



Newsletter

June, 2015

Number 183

Croton's Government Efficiency Plan

June Calendar

- 1 & 22** Village Bd. Mtg.
- 7** Summerfest
- 9 & 23** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 17** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 3** Cons. Adv. Council
- 4** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 9** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 17** Visual Env. Board
- 24** Trails Comm.

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The NYS Tax Freeze plan passed in 2014 by the Legislature provided property tax rebate checks where (1) the taxing entity stays under the Tax Cap (adopted in 2012) and (2) the taxing entity prepares a plan which will provide efficiencies that will reduce its tax levy by 1% in each of three subsequent years. That plan is called a Government Efficiency Plan (GEP) and must be filed with the NYS Comptroller by June 1 of this year. If both these conditions are met, and the homeowner's total household income is \$500,000 or less, and they are eligible for the STAR program, they will receive a rebate check from the state.

The intent of the GEP is to encourage local governments (and school districts) to generate long-term tax relief for taxpayers by 1) sharing services, 2) consolidating or merging and 3) demonstrating and implementing operational efficiencies.

While the GEP must be filed with the Comptroller's Office by June 1 for approval, it will actually take effect beginning June 2016. The 1% savings are expected to be shown in fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019. The 1% savings amount is based on the Village's tax levy for its 2014/2015 fiscal year and has been set at \$110,651.

Croton's former Manager, Acting Manager and Treasurer have created such a GEP showing the required savings. The plan can include any efficiencies either by the local government itself or through savings caused by sharing of services with other municipalities since 2012. The measurement of the savings of the GEP will begin in the fiscal year starting June 2017 and continue for three years.

Croton's GEP is based on the third criteria: the demonstrating and implementing operational cost efficiencies.

Eligible efficiencies that may be included in the local GEP include past efficiencies that have been put in place since the Tax Cap legislation became effective for Villages; June 1, 2012.

One of the ways that Croton's GEP will demonstrate savings and efficiencies is through its reorganization in two departments. A program to digitize many court office procedures allowed a full-time Intermediate Typist position to become part-time. By privatizing the care taking of the Municipal Building, the Village was able to fill a DPW vacancy with the caretaker employee. Since the cleaning contract was less than the employee's total wages and benefits, the Village was able to save on this reorganization.

These reorganization efforts met the required demonstrated savings of \$110,651. While meeting the required savings, the Village is continuing to



identify efficiencies and savings by ex-

amining its policies regarding pickup of bulk items and by instituting contributions toward Health Insurance costs by non-union employees, and negotiated contributions with the Teamsters and Croton Police Association.

With the acceptance of the GEP, eligible Croton property taxpayers should receive a rebate check from NYS in Fall 2015. If the Village meets its Tax Cap in the 2016/2017 tax levy, village property taxpayers will receive a second, cumulative, check in Fall 2016. The check will reflect the sum of all rebates earned from each of the taxing entities to which the property owner pays taxes. In the Village of Croton that includes the school district, the Town and Westchester County.

Summerfest Coming Soon

Croton will kick off summer 2015 with its 28th annual Summerfest celebration on Sunday, June 7.

The event will start with a parade at 12:45 pm from Veterans Corner to the light at Old Post Rd. South and Grand Street. Marchers will include government officials, members of local organizations and sports teams. The Croton Fire Department apparatus will conclude the parade. This year's Grand Marshall is Patrick Calcutti, honoring his leadership in support of the local Veterans.



Vendors and entertainment will be lining the streets of the Upper Village for the enjoyment of all. Local organizations will be providing information on their activities at their individual tables.

Two bands will be playing throughout the event. In front of Holy Name of Mary School, the SAILING STONE band will be playing, while LOST SOULZ will be in the lot adjacent to Berkshire Hathaway Realty. Come out and join your neighbors for a great day of fun!

Silver Lake Swimming

Silver Lake is open for swimming on weekends only through June 21. Weekend hours are 11 am to 7 pm.



The park will be open full-time beginning Friday, June 26 from 11 am to 7:30 pm daily. The park will close for the season on or before Monday, Sept. 7. Weather conditions and staffing are variable which will affect the hours of operation.

Full season permits can be obtained for a Resident Family, Adult or Child (4 & up). Full season permits are also available for School District residents. Both require a Village Photo ID. Daily rates are also available. After 5 pm, all daily rates are reduced by \$2. All guests must be accompanied by a Village or School District resident with a valid photo ID.

A complete list of the rates for season passes and daily fees is available on p. 26 of the Summer Recreation Brochure on the Village website. Click on Summer brochure under Quick Links on the Home page.

2nd LWRP Public Input Session

A second public input work session is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, at 7:30 pm at the Croton Yacht Club. The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) is being updated to reflect changes in local conditions, the language of local laws, and the accomplishment of its project list since its adoption in 1992. The LWRP is a locally adopted plan under the Federal Coastal Resources and Inland Waterways Act. Local plans are approved by the NYS Dept. of State.

An initial public input work session was held on April 29th to provide residents with an overview of the LWRP and gather information and ideas from residents on what they would like to see as future goals for the Village to incorporate into the plan.



The June 30 input session will be focused on identifying new projects as goals for the future and updating the local language of the 44 NYS-defined policies that constitute the plan.

All residents are encouraged to attend and provide their perspectives. The presentation made at the first input session on April 29th, as well as the report summarizing that session, can be seen from the Village's website at the Quick Links section of the Home page. Please consider adding your input at the June 30th input session.

Water Bills



On June 15th, semi-annual water bills will be sent out which are payable by July 15 without penalty. Since 2010, a 6-tiered rate has been in place. Charges are by cubic foot of consumption (CF) and are based on the prior year consumption.

Tier 1	Basic - up to 900 CF/year	\$50.23
Tier 2	901-100,000	\$7.53/100CF
Tier 3	100,001 to 500,000	\$8.28/100CF
Tier 4	500,001 to 1,000,000	\$8.43/100CF
Tier 5	1,000,001 to 1,500,000	\$8.66/100CF
Tier 6	over 1,500,001 CF/year	\$9.04/100CF



Reminder!

SUMMERFEST is Sunday, June 7 from 12:45 to 6 pm



Summer Sidewalk and Curb Work

Every summer the Village performs ongoing work on its sidewalks and curbs. Additionally, there are some remaining unfilled applications from the 50/50 sidewalk replacement program which ended several years ago which continue to be reviewed. The Capital Budget allocates \$100,000 for this work annually.

This summer new sidewalks and curbs and replacement of deteriorated ones will occur in the Village.

Mt. Green Road will have new curbing installed on its south side to address continuing drainage issues. This will involve widening a short section of the road. The Scenic Ridge area will have improvements made to its sidewalks on its public streets as part of its 50/50 sidewalk replacement application of several years ago.

There are multiple other sidewalk and curb improvements planned for the summer including, but not limited to, the following sites:

Broken asphalt curbs on Georgia Lane will be replaced with concrete. Brook St. will see new ADA dropcurbs at its intersection with Old Post Rd. North. This will improve pedestrian access in that area and address drainage flowing onto private property in that area.

On Bungalow Rd. the new sidewalk will be extended from the end of the park to the existing sidewalk. Additionally, a sidewalk will be created going to the interior of the park. There will also be two concrete pads for picnic tables added.

The traffic island at Oneida Ave. will be redesigned to include ADA dropcurbs and there will be new curbing at the traffic circle at Olcott and Wells Avenues.

The circle at Benedict Blvd. and Cleveland Dr. will have granite curbing installed after the completion of the water main work in that area.

Many individual property owners who participated in the sidewalk program will also have their sidewalks improved this summer as well. Additionally, work on other streets will be scheduled as the summer progresses.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Village is working with Westchester County to develop a hazard mitigation plan which would create eligibility for federal grant funding in the future. The County-wide plan is currently in draft form and is available for view from the Village web-site home page under Quick Links.

Future funding could support projects that would reduce the Village's exposure to natural hazards such as storms, flooding and erosion through structural elevation, drainage improvements and backup power for critical facilities.

First Friday Summer Concert

The first concert of the Village's Summer Concert series will be on Fri., June 26 at Senasqua Park. The Stars Go Blue band brings together decades of musical experience playing rock, funk, alt-country, singer-songwriter and more. The concert begins at 7 pm.

The complete summer concert/movie/entertainment series will be available in the July/August Newsletter.

Water Update

The work on the Village's water main system, including both cement-relining and replacements of existing water mains is well under way for the second year of the program. The project was undertaken to address aging water infrastructure and brown water problems. Work on the area referred to as Phase 2B was not initially expected to be underway this year, however, the rapid progress on earlier phases last year has made it possible to complete it this season. Phase 2B includes Morningside Dr., Sunset Dr., Lexington Dr., Observatory Dr., Park Ave., and a section of Cleveland Dr. The Wolf Rd. and Cook Lane area is also under way. Water mains in the Wolf/Cook area are being relined. In addition a new extension of the water mains serving this area, crossing under North Riverside Ave. and connecting to an existing line on Old Post Road North, has been implemented. This extension allows the Wolf/Cook area to be looped or integrated into the Village's overall water distribution system.

Residents in the areas of work have temporary, above ground, water lines in place as shown in the accompanying picture.

When completed, the two-year project will result in the replacement or addition of 7,370 feet of new water main and the relining of 24,100 feet of existing water main for a total of 31,470 feet of water main improvements. The work is being done by Heitkamp Inc.



Summer Camp Openings

There are still some openings for summer camp - both Day Camp and Tiny Tots. There are three two-week sessions beginning on June 30 and continuing to August 7. Session registrations can be mixed and matched. Second and third children get discounted rates.

The information on dates and rates is available in the Recreation brochure which is online at the Village website or by calling 271-3006.

Got a Question?



Where and when can I get a Village Photo-ID? Photo IDs are issued in the Rec. Dept. Office every Tues./Thurs. from 12:30 to 3:30 pm.

In addition, IDs may be obtained at the office on Sunday, June 7 during Summerfest (1:30 to 3:30 pm) and on the following dates and times:

Wed., June 10 - 4 to 8 pm

Sat., June 13 - 9 am to noon

Thurs. June 18 - 4 to 8 pm

Sat. June 27—9 am to noon

Sat. July 11 - 9 am to noon

Tues. July 21 - 4 to 7 pm.

lage photo ID to use Silver Lake, Senasqua Park and Hudson National Golf Course. IDs for Village Seniors are free. Other rates are as follows:

Residents \$9.00

School District Residents \$15.00

School District Seniors \$10.00

Photo IDs are valid for 3 years. Two proofs of current residency are required and must be in the name of the person requesting the ID. Satisfactory proofs include a valid driver's license or other photo ID with the street address listed or a recent tax bill or utility bill with a village or school district address. Old Village Photo IDs cannot be used as proof of current residency.



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Village of Croton-on-Hudson**

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Maria Slippen, Trustee

Janine King, Acting Village Manager

www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Croton Seniors at Senasqua

The Senior Club will have their Friday meetings at the Senasqua Park Pavilion starting June 5 and continuing through the summer. In inclement weather, call 271-5804 for the alternate location.

Village Property Taxes Due!

Property tax bills for 2015/2016 will be sent out on June 1 and are payable by June 30 without penalty. For property owners whose taxes are not paid by their mortgage lender, payments can be made in person during regular office hours at the Village Office in the Municipal Building. When mailing tax payments, be aware that the postmark must be no later than June 30. Under NYS law, municipalities cannot waive the 5% penalty if the tax payment is received after the due date.

New Section of Riverfront Path

A new section of path along the Hudson River has opened at the parking area at the south end of



New Path Section

Elliott Way. This new section of path connects the Riverwalk to the HMB Promenade. Previously there was no defined path at this area with pedestrians having to walk in the parking lot to connect to the HMB riverfront path.

The bench that was removed during the work will be replaced at or near the same location.

