



# Newsletter

March, 2015

Number 180

## Water System Improvements - Update

### March Calendar

- 2 & 16** Village Bd. Mtg.
- 10 & 24** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 11** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 4** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 5** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 10** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 25** Trails Comm.

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Village of Croton residents receive their water from the Village-owned water distribution system. Most Westchester County municipalities provide water to their residents through agreements with the New York City Water system. Approximately 8,000 residents are served through over 2500 service connections while a small number of Village residents have private wells.

Over many decades, Croton's water delivery system has grown somewhat haphazardly as new development and greater demands have occurred. This has meant that water mains of differing sizes have been connected, various types of water mains installed, and dead end water lines exist.

In the last few years, attention has been focused on the replacement and relining of water mains in older parts of the Village - primarily Harmon. New lines along Benedict Blvd. and its cross streets were installed in 2005 to 2006. Last year, work began on a two-phase project to upgrade, cement-line, increase sizing of some water mains, and add looping connections in the remaining areas of Harmon as well as on Wolf Rd. and Cook Lane. This work includes over 4 miles of new or refurbished water lines as well as new valves and hydrants. It will be completed this year.

The water that is distributed throughout the Village comes from three wells located in the Village well fields located about 4000 feet downstream from the New Croton Dam near the Croton River.

Wells #1, #3, and #4 currently pump about 400 million gallons of water annually to the distribution system. There are four storage tanks located in

the Village with a total capacity of 2.5 million gallons. Well #2, a shallow well, is no longer in use.

The well fields are located in an environmentally protected area to protect it from further development.

The three wells in use were installed in 1967, 1991 and 1995 respectively. Federal regulations governing water supply systems mandate that enough pumping capacity be in place to meet demand if any of the wells malfunction. To meet that requirement, a new well, #5, was dug in 2011. Well #5 is not yet included in the distribution system as it has not produced the expected amount of water and has not yet met Dept. of Health testing requirements.

The current level of demand for water, especially in the summer, has made it difficult for any of the three wells to be taken out of service.

To further expand the water supply, the Village has undertaken major maintenance and refurbishment work for Wells #1, #3 and #4. This involves their internal inspection and cleaning as well as the replacement/repair of the pumps and motors. This was done to increase pump capacity. The pump and motor for well #3 were replaced. Work on the rehabilitation of the wells is expected to be completed in May or June of this year.

While this work to improve capacity and the distribution system has been going on, new regulations from FEMA and mandates from Westchester County Dept. of Health are also being addressed.

FEMA has developed new 100-year flood plain guidelines which now encompass all of the Village's well fields. The new 100-year flood elevation is about 3 feet higher than the previous 100-year elevation. As part of this improvement, the

Cont'd. on page 3



## **Village Historian's Annual Report**

Village Historian is an official position under NYS Law. In 1919, the State Legislature called for the designation of an Historian for every city, town and village.

Croton's Historian is Dorothy Pezanowski. As Village Historian, Mrs. Pezanowski oversees the preservation and interpretation of our community heritage. In Croton, she is aided in this task by the Croton Historical Society, a volunteer group of individuals interested in local history.

The Village Historian provides a report to the Village Board on an annual basis.

In Historian Pezanowski's 2014 report, she states that the Village acquired several pieces of art either by Croton artists or about Croton. This included portraits, a painting of lower Grand Street and a map of the Hudson River showing the chain across the Hudson at West Point. Political cartoons by well-known radio personality, Lloyd Moss, were donated by his widow. A former resident contributed twenty old local telephone books which are highly prized by the Historian and the Historical Society. In addition to these and other donations, the Historian and the Society are in contact with many people who are looking for information either for research projects, on their homes or about their families. Work is being done on new exhibits to be available soon on former resident and actress Fay Bainter, a multi-media version of "Croton Point, 400 Years of History" and on the building of Route 9.

The Historian and the volunteer Society are always on the lookout for Croton-related materials and memorabilia. The Village funds the work of the Historian by providing a small fund for the purchase of supplies and related expenses as well as for small purchases of relevant historical items. The 2014/2015 budget allocated \$11,600 to support this important work.

## **Grievance Day Summary**

On February 17, the Board of Trustees met as the Board of Assessment Review to hear requests for revised property assessments. Only 29 requests were submitted, most of which were for Commercial properties. Decisions on residential properties to grant some or all of the requests, or dismiss it, are usually decided within a week or two of the Board's review. Petitioners have the option of appealing the Board's decision to the Small Claims Court of Assessment Review (SCAR).

## **Engineering Dept. Year-End Numbers**

The Village Engineering Dept. provides oversight on public and private projects throughout the Village. Permits of multiple types are generally required for much of the new construction and renovation work that occurs in the Village. The Engineering Dept. evaluates plans to ensure compliance with Village, State and Federal codes, rules and laws, provides regular inspections of the work as it progresses, and provides final approval by issuing a Certificate of Occupancy (CO). Included in these major steps are often requirements for building permits, tree removal permits, wetlands activity, plumbing and water/sewer service connections, among others. The service performed in the review and oversight of these improvements is partially defrayed by a permit fee imposed by the Village. Frequently Village Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board and Water Control Commission review is required for a given project. These reviews also require an application fee.

Additionally, public utilities such as Verizon and Con Ed frequently need to obtain permits for street openings while making gas, electrical or communications line connections or improvements.

The cost of a building permit is related to estimated value of the final construction.

In 2014, the Engineering Dept. permits issued totaled \$183,567. In 2013, the total was \$136,678.00. The estimated value of work done in the Village for which permits were issued in 2014, was \$6,035,543.

## **Lunch with the Bunny**



The Bunny will be lunching in the Municipal Building Community Room on Sat., March 28 at noon and would like company. To join him, sign up by March 20, space is limited. For residents the fee for

each family is \$20/\$25 nonres.

## **Spring Window Painting**

Have fun decorating Village windows for Spring! Participants may begin painting windows March 30. Windows must be completed by April 6. The windows will be assigned by the Recreation Dept. Sign up in the Recreation Office to participate in the fun family event!



**Reminder!**

**March 15 is last date for Snowman Contest Entries!**



## **Water Improvements cont'd.**

Village will be centralizing the operations for all wells including automatic monitoring functions and automatic chemical infusions as needed, replacing manual methods.

All pumped water from the wells is currently disinfected with chlorine before it enters the distribution system. The County Dept. of Health has mandated that chlorine-contact time be increased for a small area close to the well fields. This will require adding lengths of distribution lines between the wells and the customers nearest to them. This work will begin this summer and is expected to take about 3 months.

The Dept. of Health has also mandated the implementation of a corrosion control program to address copper exceedances in the water. The Village began considering corrosion control using zinc orthophosphate (ZOP) in 2007 to address brown water issues. Due to costs involved and an on-going program of water main replacement and relining, it was not implemented. The use of ZOP was also of concern to many. The corrosion control system that will be implemented in Fall of 2015 to meet Dept. of Health requirements will introduce an orthophosphate (70%) and polyphosphate (30%) blend to the water system. The ortho component addresses corrosion and the polyphosphate is used to sequester iron to reduce the visible occurrence of brown water.



**Well Drilling**

Access to the well fields is from two entrances off Route 129. One leads directly to the well locations and the other to the Water Dept. office, from which the wells can also be reached. The culverts and bridges on both entrances have been severely undermined due to severe flooding by a series of storms over the past few years. As access to the wells is of prime importance, bridge rehabilitation and culvert replacement work will be undertaken beginning this summer. It is expected to take 6 to 8 months.

## **Time to Sign Up for Summer Camp**

The Recreation Dept. runs a Day Camp and Tiny Tots program every summer. Registration is held by lottery. For 2015, the lottery registration deadline for Day Camp and Tiny Tots is Wednesday, April 15 at 12:00 noon. The registration forms to sign up for the summer camp lottery will be available in the Recreation Office in the Municipal Building and the Croton Free Library in early March. After the deadline, any available spaces in camp will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.



## **Auditor's Report**

Mr. Alan Kassay of O'Connor Davies, LLP, the Village auditors, presented their report on the fiscal year ending 2014 to the Board of Trustees on February 11. Among the financial highlights from their report are:

- The assets of the Village exceeded its liabilities by \$14,009,353.
- The General Fund fund balance totaled \$7,136,624 with the unassigned amount being \$4,921,457. The remainder is attributed to prepaid expenditures, encumbrances, future retirement expenditures, and accumulated employee benefits such as vacation and sick leave in accordance with various collective bargaining agreements.
- All governmental funds, General, Water, Capital Projects and Sewer had ending balances of \$17,410,945. Of this amount the unassigned fund balance was \$4,782,263 or 27%.
- The Capital Projects Fund expenditures totaled \$3,642 and its balance at year-end was \$9,922,214.
- New bond anticipation notes (BANs) were issued in the amount of \$939,896 to finance capital projects while \$895,786 of BANs were retired.
- The Village issued \$6,089,500 of serial bonds and retired \$1,822,500 of previous indebtedness. The Village's total outstanding general obligation bonds payable at year end totaled \$27,799,500

The 85-page report showing the basic financial statements of all the funds is available in the Village Office.



## **Vernal (Spring) Equinox**

The Vernal Equinox arrives at 6:45 pm on March 20!

## **Budget Review Schedule**

On Friday, March 20, the Village Manager will file a Tentative Budget for the 2015/2016 Fiscal Year. A budget must be approved by April 30. It takes effect on June 1, 2015.

A series of budget work sessions are scheduled for the Board of Trustees to review the proposed budget on a department by department basis. A public hearing on the budget will also be held before its final adoption. The schedule for budget work sessions, held in the meeting room of the Municipal Building at 7:30 pm is as follows:

- Mon. March 23 - DPW, Water and Sewer Funds
- Mon. March 30 - Recreation and Capital fund
- Mon. April 6 - Public Hearing
- Wed. April 8 - Police and Fire Depts.
- Mon. April 13 - EMS, Parking, Court & Admin.
- Wed. April 15 - Extra session if needed
- Mon. April 20 - Budget Adoption

# Got a Question?



## Can I pay my water bills and tax bills online? If so, what other fees can I pay online?

Yes, there are several bills related to Village services and taxes that can be paid online. Taxes and utilities, parking violations and train station parking permits are all able to be paid online. In each case, you will have to register at the appropriate site.

Begin by going to the Village website Home page. At [www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov), locate the Citizen Action Center on the left side and click on the Online Payments at the top of the list. Three options will appear:

Taxes and Utilities can be paid using Master Card credit/debit, Discover card and ACH (checking).

Parking Violations can be paid using Visa, Master Card, Discover and PayPal. If there are multiple outstanding violations, all must be paid at the same time.

Train Station Parking permits may be purchased using Master Card and Visa credit/debit cards, Discover and American Express.

Questions may be answered by calling the Village Office at 271-4781.



March, 2015

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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor

Ann Gallelli, Trustee

Andrew Levitt, Trustee

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## Daylight Saving Time Returns!

An easy way to remember which way to reset your clock for Daylight Saving Time (DST) is the adage "spring forward, fall back".

DST begins on Sunday March 8 at 2 am. It will last until Sunday, November 1, 2015 at which time clocks will be set back an hour.



## Fields Closed Reminder!

Please remember that Village playing fields remain closed until their protective covers are removed. Closing the fields ensures a better surface in the warmer months ahead.

## Updated Trails Map

The Village's Trails Committee has recently updated its Trails map for the Village. The map is published by the Conservation Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Trails Committee. Copies of it are available in the Village Office and online at the Village website.



The fold-out colored map provides information on all Village Parks and trails. It also provides information on non-Village owned parks open space such as the Brinton Brook and Graff Audubon Sanctuaries and the County-owned Croton Point Park.

Currently, the Village has over 13 miles of trails.