

# The Croton-on-Hudson Village Newsletter

April 2005

Number 71

## April

### Calendar

- |        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
| 4 & 18 | Village Board Mtg.     |
| 11     | Budget Hearing         |
| 25     | Budget Adoption        |
| 5 & 26 | Planning Bd. Mtg.      |
| 6      | Cons. Advisory Council |
| 13     | Zoning Board           |
| 20     | Water Control Comm.    |
| 20     | Visual Environ. Bd.    |

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## MUNIS On Its Way

Since September 2004, when the Village Board approved the purchase of the Municipal Information System (MUNIS), Treasurer Abe Zambrano and his staff have been working on its implementation.

MUNIS is a financial software package for municipal governments that allows for the integration of information across all village departments.

Eventually, MUNIS will track information in all areas of Croton's government including budgeting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, fixed assets, property taxes, water billing, building permits, personnel information, violations, variances and other approvals and payroll.

Accounts Payable and the 2005-06 budget are scheduled to be implemented first with a "go live" date of April 1st.

Currently the staff is creating the Accounts Payable master file. Under MUNIS, this will provide for an improved requisition process with better controls on purchasing. For all types of purchases, there will be parameters set on quantities and costs, permission levels for employees in each department and an automated work-flow. For example, a Recreation Dept. employee who enters a requisition for balls will be limited by the parameters set for that kind of purchase. On entering the request, a message is automatically triggered for the Recreation Superintendent to provide authorization. When that occurs, it automatically goes to the Treasurer. The Treasurer ensures that the village's procurement policy requirements have been met, that quotes have been submitted when required, prints the purchase order and notifies the

vendor. The vendor receives the purchase order along with the terms and conditions governing it. Department heads will know exactly how much they have on hand on a daily basis as once the purchase order is issued, the funds are encumbered.

Treasurer Zambrano is also using MUNIS for the preparation of the 2005-06 budget. The draft budget is currently being set up using MUNIS and, upon adoption, all of the approved figures will automatically roll into the appropriate accounts. The current KVS system will be permanently phased out for budget purposes on May 31, 2005 with the end of this fiscal year. For audit purposes, it is better to switch the budget into the MUNIS system at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Soon after the budget completion, the village will be printing property tax bills using MUNIS. Water billing is scheduled to be completed in late July or early August and payroll in October.



Security in the MUNIS system is done through profiles for users, passwords, and an audit trail of anyone who

'touches' a record.

Currently the village staff is continuing its in-house training. Later, training will be provided to additional employees as new functions are added to the MUNIS system.

## Village Elections Results

At the polls on March 15th, Village residents elected a new Mayor and two Trustees. Gregory Schmidt was elected Mayor, and Leo Wiegman and Tom Brennan were chosen as Trustees. All serve two-year terms.

The vote total for all candidates was as follows:

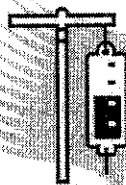
Gregory Schmidt (R,OG)	-	1156
Ann Gallelli (D,CT)	-	1012
Leo Wiegman (D,CT)	-	1119
Thomas Brennan (R,OG)	-	1075
James Steinberg (R,OG)	-	1066
Georgianna Grant (D,CT)	-	1023

The newly elected officials take office at the beginning of April. The annual organizational meeting of the Village Board will occur on April 4th.

## CDBG Grants

Along with many other Westchester communities, the Village Board approved a resolution calling on the federal government to continue funding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This program within the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was begun in 1974 by President Gerald Ford and is slated to lose its funding in the current administration's proposed federal budget. CDBG has been the source of funding for many projects in Croton.

Completed projects include upper village sidewalk improvements, parking improvements in Harmon and sidewalks and lights on North Riverside. Just this year, Croton received over \$96,000 for Wayne St. improvements. Westchester County administers the CDBG applications and awards the grants based on a formula that uses various measures of community needs including population and age of housing among others. Applications are done in three-year cycles for areas in municipalities that have a low to moderate income designation according to County criteria. The next round of applications which must be submitted for the 3 fiscal years beginning in 2006/2007 include infrastructure improvements such as water, sewer and possibly sidewalk replacements on High Street, Prospect Place, Hunter Place and Farrington Road.

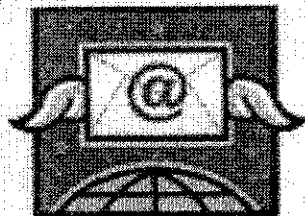


## Community Blood Drive

The Croton Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, May 1 at CET elementary school from 9 am to 3 pm. Donors must be at least 17 years old, 110 pounds and healthy. Appointments are appreciated and will prevent waiting but walk-ins are also welcome. For an appointment or information, please call Carol Shanesy, 271-7645, or Rosaland Morrissey at 271-8449. Please put this on your calendar as the blood donations benefit all Croton residents.

## EMAIL Changes

Email messages to and from Village employees have a new ending or hosting location. All emails will now have the @crotononhudson-ny.gov ending rather than @bestweb.net. A new, and less expensive, email contract with VirtualTownHall will support a larger number of email accounts—up to 45 as opposed the previous 20 accounts at bestweb.net. It also supports a product called First Class, a product similar to Outlook. This will enable all account holders to maintain calendars among other capabilities. The Village Manager and Dept. heads will also be able to share their calendars and meeting dates for better scheduling among them. Employees with email accounts are being trained on this currently.



VirtualTownHall is the entity that currently hosts and manages Croton's website. Prior to using VirtualTownHall, the village used a County "exchange server". It was physically located in the Village Offices and required yearly updates, done in-house, which proved to be very expensive. As a result the village looked at other hosting possibilities and chose VirtualTownHall several years ago. Its extensive archiving capabilities are another important benefit of the newly implemented email system.

Spring is Coming

Look for the daffodils planted by the CAC and volunteers on the hillside by Bethel Chapel commemorating 9/11!



## Spotlight on Yvonne Beldotti

In May, Yvonne Beldotti will complete her first year as Croton's Senior Coordinator. As Senior Coordinator, Yvonne is responsible for programs and events planning for the Croton Seniors Club. The Club has 125 members with about 80 being regularly active.

In her first year, Yvonne has looked at what the club is currently doing and has concentrated on expanding the offerings. She has surveyed the members to get their ideas.

One innovation this year was the successful book discussion group in conjunction with the Croton Library. She is also planning some new programs to start later this spring such as Line and Partner

Dancing and Chair Yoga. Additionally, Yvonne is looking at the possibility of meeting more than once a week for particular activities—perhaps a knitting group. She is already working with members of the Senior Club to plan events for the club's 50th anniversary in 2007.

Yvonne's background is in museum education. She worked for 9 years at the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers and then 4 more at the Boscobel Restoration in Garrison. She was responsible for program planning and coordination for many audiences including seniors. She came to Croton's program with the idea of taking her experience and developing it in a different environment with a single focus. She says

she loves involvement with people and often meets with seniors at other times than the regular Friday meetings.

In her free time, she and her husband are working on renovating a 1927 house in Ossining. Until recently she has been actively involved with community theater and drama and has appeared in Hartsdale Community Players and Harrison Players productions. With the latter, she sang and danced in a vaudeville-type production at the Westchester Dinner Theater. She is a piano player and occasionally does performances with musician friends for private affairs.



*"Working with the Senior group is like an extension of family."*

*Yvonne Beldotti*

## Update of Our Environmental Laws

Beginning in the fall of 2004, the Village embarked upon a review and update of its environmental laws. Most were written in the mid to late 1980's. Since then, new ideas and innovations in land use have combined to make it possible to further strengthen our environmental laws. Improving the implementation of these laws is also under review.

The Village is working with Frederick P. Clarke, an environmental and planning consulting firm, and Wormser, Kiely, Galef & Jacobs LLP, a law firm specializing in land use and development on this project.

Village Engineer, Dan O'Connor, has submitted an application for funding of this environmental law review in the amount of \$37,000 to the NYS Dept. of State under its Quality Communities Grant Program. The Village has already received reports containing conceptual recommendations for revisions of each of the laws under review. An ad hoc committee is being formed to participate in the initial review prior to the preparation of the specific draft local law amendments and also a new proposed stormwater

local law. This committee will consist of Croton's professional staff as well as members of the Planning Board, Water Control Commission, Waterfront Advisory Committee, Conservation Advisory Council and other interested individuals. Thereafter, the draft will be presented to the Village for discussion. Based on the feedback received in the initially submitted draft amendments, the Village's consultants will produce a set of revised amendments for approval.

The new environmental local laws will ensure that the village will maintain its unique quality as a small, densely populated area on the Hudson and Croton Rivers in equilibrium with its natural surroundings. The laws under review include *Environmental Compliance, Environmental Quality Review, Erosion and Sediment Control, Excavation, Filling and Topsoil, Steep Slopes, Trees and Wetlands and Watercourses*. In addition a new local stormwater management law will be developed.

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

April 2005



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

Gregory J. Schmidt, Mayor

Thomas P. Brennan, Trustee

Charles Kane, Trustee

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager

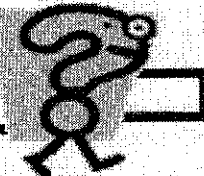
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building

One Van Wyck Street

(914) 271-4781-2

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

## Got a Question?



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

The lottery registration deadline for Day Camp and Tiny Tots is Thursday, April 21 at 12 noon. Your form(s) must be in the Recreation Dept. office at this time, completed and paid in full. You must use the appropriate Day Camp or Tiny Tots forms which are available in the office. The Recreation Dept. suggests that you bring your form(s) to the office in person, weekdays between 8:30 am and 4 pm. School district residents may participate in the lottery but will pay the non-resident rate. Unless you request differently on your form, anyone unable to be placed in the full season will be placed in whichever session(s) are available. You will be notified by mail once the Dept. has completed the lottery registration. Any openings in either program after the lottery is completed will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you have

questions regarding the lottery process, please call the Recreation office at 271-3006 prior to the deadline.

Croton Day Camp is open to youngsters who are 5 years old and have completed Kindergarten through those who have completed 6th grade. It will run from Tuesday, June 28th through Friday, August 5th from 9 am to 3 pm on weekdays only at CET Elementary school. Children

must bring lunch. The fee includes a camp T-shirt and most off-site trips.

Tiny Tots Camp will run on the same days as the Day Camp but will be in session from 9 am to 12 noon only. Tiny Tots is a half day camp for children 4-6 years old. Children should bring a healthy snack.

Activities include games, music, arts/crafts, special events, and entertainment. Day camp will also offer sports and drama.

