



April Calendar

- 2 & 16** Village Board Mtg.
- 9** Budget Hearing
- 10 & 24** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 10** Recreation Adv. Bd.
- 11** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 4** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 18** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 25** Trails Comm.
- 30** Budget Adoption Mtg.

In this issue

- Woman of Distinction 2
- Summer Camp Pgms. 2
- Blood Drive 2
- Boat Basin Moorings 2
- Pavilion Rental 2
- Fingerprinting 2
- Invasive Plants Talk 3
- Earth Day Plans 3
- Yard Waste 3
- Budget Work Sessions 3
- Tree City, USA 3
- Primary Day Voting 4
- Snowman Winner 4
- Scam Alert 4
- Got a Question? 4

Tentative Budget Proposed

On March 20, Village Manager Abe Zambrano, as Chief Budget Officer of the Village, released his proposed Tentative Village Budget for fiscal year 2012/2013.

The Tentative Budget provides the basis for current and upcoming deliberations by the Board of Trustees during which modifications to the tentative budget are typically introduced. A Public Hearing on the Proposed budget will also be held on Mon., April 9 at 7:30 pm. By law, the final budget must be adopted before May 1st.

As proposed, the Tentative 2012/2013 Village General fund budget calls for total appropriations of \$17,834,848. Of this amount \$6,691,361 would be raised through non-tax revenues, fund balance and retirement reserves. The amount to be raised by taxes is proposed to be \$11,143,487. which represents a 6.76% tax rate increase or a rate of \$253.209 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Overall the total assessed valuation increased by \$29,911, largely due to increases in special franchise assessments. Real property assessment decreased by \$31,901.

In the Village's Tentative budget, government operations are held flat and services are all maintained. The large mandated increases required by personnel contracts, retirement costs and health benefits are the key factor in the proposed tax increase.

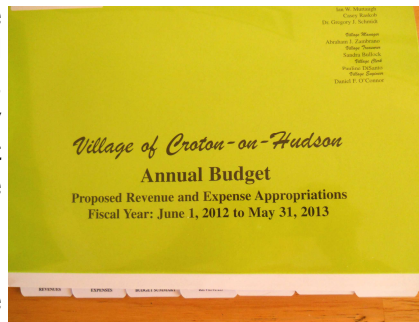
Under the NYS Property Tax Cap legislation passed last year, the annual increase in the property tax levy is limited to 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The NYS Comptroller's Office calculated that, under this law, the Village could

raise its levy by \$292,544.27 for the coming year. The passage of a local law allowing the Village to override this levy limit in Fall of 2011, permits the Village to increase the tax levy over 2%, if necessary, without incurring a penalty from the State. Under the tentative budget proposal, DPW, Recreation, Fire Dept. and the Data Processing and Insurance lines are among

those that are seeing either a decrease in their budget or remaining the same. The Police Dept. and the Ambulance/EMS lines have proposed increases. The Police Dept. increase of \$230,100 largely reflects contractual wage obligations. The Ambulance/EMS proposed increase of \$165,118 includes the cost of the paid EMT at \$150,696. However, the revenue accrued from "soft billing" to insurance companies for EMS services fully compensates this expenditure.

Contributions to the NYS Retirement System increased \$174,728 over last year's amount. Health insurance premiums increased \$119,284 over the prior year. Both are mandated expenses. A small increase in short-term debt of \$10,008 reflects the Village's planned strategy of amortizing some debt over a 5-year period and saving thousands in interest that would accrue if the same amount was borrowed as long-term debt. Long-term debt will also increase in the 2012/2013 budget by \$69,429.

For the Water and Sewer Funds, the tentative budget calls for an increase in water rates to \$5.025/100 cubic feet of consumption from \$4.50 for Tier 2 with corresponding increases for higher tiers. The Basic water rate would not change.



Morrissey - Woman of Distinction

Croton's Rosalind Morrissey is representing Croton in the 40th NYS Senate District as our Woman of Distinction.

Ms. Morrissey was nominated by Mayor Leo Wiegman and Village Manager Abe Zambrano for her years of service and dedication to the Village. The Croton Community Blood Bank counts as one of Ms. Morrissey's most significant accomplishments. She continues to be active as their Publicity Director as they plan for their 84th blood drive in May. A serious artist as well, she is a member of the board of the Croton Council on the Arts (CCOA). Several of her paintings depicting scenes of Croton and the Hudson River hang in the Municipal Building. Older residents remember her school involvement and her organizing and chaperoning trips for students to places of cultural interest. Ms. Morrissey was previously recognized by her selection to the Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame. Congratulations and appreciation from the whole Village!

Senasqua Boat Basin Mooring Dates Set

It's time to reserve and pay for your boat mooring spots at the Senasqua Boat Basin. Boat storage and space on the Sunfish Rack may also be reserved now. Boat registration materials are available in the Village Office. Proof of liability insurance must be presented with the application.

There are two mooring drop dates scheduled - Mon., May 7th and Mon., June 4th. The Boat Basin officially opens on Sat., May 12th. Boats in the Park Storage and Sunfish Rack may be brought to the boat basin any time on or after Sat., May 12th.



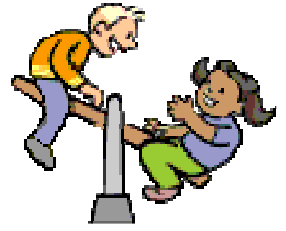
Senasqua Pavilion Rental



Although summer is still a few months away, Senasqua Pavilion reservations are already being made. If you are planning an event at the Pavilion, it is not too soon to make your reservation. For groups of up to 100, with use of the Pavilion, the fee is \$225 for residents and \$300 for school district residents. Events may also be scheduled for the park, without use of the Pavilion, for up to 25 people at \$40/\$55 res./school district.

Day Camp and Tiny Tots Registration

Day Camp and Tiny Tots program registration is held by lottery. This eliminates the need to be present on a specific date and also the need to wait in long lines as was the case in the past. For the 2012 summer programs, the lottery registration deadline is 12 noon on Wed., April 11.



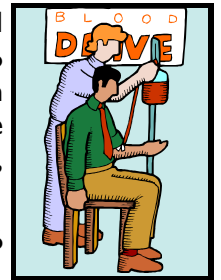
Lottery registration forms for Day Camp and the Tiny Tots programs are available in the Recreation Office in the Municipal Building and at the Croton Library. The triplicate forms for each program must be filled out and returned with full payment by the registration deadline.

The office is open from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm on weekdays. Anyone who does not submit their camp registration forms by the lottery deadline may register on a first-come, first-served basis if space is still available after the lottery takes place.

84th Blood Drive Scheduled

The Community Blood Program will hold its 84th blood drive on Sun., May 6 from 9 am to 3 pm at Croton-Harmon High School. Blood is needed to save lives. Donation is easy, harmless, painless and takes less than an hour.

Donors can be 16 years of age to 76 years and weigh at least 110 pounds. Donors under 18 need written parental permission. Those over 76 need a physician's okay. Appointments between 9 am and 2:45 pm should be made so that the staff may make provisions accordingly. Babysitters and refreshments will be provided. Call 271-7645 or 271-8449 or email communityblooddrive@gmail.com to make an appointment.



Fingerprinting Available

Croton residents who need official fingerprints for job applications, background checks, adoptions and other purposes, may obtain them at the Croton Police Dept.

The Detective Division will take the fingerprints free of charge with an appointment. Residents must provide the fingerprint cards themselves. Call 271-5177 to arrange a time.



Reminder!

**Offices are closed Fri., April 6 for
Good Friday Observances**



Tree City, USA

Croton has been awarded recognition as A Tree City, USA for the 27th year. It was first recognized as such in 1984. The NYSDEC, in conjunction with the National Arbor Day Foundation, makes the designation based on an annual application. An official recognition ceremony was held in Albany on March 29. The official Tree City, USA flag flies on the pole at the Municipal Building.



Yard Waste

Spring cleanup is underway for many resident homeowners. The DPW will help you in disposing of your debris by collecting yard waste during the spring, summer and fall months. Leaves, twigs and small branches, clippings and flowers are all considered yard waste.

Yard waste must be put out in bio-degradable leaf bags or open-top garbage containers. **NO waste in plastic bags will be collected.**

Yard waste will be collected on Wednesdays, not with the regular garbage and recycling collections. Collection of yard waste will begin in April.

The schedule is as follows:

- North of Rte. 129 (Maple St.) - 1st & 3rd Weds.
- South of Rte. 129 (Maple St.) - 2nd & 4th Weds.



The DPW will provide residents with paper bags for yard waste disposal on a first come first served basis. Up to 10 bags may be picked up at the DPW garage between 7 am and 2 pm from Mon. through Fri. while supplies last. There is a limited number of bags remaining. Once the supply is exhausted, the DPW will not supply bags for yard waste in the future.

There will be NO pickup on May 30th, August 29th or October 31st. For more info. call DPW at 271-3775.

Invasive Plants Presentation

As part of its Green Living series, the Croton Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) will present Invasive Plants: What They Are and What to Do. Meredith Taylor will make the presentation on April 24 at the Croton Library at 7 pm. This is the third in a four-part series of presentations on Green Living.

Invasive plants are wreaking havoc in your backyards, nature preserves and parks. The presentation will cover Top 10 Priority Invasive Plants species in NYS and how to manage them.

Budget Work Session Schedule

Work sessions at which the Board of Trustees will review and discuss the proposed Tentative 2012/2013 Budget are as follows:

Mon., March 26, 7:30 pm - Admin. and Off-Street Parking

Wed., March 28, 7:30 pm - DPW, Water Fund and Sewer Fund

Sat., March 31, 1 pm - Police, Fire Dept. and EMS

Mon., April 9, 7:30 pm - Public Hearing; work session on Recreation Dept.

Wed., April 11, 7:30 pm - Capital Budget

Mon., April 23, 7:30 pm - Budget Recap/Overview

Wed., April 25, 7:30 pm - If needed for finalization.

Mon., April 30 - 7:30 pm - Budget Adoption

The public may attend all sessions which are held in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building.

Earth Day Activities

Croton's CAC is planning its Earth Day celebration on Sat., April 28 from 9 am to 2 pm at Senasqua Park. This event continues to grow yearly with more activities and more groups participating. This year will include volunteers doing a post-winter clean-up at the boat launch. Free Earth Day t-shirts will be given to participants, while they last. Organizations and committees that will be present and contributing to the event include the Saw Mill River Audubon Society (leading a bird walk), the Village's Bike/Ped, Sustainability and Trails committees, local Scout troops, the Croton Arboretum, Croton-Harmon school classes and many individuals. Christopher Letts will present his "funny fish of the Hudson", Joe Mullins is doing fish prints and there will be music throughout the day.



With the emphasis being on what people can do to help the earth, there will be talks on invasive plants and native plants, information on backyard composting, leaf mulching and other earth-friendly practices. Tree seedlings will be given out and there will be a "hands on" table featuring arts and crafts made from recycled items and driftwood "garbage".

This is a great opportunity to get together with your neighbors, learn about helping our environment, and have an enjoyable day at the waterfront.

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

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Tentative Budget Cont'd.

The Sewer rate would also increase to \$0.4759/100 cubic feet of water used from \$0.4139/100.

The updated 5-year Capital Program budget is also included in the tentative budget. Proposed Water System Improvements (replacement of water mains in two areas) is the largest proposed expenditure at \$2,500,000 in 2012/2013. Regular recurring infrastructure maintenance also accounts for \$1,100,000 in the capital budget. Improvements to the bulkhead of the Yacht Club are scheduled as well at \$2,500,000.

In the past year the Village's auditors, O'Connor, Davis, Munns & Dobbins, LLP have expressed that the Village is in excellent financial condition. Moody's Investor Services have given the Village a very high Aa2 bond rating. A schedule of topics to be covered at budget work sessions is on page 3.

Got A Question?



What is the best way for me to get answers to questions about Village events, meetings, operations or to make a request? The Village provides several ways to get your questions answered. By phone to 271-4781 you can speak directly to someone during office hours or leave a message. If the answer is not immediately known, it will be directed to the best person to answer it.

Using the Village website (www.crotononhudson-ny.gov) will provide you with information on most of your questions. Select from the menu on the upper left side or see current notices on the upper right side. Additionally, by clicking on "Contact Us" you can leave a question to be answered by the appropriate staff.

If you wish to receive information about events or schedules or special developments automatically, click on "Subscribe To News" and enter your contact information - either phone, email or both. This information will be used on a limited basis but will keep you "in the know". You may also sign up to receive Emergency Notifications at this location.

Agendas and minutes for all village boards can be accessed from the website (click on Events) along with the backup documentation that pertains to the items.

Primary Day - April 24

Polling places will be open from 6 am to 9 pm throughout the Village on Tuesday, April 24 for the Republican Presidential primary election. There is no Democratic Presidential primary being held this year. Voting will be at the same locations as voting in the November election.



Snowman Winner!



The winner of the annual Build-a-Snowman contest goes to Keira Thomas for a cute, well-dressed snowman. There were no entries in the snow sculpture contest. Building anything with snow this past winter was, no doubt, quite a challenge. Congratulations to Keira who received a gift certificate to Capriccio's restaurant for her entry.

Be Alert for Scams!

Croton's Police Dept. is advising residents to be alert for scams. A common one that has already occurred in the Village is a telephone scam where you receive a call saying a relative is out of the country and needs money for an emergency situation. The caller generally wants an amount in the range of \$2500 to be electronically transferred to them. Once the money is sent, it is too late. Be sure to confirm the caller's story with a family member or someone who would know whether it is true.



At this time of year, scams involving phony home construction or home services are common. These scams usually offer a very low price for a service or repair. Then when the work is done, they claim more work is needed at a high price with the money needed upfront. After receiving the money, they do not return to do the work. Be sure to check with the Better Business Bureau, ask for references and business cards and a telephone number where a person actually answers to help avoid this happening to you.