



## May

### Calendar

- 1 & 15** Village Board Mtg.
- 9 & 23** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 3** Cons. Advisory Council
- 10** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 17** Water Control Comm.
- 17** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 29** Memorial Day

### In this issue

- Online Checking 2
- Meter transmitters 2
- Echo Canoe Launch 2
- Nat'l. Incident Mgmt. 2
- Employee Spotlight 3
- Election Results 3
- Croton Seniors 3
- Street Tree Notice 3
- Got a Question? 4

## Croton's Tree Law Amended

Amendments to Croton's Tree Law which had been under review for the past year, were unanimously adopted at the Village Board Meeting of March 20, 2006.

The purpose of the Tree Law as stated in the law is that the Village has an interest in the planting and preservation of trees because trees provide shade, impede soil erosion, aid water absorption and retention, inhibit excess runoff and flooding, enhance



air quality, offer a natural barrier to noise,, provide a natural habitat for wildlife, provide screening, enhance property values and add to the aesthetic quality of the community. There are two sections of the law that pertain to 1) Street Trees and 2) Tree Preservation.

Street Trees are primarily those trees, shrubs, and bushes that lie in the public right of way - i.e. not on private property. These trees are under the supervision of the DPW Superintendent who is mandated to develop an annual Street Tree program in consultation with the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC). This section of the law identifies spacing requirements, planting, cutting and pruning authority and prohibitions on residents doing any of the latter on public trees.

The second section of the law, Tree Preservation, establishes regulations for tree removal on private properties in the Village. Tree removal permits are now required in a variety of situations. The most common situation for most property owners would be the removal of any tree that is 4 inches or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), whose trunk is wholly or partially located in a regulated

buffer zone. DBH is a technical term which approximates to about 4 1/2 feet from the ground.

Buffer zones in which tree cutting is regulated vary according to the residential zones in the Village. The buffer area extends around the perimeter of the property inwards to the interior of the property as follows:

### Regulated Tree Buffer Zones

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Width (feet)</u>
<i>RA-40</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>RA-25</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>RA-9</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>RA-5</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>RB and RC</i>	<i>varies</i>

A Tree Removal Permit is also required for trees that are 8 inches DBH on properties that are subdividable or do not have a residence on it or would require a site plan for development.

Removal of more than 10 trees with a DBH of 4 inches or greater on any lot within any 12 month period also requires obtaining a Tree Removal Permit.

In most cases, the permit will be issued by the Village Engineer except where the trees are removed in conjunction with an approval issued by the Village Board, Planning Board or Water Control Commission. Permits are valid for no more than 1 year. Any tree removed without such a permit, where it is required, will be subject to a maximum fine of \$250. for each tree removed.

More specifics on Croton's Tree Law are available on our website or by calling the Village Engineer at 271-4783.

## Online Checking - A Warning

Many residents are starting to pay their water bills using online checking. It is expected that more and more people will use this method of payment in the future for both water bills and tax payments but there is a potential problem with late penalties about which you should be aware.

When you authorize your bank to pay your water bill from your computer, the money is immediately debited from your account. You may think that the same amount is automatically credited to the Village account but this is not what happens.

Your bank cuts a check and sends it to the Village, where it is received in the Village's secure bank lock box where all payments are directed. However, there is no postmark on it to indicate the day on which it is paid. You may have paid your bill (your account was debited) before the due date, but the payment may not show up in the Village's lock box until after the due date. Late payments will result in accrued penalties.

In June many people may pay their property tax bill using this method as well. The same situation will apply - payments received after the due date, without a valid postmark indicating on-time payment, will be charged a late penalty. Without a postmark, the Village MUST charge you a late payment fee according to NYS Real Property Tax Law. Please take this into account when making your payments using online checking and pay your taxes before the end of the month.

## Echo Canoe Launch

On the recommendation of the Conservation Advisory Council and the Croton Historical Society, the Village Board has named the Croton River canoe launch in honor of Theodore Cornu. Mr. Cornu was an environmentalist who fought against the railroad's pollution of the Croton and Hudson Rivers. He wrote and published a newsletter called the Hudson River Echo and urged citizens to become "Echoes" of the Hudson Valley and "save and faithfully defend from waste and pollution the natural resources of our country."

A plaque with the name 'Echo Canoe Launch' will be placed at the launch. It will contain information about Mr. Cornu as well as about Dr. Daniel Salzberg who was also instrumental in helping to clean up the Croton River.



## Water Meter Transmitters

In the last two years, the Village has been installing transmitters on water meters to enable the meters to be read from a receiver in a Water Dept. vehicle traveling past your location. This is both time-saving for the Water Department and ensures an accurate reading.

Of 2416 meters in the Village, about 400 are yet to be installed. If you have not had a transmitter installed on your meter and want to have one, please contact Diane DeRuggiero at 271-4781 to set up an appointment. There is no cost. Meters will next be read in May for the June 15th water billing. If your meter cannot be read, then your bill will be estimated.

## National Incident Management (NIMS)

The utilization of NIMS for all incident management in Croton has been mandated by the Village Board. NIMS is a program that has been developed and is managed by the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security in order to enable a common and coordinated response to emergency incidents of all types. Access to federal grant money related to public safety and emergency response organizations such as the police and fire departments is contingent upon certification of the Village as being NIMS compliant. The program is being coordinated through New York State.

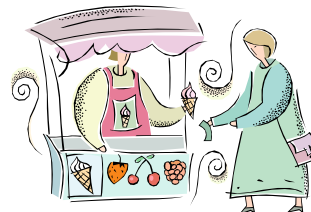
NIMS provides standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities and resources to facilitate incident management. Village personnel will be required to be trained in the requirements of NIMS and will participate in exercises in order to achieve compliance. The compliance deadline is September 2006.



## Reminder

Blood Drive - Sunday, May 7th, from 9am to 3pm at Croton-Harmon High School. Call 271-7645 for info.

## Summerfest is Coming!



Come and celebrate the beginning of the summer season on Sunday, June 4th. The Upper Village will be filled with street vendors, delicious foods and wonderful entertainment. The

Summerfest parade at 1 PM will kick off a day of non-stop fun and music until 6 PM.

## **Reminder!**

**Village Offices will be closed for Memorial Day  
Monday, May 29th**



## Spotlight on Julie Hannigan

Julie Hannigan has been on the job in the Village office since 1983 when she started work on a part-time basis issuing parking permits. After working on an intermittent basis while raising her two girls, Julie returned to work full time 12 years ago; in Finance since 2000.

As an Accounts Payable Clerk, Julie is responsible for entering payment claims, creating purchase orders, and the filing of all claims approved by the Village Board Audit Committee. She also audits all statements from vendors against the original purchase information. In addition, Julie posts journal entries and revenues to the general ledger. All deposits received by the Village's many departments, such as building permit fees,

recreation fees, FOIL fees, etc. are sent to the Treasurer's office where Julie "proofs" them before they are deposited. Julie says she "likes to be busy and loves to take on new things especially working with numbers." Learning to use the Village's new information management system (MUNIS) has been an exciting experience.

Recently, Julie was appointed to be Registrar of Vital Statistics. In this position, she issues the official birth and death certificates for those events that occur within the Village. There are many more death certificates than birth certificates as most births seem to occur at hospitals outside the village.

Julie came to Croton from Newburgh in Orange County where she graduated from the

Newburgh Free Academy. The search for a good place to settle and raise a family brought her to Croton in the early 80's.

Julie's two girls, Aimee-21 years, and Amber-16 years, were raised in Croton. Aimee is completing her college work this Spring and Amber is a Junior at Croton-Harmon High School.

In her spare time, Julie loves to read and walk her two dogs. Her favorite walking spot is at Croton Landing. Until recently she and her family were avid campers spending every weekend at sites across the Northeast.



*"I'm fortunate to work where I raised my family. Croton is the perfect place to raise a family. I chose well."*

*Julie Hannigan*

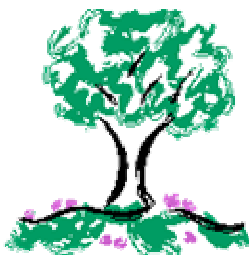
### Village Election Results

The annual Village Election was held this year on March 21st. Two Trustee positions and the position of Village Judge were decided as follows:

Trustees:	Charles Kane	- 975
	Ann Gallelli	- 943
	James Steinberg	- 718
	Jose Gonzalez	- 617
Judge:	Sam Watkins	- 905
	Guy Adami	- 717

### Street Trees Notice

The DPW has lost its data base of past requests for Street Trees. If you have requested one in the past that has not been planted yet, please call again to the DPW at 271-3775 and leave your name and address.



We're on

the Web. Visit us at:  
<http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov>

### Croton Seniors

A membership Open House will be held by the Croton Seniors Club on Fri., May 19th at 11 AM in the Community Room. Residents interested in meeting members and becoming a member will have an opportunity to hear about the Club activities and meet the officers. Refreshments will be served.

A new round of Book Discussion Sessions begins on Mon., May 22 from 10-11:30 in the Community Room. There will be three more monthly sessions on the third Monday of each month thereafter. The fee of \$5. is payable by May 17.

While the May trip to Sagamore Hill on Long Island is completely sold out, it is not too early to consider signing up for two other planned summer trips; a trip to City Island on July 20 or a Yonkers History & Industry Tour on Aug. 8. More details will be available in future Newsletters.

### US District Court Sides with Village


The Village has secured a decisive ruling from the federal courts on the primacy of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), a local version of which was used as the primary tool for scrutinizing the impacts of the proposed Millennium pipeline. The District Court ruled for the Village on all counts. Millennium has 60 days in which to file an appeal.

**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  
 Leo A. W. Wiegman, Trustee

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

# Got a Question?



**As a new Croton resident, I am looking forward to using Silver Lake and Senasqua Park during the coming months. Do we need to get Identification cards?**

Yes, beginning May 1st, all persons 4 years of age or older must present a photo ID issued by the Recreation Department to use Silver Lake, Senasqua Park, and Hudson National Golf Course. The ID will be valid for 3 years and is free for Senior Citizens. Residents/Non-residents pay \$6./\$12. respectively.



To receive a Photo ID, proof of residency is required from all Village and School District residents. Acceptable proof includes a driver's license or other photo ID with the address listed, along with other proof of residence such as a tax bill or recent utility bill. For School District residents, a copy of the School Tax bill will be accepted as proof along with another photo ID. **An old Recreation and Parks photo ID card cannot**

**used as proof of current residency.**

ID Photos will be taken at the Recreation Office in the Municipal Building (2nd floor) at the following times:

<u>All Tues. &amp; Thurs. (not holidays)</u>		12:30-3:30 PM
Additional times:		
May	Mon. 8th	6:00-9:00 PM
	Sat. 13th	9:00AM-Noon
	Thu. 25th	4:00-7:00 PM
	Wed. 31st	6:00-9:00 PM
June	Tue. 6th	4:00-8:00 PM
	Sat. 17th	9:00AM-Noon
	Sat. 24th	9:00AM-Noon
July	Tue. 11th	4:00-8:00 PM

If you have any further questions about obtaining a Photo ID, please call the Recreation & Parks Dept. at 271-3006.

