

Tentative 2016/2017 Village Budget

April Calendar

- 4 & 18 Village Bd. Mtg.
- 12 & 26 Planning Board
- 13 Zoning Board
- 6 Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 7 Bike/Ped Comm.
- 12 Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 20 Visual Env. Board
- 27 Trails Comm.

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On March 18, Village Manager and Chief Budget Officer, Janine King, released the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2016/2017. After several months, during which Manager King and Treasurer Bullock met with department heads to review their departmental budgets, the tentative 2016/2017 budget was established. The proposal calls for a 0.46% tax rate increase for a total budget appropriation of \$18,831,765.43. This increase would result in a tax rate of \$255.240 per \$1000 of assessed valuation, an increase of \$1.161 per \$1000. The budget, as proposed, meets the requirements of New York State's Property Tax Cap legislation.

Under current New York State Law, the Village is limited to a 0.012% tax levy increase. Along with a tax base growth factor of 0.033% and an allowable carry-over from the prior fiscal year, the Tax Cap Levy law allows the Village to increase its tax levy for Fiscal year 2016-2017 to \$11,314,045. This represents a proposed increase in the levy of \$68,789.

In her Budget message, Village Manager King outlined the key items affecting both the Revenues and Expenditures sides of the budget.

On the Revenue side, non-tax revenues are projected to increase by \$156,524 in the 2016/2017 budget year. Non-tax revenues represent 37% of the overall revenues amounting to \$7,018,720 of the total budget appropriations. The proposed budget also calls for \$500,000 to be included from the Fund Balance for a total \$7,518,720. The remainder of the proposed appropriations, \$11,313,045.43, would come from property taxes.

While most revenues are projected to remain flat or decrease slightly, two revenue sources are providing

significant increases. Parking lot revenue has increased due to prior permit fee increases during the past year and the proposed increase in the daily lot fee. The estimated increase in revenue from parking is \$200,000. Also, as a result of a new Franchise agreement with Cablevision, franchise fees are increasing from 3% to 5% for a projected increase to the Village of approximately \$50,000.

Expenditures are expected to decrease in the area of pension costs by approximately \$230,000 based on estimates from the NYS Retirement System. Village administrative costs have been reduced by \$82,000 as well, due largely to replacing the position of Assistant Village Manager with the position of Secretary to the Manager.

Other areas of expenditures are expected to increase as follows: debt service by \$253,000, Workers' Compensation premiums by \$86,000, Police Dept. by \$48,000 due to recent police contract increases, and insurance liability premiums by \$35,000. The Fire Department budget will also increase by \$63,000 due to moving an expenditure for uniforms from the capital budget to the operating budget. The proposed budget also calls for adding an additional \$42,000 to the Contingency account to raise it to \$175,000. This account allows the Village to deal with emergency and/or unexpected expenditures.

The Water Fund and Sewer Fund budgets call for an increase of water rates by 2% to \$7.68/100 cubic feet of consumption for most customers and a sewer rate increase of 20% to \$1.0686/100 cubic feet of water consumption.

The capital budget includes a plan for this year and 9 years ahead. It proposes borrowing \$1,507,600 in the 2016/2017 fiscal year.

The schedule of April budget work sessions is on page 2.

Officer Kevin Ward Jr.

Croton's newest Police Officer is Kevin Ward, Jr. Officer Ward joined the Croton Police Dept. in January after serving with the Peekskill Police Dept. for the past 2 1/2 years.



Kevin Ward, Jr.

A Peekskill native and current resident, he is a 2002 graduate of Peekskill High School. He has also served for six years with the Peekskill Ambulance Corps and the Peekskill Fire Dept. Officer Ward has always

wanted to be a Police Officer and says he "can't imagine doing anything else." Since beginning service in the Village, he particularly likes the "small town vibe" in Croton and has found residents to be particularly outgoing and friendly to him. He has enjoyed meeting people around the Village while on his patrols. In his free time, Officer Ward enjoys spending time with family. If you see Officer Ward around the Village, take the opportunity to extend a welcome to him.

New Recreation Brochure

The 2016 Spring/Summer Recreation Brochure is available online as of April 1. Copies are also available in the Village Office and Recreation Office.

2016/2017 Budget Calendar

The following dates and meetings are scheduled for the proposed 2016/2017 Budget to start at 7:30pm:

- April 6 Work Session on Administration, Court, Engineering and Fees.
- April 11 Public Hearing on Tentative Budget; Work Session on Recreation/Parks
- April 13 Work Session on Capital Budget
- April 18 Budget Adoption



All of the budget meetings are open to the public and can be viewed on television or from the Village website.

Croton's Earth Day Celebration

Croton's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) has organized another Earth Day celebration. This year, the CAC will celebrate it on Saturday, April 30 from 10-2 at Vassallo Park. Earth Day began in 1970 in the United States and has evolved into an internationally recognized and observed day (April 22) in more than



192 nations around the world. Activities on Earth Day raise awareness about our environment and how to protect it.

The day will feature opportunities to participate and learn about many environmental topics that relate to everyday life in Croton. For children there will be activities and

crafts featuring recyclable materials and storytelling. Among the many participants will be demonstrations by Chris Letts with funny fish, Joe Mullins and fish printing, Hemlock Hill Farm, Teatown Lake Reservation, Ferry Sloops, Feed the Birds, Riverlovers, Clearwater, Franzoso Solar Energy, Care of Trees and the Croton Climate Initiative. School students are also expected to perform skits during the day. Learn about Love 'Em and Leave 'Em for your fall leaves and about how to compost your organic waste.

Musicians David Goldman and Strange Pools will provide music during the event and food will be available from local vendors.

Come and enjoy a great family day. T-shirts, seed packets and tree seedlings will be given away to attendees.

Photo ID's taken on Earth Day. The Recreation Dept. Office at the Municipal Building will be open on Earth Day to take Photo IDs from 9 am to 11 am. Two proofs of residency, such as a valid driver's license and a current utility bill, must be presented. Fees are \$9/resident and \$16/school district.



Village Photo IDs allow you to take full advantage of Village Parks and programs. An ID is required for entrance into Senasqua and Silver Lake Parks as well as to register for certain activities such as golfing at Hudson National Golf Course. Photo ID's are valid for three years.



Reminder!

**Earth Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 30th
10-2 at Vassallo Park**



Summer Camp Sign Up Time

Sign up forms for the Recreation Dept.'s **Day Camp** and **Tiny Tots** are available now in the Recreation

Office at the Municipal Building and at the Croton Free Library.

New for the 2016 camp season, all registrations will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To be sure of a spot in the camp, it is important to **Register Early**.

It is recommended that completed registration forms be returned to the Recreation Office between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm from Mon. thru Fri.

Village and School district residents should sign up now. Non-residents may sign up after May 2 (space permitting).

There are three 2-week sessions during the summer. Unless requested differently, anyone unable to be placed in the full season will be placed in whichever session(s) are available and will be charged the individual session rates.

For questions about Summer Camp registration, please call the office at 271-3006.



Drug Take-Back Day

The Croton Police Dept. will be holding its 5th Drug Take-Back Day on April 30. The program is sponsored in conjunction with a national program organized by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

From 10 am to 2 pm, Detective Sergeant Nikitopoulos and Detective Camillieri will be present in the parking lot at Croton Commons to receive any unwanted drugs and medications, both prescription and non-prescription. Items are accepted without identification. No liquids, syringes or needles are accepted.

Spring Window Decorating

Every April families in the Village have fun decorating store windows to celebrate the coming of Spring. This year painting will begin on Thurs., April 21 and must be completed by Mon., April 25. Pre-registration is required in the Recreation Dept. The Recreation Department will assign windows to all participants.

This is not a contest but rather a fun event for the whole family!



Security Doors at Municipal Building

Visitors to the first floor of the Municipal Building will notice that there are new interior doors at both ends of the hallway. The new doors were installed in early March to satisfy the requirements of the Westchester County Family Court.



West End Door

The Police Department uses rooms accessed from this hallway when it conducts interviews of victims, witnesses and juveniles.

During an on-site visit by court representatives, it was determined that the first floor hallway in the Municipal Building required security doors during times when interviews are taking place.

The door shown above is in the stairwell area of the west end entrance. The East end door, shown to the right, is located in the interior of the first floor, to ensure that public access to the Court offices and the handicapped access to the building is always available.



East End Door

During most hours that the building is open to the public, the new doors will not be locked. Visitors to the Municipal Building, to view the Historical Society exhibits or to attend court, both of which are on the first floor, should simply open the door to enter. The doors will only be locked on those occasions when members of the Police Dept. are conducting one of the interviews that meets the County's privacy requirements.

Presidential Primaries

Primary voting for both Democratic and Republican candidates for President of the United States will take place in New York on Tuesday, April 19.

The polling is run by the County Board of Elections and the polling places are the same as for November

Farmers Market Change

The Down to Earth Farmers Market will begin its 2016 season on Sunday, May 8 from 9am to 2 pm at a new location. The Market will be located at the Parking Lot A on Croton Point Avenue opposite to the entrance to the train station.



Got a Question?



What are the rules for disposing of my spring cleanup yard debris? Yard debris must be in bio-degradable leaf bags or open-top garbage containers. No waste in plastic bags will be collected.

Collectible yard debris to be put in bags includes leaves, raked up waste, small twigs, flowers and hedge trimmings. Small branches will be collected but must be cut into lengths 4 feet or less and tied into small bundles not more than 18" in diameter. Two such bundles are allowed per collection.

Grass clippings should be left on the lawn. Yard waste collection by the DPW is on Wednesdays with the north and south sections of the Village being collected on alternate Wednesdays beginning in April and continuing through October as follows:

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

There will be no yard waste collection on the fifth Wednesday of June or August 2016.



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

Gregory Schmidt, Mayor
Robert Anderson, Trustee
Ann Gallelli, Trustee
Brian Pugh, Trustee
Ken Walsh, Trustee

Janine King, Village Manager
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Be A Blood Donor!

The 92nd semi-annual Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, May 1 from 9 am to 3 pm at Croton-Harmon High School. Donors must be at least 16 years old, not yet 76, and weigh at least 110 pounds. (16 year olds need a written parental permission and 76 and older need a signed Doctor's permission.) All must provide an official form of identification.



Making an appointment helps in planning for the event but walk-ins are welcome. Please call 271-7645 or 271-8449 to make an appointment or for information. You can also email communityblooddrive@gmail.com.

Water/Sewer Overdue Bill reminder!

Water and sewer bills that were payable on January 15, 2016, and which have not been paid by April 15, are subject to a \$100 delinquent fee in addition to the accrued monthly penalties for the 3 months between January 2016 and April 2016. A delinquent bill will be sent to these customers. After April 15, the amount of unpaid water/sewer bills will be added to the owner's property tax bill.

Snowman Contest Melts Away

The good news is that the Village had a very mild winter with very little snow accumulations. The bad news is that there were no entries in the annual Snowman Building contest and thus, no winners this year!

