



November Calendar

- 4 & 25 Village Board Mtg.
- 11 **Veterans Day**
- 12 & 26 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 13 Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 5 Bike/Ped Comm.
- 5 Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 12 Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 20 Visual Env. Board
- 27 Trails Committee
- 28 **Thanksgiving Day**

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Croton Landing - 5th Anniversary of Opening

Croton Landing Park has become such a focal point in the Village of Croton that it may be surprising to remember that it officially opened only 5 years ago. The story of its acquisition and development started over 17 years ago.

Croton Landing Park, approximately one mile in length and 16 acres in land area, was formerly owned by the Ottaviano family and was referred to as the Seprieo property. The letters in "Seprieo" represented the initials of the Ottaviano children. At various times in its past, the land had been the site of brick works and a location for depositing fill from construction done in NYC.

Before Route 9 was created, several streets in the Village led to the Hudson River although the railroad tracks had to be crossed to get there. With the advent of Route 9, the property was almost impossible to reach or to utilize except by some determined fishermen. Over time, it became overgrown and strewn with trash both dumped there and washed up from the river. In the 80's a ten-story residential development named Mariner's Cove was proposed for the site but the problem of access to the site was not solved.

With increased interest in the Hudson River and having public access to it, acquiring the property became a vision and goal of then Mayor Robert Elliott.

The acquisition of the 30+acre site (about half is under water), was the first step in a process that was to take 12 to 13 years to complete before the park officially opened in 2008.

In 1996, the Village together with the Open Space Conservancy and the Trust For Public Land jointly purchased the

property - each paying \$1.2 million. Croton owned the southern portion and the Open Space Institute retained the northern portion, known as the Beaverkill Conservancy. In the same year, the Village also took the first steps to provide access to the future park by acquiring the Half Moon Bay bridge and the land to the north of the bridge.



The following year, 1997, NYS replaced and extended the pedestrian bridge over

Route 9 to the west side of the tracks. In 1997 and 1998, the Village also received grants from the NYSDOT, the federal CleanWater/Clean Air Act, and County CDBG funds to assess future uses, to extend a sewer line north from Senasqua Park, clean up the debris, and to construct an handicapped-accessible trail on the Village-owned portion of the site. These projects continued over several years.



New Road in 2004

In 2001, the NYSDOT and Metro North agreed to close the Brook Street at-grade track crossing and

construct a new road north to Senasqua Park from the Half Moon Bay bridge. This ensured improved and safe access to the entire Hudson River waterfront. The \$4+ million cost was funded by the NYSDOT, Metro North and



Elliott Way Today

the federal Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

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87th Blood Drive Coming Up!



Sunday, December 1 is the date for the 87th Community Blood Drive. It will be held from 9 am to 3 pm at Croton-Harmon High School.

It won't hurt and you can save a life (or two or three), as blood is fractioned into its component parts and given to several patients. You must be at least 16 years and 110 lbs. Over 76, you need a doctor's note. The whole process takes about one hour of your time.

Call 271-7645 or 271-8449 or contact: communityblood-drive@gmail.com for eligibility information and appointments.

November Polling Places in Croton

Polls will be open from 6 am to 9 pm at the following locations for the November 5th general election. On the ballot will be candidates for the Supreme Court and 9th Judicial district; the County Executive, Clerk, Court Justice, Family Court Justice and County Legislators; Town candidates for Supervisor, Council, Clerk and Judge; Village candidates for Mayor and Trustees. There will also be 6 referenda on the ballot affecting the NYS Constitution.

District 6	Grand St. Fire House
District 7	Municipal Building
District 8	Grand St. Fire House
District 9	Municipal Building
District 10	Harmon Fire House
District 25	Our Savior Lutheran Church
District 31	SkyView Nursing Home
District 39	Municipal Building

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings Time is about to end for 2013. Don't forget to turn your clocks and watches back one hour on Sunday, November 3 at 2 am. Daylight Savings Time will resume on Sunday, March 9 in 2014.



Croton Landing Parking

When Croton Landing was initially created and opened in 2008, the plans identified two areas of parking. The permanent, paved area was constructed and currently provides the only parking at the park. The creation of a larger impervious parking surface was not done at that time as it was unknown what its usage would be. However, the initial park plans identified another parking area which could be implemented if there was a demonstrated demand for additional parking which has proven to be the case.



Additional Parking at Croton Landing

Currently the Village is adding 14 to 16 additional parking spaces at the north end of the existing parking and adjacent to the comfort station.

This parking area will be a non-impervious gravel surface and will be closed in the winter months. In the warm weather months, when there is more activity at the park, this additional parking should help meet the demand.

Years of Service Recognitions

At a recent Village Board meeting, four long-time employees of the Village were recognized for their years of service. Each received a Certificate from the New York Conference of Mayors.

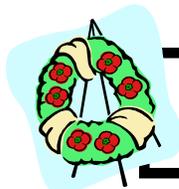
Rudolph (Rudy) Fasciani received recognition for his 35 years of service. Rudy holds the position of Skilled Laborer in the Parks & Recreation Dept.

Certificates of recognition for 25 years of service were awarded to three DPW employees: John O'Brien - Motor Equipment Operator, James Leon - Skilled Laborer and Martin Gariepy - General Foreman.

Congratulations and thank you to all!

Field Closings

Village playing fields will be closed for the winter months as of November 10th. Signs will be posted and the fields will be covered with "blankets". During this period, no one is allowed on the fields. The fields will re-open in late March, weather permitting.



Reminder!
Village Offices will be closed
Mon., Nov. 11 for Veterans Day, and
Thurs./Fri. Nov 28 & 29 for Thanksgiving!



Basic STAR Registration

New legislation requires homeowners in NYS receiving ONLY the Basic STAR exemption to register with the NYS Tax Dept. in order to continue to receive Basic STAR property tax exemptions in 2014 and subsequent years. However, homeowners who currently have either the Enhanced STAR exemption or a Senior exemption do NOT have to register to receive the Basic STAR exemption. The Basic STAR registration deadline is December 31, 2013.



There are two types of STAR exemptions: Basic and Enhanced. STAR exemptions apply only to school district taxes. They don't apply to property taxes for other purposes such as Town, Village, and County taxes, except in some cities. The Town of Cortlandt also grants a Senior tax exemption based on income eligibility which automatically creates the Enhanced STAR exemption.

The reason for the new registration requirement for Basic STAR is primarily to eliminate inappropriate exemptions - mainly people receiving Basic STAR exemptions on more than just their primary residence. Based on the information provided in the registration process, the Tax Dept. will monitor homeowners' eligibility in future years so annual registration is not required.

Basic STAR is available for owner-occupied, primary residences where the resident owners' and their spouses income is less than \$500,000 annually. The Basic STAR exemption exempts the first \$30,000 of the full value of the home from school taxes.

Enhanced STAR, which is not affected by this new registration requirement, provides an increased benefit beyond Basic STAR for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with qualifying incomes. It exempts the first \$63,300 of the full value of the home from school tax bills as of 2013-2014 (up from \$62,200 in 2012-2013).

Letters to all 2.6 million NYS homeowners currently registered ONLY in Basic STAR have been sent by the Tax Dept. notifying them of the registration requirement and how to do it. If you have Enhanced STAR, you will not be receiving the letter. Registration can be done online at www.tax.ny.gov. Phone registration is also available at 518-457-2036 on Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 8:00 pm and Saturday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Additionally, The Town Assessor's office will provide help and information at 734-1040.

Veterans Day

Croton's Central Veterans Committee will conduct a Veterans Day ceremony on Monday, November 11 at 11 am at Veterans Corners. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be relocated to an indoor venue.



Following the conclusion of the Veterans Day ceremony, around noon, the Croton Yacht Club will host its annual lunch honoring Veterans. The luncheon is free for all veterans and active military. Other attendees are asked to make a \$10 contribution to help defray the cost of the luncheon. Any net proceeds will be donated to the Croton-Harmon VFW Post 5197.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP no later than Wed., November 6, to dennis@kooney.net or phone 271-6384.

Seasonal Parking Permits

When snow fall accumulates to 2 inches or more, parking on the streets is prohibited, allowing the DPW to properly plow the snow and clear the streets.

Those residents who can demonstrate that they have no feasible on-site parking available to them, may obtain a Seasonal Overnight Parking Permit from the Village Office. The fee for a permit varies from \$25 to \$100 depending upon the number of permits needed and the number of available on-site spaces at the residence.

Vehicles with these permits must still remove the vehicles from the street no later than 12 hours after the snow ends. The same also applies to cars parked in the Village-controlled parking lots at Asbury Methodist Church, behind Holy Name of Mary Church, the west end of Benedict Blvd., and the Municipal Building.

Parking is also restricted on certain streets as follows:

- North side of Grand St. between Old Post Road North and Riverside Ave.
- Both sides of Benedict Blvd. and Maple Street.
- East side of Riverside Ave. between Brook St. and High St.
- East side of Old Post Rd. South (high school side) between Maple St. and Cleveland Dr.

Farmers' Market Season Ends

The final Sunday Farmers' Market of this season, held at the intersection of Municipal Place and South Riverside Ave., will be held on the Sunday, November 24th.

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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor; Kevin Davis, Trustee; Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee; Ian Murtaugh, Trustee; Casey Raskob, Trustee,
Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building, One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2, www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Got a Question?



Now that we are well into the Fall season are there any new recreation programs that are starting up in which my children or I can still participate?

There are several new programs for both youth and adults which are occurring in November or early December.

Children in grades K-3 will be interested in the special Superintendent's Day Program on Dec. 4 from 12:15 to 3:15 called **Mad Science**. Kids will discover the science behind crazy toys like Slinky, Yo-Yos and gyrosopic tops. While playing with cool stuff, they will learn about potential and kinetic energy. The registration deadline is Nov. 27. Fee - \$60.res/\$70.nonres.



The Middle School Program will have four Friday night events in November. On Nov. 1, there is a bus trip to SPORTIME USA in Elmsford (\$20). Nov. 8 and 22 are drop-in and movie nights at the Municipal Building (free). Ice Skating at the Westchester Academy will occur on Nov. 15 (\$14 including rentals). Reservations can be made at the Recreation Dept. at 271-8562.

Adults with an interest in gardening will want to sign up for the one-time class, **Terrarium Gardening**, on Wed., Nov. 20 from 10-11:30 am. This new class, taught by Kathryn Brechner, will help you create a succulent garden using open globe containers and varied sands. A great gift idea. Fee is \$26.res/\$32.non res; sign up by November 13.



If you are in need of some stress reduction, you will want to sign up for the **REIKI Attunement** class offered on Sat., November 9 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Municipal Building. Reiki is an ancient healing technique; a natural, non-intrusive, soft touch hands-on technique that promotes stress reduction, relaxation and healing. You will practice giving and receiving Reiki energy. Everyone will also receive a manual to help support your at-home Reiki practice. Taught by Andrea Naitove, the fee is \$135.res/\$165.nonres. Register by November 1.

Croton Landing cont'd.

In 2002, the area was renamed Croton Landing based on historic maps of the Village and, in 2003, the OSI transferred its northern half of the property to the Village for \$1 with a conservation easement to preserve its future as open space.



Along the RiverWalk

The new road, named Elliott Way after former Mayor Robert Elliott, opened in December 2004.



Great Lawn at Croton Landing

A \$150k NYS grant in 2005 provided for the construction of a great lawn/field and a comfort station.

The Village and Westchester County agreed in 2006 to join efforts and funds for additional Croton Landing improvements, including the construction of a 2300-foot segment of the County's RiverWalk trail system along the Hudson River. The County provided \$1.75 million while the Village assumed responsibility for awarding contracts and administering the construction as well as landscaping, irrigation systems, the parking lot, and the construction of the raised field and comfort station. The Village's costs were approximately \$1 million including the 150k grant from NYS.

Although there had been some informal use of the land during this period, particularly by fishermen, the park was completely closed in summer of 2007 and most of 2008 for the construction to be completed. In October of 2008, Croton Landing Park was opened to the public for use, and in 2009, the County inaugurated its Riverwalk Trail at the park.

Since its opening, Croton Landing Park has remained as passive open space and largely unchanged as intended. Its landscaping has matured and enhanced the setting. In 2012, the Villages of Buchanan, Croton-on-Hudson and the Town of Cortlandt established and dedicated a 9/11 Remembrance Memorial site at the northern tip of Croton Landing Park.

Croton Landing Park is now much-used by residents and others who appreciate its Hudson River vistas and open space.