

[Note: CB&A placed Mr. Croteau in 2010]

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### **Orange City manager stepping down**

By [Mark Harper](#)

Jamie Croteau will be stepping down as Orange City manager at the end of November. Provided by City of Orange City.

ORANGE CITY — Jamie Croteau, who has led city government for five years, will step down at the end of November, she told The News-Journal in a telephone interview Tuesday.

City Manager Croteau informed members of her City Council of her decision to leave in a letter, giving 90 days notice as required by her contract. She is leaving for another professional opportunity, but declined to say where that job is, other than to confirm that it isn't in Volusia County.

"We've got a lot to get done in the next couple of months here," Croteau said, a few hours before a council meeting at which the city was expected to approve a new stormwater assessment and trash-hauling contract.

Croteau was hired in 2010 amid a time of turmoil. She replaced the police chief and fire chief and made other key hirings and firings. She kept after Volusia County to approve a new community redevelopment area for downtown, put in place a new water-rate structure to make improvements to an aging system and is now pursuing a similar project for the stormwater system.

Under her tenure, the city also has begun developing Mill Lake Park, an amenity Mayor Tom Laputka has described as "our Central Park," while also master-planning trails, obtaining grants for sidewalks, adding community events, boosting police training and upgrading the city's fire-insurance rating.

"Anytime you have a good run like she has," Laputka said Tuesday, "you're going to be in demand. Her stock has gone up."

Laputka said her most impressive accomplishment has been hiring talented people and stabilizing the staff. It wasn't an easy task.

Vice Mayor Gary Blair was among the critics, and still believes she let some good people go, but overall Croteau has won over Blair's confidence.

"When she started, I told her I'd give her enough rope to hang herself. She's proven me wrong," Blair said, adding that she's "done a great job."

Bill Crippen, another councilman, added: "She's done a remarkable job. I'm sorry to see her go."

Croteau will be leaving a job that pays her \$133,000. There was no immediate word on plans to replace her, but in her resignation letter she said she wants to work with the council to ensure "a smooth and orderly transition."

Croteau praised the council and her staff.

"I am proud of the progress we have made and the organization I leave behind," her letter states. "I consider myself lucky to have worked with such an amazing team of people."