

Letters

To the editor:

For the record, and in response to the recent letter from Mr. Bluestein (Handyman), the Cortlandt United team is made up of candidates vying for the six open positions for town office, namely supervisor (Laurie Abbate-Ryan), council (Warren Smith and Tom Walsh), clerk (Kylie-Fitzgerald-Bernard), justice (Robert Chappnick) and, yours truly, for receiver of taxes.

We are not politicians; we are concerned citizens who seek to represent all the people, regardless of party affiliation.

We call ourselves "Cortlandt United" thanks to the combined efforts of the team and dozens of supporters this past spring to garnish (by plenty!) the signatures necessary to qualify for multiple party lines (Republican, Conservative and an offshoot of the former "Independence Party") on the November 2 ballot. Hence, we decided not to call our team "Republican" because Conservative and independent voters may take issue (and vice-versa). Please go to www.cortlandtunited.town for more information.

Much of corporate American calls this strategy "branding." I would also like to point out that "Cortlandt Forward" seems to grasp this concept - they are all registered Democrats yet they make no mention of national party affiliation anywhere on their webpage or campaign material. Mr. Bluestein might be asking them the same thing. Then again, probably not.

Sincerely,

**Peter D. Marengo,
Croton-on-Hudson**

To the editor:

This weekend we celebrate Labor Day. Labor Day has particular significance as a national holiday now--as we have all been awed by the everyday heroism of the essential workers that have kept the gears of our society turning in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the on-going Delta wave.

As we celebrate the coming holiday, let's reflect on the achievements of the working people who built this country and the accomplishments of workers in all fields that make America great. Let's also remember and draw inspiration from the sacrifices of the American labor movement, which has helped to ensure that the prosperity of our country be shared with those who actually do the work.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the community, I want to share our gratitude to our village workforce across all its departments. You have worked so hard to keep our community safe, to keep our village clean and to provide healthy and enriching activities to our residents. On this day when we celebrate American labor, we celebrate you. Happy Labor Day!

Sincerely,

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

To the editor:

It is back to school time of the year, and everyone can benefit from some reminders and tips about what that means for getting around Croton.

When schools re-open we all need to be aware of students on their way to our

schools. The village and school district do what they can, but each of us has a role to play in ensuring our streets are safe for students. Parents are also encouraged, when possible, to have their children walk, bike or take the bus to school rather than driving them; doing so will reduce traffic congestion around school at pick-up and drop-off times.

Parents should begin discussions with their school-age children to reinforce lessons about how to go to and from school. Many students can walk to school, either with their classmates, parents or guardians. Walking is a healthy and environmentally friendly way to travel. Students who walk in the village build a familiarity with their community. A parent or guardian can practice the walk for children who are off to school for the first time, or as a way to refresh lessons and identify changes to the safest routes.

There is also the option of bicycling. Children who are old enough to bicycle on their own should be taught how to safely ride in the street while wearing a helmet, and a route should be established for them. Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School students should check with the school office for a map of preferred bike and scooter routes to school. (Those routes avoid Route 129/Maple Street, which is a busy, congested road not conducive to safe riding.) Like other traffic, these cyclists should be riding with traffic on the right side of the road. They should also be wearing helmets. (It is the law for children under 14, and a good idea for everyone else.) Their bicycles should be equipped with the required reflectors in the front, back and on the wheels. Lights on the bicycle are a valuable addition to increase visibility.

Other students who live farther away can utilize the school bus. The Croton-Harmon school district has already established travel protocols for school buses for the school year. A summary is available in the school opening plan on the district's website.

Drivers need to watch for children walking and bicycling to or from school. Children should be crossing the streets where there are crossing guards and crosswalks, but not every corner has that protection. There are pedestrian and school crossing signs to alert drivers that they are approaching the crossings and that caution is advised. Crossing guards will raise a stop sign to bring traffic to a halt ensuring that children and other pedestrians can safely cross streets. Since crossing guards generally are only on duty during the school year, and then for only arrival and dismissal times, you need to expect that someone may appear at the side of the road for school crossings. Drivers must always yield to pedestrians who are in a crosswalk. But children may also just dart out, so be sure to practice increased awareness.

There are several places in the village that have school speed limits. Signs noting the lower speeds are posted, and drivers should always be looking for traffic signs and following their directions. The lower limits assure that drivers will have the time to come to a complete stop should a hazard quickly arise. Speed limits on other village streets range from 15 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour depending upon the location. When the driver ahead of you is slowing down be sure you match their speed so that you are not tailgating. Always maintain a safe distance from the car ahead of you, as that leading driver may need to stop.

Finally, parents and high school students should try to avoid driving to school. An internal combustion engine contributes to global warming directly, and electric vehicles still add to congestion on the village's streets. The use of cars for school transportation leads to queues of vehicles waiting for the morning drop off or dismissal pick-up. The idling of vehicles for more than three minutes violates the village's code, wastes fuel, and idling has been shown to cause unnecessary engine wear.

Please do your part to make our streets safer, and choose a friendly way for your students to get to school.

**Marc Albrecht, Member,
on behalf of the Village of
Croton-on-Hudson Bicycle &
Pedestrian Committee**

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The Gazette

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