



March Calendar

- 7 & 21** Village Bd. Mtg.
- 8 & 22** Planning Board
- 9** Zoning Board
- 2** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 3** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 8** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 16** Visual Env. Board
- 23** Trails Comm.
- 25** Good Friday

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Your Water Bill

Most residents in the Village receive their water from the Village's Water supply. Bills for water use are sent twice annually, each covering a six month period. Bills are based on household consumption, administrative costs, and infrastructure improvements. Consumption represents the largest portion of the bill.

While water rates did increase between the June 2015 bill and the December 2015 bill, it is likely that other factors may have contributed to increases in your water bill. (Village water rates are divided into 6 tiers with the most residents in Tier 2 and Tier 3 ranging from 901 to 1 million cubic feet/yr).

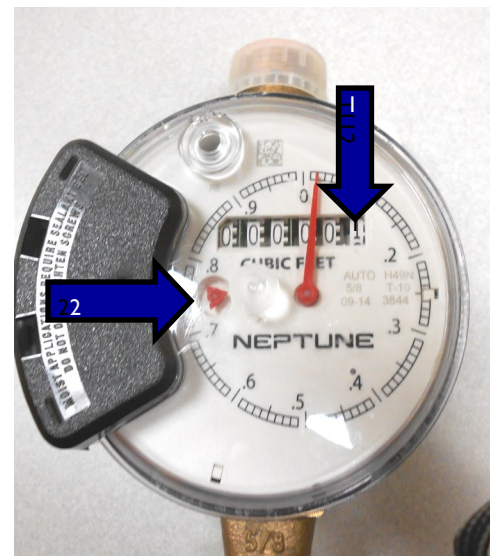
The semi-annual bill reflects two different seasons with different consumption patterns. The June bill shows consumption during the winter/spring months which typically are lower than consumption in the warmer summer/fall months. The latter is reflected in the December bill. Most households will have a higher bill in December reflecting this seasonal difference.

How to monitor your water consumption. Every water customer has a water meter which records their water usage. By looking at your meter you can find out several things about your water consumption and also detect possible leaks.

The water meter shown in the picture is set at 1 (see "1" arrow). As water is used, the number goes up. Each increase of '1' equates to a cubic foot of water (7.48 gallons). By keeping track of the change in this number from day to day or at regular intervals, you can monitor your water usage. If your water usage seems to be increasing at a rate which

seems too fast, you may have a leak. Your water meter can also indicate if you have a leak. Arrow "2" in the pic-

ture points to a red triangle which spins when water is running. If you turn off all the water in your house, and the red triangle is still spinning, you probably have a leak. According to John Spatta, Croton's Water Foreman, most residential leaks come from



running toilets. Other common sources are dripping faucets, hose connections and underground sprinkler systems. If you perform this test and detect a leak, a plumber may be needed to pinpoint it and repair it.

What contributes most to my water consumption? When assessing your water bill, keep in mind that your usage may be quite different from your neighbors. The number of people in a household as well as the number of people in the house during the day, number of loads of laundry on a daily/weekly basis, showering vs. bathing in a tub, irrigation of lawns or garden watering, top filling pools, etc. all affect your consumption.

According to the EPA, the bathroom is where most water inside is consumed. For example, an old toilet may use up to 7 gallons/flush while new ones are generally 1.6gal/flush. At 7 flushes/person/day, Continued on page 3

Croton Yacht Club Events

The Yacht Club is sponsoring its annual Hudson River Educational Seminars on Fridays, March 18 and April 1 at 7:30 pm at the Yacht Club. These seminars are free of charge and open to the public.

On March 18, Captain Lada Simek will present **“The Oceans Above and Below”**. Captain Simek, an accomplished diver, expert, and presenter on oceanography, will present pictures from space, photos of creatures thought to be extinct, our knowledge of coral reefs as well as talk about underwater exploration and survival.

“An Evening with Chris Letts”, on April 1, will feature the local, and longtime Hudson River educator. Mr. Letts will share his knowledge about Hudson River fish and the importance of the local ecosystem.

Don't miss out on these two informative presentations. The Croton Yacht Club is also sponsoring a NYS Boating Safety course on Sun., March 20 from 9am to 5pm. Successful completion of the course will result in certification which is required for all operators of PWC-Jetskis in NYS and boaters entering New Jersey or Connecticut waters. Attendees must be 10 years or older. Pre-registration (\$60) is required at: <http://nyboatingsafety.com/nyboatingcoursedates/march20tcrotonossining.html>. There is also a \$10 charge for the Certificate. All instructors are certified by NYS and the US Coast Guard.

2016/2017 Budget Calendar

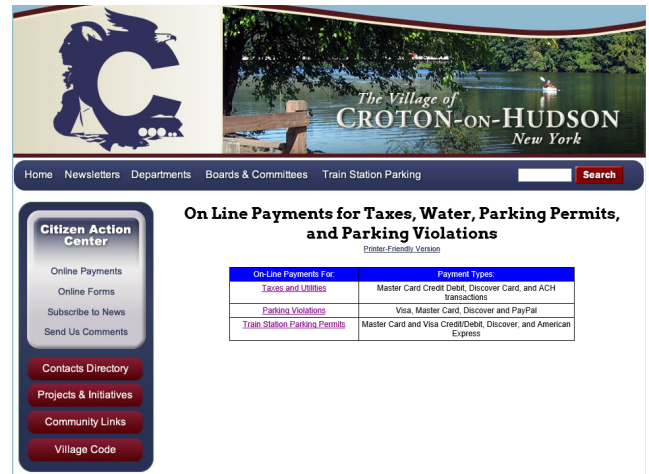
The following dates and meetings are scheduled for the proposed 2016/2017 Budget:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 18 | Tentative Budget is filed |
| March 28 | Work session on Police, Fire and EMS |
| March 30 | Work Session on DPW/Water Depts. |
| 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 |



Making Payments Online

As a convenience, the Village offers several options for paying bills or fees online. This can save you a visit to the office or the need to mail in a payment. Property taxes and utility bills, parking violations, and train station parking permits can all be paid online.



For property taxes, utilities and for train station parking permits, pre-registration is required. You can register and pay by clicking on Online Payments located on the upper left side of the Village website Home page bringing you to the page shown above.

Tax bills and utility bills are paid through the UniPay Direct service. After establishing an account through the website link shown above, it accepts payments from Master Card credit/debit, Discover card and ACH transactions (checking accounts). ACH transactions are free and the most timely as they are reflected immediately. You will need to enter your account number and the bank routing number when paying. By using the ACH method, you can avoid late fees from last minute payments which can happen when paying by cards. It also avoids the convenience fee charged by the respective cards.

Parking Violations can be paid using Visa, Master Charge credit/debit cards, Discover card and PayPal. No preregistration is required. This service is provided by ParkingTicketPayment.com. There is a \$3.50 service fee added.

Train Station Parking Permits require prior registration which can be done online from this site. Payment for permits may be made with Visa and Master card credit/debit cards, Discover and American Express. A convenience fee applies.



Reminder!

Offices will be closed Friday, March 25 for

Good Friday



Water Cont'd.

a family of 4 with an older toilet might consume 196 gal/day or 71,540 gal/year (9564 CF/yr). At Tier 2 billing level, \$7.53/100CF, this amounts to \$720/yr.

There are many heavy water users in each household, washing machines, showers, faucets and hoses. In older homes, upgrading these with "low-flow" shower or faucet heads and water conserving appliance models can reduce water consumption.

Toilet leaks, faucet drips, underground irrigation leaks, and poor hose connections are the stealthy users of water which may not be immediately obvious. The amount of water from these leaks can add up quickly. The EPA estimates that a running toilet can use up to 200 gallons/day!

Pressure-reducers can also affect water usage. The majority of houses have a pressure-reducer which reduces their in-house pressure to an average of 55 psi from a much higher, and variable, street pressure. A malfunctioning pressure reducer can cause leaks or an increase in the amount of water coming out of faucets and water connections due to the higher pressure. The pressure-reducer can also be checked by your plumber.

The chart to the right from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) illustrates water usage in the average home.

The Village Water Dept. personnel are always available to review your individual circumstances with you if you have questions about your water bill. They can be reached at 862-1419. during business hours.

Average water use in the home:



Lunch With the Bunny

All Village and School District children and their families are invited to have lunch with the Spring Bunny.

The lunch will be held in the Community Room at the Municipal Building on Saturday, March 19 at 12 noon.

Space is limited so pre-registration is required. The deadline for signing up is March 11. The fees are for a family at \$20/resident family and \$25/School District family.



Get Connected!

Make sure that you don't miss important information from the Village regarding emergency situations and timely updates about street closures, power outages, water shutoffs and other matters that are of importance to day-to-day life in the Village. To get these important messages, the Village urges its residents and business owners to register with Blackboard Connect. From the Village website Home page, click on Stay Connected at the bottom which brings you to the page shown below. Click on 'Sign up for Blackboard Connect'. From there you can fill in your contact information.

The Village of Croton, in an effort to communicate with all residents as efficiently as possible, employs several communication tools. Please sign up for all the tool(s) that best fit your needs.

Choose from the Following:

facebook	Facebook provides easy access to events and Village news. Like Us! on facebook to receive our wall posts
CLICK HERE FOR ONE-STEP NOTIFICATION SIGN UP NOW Blackboard connect.	The Village also recommends that all Croton-on-Hudson Residents and Business Owners sign up for our Emergency Call and Email Notification Service so you can be contacted in the case of real emergencies and timely updates regarding street closures, power outages, water shut-offs, and other matters impacting village quality of life.
EXTRA EXTRA OMG!!	The Village of Croton-on-Hudson has created five email distribution lists to inform residents of a variety of Village-related information and activities; Village News, Monthly Newsletters, Middle School Recreation Events, Field Conditions Notifications, and Meeting Agendas.
K12alerts	Residents can now sign up for Croton-Harmon School District information and notifications.

From the same Stay Connected page, you can also sign up to be on Village distribution lists of your choice. These lists include sending you the monthly Village Newsletter online, news of events in the Village, updates on field conditions and the agendas of village committees and boards.

In cooperation with the Croton-Harmon School District, The Stay Connected website also allows you to receive its information and email alerts.

Clicking on the Facebook logo at the top of the Stay Connected list will bring you to the Village's Facebook page, another source of regularly updated information about ongoing events and situations in the Village. It also allows you to post comments on the information.

Still Time to Enter!



Although there has been minimal snow this winter, the deadline of March 15 for entering the Snowman contest has not been reached. Entry details are in the Recreation Dept. winter brochure, online, and in the January Newsletter.

Got a Question?



As a new resident who only occasionally goes to the city, what do I need to know about parking in the Daily lot at the Village's train station parking lot? Daily and Multi-day parking is available, without a permit, in the Daily lot (section F and A-overflow) at the train station. Payment is made by using the electronic machines located both in the Daily lot and at the entrance to the station building. These machines accept credit/debit cards and exact payment amounts; no change is returned from the machines.

Alternatively, payment can be made from your smart phone using the ParkMobile app. Info on downloading this app is on the Village website; Click on Train Station parking from the Home page.

Parking fees are: \$1/hour up to 8 hours; \$9/day up to midnight; \$12/day up to 3 am; \$5/day on Sat. and Sun. (The \$9/day charge will go to \$10 and \$13 until 3 am on June 1). You will need to enter your parking space number and Zone number when paying. Also, as a resident of the Village you may obtain a free weekend parking permit from the Village office with proof of residency and your car registration. Free parking is available from after 6 pm on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and some holidays.



**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
www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

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Bond Refinancing

The Village Board recently authorized the refinancing of the outstanding portions of Series 2006 Bonds and Series 2007 Bonds totaling \$2,385,000. This will enable the village to take advantage of lower interest rates currently available.

The refinancing (officially called 'refunding') was suggested by the Village's financial advisors, Capital Markets Advisors, LLC. It is anticipated that the refinancing of these Public Improvement Serial Bonds will save the Village \$221,932.86.

Daylight Savings Time Returns!

DST begins Sunday, March 13th at 2:00 AM. Remember to 'spring forward' one hour on your clocks.



Financial Sustainability Committee

The Village Board is forming a volunteer Croton Financial Sustainability Committee with approximately 7 community members. The goals of this committee are to explore innovative and creative cost-cutting measures for the long-term financial sustainability of the Village while also examining available marketing and economic growth opportunities within the Village. An understanding of current legal and economic constraints for local governments is desirable.

Residents with relevant experience in the financial sector, commercial real estate, local business ownership, or marketing are encouraged to submit a resume to Janine King, Village Manager, at (jjking@crotononhudson-ny.gov) by March 15th.