



## May Calendar

- 11 Village Bd. Mtg.
- 12 & 26 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 13 Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 6 Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 7 Bike/Ped Comm.
- 12 Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 25 **Memorial Day**
- 27 Trails Comm.

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## Village Manager Resignation

Village Manager Abraham Zambrano submitted a letter of resignation on April 1st to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Zambrano has accepted the position of Village Manager in the Village of Ossining. His resignation is effective May 26th.

As Village Manager of Ossining, he will be administering a village of about three times Croton's population and an annual budget of over \$50 million.



**Abe Zambrano**

Manager Zambrano has been Croton's Village Manager since September 2008. He had been the Village Treasurer for four years preceding his Managerial appointment. The Village of Croton-on-Hudson has a Council-Manager form of government (see article on page 3). As Village Manager, Mr. Zambrano is in charge of administering Village affairs which includes the power of appointment of all staff with the exception of the Treasurer and the Clerk. The Manager also is

responsible for ensuring that all laws are executed, attending Village Board meetings, developing and making recommendations to the Board on measures he feels would be in the Village's interest, reporting to the Board on Village affairs and keeping the Board advised on the Village's financial conditions and needs.

The Village of Ossining is an adjacent neighbor with which Croton has many agreements for sharing of services as well as mutual interests going forward. Mr. Zambrano's in depth knowledge of both Villages will likely enhance more inter-municipal collaboration and is likely to be a source of strength and opportunity for both. Both villages currently participate in several organizations and compacts over a broad range of activities including the Mid-Hudson ambulance district, Sustainable Westchester, and the Croton River Task force among others.

The Village Board and staff thank Mr. Zambrano for his years of service to Croton and look forward to a continuing positive relationship with him.

## 2015/2016 Village Budget Approved

On April 20, the Village Board formally adopted the General Fund budget for fiscal year 2015-2016. The approved budget calls for expenditures of \$18,612,643.00. Property taxes account for \$11,244,256.00 of this amount with \$6,862,196 revenues and a \$500,000 Fund Balance appropriation accounting for the remainder. For property owners, the adopted budget represents a 1.04% increase from the prior year. This is \$2.605 increase per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The adopted budget falls well under

the NYS Tax Cap and Freeze requirements allowing eligible Village taxpayers to receive rebate checks from NYS on the Village portion of their overall property taxes.

The Board also adopted budgets for the Water and Sewer Funds which are funded through utility billing. The Water Fund appropriation is \$2,560,344 which will result in a water rate for the average user of \$7.53 per 100 cubic feet of consumption. The Sewer rate, which is also based on 100 cubic feet of water consumption, will be



## Summerfest Coming Soon

Croton's 28th annual "welcome to summer" is fast approaching. Summerfest 2015 is on Sunday, June 7. The fun-filled day is co-sponsored by the Croton chapter of the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Croton.



The day begins with a kick-off parade. The Upper Village streets will be closed for vendors of food and goods, informational tables, music by bands in two locations, and a multitude of activities and entertainment for kids.

For your convenience, the Recreation Dept. Office in the Municipal Building will be open from 1:30 to 3:30 pm during the event to obtain an official Village Photo ID.

Look for more details on Summerfest activities in the June Newsletter.

## Farmers' Market Opens!

The Farmers' Market returns to Croton for its eighth year on Sunday, May 10th from 9 am to 2 pm.



As in recent years, the market will be located at the Municipal lot at the intersection of South Riverside Ave. and Municipal Place. The theme this year is 'Every Food Has a Season'.

During its season vendors will be offering fruits, vegetables, fish, condiments, baked goods, flowers, dairy and other products. Specialized demonstrations and events will also be featured on a weekly basis.

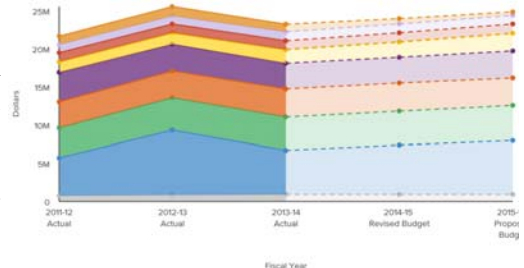
On opening day, an instructor from Cornell Cooperative Extension in Westchester County will conduct a composting workshop. The market will be hosting a compost bin at the site. The community is encouraged to contribute food scraps all season long. Customers will be able to take the mature, nutrient-rich compost back to their own gardens as the season progresses. Any excess will go to the Croton Community Garden at the end of the season.

This season, the market is also beginning an effort to eliminate single-use plastic shopping bags, popularly known as BYOBag - Bring Your Own Bag.

## Look at the Budget Thru OpenGov

Instead of trying to read through hundreds of pages of budget numbers, residents can now easily visualize the 2015/2016 adopted budget and compare it to budgets going back to 2011/2012. A new, web-based, software tool, called OpenGov, has been implemented on the Village website that enables you to bring up past and proposed budgets in several easy to understand formats.

From the Village website's Home page, click on Adopted Budget under Quick Links. A page with a link to OpenGov will appear. By clicking on this link,



Adopted Budget at a Glance

you will be able to view the adopted budget, the current year (2014/2015) budget, and the actual budget results for the three prior years.

The information can be displayed in many formats including pie charts, line or bar graphs, or % graphs with the actual numbers shown in a table below the graph. Budget data may be filtered by fund or department, by revenues or expenses, and by accounts within departments.

The HELP button on the upper right provides a quick overview of how to use this OpenGov software tool, but menus and filters on both sides of the screen allow you to easily experiment with the budget data and seek specific information. Budget trends are easy to visualize with this online tool.

OpenGov is useful not only for providing ease of access to budget data for residents, it is also of great use to the administrative staff. Data collection and analysis that was often time-consuming is now instantly available. Customized reports can be quickly generated as well reports based on hypothetical assumptions. OpenGov allows residents to seek budget information on their own and see it in easily understood report formats of their own choosing.

OpenGov will be available year-round on the Village website. New data will be uploaded to it on a quarterly basis.

OpenGov is used by over 250 local governments.

## Reminder!

Offices are closed Mon., May 25 for Memorial Day!

## **Council/Manager Government**

Local government in the Village of Croton-on-Hudson is known as the Council/Manager form of government. It was adopted by referendum in 1971.

This form of local government is based on the concept that municipalities need representative council members and a mayor to establish appropriate policy and competent, professional managers to carry out those policies. Council/Manager government frees up the elected body to establish policy which is carried out by an appointed manager and administrative staff. The manager is responsible for both implementation of council policy and the day-to-day administration of municipal operations. The mayor, council and manager constitute a policy development and management team.

The International City/County Management Association (ICCMA) identifies the Council/Manager form of government as the most popular form of government in the U.S. in communities with populations of 5,000 or greater. The Council/Manager form of government was first adopted in 1908 in Stanton, VA and is widely used around the world.

The alternative form of local government is known as the "strong mayor" form in which political and administrative power is provided by the head elected official. Locally, the Town of Cortlandt is an example of this form of government with the Supervisor setting policy and leading its administration.

Under Croton's Council/Manager form of government, three entities form the nucleus. The Council is the legislative body which approves budgets, sets tax rates, and adopts local laws. They also focus on community goals, major projects, land use, capital development plans and other long-range planning. It is the council that hires the manager.

The Mayor, a member of the Council, is the key political leader and policy developer. The Mayor presides at council meetings and typically is the spokesperson for the community. The mayor works with the council in setting the community's goals and making policy decisions. Additionally, the Mayor is the Village's key representative in intergovernmental organizations and also is responsible for appointing members of other boards and committees.

The Manager is hired by the Council, with the responsibility of administering local projects and programs; preparing a budget, recruiting, hiring and supervising staff, conducting negotiations, and other related duties. The Manager provides information on issues and projects and makes policy recommendations to the Council but is bound by whatever decisions the Council makes.

Chapter 31 of the Village Code contains a detailed description of the duties and responsibilities of the Village Manager position.

## **Memorial Day Ceremony**

Croton's Veterans Committee will conduct its annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 25 at 11 a.m.. The ceremony will be held at the Veterans' Memorial at Five Corners. In the event of bad weather, the observance will take place in the Community Room of the Municipal Building.



## **Budget cont'd.**

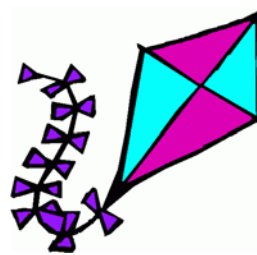
\$0.8905. Both funds had increases due to the significant infrastructure upgrades being made at the well fields, in the distribution and sewage systems, and some pump stations.



The Board also approved the Master Fee Schedule for the coming year. Most fees will remain the same. Some fees pertaining to planning and building have been adjusted to better reflect the actual cost of processing such applications. Fees for parking at the railroad station parking lot will rise \$2/month for residents beginning in December 2015 and \$5/month for non-resident permits beginning June 1st.

## **Go Fly A Kite**

Enjoy an afternoon in Croton Landing Park showing off your kite-flying skills. A fun family event. Bring your own kite. Refreshments will be served.

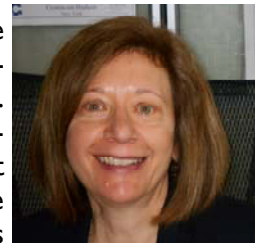


The kite-flying event is on Saturday, May 23 from 1 to 3 pm. This is a free event but registration in the Recreation Office is

required by May 22 or call 271-3006.

## **Acting Village Manager Appointed**

At its April 20th meeting, the Village Board named Assistant Village Manager Janine King to the position of Acting Village Manager. Ms. King will perform the duties of Village Manager beginning May 21st until such time as a new Village Manager is appointed. This follows the resignation of Village Manager Abraham Zambrano (see article on page 1).



During this period Ms. King will be paid a stipend of \$1,265 per pay period for the performance of the duties of Village Manager while continuing to perform the regular duties of Assistant Village Manager.

Ms. King has a B.A. from Barnard College and an MBA in Finance from the University of Chicago.

# Got a Question?



**Who was the Village's first Village Manager? How many Village Managers has the Village had?** Gordon K. Cameron was the first Village Manager in Croton. He was first hired as Village Clerk in 1969 and then became the first Village Manager when a Village referendum adopted the Council/Manager form of government in 1971. Mr. Cameron remained as Village Manager until 1981 when he was appointed Executive Director of the NYS Bridge Authority.

The Village has had two Village Managers since

Mr. Cameron left. Richard Herbek succeeded him and remained until retiring in 2007. Current Village Manager Abraham Zambrano succeeded him as the Village's third Village Manager until his recent resignation. Altogether, the three Village Managers have spanned 44 years of Village government.

## **Local Shopping Bus For Seniors**



Twice a week, Monday and Wednesday, a shopping bus takes Seniors to ShopRite, the bank, and the Post Office. To register to be picked up,

please call Valerie Nolan in the Rec. Dept. at 271-5804.



May, 2015

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

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor

Ann Gallelli, Trustee

Andrew Levitt, Trustee

Brian Pugh, Trustee

Maria Slippen, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager

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## **Senior Club Officers Elected**

Croton's Seniors Club has elected and installed its officers for the coming year. Karen Colombo is the incoming President, succeeding Elizabeth Faranda whose term expired. Pat Mackin is continuing as Vice-President. Other officers continuing their service to the club are John Giglio, Treasurer; Don Divney, Ass't. Treasurer and Bonnie Dietz, Secretary.

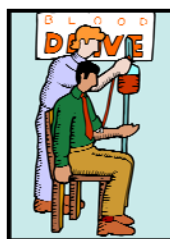
An Installation luncheon was held on April 10th at the Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant. Congratulations to all!

**"LIKE" us on Facebook - [Crotongov](https://www.facebook.com/Crotongov)**

Get up to date information and news on all Village events and happenings. Also, sign-up to receive other village information by going to the Village website at:

[www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov)

## **Blood Drive Coming!**



Please consider signing up to give blood at the upcoming Blood Drive sponsored by the Croton Blood Program Committee. The next Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, May 3, from 9am to 3pm at Croton-Harmon High School.

The blood bank inventories have dropped to low levels over this preceding winter.

Donors must be over age 16 and under 76, at least 110 pounds and healthy. Written parental permission is needed for under age 16 and Doctor's permission for over 76. For information and appointments, call 271-7645 or 271-8449 or go to [communityblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:communityblooddrive@gmail.com).