

Croton residents who cooperated with the village's cleanup efforts by keeping their vehicles off the streets, quickly clearing their sidewalks and adjusting to a delayed sanitation schedule.

We cannot know what Mother Nature or Old Man Winter has in store for us.

On Tuesday, the famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil of Gobbler's Knob, Pa. predicted an additional six weeks of winter. Phil's forecast was contradicted by Westchester's own Cluxatawney Henrietta from Muscote Farm, who predicted an early spring.

While we may hope for mild weather, whichever creature is right, we are ready. On behalf of myself and the Board of Trustees, thank you again to all those that keep Croton going.

**Brian Pugh, Mayor,  
Village of Croton-on-Hudson**

To the editor:

You may be headed out one morning and be mulling the question, "Do the rules of the road apply today?"

This is because you see that stop sign on the corner every day, but sometimes it is tempting to just roll your bicycle, electric bike, motorcycle or car through the intersection without a full stop. But, stop signs always mean stop. The stop sign is there to tell us that traffic will stop no matter the time of day, or day of the week. The stop sign does not take a holiday. There are some signs that tell you when a rule is in effect, however most traffic rules apply all time.

Like the stop sign, the yield to pedestrian sign means that no matter the time of day, or day of the week, drivers and cyclists need to allow pedestrians to

cross the street. The signs are placed near crosswalks to alert drivers and cyclists who are approaching the crosswalk. If you are on the road cover the brake and be prepared to stop.

During the morning and afternoon some crosswalks may be staffed by crossing guards, so those on the road will have the benefit of also seeing a stop sign held aloft by the crossing guard. But crosswalks are there for use at any time of day, and pedestrians are granted the right of way to use the street.

Some speed limits apply all day, but others are timed to the school day. For example, you may be familiar with the segment of Maple Street (Route 129) between Old Post Road South and Olcott Avenue. There is a mid-block crosswalk to allow pedestrians to cross Maple Street, especially children going to or from Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School. There is a school speed limit of only 20 miles per hour that is in effect from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on school days. Other times you may travel at 30 miles per hour. There are other streets in the village with school speed limits, like Gerstein Street, from Wood Road to the end of Gerstein Street where the school zone limit is only 15 miles per hour.

There are times that some drivers are using the streets and may consider exceeding the speed limit. It could be at a time of day when it seems like there is no one else around. The streets are empty and going a little bit faster seems like it could be okay. But, speed limits are there to protect the drivers too. There are other potential hazards, like the alignment of the road, driveways and cross streets, or even wildlife that is common along the village's streets. So, 24/7, stay at or below the speed limit.

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There are also rules like the correct side of the road. Almost all drivers know and obey the rule to only drive on the right side of the road. Similar rules apply to cyclists and pedestrians. Bicycles are governed by the same rules as cars. Ride to the right. And, if you are on a bicycle or using a scooter, stay as far to the right as possible. Cars are then required to pass you without being closer than three feet away.

Pedestrians need to follow a different rule: walk to the left and face oncoming traffic. If you want to know more about rules like these you can visit the New York State Department of Transportation website: <https://www.ny.gov/pedestrian-safety/additional-information#faq039s-and-laws>.

**Marc Albrecht, Member, on behalf  
of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson**

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