

ONE SQUARE MILE

Official Newsletter of The Village of Bronxville

Welcome to One Square Mile

THE LATEST NEWS FROM VILLAGE HALL

The Village Board of Trustees met at a special work session on Saturday, January 22 to map out our priorities for the new year. A wide range of topics and initiatives were discussed and prioritized; we received a comprehensive update of the status of our ongoing capital projects and planned new capital initiatives along with other important legislative matters that will impact the Village in 2022.

The Village Board's legislative priorities are discussed in further detail in this newsletter and the capital projects will be explained in next month's edition.

The new calendar year also means the start of a new State Legislative session with issues on the docket that can potentially have a great effect on the Village so they will be followed carefully and in some cases lobbied for or against.

By state law, Bronxville and all other villages have a fiscal year that runs from June 1 to May 31; every other local level of government impacting the Village taxpayer uses a calendar year as their fiscal year including the County of Westchester, the Town of Eastchester and the Eastchester Fire Department. Amongst all of the above, we have included a pie chart showing where your tax dollars are divided to all the above mentioned taxable entities. New York State's layers of taxation and division of services are one of the more complicated so this is our effort to match all of the taxing entities so that you will get a more global view of where your dollars go.

As a Village, we will begin our budget conversations in late March/early April (after the Village Administrator has filed the tentative budget on March 20 pursuant to Village law) and we look forward to sharing with you our deliberations/thought processes and objectives in upcoming newsletters.

Respectfully,
Mary Marvin

This issue:

MAYOR'S COLUMNS
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Village Hall Counter Hours
Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm

CLOSED FEBRUARY 21 IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS' DAY





NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Village Board convened its January 10th meeting via Zoom and began by discussing the implementation of an online tax payment program for the start of the 2022-23 tax collection period on June 1st. The Village Administrator and Treasurer explained the system that was selected, the methods by which property owners would be able to pay their taxes and the fees and security systems associated with the new online portal. Of course, property owners would continue to have the option of paying their taxes in person at Village Hall. Additional details on accessing the portal will be provided in advance of June 1.

Alan Kassay, Partner of PKF O’Connor Davies, the Village’s Financial Auditors, presented the 2020-21 Financial Statements to the Village Board and summarized the findings. Despite not knowing the anticipated impacts from COVID at the time the budget was finalized in mid-April 2020, overall general fund balance increased by \$348,097, to \$9,555,631. The fund balance is summarized in the chart below:

Village of Bronxville	2020	2021
Opening Balance	8,664,997	9,207,534
Add: Revenues	16,725,667	16,677,390
Less: Expenditures	-16,183,130	16,329,293
Total Fund Balance	9,207,534	9,555,631

Revenues for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2021 were \$85,601 less than anticipated in the Village’s 2021 final budget. Parking and Justice Court revenue shortfalls of 956,728 were largely offset by a \$413,394 surplus from sales tax revenue, an \$84,720 revenue surplus from mortgage tax revenue, and a \$339,472 bond premium from a 2021A serial bond issue.

On the expenditure side, the Village’s annual expenditures were \$1,204,786 lower than expected. This was a result of very conservative fiscal spending, especially when the impact from COVID became known. As a result, the Village was able to avoid using all but \$19,671 of the \$800,000 appropriated from fund balance at the time the budget was adopted. This allowed the Village to increase its overall fund balance slightly and maintain an Aaa bond rating by Moody’s, the highest rating assigned to a local government.

Copies of the Village’s financial statements and adopted budgets can be found by [clicking here](#).

The Mayor began the regular meeting by introducing James Nolan, new County Legislator serving Bronxville and the rest of Legislative District 15. Legislator Nolan vowed to support the Village in any way he can and stated that he looks forward to learning more about the Village’s current and future needs.

Trustee Knapp reminded the Village Board that last year the Village Board formed the Climate Smart Communities Task Force (CSCTF) from members of the Green Committee to help the Village obtain recognition under the Climate Smart Communities program which would enable the Village to not only document our Village-wide green initiatives but make us eligible for federal and state funding for implementation of other green improvements. As part of this process the Task Force will be holding its first public meeting of 2022 on Thursday, February 3rd at 7pm via zoom and can be joined by accessing the [link here](#).

Meeting ID: 874 3611 9282
Passcode: 534996





NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES - Cont'd

The Task Force is responsible for the preparation and submission of various action items within the CSC program including—but not limited to—decreasing energy use, emission inventories, planning for climate change, and green infrastructure. The public is encouraged to join the meeting. Project updates will be shared by Task Force members and members of the public will be offered an opportunity to voice questions, comments, and concerns. For more information on the Climate Smart Communities program, please [click here](#)

Trustee Behrens and Trustee Fredericks provided an update on the safe streets initiative including an update on the status of a crosswalk across Route 22. They explained that the New York State Department of Transportation now supports the installation of the crosswalk in conjunction with a sidewalk on the east side of Route 22 between Dusenberry Rd and Paddington Circle. The Village Administrator stated the County Planning Department agreed to utilize their staff to design the improvements and provide a cost estimate so the Village could determine funding sources and bid the project in 2022.

During the regular meeting the Village Board also held a public hearing on a amendment to the Village Code defining the role of the Assistant Village Administrator and adopted those changes following public discussion. The Village Board also effectuated the annual appointment of the Village Administrator as the Budget Officer for the 2022-23 fiscal year which makes the Administrator responsible for preparing the budget document and working closely with the Village Treasurer to develop the tentative budget for presentation to the Village Board. The Board adopted a resolution to implement the online tax payment program.

How Tax Dollars Are Spent:

The pie chart to the right shows how your current tax dollars are allocated amongst different local governments and taxing bodies. While your Village tax bill issued in June includes both Village and School taxes your Town of Eastchester tax bill is issued in April and includes individual tax amounts for the following services:

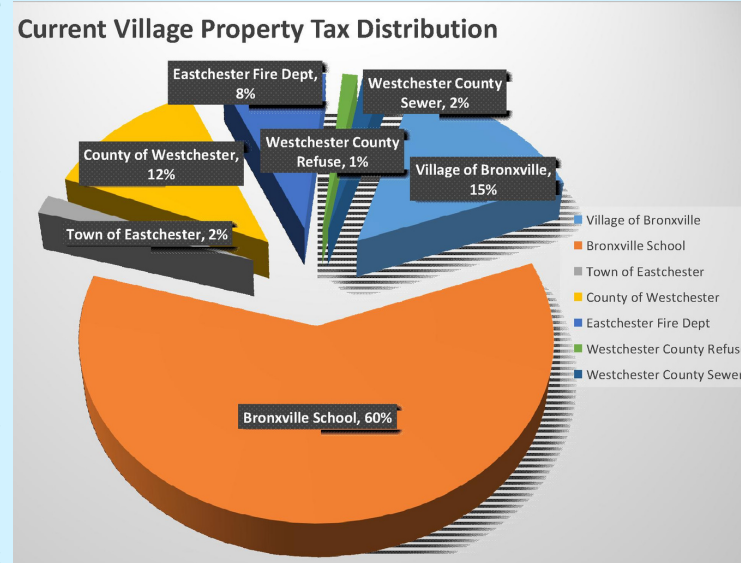
- Town of Eastchester - these are "town wide" services and are explained in more detail below
- County of Westchester - Services provided by Westchester County
- Eastchester Fire Department - Services provided by the Eastchester Fire District
- Westchester County Refuse - refuse disposal services maintained and provided by Westchester County Solid Waste District
- Westchester County Sewer - sewage treatment services maintained and provided by Westchester County Bronx Valley Sewer District

Village of Bronxville property owners receive a tax bill from the Town of Eastchester which includes a tax for the portion of the "town-wide" services apportioned to the Village. Also known as the "A Fund" or General Fund, the Town is required by State Law and opinions offered by the NYS Comptroller to place certain expenses in the General Fund. Fees and expenses of town justices, the town clerk and tax collector, and salary and expenses of the highway superintendent and other highway administrative personnel are examples of the transactions recorded in this fund. The 2022 Town of Eastchester Budget (fiscal year starting January 1) indicates that the Village is responsible for 33.05% or \$1,268,560 of the total town-wide tax levy of \$3,838,306 for the 2022 fiscal year. A copy of the 2022 Town of Eastchester Budget can be accessed [HERE](#).

Future newsletters will highlight the services provided by the other taxing entities appearing on the Town of Eastchester tax bill.

BRONXVILLE PROPERTY TAX PROFILE 2021				
	Rate per \$1000 AV*	Equalized Rate per \$1000 AV	Taxes for Property with Tax AV of \$2,500,000	% Of Total Taxes
Village of Bronxville		3.4947	8,736.75	15%
Bronxville School		14.2617	35,654.25	60%
Town of Eastchester	37.9749	0.41012892	1,025.32	2%
County of Westchester	270.9623	2.92639284	7,315.98	12%
Eastchester Fire Dept	172.7926	1.86616008	4,665.40	8%
Westchester County Refuse	25.1586	0.27171288	679.28	1%
Westchester County Sewer	37.74	0.407592	1,018.98	2%
Total Taxes (Combined Rate)		23.64	59,095.97	100%

Calculated using 2021 tax rates; *AV refers to taxable assessed value





NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES - Cont'd

The Village Board's Saturday work session included prioritizing the following legislative considerations for early in the new year:

- Amendments to the Village Solar Ordinance: The existing provisions defined in the Village's Zoning Code date back to 2010 and are very restrictive resulting in all applications going before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Future modifications to these provisions will result in applications going before the Planning Board and Design Review Committee for consideration under a specific set of guidelines and criteria, recognizing the uniqueness of our residential homes and lot configurations rather than a one size fits all approach.
- Amendments to the Village's requirements for Retaining Walls and Fill: Amendments to these provisions in the Village's Zoning Code reflect the need to clarify the types of structures that can be constructed and the need to define the amount of soil added to or removed from sites given their potential impacts on the topography of a neighborhood.
- Amendments to the Village Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance: The Village's participation in the Complete Streets Initiative has helped emphasize the importance of maintaining and strengthening our walkable corridors in the Village. This also means updating our Village Code to clarify sidewalk maintenance responsibility and sidewalk standards.
- Consideration of a Tree Ordinance: Unlike many other communities in Westchester County the Village does not require a permit for any level of tree removal on private property. The Board has instructed the Administrator to complete a review of ordinances in places in other comparable Westchester villages so that the Board can have a future work session on the subject.

The Village Board also discussed the importance of commencing a thorough Chapter by Chapter review of our Village Code and agreed to have our counsel and Administrator begin with the myriad of provisions defined in the Village Peace and Good Order Chapter (Chapter 210 of the Village Code), many of which should be provided for in their own chapters.

Flooding Update:

On Monday, January 24th Congressman Bowman returned to the Village with representatives of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to further complete site inspections of some of the areas hardest hit by Tropical Storm Ida and other summer flooding. The inspections included meeting with residents along Parkway Road as well touring parts of the Bronx River. The team emphasized the need for a regional approach to addressing the flooding and the Village agreed to partner with neighboring Tuckahoe and Yonkers in developing solutions along this corridor. In the meantime, the Village is awaiting an approval by the County Board of Legislators to commence an engineering review of prior studies that were done along this corridor.



Mayor Marvin, Trustee Behrens and Administrator Jim Palmer toured some of the areas hardest hit with Congressman Bowman, the US Army Corps of Engineers and members of the NYS DEC as well as representatives of Westchester County





INSIDE VILLAGE HALL

VILLAGE ELECTION NEWS

2022 Village Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 16. The seats to be filled are two Trustees (each for a two year term) and one Justice (four year term). Additional information about the Village election can be found by visiting our [website](#).

[Click here for an Absentee Ballot](#)

PARKING NEWS

The online parking permit portal is now available for use by residents with 24 hour reserved parking spaces. Residents can now register, complete and submit their March 1, 2022 renewal applications through the portal which can be accessed [here](#).

The rollout of the online system for merchants and commuters will quickly follow.

For additional information on the new portal please contact Margaret Parr, Parking Office Manager at mparr@vobny.com

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Earlier this month the Library Board of Trustees approved a five year strategic plan for the Library. [The Plan can be found here](#)

[The Changing Face of Television \(Zoom\)](#): Monday, February 7th at 3:00PM

[Discussion with Author David Mills on Slavery in New York \(Zoom\)](#): Thursday, February 17th at 3:30PM

[1964-65 World's Fair \(Zoom\)](#): Monday, February 28th at 3:00PM

A full listing of events for adults, children and teens can be found at <https://bronxvillelibrary.org/events-programs/>

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

On Wednesday January 19th Village Administrator James Palmer, Assistant Stephen Shallo and Green Committee Chair Ellen Edwards visited Westchester County's CompostED site in Valhalla to learn how yard and tree waste, when combined with food waste creates the perfect conditions for bacteria to naturally create top grade soil. Aleksander Jagiello, Program Specialist for the County's compost operations within the Department of Environmental Facilities provided a tour of the facilities and composting process and provided the Village with complimentary bags of top soil from the site! Additional information on how your collected yard waste (and now food waste) make its way to sites around our region where it's composted further will be detailed in subsequent newsletters and articles by the Green Committee.



Our Food Scrap Recycling bins are filling up and we are proud that Bronxville is one of many Westchester towns joining this important program. It's easy to participate in a natural cycle that creates soil and reduces waste and pollution!

Join the 130 Bronxville families that have already signed up. Learn more [HERE](#) and pick up your Starter Kit in Village Hall during regular hours.



The Village's insurance and risk management company provided its annual training to employees of the Department of Public Works last week in the break-room of our new DPW facility. The safety training is mandatory for all employees and includes a variety of subjects required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and New York State Department of Labor.





FROM CHIEF SATRIALE'S DESK

Under the direction of Sergeant William Carroll the Bronxville Police Department began the Stranger Awareness presentations for the Bronxville School first and second graders last week. The program included a slideshow presentation with pictures and discussions on the responsible decisions children can make every day to avoid dangerous situations. The officers explain how and why a stranger can be dangerous and taught the students the three rules – Say no, Then Go, Tell Someone. The three “B’s” including "Be responsible, be respectful and be safe" were also taught. The officers asked for volunteers and then did some role playing exercises as well. Chief Satriale also held ZOOM meetings with the elementary and middle school PTA councils to update them on other events occurring in and around the school. The elementary school update included 100 participants. A high school ZOOM is scheduled for next week.

**STAY UP TO DATE
WITH THE LATEST
VILLAGE NEWS,
EMERGENCY
ALERTS, AND INFO
FROM SPECIFIC
VILLAGE HALL
DEPARTMENTS.**

SIGN UP [HERE](#)



Sergeant Carroll presenting the Stranger Awareness program to the Bronxville School elementary students.

We are approaching the one year anniversary of the Village’s submittal of its New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan and as a result the Police Department will be conducting a presentation on its initiatives over this period. The presentation will include how the Bronxville Police Department (BPD) has enhanced the community’s understanding and awareness of the activities and policies of the Department as well as how the BPD has expanded officer training. Be sure to look for the presentation at the Village Board’s March or April meeting. Be sure to also check the Police Department website for updates on Police Department activities and monthly reports which are posted regularly.

