



## September Calendar

- 1 Labor Day Holiday**
- 2 & 15 Village Board Mtg.**
- 9 & 23 Planning Bd. Mtg.**
- 9 Cons. Advisory Council**
- 9 Rec. Advisory Comm.**
- 10 Zoning Bd. of Appeals**
- 17 Water Control Comm.**
- 17 Visual Environ. Bd.**

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## Projects Nearing Completion

**Croton Landing** It has been a very busy summer in Croton with many projects underway and nearing completion.



**River Walk trail before paving.**

The re-opening of Croton Landing is near. Extensive work has been done including building a multi-use field at the park, adding a comfort facility, extending the County's River Walk 2300 feet north of its prior



**Comfort station installation**

end point, and creating additional parking. Extensive landscaping is included in the plans and will continue to be planted into the autumn. When opened, the walkway will feature a 10'-wide asphalt path, retaining walls, fencing, decks and sitting areas. Funding for this project includes \$1,750,000 from the County (including \$250,000 from a NYS grant) and an additional \$150,000 provided to the Village from NYS.

**Benedict Blvd.** The long-awaited and specially-ordered granite curbing for the



**Curbing being installed**

center islands along Benedict Blvd. has arrived and is being installed. The individual curbing sections shown in the picture above will provide protection and an attractive

definition to the Benedict Blvd. corridor. Currently the islands do not all have curbing. As part of this project, the islands near the S. Riverside intersection will be modified to better accommodate current and future traffic needs. Once installed, the final paving of the street will be done.

**Wayne St.** Following installation of new water mains and extensive sidewalk, curbing and landscape improvements,



**New sidewalks and curbs on Wayne Street**

Wayne St. will be getting its final resurfacing along with the paving of Benedict Blvd.

**Georgia Lane** A drainage improvement project to clean out an existing stormwater detention pond at the end of Georgia Lane and expand its inlet and outlet capacity is well underway. Cleaning out of trees and undergrowth in the existing basin and repairing a breached berm has been done. Surveying and design work on a new outlet structure is underway.

**Batten Road** Final plans for the Batten Road improvement project are in place and the project is soon to be put out to bid. A contract will be awarded later this month or early October. Construction should begin shortly thereafter.

The project includes new 15 to 20-inch pipes and 10 new catch basins to capture flow and direct it to a new outfall structure. Repaving will be done when the drainage work is completed. This area has long been subject to flooding problems. The project is designed to handle up to a "10-year" storm.

## **New Steep Slopes Law**

A new Steep Slopes Law, Chapter 195 of the Village Code, was adopted in July replacing the law adopted in the late 80's. Whereas the previous law provided thresholds below which development on slopes could occur "as of right", the new law brings all development on slopes under regulation. Hardship permits for properties exceeding threshold slope disturbance are no longer part of the law.

The Planning Board will have the authority to review and grant steep slope permits as part of their subdivision, site plan, minor site plan, and fill and excavation reviewing process. An extensive set of standards to be met by the applicant are set forth in the new law. These standards will also apply in those cases where the proposed application does not require Planning Board review and the Village Engineer will be the approving authority.



The purpose of the Steep Slopes law, generally stated, is to protect existing steep slopes, manage disturbances including erosion and sedimentation, vegetation, habitat loss, prevent degradation of surface water quality and alteration of drainage patterns and to implement stringent mitigation measures when no practicable alternative to disturbance is possible.

The Village was assisted in the development of this Steep Slopes Law by David Stolman of F.P. Clarke Assoc. and Lester Steinman of Wormser Kiely Galef & Jacobs as part of an overall review of all of the Village's environmental laws.

## **CTY Reminder**



The Village has begun actively using its CTY system to call residents and parking lot patrons about matters of importance. The list of phone numbers initially included all those publicly available at the time it was implemented. Additional phone numbers and email addresses can be provided to the Village to ensure that you don't miss any important calls. Adding a phone number or email address is easy. From the Village Home page ([www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov)) click on the box that "Click Here For One-step Notification" on the left side. A menu will appear to guide you through adding your information. To be added to a specific group, such as permit holders or Croton Seniors, please contact the Village directly at 271-4781.

## **Climate Protection Agreement**

Croton's Board of Trustees voted to add the Village to the list of more than 850 cities and villages who support the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Supporting communities agree to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.



Participants commit to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets through initiatives such as: anti-sprawl land-use policies that preserve open space and create compact, walkable communities; promoting transportation options such as bicycle trails and incentives for car pooling and public transit; inventorying global warming emissions in municipal operations to set reduction targets and create action plans; and increase the use of clean alternative energy. The agreement identifies 14 actions communities are encouraged to take.

The US Conference of Mayors adopted and endorsed this agreement in 2005. In the 2008-2009 budget, the Board approved \$40,000 to be used for energy saving initiatives. The Board will discuss how to utilize this money at a fall work session.

## **Dog Park at Black Rock Park**

The Village Board approved amendments to Chapters 108 and 168 of the Village Code to permit unleashed dogs of Croton residents to run in a designated area of Black Rock Park subject to rules and conditions.

The area of Black Rock park to be used is at the park's southern end. All dogs that use the park must be accompanied by their owners. The owners must have a valid Parks Dept. photo I.D.; the dog must have a current NYS Dog License, and also a Special Use permit for use of the Black Rock area. Both the license and the permit may be obtained at the Village Office. Hours of operation are 6 am—8 pm (M-F) and 10 am—4 pm (Sat-Sun).

The Riverwalk Trail at Croton Landing will also be open to dogs on leashes no longer than 6 feet during the park's posted open hours once the park reopens.



**Reminder!**

**Village Offices will be closed**

**Monday, September 1 for Labor Day!**



## Spotlight on Liz Thomas

Liz Thomas is Croton's new Director of Senior Recreation. Liz came to the Village in mid-June and brings with her an extensive background in programming development for non-profit and community organizations.

After graduating from Hunter College, Liz began working with non-profits. Chief among these was The New York Botanical Gardens where she spent 7 years. She implemented many educational programs and organized a speaker program featuring international experts on botany, landscape architecture and horticulture. While there she also developed a community outreach program funded by the Kellogg Foundation that reached out to the Garden's neighborhood and created

an interactive relationship with those residents. As she lived in that area, she also started a neighborhood association to facilitate community improvements.

During a 2-year break from the Botanical Garden job, Liz worked for a Neighborhood Improvement Organization in the Bronx where she was the Executive Administrator. Her responsibilities included organizing community events, public relations, and grant writing.

After moving to Montrose in 1993, Liz furthered her community involvement and met many local people through her volunteer work with Holy Name of Mary parish in the Village. At Mariandale in Ossining, Liz worked as the Administra-

tor of the Center of Hope for the Dominican Sisters. She was in charge of all property, buildings, conferences and retreats, budgeting and marketing. The development of their Nature Walk occurred during her tenure. She has also worked for other similar organizations in this area.

Liz's two children attend Hendrick Hudson High School where James is a Freshman and Nina is a Senior. They play baseball and field hockey, respectively and Liz is a regular at their games. In her free time, Liz loves to garden and is also currently working on obtaining a certificate in Floral Design from The NY Botanical Garden.



*"I see the importance of recreation and socialization for everyone, especially for Seniors.."*

**Liz Thomas**

### **Well Field Expansion**



The Village currently relies on three deep wells for its water supply. These wells were installed in 1967, 1991 and 1995. The three wells are used in rotation according to seasonably variable Village water demands. In order to supplement Croton's supply and to provide backup for maintenance of the three existing wells, the Village has hired The Chazen Companies (TCC) to perform this water supply expansion work. Testing done in 2007 concluded that a new well can be installed without influencing the current wells.

Under the \$123,700 contract, TCC will drill and develop a new production well, install a piezometer network in the existing fields to measure impacts on existing wells, provide the necessary documentation and test results to the NYS Dept. of Health, and provide a hydrogeologic report summarizing all water levels, flow rates and water quality data for all Village wells. This project was part of the 2008-2009 Capital budget.

### **28th Annual Run Against Hunger**

This year's Run, dedicated to long-time organizer Walter Gillis, will be on Sunday, October 19th.

### **Village Acquisition**

The property at 44 Wayne Street has been acquired by the Village. The Village Board approved the purchase to further municipal support for future commercial development of the Harmon Commercial District, in which this property is located. The Village Board approved the acquisition of the property for \$375,000. The closing took place in early August.

### **Historic Hudson Valley Agreement**

A project for improvements to the Van Cortlandt Manor entrance received federal approval for its funding. As required, the Village sponsored the application at the behest of Historic Hudson Valley (HHV). As sponsor, the Village has signed an agreement with NYS DOT, which manages the dispersion of the funds, agreeing to the 80/20 split of the multi-million dollar project. In turn, the Village has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Historic Hudson Valley to assure the 20% match is covered by HHV rather than the Village. The Village will be the "pass through" for the money. Work on this project which will improve the entrance to the Manor property on South Riverside Ave. is set to proceed this autumn. Improvements will include elimination of overhead wires, parking improvements, and features such as lighting and fencing that have a more historically appropriate appearance.



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## Got a Question?



**My family has recently moved to Croton. Since then we have become fascinated by its history, so much of which still seems to be reflected in the Village today. Where can I learn more about Croton's history?**

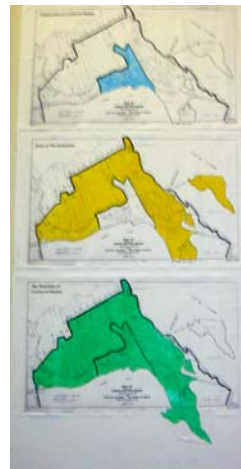
A good place to start learning about Croton's history is a visit to the Croton Historical Society's 1930's Exhibit on the first floor of the Municipal Building. This extensive exhibit includes pictures of streets and buildings in Croton during the Thirties, many of which are easily recognizable today.



If you visit this display, you will see pictures of many restaurants, inns, and a variety of other businesses in locations where new businesses now exist. The picture at left of the Tumble Inn formerly located on Albany Post Road, is proba-

bly just the kind of place you would like to go for a vacation. Their advertisement for a \$5 New Year's

Eve Celebration with drinks, dinner and dancing looks pretty good today.



Croton is considerably larger than it was before 1930. The picture at the left shows its expansion which occurred through annexation in 1930. The top portion shows the original one square mile village; the middle is the four mile square annexation; the bottom is the final Village boundary. The areas annexed are those that we refer to now as the Harmon area, the Mt. Airy area (including Trails) and the North End. The annexation was challenged at the

time but ultimately upheld in 1932 by the Courts.

The exhibit's display cases are filled with pictures of people, many of whom still live here, and old menus, invitations, clothes, posters and an array of memorabilia typical of 1930's life in Croton. Books on Croton's history are also available for sale in the Village Office.