

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

January 2005

Number 68

## January Calendar

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## **Budget Mandates**

In the next few months, Villages across NYS will be formulating their budgets for fiscal year 2005-2006. As part of the budget preparation, financial officers must first look at those expenses that are non-discretionary—mandated expenses. This article describes some of the mandated expenses that Croton will have to include in its upcoming budget.

State requirements for funding pension and health plans will loom large in many budgets. Fortunately, as a result of planning for this rise last year, Croton's pension contribution will remain flat this year. The health insurance contribution, however, will rise 12% to a total of \$1,090,992. A new item added this year is the Village's contribution of \$130,000 to the Fire Dept. Service Award program that was approved by referendum last year. Other items that are fixed are insurance – rising 15% to \$239,120 and worker's compensation—up 34% to \$134,000. Additionally, the remaining balance on the fire truck purchased last year and the remainder of the parking lot improvement project are \$67,000 and \$75,000 respectively.

The largest single dollar-amount increase in non-discretionary expenses is in the salaries category where an increase of \$335,238 brings the total category to a projected \$5,652,813. This amount is due, in large part, to the anticipated contract agreement with the Teamsters union and the existing Police contract. Together these two salary items account for a projected \$273,485 or 81.5% of the total increase in salaries. The balance is salary increases for non-union employees. The Teamster contract, which expired in May, 2003, has not been finalized but will require retroactive payment as well as a

projected increase.

Other fixed increases include debt service increasing \$211,000 or 16% and the projected Village contribution to the OVAC Fly car at \$120,000 or a 50% increase. In the latter case, the Village is currently reviewing other options which might reduce this amount.

Taking into account just these mandated expenses along with an assessment reduction for the Half Moon Bay/Discovery Cove Condominiums and an overall loss of assessed valuation due to the decrease in the State's calculation of our residential equalization rate, the projected tax rate increase could be in the range of 15%.



The outcome of several certiorari judgments may also adversely affect this amount.

To offset these projected increases, identifying areas where revenue might be increased and/or spending reductions might come from has been a high priority for Treasurer Zambrano. He recently presented this information to the Trustees for their information. Ultimately decisions on what to cut and where to seek increases will be up to the Trustees in adopting the 2005-2006 budget in late April.

## **Cell Phone Recycling**

Westchester County and Verizon are teaming up to increase the number of old, unwanted cell phones recycled in Westchester County through the HopeLine Program.

Cell phones contain several materials that should not be disposed of in the 'state of the art' Charles Point Resource Recovery Facility, a solid waste burn facility located in Peekskill. Instead cell phones should be recycled, and with Verizon's help, it should be made easier.



The Village of Croton-on-Hudson will participate in this program with two cell phone drop-off locations. There will

be a drop-off container at the Stanley Kellerhouse Municipal Building in the Village Office on the second floor and another drop-off container at the Croton Free Library at 171 Cleveland Drive.

The cell phones that are useable will be refurbished and donated with preprogrammed minutes to domestic violence victims. Those that are not reusable will be recycled.

If you have any questions about the program, call the Department of Public Works at 271-3775.



## **Winter Basketball Programs**

The Recreation Dept. begins its Winter Youth Basketball programs starting January 8th. The programs, geared for varying age groups, are on

Saturdays for 8 weeks and are located at the C.E.T. Gym. A \$40. fee and a signed waiver are required. The schedule is as follows:

Grade 1	9-10am	Grade 4	12-1pm
Grade 2	10-11am	Grade 5&6	1-2pm
Grade 3	11am-12pm		

In the event of inclement weather, the Dept. will attempt to reschedule missed Saturdays when possible.

## **Tree Disposal**



The Dept. of Public Works will pick up discarded trees in the weeks after Christmas. The trees should be left outside at the street. They should not be in bags, and there should be no tinsel, trimmings or wire on them. Trees will not be picked up with the garbage but rather by

trucks driving the streets for this purpose. The trees will be chipped.

## **Wood Chips and Compost Available**

Although the Village is no longer able to compost its leaves for lack of an acceptable location, residents may still avail themselves of the compost remaining from previous years. Wood chips resulting from DPW removal of trees and the above mentioned Christmas trees are also available to residents. Compost and wood chips are located at Croton Landing.

## **Busy January for Seniors**

A history lecture series highlights the January activities for Croton's Senior group. Thurs., Jan. 13th, Author Gray Williams will give a talk and slide presentation on *Picturing Our Past: National Register Sites in Westchester*. On Thurs., Jan. 27, Frank Goderre of the Van Cortlandville Historical Society, will present *The Revolutionary War and War of 1812*.

Both lectures will be in the Community Room at the Municipal Bldg. From 1:30-3pm. Admission is free but pre-registration is required.

A new Book Discussion group will begin on Mon. Jan. 24th, led by Amy Melman, Reference Librarian from the Croton Free Library. There will be 4 sessions from 10-11:30am in the Community Room. A \$5. fee covers all four sessions. Signup and payment is due by Jan. 21. Call 271-5804 for more information.

## **Reminder!**

The Village Offices will be closed on Monday, January 17th for Martin Luther King Day.

## Spotlight on Ken Kraft

As Superintendent of the Dept. of Public Works (DPW) since 1995, Ken Kraft oversees most of Croton's infrastructure, facilities and equipment. His department, which he describes as 'all encompassing' includes sanitation, recycling, snow and leaf removal, street repairs, oversight of Water Dept. operations, sanitary sewers, storm drains, village equipment and vehicle maintenance, street trees, street lights, and implementation of the new federally mandated Stormwater Phase 2 regulations. He supervises a staff of 27 to accomplish all these jobs. Ken came to Croton with 24 years of experience

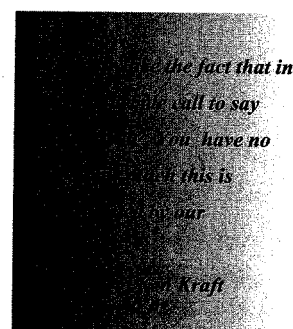
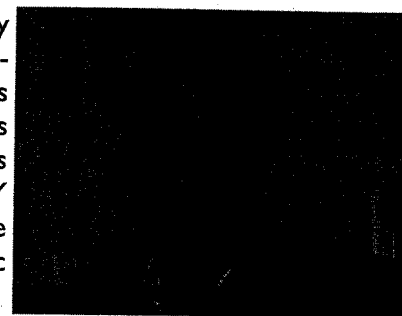
with the Putnam County Highway Dept. where he held various positions ending as Facilities Manager.

One of Ken's favorite projects in Croton was the compost project, temporarily on hold for lack of a site, because it was environmentally sound and gave back a product for use by many residents. He is also proud of the fact that he and Dan O'Connor, Village Engineer, have put Croton in the forefront in Westchester County in meeting the federal stormwater requirements—something all villages must do.

Ken's public involvement goes beyond Croton's DPW as he serves as Pres. of the

Westchester County Association of Municipal Public Works Administrators and is ending his term as Pres. of the NY Metro Chapter of the American Public Works Assoc.

Ken lives in Poughkeepsie with his wife Janet. In his spare time, he is a 20-year Track and Field official and is Pres. of the Dutchess County Officials & Coaches Association. In Feb., he will be chief official of the Indoor Championships at the USA Track & Field Championship meet. In his remaining spare time, he enjoys golf and working out.



## Ribbon Cutting at New Waterfront Road

On Tuesday, December 21st, Croton's new waterfront road officially opened with a ribbon-cutting by Metro North President Peter Cannito and Mayor Robert Elliott. The road is open for vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle use. Concrete barriers are now in place at the Brook Street rail crossing and no further access will be permitted across the tracks at this location. Signs redirecting traffic to the new road have been put in place. The newly renovated tunnel from Municipal Place to the Senasqua Park area also opened for pedestrian and bicycle access. "The elimination of the crossing provides safer, more convenient access to the riverfront and affords Croton residents a lot more peace and quiet," said Mr. Cannito, noting that almost 100 trains a day will no longer have to blow their whistles while passing the Brook St. crossing. Mayor Elliott hailed the project as "an important piece in achieving the larger goal of Croton as a 'Village in a Park.' Further, it also the culmination of many steps, and the connecting piece, by which Croton has gained access" along its entire Hudson riverfront.



Concrete barriers at the old Brook Street rail crossing with directions to the new road.



Benches along the new esplanade.



Mayor Elliott and Peter Cannito cut the ribbon, officially opening the road.

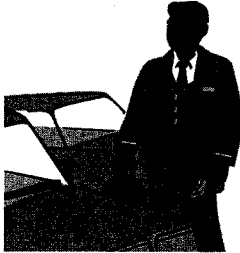
We're on  
the Web. Visit us at:  
<http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov>

## Got a Question?



**I am a non-commuting resident but I occasionally use the daily lot at the railroad station when I go into the city. What should I do if there are no available spots left in the daily lot when I arrive?**

The normal procedure for parking in the daily lot is to locate an available space, park your car, and note the number of the space. When you pay your fee, use the space number to identify your spot. If you arrive and find there are no available spots in the daily lot, go to the payment building and identify yourself as a Croton resident by showing proof of address. After paying your fee, you will be given a numbered pass which allows you to park in any available permit spot in the entire lot except for the Reserved Permit spots. Non-residents are not given this privilege, but will be given a yellow pass allowing them to park in the overflow area at the south end of the parking lot.

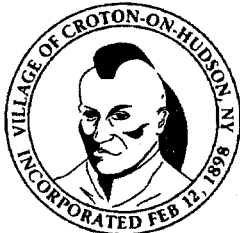


**I am interested in finding out more about the demographics of our area. I know that the data from the 2000 Census is available. How do I access it?**

The U.S. Census Bureau has made it easy to obtain a demographic profile of any town from your online PC. Here are the steps to get the data on Croton:

1. Go to U.S. Census Bureau's website:  
**www.census.gov**
2. Click on: **Census 2000** icon.
3. At: "Your Gateway to Census 2000" page, click on **Demographic Profiles** under the "Census Data" banner.
4. Then click on:  
**Demographic Profile Data Search**
5. Pick: **State** of your choice and enter an \* in the second box—then click **Go**.
6. Select: Your city, town, or community, and  
**Print your 4 page profile**

January 2005



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

Robert W. Elliott, Mayor  
Georgianna K. Grant, Trustee  
Charles Kane, 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

### Postal Patron

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

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New York 10598