

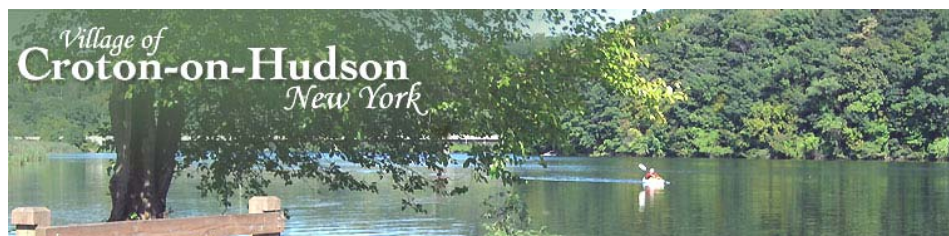


Newsletter

March, 2008

Number 103

WWW.CROTONONHUDSON-NY.GOV



March Calendar

- 3 & 17** Village Board Mtg.
- 11 & 25** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 5** Cons. Advisory Council
- 11** Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 12** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 19** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 21** **Good Friday**

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This bucolic picture of the Croton river welcomes visitors to Croton's website and Home Page. From this page, visitors to the site can obtain a lot of information about the Village's locale, government, services, issues and events.

The Village's website was first established 12 years ago. As the importance of electronically available information has increased along with changes in technology and our ability to manage it, the web site has expanded considerably from its early days. Croton's web site is supported by Virtual Town Hall, a service provider that provides the technical support and the server on which all the data is maintained. Village staff put the information on the site.

From the web site Home Page, a visitor can avail themselves of the entire Village Code, learn who is on Boards and Committees, view minutes, see upcoming events on the Village calendar, and contact departments among other things.



Did you miss a Village Board meeting on television? You can view the on-demand webcast of it from this website. (Click on On-Demand Webcasts from the Home page.) Do you want to look at a map of the Village, superimpose streets, parcel boundaries, buildings, streams and ponds and zoom in on a particular site? The GIS function on the Home Page will let you do all these things.

Commuters can click on Train Station

Parking from the Home Page to obtain a live shot of the parking lot, sign up for flooding alerts, obtain permits, and look at train schedules.

Clicking on Departments from the Home Page will let you obtain information about any of the Village offices. For instance, by selecting Department of Public Works, you can obtain sanitation pickup schedules, leaf vacuuming and bagged leaf schedules, energy tips and even report a street light outage. From the Engineering Department you can look at the Village Zoning map and obtain forms to be used for applying for variances, building permits, tree removal, signs, blasting, Certificate's of Occupancy and many more.



Recreation and Parks Dept. information provides information about Village Parks and a map of our Trail system. Upcoming Recreation programs are also featured here.

Back on the Home Page, you can "Send Comments" to any department and subscribe to an email notification service for events notices and Village meeting agendas. "Quick Links" from the Home Page will also provide you with access to such information as upcoming Recreation Programs, the adopted Village Budget, past Newsletters and current weather. Soon you will be able to also view the Croton and Hudson Rivers in a real-time transmission from a webcam. Using the "SEARCH" function on the Home page lets you find exactly what you are looking for by keying in the words.

Community Notification

The Village has signed a contract with Connect CTY to provide a communications outreach service to residents and train station parking permit holders. The service provides the ability to notify residents either en masse or in specific groups about time-sensitive issues. These calls



would include emergency notifications such as water main breaks, electrical blackouts, hazardous spills, etc., but also could be used for information about snow removal, tree trimming, celebrations, parking restrictions and much else. The service might also be used for community outreach and surveying as well.

Notifications will be made primarily by phone, but voice mail, emails and text messaging is also possible. Residents who wish to receive notices in this manner will soon be asked to provide the needed information to the Village for inclusion in the automated system. The information gathered will be used only for this purpose and neither the Village or Connect CTY will make it available to any other source. Initially Connect CTY will work from a data base of land-based phone numbers. Their data base of information will be refreshed every 30 days. As the system is fully hosted by Connect CTY, it will not require new additional hardware, software or phone lines.

Sub groups of residents for targeted calls will be developed. Using a map of Croton, the service can perform "geo-calling" directed to certain streets or neighborhoods. Croton-Harmon School District currently uses a similar system. This new communication service will allow the administration to reach all residents in a timely manner with important information. The annual contract for Connect CTY is \$9,000.

FEMA Says "No" To Flooding Grant

The previously reported grant application by the Village to FEMA to help finance a solution to the train station parking lot flooding problem was denied. In a letter sent to SEMO (the State Emergency Management Office), FEMA determined that Croton's application did not sufficiently meet their criteria. The Village, with the help of engineering consultants, Dvirka & Bartilucci, will appeal the denial based on errors of fact and interpretation in FEMA's letter of denial. Unless overturned, the planned parking lot mitigation will be more limited in its scope. Dvirka & Bartilucci are proceeding with the design of a flooding mitigation plan for the areas of the parking lot that have the most serious flooding problem—Sections G and H.

Staff Changes

Village Manager Richard Herbek and Police Chief Dennis Coxen have both announced their retirements for this Spring.

Rick Herbek served the Village in the capacity of Village Manager since 1980. Since then he has served under five Mayors and 34 Trustees. His retirement, announced in January, is effective March 28th. He will continue to be available to the Village for informa-



Rick Herbek



Abe Zambrano 15th.

Dennis Coxen, long time member of Croton's Police Dept. and Chief since 1986, has also retired from his position effective in February this year. Croton's Police Department has 21 Police Officers, 2 Parking Enforcement Officers, 5 Crossing Guards and a Dispatcher.



Dennis Coxen



Tony Tramaglini

Lieutenant Detective Anthony Tramaglini was appointed to the position of Chief of Police of the Croton Police Dept. effective February 11, 2008. He will be formally installed on March 3, at a televised Village Board meeting.

Lunch With The Bunny



The Croton Recreation and Parks Dept. invites all Village and School District children to have lunch with the spring bunny. This year's lunch is scheduled for Saturday, March 22 at 11:30 AM in the C.E.T. Multi-purpose room.

Space is limited so pre-registration is required. The cost is \$8 for Village resident families and \$10 for non-resident families. The registration deadline is March 17th. This is a great event for the entire family to enjoy. For more information call 271-3006.



Reminder!

**Village Offices will be closed Fri., March 21
For Good Friday Observance**



Spotlight on Gary Diggs

Gary Diggs is the first Captain of Croton's new Emergency Medical Services (EMS). EMS was formed last year after years of planning and research by Gary and the Fire Dept. when he was its Fire Chief. EMS is the initiative from his 2 years as Fire Chief of which Gary is most proud. Formed under NYS laws, it separates the emergency services from the Fire Dept. so that volunteers no longer have to join both. It has already led to increased volunteerism. It also allows access to third-party billing to insurance companies for EMS services, bringing in some revenue for the Village.

Gary's involvement with Croton's Fire Dept. began in 1987, shortly after he moved to Croton. Since then he has gone through its ranks,

working in every position up to his recent 2-year term as Chief.

Gary grew up in an Air Force family, was born in Japan, lived in Minnesota, and then grew up in Mountain View, CA. Professionally, he began as a Santa Clara County Deputy Sheriff, worked as a supervisor for high-security vaults for Lockheed and then joined IBM's Emergency Services in San Jose. From there, he moved into IT (Information Technology), an area that he still works in for IBM. He moved to this area in 1986.

During his tenure as Chief, Gary also worked on or initiated several other projects to ensure the best quality of Fire Protection and Emergency Services to Croton residents.

Among these are having fire

and emergency calls dispatched from the County's 60-Control center, negotiating an agreement with the County for a "dry hydrant" to improve water availability in the Mt. Airy/Quaker Bridge Fire District, and negotiating another County agreement to establish a satellite training facility at the Harmon Firehouse.

Gary's wife, Kim, is a 16-year member of the Ossining Fire Dept. and a former Captain. Their daughter, Lauren, attends CET. Gary also has two sons, David and Christopher, who reside in California, and is the grandfather of one. Spare time is spent enjoying soccer, gymnastics and ballet with Lauren and family events.



"I was attracted to Croton because it is a small town with a family atmosphere. I like knowing the people I meet. around the Village."

Gary Diggs

Alternate Side of Street Parking

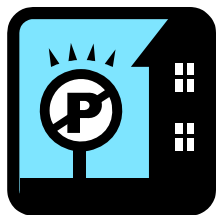
To aid the DPW in performing street cleaning operations, the Village will implement an alternate side of the street parking ban in some areas. The parking ban will enable the DPW to do street sweeping on a scheduled basis in high traffic areas, keeping the business areas and high traffic residential areas cleaner. The ban will also aid in snow removal and leaf pick up

where parked cars prevent this from being done.

As proposed, affected streets would have a 2-hour ban on one weekday every week. The 2-hour periods will be designated by street location for either 4 am to 6 am or 9 am to 11 am.

Residents and business owners who will be affected will be notified by letter. Signs will be posted in the designated areas. The affected streets and no-parking times will be posted on the website. In addition a public information session will be conducted on Monday, March 17th at the televised Village Board Meeting.

One day per week, one side of the following streets



will be closed for a period of 2 hours for cleaning or clearing. The proposed affected streets are mainly in the Upper Village area including Grand St. south side); Old Post Rd. South; Brook St.; Maple Street ; and both the Asbury Methodist and Merwin Oaks parking lots. Additionally, the alternate side of the street parking ban will apply to North Riverside Ave. and South Riverside Ave.

The specific cross streets of the above-named streets will be discussed during the information meeting on March 17.

Village Elections

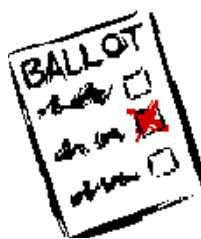
On Tues., March 18, the annual Village Election will take place. This year there are two Trustee seats to be filled.

All voting will take place from 6 am to 9 pm in the Community Room in the basement of the Municipal Building.

Joanne Minett and Joseph Streany are running for the position of Trustee on the Republican and Alliance ballot lines. Ann Gallelli and Richard Olver are running for

Trustee positions on the Democratic and Croton Taxpayers ballot lines.

Results will be announced that evening on Channel 78 approximately 9:30 pm.



**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?



I recently heard that Croton was involved in a settlement of a lawsuit regarding a land fill. What is this about?

After the County-owned Croton Point Landfill was closed years ago, a number of industrial parties who had used the landfill, entered into a Consent Decree with NYS and Westchester County requiring them to pay the costs of remediation at the site. Under a federal law known as CERLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act), these industrial parties were entitled to pass on some of their costs by seeking payments from municipalities who had also used the landfill when it was open and they brought suit to do so.

The Village of Croton along with many of the other municipalities from whom compensation was sought by the Industrial Parties, joined together to form the Municipal Defense Group. Under the lawsuit, municipalities were being assessed a charge in relation to how much material they had taken to the Croton Point Landfill when it was open. Croton was being assessed for \$85,000 under the terms of the suit, while others

had both higher and lower assessments.

The Municipal Defense Group hired the firm of Periconi LLC to defend them in this action and contributed a total of \$12,603 towards this defense. The defense costs were apportioned among all the participating municipalities. Recently, Periconi LLC negotiated a settlement with the Industrial Plaintiffs whereby the Village paid \$31,907 for its share of the compensation to them, down from the original \$85,000. The Village has agreed to this settlement.

Free Removal of Freon Appliances!

There is no longer a fee for the pick up and removal of appliances that contain Freon. Previously the fee was \$30. If you have a refrigerator, air conditioner, freezer or dehumidifier to dispose of, call the DPW at 271-3775 to schedule an appointment for the pickup.

Household Chemical Clean Up Day

The County will hold a Household Chemical Clean-up day on Fri., March 28 (1-3 pm) and Sat. March 29 (9 am - 3 pm) at George's Island Park in Montrose.

