



## September Calendar

- 4 Labor Day**
- 5 & 18** Village Board Mtg.
- 12 & 26** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 6** Cons. Advisory Council
- 13** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 20** Water Control Comm.
- 20** Visual Environ. Bd.

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## Village Issues

The Village of Croton faces many ongoing issues. Day to day operations of the Village goes on, for the most part, in the context of these overriding issues. In order to keep management decisions in focus, from time to time, the Village Manager and staff and the Board of Trustees try to identify the key issues facing the Village and put some priorities on them. Recently, a list of such issues was circulated among the staff and the Board. It is currently being evaluated as a guide for ongoing Village management. Most of the issue are interrelated to others on the list.



After reading the list that is currently being reviewed, if you feel something has been left off or would like to comment on the items, please direct your written comments to the Village Office, c/o Janine King, 1 Van Wyck St. or to her email address—[jking@crotononhudson-ny.gov](mailto:jking@crotononhudson-ny.gov). The issues are not presented here in any particular order.

- **Riverfront development** Development of the River Walk and Croton Landing Field. Once completed, planning a means of maintenance and control.
- **Budgeting and tax related issues** Identifying revenue sources to keep pace with the increasing cost of providing municipal service. Keeping property taxes at a reasonable level while maintaining the services and amenities that residents want and expect.
- **Planning and Zoning** Continuing to work on changes necessary to the

Village Code based upon the Village's Comprehensive Plan.

- **1A Croton Point Avenue** Resolution of land uses for this site.
- **Infrastructure Improvements** Continued improvements to include roads, sidewalks, trails, curbs, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, drainage, and water mains.
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian** Planning improvements to walkways and connections to make the Village more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.
- **E-governance** Making the best use of new technology through our Virtual Town Hall website, GIS system, MUNIS system, Light path, etc.
- **Affordable Housing** Continue to work with the Croton Housing Network on more affordable housing projects.
- **DPW Facility** Finding a new location for an improved DPW facility to include a new municipal garage and storage areas.
- **Community Center** Identifying, locating and funding a Community Center.
- **Energy Conservation** Working towards becoming an Energy Smart Community.
- **Croton River Compact** Coordination with key stakeholders to preserve the beauty and protect the environment of the Croton River Gorge.
- **Croton Harmon Parking Lot** Continued work on enhancing this multi-modal facility for the benefit of all the users of the facility.

What do you think of this list?

## **AI Bond Rating from Moody's**

Moody's Investors Service has assigned an AI rating to the Village's \$2.27 million Public Improvement Serial Bonds, Series 2006A. Moody's has affirmed the Village's \$12.11 million of outstanding parity debt. The bonds are general obligations and are secured by the Village's unlimited tax pledge and will fund various capital projects, including the replacement of water mains, park improvements and road reconstruction.



The Moody's 2005/2006 Fiscal Year report and AI rating is based on the Village's well-managed financial operations, affluent, moderately sized economic base and affordable debt position. Moody's expects that the Village's financial position will remain stable, given a history of conservative budgeting, the maintenance of strong reserve levels, timely tax increases and modest taxable value growth. Fiscal 2005 was the sixth consecutive year that the Village maintained reserves at or above 20% of revenues. The Village's primary revenue source, property taxes, make up 60.7% and are collected at a five-year average current collection rate of 98.9%. The Village projects that positive operations in fiscal 2006 will replenish \$200,000 of appropriated fund balance and modestly increase the General Fund balance. Debt service is considered manageable at 11.4% of fiscal 2005 expenditures.

## **New Weekend Parking Permits Required**

Croton residents have long been able to get free weekend parking permits for their cars. Such a permit allows residents to park at no cost in the railroad station parking lot on weekend days, starting on Fridays after 7 PM and on holidays. The permits that have been issued in the past have no expiration date on them.

Due to instances where people move out of Croton but remain in the area and still use their weekend parking permits, the Village is issuing new weekend permits that have an expiration date of 12/2008.

All residents who have a weekend permit now are being asked to get a new one. This can be done either by a visit to the Village Office during office hours or by mail. A copy of your car registration is required. If you apply by mail, send a copy of your registration and specify that you want a "Weekend Parking Permit".

Weekend Permit enforcement will begin January 2007.

## **Fall Programs for Seniors**

After a busy summer, the transition to fall programs will occur at the Annual Picnic for club members on September 15th at the Senasqua Park pavilion. If you are interested in joining (annual dues are just \$6.), this would be a good time to come. All senior Croton residents, 60 years and older, are encouraged to participate in the regular activities and weekly Friday meeting in the Community Room at the Municipal Building. Light breakfast fare is available at 10:30 AM and the meeting starts at 12:30.

A full roster of regular Senior activities is lined up for the Fall including a new Senior Exercise program to be held on Tuesdays. It is a complete body workout featuring stretching, light aerobics, dance moves and floor exercises all set to music. This program is in addition to the Friday exercise program. Other programs that are resuming in September include Chair Yoga and Meditation, the Book Discussion Group and the Film Series. A Watercolor Painting program will also begin in October.



An AARP Defensive Driving program (1 day) will be held on Tues., Sept. 26 for a \$10. fee. Registration is due by Sept. 8.



Looking ahead, sign ups for the October trip to a Country Hoe Down at Aqua Turf in Connecticut should be made soon before the trip fills up.

For more information on these programs and to register, please contact Yvonne Beldotti, Director of Senior Recreation, at 271-5804.

## **Croton Landing Field Update**

Plans for the development of a multi-use lawn and field at Croton Landing are in the final design stage. The Village's engineer consultant on the project, James Hahn, is finalizing the plans and developing the bid documents. The project to create the multi-use field has received a \$150,000 grant from NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which will review the bid documents before they are available to contractors. With no unexpected delays, it is anticipated that the plans will be put out to bid and a contract let in the fall and that construction work will begin in late fall.

**Reminder!**

**The Village Offices will be closed on Monday, September 4th  
For Labor Day**



## Spotlight on Rachel Sibrizzi

When you go to the Village office, it is likely that the person who will greet you at the front desk will be Rachel Sibrizzi. Since August 2005 Rachel has held the position of Senior Account Clerk. Prior to that, she had been working in the Village Office as a temporary employee in various positions.

In addition to her being the person who meets most office visitors, Rachel is in charge of all parking permits including those for the railroad station, handicapped, and weekend permits, and also those for local shopping centers. Rachel handles the Accounts Receivable for commercial refuse, alarm permits, and space rentals and also does collections for water bills and taxes. As Deputy Registrar she handles

birth and death certificates when the Registrar is unavailable. Additionally, Rachel is Shop Steward for local 456 of the Teamsters.

It is the meeting and greeting part of her job that Rachel enjoys the most. Rachel likes to answer questions and provide help with problems when she can. Answering phone questions is also a big part of her job.

As a Croton resident, Rachel points out that she has a great commute. She is the mother of three - fifteen year old twins, Angelo and Adrianna, and fourteen year old Alyssa. She lives with her life companion, Mark Notorangelo. She has been active in many school activities and in scouting and was also involved as Treasurer of the Scenic Ridge HOA when she lived there.

Growing up in the Catskills in Hunter, NY, Rachel graduated from Hunter-Tannersville High School. She also had her Bachelor's of Business Administration from Pace University in White Plains. Prior to motherhood, Rachel worked as an auditor for a national accounting firm and also at the Chemical Bank on Wall Street.

In her spare time, Rachel enjoys physical activities such as skiing, skating, biking and working out. This year she had the rewarding experience of doing the 40-Mile Bike Tour of the 5 boroughs of NYC along with many other cyclists.



*"I love community work and I love being involved with Croton residents. I want everyone to leave with a smile."*

*Rachel Sibrizzi*



### **Unpaid Water Bill Reminder!**

Water bills went out on June 15th to all Croton residents on the Village's water system. Payments were due on July 15th. As indicated in the last Newsletter, there are accumulating penalties for each month in which the bill goes unpaid. After 90 days, there is an additional \$100 fine which is over and above the accumulated penalties. For those who haven't paid their bills, the fine will be applied after October 15th.

### **New Village Attorney**

After an extensive search and interviews with several candidates, the Village Board has retained James Staudt, a partner in the firm of McCullough, Goldberger and Staudt, located in White Plains.

Mr. Staudt, who specializes in municipal and land use law, also serves as counsel for the Village of Larchmont and as Special Counsel to Bronxville. He has been Special Council to both Yonkers and Scarsdale as well.

After receiving his BA from Boston College in 1974, and his JD from Villanova University in 1977, Mr. Staudt was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1978 and to the U. S. District Court, Southern and Eastern District in 1981.

### **Recreation News**

The Fall 2006 Recreation brochure which you receive in the mail describes the many classes, programs and special events offered by the Recreation and Parks Dept. for the fall. Most of the classes are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, so early registration is encouraged. Programs and classes are open to Village residents and School District residents although different rates may apply. Programs may be canceled due to insufficient registration so please register early!

There are recreation programs in place for both youth and adults covering a wide range of activities such as exercise, music, dance, yoga, pre-school playgroups, baseball fundamentals and flag football.

The Recreation and Parks Dept. staff are available to answer questions at 271-3006. Registration for programs can be done by mail using the form in the back of the brochure you received or, in-person, at the Recreation Office on the second floor of the Municipal Building.



Visit us at:  
[www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov)

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**Published for the Residents of  
the Village of Croton-on-  
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(914) 271-4781-2

## Got a Question?



### **My family has recently acquired a puppy. What Village regulations apply to dogs?**

Pet owners have many responsibilities. All dogs are required to be licensed annually under NYS Law. Licenses can be obtained from the Village Office in the Municipal Building. A current rabies certificate must be provided. Puppies should be licensed at the age of 4 months. The fee is \$7.50 if they are spayed/neutered and \$15.50 if not. Part of the fee is used by NYS to offset spay/neutering clinics.

Dogs in the Village are not allowed to roam at large, unleashed. Dogs walked on a leash may be curbed in the part of the street lying between the two curb lines. All feces must be removed by the dog's walker and deposited in an airtight container and placed in a refuse container, never in sewers or storm drains. (This does not apply to licensed guide dogs in use by a blind person.)

Dogs are not permitted in any public park, playground



or school property. Chasing, harassment or intimidation by dogs is not permitted nor is habitual barking or running after or chasing of cars and bicycles.

The Village's Animal Control officer may impound a dog and issue a violation to the owner when these rules are violated resulting in a fee and impoundment costs.

### **What and Where - the Answer**



Thanks to many responders and to the Historical Society for information on the obelisk shown at left. The monument is located at the corner of Brook St. and Old Post Rd. North, northeast of the Municipal Building. At the time it was erected in the mid-twenties, the current Municipal Building was Croton's grade school.

The monument is a memorial to the four Croton residents killed in World War I - Charles Fox, Fred Cook, Phillip Warren and Dominic Quartuccio but no names are inscribed on it.