



February Calendar

- 2 & 17** Village Board Mtg.
- 10 & 24** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 4** Cons. Advisory Council
- 10** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 11** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 16** **Presidents Day**
- 18** Visual Environ. Board
- 18** Water Control Comm.
- 25** Trails Comm.

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The Village Budget Process

For most Village's across the state, the first quarter of the year always brings budget preparations for a fiscal year that runs from June 1 to May 31. There is a process that must be followed, some of it set by the State, and some of it determined locally. What typically gets the most publicity is the period between the presentation of the budget recommendations in late March by the Village Manager as Chief Fiscal Officer, and the final Budget adoption, at the end of April. Much of the work, however, is done before that time.

This year, the Budget recommendation will be made by the Village Manager on Friday, March 20. The recommendation is the result of several months of



preparation. Village Treasurer, Sandra Bullock, works with the department heads in requesting and reviewing their respective proposed budgets. Each item is looked at to determine its need and its cost basis. Many, if not most, items of each department are not discretionary. For example, the DPW has employees who must be paid, trucks that must be maintained and fueled to deliver services, supplies such as road salt and fuel that must be purchased. New items and possible unexpected expenses are identified.

All of the projected expenditures must be looked at in the context of Village revenues. Most revenue comes from property taxes, but the main additional sources are income from the railroad station parking lot, fees and fines, sales tax rebate from Westchester County, and franchise taxes from the various utilities and railroad, and mortgage taxes.

Following several iterations of depart-

mental reviews, the department heads, Village Manager and Treasurer finalize the projected expenses. These expenses, together with the amount of debt service, make up the cost side of the budget. Reasonable projections are made for the anticipated income from the non-property tax sources. The difference between the total of these



non-property tax income sources and the projected expenditures is what must be made up by Village property taxes. The amount that must be raised by taxes is divided by the total assessed valuation of properties in the Village to determine the property tax rate. As a simple example, if the Village needs to raise \$10,000,000 from property taxes and the total; assessed valuation is \$44,000,000, then the tax rate per thousand of assessed valuation would be \$227. A property assessed at \$15,000 would owe \$3405.

Once the Manager's proposed budget is put forward, the Village Board holds multiple work sessions with the departments to go over the specifics of each department budget. It also looks at proposed capital expenditures for the year ahead as these often result in changes to the amount of debt service to be paid in the future.

A Public Hearing is required to be held on the proposed budget in mid-April to allow residents an opportunity to provide input on the budget. Based on the work session discussions and input from the residents, budget modifications may be made and a final budget is arrived at. Under NYS law, village budgets must be approved by the Village Board by April 30. for the following fiscal year.

(See related article on page 4)

Winter Break Programs

During the school break this month, the Recreation Dept. has many activities planned. Three programs are new this year and are baseball or softball-related.

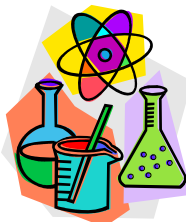
A Pitching Clinic, a Hitting Clinic and Fundamentals of Catching will be held Tues. thru Fri., Feb. 17 to 20. Each will last for one hour in the morning so it is possible to sign up for all or just one or two of them. Mark Duncan, Croton's Recreation Supervisor and CHHS Varsity Baseball Coach, will be the instructor for the first two and Bill Thom, CHHS teacher and coach, will conduct the Catching clinic.



The Pitching Clinic (grades 5-8) will address proper mechanics, location and balance. The Hitting Clinic (grades 6-8) will work on all aspects of hitting skills. Students must provide their own mitt and bat for the clinic. The Fundamentals of Catching (grades 4-12) will focus on the basic techniques of catching.

The signup deadline is February 10 and the cost for each clinic is \$45/\$54 (res./nonres.)

Chemical Magic will also be offered on Tues./Wed., Feb. 17 & 18 from 9 am to 3 pm. In this program, students will have fun learning chemistry concepts in a hands-on atmosphere. Projects include flubber, Silly-Putty and students will even create atomic worms, copper coins, and crystals. The program is designed for grades 1– 6. Signup by Feb. 12. The cost is \$95/\$114 (res./nonres.)



Efficiency Planning Grant

The Village has joined with the Town of Cortlandt to apply for a General Efficiency Planning Grant. The grant is being administered under the auspices of the NYS Dept. of State Local Government Efficiency Grant Program. The Town of Cortlandt is writing the application and is the applicant with the Village being the co-applicant.

The application for which funding is being requested is to undertake a review of existing shared services and cooperative agreements between the Village and Town and an exploration of new shared services and cooperation including personnel, equipment, and the possibility of the merger of certain departments.

The grant request is for \$27,500 with the Village and the Town responsible for a 10% share.

EagleFest Returns!

The 5th annual Hudson River EagleFest, sponsored by Teatown Reservation, is planned for Saturday, Feb. 7 (snow date is Feb. 8). As with the previous EagleFest events, the highlight of the day is the opportunity for the public to attend educational programming and visit designated sites along the Hudson River to view wintering bald eagles.



A warming tent will be set up at the eagle viewing site at the Echo boat launch site on the Croton River at the south end of the railroad parking lot between 8 am and 4 pm. Hot chocolate will be served. Experts from Teatown and bird experts from collaborating organizations will be there to help point out the birds and answer questions.

EagleFest headquarters at Croton Point Park will feature additional eagle-related activities including a children's area with interactive games and displays, raptor shows, Eagle Exploration bus tours, and the Eagle Theater with hourly shows (advance \$5 tickets required). Call 914-762-2912 x 10 for more info and reservations.

Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

The Croton Harmon School District and the Village of Croton are taking the initiative in forming a community-wide coalition to promote substance abuse prevention. They are working in conjunction with the non-profit Student Assistance Services organization.

Because substance abuse is viewed as a community problem, the Coalition will be made up of many community stakeholders including those from business, service organizations, religious institutions, law enforcement, sports organizations, parents, students and others. The School administration and the Village Board are taking the lead on bringing this coalition together.

To fund the work of this coalition, a grant is being applied for that, if awarded, would provide \$125,000 annually for 5 years. Part of this money would be utilized to employ a coalition coordinator to work with the coalition to implement prevention strategies and programs in the community. The programs aim for sustainability over a period of time and include evaluation of the outcomes.



Reminder!

Village Offices will be closed

Monday, February 16 for Presidents Day!



Spotlight on Krissy Gilligan

Croton's new Deputy Village Clerk, Krissy Gilligan, has been working for the Village since Spring 2007. Since then, Krissy has been performing a variety of jobs as needed. In the finance area, she has sold parking permits, booked revenues, processed requisitions and purchase orders, and learned about the parking lot operation. As a person who deals with customers at the office's front counter, she deals with multiple types of permitting including dogs, handicapped and seasonal parking. Krissy also fields phone calls and helps people gain the information they are seeking. Now as Deputy Village Clerk, Krissy will be taking on more responsibilities and filling in for Village Clerk Paula DiSanto as needed.

She will also be working with the Ass't. Village Manager, Janine King, on the accounting end of the parking lot operation. She will be dealing with permit returns, lost/stolen permits, determining the number of spots available and regular reports on its operation. Krissy has also become a licensed Notary and will begin learning about the conduct of village elections.

Krissy was born in Croton and lived here until she moved to Cortlandt Manor at the age of 7. Both sets of grandparents were from Croton as well as her parents. Her grandfather Gilligan was a long-time manager of the former popular Starlight Lanes bowling alley for many years. Her grandmother retired as Deputy

Town Clerk, the same position that Krissy now holds in the Village.

Krissy graduated from the Lakeland schools where her children, Luke and Heather now go. After working as an insurance agent for AllState in Croton, she became a stay-at-home mother for 10 years until returning to the work force.

Krissy's free time is spent shuttling her children to their ice hockey and soccer games. This occurs at least 4 nights a week. An avid reader, Krissy devours at least 2 novels a week, loves to go to movies and socialize with friends.



"I like to think of our office as the hub of the Village. Residents with questions should call us first; we can help them."

Krissy Gilligan

Letter from Manager Zambrano

February 1, 2009

To all Residents and Business Owners

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the residents of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson a happy, healthy and prosperous new year and to introduce myself to the community. As many of you know, the Board of Trustees appointed me Village Manager on September 2, 2008.

I plan to hold neighborhood meetings throughout the community in the upcoming months and invite the residents and business owners to attend the meetings, have a cup of coffee and share with me your ideas and concerns for the Village. Department heads will be available so that you can share your thoughts with them as well. Notification on the meetings will be sent via the Connect CTY system, e-mail, newspaper, Village newsletter or the Village website with ample time to give you the opportunity to plan accordingly.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager

Tax Grievance Day

If you feel your property tax assessment is incorrect, you may "grieve" it at a once-a-year meeting known as Grievance Day.

In Croton, the Board of Trustees also act as the Board of Assessors. They are required by law to meet once a year to consider the applications of property owners who feel their assessment is incorrect. This year Grievance Day is Tuesday, February 17. The Board will be available to review applications for a change in property tax assessments from 4 pm to 8 pm at the Municipal Building.

Applications must be completed and filed with the Assessor, Joe Sperber, prior to 4 pm on the day of the hearing. They are available in the Village Engineer's office. For further information, you may call the office at 271-4783.

Infant & Child CPR Class

This 1-day course, taught by professionally trained Red Cross instructors, will teach each participant infant & childcare CPR. The course covers recognizing an emergency, emergency actions steps, dealing with choking, breathing and cardiac emergencies, and more. The class is Sat., Feb. 14th from 9 am - 3 pm. Register at the Rec. Dept. by Feb. 6th at \$47/\$56 (res./nonres.)



February, 2009

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

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Richard B. Olver, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager

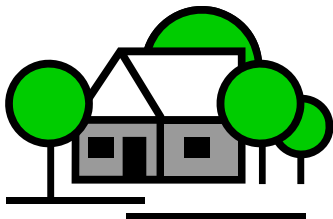
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building

One Van Wyck Street

(914) 271-4781-2

www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

Got a Question?



I know that Village taxes are just one component of my total annual property taxes. What other entities are recipients of my taxes?

There are four components of your total property tax bill - Village taxes, School taxes, County taxes and Town taxes.

Your Village tax bill is based upon the Village's assessment of your property. The tax bill is sent out in late May and is due June 1st, payable by June 30th to the Village of Croton-on-Hudson. It covers the period of June 1 to May 31 - Croton's fiscal year.

Your Town of Cortlandt tax and your Westchester County tax are combined on the same bill and collected by the Town. These bills are based on your property tax assessment made by the Town. The bill is payable to the Town of Cortlandt and is due April 1st, payable by April 30th. It covers the period from April

1 to March 31, the Town and County's fiscal years. Your School tax bill is also based on your Town assessment. Unlike the other tax bills, school taxes are payable in two installments. The first half is due September 1st, payable September 30th and covers the period from September through December. The second installment is due January 1, payable January 31st. It covers the period from January through August. The school tax bill is paid to the Town of Cortlandt Tax Receiver as are the Town and County tax bills. The S.T.A.R. exemption applies to school taxes and may be applied for at the Town Assessor's office.

The Town offices are located at 1 Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567. The Tax Office phone is 734-1030.

If the last day of any collection period falls on a weekend or holiday, the grace period is extended to the next regular business day. Post marks are valid if done at the United States Post Office.

