

# *The Croton-on-Hudson* **Village Newsletter**

**April 2004**

**Number 60**

## **April**

### **Calendar**

- 7 & 19** Village Board Mtg.
- 12** Budget Hearing
- 26** Budget Adoption
- 6 & 27** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 7** Cons. Advisory Council
- 14** Zoning Board
- 21** Water Control Comm.
- 21** Visual Environ. Bd.

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## **The Village Budget Its Preparation and Adoption**

April is the month in which the Village's budget is finalized and adopted. By law, it must be adopted Not later than May 1. This is also when it receives the most attention through public hearings and news reports. The process of creating the budget, however, starts months before.

On March 19 this year, Village Manager Herbek, in his capacity as Budget Officer, submitted the proposed 2004-2005 budget. The \$12,071,106 budget requires \$7,929,340 to be raised from property taxes. Revenue from other sources, including the parking lot, sales taxes and franchise fees, accounts for the difference between the two numbers. Under this proposal, the tax rate for property owners is \$175.90 per \$1000 assessed valuation, a 9.39% increase from last year. The expense increase is \$926,854 higher than last year. 60% of this increase is due to 4 major expense items: pension cost for the Employees Retirement System, pension cost for the Police Retirement System, Medical Insurance and Debt Service. Pension costs may be reduced somewhat if the NYS Legislature and the NYS Comptroller reach agreement on a proposal to reduce these costs.

The process that resulted in this budget is a lengthy one involving Village Treasurer Reardon, the Village's Dept. heads and the



Manager. In January, the Manager and Treasurer send all Dept. heads a request for their budgets telling them of the constraints and the guidelines they are expected to adhere to in preparing their individual budgets. Each dept. head then sub-

mits budget estimates and worksheets to Treasurer Reardon. He and Manager Herbek then meet individually with each dept. head to review their budget submission and make sure there is justification for each item of expense. Separately from the dept. budgets, the Treasurer and Manager develop a budget for administration costs including, salaries, pensions, benefits, anticipated legal costs, insurance, debt service and planning. Most of these items are non-discretionary expenses.

Once the proposed budget is announced, the Village Trustees meet several times over the following weeks with each Dept. to review the separate budgets. These public work session reviews usually result in some modifications being made—either inclusions or exclusions of items. A Public Hearing, on April 12th at 8PM, will be held to receive further input from the residents. The Trustees, in conjunction with the Treasurer and Manager, then finalize the budget. The budget must be adopted at a public session before May. It is scheduled for April 26 this year. *Cont'd. on page 3*

## **Spring Window Decorating**



Have fun welcoming spring by painting windows with a spring theme. This non-judged event for youth and families is just for fun. Call the Recreation Office at 271-3006 to sign up. Windows will be assigned to participants and must be painted between April 5th and April 10th.

## Village Election Results

At the polls on March 16th, Village residents elected 2 Trustees and approved the Fire Department Service Award referendum. Greg Schmidt and Charles Kane were elected. The total for all candidates was as follows: Gregory Schmidt (R,OP) - 887

Charles Kane (D, BW) - 783

Thomas Brennan (R,OG) - 713

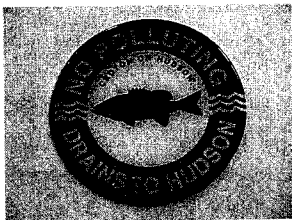
Thomas Burniston (D,BW) - 706

The referendum was approved on a vote of 652 to 350. The newly elected Trustees officially take office at the beginning of April. The annual organizational meeting of the Village Board is on April 7th.

## Annual Storm Water Report

March 10, 2004 is the end of the year, that is the storm water year, and with its end comes the task of submitting the village's annual storm water report to the state. The report will present the village's accomplishments in protecting the Croton and Hudson Rivers in the first year of the storm water permit program.

The "General Permit for Storm Water Discharges" issued to the village requires the village to hold a public meeting to present the draft annual 2003-2004 Storm Water report to the public and receive public comments on the report. This will occur at the televised Village Board meeting on May 4th at 8 PM at the Municipal Building. The draft report will be available for public review in the Village Engineer's office and public comments may be made at the meeting and for 5 days after the meeting. Public comments will be incorporated into the final report submitted to the state. The final 2003-2004 annual storm water report will be available for public inspection on June 1, 2004.



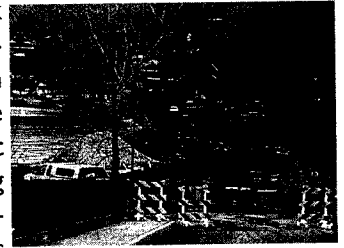
## Stormwater Awareness Campaign

Soon you will see the medallion pictured to the left on stormwater catch basins all over Croton. Some locations will also have a painted blue stencil of a fish. Sponsored by the Water Control Commission, in cooperation with the village's DPW, the program will help satisfy Stormwater Phase 2 requirements regarding public education. With the Hudson and Croton Rivers as stormwater receiving waterbodies, protection and awareness of these resources directly affects our quality of life in the village. The stencil and medallions will

help discourage dumping of inappropriate materials in storm drains. Volunteers wishing to help with this program are being sought. Interested groups or individuals may call the DPW at 271-3775.

## Riverfront Road Begins

As seen to the right, work has begun on the new riverfront road running from the Half Moon Bay Bridge north to Senasqua Park. It is expected that the paving of the road will be completed by the end of this



season. In the meantime, access to the waterfront is only from the railroad at-grade crossing accessed from the southbound Route 9 off-ramp or by the N. Riverside Ave.- Rte. 9 overpass to southbound Rte. 9.

## Hudson River Clean Up Day

The annual Clean Up day, cosponsored by the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) and the Recreation Dept. will be held on Saturday, April 24th from 9-12. All residents are encouraged to volunteer some time to this effort. Over several years, this annual effort has cleaned and spruced up many areas of the Village. The event will start at Senasqua Park at 9 AM.

Another CAC project done over the last two years should be apparent this month with the blooming of over 1000 daffodils on the hillside by Bethel Cemetery on Old Post Road South.



## Summer Jobs!

Applications for summer jobs for Skateboard Park attendants and lifeguards are available for responsible and reliable high school students. For information and an application call the Recreation Dept. at 271-3006. Pay is \$8.50/hour and up. Appropriate certifications are necessary.

## REMINDER!

Village Offices will be closed on April 9th for Good Friday.



## Spotlight on John Nikitopoulos

Since 1986, when he was hired as a police officer, John has been rising through the ranks of the Croton Police Department. He is now a Detective Police Officer, receiving that title in 1997. In this job, he is responsible for investigations. As Croton's Youth Officer, he focuses on youth offenses. John is involved with any situation where a person under 16 would be charged with a crime if they were older. Usually he is called in by patrol officers. He then decides how to handle the situation. If it goes to Family Court, he draws up the charges and sends them to court. He may also testify

when a trial is involved. Additionally, he interfaces with the local school administration and participates in programs held at the schools for both parents and students. With Detective Tramaglini, he also works on non-juvenile investigations. As a member of the Police Scuba Dive Team, he goes on diving calls, primarily in the Hudson River, both for Croton and to assist neighboring departments as well. John has a Scuba Diving Master's Certification. Growing up in Croton since he moved here in first grade, John graduated from Croton-Harmon High School in 1977. He worked at several jobs be-

fore taking the police exam and being hired by the Village.

Since his initial training at the Westchester County Police Academy, he has also received much additional training in all aspects of youth services as well as investigative courses—such as fingerprinting and crime scene investigation.

In his spare time, John enjoys spending time with his wife and children—2 girls and a boy. They enjoy bike riding and many water sports. He owns a boat and jet skis which he uses on the Hudson, at the Cape and also at Lake George. He enjoys recreational scuba diving as well.



*John, the people I  
and feeling that I  
being in the*

*John Nikitopoulos*

### Photo ID Reminder

As of May 4, 2004, all persons 4 years of age or older must present a photo ID issued by the Recreation Dept. to use Silver Lake, Senasqua Park, the Skatepark and Hudson National Golf Course. The photo ID is valid for 3 years. Proof of residency is required from all residents purchasing an ID. Satisfactory proof for Village residents includes a driver's license or other photo ID with the address listed, along with other proof such as a tax bill or recent utility bill. School district residents may provide a copy of their school tax bill as proof along with a photo ID. An old Recreation Dept. ID card cannot be used as proof of current residency. Photos will be taken in April at the Recreation Dept. Office in the Municipal Building, 2nd floor, on Tuesdays & Thursday from 12 PM—3:30 PM (not holidays). ID photos will also be taken on some Saturdays and evenings in May and June. Call 271-3006 for times.

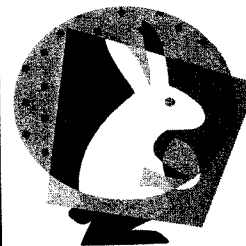
Fees are as follows:	Village residents	\$5.00
	School Dist. Residents	\$10.00
	Seniors	free

If you already have an ID, check to make sure it has not expired.

### Budget cont'd.

The Manager and Treasurer also prepare a capital budget, reviewed and adopted in May. This budget is based on a 5-year capital improvement plan that guides decisions on large cost items such as equipment, renovations, new construction, community development projects and large infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

The budget is posted on the website and copies are available for review in the Village Office and the Library. A summary sheet and pie charts are posted at the Kiosk in Croton Commons.



### Lunch with the Bunny

All village and school district children are invited to have lunch with the spring bunny. on Saturday, April 10th. Pre-registration is required, either by mail or in person, at the Recreation Office. The charge is \$5 per family. The event will be held in the CET multi-purpose room at 11:30 am.

We're on the Web. Visit us  
at:  
<http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov>



## Got a Question?

**I see many signs around the village that seem to be temporary in nature. Are there rules about having signs on your property?**

Yes, the village has a Sign ordinance (Section 230-44 of the Zoning Code) which regulates signs in all zoning districts. Permanent signs, such as those associated with businesses, usually require a permit and are subject to a variety of restrictions as to numbers, sizes, lighting and colors.

Temporary signs, however, usually do not require a permit, although they may have size and duration limitations. Examples of such signs are:

- FOR SALE, FOR RENT and SOLD signs. No more than 2 of these at 6 square feet each are allowed on a lot.
- A single contractor sign is permitted during the period in which the work is being done, after which it must be removed.

- Garage sale, tag sale and similar signs have a maximum duration of 7 days.
- Election signs must be removed within 10 days after the Election Day.
- Signs for events, such as school, religious or civic events are limited to 45 days, 16 square feet in size, and may not be illuminated.

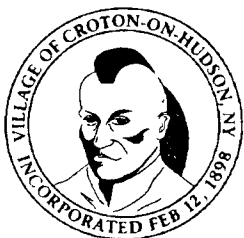


Section 197-8 of the code also addresses signage. It states that no signs of any sort, except legal notices, may be posted on trees, poles, walls, fences or buildings on or along streets or public places. Scattering or throwing handbills or flyers is also prohibited under this section.

### Playing Fields

Please be aware that you should not use fields in the Village at which a "Field Closed" sign is posted. This sign is posted at the fields when their condition is vulnerable to damage which could result in potentially costly repairs.

April 2004



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

Robert W. Elliott, Mayor  
Georgianna K. Grant, Trustee  
Deborah Y. McCarthy, Trustee  
Gregory J. Schmidt, Trustee  
Leo A. W. Wiegman, Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager  
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building  
One Van Wyck Street  
(914) 271-4781-2

Bulk Rate  
Permit No. 111  
Carrier Route  
Pre-Sort  
Yorktown Heights  
New York 10598

### Postal Patron

**Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520**