

## 2011/2012 Tentative Budget

### April Calendar

- 4 & 19 Village Board Mtg.
- 11 Budget Public Hearing
- 12 & 26 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 6 Cons. Advisory Council
- 12 Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 13 Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 20 Visual Environ. Bd.
- 22 Good Friday holiday
- 25 Budget Adoption
- 27 Trails Comm.

Spring Events	2
Bin and Barrel Sale	2
Tree City Award	2
Yard Waste	2
Italian Experience	2
CD/DVD Disposal	2
Election Results	3
Earth Day Events	3
Budget Work Sessions	3
Potassium Iodide pills	3
Water Bill Reminder	3
Blood Drive	4
Daffodils bloom	4
County Recycling Days	4
Snowman Winner	4

On March 18, 2011, the Village Manager's 2011-2012 proposed budget was filed with the Village Clerk. During the month of April the Board of Trustees will be meeting at numerous work sessions to review and make modifications.

As proposed, the 2011/2012 budget projects \$17,185,369 in spending and requires \$10,706,335 to be raised by taxes. The proposed tax rate is \$243.158 of \$1,000 of assessed valuation, an increase of 6.74% over 2010/2011. The process of creating the budget starts in January when departmental budgets are submitted to Treasurer Bullock and reviewed by the Village Manager. Each budget submission is reviewed for justification of expenses. Changes and modifications are made to the proposed budgets based on the review meetings.

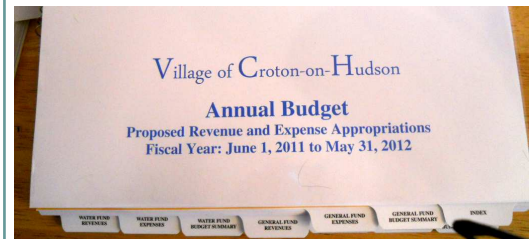
There are a number of factors that affect the budget including changes in revenues, mandated expenses, assessed valuation and special franchises.

Non-tax revenues remain flat as they have for the past two years having a negative impact on the budget. This year they are projected to increase only \$52,506.

The level of expenditures is being maintained in most cases at the same level as prior fiscal years and, in some cases, cuts were made. Decreases or no increases are projected in the Village Manager's, Engineering, Records Management, Central Garage, Central Communications, DPW and Recreation budgets.

The areas where increases have had the most impact on the proposed budget are for retirement contributions and health insurance. The Village's contribution to the NYS Retirement System is expected to increase \$438,804 over last year's actual contribution to the General

Fund this year is \$1,296,376. The health insurance premium has increased by \$84,013 for the coming year.



The Police Dept. budget calls for an increase of \$161,490 with \$132,990 representing contractual wage obligations. An increase of \$28,039 is requested by the Fire Dept. with \$7,000 of that being an increase in workers compensation insurance. The remainder is spread across multiple Fire Dept. operating accounts. The Law account also has a proposed increase of \$39,069 to \$226,901.

The proposed budget recommends maintaining the current Water and Sewer rates at the current level with no increase.

The capital budget for 2011-2012 includes 11 areas where capital improvements are planned for a total \$1,813,000. Most expenditures are for infrastructure improvements or equipment replacement.

The Village's auditors, Bennett, Kielson, Storch, DeSantis, a division of O'Connor Davis, Munns & Dobbins LLP have reported that the Village's financial condition is excellent. Moody's Investors Services recently upgraded the Village's bond rating to Aa2, considered excellent for a municipality of Croton's size. This high rating allowed the Village to refinance current short-term debt and planned short-term borrowing at very favorable rates thus saving substantial interest over the cost of long-term debt. Manager Zambrano notes in his Budget message to the Board that the Village's financial health is excellent.

### Lunch With The Bunny

The annual Lunch with the Bunny event will be held on Sat., April 16 at 12 noon in the Municipal Building Community Room. All residents of the Village and School District are invited but pre-registration is required by April 8. The fee is \$10/\$12 (res./nonres.) Register at the Recreation office.



### Spring Window Painting

Celebrate Spring by creating a painting on a storefront window in the Village. Forms are available in the Recreation Department. Paintings can begin on assigned windows on April 18 and must be completed by April 22. This is not a contest - just fun for the whole



family!

### Tree City U.S.A. Award

The Village of Croton-on-Hudson has been named a Tree City U.S.A. for the 26th consecutive year, one of only 110 such communities, institutions and campuses in New York State. The award for 2010 is in recognition of the Village's planting program of new and replacement street trees each year.



### Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale Day



For the 3rd year, the Village is sponsoring the sale of compost bins and rain barrels. Due to the success of past annual sales, back yard composting has grown dramatically in Croton to include 1 of every 8 households today.

Prices are the same as last year, \$55/bin and \$75/barrel. Reservations must be made by Wed., May 4 by sending your name, phone and email address and quantity ordered to [jhannigan@crotononhudson-ny.gov](mailto:jhannigan@crotononhudson-ny.gov). or call 271-4781 during office hours. Pickup is Sat. May 7 from 2-5 pm. Cash/check only.

One half of all household waste (650 lbs/yr/home) is kitchen and yard waste. A compost bin lets you create safe, odor-free nutrients for home landscaping. Rain barrel water is ideal for watering lawns and gardens and saves on water bills.



### Italian Learning Experiences Offered

Two new programs offered by the Recreation Dept. focus on Italy and the Italian language. Both programs are led by Cherise Gordon and will take place in the Community Room of the Municipal Building. The deadline for registration for both is April 15.



#### Italian Language & Conversation 101

is offered in 6 sessions beginning Wed., April 20 from 7 to 8pm. If you are planning a trip to Italy, want to learn a new language or just improve your Italian, this program focuses on the fundamentals and will help you build vocabulary and confidence through practice and conversations in Italian. Fee is \$40/\$50 (res/nonres).

Italian Splendor Senior Prog. is offered in 5 sessions beginning Wed., April 27 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. The class will go on a fascinating journey exploring all things Italian including art, opera, music, literature, cuisine and history. Participants will also practice a little Italian in the process. The fee is \$25/\$30 (res/nonres).

### Yard Waste

To help dispose of yard debris, the DPW will begin collecting yard waste in April and continue throughout the summer and fall on alternate Wednesdays.

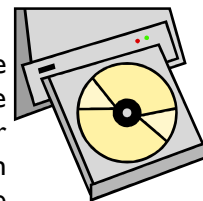
Yard waste includes leaves, twigs and small branches, clippings and flowers. All yard waste must be put in bio-degradable leaf bags or open-top garbage containers. Waste in plastic bags will not be collected.

The exact start date will be posted on the Village website and on Croton's Cable Channel 78. The following schedule will apply:

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

### CD/DVD Disposal

Unwanted CD's and DVD's may be discarded at the Village Office in the Municipal Building. Due to their toxicity, they should not be put in the household waste stream. Before discarding them, please scratch them with a sharp implement or cut them up.



### **Reminder!**

**Offices will be closed on Fri., April 22 for Good Friday.**



## **Village Election Results**

The results of the Village Election on March 15 are as follows:

Mayor: Leo Wiegman, (D and CT) - 1061

Mark Aarons, (R and A) - 773

Trustees: (two elected)

Ian Murtaugh, (D and CT) - 1045

Casey Raskob, (D and CT) - 1024

Patrick Calcutti, (R and A) - 797

Keith Douglas, (R and A) - 772

Party designations are: Democrat - D, Croton Taxpayer - CT, Republican - R, Alliance - A.

The proposition on the ballot to change the date of March Village elections to the date of the general election in November was approved by 862 to 661. As a result, the next Village election will occur in November 2012.

As a result of the proposition being approved, the Village Board adopted a resolution on March 21 requesting the County to take over the running of Village elections.

## **Earth Day Coming!**

Croton's Earth Day celebration will be on Sat. April 30 at Senasqua Park. Sponsored by the Village and its Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), the day is full of activities and presentations.

Beginning at 9 am from Senasqua, there will be a Bird Walk in Croton Point Park led by

the Saw Mill Audubon Society and also an organized litter clean-up at designated sites with free t-shirts for participants. From 11 am to 4 pm, there will be presentations and demonstrations including: Invasive plants - How to identify them and what to do with them; Birds, Bees and Butterflies: How to create an environmentally sound garden using native plants; Backyard composting; Caring for your lawn organically; Love 'em, Leave' em, Leaf Mulching; Funny Fish of the Hudson River and the Japanese Art of Fish Printing; Cleaning Up after Your Pet - why this is a good idea.

There will also be arts and crafts using recycled materials, a sporting goods swap (exchange your gently used equipment for something you can use), and free Native Shrubs. Music will be provided by Strange Pools.

In addition to the CAC, other participants include the Bicycle Pedestrian Committee, CET Elementary School, Croton Arboretum, PVC Middle School, Riverdrifters Fine Art Works, Trails Committee, Sustainability Committee, Saw Mill River Audubon and numerous knowledgeable individuals.

## **Budget Work Sessions**

All budget work sessions are open to the public. The first session was held on March 28 and was an overview of the entire financial position of the Village and proposed Capital budget. On March 30, the administrative budgets were reviewed. The following schedule of work sessions has been set for April. The meetings are held in the Village Manager's office in the Municipal Building.

Sat., April 9 at 1pm - Police Dept., Fire Dept. and EMS budgets.

Mon., April 11 at 7:30pm - Public Hearing on Budget; DPW budget.

Wed., April 13 at 7:30pm - Recreation Dept.

Mon., April 25 at 7:30pm - Budget Adoption meeting.

The complete budget is available on the Village website. Copies are available in the Village Office and at the Croton Free Library for review. The budget summary page is posted at the kiosk in Croton Commons.

## **Potassium Iodide Pills**

Potassium Iodide (KI) pills are available for distribution in the Village Office during regular office hours. KI pills have been available to residents from the office since Spring 2004. KI pills distributed at that time and since may have expired and should be replaced. The pills are free.

KI pills are intended for those who live in the 10-mile radius Emergency Planning Zone around the Indian Point Power plants. The pills are to be taken only in the event of a radiological incident. KI helps prevent thyroid cancer in a nuclear accident that releases radioactive iodine. It does not protect any part of the body other than the thyroid.

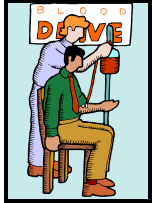
The Village Office will provide further information about KI pills when the tablets are distributed. When picking up KI for the members of their family, residents will be asked to sign a form indicating that is the case.

The tablets are provided by Westchester County. More information can be obtained about KI from their website at [www.health.westchestergov.com](http://www.health.westchestergov.com).

## **Utility Bill - Overdue Reminder**

Utility bills, due on January 15, that remain unpaid on April 15th will be subject to an additional \$100 delinquent fee in addition to the accrued penalties for each month between January 15 and April 15. A delinquent notice will be sent. However, after April 15th, when the Village taxes for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 will be finalized, the owed money with the accumulated fees will be added to the owner's tax levy. The utility bill consists of both water and sewer fees.





### **Blood Drive**

Sunday, May 1 is the date of the next Community Blood Drive at Croton-Harmon High School. Croton's 82nd semi-annual blood drive has been timed to avert seasonal blood shortages in area hospitals due to happy events like graduations and vacations, while illness and accidents take no holidays.

Donors must be at least 16 years old and not yet 76 (unless they have a physician's written permission) and also weigh not less than 110 pounds. For appointments for any 15 minute interval between 9:00 am and 2:45 pm, call 271-7645 or 271-8449.



### **Look For The Daffodils**

Thousands of daffodil bulbs have been planted over the years in an annual planting program organized by the Conservation Advisory

Board in remembrance of 9/11. Volunteers have planted over 5,000 daffodil bulbs in two locations - the hill along Old Post Rd. South by Bethel Cemetery and in the median of Benedict Blvd. Watch for the spectacular blooms this month.

### **Household Material Recovery Days**

Westchester County's next Household Material Recovery event nearest to Croton is scheduled at FDR Park in Yorktown on Fri. April 8 (10am to 2pm) and Sat., April 9 (8am to 4pm). The Mobile Shredder will also be at this event.

These events are intended for residential recycling of items that are difficult to get rid of such as auto fluids, electronics, appliances (refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers), tires, pharmaceuticals, etc. For a complete list of acceptable and non-acceptable items, go to <http://environment.westchestergov.com/residents/household-material-recovery-days>.

### **We Have A Winner!**

The winning entry in the annual Build-a-Snowman contest goes to a combined effort by Isabelle Schuler of 41 Olcott Ave. and Siv Bjorge of 14 High Street. Their snowman was a very handsome fellow nicely attired in a hat and scarf. There were no entries in the Snow Sculpture category – definitely not due to a lack of available snow.



## **Got a Question?**



### **How and when do I register my child for Day Camp or Tiny Tots camp this summer?**

Right now is the time to register for Croton's Day Camp and Tiny Tots summer camps. Spots in both camps are selected by lottery. The deadline for registration for the lottery is Wed., April 13 at 12 noon. All registrations must be completed on the appropriate Day Camp or Tiny Tots triplicate form which may be obtained at the Recreation office in the Municipal Building. The camps are open to both Village residents and school district residents. Notification of acceptance will be



done by mail prior to April 29th.

Both camps are divided into three 2-week sessions with July 4th off. Session 1 is June 28 - July 8; Session 2 is July 11 - July 22; Session 3 is July 25 - August 5. (NOTE: Due to construction work at Croton-Harmon High School and at C.E.T. elementary school, both camps will be held at the Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School this summer.



this summer.)

**Day Camp** is for children who are 6 years old and have completed 1st grade through completion of 6th grade. The program runs weekdays from 9am-3pm. Activities include arts/crafts, sports, games, drama, special events, trips and more. Session 1 is \$250/\$310 (res./nonres.); Sessions 2 and 3 are \$270/\$330 (res./nonres.). These prices apply to the first child of a family with \$20 reductions for a second and third child.

**Tiny Tots Camp** meets on weekdays and has two groups. The group for 4 & 5 year olds who HAVE NOT completed Kindergarten meets from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm. The group for 5 & 6 years olds, who HAVE completed Kindergarten, meets from 9:15 am to 3:15 pm. Camp activities include games, music, arts/crafts, stories, special events, sprinkler days, entertainment and more. Full-day campers will also have at least one off-site trip per session.

Children must bring their own lunch. Camp t-shirts are included in the fee.

