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of Ossining teen**

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Sing Sing Prison Museum**

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Sports

**Bears girls basketball
closing in on league title**

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The Gazette

Volume Thirty-seven, Number Six

Week of February 6 through 12, 2020

USPS Periodicals Mail #001-279

75 Cents

Crater eyes beefed up enforcement

river bottom near Albany.

Please invite your friends to come and volunteer for the river.

Sunny days,
Carl Grimm, Croton-on-Hudson

To the editor:

The Village of Croton-on-Hudson and Croton 100 are very pleased to invite you to the Georgianna Grant Meeting Room in the Municipal Building on Thursday, February 13th at 7:30 p.m. to hear a presentation followed by a Q. and A. by Robert Whittaker of the Climate Education Project.

I was fortunate to hear Mr. Whittaker's presentation, "The Facts on Climate Change," back in November when the Croton Conservation Advisory Committee sponsored his presentation at the Croton Free Library. Mr. Whittaker's information is clear, compelling, frightening and ultimately inspiring. We can, we must commit to saving the planet and building a more sustainable future for generations yet to come.

The reason why we planned the presentation in the Municipal Building is so that it can be televised. Folks can come to see and hear the presentation in person

what already exists in our community. Croton already has apartment houses (some, like Bari Manor and the Van Wyck Apartments, much larger than what would be allowed under the new zoning) and three-story mixed-use buildings on Riverside and in the Upper Village.

The current zoning code does not prevent new development on North Riverside or Municipal Place and changes to the code will not automatically cause new development. With the exception of public property, the what, when and how of development is in the hands of individual owners. The point of the code is to help harmonize any development with the needs of our community.

The 2017 update to the village's Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted unanimously and on a bi-partisan basis by the Board of Trustees, called for a review of the zoning on North Riverside and Municipal Place. Survey respondents and many attendees at public hearings made clear their views that any changes to the areas in question should preserve scenic vistas, minimize the impact on the environment, manage traffic, and preserve community character. All these priorities are reflected in the original proposed zoning amendments and the very recent edits to the first drafts.

I believe it's important to encourage new investment in our community to broaden the tax base so we can control property taxes. We need new housing opportunities, both affordable and market-rate, for people of all income levels for seniors, young people and for others for whom home ownership is not a viable or desirable option.

Absent new housing options, population growth combined with a fixed housing supply will inexorably lead to hire prices that make our community unaffordable for middle class families. Further, trying to block new homes in our village will push growth into other towns, exacerbating the problem of sprawl. Many of those same individuals, who might otherwise have lived in Croton, will still be on our streets as commuters headed towards Metro-North or down Route

To the editor:

Voting does not matter anymore in most elections: election results are so lopsided that they are in reality uncontested. There is one exception to that which is coming up in April, but your time to make a difference is limited.

As a New Yorker, your vote in the presidential election will not matter any more than your vote would matter if you lived in Alabama. Even though the election is nine months away we know that New York's electoral votes will go to the Democrat candidate and Alabama's to the Republican candidate. The only possible difference you can make is in the choice of who will face Donald Trump in the November election. As of today there is the potential for the New York primary to make a difference in who the challenger will be in November.

The presidential primary is on April 28, but in order to vote in April you need to be registered as a Democrat by February 14. If you are not registered as a Democrat you will need to change your registration by February 14. The form used to change affiliation is the same as the one used to register to vote in the first place, and the form must be received by the Board of Elections no later than February 14.

People are understandably disillusioned by the corrupt backroom politics of the major political parties, including our local monopoly. Twenty-five states have some form of open presidential primary, but New York is not one of them. However the new state law has shortened the time to switch party affiliation. If you want to cast the only vote which might make a difference this year, you have till February 14 to get your form to the Board of Elections in White Plains.

Paul Steinberg, Croton-on-Hudson

To the editor:

While Election Day seems far off, there are primary elections coming up much sooner. Voting in a primary election is your opportunity to help select your party's candidate for the general election on November 3.

In New York State there are two primary dates: April 28 is the Presidential

to furthering the electrification of our fleet," said County Executive George Latimer.

"This funding will help as we further electrify our fleet, doing our part to reduce our carbon footprint by mitigating our greenhouse gas emissions," added Peter McCartt, the county's Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability. "We are on track to have our entire transit bus fleet running on either electric or electric-hybrid by 2025."

"With many of our members throughout Westchester County---especially students---dependent on Bee-Line buses for transportation, the support for new electric buses addresses an ever-increasing need for affordable public transportation," commented Federated Conservationists of Westchester County Program Director Anne Jaffe Holmes. "The health problems and economic challenges associated with poor air quality in urban communities will be immediately and measurably alleviated with the addition of electric buses."

Early in his administration County Executive Latimer announced that Westchester's Bee-Line bus fleet would be expanding with 78 diesel-electric 60-foot buses, 40 diesel-electric 40-foot buses and two full-electric busses. The diesel-electric buses and the full-electric busses have been credited with already saving the county over one million gallons of fuel, while preventing 18,400 tons of greenhouse gas emissions from polluting the environment.

The state's announcement of the grant Tuesday is part of a larger announcement where Gov. Andrew Cuomo designated \$14.2 million in new state funding to 13 counties, cities and regional authorities to modernize and enhance municipally-sponsored public transportation services.

This state-funded initiative, which is part of a larger \$435 million, five-year commitment to upstate and downstate suburban communities, will reportedly enhance consumer convenience through the modernization of shelters; deployment of new contactless fare collection systems; and procurement of new accessible clean-fuel vehicles.

The Gazette

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**May Tierney
Editor**

Letters

To the editor:

Riverkeeper's campaign to "Bring The Mighty Hudson Back to Life" will be the topic of Paul Gallay's presentation at Sunday's (February 9) Care for Creation monthly environmental program. The program will be held in Room 3 of Holy Name of Mary's Parish Center, lower level, at 3 p.m. There is no charge. Light refreshments will be served.

The River in Our Life, the one we take for granted every day, has been in trouble since the first settlers arrived. It served as an open sewer for many years before the Hudson River Fisherman's Association brought suit against its polluters. You couldn't fish in it, you couldn't swim in it and you certainly could not drink it.

Global warming will certainly see the river shore change. Not only will there be storm surges to deal with but higher water in general. Remember that Metro-North Commuter Railroad is electrified with a third rail. The railroad's signals and communications have been storm hardened but the roadbed and station platforms and overpasses must be raised at great cost to keep things moving. I recently watched a high tide bring salt water up to the running rails. Will future Hudson River rail service be scheduled around high tides?

For 55 years Riverkeeper has been our advocate for a healthy river. Its members have helped restore New York's waterways and watersheds with cleanups and working with state and federal officials about water quality problems. Among the tasks taken up are:

--Opposed the Army Corps of Engineers storm surge barriers at the mouth of the river.

--Opposed the Hudson River Marine anchorage proposal.

--Opposed the continued operation of the Indian Point nuclear power plant and was influential in its planned shut down.

--Opposed the use of plastic bags and containers.

or view it on the village's cable channel 78. This way, all Croton stakeholders can be educated together. And it is together that we must move forward, as a community and as individuals, to reduce our communal carbon footprint in 10520!

To change everything, we need everyone!

Respectfully,

**Sherry Horowitz, Trustee,
Village of Croton-on-Hudson**

To the editor:

The Board of Trustees for the Village of Croton held a public hearing Monday night on a revised version of the proposed changes to the zoning code regarding the Municipal Place Gateway Overlay Zone and North Riverside Avenue area that were updated in response to feedback from public comments at last year's public hearings.

I appreciate everyone that has taken part in this process, whether by correspondence with the board, by comments at Monday's public hearing or the two public hearings held in 2019 or by taking part in the public workshops last spring.

The board has sought to address some of these concerns by revising the draft laws. These changes include:

--1. An extension to properties on Beekman Avenue of the requirement for a 50-foot vegetated buffer along Wells Avenue.

--2. A reduction in the maximum allowable floor area ratio (FAR), the ratio of a building's total floor area to the size of the piece of land upon which it is built, for the Katz property from .8 to .5.

The proposed local laws will allow for three-story, mixed-use construction in the Municipal Place Gateway and parts of North Riverside Avenue that are already zoned commercial (including Katz). It also reduces the permissible size of new construction, the FAR, on some parts of North Riverside and Brook Street as residential to better reflect the existing environment.

The proposed local laws will not change the 35-foot height maximum or the legal protections for scenic views of the Hudson River that exist in the zoning code. Also unchanged are the setback requirements for properties that abut residential properties.

To the editor:



'Beautiful Sunset'

**Rob Shepperson
Croton-on-Hudson**

9--still burdening our roads, still adding to local air pollution but not contributing to the tax base and rarely, if ever, patronizing local businesses.

We also need to encourage mixed-use development that encourages walkability. By putting homes near businesses, we can reduce the number of vehicle trips people take, mitigating air pollution and promoting public health and exercise. Similarly, by creating walkable mixed-use areas, we create a natural customer base for local businesses and support shopping local.

The village applied this concept in Harmon through rezoning several years ago. At the time this was controversial. We are now seeing positive results in Harmon with new business and housing opportunities for our community.

Residents have valid concerns about how growth could affect traffic and quality of life. The Board of Trustees has sought to address some of those concerns in our revisions to the proposed local laws. If these local laws are adopted, we will use the Request for Proposals process and work with the Planning Board to make sure any and all proposals are as much of a win for our community as Harmon rezoning has been.

Sincerely,

Brian Pugh, Mayor,

primary. June 23 is the primary for Congress and the New York State Assembly and Senate.

If you need to register to vote, you can download and print a voter registration form at elections.ny.gov. You must also use the same form in order to change your party affiliation or your address.

Here are the deadlines:

--New voters must register by April 3 to vote in the presidential primary, and by May 29 in order to vote in the congressional and New York State primary.

--To change your party affiliation the deadline is February 14 for both primaries.

--To change your address, the deadline is April 8 for the presidential primary and June 3 for the congressional and New York State primary.

Your vote is your voice. Make it count!

Celeste Theis, Yorktown

County to expand hybrid bus fleet

Westchester County has been awarded \$3 million by the state to put toward the purchase of additional hybrid-electric buses.