



January Calendar

- 1 New Years Day**
- 2 Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 7 & 22 Village Board Mtg.**
- 8 & 22 Planning Bd. Mtg.**
- 8 Rec. Advisory Bd.
- 9 Zoning Bd. Mtg.**
- 16 Sustainability Comm.
- 21 Martin Luther King Day**
- 23 Trails Comm.

In this issue

- Skiing Discounts 2
- Energize Croton Info Mtg. 2
- Snow Removal 2
- American History Series 2
- Program Cancellations 2
- Duck Pond Skating 3
- Eaglefest is Coming! 3
- Weekend & Alarm Permits 3
- Drug Drop-Off Box 3
- Tree Disposal 3
- Water Bill Reminder 3
- Build-A-Snowman Contest 4
- Winter Recreation Pgms. 4
- Tax Volunteers 4
- Got a Question? 4

Croton EMS Looking for Volunteers

Croton Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was formed in 2007. Formerly, the Village's emergency medical services were part of the Croton Fire Department. Becoming an independent department enabled the Village to receive reimbursement for those ambulance calls where the individual has insurance which covers such emergency services. This is not permitted under NYS law for emergency medical service units attached to Fire Departments.

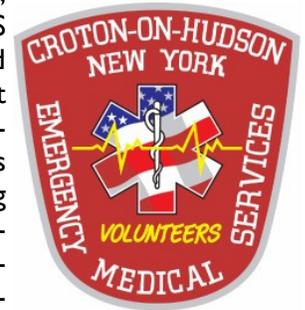
Croton's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is actively looking for new volunteers to help them support the high volume of calls they receive every year. As of October 31, 2012, EMS received 588 calls. While EMS has a roster of 42 volunteers, many are unable to make calls on a regular basis. Some work too far away from the Village, some are in school or the Armed Services, or on medical leave.

Every ambulance call requires that there be a certified driver and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), certified in Basic Life Support (BLS), to be in attendance. To help support the volunteer EMS Dept., in 2010 the Village entered into an agreement with Mid-Hudson Ambulance Services to provide a full-time, 24/7, EMT at the Croton EMS headquarters.

Having a full-time EMT available ensures that an appropriate medical response is always available. It is not unusual to have two calls simultaneously so additional EMTs are also needed to be able to respond. However, every EMT must have a driver for the ambulance once it leaves the patient's residence. Currently there is a critical need for trained drivers in Croton's EMS.

To address the need for more EMS volunteers and to review the organizational

Mayor Wiegman appointed a Citizen's EMS Advisory Committee to make recommendations regarding the delivery of services by the Croton EMS. The committee, under the chairmanship of Richard Nagle, the Village's Emergency Services Director, met with EMS members and staff in an effort to develop recommendations for improving service and increasing membership. Committee members



are Virginia Calcutti, Rose Raffa, and Joe Streany. The Advisory Committee presented their report and recommendations to the Village Board on October 22 at a work session.

Acting on those recommendations, the Board has appointed Mr. Nagle to be the acting EMS department head, reporting to the Village Manager (an unpaid position). Mr. Nagle's mandate is to identify and facilitate any organizational and operational changes that would enhance the functioning of Croton's EMS. He is also to work with the membership to form a slate of officers for EMS in 2013. Current Captain Gary Diggs, who led the move to create an independent EMS in 2007, has decided not to continue as Captain going forward.

The Village Board recently approved a membership drive program and promotional materials developed by EMS member Mark Dickey. The Board had earlier approved a maximum \$16,000 budget for the development of a multi-faceted recruitment program. If you are interested in volunteering, no prior experience is required. Training and equipment are provided. For info call 862-1600.

Skiing, Snowboarding Trip and Discounts

Enjoy a day of skiing, snowboarding or tubing at Tuxedo Ridge Ski Center on Feb. 2 (snow date Feb. 9). The bus will depart from the Municipal Building at 8 am and return at 5 pm. The trip is for students in grades 9 to 12 and costs \$10/person plus the cost of the lift ticket. The registration deadline is January 18.



Frequent skiers won't want to miss this great ski lift discount opportunity. In cooperation with the NYS Recreation & Park Society, the Recreation Dept. is offering discount admission tickets to various ski mountains including Bromley and Killington in Vermont and Hunter Mountain, Kissing Bridge, Swain and Windham in New York. As an example of the savings, a weekend ticket at Hunter (\$70) can be purchased for \$53. Similar savings are available at all of the above ski areas. Tickets may be purchased at the Recreation Dept. There is no minimum purchase. For more information call 271-3006.



Snow Removal Reminder!

Please remember that it is each resident's and business owner's responsibility to clear the snow from the sidewalks bordering their property. Keeping the sidewalks clear of snow helps keep residents as safe as possible during the winter months.



Critical Moments in American History

Through a grant from the Westchester County Dept. of Senior Programs and Services, Croton's Senior program is offering a 4-session series that will focus on the momentous issues throughout our history and how these issues moved the American narratives in a different direction. Edward Pressman will conduct the sessions, which are presented by Mainstream, the Institute for Mature Adults at Westchester Community College.

The sessions will be on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 13 from 10 am to 12 noon at the Municipal Bldg. The program is free but registration is required. Sign up in the Recreation Office.

Energize Croton Info Meeting

Croton's Sustainability Committee, in conjunction with the Town of Cortlandt, is launching its public outreach program as part of the Village joining the Energize New York program. The State program has been in existence for many years but has had a low participation level due to lack of publicity. The program provides energy efficiency resources for residences.



The informational session will be at the Municipal Building meeting room on Wednesday, January 9 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Since localities have taken on promotion of the State energy program through localized publicity efforts, the rate of participation has increased significantly. The evening's program and speakers are being organized by the staff from Energize NY. The Village's Sustainability Committee is managing the local outreach to familiarize residents with the program, locally known as Energize-Croton. All community groups and residents are invited to attend to learn about the benefits and resources available to residents through the program. Licensed contractors are also welcome to attend.

The program will include an overview of home assessments and home performance improvements. There will also be testimonials from local residents who have participated on their own assessment and energy upgrade experiences. Twenty-five Croton-area residents have completed energy upgrades in the past 18 months.

Groups who are invited are expected, in turn, to pass on the Energy Program information to their constituents - increasing awareness of the program, its benefits, and how to participate in it.

The website for EnergizeCroton is <http://energizecroton.org>. Croton is one of 13 Northern Westchester municipalities participating in the program in which most households (annual income less than \$210,000) can qualify for free energy audits of their homes.

Program Cancellations

If the weather is bad and you are unsure whether a Village program is cancelled or not, WHUD 100.7 FM will have announcements on cancellations. In general, if the Croton-Harmon schools are closed due to inclement weather, all Recreation Department programs will be cancelled as well.



**REMINDER! Village Offices will be closed
Tuesday, January 1 for New Years Day and Monday,
January 21 for Martin Luther King Day**



Duck Pond Skating

It's the time of year again when ice skating on the Duck Pond might be possible if there is a long period of cold weather. New York State requires 6 inches or more of ice measured at multiple locations on the pond in order for skating to be allowed.



The Parks Dept. displays flags at the park indicating whether skating is permitted or not. A GREEN flag indicates the ice is safe for skating; a RED flag means no skating is permitted.

Skating at the Duck Pond, when permitted, is unsupervised. It is recommended that skaters be accompanied by another person and not skate by themselves.

Alarm & Weekend Parking Permits

Village residents who have private alarm systems installed are required to have an Alarm permit. The permits can be obtained in the Village Office. The initial permit fee is \$150 and they are renewable annually for \$50. All alarm permits expire on Dec. 31 each year and must be renewed.



All Weekend Parking Permits expired on Dec. 31, 2012 and must be renewed. The new permit is good for 2 years - Dec. 2014. Weekend Parking permits are free for Village residents with current, valid vehicle registrations. All permits can be renewed in the Village Office during regular office hours.



Drug Drop-Off Box

Croton Police are providing a safe and secure place to dispose of unused prescription drugs that residents no longer need or want. The box, which is located just inside the front door of the Police Station at the Municipal Building, is available for drop-offs day and night. No identification or registration is needed. The drugs will be properly disposed of by incineration.

Prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and pet medications are acceptable but not syringes, needles or liquids. This box was donated to the Village Police Dept. by the NYS Dept. of Health. Drug Take-Back Days will continue to be held semi-annually in conjunction with the federal Drug Enforcement Admin. (DEA)



8th Eaglefest Is Coming!

The 8th Annual Hudson River Eaglefest event is returning to Croton Point Park and multiple viewing locations along the Hudson River on Saturday, February 9 from 9am to 4pm.

Organized by Teatown Reservation, the event enjoys the sponsorship of more than 30 participating organizations from the Hudson Valley. This year's theme is "Flying Into the Future: What You Can Do". It will emphasize the small things you can do each day that will have a big impact on wildlife. All the demonstrations and displays will follow this theme.



Croton Point Park is the headquarters for the event. Heated tents will provide spaces for the Eagle Theater and Eaglet Stage as well as many displays and demonstrations. Raptor shows, storytelling, children's programs, are all part of the exciting day.

Bus tours to other eagle-viewing sites will originate from Croton Point Park as well. The Eagle Theater shows are hourly through the day and feature live eagles, hawks, owls and other raptors.

Croton's Echo Boat Launch, south of the train station parking lot, is one of the seven viewing spots staffed with experts. It is sponsored by the Saw Mill River Audubon Society. Hot chocolate will be available in the warming tent at the site.

A donation of \$5 is encouraged for the event. Reservations are required for the bus trips (\$20) and may be made for the Eagle Theater shows (\$5). Tickets for the Eagle Theater may be purchased at the door for \$10. The Eaglet Stage shows are free. For reservations, call 914-762-2912, ext. 110. Parking is free at locations in the park with shuttles to the headquarter's site. The snow date is Sunday, Feb. 10. More information on the show details and viewing locations is available at www.teatown.org.

Tree Disposal

Discarded holiday trees will be picked up by the DPW in the first two weeks of January. Please leave trees near the curb but not in the street. Trees should be free of all trimmings including tinsel and should NOT be bagged.

Water Bill reminder!

Water bills are due by January 15th. Penalties are added each month thereafter for bills in arrears.

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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor, Kevin Davis, Trustee, Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee, Ian Murtaugh, Trustee, Casey Raskob, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager

Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building, One Van Wyck Street

(914) 271-4781-2, www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Winter Recreation Programs

The Recreation Department has a great new program for kids in grades 1-2, the **Book Club For Kids**, from 6-7pm on eight Thursdays beginning Jan. 24. Students will read from a picture book each week and engage in activities pertaining to the book as they build early literary skills. Registration deadline is Jan. 17; fee is \$70/res and \$85/nonres.

Aviation Club is back!. In this class, students from K-2 will learn how to design, build and fly their own super cool model airplanes. Register by Jan. 23 for this 5 session series on Mondays, beginning Jan. 28 from 4 to 5 PM. Fee is \$80/res. and \$96/nonres.



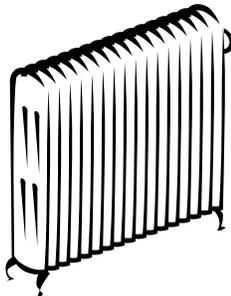
Challengers Basketball Clinic. Boys and girls with special needs can have a great time learning basketball drills and skills with members of the CHHS Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams. This clinic on Saturday, Feb. 2 (snow date Feb. 9) from 10 to 12 noon is for young people with physical/mental challenges. Register by January 31. Fee is \$5/res. and \$8/nonres.

Got a Question?



What should I do if I have no heat? I am a renter living in the Village.

According to Westchester County Code, the heating season begins October 1 and ends May 31. When the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees farenheit, the inside temperature should be at least 68 degrees between 6 am and 10 pm. This applies to all rentals including two-family houses where the owner does not live on-site. New York State also requires that hot water be provided 365 days a year, 24 hours/day.



If you have no heat or insufficient heat, you should first call your landlord or the building superintendent. If the heat is not correct or restored, the next step is to contact Croton's Code Enforcement Dept. Westchester County no longer responds to no-heat complaints.

If you experience no-heat and have been unsuccessful in having the heat restored, you should contact the Village's Building Dept. during office hours from 8:30 am to 4 pm., Monday - Friday at 271-4783. During non-office

Tax Volunteers Needed

Westchester County provides tax help for its low and moderate-income residents who qualify for federal and state earned income tax credits (EITC). Last year, 6,604 residents obtained refunds totaling \$7.5 million on their 2011 returns.

The annual program is staffed with volunteers who are trained to help with filling out the tax returns. Volunteer training will begin in January and continue through the tax season. Volunteers are asked to donate some time between Jan. 2 and April 15 at one of several designated tax assistance centers. The centers closest to Croton are in Ossining and Peekskill. Each location's hours of operation vary with day, evening and weekend hours. Interested individuals can sign up online at www.westchesterputnamonestop.com. The County's EITC Assistance program is part of a broader Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program sponsored by the IRS and NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Credits can be as much as \$7,764 for families earning less than \$51,000 depending on the number of children



hours, calls should be made to the Village Police Dept. at 271-5177. Code enforcement personnel will visit your home to measure the temperature and follow-up as necessary.

Build-A-Snowman Contest

Build a snowman this winter, take a picture of it, and be part of the annual Build-A-Snowman contest!

Categories are: a) Typical snowman and b) Snow Sculpture (animal, etc.). The picture should be a 4" x 6" with both the snowman and the builder in it. Please mail it to the Recreation Dept. by Friday, March 15th. Include your name, address and phone number on the back of the photo. The photos will not be returned. Think SNOW!!!

