



April Calendar

- 5 & 19** Village Board Mtg.
- 12** Budget Public Hearing
- 13 & 27** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 7** Cons. Advisory Council
- 13** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 14** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 21** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 28** Trails Committee

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Connect CTY - The Community Notification System

The severe snow storm the Village experienced in late February highlighted the important role that Connect CTY can play in local emergencies. During the 5-day period during which there were significant power outages throughout the Village, timely information on the status of repairs were sent out to the phone numbers and email addresses that the Village has for residents.

Connect CTY is primarily utilized to publicize events, notify residents of changes in DPW schedules, and advise people with parking permits of parking lot conditions. These are categorized as Community Outreach Messages. The messages sent during the snow emergency were categorized as Priority Messages. This recent storm event was the first time it was used during an emergency since it was initiated in May, 2008.

It is intended that every resident and commercial location be included in the notification database. For the most part, the Village has a primary phone number for most homes and establishments. The recent power outage emergency highlighted the fact that many people cannot be reached at a land line phone number when power and phone lines are not working. To ensure that residents can receive Connect CTY messages at their email addresses or on their cell phones,



each resident needs to add this information to the CTY database. For Community Outreach messages only the primary number will be called unless you request otherwise. A Priority message, as sent in the recent emergency, will be sent to all phone numbers and email addresses listed in the database of residents and businesses.

Although many residents received these Priority Message updates during the recent snow emergency, many did not, due to losing their land line phone service.

The Village urges residents to add their cell phone numbers and email addresses to its data base. Even though computers may not be operating, many cell phones can receive email messages.



Adding phone numbers and email addresses can be done easily from the Home page of the Village web site at www.crotononhudson-ny.gov. Click on the box that says "Click Here for One-step Notification" on the left side of the page. A menu will appear that guides you to adding or editing your information. Use the "Add" function if you have never registered before (even if you received Connect CTY calls). Use the "Edit" function if you are changing or adding additional information.

All calls to residents from Connect CTY will display "Village of Croton" on the phone caller-id. 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.

Only authorized personnel are able to send messages. Not every situation requires notification to all residents. Sub-groups are set up to narrow the calls to only those to whom the message pertains such as the Seniors Club. Calls can also be narrowed to specific neighborhoods through a mapping function. The Village administration recognizes that public notification should be used with discretion so that the importance of a message is not diluted because the system is over-used.

Earth Day Events



Croton's Earth Day celebrations will begin on Earth Day, April 22 with Croton's Sustainability Committee hosting an event at the Library at 7 pm. Discussions will cover environmental plans and accomplishment for municipal government operations, energy reduction strategies for the home, and tips on composting. The Ragin' Grannies will provide entertainment.

On Sat. April 24, from 9 am to 1 pm at Senasqua Park, the annual Earth Day celebration organized by Croton's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) will be held, with help from the Village's DPW, Parks and Recreation Depts. This year is the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day. Planned activities include the yearly litter clean up effort, a compost demonstration and a sporting goods swap. An organized hike is also planned. There will also be presentations on deer management and stream monitoring.

Bring used sporting goods and exchange for something you can use. Skates, bikes, rollerblades, helmets, snowboards, etc. are all welcome but no clothes. Free t-shirts and free native plants will be given out as supplies last, and Solar Punch will provide the musical background for the event. Many organizations are participating this year with both information and activities. These include the Cortlandt and Westchester Land Trust, the Arboretum, Croton Free Library, Boy and Girl Scouts, Saw Mill River Audubon Society, Trails and Sustainability Committees and the Croton Community Garden.

Damaged Tree Emergency

Due to the many trees damaged during the recent storm events, many damaged trees have the potential to cause unsafe conditions. In order to facilitate their removal as soon as possible, the Village has declared an ongoing emergency situation regarding damaged trees. Under the Tree Law, Chapter 208 of Village code, a permit is required for removal of certain trees. During this emergency, up to May 31, 2010, the fee will be waived. However, for trees covered under the Tree Law, it is still necessary to call the Engineer's office at 271-4783 to arrange a site visit and get written approval for the removal of the tree(s).

Blood Drive

The 80th community blood drive will be held on Sunday, May 2, at Croton-Harmon High School, from 9:00 to 3:00. Donors must be at least 16 (with parental permission), not yet 76, and weigh at least 110 pounds. Over 76's need

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Election Results

On March 16, Village residents elected two Trustees and the Village Justice. The results are as follows:

For Trustee: Greg Schmidt - 1054

Ann Gallelli - 960

Richard Olver - 958

Randall Swan - 899

For Justice: Sam Watkins - 980

Lisa Wolland - 685

The newly elected Trustees will be sworn in at the annual Organizational Meeting of the Village Board on April 5.

Youth Police Academy

Up to 6 Seniors from Croton Harmon High School will be attending a 6-week Youth Police Academy in May and June. The Academy will fulfill the Seniors requirement for their 4th quarter "CHOOSE" program.

Youth Officers from the North Castle, Dobbs Ferry and Croton Police Depts. will be the primary instructors. The goal of the Academy is to provide students with a well-rounded view of the criminal justice system and all its components. Physical training, team building exercises, classroom instruction and tours of a broad range of criminal justice facilities will be part of the academy training program.

Camp Sign Up Time!

Signup for the 2010 Day Camp and Tiny Tots Camp program is underway. The deadline for filing application forms and paying the fee is 12:00 NOON on April 14th.

Day Camp is for youngsters who are 6 years old and have completed First Grade up to those who have completed 6th grade. Arts & crafts, sports, games, drama, trips and other activities make up the program.

Tiny Tots camp has two sections. One is a half-day for 4 & 5 years olds who HAVE NOT completed Kindergarten. The other section is full day for 5 & 6 year olds who HAVE completed Kindergarten.

For both camps, three, 2-week sessions begin June 29. For more information call the Recreation Dept. at 271-3006 or visit the Village's website.



Reminder!

Offices will be closed Friday, April 2

For Good Friday.



Spotlight on the Trails Committee

The Croton Trails Committee was formed in 1992 and is now in its eighteenth year. The Committee's initial mission was to inventory Croton's open space that might potentially become part of a trails system. They identified existing trails, potential and connecting trails, possible trail linkages, and explored other trail concepts to develop a Trails Master Plan. The Trails Master Plan was formally adopted by the Village Board in 1994 as an official plan of the Village.

The Trails plan established and mapped an interconnecting, Village-wide network of existing and proposed trails. Since then, as properties have been developed or land has been donated, many of the links that were identified in the original plan have become reality. Trails Committee members also maintain Village trails with help from the Department of Public Works. They cut brush, re-blaze trails, address erosion and fallen

trees, as well as develop new trail sections.



Some sections of the interconnecting trails are on Village Streets. To guide hikers along these sections, the Committee developed a Trail Link marker. These markers can be seen throughout the Village on trees and poles.

There are also several very noteworthy wooded sections of the trail system. For details on these trails, you can obtain a Trails Map in the Village Office and online. The Croton Gorge Trail takes you to the Dam in one direction and Ossining in the other. The North Highland Place Loop Trails can take you to either the Upper Village area or to the Hudson River via Brook St. to the pedestrian bridge to Croton Landing and Senasqua Parks. The Highland Trail begins in the Arboretum and goes around Hudson National Golf Course, connecting with the Brinton Brook Sanctuary. The Croton Riverwalk Trail



Croton Gorge Trailhead

extends along the Hudson River shoreline. The promenade in front of Half Moon Bay is restricted to Croton residents and their guests; the path along the rear of the complex is open to all.

The Trails Committee is chaired by long-time and founding member Jan Wines. Other members on the committee are Fran Allen, Don Daubney, Geoff Haynes, Bob Hiney, Barbara Buske, Pat Conley, Jim Sullivan and Dr. David Daley. The Committee is always looking for additional volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the Village Office or Chair Jan Wines (wsm2jhw@bestweb.net). The Committee meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Municipal Building.

Auxiliary Police

The Croton-on-Hudson Auxiliary Police Dept. is currently accepting applications for the position of Auxiliary Police Officer. This is a volunteer service position in law enforcement. Typical assignments for Auxiliary Police Officers include traffic control and road closures, vehicular and foot patrols, traffic and crowd control at large events, and helping in storm and weather-related emergencies. Men and women are encouraged to apply. Uniforms and equipment are provided.



To qualify, an applicant must be 18 years of age or older, have no arrest record, have a valid NYS Drivers license, be in good physical health to perform the requirements of the job, and either live or work in Croton-on-Hudson or the Town of Cortlandt.

For more information or to apply, contact Aux. Police Officer J. Weiss at castlent@optonline.net.

Compost Bins

For the second year, compost bins will be available for sale at a group discounted price. Composting is an important way to reduce the amount of household garbage and provide a valuable soil supplement to your garden. Turning grass clippings, prunings, dead plants and vegetable kitchen scraps into loamy compost is a matter of adopting the habit of adding these to the bin, aerating its contents and letting the bin work its magic.



With support from Village staff, this sale has been organized by Croton resident Lee Casson.

The 80-gallon compost bin must be pre-ordered no later than Wed., April 14. Search for "compost bin" at the Village website to obtain an order form to reserve a bin. You can also call Julie Hannigan at 271-4781 to reserve your bin. All bins must be picked up at the Croton Rail Station Parking lot—Section "A" on Sat., April 17 (rain or shine) from 9am to 1pm. Only cash or checks made out to Rainbow Environmental Products will be accepted. Compost bins are \$55.00. Rain Barrels may also be ordered for \$75.

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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor
Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee
Ian Murtaugh, Trustee
Demetra Restuccia, Trustee
Gregory Schmidt, 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?

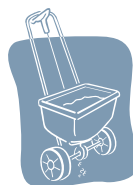


I understand that Westchester County has passed a ban on the use of phosphorous fertilizers. Is this true and how will it affect me as a homeowner?

A new County law regarding the use of phosphorous fertilizers was passed in July 2009. Its requirements and prohibitions began being phased in as of July 9, 2009 and will be fully effective as of July 3, 2011. As of July, 2009, homeowners are prohibited from applying phosphorous fertilizers between Dec. 1 and April 1, when the ground is frozen and likely to produce runoff. Such fertilizers cannot be applied on impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots, or sidewalks. Also phosphorous fertilizers cannot be applied to lawn areas that are within 20 feet of any surface water unless a natural vegetative buffer at least 10 feet wide separates the lawn from the water.

As of July 3, 2011 the following prohibitions will apply:

(1) phosphorous fertilizer cannot be applied to lawn areas unless soil tests confirm the need for additional phosphorous. (2) Such fertilizer can be applied to



newly established turf or lawn areas during their first growing season, and (3) phosphorous fertilizer can be applied to vegetable and flower gardens, trees and shrubs.

As of Sept. 2009 retailers selling fertilizer must post signs containing the new regulations for sale and use of phosphorous fertilizer. As of Jan. 1, 2011, they cannot display for sale such fertilizer but can advise customers that such fertilizer is available upon request for uses permitted by the law.

Home Improvement Contractors who provide turf and lawn services must abide by the same rules that apply to homeowners. Additionally, they must complete an approved turf management course and submit proof of completion when applying for or renewing their license.

Blood Drive Cont'd.

a doctor's written permission. All donors need an official ID. Appointments may be made by calling 271-7645 or 271-8449 so the staff will know how many for which to prepare.