



December Calendar

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- 11 Zoning Board Mtg.
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- 3 Bike/Ped Comm.
- 10 Rec. Advisory Comm..
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- 25 **Christmas Day**

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Bulkhead Replacement Project

Work is underway to repair the bulkheads on the Hudson River at the location of the Croton Yacht Club. The bulkheads have been eroding for a number of years. The man-made shoreline is being undermined at an accelerated pace by the natural movement of the Hudson River as well as the cumulative effects of several larger than normal storms in recent years. For the past two years, areas along the public walkway have been closed off to foot traffic due to undermining of the walkway. Eventually, if no corrective action is taken, the footings and tiebacks supporting the old bulkheads would continue to deteriorate. The area west of the road leading to Croton Landing would potentially be jeopardized as the river reclaimed the land.

After several years of taking steps to slow the erosion using approaches such as installing large rock-filled gabions along the length of the area, the Village has undertaken the necessary project to supplant the existing eroded bulkheads with the installation of new steel pilings to create new bulkhead protection at the site. To prepare for the work, the existing gabion walls and fencing were removed and the boats were relocated on site. In late November a barge with a crane for lifting and inserting the pilings arrived at the site. Additionally, the pilings, measuring 71 feet in length, were delivered by truck and stockpiled at the site.

The process of designing a solution to the bulkhead problem began in earnest in

2010 when the Village contracted with Ocean and Coastal Consultants (OCC) for \$36,000 to undertake the study and design of a solution. As part of the design effort, soil borings were also required at the site costing an additional \$10,000.

Since the bulkhead repair work would actually occur in

Haverstraw Bay in the Hudson River, a NYS environmentally protected area, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the NYS Department of State (DOS) were heavily involved in order to meet their specifications and requirements.



A bulkhead piling being put in place.



Pilings awaiting installation

The final approved design calls for the placement of new steel sheet pilings a few inches outside of the current eroded bulkhead iron sheets. Other solutions which included more work occurring in the river itself and the adding of riprap along the shoreline were rejected by the state authorities as having

too much impact on the river.

As part of the planning process, the design and implementation of the work was subjected to the required environmental review during which minor modifications were added to the plan. OCC developed the final specifications and in May 2013, requests for proposals were solicited

Property Tax Exemptions

Residents can apply for Village property tax exemptions if they are income-qualified seniors, disabled, volunteer fire personnel or armed service veterans.

Applications for property tax exemptions must be made at the Village Engineering Office in the Municipal Building no later than Tuesday, December 31, 2013.

Allowable income levels for partial real estate exemptions are set by New York State for persons aged 65 years or older. Exemption percentages vary from 5% on a total income range of \$36,000 to \$37,399 and up to 50% on a total income range of less than \$29,000.

Veteran exemptions vary according to the time period served, disabilities, etc. Property tax assessment reductions are available to veterans who served during the Cold War periods. This exemption is limited to 10 years in duration. Questions should be directed to Joe Sperber, Village Assessor, at 271-4783.

Basic STAR Reminder!

If you are currently on Basic STAR, the NYS program for property owners to reduce their school taxes, you must re-register with the NYS Tax Dept. to continue to receive the exemption. **The deadline is December 31, 2013.** This does not apply to those property owners who are registered for the Enhanced Star program.

Initial letters were sent to property owners currently receiving Basic STAR by the Tax Dept. notifying them of the registration requirement. A reminder letter was sent in mid-November to those who had not yet re-registered.

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 program exempts the first \$30,000 of the full value of the home from school taxes.

Registration can be done online anytime at www.tax.ny.gov or by phone at 518-457-2036 on Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 8:00 pm and Saturday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. The Town Assessor's office is also available to help at Town Hall on Heady St. in Cortlandt Manor. Their phone number is 734-1040.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony

Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941 will be commemorated this year on Friday, December 6 at 3 pm. Each year the commemoration ceremony is hosted by the Town of Cortlandt, Villages of Buchanan and Croton-on-Hudson and the City of Peekskill on a rotating basis. This year the ceremony will be held at the Cortlandt Town Hall. The ceremony is coordinated by the Cortlandt Hudson Valley

Photo # NH 50931 Japanese torpedo attack on "Battleship Row", Pearl Harbor, 7 Dec. 1941



"Battleship Row" in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941

Veteran's Committee.

The annual ceremony commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on that date and those who died in the attack.

The following day, the United States declared war on Japan. Then President Franklin D.

Roosevelt declared it to be "a day that will live in infamy".

December Holiday Events



If your child would like to write a **Letter to Santa** and receive a reply, be sure to have them put their letter in one of the special mailboxes at the Municipal Building or at Save Mor in Croton Commons between December 2 and December 13. Santa's elves will be collecting the letters. Letters received by December 13 are guaranteed an answer. No postage is required but a name and address must be included.

The Village's **Menorah Lighting** began on Wednesday, November 27 and will continue each night until the end of Hanukkah. The menorah is located at the corner of Benedict Blvd. and South Riverside Ave.



The Village **Tree Lighting** will occur on Wednesday, December 4 at 6 pm at Vassallo Park. The evergreen tree will be lit for the season. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities.



Reminder!

Village Offices will be closed

Tues. and Wed., December 24 and 25 for Christmas!



Special Needs Database

The Village has launched a Special Needs Database Program. With unpredictable winter weather fast approaching, the Village's public safety services are reaching out to those Croton residents who may require extra assistance in an emergency.

Police, Fire and EMS officials urge anyone with physical or medical needs - vision impairment, speech impairment, hearing disabilities or any dependency on electricity - to sign up for the Village's Special Needs Database. Police Chief Anthony Tramaglino, Fire Chief John Munson and EMS Captain Bill McCabe say that this information will help them all to be able to provide better service to those who need extra help in a crisis.

Director of Emergency Services, Dick Nagle, explained that those who require power to breathe properly or to move around their home in a wheelchair or are otherwise dependent on electricity, should sign up to be part of the Village's Special Needs database. Although Con Ed keeps a list of electricity dependent customers for its use, the Village does not have access to it. The Village database is a local list that will be immediately available to Croton's emergency responder services through the Croton Police Dept. Residents should only sign up to be in the Special Needs database if they live independently and are not in a residential special needs facility - a nursing home or hospital.

The information in the Special Needs database will be kept completely confidential and every individual's privacy rights will be strictly protected.

To receive a sign-up form or for additional information, call the Croton Emergency Medical Services at 914-862-1600 or the Village Office at 914-271-4781. The form may also be available through the Village website www.crotononhudson-ny.gov.

Completed forms can be mailed to: Village of Croton-on-Hudson EMS, 1 Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520, submitted via email to CEMS@crotononhudson-ny.gov, or submitted online on the Village website.

Bulkhead Repair Cont'd.

from approximately twenty marine contractors. Ten contractors showed interest, and three submitted bids for the work. In August of this year, the Village Board awarded the contract in the amount of \$2,499,877 to Blakeslee Arpaia Chapman, Inc. of Bradford, CT - the lowest bidder.

Work on the bulkhead replacement project is expected to continue throughout the winter months, weather permitting, and be completed by late spring or early summer.

Holiday Break Recreation Programs

Over the Holiday school break, the Recreation Dept. will be offering two programs for students in grades 2 to 6. Both will be held at the Municipal Building from 9 am to 3 pm. The fee for each one is \$65 res./\$85 nonres. Students in these sessions should bring a non-perishable lunch as they will not be permitted to leave for lunch.

Lego Architecture, Bridges & Structural Engineering

will be held on Fri., December 27. This course is designed to bring out the engineer in your student. The session will focus on the architecture and design of large and famous structures throughout the world using Lego, K'NEX and Balsa models. The registration deadline is December 20.



Electronics will be offered on Monday, December 30. Students will enter into the world of electronics the hands-on way! In this new program, students will work with batteries, bulbs, buzzers and more, putting together a wide array of electronic circuits. The registration deadline is December 23.

Note: Winter Recreation Brochure is now online.

Tree Disposal

The Village's DPW will pick up discarded Christmas trees during the first two weeks of January. Trees should be free of all trimmings, tinsel or wires. They should not be placed in bags.

Croton Seniors

Croton's Seniors Club has a busy month ahead. The Club's Holiday luncheon is planned for Thursday, Dec. 5th at the Kittle House in Chappaqua.

Later in the month, the December 20th meeting will feature a Pot Luck party with members each bringing something for others to enjoy. December 27th will be the New Year's Eve party, ringing in 2014 a little early but with the usual noise makers, hats and countdown.

The Seniors Club is open to all Village and School District residents 60 years and older. Contact Senior Coordinator Valerie Nolan at 271-5804 for more info.

Utility Bills Go Out

Semi-annual water bills will be sent out on December 15 and are payable January 15 without penalty. The bill includes both the water and sewer fees. Utility bills can now be paid by credit card or ACH. Information on this is included in the utility bill and is on the Home page of the Village website. Paying by cash or check also remains an option.

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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor; Kevin Davis, Trustee; Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee; Ian Mutaugh, 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?



I know some municipalities do not allow any on-street parking during winter months. What do I need to know about parking my car on the street in Croton in the winter?

Croton does not prohibit on-street parking during winter months. However, on those occasions when snow accumulates to 2 inches or more, vehicles must be removed from the street so the DPW can start plowing. Plowing will continue until snow stops accumulating and thereafter until the streets are cleared of snow. On-street parking is prohibited during this period.



Residents are encouraged to listen to local weather forecasts during the winter months and move their vehicles off the street in advance when snow is forecasted. Seasonal Parking permits are available from the Village Office for residents who have **no** other option than to park on the street.



Village residents are also obligated to clear their sidewalks of snow. If the street roadway has already been plowed, please do not shovel or blow snow in the plowed street. Doing so is a safety hazard and also a violation. Your help in clearing snow from around fire hydrants

is appreciated as well.

Snow and ice must be removed within 18 hours after snow fall ends. Commercial establishments are required to keep their adjacent sidewalks clear between 9 am and 5 pm. Keeping our Village streets, sidewalks and fire hydrants cleared of snow helps keep the Village as safe as possible when winter conditions occur.

Blood Drive Reminder!

The semi-annual Community Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, December 1, 9am to 3pm, at Croton-Harmon High School. Call 271-7645 or 271-8449 or contact communityblooddrive@gmail.com for more information.

Drug Take-Back Success

As part of a national effort called Drug Take Back Day, Croton Police officers John Nikotopoulos and Cliff Gabrielsen manned a collection box at Croton Commons on October 26. In addition, the Police Dept. maintains a Drug Drop Box in the vestibule of the station at the Municipal Building. Since April, 27, 2013, the last Take-Back Day, the Department has collected 187 pounds of unused and expired prescription drugs. These drugs are turned into the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for proper disposal.

Overtime for the police officers involved was reimbursed by the Croton Community Coalition

Gifting Time of Year

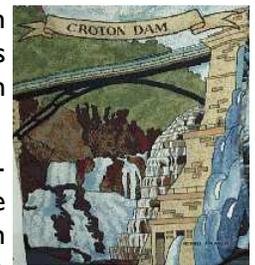
This time of year calls for creative gifting for family and friends. Giving a "Croton" gift can be a great way to solve your gifting problems.



Coverlet with Croton Scenes

The Croton Historical Society has a variety of items that are both useful and attractive. Croton-on-Hudson coverlets depicting scenes from Croton are available for \$50 in either several colors. They also have Croton Dam tee shirts (\$10),

tapestry tote bags with Hudson River and Croton Dam scenes (\$35), note cards (\$12) and Croton history books or DVDs (\$20).



Dam Tote Bag



Croton Cap

Other Croton-related items are baseball caps with the Croton logo (\$15), Croton lapel pins (\$3) and Croton-on-Hudson water bottles (\$2).

These items can be purchased at the Village Office in the Municipal Building during regular business hours.

HAPPY NEW YEAR