

To the editor:

Croton-on-Hudson's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee will be sharing a series of informational tips with the village that will be educational, enlightening and inspirational.

The first installment is an offering of pointers for navigating the streets during the fall season. We need to adjust how we get around as leaves fall and the days get shorter.

First, we all need to deal with leaves. Homeowners and landscape services are clearing lawns and moving large piles of leaves to the curb for collection by the village. These piles can block sidewalks and the street near the curb.

The committee requests that you do your best to keep sidewalks clear for pedestrians if you are responsible for clearing leaves for collection. You may need to check your piles and sidewalks to be sure your neighbors can still do their walks. If you bicycle, or need to drive, please be aware that leaves can make surfaces slippery and slick. You may need more time to come to a stop on leaf covered streets. Please use additional caution when there are leaves on the street.

Days are getting shorter. Even though we moved the clocks back an hour to gain more daylight in the morning, dusk is coming earlier. You should travel the streets aware that there is less daylight. This means if you are walking you should wear light-colored or reflective clothing, and carry a light to make you more visible to others on the road. Cyclists should also wear high visibility clothing and have reflectors and lights on their bicycles. Be sure you have fresh or fully charged batteries available for your lights. All cyclists are encouraged to wear a helmet when riding to provide protection in case of a fall. Automobile drivers should put their headlights on one hour before sunset and always check your car's headlight switch because daytime running lights may not be adequate and your taillights won't be on.

The angle of the rising and setting sun will cause more glare. Wear sunglasses to improve your vision on sunny days. When there is glare, slow down to be sure that you can see if other things are moving in the right of way.

During this time of year you are more likely to find a dew- or frost-covered windshield in the morning. Allot time in the morning to clear the dew from your car's windows if you will be driving. You should consider a squeegee for your car so that you will not need to idle your engine to warm your windows. As a reminder, the Village Code includes a prohibition on engine idling.

Please remember that because of COVID-19 we should all wear masks and maintain our social distance.

We hope that you found this helpful.

Until the next installment,

**Marc Albrecht, Member,
Croton-on-Hudson Bicycle &
Pedestrian Advisory Committee**