



May Calendar

- 14 Village Board Mtg.
- 8 & 22 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 8 Recreation Adv. Bd.
- 9 Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 2 Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 16 Visual Environ. Bd.
- 23 Trails Comm.
- 28 **Memorial Day**

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Croton's Council/Manager Form of Government

Village government in Croton has been of the Council/Manager form since 1971 when it was formally adopted. Under this form of government, the job of governing is balanced between a professional manager and an elected council made up of the Mayor and four Trustees. According to the International City/Council Management Association (ICMA), the Council/Manager form of government is the most popular form of government in communities of 5,000 or more. The Council in Croton is the Board of Trustees.



Board of Trustees

An alternative form of government, the Mayor/Council form, sometimes called the "Strong Mayor" form is more common in large cities and in some towns. In this form, the Mayor or Supervisor and the Council members are usually full-time paid employees. In this form, both the political and the administrative aspects of government are concentrated in the Mayor/Supervisor and Council.

Croton's Council/Manager form of government is based on the philosophy that communities need both council members to establish appropriate policy as well as competent professional managers to carry out those policies.

The Council is the legislative body which sets goals, establishes policy, focuses on long-run considerations such as growth, land-use development, capital improvement plans, strategic planning, budget approval and the adoption of local laws. It is also the body that appoints the Mana-

ger who is accountable to the Council.

The Manager and administrative staff are charged with carrying out policies established by the Council as well as the day-to-day administration and operations of the Village. The Manager administers all projects and programs on behalf of the Village, recruits, hires and supervises staff, prepares the annual budget, and acts as the Board's chief advisor. Providing objective pros and cons on items under consideration, as well as alternatives, is part of the Manager's responsibility in advising the Council. The Council/Manager



Manager Zambrano

form of government was first adopted in the United States in 1908 in Staunton, VA. Historically, this form of government evolved from the combined influences of the 19th-century Progressive Movement to eliminate cronyism and corruption in government, the Scientific

Management Movement which emphasized running organizations in a scientific, objective manner to create efficiencies, and the emergence of strong CEO's running for-profit businesses.

The Mayor, under the Council/Manager form of government is the key political leader and policy developer. The Mayor presides at Council meetings, serves as the spokesperson for the community and represents the community in intergovernmental relations. The Mayor is also responsible for appointing members to boards and committees and coordinating their work.

Note: The positions of Village Clerk and Treasurer are also appointed by and accountable to the Council.



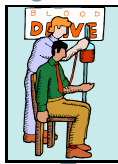
Summerfest!

The Village's annual Summerfest celebration will take place on Sunday, June 3 in the Upper Village. A parade starting at 1 pm from the Five Corners intersection of Old Post Rd. South and Cleveland Drive will kickoff the afternoon of fun. The parade of local and area officials, members of scouting troops and sports teams and Croton Fire Department vehicles will head to the Upper Village.

Street vendors, delicious food and two bands will highlight the activities until 6 pm. Many local volunteer groups will be hosting tables along the street giving everyone an opportunity to learn more about their activities. Mark your calendars and join in the festivities!

Blood Drive Reminder

Sun., May 6 at CHHS from 9am to 3pm. Call 271-7645 Or 271-8449 for an appointment or information.



Household Recycling Center Opens



The County's new Household Recycling Center opened in April. It accepts all the same materials that were formerly accepted at Household Recovery Days around the County. It is

located at 15 Woods Rd. in Valhalla.

It is open on Tues., Thurs. and Sat. from 10 am to 2:50 pm by appointment only. An appointment can be made at <http://environment.westchestergov.com/reservation-system> or by calling the Recycling HelpLine at 813-5425. Upon your arrival, you will be required to show a driver's license or other government-issued photo ID as proof of residency. Unused medications will only be accepted on the first Tues. of the month.

Go Fly A Kite!

On Saturday, May 26th you can join others at Croton Landing to fly your kite. Kite Day, presented by the Recreation Dept., will give you an opportunity to show off your kite-flying skills. The event is from 1 to 3 pm at the park and refreshments will be served. Bring your own kite. The event is free but pre-registration by May 23rd is required.



Cleveland Dr. Sidewalk Improvements

Work on the sidewalk replacement along the south side of Cleveland Drive between the Croton Library and Hughes St. has been completed. The new sidewalk and curbing replaces a deteriorated asphalt sidewalk.



Before realignment and new concrete sidewalk.

As shown in the pictures, the sidewalk and curbing has been realigned to make a smoother transition at



New sidewalk and intersection.

the existing landscaped traffic-calming island near the Hughes intersection.

Permits, Credit Cards & Paypal

Customers of the Village's train station parking lot who already have parking permits can now purchase their permits online through BuyMyPermit.com/Croton. This new service provides a convenient method of purchasing a permit without visiting the Village office or sending in a check by mail.

BuyMyPermit.com is a secure website which can be reached through the Village website (click on Train Station Parking on the left of the Home page). From the parking permit page, click on the first link under Quarterly Parking Permits.



Existing permit holders, resident, non-resident, and preferred, may renew their quarterly permits using a credit card or PayPal. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover cards are all accepted.

There is a service charge for using this online renewal process. The amount of the charge will be shown before you are asked for payment. It varies on the cost of the permit - resident, non-resident, and preferred.

Once the payment is received by the service, the Village is notified and a renewal permit will be mailed within three business days.

First time permits or replacement permits cannot be paid for online but must be paid in the Village Office during business hours.



Reminder!

**Offices are closed Mon., May 28 for
Memorial Day**



Silver Lake Swimming

Silver Lake, the Village's beach on the Croton River, will be opening on weekends beginning May 26 and subsequent weekends through June 17. On Friday, June 22, Silver Lake will be open on a daily basis from 11 am to 7:30 pm. The park will close for the season on or before Mon., Sept. 3. Weather conditions and staffing may cause changes in the dates and the hours of operation. All visitors to Silver Lake must have a



Recreation Photo ID (see page 4).

Season swim permits are available as follows:

Village family	\$150.
Village Adult	\$75.
Village Child	\$45. (4 and older)
Senior	Free (60+)
Schl. Dist. Family	\$210.
Schl. Dist. Adult	\$105.
Schl. Dist. Child	\$65. (4 and older)
Schl Dist. Senior	\$40. (60 +)

Daily fees are:

Residents: - \$5/adult,\$3/child over 4/ Seniors free.

School District: - \$8/adult,\$5/(4 and older)/ \$5/Senior.



Outdoor Farmers Market Returns



The outdoor summer Farmers Market will return on Wednesday, May 30 and continue on Wednesdays into the autumn. The market will be located at the intersection of Municipal Place and North Riverside Ave. at the former Skatepark location. Hours are from 2pm to 7pm.

Compost Bin Sale

The Croton Conservation Advisory Council is sponsoring its 4th annual Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale on Sat., May 5, 10am to 2pm. Composting is an excellent way to reduce household garbage and make a valuable soil supplement for your garden.

Bins and barrels must be preordered. Email jhannigan@crotononhudson-ny.gov and put "compost bin" in the Subject line, or call 271-4781 to place your order. Orders must be picked up at the Croton-Harmon Train Station at Parking Lot A on the above day and time. Payment is by cash or check.

Compost bins are \$55 and rain barrels are \$75 - the same prices as last year.



The Fund Balance

There is often confusion between a Fund and a Fund Balance and how the two are related. Village government accounting is divided into several funds including the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Capital Fund and Debt-service Fund. Each of these funds has its own budget and its own Fund Balance.

The General Fund is the Village's operating fund for which property taxes are levied. Taxes are levied to pay for operating expenditures that are greater than revenues. The Water and Sewer Funds, however, are funded through billing based on consumption. The Capital Fund is a list of long-term projects such as infrastructure improvements and large equipment expenditures. These expenses are funded through bonds, bond anticipation notes, grant money and appropriations from Fund Balance.

Where does the money in the Fund Balance come from?

Often money that was budgeted for in the General Fund has not been fully spent. This is because some budget expense numbers are projections based on unknown conditions. For instance, less snow may mean that expenses related to snow removal are less than the amount budgeted. Revenues might also be higher than was expected from sales taxes, franchise assessments, etc. For the General Fund, any unspent money that was raised by property taxes is added to the 'unreserved' Fund Balance, sometimes termed a 'rainy day' account. Money that reflects outstanding purchase orders and encumbrances at the end of the fiscal year (bills yet to be paid) becomes part of the "reserved" Fund Balance. Part of the "unreserved" Fund Balance may be designated for certain uses, but the remaining "undesignated" portion may be used for unspecified expenditures.

As of May 31, 2011, Village's unreserved Fund Balance was \$5,049,581 with \$1,000,000 designated and \$4,049,581 being undesignated. Municipal government accounting principles generally define how large the Fund Balance should be relative to the total budget. Taxes are not supposed to be levied specifically to increase this account. Croton's Fund Balance is in the accepted range.

What happens to this money? Both this year and last year, \$650,000 of it has been appropriated to balance the General Fund budget. In prior years, lesser amounts were used this way. This money, already raised by taxes, reduces the amount of the proposed budget year's tax levy. In all recent fiscal years, and for a variety of reasons, including very careful control of day-to-day expenditures, more money has gone into the unreserved Fund Balance than has been appropriated to reduce the next year's tax levy. For FYE2010/2011 the Fund Balance increased \$755,162. When the FY2011/2012 year is finalized it is also expected that the unreserved Fund Balance will continue its modest growth and will not be depleted.

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

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Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building, One Van Wyck Street

(914) 271-4781-2, www.crotononhudson-ny.gov



Recreation Photo ID's

Village Recreation Photo IDs are required for use of Silver Lake Park, Senasqua Park and for golfing eligibility at Hudson National Golf Club. ID photos are taken in the Recreation Office at the Municipal Building on Tues. and Thurs. from 12:30 to 3:30. Information on other dates and times, including some evenings and weekends, can be obtained from the Recreation Summer brochure available at the Village website or by calling the Recreation Dept. at 271-3006.

Two forms of proof of residence are required including a driver's license with address, tax bill or utility bill. Old Recreation IDs are not valid proofs. All Photo IDs are valid for three years.

Resident fee is \$6/Senior is free. School District resident fee is \$12/Senior is \$6.

Dog Walking

Dogs are not allowed to roam off-leash anywhere in the Village except at the Dog Park at Black Rock Park for which a permit is required. Leashed dogs are only allowed in Croton Landing Park during its open hours - only on the paved Riverwalk Trail and with a maximum 6-foot leash. All other parks, fields and school property are off-limits to dogs, leashed or unleashed.



Leashed dogs may be curbed in the part of the street lying between the two curb lines. All feces must be removed by the walker and deposited in an airtight container and placed in a refuse container—never in storm drains or sewers.

In NYS all dogs must be licensed. Licenses for Village residents can be obtained in the Village Office for a fee upon presenting a current rabies certificate.

Got A Question?



What is the best way for me to get answers to questions about Village events, meetings, operations or to make a request? The Village's website, www.crotononhudson-ny.gov, has many of the answers you are looking for. First instituted in the 90's and developed over many years, the website has gone from providing the most basic information to a sophisticated source of information. The Home page provides



an easy to use menu. On its left side are links to the Events calendar (meeting schedules and agendas), Village Departments, Boards and Committees, the Mayor's Corner, Train Station Parking, the Village Code and On-Demand webcasts. By clicking on any of these, you will find expanded information on that topic. The On-Demand webcasts allow you to view past meetings as they were recorded live. These webcasts are "bookmarked" so you can go just to the section of the meeting you want to see.

In the center of the Home Page you will find "Quick Links". Here you can find old copies of the Newsletters, the full budget for the current fiscal year, 2011/2012, and the fiscal year 2012/2013 budget after May 1, 2012. There are also full copies of documents pertaining to issues of interest and current discussion in the Village, such as Harmon zoning, Croton Dam plans by NYC, the BCC 9/11 memorial, NYCOM's salary survey results and more.

Department updates are also accessible from the Home Page - recycling schedules and changes to it, the most recent Recreation Brochure and the Annual Water Quality report are just some of the useful information you can find here.

On the right of the Home page, you can get updates on current Village events. A daily schedule of meetings, and local events is posted and described here. All of this leaves you just a Click away from getting most of your questions answered at your convenience.

For those questions you can't find an answer to, please call the Village Office during business hours of 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at 271-4781. If your question cannot be answered immediately, it will be directed to the person best able to respond to it.