



May Calendar

- 3 & 24** Village Board Mtg.
- 11 & 25** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 5** Cons. Advisory Council
- 11** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 12** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 19** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 26** Trails Committee
- 31** Memorial Day

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Developing the Capital Budget

Each year the Village prepares a general operating budget and a capital budget. The operating budget follows NYS requirements with regard to preparation and adoption prior to May 1. For the past 30 years, the Village has also formulated a capital budget at the same time. The capital budget is drawn from a 5-year capital plan that anticipates major future expenditures that are to be funded outside of the yearly operating budget, i.e. the General Fund. These expenditures include major purchases such as fire trucks or sanitation trucks, large repair work, new construction, major planning expenses, and large infrastructure improvements. These large scale expenditures are spread out over 5 years in the 5-year capital plan. That portion to be spent this year becomes the capital budget for this fiscal year. Usually, the expenditures are funded through bonding. The expected amount of debt service payments are reflected in the expenditures portion of the general operating budget.

Equipment expenditures are often for replacement vehicles such as fire trucks. The need for such purchases are based on the life expectancy of the existing equipment, and the history of their use and repair. This information can indicate a range of time in which replacement is prudent.

Upgrading facilities at Village parks and buildings is ongoing with one or two projects done each year. Likewise, road repair, sidewalks and curb replacements appear every year in the capital budget as part of the Village's commitment to ongoing infrastructure maintenance.

As accurately as possible, these items are put into a plan covering 5 years, identifying the estimated costs and sources of funding. Costs of some items may be covered, in part, by grant money

that have been awarded to the Village.

The Capital plan is not a static document; unanticipated expenditures with high priorities may supplant items in the capital budget causing other items to be moved further into the future.

Each year, the Board takes a fresh look at the 5-year plan. They may decide to move some items into different time frames depending on the circumstances that prevail each year including availability of funding and the critical nature of some items over others. Water and sewer projects are also part of capital planning. Those projects are planned in the same way but are part of the Water Fund or Sewer Fund rather than the General Fund.

Cont'd. on page 3

Newsletter Delivery Changes

This issue of the Village Newsletter is the last one to be mailed to residents. Starting in June, the Newsletter will be available electronically - either sent to your email address or by viewing it on the Village website.



A limited number of printed copies will be available at the Village Office and the Croton Free Library. Elimination of the printing and postage will save the Village over \$12,000 annually.

To have the Newsletter emailed to you, click on [Subscribe to News](#) on the upper right side of the Village's Homepage. Select "Newsletters" from the menu choices and provide your email address. Alternatively, you can read the Newsletter whenever you wish from the [Quick Links](#) section in the center of the Homepage beneath the picture. Select [Newsletters](#) to see all the available Newsletters. The Village website is www.crotononhudson-ny.gov.

Kiting, Kayaking, Swimming, Boating and More!

Kiting and Kayaking are among the new offerings from the Recreation Dept. on Sat., May 29, 1-3 pm at Croton Landing Park, you can show off your kite flying skills. Bring your own kite. Refreshments will be served. This is a free event but registration is required by May 21.



If you would like to learn the basics of kayaking with experienced staff from Hudson River Recreation, there will be many opportunities this summer. Single and double kayaks will be available at Echo Boat Launch on the Croton River, south of the station parking lot. Kayaking will be done on either the Croton or Hudson Rivers. This opportunity is offered on June 6, 12, 19, 20, and 27 at various times of the day. The fee is \$69/\$79 (res./nonres.) Call 692-5135 or visit www.kayakhudson.com for more information and to sign up.



The Boat Basin at Senasqua Park will officially open on May 8. Spots are available for either in-water moorings, on-land park storage or spots on a sunfish rack. Ramp passes are also available entitling the boater to ramp their boat on a daily basis. Costs of mooring permits and storage space vary with the boat size. A ramp pass is \$150/\$205 (res./nonres.)..



Swimming at Silver Lake will begin on Memorial Day weekend. Permits for the entire season are offered to Village and school district residents on either a family or individual basis. Senior Citizens are free. Daily fees may also be paid at the park. Due to needed repair work on the dam at Silver Lake, the park will close for the season on August 29th. The work was previously scheduled for last season but was postponed due to the abnormally high water level in the Croton River last fall.

Beginning May 1, to use Silver Lake, Senasqua Park or to be on the Village's eligible golfers list for play at Hudson National Golf Course, a Recreation Dept. photo ID is required. These may be obtained at the Recreation Dept. office on Tues./Thurs. from 12:30 to 3:30. For evening and Saturday dates, refer to the Recreation brochure you received in the mail or call 271-3006. A valid drivers license with a Croton address on it and an additional proof of residency such as a tax bill or utility bill must be presented. Expired Recreation photo ids cannot be used as proof of residency.

Croton Landing Field Opens



The multi-purpose field at Croton Landing has opened for its inaugural season. The field in the river front park can be scheduled for use by teams or groups at the Recreation Dept. There is no fee, but a permit is required. Insurance coverage is also required for team usage. When not in use by a scheduled group, park goers may use the field for passive uses and enjoyment.

NYSERDA Grant Awarded to Croton

A grant of \$279,800 has been awarded to Croton by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The grant allows partnering municipalities to hire a consulting firm to conduct a green house gas emissions inventory for four municipalities, to update a green house gas inventory for one municipality, and develop a Climate Action Plan for six municipalities. The partnering municipalities for these awards include the City of Peekskill, the Towns of Bedford, Cortlandt, North Salem, Pound Ridge, and Somers, and the Village of Croton-on-Hudson. The grant covers 100% of the projected cost.

As one of 14 member municipalities in the Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium (NWEAC), Croton acted as the lead applicant for several of the NWEAC municipalities as the proposed work is more cost **effective** as a shared service. The grant, which Croton will administer, will enable the municipalities to identify actions and initiatives to reduce their carbon emissions and promote homeowner energy efficiency.

Yard Waste

Yard waste will be collected on Wednesdays, not with your regular garbage collection. The schedule for pick up is available on the Village's website and on Channel 78. Yard waste must be placed in bio-degradable leaf bags or open-top garbage containers, NOT in plastic bags.

Blood Drive Reminder

The 80th community blood drive will be held on Sunday, May 2, at Croton-Harmon High School, from 9:00 to 3:00. Call 271-7645 or 271-8449 for info.



Reminder!
Offices will be closed Monday, May 31
for Memorial Day.



Spotlight on the Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) performs a variety of functions set forth in New York State Village Law, Section 7.

Its primary purpose is to grant relief (when appropriate) to residents who desire or need a variance from the Village's Zoning Laws - Section 230 of the Village Code or who want to appeal a decision of the Building Inspector who enforces the code. The ZBA is also authorized to provide interpretations of the zoning code.

The use, density and siting of development, i.e. land use control, is granted in NYS to Villages. The local laws defining allowable uses, and the regulations governing them are determined solely at the local government level by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees establishes a ZBA to hear and decide appeals from the Zoning Laws. The ZBA is not a legislative body but, rather, a quasi-judicial body in hearing and deciding upon residents' appeals from the local zon-

ing code.

Hearing and deciding on Area variances and Use variances constitute the primary work of the ZBA. Criteria for granting both Area and Use variances are strictly defined by NYS Village Law (7-712). Applicants for variances must meet these criteria to achieve success. Area variances are for relief from dimensional requirements set forth in the local Zoning Code. For instance an applicant might seek relief from a required property line setback distance in order to build a deck. A Use variance would permit a use of the land not otherwise allowed under the local Zoning Code. Use variances are harder to achieve and require a demonstration by the applicant that no reasonable return can be made from the property as it is currently zoned.

For both types of variances, the ZBA must balance the needs of the applicant with the best interests of the whole community within the framework of the existing code. Variances,

if granted, must be the minimum the ZBA considers adequate. NYS law also governs the time-frames in which decisions must be rendered.

Residents who have received a denial of a building permit from the Building Inspector may also appeal this decision to the ZBA. As well, the Village Engineer and/or Building Inspector may ask the ZBA for an interpretation of the Village Code when it is unclear as to its intent or actual meaning. These deliberations occur less frequently than applications for Area or Use variances.

Croton's five-member ZBA is chaired by Seth Davis. Members are Rhoda Stevens, Roseann Schulyer, Alan Macdonald and Doug Olcott. Appointment terms are five years with one appointment expiring each year. The ZBA meets on the second Wednesday of every month to consider applications. Official public notices for all applications under consideration by the ZBA are published in either the Gazette or the Journal News.



Summerfest

The annual Summerfest event will take place on Sunday, June 6 in the Upper Village. Mark your calendars and join your friends in celebrating the summer season. Street vendors, delicious foods and wonderful entertainment will highlight the day. The Summerfest parade begins at 1 pm from the Five Corners location at Old Post Road South and Cleveland Dr. The fun continues through 6 pm with live music throughout the afternoon.

Seniors Installation Lunch

Croton Seniors will be installing their slate of officers for the coming year at a May luncheon. Officers for the next year are Connie Corry, Pres.; Dorothy Arensburg, Vice-Pres.; John Giglio, Treasurer; Lou Balazs, Ass't. Treasurer; and Jean Kraemer, Secretary. Club membership is currently over 160. They meet weekly on Fridays at 11 am at the Municipal Building Community Room or at Senasqua Park during the summer months. Annual dues are \$6. for residents.

Capital Budget, cont'd from p.1 Although the capital plan could be done at any time, a good reason for doing it early in the year is to make it possible to issue only one bond for the entire year's projects as issuing bonds has inherent costs itself.

For the fiscal year 2010/2011, some of the capital projects the Board is considering include general road repairs, sidewalk and curb replacements and improvements, stormwater management repairs on the Georgia Lane retention pond, and design work for rehabilitation of the Half Moon Bay Bridge. Also under consideration is replacement equipment for DPW (salt spreaders, a brush chipper and a cart flipper). A tanker replacement is a major item (\$580,000) being considered for the Fire Dept. Evaluation and design work for significant energy upgrades and renovations in the Municipal Building to accommodate Police Dept. space requirements is also proposed at \$200,000.

Additionally, work on the Village's well field improvements, and design work for the Village-wide water distribution system will be included in the Water Fund Capital projects. Rehabilitation work on the Sanitary Sewer collection system and installation of new pumps and a force-main at the Nordica Pump Station are included in the Sewer Fund Capital plan.

May, 2010

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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor
Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee
Ian Murtaugh, Trustee
Richard Olver, Trustee
Dr. Gregory J. Schmidt, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2
www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Got a Question?



What rules apply to dogs in the Village both on the streets and in the parks?

In NYS, all dogs are required to be licensed annually from the age of 4 months. Licenses for Village residents can be obtained in the Village Office where a current rabies certificate must be presented. The fee is \$7.50 if spayed/neutered or \$15.50 if not. Part of the fee is used by NYS to offset spay/neutering clinics.

Dogs are not allowed to roam off leash anywhere in the Village except at the enclosed Dog Park at Black Rock Park. Licensed Village dogs must have an additional permit to use the dog park, obtained at the Village office for no additional fee. Hours of the park are 6am - 8 pm (M-F) and 10am - 4 pm (Sat.-Sun.).

Dogs walked on a leash may be curbed in the part of the street lying between the two curb lines. All feces must be removed by the dog's walker and deposited in an airtight container and placed in a refuse container, never in storm drains or sewers.

Dogs are not permitted, leashed or unleashed, in any public park, playground, ball fields or on school property with the exception of Croton Landing Park. Also, dogs may not be on the property of another person, not their owner, without consent.

In Croton Landing Park, during its posted open hours, dogs may be walked on a leash extending no more than 6 feet in length. Leashed dogs in Croton Landing Park are restricted to the paved Riverwalk Trail. In NO circumstance may a dog be off leash or off-trail in this park. Owners must bring a bag with them to remove their dog's feces from the park.



Olver Appointed

With the early resignation of Trustee Demetra Restuccia from the Board of Trustees, former Trustee Richard Olver was appointed to fill her seat and complete her term which ends in April 2011.