

Croton's 2008/2009 Budget Highlights

June Calendar

- 1 Summerfest
- 2 & 16 Village Board Mtg.
- 10 & 24 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 4 Cons. Advisory Council
- 10 Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 11 Zoning Bd. of Appeals

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The 2008/2009 fiscal year covers the period of June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009. The adopted budget calls for \$16,193,754 in appropriations of which \$10,209,911 will be raised through property taxes. The difference, \$5,983,843, is funded through various revenue sources. This year's tax rate is \$232.263 per \$1000 of assessed valuation - a 3.95% increase over last years rate.

The proposed budget was filed on March 20th. Between then and its adoption on April 28th, the Village Board met 8 times, including meetings with all the department heads and a public hearing to streamline the final budget.

On the non-tax revenue side, the largest portion comes from the rail station parking lot - \$2,358,000. Other anticipated large sources of non-tax revenue are Westchester County sales tax - \$980,000, \$151,000 in franchise taxes, Parks & Recreation fees - \$215,000, Interest & Earnings - \$250,000, and Fire Protection services - \$238,567. The remaining revenue comes from a very large variety of fees, fines, rental income and grants.

On the expenditure side, the departments generally kept their expenditures close to the levels of last year. Increases generally can be attributed to labor costs. Labor costs are based upon contracts with the Croton Police Association, Teamsters Local 456 and increases for non-contract employees.

Energy costs were a factor in many budgets as the higher costs of fuel for vehicles for all departments (gas and diesel) was raised \$55,000 to \$160,000. Likewise energy costs for heating, air conditioning, and lighting increased \$30,000 to \$178,000. PASNY had notified its customers of an increase this year which was approved by the NYS

Power Authority. Other energy costs which are harder to identify are those passed along from service providers who incorporate their own higher energy costs into the Village's bills.

The Village's legal budget was set at \$337,464, about \$23,000 less than last year. This budget includes the Village Attorney, the prosecuting attorney, outside attorneys for litigation and our bond attorneys.

The debt service fund for 2008/2009 increased by \$94,493 to \$1,827,280 while the rates for both the Water Fund and the Sewer fund will remain the same as for 2007/2008.

The Capital Budget, for long range improvements and expenditures, was also approved for \$3,610,000. The latter is not appropriated money but rather a plan for projects and expenditures that will be paid for primarily by bonds or, in some cases, grants. The funding for these projects is usually approved at the time the projects or purchases move forward. Items in this budget include Water System improvements such as installation and testing of a new well and High St. water main replacement. This latter debt is assigned to the Water fund and repayment affects the water rates. Other capital projects, whose debt is assigned to the General Fund, and paid through property taxes, include general road repairs, sidewalks and curbing, train station parking lot improvements, work at the Nordica Sewer Pump station, Batten Rd. stormwater improvements, stormwater improvements on Brook Street, Old Post Rd. North, Prospect Place, and Georgia Lane, replacement of a bucket truck and purchase of a sanitation truck, Police Headquarters renovation design work, Municipal Building renovations, a hybrid vehicle pool car and improvements at the Duck Pond park. Debt service on these bonds will appear in next year's budget.

Summer Camps Galore!

In addition to the popular Tiny Tots Camp and Day Camp, Croton's Recreation Dept. is offering a variety of special focus camps this summer.



For dancers there is the Tiny Dancer Camp for ages 3 1/2 to 5; Elementary Dance Camp for ages 5 to 7, and Summer Dance Camp for ages 8 to 12. Registration deadline for the first two camps is June 23 and July 15 for the last one.

A Cake Decorating Camp will be held for three half-days in August with campers bringing home their finished creations. The popular Co-Rec Basketball Camp for grades 3 to 8 will be held in three one-week sections in July. This camp focuses on each camper's fundamental basketball skills. Each week also ends with contests and awards.

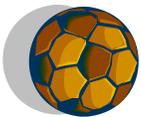


Registration for the above camps can be done at the Recreation office or by sending in the appropriate form. Call 271-3006 for more information.

As it has for the past two years, the Recreation Dept. has also contracted with the US Sports Institute to provide summer day camps with a sports focus. Two Multi-Sports

Camps for ages 5 to 7 and 7 to 14 offer campers instruction in and playing opportunities in multiple sports. Both will be at the Duck Pond Park. The Sports Squirts Camps for ages 3 to 5 at Manes Field is a great way to introduce children to a variety of sports, develop hand-eye coordination, movement and balance and, most importantly, have a lot of fun. The Flag Football Clinic for ages 7 to 14 is designed to enhance campers skills at running, catching, passing and blocking and ends with a Superbowl. The Beginners Golf Clinics offered for ages 5 to 7 and ages 8 to 11, will introduce campers to the game of golf using lightweight oversized clubs. Basic golf techniques such as the swing, grip and ball striking, chipping and putting will be covered.

If you are interested in the USSI camps and clinics, you may register online at www.USsportsInstitute.com or pick up a flyer in the Recreation Office. Checks are payable to the US Sports Institute.



Play Toys Must Be Taken Home!

The Parks Dept. has reported that toys such as tricycles, balls and sand toys are being left in the parks. If you bring toys to a park, please take them home with you when you leave. Toys left in the park can create an insurance problem and they will be disposed of by the Department.

Mayo's Landing Re-Vegetation

A volunteer effort on May 10th resulted in the planting of 300 trees and shrubs at the Mayo's Landing conservation area on the Croton River. More than 40 volunteers participated.

The project was a joint effort of the Town of Cortlandt, the Village of Croton and the NYSDEC. The Town applied for a grant of trees from the "Trees for Tribs" DEC initiative. The grant required volunteer effort for the actual



Croton DPW digging holes with Town augur.



Volunteer Planters

planting. Resident Joel Gingold coordinated the volunteer effort. Rich DeSanza from the Town's Planning Dept. was on-site, directing the hole digging by the DPW and planting by the volunteers. The project was conceived as part of the joint efforts of the Village and Town to address over-use of the site and the resulting defoliation leaving the site vulnerable to increased erosion.

June Concerts at Senasqua

This year's Summer Concert Series is kicking off earlier than usual with two concerts scheduled for June. Concerts are on Friday evenings, June 20th and June 27th at 7:00 pm in Senasqua Park. The rain date is Saturday night.

On June 20th, Hurley Mountain Highway, an acoustic-electric group that plays "Feel Good Music" of the 60's and 70's will perform with music by America, Firefall, Peter Frampton, Eagles and more.

Nicole Hart & the New Rhythm Groove will appear on June 27th.

NRG is the natural evolution in the Blues/R&B genre, aggressively combining a seductive, funky feel with the soulful nuances of The Blues. Their classic Blues and R&B materials can only be described as "N R Gized"!

A complete list of the Recreation Dept.'s Summer Concert Series, Summer Movie Series and Family Entertainment Series will appear in the July/August Newsletter coming next month.



Reminder!

Croton Tax bills due by June 30th!



Spotlight on Doug Garrido

Doug Garrido is Croton's newest Police Officer. He joined the Police Department in March of this year as a Patrolman.

Doug comes to Croton after 2 years on the Sleepy Hollow Police Dept. and, prior to that, 2 1/2 years with the New York City Police. While in the NYC Police Department, he was assigned to the 47th Precinct in the Bronx.

As a Patrolman in Croton, Doug is on the streets in a patrol car, answering calls such as 911 emergency calls as well as phoned-in complaints or crimes in progress. Filing reports on these calls as well as reports of ongoing investigations is part of the job. Additionally, there are regular posts in the Upper Village during school lunch hours and at the train

station during the evening commuter rush hour. His on-duty hours and days vary as he is on rotating shifts.

Doug grew up in Sleep Hollow and graduated from Sleepy Hollow High School. He attended Pace University and received a BS in Computer Information Systems. After working for 3 years for the Tarrytown House Conference Center as their Information Technology person, he decided to follow his interest in Police work. He passed the NYC Police test and attended their academy in 2003. Later he passed the Westchester County Police test and moved to the Sleep Hollow Police Dept. Doug particularly likes his working environment with his fellow officers and Chief. He says he finds Croton residents very nice and the Village to

be "nice and quiet" compared to his past experience.

While Doug was growing up, his family returned to their native Portugal for 5 years before moving back to this area. His grandmother and cousins still live there to the north of Lisbon. Doug looks forward to his trips to visit them there each year. In his spare time, Doug likes to play soccer, a sport he played in high school. He used to play in a league but, due to time constraints, now plays just recreationally with friends. Doug currently lives in Tarrytown. He looks forward to a future that includes marriage and raising a family.



"I like the opportunities to interact with residents and get to know them. Croton is a nice quiet town."

Doug Garrido

Tax and Water Bills

Village property tax bills are due by June 30th. After June 30th, a 5% penalty is applied which, by NYS law, cannot be waived for any reason. Send your mailed payment to PO Box 5081, White Plains, NY 10602-5081. Be sure that it has an official postmark indicating the exact date. Payments received after June 30th without an official postmark of June 30th or earlier are deemed late.



Payment can also be made in person at the Village Office on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building from 8:30 am to 4 pm Monday - Friday. Additionally, during June, the office will be open on Saturdays from 9 am to noon for receiving tax payments.

The semiannual water bills will be sent out by June 15th and are due by July 15th. Penalties accrue with late payments at 5% for the first month and 1% more for each additional month. The water bill also includes an amount due for the Sewer Fund. The water rate is the same as last year: \$4.307 per 100 cubic feet. The sewer rate also remains the same: 0.0398 per 100 cubic feet of water consumption. For more information, please call 271-4781.

Anne Minihan Appointed Acting Judge

Anne Minihan has been appointed to fill the position of Acting Judge. The Acting Judge presides in Village Court when Judge Watkins is not available.

Ms. Minihan, who resides in the Village, currently works in the Law Dept. of the Ninth Judicial District. She has also maintained a private practice and been an Assistant District Attorney for Westchester County.

The position of Acting Judge was previously held by the recently deceased Paul Hoffman.

NYC DEP Presentation

The New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be making a presentation at the June 16th Village Board meeting on their plans to raise the water level in the New Croton Reservoir by 4 feet.

The project will involve increasing the height of the spillway weir. The project will expand the capacity of the system to convey extreme storm events and will increase the maximum storage capacity of the reservoir. The work proposed will also extend the useful life of the Dam for 50 to 100 years.

The presentation will provide details of the project and provide an opportunity for questions.

June, 2008

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Got a Question?



My neighbors told me that the law about walking dogs has changed. Can you tell me what the rules are for walking dogs?

The Village Board recently amended the existing laws regulating dogs in the Village. The changes pertain only to the paved walkway at Croton Landing known as Riverwalk.



Currently Croton Landing Park is closed while the Riverwalk trail is extended, a new field is being built and extensive landscaping is being done. When it reopens later this summer, leashed dogs will be allowed on the paved walkway only. They must be on leashes no longer than 6 feet. This also applies to the parking areas at the Park.

All other aspects of the Village's regulations governing dogs remain the same. Dogs, whether leashed or unleashed, are prohibited from being on playgrounds and ball fields in addition to public parks (with the recent exception at Croton Landing) and school proper-

ties. Dogs may also not be on the property of another person, not their owner, without the consent of such other person, leashed or unleashed.

Renewing Local Parking Permits

Residents, merchants and employees who park long-term in the various local lots in the Village must renew their parking permits. These annual parking permits expire on June 30th. A \$25 fee applies to parking permits for the Merwin Oak and Asbury Methodist lots in the Upper Village and the off-street lot in Harmon. Parking permits are also required for merchants and their employees to park in the Van Wyck Shopping Center, Croton Commons or on South Riverside for extended periods of time. These passes, while required, are free. New passes can be obtained in the Village Office. Call Rachel Sibrizzi at 271-4781 for info.

Best Water In Westchester!

In a recent County-run contest for Best Tasting Water, Croton's water took first place over Greenburgh, Yonkers and Peekskill !