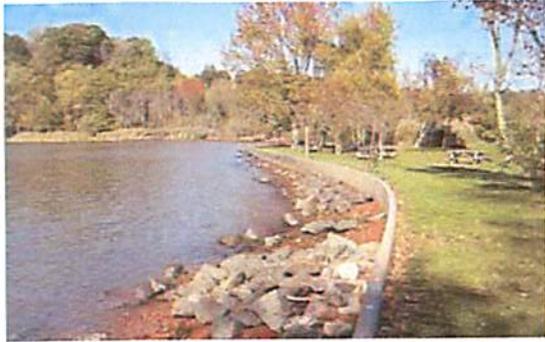


PROGRAM



Co-sponsor



Sunday, July 28th 2013
3:00PM - 9:30PM
George's Island
Westchester County Park
Live music, games, craft fair and food!
Fireworks Display!

Happy Birthday

Town of Cortlandt!

Town of Cortlandt

Supervisor

Linda D. Puglisi

Town Board Members:

Richard H. Becker

Francis X. Farrell

Ann Lindau-Martin

John E. Sloan

The 225th Celebration Committee:

Linda Puglisi, Chairperson Ken Sherman

Frank Farrell Ken Hoch

John Palmiotto Jeff Canning

Jeff Coleman Tony Fareed

Claudia Vahey Marc Hiltsey

Holly Haight Mike Vaccaro

Judi Peterson Shari Gordon

Sharon Palmiotto Jim Creighton

Karen McIntyre Michael Huvane

Nicole Kelly Laura Lee Keating

Rosemary Boyle Lasher Tracy Straub

“ I am proud and honored to be celebrating the establishment of the Town of Cortlandt 225 years ago today July 28th, 2013. Along with other communities throughout New York State, Cortlandt was formally decreed to be a Town on March 7th, 1788, by an act of state legislature and signed by New York State Governor George Clinton. Philip VanCortlandt became the first Town Supervisor on April 1st, 1788. On this day we celebrate the rich history and heritage of this wonderful community.”

-Linda Puglisi, Supervisor

Thank You ...

A special thank you to Westchester County government, Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino, Westchester County Board of Legislatures, Westchester County Parks Department and Metro-North. Thank you to all participating craft fair vendors, food vendors, entertainment, games, performers as well as all our supporting volunteers whom made this day possible.

Thank you to our Town Supervisor Linda Puglisi and Town Board members for sponsoring this event. Thank you to all participating Town of Cortlandt staff and members of the 225th Celebration Committee and to our many volunteers.

A heartfelt appreciation to our New York State troopers and Westchester County police for ensuring the safety of our community as well as assisting in the effort to keep our event running smoothly. Thank you to all emergency personnel for providing any immediate care and assistance throughout the entire celebration!

Thank you to the “19th Century Living Historians” Garrett Dowd, Polly Byers, Craig Keating and our historians Laura Lee Keating and Jeff Canning.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to:

- Entergy, for co-sponsoring this event
- Wal-Mart
- LaFarge
- Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce
- Acadia, owners of the Cortlandt Town Center
- Montrose Deli
- Angela's Deli
- Curt's Homestead Farm
- Marcello's Pizza and Deli
- Tarrytown Vets Drum and Bugle Corps

For all their support and donations !

225th Celebration Map

Entertainment

3:00-3:30pm - Tarrytown Vets Drum and Bugle Corps lead the Opening March

to the Ceremonies and kick-off with the Living History Education Foundation

3:30-4:00pm - "Dixie Dandies" Dixie Land Band

4:00- 5:00pm - "Unfunded Mandate" - located on Stage 2

5:00-6:00pm - "Jessica Lynn" - located on Stage 1

7:30-9:00pm - "Dirty Stay Out" - located on Stage 1

DJ Mikey D will be playing great tunes throughout the day



Other Performances

4:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:00pm and 7:00pm - "The Hudson River Ramblers" will be performed by Jonathan Kruk, a well renowned active storyteller throughout the Hudson Valley. Located behind the softball field near the river. (1/2 hour shows)

5:30pm and 6:30pm- David Levitan will perform his magnificent magical acts. Located behind the softball field near the river and will alternate with the storytelling (1/2 hour shows)

Games



(All games will be located on the softball field)

4:30-4:45pm - 3-Legged Race

4:45-5:00pm - Dizzy Bat Spin

5:00-5:15pm - Over/Under Balloon Relay

5:15-5:30pm- Water Balloon Toss

5:30- 6:00pm - Cup of Water Relay

6:30-6:45pm - Freeze Dance

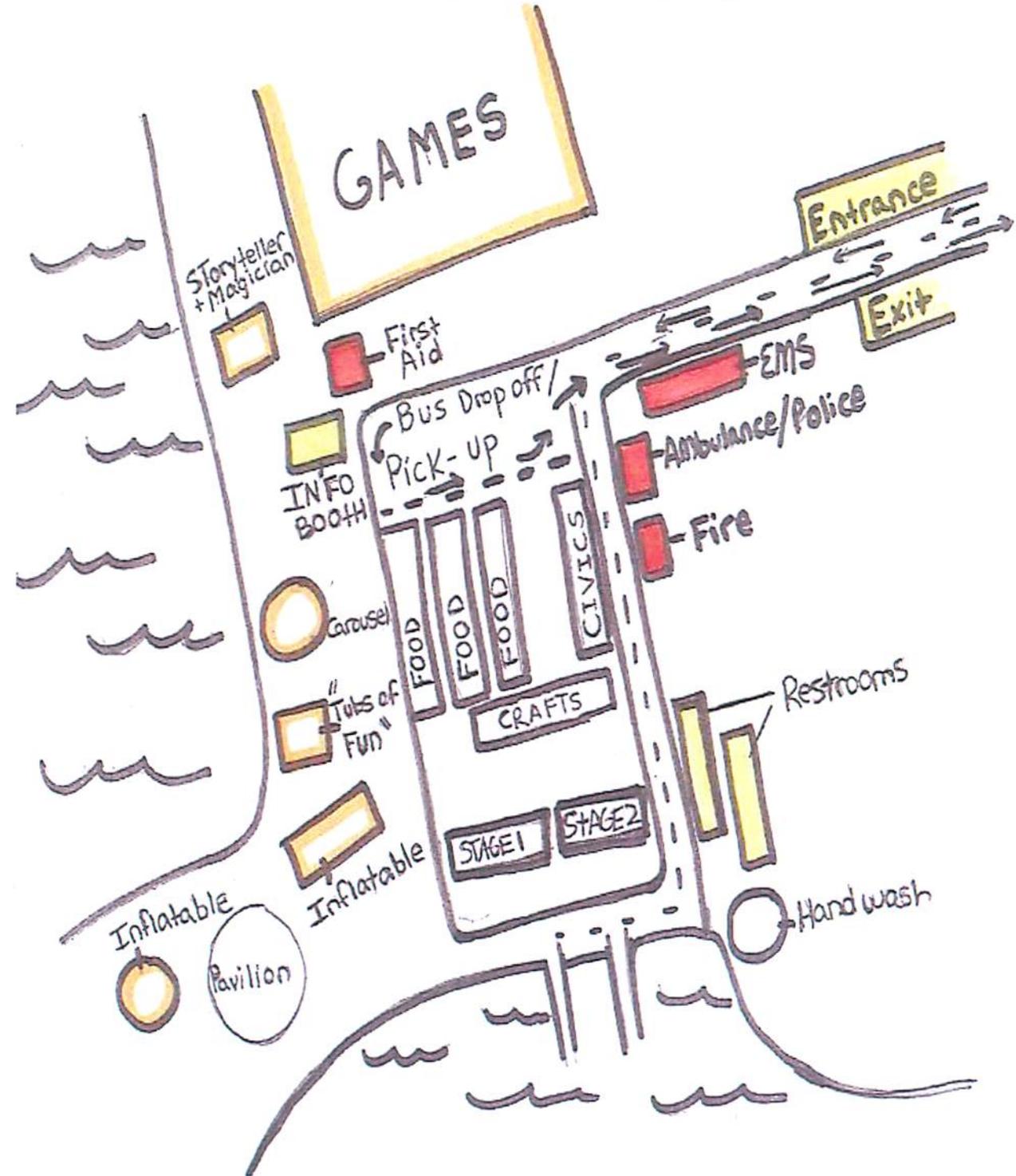
6:45-7:00pm - Football Toss (Accuracy)

7:00- 7:15pm - Hoola Hoop Contest

7:30-7:45pm - Wooden Spoon Egg Race

7:45-8:00pm - Sack Races

FIREWORKS WILL COMMENCE AT APPROXIMATELY 9:00PM!



In June, 1779, British Captain John Andre received the surrender of Fort Lafayette on Verplanck's Point. Andre, now a major, returned in September 1780 to meet across the river near the Haverstraw waterfront with traitorous American General Benedict Arnold about the betrayal of West Point to the British. After cannon fire from Croton Point drove away his ship *Vulture*, Andre returned to Verplanck via the King's Ferry to begin his fateful journey to capture in Tarrytown and execution in Tappan.

In 1781, thousands of American troops and their French allies crossed from Verplanck to the north side of Stony Point on their way to final victory over the British that October at Yorktown, Virginia. A year later, they re-crossed the river to Verplanck in triumph. Eight of the French soldiers died at Old Saint Peter's Church, which was being used as a military hospital. Both the church and the Verplanck waterfront are designed highlights along the new National Historic Trail known as the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route.

Along with other communities throughout New York State, Cortlandt was formally incorporated as a Town on March 7, 1788, by an act of the state Legislature that was signed by Governor George Clinton. During the new municipality's first election, April 1, 1788, Philip Van Cortlandt was chosen as the first Supervisor. John Paulding, one of the captors of Major Andre, who received a farm in Crompond from a grateful new nation, was elected collector of taxes, one of five fence viewers and one of four pound masters.



1749-1831

Philip Van Cortlandt
First Supervisor for the
Town of Cortlandt
1788

THE ORIGINS OF THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT

Written by Jeff Canning
Town of Cortlandt History Advisor

The Town of Cortlandt, named for the Van Cortlandt family, is located in the northwestern corner of Westchester County in Southeastern New York State. It is bounded on the west by the Hudson River, the north by Putnam County, the east by the Town of Yorktown and on the south by the Towns of New Castle and Ossining. Cortlandt includes two incorporated villages, Croton-on-Hudson and Buchanan, and a few hamlets, the largest of which are Crugers, Montrose and Verplanck. It wraps around the city of Peekskill, which was part of the Town until 1940. The Town, including its villages, had 41,592 residents, according to the 2010 census, and they live in 15,962 housing units. (*“Geographic Identifiers: 2010 Demographic Profile Data (G001): Cortlandt town, Westchester County, New York.” U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder. http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10_DP/G001600000US3611918410.) Topographically, Cortlandt covers 50 square miles, including 10 square miles of water, and its elevation ranges from the water level of the Hudson to 900 feet above sea level (Anthony's Nose).*

About a billion years ago, igneous and metamorphic rock formed the Hudson Highlands at the northern end of the Town. About 200 million years ago, increasing pressure beneath the earth's crust led to an earthquake and volcanic activity in what is now northeastern New Jersey. The liquid rock (magma) that was forced between the sedimentary rocks of the region remains today as the Palisades. During succeeding millions of years, the stream that would become today's Hudson River began to trickle out of the Highlands and along the eastern edge of the magma flow. Beginning a million years ago, the glaciers of the Ice Age scooped out a deeper and wider channel for the Hudson. The ice retreated between 18,000 and 14,000 years ago, leaving the area with the basic physical arrangement it has today.

Native Americans found the Hudson River Valley a good place to hunt, farm and fish. South of the Catskill Mountains the valley was inhabited by autonomous bands of Lenape people (later known as Delaware Indians). In the Cortlandt area, the Kitchawank band ranged from the Kitchawan (Croton) River north to the present site of the Bear Mountain Bridge. The Lenape bands belonged to the Algonquian language family, which encompassed much of North America.

In 1609, seeking the fabled Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean and Asia, Henry (Hendrick) Hudson, an English sea captain in the service of the Dutch, sailed his ship, *De Halve Maen (Half Moon)*, into what is now New York Harbor in early September and pushed north up the tidal river that some Native Americans called Mahicanittuck, or "Tidal River of the Mahicans". By the time Hudson reached what is now Albany, he realized that this narrowing "River of the Mountains" was not the passage he sought. He turned back in late September, never to return.

Nearly half a century after Hudson explored the river that now bears his name a Nieuw Amsterdam (now New York) trader, Jan Peek (often spelled Peeck), established a post for trading furs with the Native Americans at Blue Rock on what is now the Hollow Brook around 1655. The site, about a mile upstream from the Hudson, was near the present-day pumping facility for the Peekskill water system at Dogwood and Pumphouse Roads, and the stream became known as Peek's Creek or, in Dutch, Peek's Kill. Whether Peek was misled by the creek's wide mouth (and greater depth than at present) into thinking the tributary was the Hudson or deliberately selected the upstream site for his new venture is a matter of debate, but, as noted in the 1976 book *Historic Van Cortlandtville*, Blue Rock was "a respectable distance from an Indian settlement at Roa Hook, and well out of sight of river traffic and the authorities." The book adds that "Peek, a tavern keeper with a ready supply of liquor, was probably not adverse to some illicit trade with the natives."

Whatever his motive, Peek's trading post became the nucleus of the earliest European settlement in the area, and the village that grew around it took its name from him, as Emma L. Patterson noted in her 1944 book, *Peekskill in the American Revolution*.

Peek's primary enterprise was his tavern near what is now Pearl Street in lower Manhattan. By the late 1650's he also had a thriving real estate business in Nieuw Amsterdam. He and his wife, Marie du Trieux Volkertsen, a widow who he married in 1650 and an enterprising businesswoman in her own right, had 10 children. In the 1660's, after repeated run-ins with authorities, they moved to the Albany area.

In 1677, Stephanus Van Cortlandt (1643-1700), a prominent New York merchant, soldier, jurist and legislator, began acquiring land in this area. Stephanus was the son of Oloff Van Cortlandt, the first of the family to come to America, arriving in Nieuw Amsterdam from Holland in 1638.

Historians have traced the Van Cortlandt family to the Duchy of Courland in what is now Russia, from which their name was derived. In 1697, a swath totaling 86,123 acres, or nearly 135 square miles, was erected as the Manor of Cortlandt by royal patent from King William III of England. The new manor included the entire area bounded by the Croton River on the south, the Hudson River on the west, what is now Putnam County on the north and Connecticut on the east (except for two tracts in the Peekskill area totaling 2,100 acres). All or part of the modern towns of Cortlandt, Yorktown, Somers, North Salem, Lewisboro and Pound Ridge were part of the sprawling manor, along with 1,500 acres across the Hudson in the Haverstraw area.

Rather than passing property to the eldest son, the Van Cortlandts provided that each child share in an inheritance. As a result, within a couple of generations, the manor of Stephanus was fragmented among many heirs. In 1752, Andrew Johnston (or Johnson), who had married Catherine Van Cortlandt, sold six acres in the Van Cortlandtville area to three local men with the proviso that the land could be used only for religious or educational activities. The land, at the intersection of modern Oregon Road and Locust Avenue, gave rise in 1767 to what is now Old Saint Peter's Episcopal Church and, in 1772, a neighboring Baptist church that is now the site of the Little Red Schoolhouse.

The Revolutionary War came to the Hudson Valley in the 1770s. In March 1777, a British fleet appeared around Croton Point on its way toward Peekskill Bay, where a landing party destroyed food and other supplies of local revolutionaries before being beaten back by an outnumbered American force in Van Cortlandtville. The skirmish occurred near the Upper Manor House of the Van Cortlandts, who supported the cause of American independence and hosted General George Washington during his visits to the area.

The British returned in October, landing in Verplanck before crossing the river under cover of fog to overrun and lay waste Forts Clinton and Montgomery (at the western end of the Bear Mountain Bridge) and, a few days later, burned the American mills at Continental Village.