Ave. and also along the intersecting streets of Young, Hastings and Penfield. Following the laying of the new water lines, connecting to existing water lines will be phased in. This involves a process of "charging" the new lines and chlorination. The pressure testing results and bacteria level results must then be approved by the County Health Dept. prior to connecting to private residences.



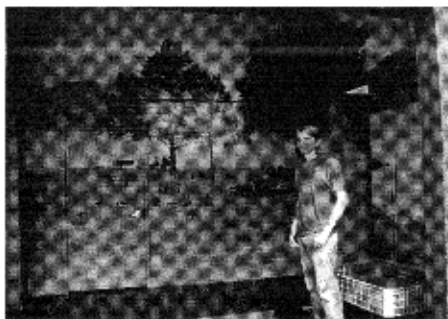
Work in progress on Hastings

Tom Brann, Croton's Water Dept. Foreman, is optimistic that the schedule will be maintained. He suggests that the time for homeowners to upgrade their private water and sewer connections is right now while the work is still continuing. A private contractor can perform the work even if the street tie-in is not yet ready. Applications to permit private water and sewer line replacements are available on the Village's website as well as in the Village Engineer's office. The Engineer's office has information on the necessary specifications to help private contractors coordinate their work with the work in progress. This work is expected to be complete in late October or early November. Since the streets on which the work took place will be repaved at the completion of the project, it is desirable that any new private connections be made as soon as possible.

### **Senasqua Bathhouse Mural Repainted**

As part of the recent renovation of the Senasqua Park bath house, the existing mural at its entrance needed updating or replacing. The original mural, painted about 10 years ago by Jon McLellan and Greg Ribreau, was chipped and the paint had faded. The mural depicted scenes at Senasqua Park looking toward the Hudson River.

A local college student and Croton-Harmon graduate, Wally Whitehurst, was recommended to do the job.



Wally Whitehurst with sun splashed mural.

Over this summer, Wally enhanced the original mural with some new elements and refreshed the entire mural with

new overpainting. Wally is currently in his second year studying Art at the Maryland Institute, College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, Maryland.

### **Seniors in September**

The end of summer cookout at Senasqua Park, scheduled for Sept. 16th, is always a highlight for Croton Seniors. The cost for members is \$2./person and an RSVP is required by Friday, Sept. 2nd. Call 271-5804. Remember that you can join the club at any Friday meeting for a \$6. annual fee.

An "Autumn Adventure/Mystery Trip" is also on the September schedule. This day of adventure includes visits to two sites (that's the mystery) and a formal luncheon. A bus will leave Croton at 8:00 am and return at 7:30 pm. The charge for residents is \$40/48 (resident/non-resident) and sign up and payment are due by Friday, Sept. 2.

Looking ahead, the popular Chair Yoga program will begin again on Monday, Oct. 3 from 11:30 to 12:30. Chair Yoga incorporates all aspects of yoga, such as meditation, breathing, asanas, and relaxation, but it is not done on the floor. A free class will be offered on Mon. Sept. 26 at 11:30am in the Community Room. The registration deadline for the class is September 28th at \$60/72 (residents/ non-residents) for 8 sessions.

#### **Reminder!**

The Village Offices will be closed on Monday, September 5th for the Labor Day Holiday!

## Spotlight on Diane DeRuggiero

Since May, 2000, Diane DeRuggiero has been employed by the Village as a Senior Account Clerk. Coming from a great deal of accounting experience, Diane now handles all Croton's water system billing. As one of the 'front office' staff, Diane also issues parking permits, collects tax payments and answers questions on the phone and in person.

Diane says her current job has evolved a great deal from when she began. This is because the systems for handling water billing and parking permits have changed substantially in that period of time. The recent program to install transmitters for reading water meters has been a prime factor water billing changes. While about two thirds complete, Diane is

responsible for contacting residents to make appointments for their installation. She also follows up with the Water Dept. about any repairs required as a result of any malfunctions and makes any billing adjustments. As Croton is experiencing a big turnover in residents, Diane must track homeowner information by checking for deeds and titles to accurately send the water bills. Often there is a time gap between a house sale and the receipt of the proper information, sometimes resulting in misdirected bills.

Diane has lengthy experience in many accounting areas. Even as she was studying for her degree in Accounting from Pace, she was working for an Ossining firm doing tax work and general accounting. After

graduation, she worked for CIBA in Accounts Payable and another firm in Purchase doing Payroll and Accounts Payable.

Diane grew up in Yonkers, but since marrying in 1997, she and her husband, Anthony, have concentrated on building a house in Putnam Valley, and adding a pool for their two small children, Anthony, 3, and Jessica, 1.

On weekends, she enjoys spending time with her children going to playgrounds and local fairs and festivals. She looks forward to becoming involved in her children's school organizations when they start attending school.



*"This job is not boring. I like dealing with the people and the variety of different things I am responsible for."*

*Diane DeRuggiero*

### Ground Water Study Report

A hydrogeologic assessment of the Village's well field performed by Chazen Environmental Services indicated that the Village has "three very good wells". The study was required by the Westchester County Dept. of Health for all municipalities whose water supplies come from wells. The



purpose was to determine if the water supply was under the influence of surface water. Known as a GWUDI study, short for Ground Water Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water, it analyzed both temperature variants and electrical conductivity to determine whether such an influence exists in Croton's water supply. Many samples were tested and all received a "low risk" rating which is the best result available on the evaluation scale. The results have been sent to the Health Dept. for their evaluation and determination of whether further information or action is

required. Chazen is optimistic the Health Dept. will make a determination that the Village's aquifer provides all the filtration necessary. Those communities that do not meet this standard may be required to provide filtration.

The study, authorized by the Village Board, in March, 2004, cost \$19,100.

### Chemical Clean-up Day

Residential chemicals will be accepted on Saturday, September 17th, 9am to 3 pm, at the County Recycling Center in Yonkers. All chemicals must be in original or labeled containers. No paint is accepted. Call the Household Chemical Info Line (914) 813-5425 for more information. Pre-registration is required for more than 25 gallons of liquid material or 100 pounds of solid materials.

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



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

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Charles A. Kane, Trustee

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Leo A. W. Wiegman, Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager

Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building

One Van Wyck Street

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## Got a Question?



**I know that Croton Point Park, as well as this whole area, played an important role in the American Revolution. Are there any programs or events that would help my family understand more about its role in the Revolution?**

You are in luck! There is big event planned for October 1 and 2 at the Park in celebration of the 225th anniversary of the capture of Major John Andre.

Croton Friends of History, along with the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Hudson River Valley Institute, Brigade of the American Revolution, and Material Archives and Laboratory for Archaeology, amongst others, are planning a celebration of this important event in the American Revolutionary War.



As part of the celebration a brief re-enactment of the shooting of the British sloop, Vulture, will occur at Croton Point on Saturday October 1 at 10 am. The re-enactment will include a small group of re-enactors with a cannon and a talk by historian Lincoln Daimant. The Clearwater has agreed to play the part of the Vulture.

Parking at Croton Point Park has been reduced to \$4. if the event is mentioned at the park entrance.

### **"Music Under the Stars" at West Point**

The final performance of the USMA Band in their "Music Under the Stars 2005" summer series will be held on Saturday, Sept. 3 (rain date Sept. 4th) starting at 6:00 pm. at the Trophy Point Amphitheatre at West Point. The program will be the traditional end-of-summer program, the "1812 Overture" Concert, featuring the Hellcats, Jazz Knights, Concert Band, Fireworks and cannons.