

The Croton-on-Hudson Village Newsletter

May 2003

Number 50

MAY Calendar

- 5 & 27 Village Board Mtg.
- 6 & 27 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 7 Conservation Advisory Council
- 14 Zoning Board
- 21 Water Control Commission
- 26 Memorial Day

Ground Breaking Ceremony for Schools School and Village Officials Mark the Event

The beginning of a long-awaited School District construction project was marked by the official ground-breaking ceremony on April 8th. Led by Superintendent Marjorie Castro and School Board President Diane Skalak, gleaming new shovels were used to make the symbolic first hole in the earth. Help was provided by kindergartners in bright yellow construction hats.



Members of the Croton School Board, Village Board, Superintendent Castro, Village Manager Herbek and students at the groundbreaking ceremony on April 8.

The construction project marked by this event will eventually lead to additions and renovations to CE Tompkins Elementary School, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School and the Croton-Harmon High

School.

Village officials attended the event to endorse the project and show their support for continuing cooperation between the Village and its schools. Many aspects of Village life are the result of co-

operation between the two entities. Examples of these efforts are the use of each other's facilities such as fields and rooms, the sharing of some program costs, and regular meetings between both Boards for coordination and information purposes.

Work on the Elementary and Middle Schools is scheduled

to begin in May of this year and the High School construction will begin in December. Completion for CET is anticipated to be in August, 2004, in November, 2004 for PVC Middle School, and August, 2005 for the High School.

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Croton's Council Manager Form of Government

In 1971, Croton adopted the Council-Manager form of government. This form of government balances the job of local government between a professional manager and an elected body which includes a Mayor and Trustees. According to the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the Council-Manager form of government is the most popular form of government in the U.S. in communities with populations of 5,000 or greater. This form of government, first adopted in Staunton, VA in 1908, has been implemented in different variations in different states and around the world.

The Council-Manager form of government is based on the tenet that communities need

thoughtful, dedicated council members, who work with the Mayor to establish appropriate policy, and competent, professional managers to carry out those policies. It frees up the elected body to establish policy, which is carried out by an appointed manager and an administrative staff. The manager is accountable to the entire council for the implementation of council policy and the day-to-day administration of municipal affairs. The mayor, council and manager constitute a policy development and management team.

The alternative form of local government is known as the "strong mayor" form in which political and administrative power is concen-

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Council-Manager Government Cont'd.

trated in the mayor.

The following paragraph summarizes the function of the council, the mayor and the manager in the Council-Manager form of government:



Manager Herbek, Trustees Grant, Schmidt, McCarthy and Wiegman and Mayor Elliott

The Council

The council is the legislative body, the community's decision makers. They approve the budget, determine the tax rate, and adopt local laws. They also focus on the community's goals, major projects and long-term considerations such as growth, land use development, capital improvement plans and financing, and strategic planning. It is the council that hires the manager. They also use their position to promote good community relations and to enlist support from other local leaders in business, education and religion.

The Mayor

The Mayor is the key political leader and policy developer. Typically the mayor presides at council meetings, serves as a spokesperson for the community, facilitates communication and understanding between elected and appointed officials, assists the

council in setting goals and policy decisions. In addition, the mayor serves as a key representative in intergovernmental relations. The mayor is also responsible for appointing boards and committees and coordinating their work.

The Manager

The manager is hired by the council to bring to the local government the benefits of training and experience in administering local government projects and programs on behalf of the council. The manager prepares a budget for council consideration, recruits, hires, and supervises the government's staff, conducts negotiations, serves as the council's chief advisor, and carries out the council's policies, and other duties they may require. An important job of the manager is to provide the council with objective information on issues and projects, pros and cons of alternatives and long-term consequences. The manager makes policy recommendations to the council but is bound by whatever action the council takes.



Fire Chiefs Installation

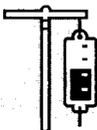


From left, 2nd Ass't. Chief Diggs, Chief Dominello, Mayor Elliott

The Fire Department's Annual Installation of its Chiefs was held on April 14th at Washington Engine Company. Chief Stephen Dominello was sworn in by Mayor Elliott for his second year as Chief as was Second Ass't. Chief Gary Diggs. First Ass't. Chief Bill Vlad was unable to attend.

Community Blood Program

The Community Blood Drive will be on Sunday, May 18th from 9 to 3. Donors must be over 17 but not yet 76, at least 110 pounds and healthy. For an appt. call JoAnn Fannon, 271-5529 or Rosalind Morrissey, 271-8449.



Spotlight on Anthony Tramaglini

This month Anthony 'Tony' Tramaglini will complete 32 years as a member of Croton's Police Dept. Starting as a Patrolman, Tony is now a Lieutenant of the Detective Division, in charge of all investigations.

Along with other members of the Dept., Tony follows up on all crimes in Croton including examining evidence at the scene, looking for clues, interviewing people and doing any needed fingerprinting. Also, on any

crime committed elsewhere, if the investigation leads into Croton, he will be called for support. Tony is also Executive Lieutenant for the Police Dept. which means that, in the Chief's absence, he assumes those responsibilities. Additionally, he is the Police Dept.'s liaison to the County Homeland Security Intelligence Task Force.

Extensive paper work is part of the job—both writing reports and reviewing those written by others. Normal office

hours often don't apply as he is called out when a crime occurs that needs his attention. Providing information and follow up to the District Attorney who prosecutes in our court is another aspect of the job.

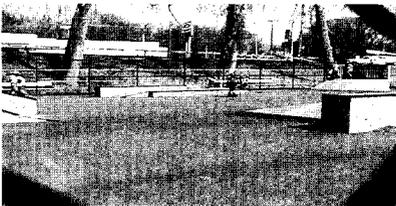
Tony grew up in Croton, went to Croton schools, married a Croton girl, Anna, and has two children, Lisa and Anthony. Any spare time is spent with his family and on projects around his home.



"It's very rewarding working in my hometown. The greatest thing about the Dept. is the team work"

Tony Tramaglini

Skatepark Reopens!



After the long Winter months of waiting, Croton's youth are at last able to enjoy their Skatepark again. It reopened on April 14th for the season. Hours through May are:

Weekdays 3-6 PM

Weekends/Holidays 10-6 PM

These hours are weather dependent.

Senior News

May will be a busy month for Croton Seniors with the Installation of their new officers on May 6th, and a Lobster Fest at the Log Cabin Inn on May 20th. Call the Recreation office at 271-5804 on M/W/F for details. There will also be an AARP Defensive Driving course on May 7th and 14th which you can sign up for. The 6 hour course costs \$35.

Remember regular meetings are on Fridays at 11am in the Community Room. Dues are only \$6/yr and can be paid at the meeting. Volunteers are needed to help set up coffee, for phone chains and to meet and greet new members.

HELP WANTED

Applications are now available for positions with the Parks & Recreation Dept.'s summer programs. Call the Dept. at 271-3006 to get an application and to arrange an interview. Must be 16 for paid positions.

Compost News

Due to the early snow last Fall and the long winter, last year's leaves have only recently been put into their composting bags. According to DPW Superintendent Ken Kraft, it should be available for your use sometime in the autumn. We'll let you know in the Newsletter.



We're on the Web. Visit us at [Http://village-croton-on-Hudson.ny.us/](http://village-croton-on-Hudson.ny.us/)

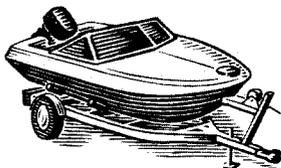
Got a Question?

I am thinking of buying a boat which I will store at home. Are there any rules that I should be aware of?

Boats are defined as motor vehicles in Croton's code, along with cars, trucks, motorcycles and house trailers. This essentially includes all devices that are propelled by motors by which a person or property may be drawn upon a public highway. There are rules that apply to each of these.

Storage of boats is permitted in one's yard as long as it is no closer than 8' to either the side or rear yard line and not more than 20' from the rear yard line.

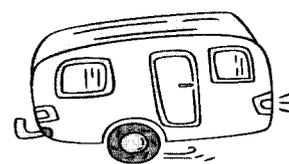
All motor vehicles must comply with the following rules. No 'junked vehicle' may be stored on



residential property. A junked vehicle is defined as one without current valid license plates and is in either rusted, wrecked, discarded, dismantled, partly dismantled, inoperative or abandoned condition. However, a resident who owns a currently unlicensed motor vehicle may store it on their premises as long as it is not in 'junked vehicle' condition.

Only one commercial vehicle, which must weigh less than 3/4 of a ton, may be parked in a residential district.

Use of house trailers is prohibited in all residential districts and no hookups to any power source is permitted.



Reminder

Village Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day

May 2003



Bulk Rate
Permit No. 1
Carrier Route
Pre-Sort
Croton-on-Hudson
New York 10520

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

Robert W. Elliott, Mayor

Georgianna K. Grant, Trustee

Deborah Y. McCarthy, Trustee

Gregory J. Schmidt, Trustee

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager

Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building

One Van Wyck Street

(914) 271-4781-2

Postal Patron

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520