



September Calendar

- 7 Labor Day**
- 8 & 21** Village Board Mtg.
- 8 & 22** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 2** Cons. Advisory Council
- 8** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 9** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 16** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 23** Trails Committee

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Hudson River Celebrations

The 2009 Quadricentennial Celebration has spawned many exhibits and events in the coming weeks centered on the Hudson River. The entire 2009 year is devoted to a celebration of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's exploration of the Hudson River and Samuel Champlain's exploration of Lake Champlain. Additionally, the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's steamboats on the Hudson is being feted. Village resident, Marc Cheshire, is coordinating Croton's celebratory events which are sponsored individually by the Yacht Club, Arboretum, Historical Society, Friends of History, the Croton Free Library and the Town of Cortlandt. All of these programs are open to all and free of charge.

Beginning in September the Croton Free Library will host an exhibit of Hudson River photos and paintings by local artists. Also at the library, on Sept. 15 in the Ottinger Room, Dr. Michael Rubbo from Teatown Lake Reservation will present *The Beauty of Biodiversity Why Croton Can't Live Without It*, a discussion about its benefits and protecting it for future generations. This is sponsored by the Croton Arboretum and the Saw Mill River Audubon Society (SMRAS).

The Croton Yacht Club is presenting "Hudson River Day", Sat., Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This inaugural event will have historical, environmental, and recreational presentations and hands-on exhibits for the whole family.

Early October brings more opportunities to learn about and enjoy the Hudson. An exhibit by the Croton Historical Society in its Museum in the Municipal Building will bring to life the fascinating history of Croton Point including maps, photos, objects and a diorama of the Lanape Indians. Vintage postcards and other memorabilia of the 1909 Hudson-Fulton Centennial Celebration will be on

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Bike Week



Croton's 2nd Annual Bike Week is coming, Sept. 5-13. Organized by the Village's volunteer Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Committee, the week-long event promotes bicycle use

and road safety in three life-style arenas, Bike to Shop, Bike to School and Bike to Train.

In support of Bike to Shop, over 30 local business owners will offer discounts to cyclists all week just by showing the owner your bike helmet. Students are encouraged to Bike to School during this week. Bicycle racks are available at all three schools and the Library. Flyers will be sent home during the prior school week. Biking to school has the benefits of exercise, a sense of self-sufficiency and boosting confidence. It should also reduce the morning drop-off traffic at schools. The Bike to Train component will encourage residents to realize the potential cost savings and health benefits of switching to "humanpower" commuting. Eliminating a "station" car can result in significant savings in insurance, parking fees, and fuel and maintenance costs, as much \$3,000/year. Visit the Village website for more information on Croton's Bike Week at www.crotononhudson-ny.gov.

Other notable events during this week include the Westchester Cycle Club's (WCC) annual Golden Apple Ride. These are self-paced rides of 25, 50, 75, 100 and 125-mile routes, some of which will pass through Croton. The WCC will hold special Croton Bike Week rides of 25-miles to 50-miles on Sat. Sept. 12. Starting at CHHS, this is open to all cyclists of varying levels with helmets and bikes in good condition. For schedule information, go to

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STAR : School Tax Relief

NYS's School Tax Relief Program (STAR) includes the Basic and Enhanced STAR property tax exemptions. These exemptions are still in effect for the coming year but the Middle Class STAR Rebate program has been discontinued. There will be no Middle Class STAR rebate checks distributed in 2009.

Basic STAR is open to anyone who owns and lives in his or her own home. Enhanced STAR is available to senior homeowners whose incomes do not exceed the state-wide standard. If you own your own home and are not receiving STAR, or if you want more information, please contact the Town of Cortlandt Assessor at 734-1040.

Hudson River Celebration Cont'd.

display in the main room of the Croton Free Library courtesy of the Taconic Postcard Club.

On October 1, Friends of History sponsors Historian and author, Kathleen Eagen Johnson. She will discuss her new book, *The Hudson-Fulton Celebration, New York's River Festival of 1909 and the Making of a Metropolis* in the Ottinger Room at the library at 7:30 p.m.

Friends of History and the Town of Cortlandt are sponsoring a performance in period garb by the Hudson River Ramblers, storyteller Jonathan Kru and folk singer Rich Balal covering *400 Years on the Hudson in Story and Song*. will be an enlivening experience on Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ottinger Room.

On Oct. 3, Native American crafts expert, Barry Kegan will use his authentic replicas of canoes, arrowheads, axes and other items to recreate the daily life of the Leni Lenape people who lived in the Croton area at the time of Hudson's voyage. Starting at 1:30 in Senasqua Park, this program is presented by the Arboretum.

To top off these celebrations, on Sun., Oct. 4, *Hoopla on the Hudson*, local luminaries will provide brief talks, stories, songs and poems covering the Hudson River's past, present and future—from Hudson's discovery and the area's Dutch heritage to the creation of Croton Landing and plans to complete the Riverwalk. This event, sponsored by the Library and Friends of History, will be in the Ottinger Room of the library at 2 p.m.

Beyond the Village events, the weekend of Sept. 12-13 is New York Heritage Weekend. Many museums, heritage areas and historic sites in the Hudson Valley will be open, free of charge, as part of this Quadricentennial celebration. Visit <http://exploreny400.com/heritageweekend.aspx> for more information.

Bike Week Cont'd.

www.westchestercycleclub.org/rideschedule.php.

The Toughkids Triathlon for 7 - 14 year old boys and girls will also be on Sat. Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. starting at Croton Point Park. This first time event will give participants a great taste of the 2nd Annual Toughman Half Triathlon held the next day on Sept. 13. This event draws more than 500 participants. It features a 1.2 mile swim from Croton Point Park, a 56-mile rolling bike ride through Westchester County, (Starting and returning to Croton Point Park), and a 13.1-mile run in around Croton and Croton Dam. Details on both the Toughkids and Toughman contests are at: www.westchestertoughman.com.

Fall Recreation Programs

The Recreation Dept.'s Fall Programs brochure will soon be available. Many popular programs require sign-up during September. Flag Football for grades 3-6 provides basic instruction and organized games. Deadline is Sept. 10. Basketball Offensive Improvement for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8, helps students improve their offensive basketball skills, such as dribbling, passing and shooting. Deadline is Sept. 11.

Ever popular Dance programs are back too. Designed for different age groups, classes include pre-ballet and modern dance. Sign ups are required. Call 271-3006 for more info.

Cell tower



The first and only cellular tower in Croton is up and ready for service. The first installation on the new tower is by AT&T (Cingular Wireless) and will provide improved service for their customers. It should be online in early October. Two other providers (T-Mobile and Metro PCS) have been approved and will be

installing their equipment soon.

In 2006, Nextel applied for a special permit to build the tower but in 2008 they transferred their interest in the application to Homeland Towers. Homeland completed the application process and began construction earlier this summer.



Reminder!
Village Offices will be closed
Monday, Sept. 7 for Labor Day!



Spotlight on Paul Rosen

For almost twenty years, Paul Rosen has been the Village's prosecutor. As a Village employee, Mr. Rosen is seen only on Wednesdays in the Village court room at the Municipal building.

As Village Prosecutor, he prosecutes Traffic and Parking violations (including train station and public parking lots) and Village Code violations in Croton's local court. Recent changes in the State's Traffic law require a conference between the defendant and the prosecutor before a trial can be scheduled. If a satisfactory agreement is reached, the case can be disposed of without a trial. A typical Wednesday court day might consist of fifteen to twenty trial cases and about twelve to twenty conferences.

The trials are Bench trials before the judge and with the officers who issued the ticket also present.

Paul received his undergraduate degree from RPI and graduated from Cornell Law School. He started as a District Attorney under former Westchester County D.A. Carl Vergari. He has been a Judge's Law Secretary for County Court Judge John Couzons as well. At the time, he came to Croton as Village Prosecutor, he was also Prosecutor for the Town of Ossining.

Currently he is in private practice in Briarcliff Manor where he specializes in criminal defense, real estate, and special education matters. Additionally, he is an Administrative Hearing

Judge for the NYS Dept. of Education on Special Education matters and he performs the same duties for Westchester County for Civil Service violations.

Paul and his wife, an Assistant Superintendent of schools, have two adult children and two grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with their grandchildren in Massachusetts.

In his spare time, Paul enjoys a photography hobby. He and his wife love to travel and have had memorable trips to Spain, China, France, and Italy. Two especially memorable trips were to Israel and an Alaskan cruise.



"I have enjoyed working with the local court personnel and Police Dept. but especially my contact with the public."

Paul Rosen

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Completed

As a member of ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), also known as Local Governments for Sustainability, the Village has undertaken the first step recommended by the organization for moving toward reducing our carbon footprint. The Village has completed a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, using the ICLEI protocol, to establish a baseline level of emissions from government operations. The baseline will enable future performance comparisons, the basis for establishing an emission reductions target, and enable the Village to develop an action plan to meet the target goal.

Data was collected from utility bills and fuel records for stationary sources including the Municipal Building, Fire/Police stations, water facilities, and traffic signals and street lights. Data was for the baseline year of 2007 and included the amounts of electricity, natural gas, fuel oil, propane and diesel fuel used.

Data was also collected for mobile sources including cars, trucks, police and fire equipment, transit vehicles (leaf loader, recycling), sanitation and street sweeping and grounds-keeping equipment. For mobile sources,

data on fuel consumption, annual mileage, vehicle type and model year was gathered. Refrigerants and Fire suppressants were also included in the inventory.

The data collected was entered into a Clean Air and Climate Protection (CACP) software package provided by ICLEI. The software analysis focuses on carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄), two major greenhouse gases. Summary reports show the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants emissions for 2007. Summary reports show that for all municipal operations there was a total of 1,513 metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions costing the Village an estimated \$523,066 in 2007. The detailed report showed, for example, that 198 metric tonnes of the CO₂ emissions were attributed to the Municipal Building, 48 metric tonnes to the Washing Engine House, and 184 metric tones for street lights. This kind of information is valuable for the Village Board and administration in making future decisions about ways the Village government can reduce our carbon footprint. It is the first of five "milestone" steps in the ICLEI program. Future milestone steps include setting an emission reduction target, developing and implementing an action plan and, finally, monitoring and verifying emissions reduction progress.



September, 2009

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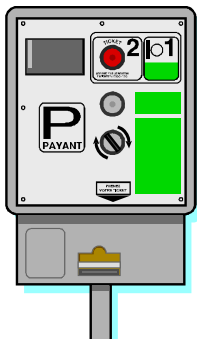
(914) 271-4781-2

www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Got a Question?



I have heard that the ticket office at the train station will soon be replaced with pay stations? When will this happen and how will they work?



This is correct. As an adjunct to the regrading and paving of a large section of the train station parking lot, the Village will replace the current method of selling daily tickets at the ticket house located in the daily parking lot with six multi-space automated pay stations. Final paving of the raised and regraded lot is expected to occur late in the Fall. The pay stations will be installed at that time and the ticket booth will begin being phased out.

The automated pay stations will be located in a shelter in the daily lot and also in front of the main entrance to the train station adjacent to the Handicapped section.

The multi-space parking meter system is known as the Luke System and is manufactured by Digital Systems.

The machines are able to accept credit and debit cards, smart cards, bills and change, and also have the capability of receiving payment by cell phone. They do not provide change.

Before the pay stations are implemented, procedures for cell phone payment will be established. During a short initial period after installment of the pay machines, the daily ticket office will be open while daily customers learn about the pay stations and how to use them. The closing of the ticket office will result in reducing operational costs of the parking lot.

Croton Seniors

Croton Seniors will return to the Community Room in the Municipal Building for their regular Friday meetings on Friday, Sept. 11. Meetings were held at Senasqua Park during the summer months, weather permitting. Meetings begin at 11:00. All residents of the Village and School District, 60 and older, are eligible to be members. Liz Thomas, the Village's Senior Coordinator, can be reached at 271-5804.