

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mayor Jim Reardon announced today the Rhinebeck Village Board would like to share the following information regarding the 6th Annual Sinterklaas Celebration.

“Sinterklaas is a wonderful event that celebrates Rhinebeck’s’ Dutch heritage and provides a wide range of family activities and fun for all. This years’ event will be held on Saturday December 7th. Over the years this event has grown in popularity and there is a significant increase in the number of people visiting Rhinebeck and the amount of traffic that is generated on this day. People should be aware and plan accordingly. There are events taking place throughout the downtown business district throughout the day and our number one priority is to insure the safety of everyone attending and participating as well as the safety of the businesses and residents. Parking of vehicles is of major importance. Rhinebeck is a small village with a limited amount of municipal parking. This year we will not be closing East Market Street for the entire day. Last year due to the lack of activity on East Market Street and the loss of those parking spots the business community experienced a loss of business. We had expected the event to create a street fair type of atmosphere in the business district and that did not happen, so this year we will not be closing East Market Street. However next week signs will be put in place notifying the public that on Saturday December 7th there will be no parking on East Market Street after 3:00 pm. This will allow us to clear the street in preparation for the Starlight Parade which begins at 6:00 pm at the Starr Library on West Market Street and travels east through the downtown to the municipal parking lot on East Market Street. We also will be placing signs indicating one side of the street parking on some village streets. This is done to make sure that emergency vehicles can negotiate these narrow village streets if needed. Also people need to be aware that New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law prohibit parking within 30 feet of a stop sign. This provides for adequate turning radius for emergency vehicles and anyone not abiding by this law will be ticketed. The Dutchess County Fairgrounds has graciously offered the use of parking lots along Mulberry Street for auxiliary parking and also the Rhinebeck Central School District has graciously offered the use of the parking lots at the high school on North Park Road for overflow parking. We thank both of them for their cooperation and willingness to help. At approximately 5:30 pm Route 9 and Route 308 will be closed to clear the parade route and traffic will be detoured. Anyone that needs to be to destination by a specific time should allow extra time or use an alternate route. Those traveling to Amtrak in Rhinecliff will be affected, plan accordingly. We encourage all to come experience Sinterklaas and see what Rhinebeck and its’ businesses have to offer. With everyone’s cooperation this will be the best Sinterklaas ever and we thank you in advance”.