



Community Notification System Implemented

Croton's contract with Connect-CTY to provide a communications outreach service to residents and train station parking permit holders has begun to be implemented. You should shortly receive a phone call testing the new mass notification service.

The first message you receive will simply tell you about what you can expect. The Connect-CTY service will be utilized to tell you about important, time-sensitive, issues affecting you. The messages from the Village may contain information and directions regarding issues such as street closures, parking lot closures, special events, water shutoffs, power outages, a missing child, etc. You may already be familiar with this type of notification as it is similar to one currently being used by the Croton-Harmon School District called Connect-ED.

The Connect-CTY system will be augmenting Croton's primary emergency services and existing communication channels to keep you better informed.

The initial phone call is a test of the phone number that the Village has available for you supplied by Connect-CTY.

It is intended that every residence and commercial location will be included in the notification database. For residents, more than one number may be stored in the database at your request including your cell phone number. Email addresses may also be added to the database for notifications. In general, only the primary number will be called unless you request otherwise or a priority notification is sent of by the Village. Adding a phone number or email address is easy. From the Village Home page (www.crotononhudson-ny.gov) click on the box that says "Click Here for One-step Notification" on the left side. A menu will appear that guides

you to adding your information. If you do not have internet access, you can fill out your information on the attached sheet and mail it back to the Village. Connect-CTY does not sell, trade, lease or loan any data about clients to third parties. In order to recognize an incoming notification call, your caller-id will display the "Village of Croton" and the department number. All calls will begin with a standard announcement saying "Hello, this is (Dept. head) calling with an important message from the Village of Croton-on-Hudson" followed by the message content.

Only authorized personnel will be able to send messages. Not every situation calls for notification of the entire village. Sub-groups can be established to narrow the number of calls to those who are affected by a situation. Calls can also be narrowed through a mapping function that can limit calls to a specific neighborhood or street. In addition, the system can also be used within departments to send messages to employees (ex. the DPW calling in employees for a snow emergency).

However, it is recognized by the Village that public notification should be used with discretion so that the importance of a message is not diluted because the system has been over-used.

There are three types of messages for which the Connect-CTY system may be used.:

- Community Outreach - general announcements to each primary phone number (and email if available).
- Priority Messages - sent to all of the listed phone numbers (primary and secondary and email addresses)
- Single Survey - enables recipients to respond to an option or question by using the telephone keypad.

May Calendar

- 5 & 19** Village Board Mtg.
- 13 & 27** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 7** Cons. Advisory Council
- 13** Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 14** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 21** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 26** Memorial Day

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Croton Auxiliary Police

The Village is fortunate to be served by an excellent volunteer organization known as the Croton Auxiliary Police. The Auxiliary Police are utilized to assist regular department officers in times of emergency such as storms, traffic accidents and other situations in which additional manpower is needed for pedestrian and vehicular traffic control. They also provide traffic control at school functions, at Village events such as Summerfest, and at Halloween activities. They meet on a monthly basis.

Auxiliary Capt. Lynn Sorenson recently announced that former Aux. Sgt. Erin Holly is now serving as a Police Officer with the Mt. Vernon Police Dept. Several other Aux. Officers are studying Police Science or are on Civil Service lists hoping to join regular departments.

The Auxiliary Police are proud to be an addition to the Croton-on-Hudson Police Dept. and to have earned the respect of the law enforcement community and the residents.

The Dept. welcomes new members from the Village of Croton, School or Fire Districts who are willing to commit themselves to this organization. Equipment and training are provided by the Dept. Please call 271-5177 for additional information and to obtain an application.

Paul Hoffman 1933-2008

Longtime Acting Village Justice, Paul Hoffman, passed away on March 24, 2008. Paul was born in Harrisburg, PA. He was a veteran of the 82nd Airborne, graduated from Gettysburg College in 1957 and Harvard Law School in 1962.

Paul was a former Village Trustee and served on the Croton-Harmon School Board. In addition to being Acting Judge for the Village, he had a law practice focused on software contracts. Paul was also a member of the Rotary Club, Croton Caring Committee Board and the Croton Yacht Club. In addition to his wife, Pat, Paul is survived by three children and 17 grandchildren.

Compost Bin Sale

The County is holding its Compost Bin Sale Day on Sat., May 17th from 9am to 2 pm, rain or shine, at Saxon Woods Park in White Plains. Two types of bins are for sale for \$20/\$40 along with professional advice. Reserve your bin by May 16 and get a FREE kitchen scrap bucket. Reservation forms are online at www.westchestergov.com/environment_recycling.htm.

Croton Landing Update

Work at Croton Landing is occurring on pace to meet an expected opening of the new Riverwalk by late summer 2008. The new multi-use field will also be graded and seeded by early summer but, due to the need for the new turf to have a year to grow-in and establish itself, the field will not be available for use until 2009. The Recreation and Parks Dept. will determine its availability and scheduling.



Re-graded multi-use field

The paving of the walkway and the extensive new landscaping will proceed during May and June from north to south. When completed the Riverwalk will extend 2300 feet (almost a half mile) north of the existing Riverwalk trail. At the southern end of Croton Landing, new parking is being added with some 42 spaces planned. A fence, providing a safety separation of the park from the CSX-owned rail tracks, will extend along the adjacent property line from north to south. Funding for the Riverwalk, in excess of \$1.5 million is from Westchester County. Creation of the field, added parking and a bathroom facility are partially funded through a NYS Parks & Recreation grant obtained in 2005.



Parking area, looking south

Seniors Install New Officers

New officers for the Croton Seniors were sworn in at the annual Installation Luncheon held on Thursday, April 17th at Travelers' Rest in Yorktown. New President Marion Cusano took over from past President Ray DiCioccio. Linda Whalen is the new Vice President while John Giglio, Jean Kraemer and Lou Balazs return as Treasurer, Secretary and Ass't. Treasurer respectively.

The Seniors Club continues to grow with 162 active members. Regular meetings are on Fridays at the Harmon Fire House. Coffee and doughnuts are available from 11 am. Membership is open to all residents including school district who are 60 years or older.



Reminder!

**Village Offices will be closed for Memorial Day
on Mon. May 26th**



Spotlight on Tom Levins

Tom Levins is one of Croton's newest employees. Tom was hired in the Laborer position in December, 2007. In that position he says he does "everything and anything".

Every day he is assigned to public works jobs around the Village as needed. He hasn't been assigned to the sanitation detail yet but expects to soon after completing the necessary safety training. Since his employment, Tom has earned his CDL permit, the first step in getting a CDL license allowing him to drive heavy trucks. The Village's sanitation and leaf trucks are in this category.

Prior to coming to Croton's DPW, Tom worked in a civil engineer position for the Division of Military and Naval Affairs at Stewart air base - a NYS position. In that job

he worked primarily in plumbing. His desire to enter into the public works field led him to apply, and eventually be hired, by Croton's DPW.

Prior to his employment by the State, Tom was an enlisted Navy man. He was a "hull technician" for aircraft carriers for 2 years, spending 6 months at sea on the USS George Washington. From there, he attended the Naval Training Center and learned about pipes, welding, water and sanitary systems. From there he moved to Norfolk, VA where he served 2 more years in Assault Craft Unit 4 which specializes in hover crafts. He maintained the hover crafts from a ship in the Persian Gulf and, for 6 months, performed support operations bringing Marines on shore into Kuwait for in-

sertion into Iraq. He completed his Naval service in December 2005.

Tom grew up in Peekskill and graduated from Peekskill High School where he was a member of the high school swim team.

After leaving the Navy, he moved back to Peekskill. Even though this makes for a very easy commute to work, he hopes to be able to move even closer by finding a place in Amherlands.

Tom looks forward to taking on more responsibilities at the DPW and making it his career. In his spare time he enjoys time with friends and family. He likes the outdoors and enjoys hiking and would like to travel.



"People in Croton appreciate the work and you see it when out on jobs. It is very rewarding."

Tom Levins

Moody's AI Rating for Croton

Moody's Investor Service has assigned an AI rating to the Village of Croton-on-Hudson's \$1.4 million Public Improvement Serial Bonds. At the same time, Moody's has also affirmed the AI rating on the Village's \$13.9 million of outstanding general obligation debt. The bonds are secured by the Village's unlimited tax pledge and will fund various capital projects including sidewalk, street and road repairs. According to Moody's, the "AI rating reflects the Village's well-managed financial operations with ample reserves; wealthy, moderately sized economic base marked by recent reductions in taxable value and a manageable debt position."

Croton's total outstanding debt is \$14.9 million.

Moody's expects that the Village's moderately-sized \$1.27 billion tax base will continue to benefit from a healthy rate of market appreciation despite limited new development and continuing tax appeals which will likely keep assessed valuations from growing significantly. Taxable values are essentially flat over the last 5 years after successful tax appeals and a change in the calculation of special franchise assessments decreasing the assessed valuation of utility franchises.

Summerfest

Mark your calendars! Croton's Annual Summerfest kicks off the summer season on Sunday, June 1st. The Summerfest parade kicks off at 1 pm in the Upper Village and the fun continues through 6 pm. Join your friends and neighbors in enjoying the delicious foods, street vendors and wonderful entertainment throughout the day. Live music will be playing all afternoon.



Verizon Negotiations

On the advice of the Village Attorney, the Village Board has engaged the firm of Miller & Van Eaton P.L.L.C. to assist with the cable franchise negotiations with Verizon at an estimated cost of \$30,000. Verizon must have a franchise agreement with the Village prior to providing cable service here. Village attorney James Staudt has advised the Board that specialized counsel would benefit the village by assuring the most beneficial outcome for the Village and for residents. Three proposals were received and evaluated.

Reminder! The Community Blood Drive is Sun., May 4th from 9 am to 3 pm at Croton-Harmon High School. Call 271-5529 for information and/or an appointment.

May, 2008

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

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Susan Konig, Trustee
Richard B. Olver, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Acting Village Manager
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2
www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Got a Question?



I just moved to Croton and want to buy a boat to take advantage of living on the Hudson River. What should I know about the regulations for storing it at home? Can I put it in the River from Senasqua Park?

Storage of boats in residential areas is subject to Chapter 230-49.B of the Village Code. It specifies that one boat may be parked on an occupied lot as long as it is not nearer than 8 feet to either the side or rear yard lot lines and not more than 20 feet from the rear yard lot line.



Ramp passes are available which allow a boat owner to use the ramp at Senasqua Park Boat Basin on a daily basis. The \$140/\$195 (res/nonres)

fee is for the entire season.

If you don't want to park your boat at your home, there are water mooring spots available at the Boat Basin as well as land-storage spots. There is also rack storage for the smaller sunfish boats. The water

mooring fees vary according to the length of the boat. They range from \$465 (res.) for a 15' - 20' boat up to \$635 for a 37'1" - 46' boat. Non-resident fees are more.



Croton's Recreation and Parks Dept. also offers other opportunities to get out on the Hudson River. Jet skis and windsurfing permits are also available. Fees are discounted for registrants who are over 60, with proof of age and residency.

The Croton Sailing School is also located at Senasqua Boat Basin. Privately run by Harbor master Steve Jennings, the school offers hands-on sailing instruction including Learn to Sail, and Coastal Cruising, Bareboat Cruising and Navigation. All courses offer American Sailing Assoc. certification. Captain charters are also available. A fleet of 24', 26' and 34' yachts are available at the boat basin. You may also sail on your own with the Croton Sailing Club. Discounts are available for Croton residents. For more information, contact the school at 271-6868 or go to www.crotonsailing.com.

