



New Emergency Medical Services Proposed

April Calendar

- 3 & 16** Village Board Mtg.
- 9** Budget Hearing
- 10 & 25** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 4** Cons. Advisory Council
- 10** Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 11** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 18** Water Control Comm.
- 18** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 18** Trails Committee

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Croton's Volunteer Fire Department is composed of five companies that provide fire fighting and emergency medical services (EMS) to the Village of Croton-on-Hudson and adjoining Mt. Airy and Quaker Bridge Fire Protection Districts.

The EMS currently answer more than 650 calls annually. All EMS volunteers are also members of the volunteer Fire Department. NYS law prohibits volunteer Fire Departments from billing insurance providers for ambulance trips to local hospitals.

Under the leadership of Fire Chief Gary Diggs and Ass't. Fire Chief Art Roosa, the Fire Department is proposing to create a separate Emergency Medical Services department.

According to Chief Diggs, creation of a separate EMS service will provide several advantages to the Village. In the long run they see it as a way of preserving volunteerism in Croton. Volunteers provide the basis for all fire and emergency medical services right now and the costs of having the same services provided by salaried personnel would be prohibitive for the Village.

Currently, the Fire Dept. has about 25 certified EMTs, many of whom are also firefighters. Many individuals have indicated a desire to join the EMS without joining the Fire Dept. As such this proposal would help satisfy the need for more EMS volunteers. It would also avoid problems when both fire calls and medical calls occur simultaneously. Although EMS volunteers would no longer be required to join the Fire Dept., they could belong to both at their option.

The proposal to separate the EMS from

the Fire Dept. would also create a new source of revenue for the Village.

Although the current charge for services by private ambulance companies is in the range of \$400, the new EMS Dept. would not expect to recover this amount from every call as some insurance companies do not cover the full amount and some people have no ambulance coverage at all. The insurance billing, known as "soft billing" would not attempt to recover the difference in these situations. Nevertheless, the return on the billings would be expected to be in the range of \$150,000 per year once it is fully implemented.

In February, the Village Board of Trustees authorized the creation of a separate EMS Dept. This first step is necessary



for the department to move forward with the necessary State paperwork. It is anticipated that all approvals will be received by June of this year. The EMS department will now have its own funding and budget distinct from that of the Fire Dept. Currently all costs associated with Croton's EMS services are funded in the Fire Dept. budget which is included in the Village's annual budget and paid for through property taxes. Some budget items that currently appear in the Fire Dept. budget, such as Fly Car costs, will be moved to the new EMS budget account. Additionally, there will be some start up costs associated with radio equipment and supplies. Chief Diggs anticipates that the EMS revenues will eventually come close to paying for the cost of the services.

Tiny Tots and Day Camp Registration



The Village's popular Day Camp and Tiny Tots summer program are filled by lottery. The deadline for registration for the lottery is Wed., April 18 at 12 noon.

The form(s) must be in the Recreation Office at this time, completed and paid in full. Immunizations must be written

on the form by the parent or guardian—attachments are not acceptable.

The Dept. suggests that you bring your form(s) to the office in person, weekdays between 8:30AM and 4PM. School district residents may participate in the lottery, however, they must pay the non-resident rate. The correct form for the summer program in which you want to enroll must be used. These forms are available in the Recreation Office on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building.

Each camp has 3 sessions of two weeks each as follows:

Tiny Tots Tues. June 26-Fri, Aug. 3; week days except July 4th at P.V.C. School.

9:15am-12:15pm (ages 4 and 5 who have NOT completed Kindergarten);

9:15am - 3:15pm (ages 5 & 6 who HAVE completed Kindergarten).

DAY Camp Tues., June 26 - Fri., Aug. 3; weekdays except July 4th at C.E.T. School.

9:00am– 3:00pm (age 6 and have COMPLETED first grade through 6th grade).

Household Chemical Clean-up Days

Westchester County will begin its Spring Household Chemical Clean-up days on April 13 & 14 at Playland Park in Rye. Two more days are scheduled for May and June respectively - May 4 & 5 at FDR State Park in Yorktown and June 8 & 9 at Westchester Community College in Valhalla. At all three sites, the hours are Friday, 1 to 3pm and Saturday, 9am to 3pm.

These clean-up days are for residential chemicals only. Materials from businesses, institutions and schools will not be accepted. Additionally, NO paint will be accepted.

For information call the County's Household Chemical Info Line at 914-813-5425.

Earth Day Activities

The annual Earth Day event sponsored by the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) and the Croton Recreation Dept. will be held on Sat., April 28th. Everyone is encouraged to participate.



Beginning at Senasqua Park, Black Cow coffee and other refreshments will be available. T-shirts will be passed out to the first 75 participants. Assignments will be passed out for river front clean up and various beautification projects.

Daffodil Hill Thousands of daffodils planted by the CAC over recent years should be in full bloom this month. Look for them on Old Post Rd. South by Bethel Cemetery.

Trail Blaze Markers Proposed



The Village's Trails Committee has submitted its annual report for 2006 to the Board of Trustees. The committee, under the chairmanship of Jan Wines, noted several accomplishments including a new section of the

Highland Trail, a new connecting trail at the proposed Symphony Knoll location, a proposal for a trail segment at Kaplan's Pond and working with the Town to create inter-municipal trail connections.

For 2007, the Committee is working on a blaze marker for sections of the Village Trail System that traverse Village streets. This would publicize the Trails system and result in more Croton residents utilizing this unique resource.

The concept and marker designs were forwarded to the Board of Trustees for consideration after review by Village's Visual Environment Board. The markers will incorporate the Croton logo along with the words "Trail Link".

Election Results

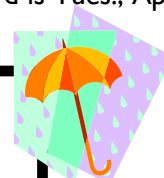
On March 20, residents elected a Mayor and two Trustees as follows:

Mayor: Gregory Schmidt (A) - 1009; Ann Gallelli (D,CT) - 859. Trustees: Thomas Brennan (A) - 1022; Susan Konig (A) - 1005; Leo Wiegman (D,CT) - 962; Sally Odland (D,CT) - 876.

The first meeting of the new Board is Tues., April 3rd.

Reminder!

**Village Offices will be closed Friday, April 6
for Good Friday Observance**



Spotlight on Aaron Bernhardt

Aaron Bernhardt has been a police officer since 1999. He received his police officer certification in Kingston, NY and transferred to Croton's Police Dept. in July 2001.

As a member of Patrol, he enjoys Croton because it's a "nice quiet town", but, he said, "we're here because bad things can happen anywhere."

Aaron has a great interest in traffic enforcement and has received several awards as a result of multiple arrests directly associated with his dedication to traffic enforcement and his sharp patrol observations.

Recently, Aaron has also been certified as an instructor in Croton's Dept. for responding to incidents where an act of violence is in progress—known as rapid

response. Training for this is needed by all patrol officers as they are the ones who will be the immediate responders if they are on duty when such a situation occurs. He is also starting training at the FBI center to be certified as one of the Dept.'s firearms instructors.

Aaron credits his success as a policeman to his diverse employment background. At 19, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served two years as an avionics technician on the F-111 aircraft. He was located in England from 1990-91. After his discharge he worked as a mechanic and painter on heavy construction equipment for H.O. Penn Machinery and also worked as an Emergency Medical Technician. He also joined the Air National

Guard at Stewart where he worked as a hydraulics mechanic on the C-5A Galaxy.

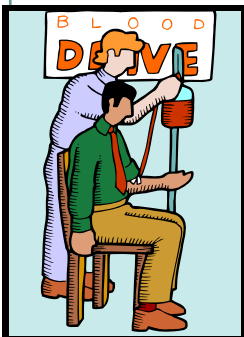
Off duty, Aaron loves spending time with his wife and their four children. In 2003 he began construction of a new home which he built mostly alone but with some help from his father and father-in-law. He says it was a long hard job which took him 3 1/2 years to complete. He and his family were able to move in last fall. Although it was a tremendously satisfying experience he is glad it is done.

In his limited spare time, Aaron enjoys weight lifting and running. Fitting everything in while working shifts has been a challenge.



"I look forward to my future years with the Croton Police Dept. and expect they will be as rewarding and satisfying as my past five."

Aaron Bernhardt



74th Blood Donor Drive

The 74th Blood Drive will be held on Sun., May 6, 9am to 3 pm, at Croton-Harmon High School. Sponsored by Croton's Lions Club, Rotary Club and Business Council, the blood program serves the needs of patients in 52 Hudson Valley hospitals.

Donation is easy, painless, harmless and takes no more than an hour. Donors must be at least 16 and not yet 76, and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call JoAnn Fannon, 271-5529, Carol Shanesy, 271-7645, or Rosalind Morrissey, 271-8449, for an appointment or more information. Appointments may also be made by email at: communityblooddrive@gmail.com

Photo ID Reminder!

As of May 1, 2007, all persons 4 years old or older must present a valid photo ID issued by the Recreation Dept. to use Senasqua Park, Silver Lake and Hudson National Golf Course.

Fees are \$6. resident/\$12. school district resident. The ID is valid for 3 years. Call 271-3006 for details.

Water Bill Reminder

Water bills that remain unpaid on April 15th will be subject to an additional \$100 delinquent fee beyond the normal late fees. A delinquent notice will be sent. However, by late April, when the Village taxes for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 are finalized, the owed money with the accumulated fees will be added to the owner's tax levy.

Yard Waste –What You Need to Know

The DPW will be collecting yard waste curbside during the spring, summer and fall. Yard waste includes leaves, twigs and small branches, clippings and flowers. Grass clippings should be left on the lawn. All yard waste must be placed in bio-degradable leaf bags or open-top garbage cans.

Waste in plastic bags will not be collected.

Yard waste will be collected on Wednesdays, NOT with the garbage collection. Yard waste collection will begin on April 4, 2007. The following schedule will be followed:

North of Rte. 129 (Maple St.) - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

South of Rte. 129 (Maple St.) - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

There will be no yard waste collection on May 30, Aug. 29 and Oct. 31. The schedule will also be available on the website at www.crotononhudson-ny.gov and on Croton's cable channel 78. For more info, call 271-3775.

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

Gregory J. Schmidt, Mayor
Thomas P. Brennan, Trustee
Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee
Charles A. Kane, Trustee
Susan Konig, Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2
www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Got a Question?



During the year I pay property taxes to 4 different entities. Could you explain how this tax liability is divided?

Many residents do not know how their property tax liability is divided. Here is a quick summary.

1. Village of Croton tax - due each June 1, payable by June 30. It is mailed at the end of May and covers the Village's fiscal year budget of June 1 to May 31. It supports the costs of Croton's government services. It is the only tax bill you pay directly to the Village of Croton.
2. Town of Cortlandt tax - due each April 1, payable by April 30. It is mailed out at the end of March and covers the Town's fiscal year of April 1 to March 31. It covers the costs of services you receive from the Town of Cortlandt.
3. Westchester County tax - due each April, payable by April 30. This tax bill is combined with the Town of Cortlandt tax bill and is collected by the Town tax receiver for the County. It covers the



costs of County government services.

4. School taxes - payable in two installments to the Town of Cortlandt tax receiver. The first half is mailed out in late August, due on Sept. 1 and payable by Sept. 30. It covers the period from September to December. No reminder is sent for the second half payment which is due Jan. 1 and payable by Jan. 31. It covers the period from January through August. The S.T.A.R. exemption is applicable to the school tax and is available through the Town of Cortlandt Assessor's office.

If the last day of any collection period falls on a weekend or holiday, the grace period is extended to the next regular business day. Post marks are valid if done at the United States Post Office.

The Town of Cortlandt offices are located at 1 Heady St., Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567. The Town Clerk's office is 734-1020 and the Tax office is 734-1030.

