

February Meeting Calendar

2nd Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

7th & 22nd Board of Trustees Meeting

8th Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

8th & 22nd Planning Board Meeting

9th Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

16th Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee Meeting

22nd Fire Council Meeting

28th Board of Trustees Work Session

Please note, many Village meetings are to be held over Zoom this month.

Please check the Village website or call 914-271-4848 for the most updated information, including meeting location.

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Regulations

On January 18th, 2022, the Board of Trustees passed Local Law No. 2 of 2022 to establish regulations on gas-powered leaf blowers. This decision was made over a two year process in tandem with Croton's Conservation Advisory Council, which aimed to limit noise pollution during the less busy leaf-blowing seasons.

The new law will ban gas-powered leaf blowers during the following periods:

- Between January 1st and March 31st; and
- Between June 1st and August 31st.

This law will take effect on June 1st and will continue every year after during the aforementioned periods.

Properties in excess of 40,000 square feet in lot area shall be eligible to apply for a hardship permit for the operation of gas-powered leaf blowers. Instructions for applying online will be available in the spring.

For further questions please contact the Village Manager's office at 914.271.4848.



South Riverside Area Zoning Study Update

The Board of Trustees has continued to work with AKRF, the Village's planning consultant, on possible changes to the zoning regulations in the South Riverside area west of Route 9. At the January 10th work session, AKRF presented the Village with view analyses, as well as cross-sections, showing how various building heights would impact existing views from several different locations in Harmon. These analyses are available on the Village's website (under Projects and Initiatives).

At that work session, it was decided to proceed with a proposal allowing mixed-use buildings up to five stories with a floor-area ratio of 1.2 in the Light Industrial zone fronting Croton Point Avenue. This would include the parcel owned by the Village known as Parking Lot A and two other parcels.

The next step in this process is to have a local law drafted to amend the existing Light Industrial (LI) zoning code to incorporate these proposed changes. Once the law is drafted by the Village's counsel, the Village Board will embark on the SEQRA process to determine what environmental impacts, if any, such a change may cause, including opportunities for public comment.

Have you joined the Village on Social Media yet?



villageofcroton



@CrotonGov



@VillageCroton

Sign up for Village emails by going to crotononhudson-nv.gov.

Stay connected!

Grievance Day Information

Every year, the Board of Trustees meets as the Board of Assessors for the purpose of evaluating property owners' requests for a change in their property assessment. This is known as Grievance Day.

This year, the Board will meet on Tuesday, February 15th to review applications from 4 to 8 PM via Zoom. Those wishing to apply for a tax adjustment are encouraged to speak with the Village Assessor, Thomas Waitkins, prior to Grievance Day.

To help you understand whether you should file a tax grievance to reduce your residential property assessment, perform the following calculation: Divide your property's current assessed valuation by the 2022 Residential Assessment Ratio (RAR), which is .0321. The result will provide the estimated market value of the property. For example, if your property is assessed at \$15,000, the 2022 RAR will yield a market value of \$467,289 ($15,000/0.0321$). This calculation may help you decide whether to file a grievance to try to lower the assessment.

Commercial properties follow a different procedure.

More information can be found on the Village website or by calling the Engineering Dept. office at 914-271-4783.

Croton Wins Grants to Reduce Firehouse Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Croton's Sustainability Committee recently won several state grants totaling \$105,000 to install rooftop solar panels and controls for air-source heat pumps at the Washington Engine firehouse. When completed, doing so will result in a significant reduction in the firehouse's greenhouse gas emissions and electric bills at no cost to Village taxpayers.

The Sustainability Committee was chartered by the Village's Board of Trustees in 2009 to cut the carbon footprint of Village municipal operations. The grants were won through a competitive process involving all NY municipalities. "Only three other municipalities in the Hudson Valley were awarded grants that large," said Lindsay Audin, chair of the Committee. "Marrying the two technologies – solar power and heat pumps – at one site will save electricity and almost 1,000 gallons of heating oil." Together, they will avoid about 32 metric tons a year of greenhouse gases. That's about the same as seven cars driven for a year. Construction work is slated to start in the spring of 2022 and should be completed during the summer. A local HVAC contractor will do the installations.

Stormwater – What are the Alternatives?

Toxic chemicals used around our homes ultimately find their way into our waterways. While these chemicals are effective in keeping our homes, cars and yards looking great, safer alternatives are available which provide similar benefits without the harmful side effects.

Safer alternatives are available for many products used around our homes:

- Aerosols: Use pump-type and non-aerosol products.
- Art Supplies: Purchase water-based paints and inks.
- Batteries: Rechargeable batteries are a cost-effective alternative to disposable batteries.
- Chemical Fertilizers: Compost yard waste and food scraps. Manure can be used as an alternative to chemical fertilizer.
- Pesticides: Keep your yard and garden free of breeding grounds for insects by using plants and flowers as natural insect repellants.



The Croton Litter-free Education Advocacy Neighborhood (C.L.E.A.N.) initiative, a subcommittee of the Croton Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC), is a new organization working to beautify the village.

Pictured here are volunteers of the organization collecting trash from the Village's Duck Pond in December 2021.

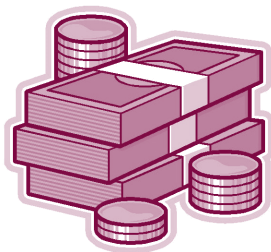
February's Village Financial Update

The Village continues its budgeting process into February through the continued meeting of the Village Manager, Village Treasurer, and various department heads to discuss and draft each department's budget allotment.

Some of the other Village financial endeavors to be aware of are as follows:

1. On Tuesday, January 18th the Board of Trustees passed Local Law No. 1 of 2022 to override the "property tax cap" law enacted by State Legislature, if necessary. The State's Tax Cap limits the increase of the Tax Levy from year-to-year to 2%, or the rate of inflation which ever is lower, unless the Board of Trustees passes a local law with the intention to exceed this limit. While only used once since 2012, the Board must adopt the law in advance of adopting the budget.

2. As many residents may be aware, the Village held a Tax Lien Sale in 2021 for the first time in over 25 years. The Village will soon be advertising outstanding taxes in addition to planning the Tax Lien Sale in March 2022. This process is an enforcement mechanism the Village has for collecting unpaid taxes.



3. Finally, the Financial Statements have been completed for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. This is later than usual, however the 2020/2021 fiscal year was peculiar due to the pandemic, the progress of several projects such as the Croton Point Avenue project, and the transition into a new management team. Completing the annual audit is a notable milestone for the Village's new administration team members, especially for such an unorthodox fiscal year.

These factors will inform the budget process leading into March where a tentative final budget will be formed. This will be followed by a public hearing on the tentative budget to be held on March 28th, which offers residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal and provide feedback.

Study of the Village Justice Court

The Village has suffered significant revenue losses since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. This is primarily a result of the reduction in train station parking, much of which may be permanent. As a result, Manager Healy has begun investigating the procedures and repercussions for consolidating the Village Justice Court with the Town of Cortlandt in an effort to not burden Village taxpayers.

In the case of a Village having no justice court, under the state law, the town in which the Village is located assumes all justice court matters in relation to the Village. In this instance, the Town of Cortlandt would assume court matters that have occurred in the Village. Despite Cortlandt's assumption of court responsibilities, the Village would be entitled to keep fines arising from any Village ordinance violations, including parking tickets. This would mean the Village would retain some fine revenue, while incurring none of the cost.

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to contemplate this proposal at their February 28th work session.

Residents may direct questions to the Village Manager's office at 914-271-4848 or email managersoffice@crotononhudson-ny.gov.

**Reminder! Village offices will be closed February 21st
in observance of Presidents Day.**





1 Van Wyck Street
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

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

Brian Pugh, Mayor

Ann Gallelli, Trustee

Sherry Horowitz, Trustee

Alejandro Rosales, Trustee

Len Simon, Trustee

Bryan T. Healy, Village Manager

Thomas C. Morzello, Newsletter Editor

February 2022 Newsletter

Croton Recreation Winter 2022 Programs

SUMMER 2022 EMPLOYMENT:

Positions are available for summer employment. Applications will be accepted through March 14th, and available for ages 16 and up. Open positions are as follows: Day Camp, Tiny Tots, Lifeguards, and Gate Attendants. A few junior positions are available for ages 15 and up. Applications are available on the Village website and in the Recreation Department Office.

Registration is still open for the following programs. Sign-up is available today.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

- Chemical Wizardry for Grades 2-5: February 23rd from 9 AM to 2 PM.
- Music & Movement: Birth for Age 5- 8: Mondays at 9:30 to 10:15 AM beginning February 7th.
- Babysitting Training with CPR for Ages 11-15: February 12th from noon to 4 PM.

ADULT ACTIVITIES:

- Winter Garden Sowing Workshop: February 19th from 10 to 11:30 AM. Free but registration is required.

ADULTS 60+ ACTIVITIES:

- An Opera Experience Series: Thursdays 10:30 AM to noon beginning February 14th for four sessions.
- Zumba Gold: Fridays 10 AM to noon beginning February 4th for 12 sessions.
- Low Impact Exercise: Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 PM beginning February 2nd for 10 sessions.
- Chair Yoga: Mondays from 11 AM to noon beginning February 7th for eight sessions.
- Art Studio: Tuesdays from 1 to 3 PM beginning February 1st for eight sessions.

For more information, contact Croton Recreation at 914-271-3006.

Looking Forward

Included here are some upcoming events to schedule for in the Village:

(Please note these dates and times are tentative. Please check the Village website for the most up to date information.)

- Tax Lien Sale: March 17th at 10 AM.
- Public Hearing on 2022/2023 Fiscal Year Budget: March 28th at 7 PM.
- Earth Day Celebration: April 30th from 10 AM to 3 PM at Senasqua Park.