



February Calendar

- 4 & 19** Village Board Mtg.
- 12 & 26** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 13** Zoning Board Mtg.
- 5** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 6** Cons. Adv. Comm.
- 12** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 18** **Presidents Day**
- 19** **Grievance Day**
- 27** Trails Comm.

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Budget Review

The Village budget for each fiscal year covers the period from June 1 to May 31. By law, it must be adopted by the end of April. The preparation for developing the proposed budget for the next fiscal year begins in earnest around mid-way through the current budget year.

Although the Treasurer and Finance Dept. continually track revenues and expenses throughout the year, beginning in 2010, mid-year budget summaries were prepared for review by the Village Board. This review provides a snapshot of how the current year's budget projections are being met on both the revenue and the expense side and is helpful in planning for the next budget.

The Budget review that was presented to the Board in January covered the period of June 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 (7 months). The report showed that the Village finances are on-target relative to the adopted 2012/2013 budget. Total collected revenues year-to-date for the General Fund were at 88.5% or \$14,781,904.38. The largest portion of revenues comes from property taxes which were payable in June of the fiscal year. The other large sources of revenues are the railroad station parking lot, the sales tax remitted from the county and the mortgage tax. These are ahead of target for the year and Treasurer Bullock expects that to be the case at year end.

Revenues for the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund (which are tied to water usage) are below budget expectations. In large part this is due to weather. Due to hot weather and drought conditions, the Village imposed mandatory water restrictions for three months from July to September this past summer, deliberately reducing water consumption and thereby reducing water revenues.

On the expense side, conservative man-

agement and oversight on a regular basis has resulted in actual expenditures to-date meeting expectations and within budget. One new expense line in the budget is for Emergency Disaster Work. Damages due to Tropical Storm Irene and Hurricane Sandy have resulted in significant costs including both labor and materials. While the Village is working with FEMA and SEMO to recover as much of these costs as possible, this account represents unanticipated expenses.



In preparation for the 2013/2014 budget, departments are in the process of working with the Manager and Treasurer to develop the proposed tentative budget that will be sent to the Village Board in mid-March for review prior to adoption in late April. The coming budget will be the second one since NYS passed the Tax Cap laws limiting increases in the tax levy to 2% over the prior year. Manager Zambrano advised the Board that the expected increases in mandatory pension, health and insurance costs will utilize the entire 2% and more, so that the Village administration is continuing to look for ways to introduce new efficiencies in its operations.

In January, the Village Board received the annual report of its auditors, O'Connor and Davies. In his presentation to the Board, Dominic Consolo reviewed his firm's audit and conclusions for the 2011/2012 fiscal year ending May 31, 2012. Referring to the Village's end-of-year increase in its Fund Balance over the previous year, he stated that his firm was "not seeing this increase in Fund Balance in most other communities." The Water and Sewer Funds, however, experienced decreases in their fund balances.

Water Infrastructure News

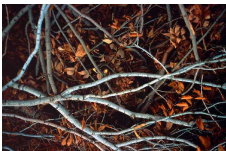
Three projects affecting the Village's water infrastructure are moving ahead on schedule according to a report by Manager Zambrano. Improvements to the water and sewer lines on Farrington Rd. and Hunter Pl. are waiting upon Dept. of Health approval. The work is expected to be put to bid later this Spring with work beginning by early summer. This project was initially partially funded by CBDG funds, which was subsequently withheld by HUD as a result of the ongoing issues between the County and HUD regarding their Anti-Discrimination Settlement. The Village is moving ahead on its own.

Design work for the water line improvement in a large section of Harmon and also the Cook Lane/Wolf Rd. area is about 80% complete. Bid packages are expected to go out in late March or early April with construction to begin in late Spring. In addition to work on the actual water lines, several new loops in the distribution layout will be implemented bringing better water quality to dead end areas where no loops currently exist. Additionally there will be 41 hydrants replaced and 101 new valves providing better localized control. An in-depth public presentation of the water improvements will be scheduled in the near future.

Funding of these projects was approved by the Village Board in January.

Leaf Confusion?

The timing of Hurricane Sandy may have caused some confusion about leaves in bags being picked up. The storm arrived in late October at the same time that autumn leaves were falling to the ground. It is the Village's policy to not pick up bagged autumn leaves. They are vacuumed on a regular basis throughout the late fall.

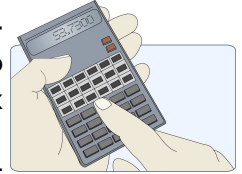


However, the large amount of debris from trees that occurred during the storm was correctly treated as yard waste by many residents and, as such, was broken up and placed in biodegradable bags for pickup on alternate Wednesdays. This did include some leaves as part of the general debris which was picked up. Bags filled only with leaves were not picked up.

The Village brochure on waste collection and recycling contains information on what types of waste are accepted, how to package it, and when it will be picked up. A copy, mailed to each resident in December, and on the website, is a useful reference for how and when to dispose of waste.

Tax Grievance Day

Village residents who believe their Village property tax assessment is too high have an annual opportunity to seek a reduction on Grievance Day. This year Grievance Day will occur on Tuesday, February 19 from 4pm to 8pm at the Municipal Building. During that time, the Village Board, who is also the Board of Assessors, will review applications for a property tax reduction. They are required to meet once a year to consider tax adjustments.



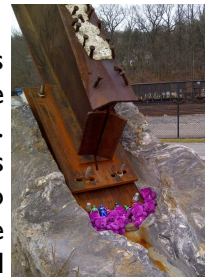
Applications for a tax adjustment must be completed and filed with the Village Assessor, Joe Sperber, prior to 4pm on the day of the hearing.

To help you understand whether you should consider filing a tax grievance to reduce your residential property assessment, it is suggested that you perform a calculation using the 2013 Residential Assessment Ratio (RAR). (The NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services determines the Village's RAR each year.) For 2013, the RAR for the Village is .0367. To determine what your assessment means in terms of market value, divide the property's current assessed value by the RAR. The result will provide the estimated market value of the property. For example, if your residential property is assessed at \$15,000, the 2013 RAR will yield a market value of \$408,719. Doing this calculation may help you in deciding whether to file a grievance to try to lower the assessment. Commercial properties follow a different procedure.

Applications and information are available in the Village's Building Dept. or you may call 271-4783.

BCC 9/11 News

Twenty toys (12 purple beanie babies and 8 action figures) were placed at the BCC 9/11 Memorial prior to Christmas. They are thought to be an anonymous remembrance of the 20 students who died in Newtown, CT on Dec. 14. The BCC Memorial committee removed them in mid-January in a small ceremony and has donated them to Newtown to be included in their memorial archive of the tragedy.



**REMINDER! Village Offices will be closed
Monday, February 19 for Presidents Day!**



Tom Giglio Retires

Tom Giglio, General Foreman for the Village's Dept. of Public Works will be retired as of this month. Tom worked for the Village for 36 years. He was employed in various positions until his appointment as General Foreman in 2008.

Upper Village Streetlights

Visitors to the Upper Village will soon be seeing newly refurbished streetlights in place. The Village Board recently approved the installation of 28 light poles and fixtures in that area.

The light poles that had been in place since the street improvements were made in the 80's had become corroded at their bases. Several had broken off and fallen. After an inspection showed that many were unsafe, they were all removed and refurbished by the original manufacturer. Wooden boxes were placed where the street lamps had been and have served as platforms to hold planting boxes as shown in the picture. New energy efficient light fixtures featuring induction lighting will replace the old high-pressure sodium fixtures. The new lights will have a softer glow and their light will be directed downward.

It is expected that reinstallation of the street lights will begin by early February, weather permitting, and will take about six weeks to complete.



Snow Removal & Parking Reminder

With a snowy winter seemingly upon us, please remember that all sidewalks, adjoining or abutting a property, must be properly cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours of a snow event (exceptions are identified in Chapter 197, Section 15 of the Village Code). Cleared sidewalks help keep our residents safe.

Parking on Village streets is not permitted when snow measures 2 inches or more. Seasonal parking permits are available in the Village Office for those without off-street parking spots with some restrictions. Keeping your car off the street helps the DPW properly clear them.

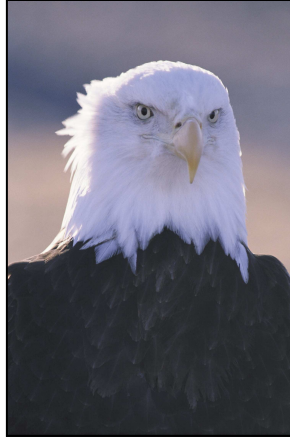
No snow or ice should be thrown in the street by shovelers or plowing contractors.



EagleFest

The annual EagleFest event hosted by Teatown Reservation at Croton Point Park will focus this year on what each person can do every day to have a big impact on wildlife. "Flying Into the Future: What You Can Do" will be the focus of the presentations and activities as well as the displays of 30 organizations.

Shows in the Eaglet Theater are free and cover a wide range including puppets and story telling, photography tips, and how eagles actually hunt. The shows in the Eagle Theater will feature different live birds and experts familiar with their habits. Scheduled hourly beginning at 10 am, the shows are \$5/person if purchased in advance or \$10/person at the door. Reservations and advanced purchase can be made at 914-762-2912 ext. 110. Purchases of bus tours to other eagle viewing sites, accompanied by a Teatown educator, may also be purchased at this number.



The Eaglet Nest, located at the Croton Point Park headquarters

will be filled with activities for children all day long.

Echo Boat Launch, at the south end of the train station parking lot, is one of the eagle viewing sites. It will be hosted and manned by the Saw Mill River Audubon Society with a warming tent and birding experts available.

Parking at the park is free. A \$5 suggested donation at the entrance would be welcomed. For more info about EagleFest, go to <http://www.teatown.org/eaglefest>.

Volunteer for Village Committees

With the exception of the Board of Trustees, who are elected, all other Boards and Committees in the Village are made up of volunteers. There are currently openings on the Village's Water Control Commission and the Bicycle Pedestrian Committee. More information on these and other committees can be found at the Village's website: www.crotononhudson-ny.gov.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a member of a board/committee, please email Mayor Wiegman at lwiegman@crotononhudson-ny.gov. Please include your specific interests with your contact information.

Groundhog Day - Feb.2

Did you know that baby groundhogs are called "chucklings" and that all groundhogs have 22 teeth?

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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor, Kevin Davis, Trustee, Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee, Ian Murtaugh, Trustee, Casey Raskob, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager

Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building, One Van Wyck Street

(914) 271-4781-2, www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Winter Break Recreation Programs

Two great full-day programs are scheduled for the school Winter Break this year. Both programs are designed for students in grades 2 to 6.

Lego Architecture, Bridges & Structural Engineering

is sure to appeal to future designers and builders. Students will focus on the architecture and design of large and world-famous structures using LEGO, K'NEX and Balsa models. The program will be held on Tues., Feb 19.



Electronics 2013 This new program gives students an opportunity to work with batteries, bulbs, buzzers and more. Students will put together a wide array of electronic circuits and take home a working electric motor, electromagnet and more. This program will be held on Wed., Feb. 20.



The registration deadline for both programs is Feb. 14. The fee for each is \$65/res and \$80/nonres. Both will be held in the Municipal Building Community Room.

Fire Dept. Installation

The annual Fire Department Installation of officers was held on January 2 at the Washington Engine Company Fire house. Current Chief John Munson, First Assistant Chief William Vlad and Second Assistant Chief Matt Mansfield were all sworn in to their respective offices for their second one-year terms. Although the official terms for these offices are one year, traditionally these positions are retained for two years by the people holding them.

Fire Department Assistant Chiefs, Captains, Lieutenants, Engineers and members of the Explorer post were also sworn in at the installation event.

EMS Appointments

The Village Board ratified the appointments of new officers for Croton's EMS for 2013. Long-time Chief Gary Diggs stepped down from his post as Captain which he held since the formation of the independent Croton EMS department. The newly appointed officers are Captain William McCabe, 1st Lieutenant Philip Dinkler and 2nd Lieutenant Anita Dominello.

Got a Question?



My children are active in many recreational and sports programs in the Village. I know there is a Recreation Advisory Committee composed of resident volunteers. What do they do?

The Village's Recreation Advisory Committee advises both the Recreation and Parks Dept. staff and the Board of Trustees on matters pertaining to recreation programs and use of Village facilities. The members also perform a liaison function between the community and administration and Board. A mission statement adopted by the Recreation Advisory Board in 2004 provides a framework for their advice and for the work of the department:

Mission Statement: It is the mission of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson Recreation and Parks Department: to create and maintain aesthetically pleasing, safe, healthful, and enjoyable areas for residents; to provide positive, cost-effective leisure opportunities which promote individual and community wellness for children, youth, adults and seniors; to promote the preservation and appropriate utilization of the Village's recreational resources.

Since a Recreation Master Plan was developed in 2003, the RAC has been instrumental in developing policies over a broad range of activities and uses including implementing residential and school district IDs, park permits, a dog park, ski programs, summer camps, Senior programs, special events and a wide variety of weekly programs offered for all age groups.

The current Recreation Advisory Board is chaired by John Giglio and members include Glenn Wolland, Peter Sedlemair, Jane Murtaugh, Missy Corvinus, Maria Slippen and Denise Weale. The RAC meets in the Municipal Building on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. The Recreation Supervisor is Mark Duncan and Art Neff is the Parks Foreman.

Ice Skating Reminder

A RED flag flying at the Duck Pond means that ice skating is NOT permitted. When ice conditions are sufficient to allow skating, a GREEN flag will be flying. Skating is not supervised.

