

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

May 2004

Number 61

## **May Calendar**

- 3 & 17** Village Board Mtg.
- 11 & 25** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 5** Cons. Advisory Council
- 5** Water Control Comm.
- 12** Zoning Board
- 19** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 31** Memorial Day

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## **The Capital Program—a Five-Year Plan**

Each year in May, after the operating budget for the next fiscal year is approved, the Village Board, Manager and Treasurer address the capital budget for the year. The annual capital budget is drawn from a 5-year capital plan that anticipates major future expenditures that are outside of the regular operating budget. This includes major purchases such as fire trucks and other vehicles, large repair work, new construction, major planning expenses, large equipment and big infrastructure improvements.

For the past 24 years, the Village Manager and Treasurer have maintained a 5-year plan for these large expenditures. Based on input from the department heads, large cost items are anticipated. For instance, the Police and Public Works depts. plan for replacement of vehicles based on the history of their use and repair records. The life-expectancy of Fire Dept. trucks and their repair status can indicate a range of time in which a truck may have to be replaced. Upgrading facilities at village parks and buildings is ongoing with one or two projects being done each year. Infrastructure improvements such as identified in the recent village-wide drainage study are phased into this budget. In addition, ongoing large-scale projects are also included, such as the sidewalk program and road repair. As accurately as possible, these items are put into a plan covering the next 5 years.

The plan also identifies the estimated cost of each item and sources of funding that might be available. Costs of some items may be covered, in part, by grant money that has been received or is anticipated.

The 5-year capital plan is not a static document however. Unanticipated expenditures with high priorities may cause some items in the plan to be moved into the future.

Each year the Board decides whether to go ahead with the plan for that year. They may move some items into the future or move future items to the current year, or even drop some items altogether. The decision is based upon priorities set by the Trustees responding to circumstances that prevail each year including availability of funding and the critical nature of some items over others.

Once the year's capital budget is agreed upon, the Treasurer issues bonds for the total amount. One reason for doing the capital budget early in the year is to make it possible to issue only one bond for the entire year's capital projects thus saving on bond-issuing costs.

For the year 2004-2005, some of the capital projects that the Board of Trustees will be deciding on include the stormwater management plan for areas identified in the village's drainage study, road repairs, a sanitation truck, an emergency generator, and Senasqua Park improvements.

## **Croton Blood Drive**

The Croton Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, May 16th from 9 am to 3 pm at the Croton-Harmon High School gym. Donors must be at least 17 years old, 110 pounds and healthy. Appointments are appreciated but walk-ins are also welcome. For an appointment, please call Carol Shaneshy at 271-7645. Please put this on your calendar as the donations benefit Croton residents.



## New Open Space Guide Available

A newly updated Parks, Open Space and Trails Guide is now available in the Village Office. Originally produced in September 2000, the new updated guide became available this March. It features up-to-date information on Village parks, Westchester County parks in Croton, Nature Preserves & Open Space in Croton, and the Croton Trail System. The colored fold-out map in the brochure shows where all these facilities are located. The guide was developed by Croton's Conservation Advisory Council and produced by former resident, Paul Gisondo.

## Chemical Cleanup Days

### Free thermometers Offered

As you do your spring cleanups, it is important to dispose of excess household chemicals in an environmentally responsible way. Westchester County has 4 days scheduled in May and June to help residents get rid of these chemicals.

Friday, May 7 (1—3 pm) & Sat. May 8 (9 am—3 pm) at FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights, and

Friday, June 11 (1—3pm) & Sat. June 12 (9 am—3 pm) at Westchester Community College.

This is for residential chemicals only—no businesses. There is no fee but pre-registration is required for 80 lbs. or more of solid materials or 25 gallons or more of liquid. All chemicals must be in original or labeled containers. No paint will be accepted. Specific questions can be answered at 914-813-5425, the Chemical Info-line.

Free mercury-free thermometers will be given out when you trade in your old oral thermometer—one per customer while supplies last.

## Metro Enviro Update



Counsel for both the village and for Metro Enviro made their oral arguments on March 26th in front of judges of the NYS Appellate Court in Brooklyn. In February 2003 the village's denial of a special permit to operate the

Metro Enviro transfer station was overturned by Judge Nicolai of the NYS Supreme Court in Westchester. The village appealed this decision to the NYS appellate Court. In addition to presenting written briefs, each side was granted 10 minutes for oral arguments. Michael Gerrard, Croton's special counsel on the Metro Enviro matter, made the argument. A decision on the appeal is likely to be made by the end of May.

## Manager Elected

Village Manager Richard Herbek was recently elected to the position of Regional Vice-President of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Formed in 1914, the ICMA is a professional and educational association for administrators serving cities, counties, other local governments, and regional entities around the world. The purpose of the ICMA is to create excellence in local governance. To that end, the ICMA provides technical assistance and publications for local government professionals to help them improve their skills and increase their knowledge. It serves as a clearinghouse for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information and data about local government.



## Croton Seniors

New officers for the Croton Seniors Club for the 2004-2005 year were installed on April 27 as follows: Pres.: Nancy Grant, VP: Chuck Anderson, Sec'y: Ruth Waitkins, Treas: John Giglio, Ass't. Treas: Lou Balazs.

Under the direction of Senior Director Marie Weigman, the club is looking forward to a busy May followed by pleasant summer meetings at Senasqua Park. The annual fee of \$6. is payable any Friday at their regular meetings.

Meetings begin officially at 12:30 in the Community Room at the Municipal Building except for the summer months. Coffee and rolls are available from 11 am. Blood pressure screening is available on the first Friday of the month. Becoming a member will allow you to sign up for many events such as trips to Yankee stadium, historic tours, Broadway shows and special restaurant events that are scheduled during the year.



### REMINDER!

Village Offices will be closed on Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day

## Spotlight on Sylvia Mills

When entering the Village Engineering office, Sylvia Mills is the first person you see. Officially, Sylvia's title is Secretary to the Planning Board, but, in reality, she is involved in most aspects of the Engineering office.

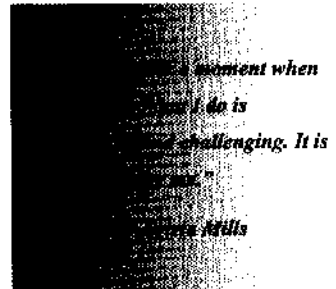
Sylvia joined the Croton Engineering office in July, 1998, coming from the same title in the Town of New Castle. All Planning Bd. business is handled by Sylvia including processing applications, gathering materials, sending notices, collecting fees, correspondence, attending meetings and taking minutes. Her other responsibilities in the Engineer's office are equally diverse. Among them are preparing building permits, CO's, a monthly report on

fees that are collected, preparing purchase orders for office supplies, and keeping ledger books for all accounts. A big responsibility is her work on capital projects which includes preparing bid packets and contracts and processing claims or draw-downs on the contract amounts. She also receives and processes the money for the sidewalk program. Much of this work involves close interaction with the Treasurer's office.

A recent office project on which Sylvia worked very hard with Dan O'Connor and Joe Sperber was the painstaking work of updating the village's zoning map. It was a very difficult job to get it completely

accurate, but she considers it a wonderful accomplishment.

Sylvia did not start her career in local government but rather as a French/English bilingual secretary for a French aviation company. She received an Art History degree at SUNY Purchase and then worked for the Westchester Council for the Arts where she was the Arts and Education coordinator. When the job ended for lack of funding, she took the job in New Castle which ultimately led her to Croton. With her husband, Peter, Sylvia lives in Bedford Hills and enjoys maintaining her art interests, traveling, and visits from her son, Jeremy.



## 2004 Board of Trustees



Following the March 16th election, two Trustees were sworn in at the April 2004 Organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees. Incumbent Greg Schmidt and newly elected Charles Kane begin two year

terms ending in spring 2006. The full Board is shown above. From the left: Mayor Robert Elliott, Trustees Leo Wiegman, Charles Kane, Gregory Schmidt and (seated) Georgianna Grant.

## Photo ID Reminder

If you were among the first to get a Croton Photo ID, first issued 3 years ago, your ID may be about to expire. For a new Photo ID a photo must be taken at the Recreation Office and new identification documents presented. Call 271-3006 for details.



## Summerfest

Vendor space applications for this year's Summerfest on June 6 are available at the Recreation Office.

## Gateway Law

In mid-March, the Board of Trustees approved a new Gateway Overlay Law. This zoning law, one of the outcomes of the 2003 Comprehensive Plan, applies to the three commercial entrances to Croton by "overlaying" the normal zoning requirements of these areas with regulations that are specific to each area. These regulations include design characteristics, parking, access and landscaping guidelines, and maximum building sizes. The three areas are known as the North End (along 9A at the Cortlandt border), Harmon (Croton Point Ave. and 9A to Benedict Blvd.) and Municipal Place (encompassing Van Wyck I and II, Croton Commons, the north side of Municipal Place and the Skatepark area).

## Defensive Driving Course

A 6 hour course will be offered for licensed drivers through the Recreation Dept. Classes are on Tuesdays, May 18 & 25 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Municipal building. The registration deadline is \$35 resident/\$45 nonresident and must be submitted by May 11. Completion of the course provides a point reduction from your driving record total and a discount on your collision and liability insurance.

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

# Got a Question?



**I am concerned that some houses and yards in my neighborhood are not being properly maintained and reflect badly on the neighborhood. I realize people have different ideas about what this means but aren't**

**there some requirements that homeowners must meet?**

Keeping in mind the old adages that a "person's home is their castle" and "beauty is in the eye of the beholder", the answer is 'yes', there are regulations that specify basic standards of maintenance for buildings and property. Both the NYS Property and Maintenance Code and various chapters of the Village's code apply to property maintenance. The NYS code is intended to ensure that the maintenance of structures serves the public health, safety and welfare of the occupant and the neighborhood. It contains standards covering plumbing, electrical, space, heating light, and ventilation. It also requires that exteriors

be maintained in a 'clean, safe and sanitary' condition and that control over weeds and plant growth be exercised.

The Village Code addresses the same issues on a local level. Chapter 135 on Garbage, Rubbish and Littering specifies standards for garbage containers and prohibits the accumulation of garbage and rubbish on premises in all districts.

Chapter 141 on Housing Standards is concerned with "obvious hazards to life, sanitation or adjoining properties".

Chapter 179 on Property Maintenance requires removal of weeds, brush and rubbish from properties.

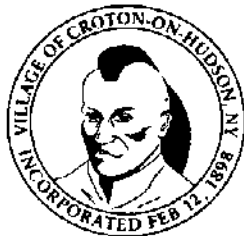
Chapter 212 covers abandoned vehicles. It prohibits abandoned, dismantled or unlicensed vehicles from being stored on property, but allows one such unlicensed vehicle to be parked on the premises if it is not in disrepair or a junked condition.

The specifics of each of these Chapters can be viewed on the Village website.

Croton is known for its variety in housing and neighborhoods. Property aesthetics generally vary from manicured to 'natural' so common sense and mutual respect must be used in applying the regulations.



**May 2004**



**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  
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(914) 271-4781-2

**Postal Patron**

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

Bulk Rate
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