



# Newsletter

June, 2007  
Number 95

## June Calendar

- 3 Summerfest**
- 4 & 18** Village Board Mtg.
- 12 & 26** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 6** Cons. Advisory Council
- 5** Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 13** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 20** Water Control Comm.
- 20** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 20** Trails Committee

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## Capital Budget Plans

Croton's budget for capital projects for 2007/2008 was approved in April along with the annual operating budget. Croton has a five-year capital plan that anticipates major expenditures for the five years ahead. These expenditures generally include such things as large infrastructure improvements, large equipment and planning expenses. The items included in the year's capital budget are paid for by a combination of a bonding, grant monies and fund balance. Water and Sewer Funds are also used as appropriate. Items in the plan are reviewed each year by the Village Board and may be adjusted according to changing circumstances and the critical nature of some items over others.

The Capital program approved for 2007/2008 totals \$1,482,596 broken down as follows: Borrowings - \$1,058,548; CDBG Grant - \$256,548; Fund Balance - \$42,500; Water Fund - \$125,000.

The major portion of the coming year's capital projects are categorized as Comprehensive Infrastructure Maintenance including general road repairs, the sidewalk replacement fund, curb replacement, planning for road improvements on the Senasqua portion of Elliott Way, High St. drainage improvements, and new sidewalks and curbing on Benedict Blvd. Other capital expenditures are for a new pickup truck for DPW, maintenance and improvements at all three firehouses; designing a patrol desk upgrade for the Police Dept., a stormwater/oil separator at the DPW garage, Municipal Building renovations. Additionally, subject to the formation of a new EMS service, money has been allocated for a new duty vehicle and equipment. The water main replacements on Wayne St. will be funded from the Water Fund.



## Summer Projects

Over the coming summer months, several Village projects will be moving forward. Based on bids returned in late May for the combined Croton Landing and River Walk projects, a contract should be awarded in early summer. Work on the estimated \$2.5 to \$3 million dollar combined project is expected to begin this summer.



At Croton Landing a new multi-use field or lawn will include a raised, grassed area with an irrigation system, landscaping, parking, and a storage and comfort station. The plans were designed by James Hahn, a consultant engineer, who will also provide oversight for the construction of the entire combined project.

The River Walk portion of the project is a trail extension that will add 2300 feet of riverfront walkway to the north of the existing walkway at Croton Landing. This work will include site clean-up, a 10'-wide asphalt trail, retaining walls, decks, fencing, sitting areas and appropriate landscaping. The landscape design work for the Riverwalk was done by the firm of Cherbuliez Munz.

Funding for the estimated \$2.5 to \$3 million project includes \$1,750,000 from Westchester County (including \$250,000 from a NYS grant) and a \$150,000 NYS grant for Croton Landing. The two projects were combined into a single development proposal. Coordination of work at both sites at the same time by a single contractor will save money, allow the project to proceed more efficiently and minimize the overall disturbance of the site. The project will be managed by Mr. Hahn and, when completed, operated as a Village Park.

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## **Financial Help for House Repairs**



Income eligible property owners may receive help from the Housing Action Council, Inc. to make needed repairs to their property that will enable them to remain in and sustain the longevity of their homes. These repairs include roof and heating system replacement, asbestos and lead-based paint abatement, upgrading electrical and plumbing, and energy conservation improvements. Priority is given to correcting code violations, energy efficiency improvements and lead hazard reduction activities.

The Housing Action Council can provide a grant of up to \$15,000 or 60% of the cost of repairs whichever is less. Eligibility is limited to households whose incomes are no greater than 80% of the Westchester County area median income. The current income limit for a family of four is \$77,200. For more information on this program or how to participate in it, call 914-332-4144.

## **Croton Youth Program**

The Croton Youth Program will be active all summer. In addition to the usual trips for middle school aged youth, supervised by Gary and Doreen Pettit, the Recreation Dept. is adding trips for high school aged youth as well. There will be separate drop-in nights for middle and high school aged youth at the Municipal Building making use of the Community Room and the new game room with billiards, ping pong and video games. High school aged youth can drop in on Monday nights from 6-10pm.



Trips are planned for high school students including professional baseball games, Six Flags Great Adventure, New Roc City Fun House, Hurricane Harbor Water Park, deep sea fishing, Mountain Creek Water Park, Jones Beach and several more. Eleven trips are planned through early August.

The specific schedule is available in the Recreation Office, on the Village website, and on the Village kiosk at Croton Commons. High school age trips and drop-ins are available for those who have graduated fifth grade through high school seniors. More information can be obtained from Recreation Supervisor John Miller at 271-3006 or 271-8562 for middle school activities.

## **A Tree is Planted on Grand Street**

This year is Croton's 23rd year of being designated as a "Tree City, USA". To commemorate it, a Cleveland Callery pear tree was planted on Grand St. near the corner of Old Post Rd. North.



The award must be applied for each year based on the number of trees planted and the Village's annual tree budget. This year's tree was planted at an Arbor Day ceremony attended by a NYSDEC Forester who also presented the Village with a Tree City flag which is flying on the pole at the Municipal Building.

## **Village Taxes Due!**

Property tax bills for the 2007-2008 fiscal year are due June 1, 2007 but are payable until June 30, 2007. The tax rate is \$223.445 per thousand of assessed valuation.

## **Earth Day Improvements**



All around the Village, the efforts of Earth Day volunteers can be seen and admired. Shown in the picture to the left are the new plantings near the railroad station main entrance on its right. Other plantings were added to the Echo Canoe Launch site.

Cleanup at Croton Landing, Senasqua, at the rail road station and along Croton Point Ave. was performed by many volunteers under the direction of the Croton Conservation Council, the DPW, and the Recreation & Parks Dept.

Additionally over 1000 new daffodils were seen in bloom on the hillside of Bethel Cemetery in late April with more being added each year by the CAC.

## **Croton Seniors**

The Senior Club officers were recently installed at an Installation Luncheon and will serve through next spring. They are Pres.: Ray DiCioccio, VP: Peg Cunningham, Sec'y.: Jean Kraemer, Treas.: John Giglio, and Ass't. Treas.: Lou Balazs.

Weather permitting, the Seniors will hold their regular Friday meetings at the pavilion in Senasqua Park starting June 1 and continuing through Sept. 7th.

## **Reminders!**

**Summerfest on Sunday, June 3rd**

**Village Taxes are due June 1 and payable by June 30th!**



## Spotlight on Debra Lopano

Many residents probably already recognize Debra from her picture. Debra joined the Recreation Dept. staff in Dec. 2006. As Recreation Assistant she greets everyone visiting the office where she handles many duties. Registration for all programs run by the department is a major responsibility but the job entails much more. Debra also ensures there are enough enrollees in every program to run it, she writes press releases for programs and creates flyers distributed at the schools. She also assists with entertainment at special events, does photo IDs, and issues permits and passes for moorings, golf at Hudson National, jet skis, etc. On top of that, Debra handles the payroll for the Recreation Department. In

the summer months, especially, this is a very large task as it includes all the seasonal help for the parks, camp counselors, dock boys, lifeguards, and attendants for summer recreation programs.

Debra grew up and attended schools in Tarrytown. She received her BS from Marymount College and a certificate of Interior Design from the Parsons School of Design. Prior to coming to work here in Croton, she worked for a builder/developer in Tarrytown and most recently she was an office manager for Bloomingdale's interior design studio in White Plains. Debra and her husband, George, moved to Croton in 1988 where they have raised their two children, George, 15, and Lauren, 13. They are

currently students at CHHS and PVC respectively.

Being a mother of teenagers, Debra really appreciates the direction the department is taking with more teen programs.

In her spare time she attends many sporting events to watch her children at lacrosse, basketball, and soccer matches and also track meets. She enjoys projects around her house and going antiques. Her specialties are vintage glass and iron stone pitchers. Traveling is another pleasure and the family enjoys beach vacations, particularly at Cape May. Debra says of her job that her co-workers are great - "it's all good".



*"It's great to be able to serve the people where I live - my friends"*

*Debra Lopano*

### Water Bills

The semiannual water bills are being mailed to customers on June 15th. If you have not received your water bill by June 17th, please call Diane DeRuggiero at 271-4781 to let the Water billing department know. This will help you avoid any late penalties. The bill are due June 30th.

### Weekend Parking Permits

In Fall 2006, the Village began issuing new weekend parking permits which are FREE to all residents. The permit allows parking at no cost at the railroad station parking lot starting at 7 pm on Fridays, and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Due to instances where people move out of Croton but remain in the area and continue to use their weekend permits, the Village began issuing new weekend permits with an expiration date of 12/2008. Old permits that have no expiration date on them are no longer valid.

All residents who have an old, undated weekend permit should obtain a new one. This can be done at the Village Office or by mail. A copy of your car registration is required. Please specify that you want a "Weekend Parking Permit".

Enforcement of these permits began in January 2007.

### Summer Projects Cont'd.

Another project slated for this summer is the Wayne Street and Clinton St. water main and streetscape improvement project. Already underway, it includes installation of new 10" diameter water mains, creation of a needed loop in the water system, drainage improvements, new curbing and sidewalks and landscaping. Funding for this project is partially from a Community Development Block Grant for \$96,828.



**South on Wayne St.**

Additionally, the Village will be undertaking the completion of the curbing and installation of new sidewalks on both



**Benedict Blvd.**

sides of Benedict Blvd. Residents who signed up for new sidewalks as part of the Village's sidewalk replacement program will have that work done this summer. Approximately 2000 linear feet of sidewalk will be replaced. At the same time, curbing will be replaced along

both sides of the boulevard. Granite curbing will be installed around the center islands as well.

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

Gregory J. Schmidt, Mayor  
Thomas P. Brennan, Trustee  
Ann H. Gallelli, Trustee  
Charles A. Kane, Trustee  
Susan Konig, Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager  
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building  
One Van Wyck Street  
(914) 271-4781-2  
[www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov)

## Got a Question?



**There are so many water-related opportunities available in Croton during the summer months. What do I need to do to make use of Silver Lake on the Croton River and boating and sailing, jet skiing and wind surfing on the Hudson?**

In addition to the pleasures of walking and sitting by the water, Croton offers many opportunities for active fun on the water.

Swimming is available at Silver Lake on the Croton River for Croton residents and school-district residents. All must have a Recreation Dept. Photo ID. In addition, either a daily use fee or a season permit is required. Family permits are also available for members of the same household with age restrictions. Through June 21st, swimming will be on weekends only from 11 am to 7 pm. Starting on Friday, June 22nd, the facility will be open full time daily from 11 am to 7:30 pm except Thursdays (9:30am to 7:30 pm).

On the Hudson River, the Village offers boat moorings at the Senasqua Boat Basin as well as land storage for

boats and spots on the sunfish rack. Ramp passes may also be obtained allowing a boat to be ramped on a daily basis.

Jet skiers and windsurfers can also take off from Senasqua Park and the Boat Basin with appropriate permits.



All permits are available from the Recreation Office in the Municipal Building.

The Croton Sailing School located in Senasqua Park also offers a youth program that introduces children ages 9-15 to small boat sailing and racing. The program is

taught aboard vessels ranging in size from 13-24 feet. Boating safety is stressed throughout the program and all students wear life jackets any time they are on the water. Discounts are available for Croton residents. For further information on the programs, rates and schedules, contact the Sailing School at 271-6868 or [www.crotonsailing.com](http://www.crotonsailing.com).

