



March Calendar

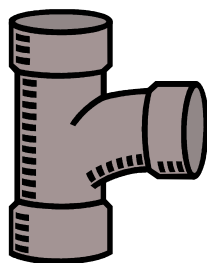
- 6 & 20** Village Board Mtg.
- 14 & 28** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 1** Cons. Advisory Council
- 8** Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 15** Water Control Comm.
- 15** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 21** Election Day

In this issue

- Budget Time 2
- Croton Seniors 2
- Eminent Domain action 2
- New Signs on OPRN 2
- Employee Spotlight 3
- Lunch with the Bunny 3
- Village Elections 3
- Fields Reminder 3
- Got a Question? 4

Stopping the Leaks

Why is leaking water a concern to both you and the Village? The Croton water supply comes from Village-owned wells. On average about 1.1 million gallons a day are pumped and distributed throughout the Village. About 90% of this water is billed by the Water Dept. based on meter readings. The remaining water is called "unaccounted for water". This is water that is not billed and includes water used in flushing hydrants, in fighting fires, in unauthorized use, and in leaks in water mains. Minimizing this unaccounted for water means less water has to be pumped and minimizes the strain on the supply mechanism. According to Water Foreman Tom Brann, having less than 10% unaccounted for water is considered very good for the size and age of the Village's water system. Over the last 6 years, the Water Dept. has reduced the difference between the amount of water pumped versus the amount billed from about 15% to slightly less than 10%. They continue to try to improve on this through a regular program of surveying the water mains in the Village to detect leaks or breaks in the system.



Leaking water can add up to very large amounts of water. For example, in 2000, a village-wide survey determined that about 200,000 gallons a day were unaccounted for through leaks in the water mains. When taken over 365 days that amounts to 73 million gallons of water! These leaks have largely been identified and repaired and replaced since that time resulting in a big savings in both water and wear and tear on the system. At 1.1 million gallons/day, the Village wells produce 379,600,000 gallons of water per year.

In looking for water main leaks, the Vil-

lage utilizes both its own Aqua Scope device and the services of a professional leak detection company. The entire village is surveyed regularly with equipment that can detect leaks from above ground. When a leak is detected between hydrant locations, computer analysis can pinpoint the exact location for excavation and repair.

Little Leaks = Big Bills

Water bills paid for by Croton residents connected to the Village water supply



represents the "accounted for" water. Although this water is paid for, there is still water that is needlessly wasted. Leaks in

homes and businesses throughout the Village contribute to unnecessary water being pumped. It also results in larger than necessary water bills.

Not infrequently, residents get a water bill they think is surprisingly high. Often this is due to a leaky faucet or toilet, or sprinkler system. These leaks can add up quickly. According to Mr. Brann, a running toilet is using 1 quart of water/minute. At 1440 minutes/day, that is 360 gallons/day. After 365 days, that can amount to 131,400 gallons/year! The Village's current water billing rate is \$3.717 per 748 gallons. This kind of leak could potentially cost a water user an additional \$653/year. Eliminating leaks can clearly reduce your water bill. It will also reduce your sewer usage bill that will start being billed in 2006 as it is based on the amount of water used. Water bills are due twice a year.

What can you do? Watching and listening are big factors in noticing leaks. Running toilets and dripping faucets should

Budget Preparation

In late March, the Village Manager will announce the proposed budget for FY 2006/2007. In preparation, Dept. heads, working with the Treasurer and Manager, are preparing and reviewing their budgets, seeking to "hold the line" on expenses as much as possible.

The majority of the budget, funded primarily from property taxes, is of a non-discretionary nature. Allocations for pension and health funds, the Fire Dept. Service Award program, insurance, workers compensation, payroll & salaries, and debt service are mandated. Beyond these items, each Dept has basic supplies and equipment costs as well as contractual services that must be funded. Increases are expected in some of the above budget lines. Health insurance funding will go up about 10% and insurance costs will be up 10-15%. A new Teamster contract is due on May 31st and debt service will be slightly higher.

Two other areas which are anticipated to have increases are fuel and energy expenses and legal costs. The cost of fuel alone was about \$1/gallon cheaper at last year's budget time. Based on experience from this year, a greater amount of money will also be recommended for the legal account as well. The Village's assessed valuations may increase very slightly but this may be countered by current certiorari actions that have yet to be resolved.

The Capital budget, a 5-year plan which largely determines the amount of money to be borrowed in the next year, will be reviewed in May. The FY 2006/2007 budget begins June 1, 2006. The costs of borrowing in this fiscal year will appear in the FY 2007/2008 budget. Projected spending in the FY 2006/2007 Capital budget includes money for annual recurring items such as general road repairs and sidewalk and curb replacement. Expenditures for the Brook St. and High St. stormwater management improvements and the High St. CDBG project are also planned.

New Signs in Croton

Be on the look out for new traffic control signs that have recently been installed on Old Post Road North (OPRN) as follows:

- STOP sign at Hunter Place on southbound OPRN.
- STOP AHEAD opposite Mt. Green Rd. on southbound OPRN.
- SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD between High St. and Hunter Pl. on southbound OPRN.
- "T" - "20 MPH" north of Michael's Lane on southbound OPRN.

Croton Seniors

The annual St. Patrick's Day buffet luncheon will be held on March 17th in the Community Room. Featuring corned beef, cabbage and mixed veggies, this buffet is very popular and reservations are a must. Call Yvonne on M/W/F at 271-5804 for information and to sign up.



Trip Gift Certificates are now available to members of the Croton Senior Club. Family members or friends may wish to purchase a certificate to give to a Croton Senior member as a birthday, anniversary or holiday present. They are available in amounts of \$25, \$35, & \$50. They will be honored for one year and are non-transferable. The certificates may be applied only to trips and the recipient must be a member of the Croton Seniors Club.

Eminent Domain for DPW Needs

At a public hearing held and closed on February 6th, Manager Richard Herbek, DPW Superintendent Ken Kraft and Village Engineer Dan O'Connor made presentations identifying the short comings of the current DPW installations and supporting the use of a parcel located at 1A Croton Point Ave. as the best site for consolidating the DPW's many operations and requirements. The hearing was called pursuant to NYS Eminent Domain Procedure Law to determine the Village's need for the property. The closing of the hearing started a 90-day time clock after which the Board must make a determination and findings on the need for the property.

At the same meeting, the Village Board also declared its intent to become Lead Agency in the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process for the proposed acquisition of the property. The Village has prepared a Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) which will be circulated to all involved and interested agencies. Comments from these agencies are due within 30 days.

Water Leaks Cont'd.

be addressed as quickly as possible. Homes with modern meters have leak detector dials to detect small leaks when no water usage is occurring. These should be examined on a regular basis to see if they indicate leakage. Leak detection dye kits to be placed in toilet tanks can be obtained in hardware stores. Sprinkler system leaks are much more difficult to detect as the water just dissipates into the ground. Inspection for unusually wet spots when the sprinkler is not in operation should be done regularly.



Reminder!

**Tuesday, March 21 is Village Election Day
6 am to 9 pm at the Municipal Building.**



Spotlight on Erasmo "Raz" Ciavolino

Erasmo "Raz" Ciavolino is one of the Village's more recent employees having been hired as a Laborer in August 2004. In this position, Raz is assigned to a sanitation crew and is likely to be seen riding on the back of a truck throughout the village.

As a member of one of the two sanitation crews, the day begins at 7 am. Except for Wednesdays, the crew covers an assigned route through the streets - for garbage on Mondays and Tuesdays and for recyclables on Thursdays and Fridays. Raz's route takes him through the center of the Village on Mondays in an area that includes Wells, Grand, Van Wyck, North Highland and Mt. Airy and, on Tuesdays, the Radnor, Maple, Olcott, Ridge Rd., Hudson and Elm Street areas.

Circumstances such as snow storms can add to the work load. In the recent Feb. 11-12 snow storm, Raz, along with fellow workers, was in a snow plow clearing the streets from Sat. at 8 pm to Sun. at 8 pm. Fortunately, the snow fell on a weekend so the sanitation pickup wasn't overlapped with the plowing. Riding a sanitation truck is a dangerous job requiring both strength and agility. The danger from passing cars requires that reflective jackets and bright shirts be worn while on the job. Raz grew up in Peekskill and graduated from Peekskill High School. He graduated Westchester Community College in a Liberal Arts program. Following graduation, he became certified in Ultrasound Diagnostics and worked as a Laboratory Technician for three years at the Mount Kisco Medical Group. After deciding that he preferred working outside, he applied for his current job feeling that there would be more opportunities to advance in the long run. Raz says he finds his fellow workers to be very friendly and outgoing, which also makes the job enjoyable as well.

In high school Raz played soccer but now he enjoys an occasional game of softball, going to the gym and fishing. With his friends, he fishes in the Hudson, the Croton reservoir and Long Island Sound.

At just 27, Raz says he hopes to make his career with Croton's DPW.



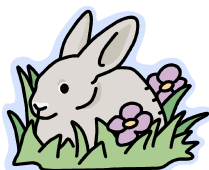
"I really like just being outside and doing hands-on work".

"Raz" Ciavolino

Physics Flight and Rocketry & Lunch With The Bunny

Two Recreation programs that require registration are scheduled for early April.

The ever-popular Lunch with the Bunny on Sat. April 8 at 11:30 am in the C.E.T. Multi-purpose room is \$5. per family. Space is limited and pre-registration is a must. The deadline is April 3rd.



On Mon. & Tues. April 10 & 11, children in Grades 2-6 can have fun designing and building projects designed to teach them about Newton's Laws of Motion and other physical science concepts. Participants will build and fly a variety of unique flying gadgets and will take home a Balloon Buggy, Solar Car, Sling Wing and Rocket. From 9-3:30 in the Municipal Building Community Room, the cost is \$88./resident or \$105./non-resident. Registration is due no later than April 4th.

Fields Remain Closed.

With nice weather coming soon, please remember that Village playing fields remain closed until their protective blankets are removed. They are expected to re-open in late March but this is weather dependent. Closing the fields ensures a better surface in the warmer months.

Village Elections

On Tuesday, March 21, the annual Village Election will occur. This year there are two Trustee seats to be filled and also the position of Village Judge. All voting will take place from 6 am to 9 pm in the Community Room of the Municipal Building.

Trustee James Steinberg and Jose Gonzalez are running for the position of Trustee on the Republican and Independence ballot lines along with Village Justice Guy Adami.

Trustee Charles Kane and Planning Board Chair Ann Gallelli are also running for the Trustee positions. They will appear on the Democratic and Croton Taxpayers ballot lines. Sam Watkins, running for Village Justice, will also appear on the Democratic and Croton Taxpayer ballot lines.



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March, 2006

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

Gregory J. Schmidt, Mayor
Thomas P. Brennan, Trustee
Charles A. Kane, Trustee
James M. Steinberg, Trustee
Leo A. W. Wiegman, Trustee

Richard F. Herbek, Village Manager
Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2

Got a Question?



**When the weather breaks and I begin the
spring cleanup of my yard, what should I
do with the yard waste?**

Do not put it in the garbage!

The Village will begin an organic waste recycling program this spring. All yard waste must be put in biodegradable paper bags or open top garbage cans. **YARD WASTE IN PLASTIC BAGS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP.** Yard waste for collection includes leaves, twigs and small branches, shrub and hedge trimmings and flowers. Grass clippings should be left on the lawn. Yard waste put out with the regular garbage on garbage collection days will not be picked up. By taking organic yard waste out of the Village's overall waste stream which is taken to the Charles Point Recovery Facility in Peekskill, the Village will be taking a significant step towards reducing its overall waste collection costs by reducing its tipping fees.



The Dept. of Public Works (DPW) will begin collecting yard waste on Wednesdays from the middle of March until the end of October. The collection schedule for yard waste is as follows:

If your garbage collection is on Mondays, your yard waste collection will be on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

If your garbage collection is on Tuesdays, your yard waste collection will be on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

There will be no yard waste collection on April 12, July 5, Sept. 6 and Oct. 11 due to holiday scheduling.

Remember - No Plastic Bags!

If you have further questions about what can be included or not included in yard waste or about the schedule, please call the DPW at 271-3775.



