

# The Croton-on-Hudson Village Newsletter

Fall/Winter 1999 /2000

Number 40

## Calendar

### OCTOBER

- 18 Board of Trustees
- 26 Planning Board  
Holiday
- 13 Zoning Board of  
Appeals
- 20 Water Control  
Commission

### NOVEMBER

- 1, 15 Board of Trustees
- 2, 23 Planning Board
- 3 Conservation  
Advisory Council
- 10 Zoning Board  
of Appeals
- 17 Water Control  
Commission
- 25, 26 Thanksgiving Day  
Holiday

### DECEMBER

- 1 Conservation  
Advisory Council
- 6, 20 Board of Trustees
- 7, 28 Planning Board
- 8 Zoning Board  
of Appeals
- 21 Water Control  
Commission

## Council-Manager Form of Government

The Village of Croton-on-Hudson adopted the Council-Manager Form of Government by referendum in 1971 following the recommendation of a bi-partisan committee, which had studied the type of government most suitable for the Village. The Council-Manager plan of local government combines the strong political and policymaking leadership of elected officials in the form of the Board of Trustees or Village Board with the strong managerial experience of the Village Manager.

This issue of the Village Newsletter will focus on the Village Board of Trustees. Future Village newsletters will focus on the Village Manager, Village Treasurer and other Village Departments. This is an update to previous Village newsletters, which also covered these subjects in years past.

## FALL LEAF PICK-UP

This fall the Department of Public Works will pick up loose leaves with the vacuum trucks beginning the end of October. The Department of Public Works will work on loose leaf pick-up Monday to Saturday, weather permitting. Leaves should be raked to the curb but not into the street which is a violation of the law and a traffic safety hazard.

Due to the drought this summer we expect the leaves to turn early and drop in a fairly short time period. There is no schedule for the collection of loose leaves. The plan is to move throughout the Village to the streets that have the largest collection of leaves. In the beginning of December the DPW will commence with the final leaf cleanup going street by street. Leaves should not be raked to the curb after December 1st. Once your street has been cleared of leaves after December any left over leaves must be bagged.

The Department of Public Works will, like last year, conduct a bagged leaf pick-up on alternate weeks during the last week of October and the months of November, December and January (if necessary).

Leaves may be packed into plastic bags or biodegradable paper bags only. Leaves placed in trash cans or boxes will not be collected. Bagged leaves will not be picked up with the garbage. They will be collected on Monday or Wednesday according to the schedule listed below. Bagged leaves should be placed at the curb on the Sunday evening of the week as listed below.



### SAVE THIS SCHEDULE

The bagged leaf pick-up will be as follows:

North of Maple Street (Route 129)

Week of	October 24th
	November 7th & 21st
	December 5th & 19th
	January 9th & 23rd (if necessary)

NO BAGGED LEAF PICK-UP THE WEEK OF  
DECEMBER 26 TO 31, 1999





## Postal Regulations

Residents who have P.O. boxes must notify the Village Office of their box number. This notification will prevent delays in the mail delivery of Village water or tax bills. If this number is not on file with the Village Office the bills may not reach the address until payment is overdue which will result in a penalty charge.



## House Numbering

Local law #8 of 1992 requires that house numbers be displayed in a location which makes them easily visible from the street or road.

The numbers must be at least four inches high and, where there is an entrance driveway the numbers should be posted at the driveway entrance. This will provide the exact location to assist fire, ambulance or police when needed - and in an emergency situation seconds can be critical.

If you are not sure of your street address call the Village Building Department (271-4783 for the information.

## Village Historian

Jane Northshield has resigned as Village Historian, a position she has held for some thirty years. Ms. Northshield instituted a systematic approach to the preservation and codifications of historical records. She also encouraged members of the Historical Society to become active participants in the on going gathering of material for the Village's local history collection.

In 1976, as part of the nation's Bicentennial Celebration she gathered memories of long time Croton residents and edited The History of Croton. The book is a compendium of information about natural features, neighborhoods and the growth of the Village.

The book is still available from the Historical Society's location in the Municipal Building on Mondays from 9am till 1pm as well as the Village Office. The price is \$8.00.

Ms. Northshield will continue to assist at the weekly work sessions of the society but will no longer shoulder the responsibilities required of a Village Historian.

Joyce Finnerty who has served as Deputy Village Historian for many years has been appointed to the position, Ms. Finnerty will continue the dedicated work of Jane Northshield and previous Village Historian.

## Winter Snow Removal

The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting colder. That must mean that winter is fast approaching. This Past winter was mild due to La Nina or El Nino or whatever. There are lots of thoughts on the type of winter we will be having considering the dry summer and mild winter the past couple years. Regardless, the Department of Public Works has to prepare the same way every year. That preparation is now underway.

The Village Department of Public Works intends to maintain the same level of snow removal efficiency as in the past. Assistance from the village residents is essential to maintaining safe and clean streets during the winter snow season in Croton. One of the most frustrating aspects of snowplowing is right after the street is cleared of snow, homeowners or store owners throw, push or blow snow onto the previously cleared roadway. It is important that snow not be placed in the road from a sidewalk or driveway. It is a safety hazard and a violation of the N.Y.S. Vehicle and Traffic Law.

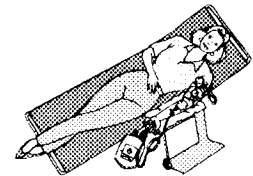
Also, the Village code prohibits on street parking when the snow fall measures 2" or more. As was the case last winter violators will be ticketed.

Should you have no option other than to park on the street you may be eligible for a permit to park on the street during the winter. Applications for special hardship permits can be obtained at the Municipal Office between 8:30am & 4:00pm Monday to Friday

## Blood Drive

The Croton Blood Bank will be held on December 5th from 10:00am until 3:00pm at the High School.

To make appointment call JoAnn Fannon at 271-2381.



## Pistol Licensing

Westchester County requires that pistol licenses be periodically recertified. The County Clerk must receive an application for the certification of any pistol or pistols in your possession by April 1st., 2000. Application forms are available from the Village Office.



# VILLAGE BOARD

The Village Board consists of five members: the Mayor and four trustees.

Members are elected by the residents to two year terms in alternating years: the mayor and two trustees one year and two trustees in the following year.

The members are responsible for setting policy, adopting the annual budget and enacting any laws which they consider necessary to preserve the health, safety and welfare of the community.

The Mayor receives a salary of \$3000.00 a year and each Trustee \$2000.00 a year.

Two public meetings are held each month usually on the first and third of the month. Agendas of these meetings are developed by the Village Manager/Clerk and approved by the Mayor. They may include correspondence from residents or other governmental agencies, adoption of a law, authorization for use of Village property by a civic group, the letting of a contract for public works as well as a variety of other matters.

Residents are encouraged to attend these meetings and are given an opportunity to ask questions and/or express opinions about any past or proposed Board actions.

Work sessions are held periodically, usually once or twice a month, so that the Board members may discuss issues in more depth. Discussions may also involve the consideration of long and/or short range projections of future policies.

The dates and times of work sessions are announced at public meetings. Residents may attend but are not entitled to participate because these meetings are held to allow exchanges of ideas among board members; Most formal actions are taken only at public meetings. Occasionally executive sessions are held. According to New York State's "Sunshine" Law such a meeting may be convened for only certain specified reasons such as possible sale or acquisition of real property, discussions of litigation and collective bargaining.

The public is not admitted to these sessions.

State Law mandates that some actions - such as the adoption of a new law, the adoption of a budget, a zoning change, etc. requires a legally noticed public hearing before the actual enactment.

Dates for these hearings are scheduled at a public meeting and are advertised in the legal notice section of an officially designated local newspaper. At this hearing any resident may speak for or against the proposal. The Board may vote on the matter that evening or may opt to take action at a future meeting so that members may have more time to consider the public's input.

The Mayor or the Deputy Mayor presides at Board Meetings and is responsible for conducting the business of the meeting in an orderly manner. The Mayor is responsible for appointing members of standing Boards, Councils, Committees and Commissions. Ad hoc, committees may be appointed from time to time usually for a specified length of time.

At the April organizational meeting of the Board, the Mayor appoints a Deputy Mayor and assigns Trustees to act as liaisons with all appointed boards. Trustees attend meetings of these groups and make periodic progress reports at Village Board Meetings.

From time to time one or more Trustees accompany the Mayor and/or the Village Manager to meetings with other officials to discuss intergovernmental actions which might impact favorably or adversely on the Village.

The Board hires the Village Manager and the Treasurer both of whom serve at the pleasure of the Board.

As the legislative branch of the Village Government the entire Board must carefully consider the effect of every proposal before making final decisions.

Each of the five members is provided with substantial information by the Village Manager to assist in their deliberations.

Time is required to read and absorb this material in order to fully participate in Board discussions.

Interaction between Board members as well as interaction with the public is needed for the development of the best policymaking to meet the needs of residents, and the entire community.

All Board members expect, and are expected to be, accessible to the electorate and can also take advantage of community events or meetings with local groups to initiate one on one discussions of Board actions.

Since, ideally government is a two way street, citizens should exercise their responsibilities by communicating their ideas and opinions at public Board meetings, by letter or by telephone.

Such exchanges can provide Board members and residents with new perspectives on Village issues.



## Leash Law

Dog owners are reminded that every dog has to be leashed or confined to quarters. Even on leash, dogs are not allowed in any public park, playground, school property of another person without that person's consent.

Anyone walking or exercising a dog may curb the dog in that portion of the street between curb lines. All feces left by the dog must be immediately removed to an airtight container and deposited in a refuse bin - never in a storm drain or sanitary sewer. The same requirement applies if the dog has an accident before reaching the curb line.

Additionally no dog may engage in barking, crying, whining or acting in any manner so as to unreasonably annoy any person.

Fines of up to \$250.00 may be levied if these regulations are not complied with.

State law requires that any dog six months or older must be licensed. Licenses may be obtained from the Village Office.

Inoculation against rabies is required by County |





## Smoke Alarms

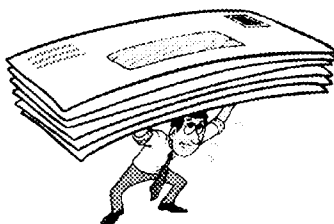
National surveys have shown that more deaths occur from smoke inhalation than from the fire itself. With so many chemicals compounds incorporated into furniture, rugs and other household items, even a small fire can emit deadly fumes in a matter of minutes.

Play it safe! If you do not have a smoke alarm buy and install one now. Then be sure to vacuum and test it once a month.

## Junk Mail

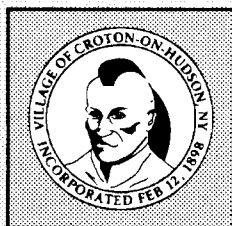
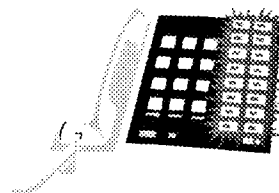
To stop delivery of junk mail and remove your name from mailing list write to: Direct Market Association, Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmington, NY 11735-9008.

To stop unsolicited "preapproved" credit cards in the mail, call one of the three major credit bureaus at a toll free number: Equifax (800-556-4711, Experian (800-353-0809), Trans Union (900-680-7293).



## Consumer Hotline

State-wide toll free consumer hotline operated by the State Consumer Protection Board from 9am until 5pm on business days. The number is 1-800-NYS-1220. Options include information on a variety of subjects. These include information about obtaining consumer publications and complaint forms, complaint status, complaint record inquiries, phone numbers local and federal government agencies and for not-for-profit organizations as well as the option to speak directly to a Consumer Protection Board representative. If a telemarketer has called again after you have asked to be put on the "do-not-call" list, this hot line can advise you of steps to take to prevent a recurrence of the situation.



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

Robert W. Elliott, Mayor  
Don Daubney, Trustee  
Georgianna K. Grant, Trustee  
Deborah Y. McCarthy, Trustee  
Sam R. Watkins, Jr., Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager

Claudia Smart, Editor

Bulk Rate  
Permit No. 1  
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New York 10520

**Postal Patron  
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