

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Village of Rhinebeck will be hosting the annual Sinterklaas Day celebration this year on December 1, 2012. Sinterklaas an Old Dutch tradition is a day long event geared towards families that begins at 10:00 am and culminates with a parade that kicks off at 6:00 pm and travels through the downtown business district of Rhinebeck ending around 8:00 pm at the municipal parking lot on East Market Street. Mayor Jim Reardon states, "We have instituted some changes this year designed to address safety concerns we have had in the past. This event has grown significantly over the last several years with people attending from a multi state region."

Reardon goes on to say that, "our number one priority with this event is to address the safety of the participants, attendees and the residents of the community. This year we have instituted a number of changes based on feed back from prior events. This year East Market Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from the traffic light at Route 9 to the exit of the municipal parking lot from 8:00 am until the celebration ends at 8:00 pm. The creation of this pedestrian mall will lead to much improved safety for those moving about the downtown area from event to event and for the street performers entertaining the crowd. Another change this year is that parking on Village Streets this year will only be on one side of the street. We have had serious problems in the past getting emergency vehicles through as the cars on both sides of the street make it impossible for a fire truck and another vehicle to pass. Signs will be placed accordingly and violators will be ticketed and or towed. To offset this loss of parking the Dutchess County Fairgrounds has granted permission for the use of their parking lots adjacent to Mulberry Street. We strongly urge people to carpool and use these lots and then make the short 4-5 block walk into the Village." Access to Rhinebeck Bank will be from Livingston Street during business hours.

In closing Reardon states, "Sinterklaas is a signature event for our Village and we want everyone that attends to experience it and do so in a safe environment. Staging an event of this magnitude requires a tremendous amount of strategy and planning and it goes on all year long. Public safety is paramount when making this happen. I want to thank all of those that have been involved in the planning and I thank all of those attending in advance for their cooperation. Enjoy the day and experience all that the event and the Village of Rhinebeck have to offer." For more information about Sinterklaas visit www.sinterklaasrhinebeck.com