

The Croton-on-Hudson **Village Newsletter**

Winter/Spring 2001

Number 43

Calendar

MARCH

- 5 & 19 Village Board
- 6 & 20 Planning Board
- 7 Conservation
Advisory Council
- 14 Zoning Board
of Appeals
- 18 Water Control
Commission
- 20 Village Election
Day
- 21 Water Control
Commission

APRIL

- 2 & 16 Village Board
- 3 & 24 Planning Board
- 4 Conservation
Advisory Council
- 11 Zoning Board
of Appeals
- 18 Water Control
Commission

MAY

- 1 & 22 Planning Board
- 2 Conservation
Advisory Council
- 7 & 21 Village Board
Zoning Board
of Appeals
- 9 Water Control
Commission
- 20 Memorial Day



Architect's rendition of the new Harmon Firehouse, expected to be completed by the late fall.

Croton Police Department

Emergency - 911

Non-emergency - 271-5177

Anonymous Information Hotline Line - 271-0706

Police Chief
Dennis Coxen
Police Force
Det. Lt. Tramaglini
Lt. Calcutti
Sgt. Harper
Sgt. Mulleavey
Sgt. Nolte
Det. Nikitopoulos
P.O. Oles



P.O. Corvinus
P.O. Westhoff
P.O. Barirde
P.O. Sarli
P.O. Bagley
P.O. Turner
P.O. Scavelli
P.O. Morrison
P.O. Gabrielsen
P.O. Camillieri

HIRING

The Croton police are hired through Civil Service. When a position is vacant, the Civil Service list of applicants is canvassed and letters sent to the top candidates. Respondents are reviewed by the Chief of Police. The final decision on employment is made by the Village Board of Trustees, with the understanding that the first year is probationary, during which job performance is periodically evaluated.

With a current total of 18 employees and one vacancy, the Department is open and staffed, ready to give assistance in any emergency 24 hours a day, every day.

PATROL

Two cars are on constant patrol, either cruising the streets or at a standby post in an area of potential trouble. Holiday weekends, severe weather, such as snowstorms or prolonged heat waves, are likely to produce more frequent trouble calls. During these periods as many as four cars may be on active duty. Over the period of a year, the Police Department expects to log between 134 and 154 thousand miles of patrol.

Every car carries equipment for use in situations ranging from a minor acci-

Continued next page

Croton Police Department Continued

dent to a life threatening incident. Stored for quick retrieval are: defibrillators, a first aid kit, oxygen, a blanket, two small fire extinguishers, flares, traffic cones, a measuring wheel for checking skid marks, a crowbar, a car door opener and a loaded shot gun.

Even though the nature of a distress call may be known and seem routine, a secondary emergency can develop at the scene. A traffic check or a dispute between neighbors can escalate and present a threat to the officer and any bystanders. Officers wear bullet proof vests in these situations.

In addition, an officer is assigned foot patrol in the business area of the village during school lunch breaks and after school. The program has added a comfort factor for residents, business owners and students.

TRAINING

On-going training is designed to provide the skills needed to cope with any situation. Among the areas covered are the handling of explosive devices, radiological detection, crowd control, the use of radar, laws pertaining to domestic violence and the use of a breathalyzer.

The detectives' job demands highly specialized training as they investigate every crime committed in Croton. They have attended a wide variety of seminars and Westchester County Labs and Research Crime Scene Schools. The detectives work closely with all other police departments including the F.B.I.; the Secret Service; New York State; Westchester County and neighboring municipalities.

Twice a year the village's two New York State certified firearms training officers conduct sessions in firearms usage, to ensure that every member of the force meets state qualifications in the use of small arms and shotguns.

In return, one officer, currently Cliff Gabrielsen, is assigned to be the village's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer and trains students at the elementary school in the program to resist drugs and cope with peer pressure.

Five members of the Dive/Rescue Team train in the Hudson River and in

an abandoned quarry north of the village. Six members of the Emergency Response Team also hold regular training sessions.

ROSTER

The Patrol Lieutenant prepares the duty roster. He works out the schedule for three eight-hour shifts (8 a.m.-4 p.m.; 4 p.m.-12 a.m.; 12 a.m.-8 a.m.). Vacation, off-duty days, sick leave and other leave time must be taken into consideration to be sure every duty tour is adequately staffed. Except when on vacation or sick, every officer is subject to call for emergency duty.

TECHNOLOGY

The police department is fully computerized with state-of-the-art equipment. Recently grant money was obtained from federal and state sources to supplement funds for computers to be installed in police cars, which will be on-line with police headquarters. Police Officer Richard Corvinus recently reported to the Village Board on the mobile community network system licensing agreement that Metrocom, Inc. will make possible for the Police Department through an agreement. Detective Lieutenant Tony Tramaglini considers the computers will soon be able to receive digital photographs.

AUXILIARIES

There are currently six Auxiliaries, who volunteer time to assist at events such as, High School graduation and on any occasion when car and pedestrian traffic is unusually heavy. They are trained by County, but do not carry firearms.

Several openings exist for Auxiliaries. Anyone wishing to volunteer may stop by Police Headquarters in the Municipal Building, 1 Van Wick Street. Applicants must be over 21 years old, have no police record, and be a resident of Croton.

HOT-LINE

A telephone line for residents to anonymously report suspicious problems has been installed in the detective's office. The number is 271-0706.

Parking Fees Raised at Croton-Harmon

After a great deal of consideration, the Croton Village Board recently voted to raise the parking fees at the Croton Harmon Railroad Station Parking Lot.

The fees increases are:

Preferred - \$100 per month

Resident monthly - \$40 per month

Non-resident monthly - \$70 per month

Meters - \$.50 per hour

Daily - \$4 per day

The daily rate increase went into effect on February 1, and the meter increase is effective as soon as the meters are changed.

The various monthly increases will go into effect on June 1, 2001.

The Board of Trustees also decided that all village residents applying for monthly permits will receive them. School district residents will be second to receive them as they become available, and continue as a priority until the demand is exhausted. Third will be all other non-residents, using the existing list of applicants on a first come-first served basis.

Street Lights

Call the Department of Public Works at 271-3775 to report a non-functioning street light. The street name and a utility pole number and the street address of the nearest house is all the information the DPW needs to get the light repaired.

It Keeps Getting Better Croton's Web Site

<http://village.croton-on-hudson.ny.us/>

We have been receiving praise about the Croton-on-Hudson Village web site. It includes information on village government, the school district, history of the village, and current demographic statistics. It also has agendas of village board meetings and the possibility of posting minutes of village board meetings.

Within a few weeks it will become interactive and able to receive e-mail from residents.

Coming soon — events in the Village!

Free Parking at Croton-Harmon on Weekends

Residents of the Village of Croton may park free of charge at the Croton-Harmon Railroad parking lot. For a permit, apply at the Village Office during business hours -- and remember to bring a copy of your car's registration.



Village Manager Richard Herbek (left) and Mayor Robert Elliott received a check for \$114,352.40 from Metro-North officials Peter A. Cannito, President, and Karen Timko, Environmental Counsel in October. The funds were from an environmental credit program established by the New York State DEC for fines imposed on Metro North for improper storage of hazardous waste in 1994. The money will be used to build a canoe and kayak launch into the Croton Estuary at the southern tip of the Croton-Harmon Railroad Station Parking Lot. Suggestions have been made to name the launch after Theodore Cornu, a leading environmentalist in Croton last century.

Goals and Objectives - 2000/2001

Village Manager Richard Herbek recently listed Goals and Objectives for the village during 2000/2001. They included:

- **Firehouse Improvements** - The four prime contractors have been working through the winter on both the Harmon and Grand Street Firehouse Improvements. Although the weather has not been ideal for construction, the project is still on track and scheduled for completion in early fall. Contractor meetings with the architects take place every two weeks to insure proper coordination and progress is being made. The Croton Fire Department has been sitting in on these meetings, and, along with representatives, is monitoring the construction carefully to make sure the village has quality facilities for the years ahead.

- **The Northern Tier Group** - working to build a recyclables transfer facility following the end of the contract with the Westchester RESCO (garbage to energy) Plant in Peekskill. The Northern Tier Group con-

sists of the Villages of Ossining, Buchanan and Croton-on-Hudson and the Towns of Cortlandt, Ossining and Yorktown.

- Work with the **Chamber of Commerce** on meeting various goals and objectives that they have presented to the Village Board, including:

- Repainting of the street poles in the upper village.

- Continue efforts for beautification of the Village and work toward a Flower Village program by allowing businesses, families and individuals to "adopt a barrel."

- Pedestrian safety — continue to improve safety at all crosswalks.

- **Façade Improvements** - investigate various strategies and opportunities for promoting façade improvements. Contact New York Conference of Mayors to find out alternatives available for municipalities.

- **Comprehensive Master Plan** - work with the committee and the firm of Buckhurst Fish on providing information to be addressed as part of the process.

Village Elections Tuesday, March 20

On Tuesday, March 20, Village residents will elect a Mayor and two Trustees. The terms of Mayor Robert Elliott and Trustees Georgianna Grant and Trustee Sam Watkins expire on April 2, 2001.

The central polling place will be the Municipal Building's Community Room from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. To be eligible to vote one must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old as of the date of the election and a resident of the Village of Croton for thirty days as of the date of the election and registered to vote.

Registration forms are available from the Village Office during business hours. The last day to register with County Board of Elections in White Plains is March 9, 2001.

Absentee ballots will be available at the Village Office from mid-February. Residents may call 271-4848 for absentee ballot applications.

- **Duck Pond Dredging** - The Village is continuing to renew options for the proposed dredging of the Duck Pond. This follows recommendation from the Village's Conservation Advisory Council, chaired by Jon Gopelrud, and further review and study by the Water Control Commission, chaired by Sally Odland. It is hoped before winter ends that the Village will undertake an "in house" project to do some minimal dredging of the Duck Pond to lower the level and prevent some of the plant growth. The cost to do this is expected to be less than \$20,000.

- **Half Moon Bay** - the Village is working very closely with the developer and the Half Moon Bay Home Owners Association on the final plans for the remaining phases of this waterfront condominium project. Plans for a trail and southern access road to Croton Point Avenue are in the process of being resolved. Construction is expected to begin in the next few weeks.

- **Railroad Tie Removal Program** -
Continued on next page

Goals and Objectives continued

continue working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Hudsonia, the United States Military Academy, Metro North and other agencies on the railroad tie removal in the Croton River Estuary.

★ Use the STAR Program to Lower Taxes ★

A state program offers home owners a reduction in their assessed property value and the amount of school taxes they pay.

Senior citizens and others whose annual incomes exceed \$60,000 are eligible for the "basic" STAR exemption. It was extended in the 1999-2000 school year with at least a \$10,000 full-value assessment exemption for all primary-residence homeowners, regardless of age or income. It is being phased in over three years to at least \$30,000 in school year 2001-02.

The STAR application form, RP-425, is available at the office of the Town of Cortlandt Assessors, Sal D'Onfrio - 734-1040 or by calling 888-NY-STAR-5. The completed

• **Brook Street Grade Crossing Elimination Project** - finalize memo of agreement with Metro North. Work with New York State Department of Transportation on whatever agreements are necessary for obtaining NYSDOT funding of \$2 million and \$2 million from Metro North.

forms are returned to the local assessors.

In the 1998-99 school year, eligible senior citizens started getting a break on school taxes under the "enhanced" STAR exemption. To be eligible, property owners must be 65 years of age or older with incomes that do not exceed \$60,000 a year. For property owned by a husband and wife, only one of them has to be at least 65 years of age. Their combined annual income, however, must not exceed \$60,000.

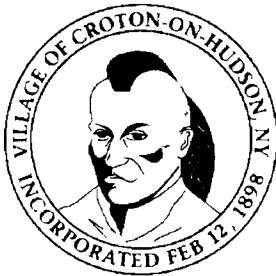
When this exemption is fully phased in, in the 2001-02 school year, seniors will receive at least a \$50,000 exemption on the full value of their property.

• **Completion of Water Main Extension Project** for providing water to Scenic Ridge, Westwinds, and northern part of the Village.

• **Begin Sidewalk Development Program** with Village residents who have applied for funding. Complete at least one section of the sidewalks recommended in the sidewalk committee report of 1997.

• **Millennium Pipeline** - work with the Board of Trustees and other elected and appointed officials in objecting to the use of Routes 9 and 9A, and other areas in the Village, from being used for the construction of the pipeline and recommend that the Con Edison Power Line Route be the route selected for the pipeline.

• **Waterfront Master Plan** - work with John Imbiano on completing the final report of recommendation to the Board of Trustees and the New York State Department of State.



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

Robert W. Elliott, Mayor
Georgiana K. Grant, Trustee
James Harkins, Trustee
Deborah Y. McCarthy, Trustee
Sam R. Watkins, Jr. Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager

Bulk Rate
Permit No. 1
Carrier Route
Pre-Sort
Croton-on-Hudson
New York 10520

**Postal Patron
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520**