

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

June 2003

Number 51

JUNE **Calendar**

- 2 & 16** Village Board Mtg.
- 3 & 24** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 3** VEB
- 4** Conservation Advisory Council
- 11** Zoning Board
- 18** Water Control Commission,

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Croton Budget Unanimously Approved

Following extensive review of the proposed budget, the Board of Trustees adopted the final version unanimously. The 2003-2004 Budget calls for a property tax rate of 6.54%.

The total appropriation is \$11,144,252. Of this \$7,169,442 is raised through property taxes. Over 33% of the \$11 million dollar budget (\$3,767,179) is funded through non-tax revenues. This income comes mainly from the parking lot income, franchise taxes, fees, and the County sales tax. This year, in order to keep the tax rate down, \$200,000 was included from the Fund Balance.

This year all communities



were hit with a huge increase in health insurance payments as well as pension increases. Initially the state proposed up to a 15% increase for pension contributions but later backed off to 4.5% for this year. Next year, however, the State would require the proposed initial increase. Treasurer Reardon and Manager Herbek mitigated next year's impact to some degree by raising the 2003/04 contribution rate. This will

soften the pension hit next year. If the economy improves over the next year, these numbers could come down as well.

Insurance premiums are always a big cost. Since Croton joined the NY Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR), six years ago, the Village's costs have been stabilized and more predictable. NYMIR is a group of municipalities that are self-insured. There is no profit margin and less overhead which translates to a lower premium.

Relative to other similar Villages in the area,
cont'd. on p. 3

Croton's Village Justice Office

Wednesday is Court day in Croton, but every day in the Village Justice Office is busy carrying out the steps in the legal system that follow any type of infraction, misdemeanor or felony that occurs within Croton's boundaries and, occasionally, outside as well. This includes arrests made by other police entities such as Metro North, NYCDEP, NYSDEC, and the State and County Police. If it happens in Croton, the Justice Office gets involved. When arrests are made, appearance tickets are given with a date to appear in Croton's court.

The Justice Office is run by the Court Clerk, Ellen Imbiano. Jeanne Romeu is Ass't. Court Clerk and there are also 2 part-time assistants. A court calendar is prepared each week for all the cases that will be in Court. Guy Adami is the Village Judge and Paul Hoffman is the Ass't. Village Judge.

All criminal matters are prosecuted by a County Ass't. District Attorney. A file is prepared by the Justice office for each case both for the Judge and for the prosecutor. It contains documentation such as

Cont'd. on p.2

Justice Office Cont'd.

the charges and investigative reports. On a recent Court day there were 32 such cases on the calendar. All violations written by Croton's Police and code enforcement officers are prosecuted by Village Prosecutor Paul Rosen.

Prior to court day, Ellen and her staff may need to assign a lawyer for the defendant if they are unable to provide one themselves. This is done from a County list. Sometimes an interpreter must be arranged and 'bring-back' orders must be provided to bring a jailed defendant back to Croton to the Court from the County jail. Depending on the disposition of the case, the office must provide the paperwork for such things as jail time, fines, probation or orders of protection. Final disposition of the case is also provided to the Police Departments for their records.

Fines and bail money are also collected by the Village Justice Office and are kept in accounts designated by the Judge who decided on it. While the accounting for this money is done by the Justice office, the money is sent to the State on a monthly basis. The State, in turn, calculates what funds are to be returned to the Village of Croton and reimburses the Village for that amount.



Earth Day Follow-up



Earth Day helpers at the Canoe Launch

After a rained out first attempt, Earth Day activities took place on Saturday, May 3 throughout the Village. Organized by the Conservation Advisory Council

(CAC), and co-sponsored by the Croton Recreation Dept., River Lovers and JP Morgan Chase, clean up occurred at Senasqua Park, at the northern Hudson Riverfront and at the Croton Canoe Launch. Truck loads of topsoil and plantings were delivered to the Canoe launch area through the courtesy of resident Bruce Laemmel, local landscaper. Mrs. Kaplan's 3rd grade class at CET provided entertainment and sold cookies at the staging area at Senasqua Park.

NYSDOS Files Brief on Pipeline Proposal

In the on-going effort to alter the plans for the proposed Millennium Pipeline, the NYS Dept. of State has filed a Reply Brief with the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. In this brief, the NYSDOS, supporting the Village's position on this matter, covers the adverse effects of the proposed pipeline on the Haverstraw Bay Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat and the impact to Croton's well fields and Arboretum. The brief is a reply to the brief filed by Millennium in support of their project. Since Croton has a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP), under Federal and State Coastal Zone Management rules, proposals such as the pipeline must be determined to be consistent with the plan. A previous determination of inconsistency has led to a review by the US. Dept. of Commerce. A decision is expected in a few months.



REMINDER! Village Taxes Are Due

Village property taxes are due this month. The bill you received in the mail indicates the taxes are due on the first of June but they are payable by June 30 without penalty. If you wish to pay in person, the Village Office on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building will be open on Saturday mornings in June from 9am to noon.

Spotlight on Lorry Pennington

Lorry first started working for the Village right out of Croton's High School Tech program. She then worked as an Intermediate Account Clerk on an "ancient" bookkeeping machine and helped with Payroll, Water and Tax billing. At that time, she also helped put the full budget on the bookkeeping machine. After 5 years, Lorry left when her daughter was born, but returned 4 1/2 years later to a part-time job at DPW. Then, back in the Main Office full-time for another 6 years, Lorry helped the Village move to a fully automated

computer system. She left to become Deputy Treasurer in Mt. Kisco but returned to Croton in 1998 to take up her current position as Deputy Treasurer. In this position, Lorry oversees the collection and accounting for funds and ensures that all the accounting pieces of the office are properly tied together. Capital Projects are Lorry's favorite part of her job. Each project entails gathering all the financial resources needed from taxes, grants, donations and matching funds. Contracts are created, schedules of payments and, sometimes,

retainage are part of these projects. She thinks Croton has many interesting and challenging Capital projects such as sidewalks, ball fields, sewer systems but the Fire Houses were the biggest challenge. Each project is unique with a beginning and end.

Lorry and her husband and son now live in Cortlandt where she likes to garden—especially flowers. She also enjoys visiting her daughter in school in Boston and spending time with her 3 step-grandchildren here in this area.



"Things go real fast; it's hard to have here feeling accomplished in the day it happens often."

Lorry Pennington

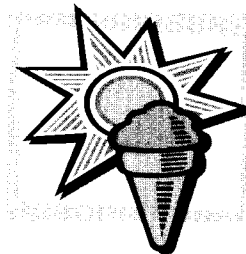
Photo ID Schedule

Use of Silver Lake, Senasqua Park, the Skatepark and Hudson National Golf Course requires a Photo ID. Photo ID's will be taken at the Municipal Bldg. Recreation Office, 2nd floor, on:

Tues./Thurs. (no holidays)	12-3:30 PM
Sat. (June 7 & 21)	10-12 Noon
Monday (June 23)	4-7 PM
Tuesday (June 3 & July 8)	4-8 PM

Two proofs of residency are required from all Village and School District residents to obtain an ID— 1) a Photo ID with the address listed and 2) another proof such as a utility or tax bill. School District residents can use a copy of their school tax bill. The fee is \$5. for Village residents and \$10. for School District residents. Seniors are free. The Photo ID is valid for 3 years.

SUMMERFEST 2003!



On Sunday, June 1st, join Croton in the streets, celebrating the summer season! This annual event is sponsored by the Croton Chamber of Commerce and

the Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Street vendors, delicious foods and wonderful entertainment will be abundant throughout the day. The Summerfest parade kicks off at 1 PM and the fun continues through 6 PM. Live music will be performed throughout the afternoon. The opportunity to see friends and neighbors in this fun setting is not to be missed.

Croton Adopts ETPA

Village Trustees voted on May 5 to implement the Emergency Tenants Protection Act (ETPA) for Bari Manor. Croton now is one of 18 municipalities in the county to implement ETPA. The County Rent Guidelines Board determines what the allowable rent increase will be for 1 and 2 year leases.

Budget Cont'd. from p.1

Croton's final tax rate is at or near the lowest of the Villages in Westchester County. Some municipalities had proposed tax increases from 10% up to 19.7% including Port Chester, Irvington, Tarrytown, Pleasantville, Larchmont, Ardsley, Elmsford, Dobbs Ferry and Hastings.

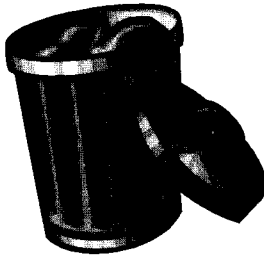
We're on the Web. Visit us at [Http://village-croton-on-Hudson.ny.us/](http://village-croton-on-Hudson.ny.us/)

Got a Question?

I have observed that some residents leave their garbage and recyclable containers on the street. Are there rules about times for putting these containers out and retrieving them?

Leaving garbage cans and recycling boxes on the street is often a source of irritation among neighbors. According to the Village Code, containers must be removed from the curb or sidewalk area the day that collections are made. Ken Kraft, Superintendent of Public Works, says that containers can be put out after sundown the night before but no later than 7 AM of the collection day to ensure pickup.

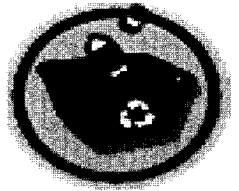
The condition of your containers is also important. It is the householder's responsibility to maintain the



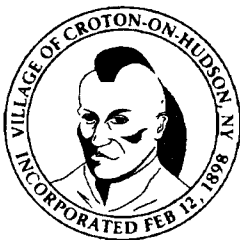
containers in good condition. If they are not, they must be replaced. A notice from the DPW to replace old or damaged containers must be complied with in one week's time to ensure future collection. The Village is not responsible for breakage of plastic containers or for bags ripped apart, torn or broken by animals or other means.

Emptied containers that are left out can sometimes blow around the street as well as cause an unsightly appearance to the neighborhood. So be a good neighbor and remember to bring your containers in and securely package your garbage and recyclables so as to not blow around or become scattered on the street.

If you have a question you would like addressed, contact the Village Office at 271-4781 and leave a message.



June 2003



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. 1
Carrier Route
Pre-Sort
Croton-on-Hudson
New York 10520

Postal Patron

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520