

## **MAYOR'S COLUMN**

The Village and the Chamber of Commerce joined together on Sunday for a "Light up the Town" stroll of the business district followed by an open house at Village Hall. The day culminated in a magical lighting of the Village tree via a dramatic countdown by our youngest residents.

The Trustees' last meeting of the year will be on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. We have completed many projects, both large and small but still have many more issues to tackle not the least of which is the development of the Kensington Road property.

At the December meeting, our new Police Chief Satriale will introduce all five of our new police officers who will be in attendance. We hope you will put a name to the face and welcome them to our community. They are all genuinely excited to be part of the team.

Several topics have come to the fore because of the season. Leaves throughout the Village fell two weeks later than even last year's late prolonged autumn season. The lion's share also fell during Thanksgiving week when several of our crew scheduled time off with their families.

Our public works crews have already completed eight rounds of the Village and are working weekends to catch up.

This year's clean-up has also been particularly difficult because gardeners seem much less vigilant and have piled leaves in the public streets. Many of our neighbors, including Scarsdale, impose heavy fines because this condition presents a real safety issue by narrowing roads, creating slippery road surfaces and clogging drainage basins.

Ideally, leaves should be put inside of the curb line in low rows for efficient pick-up by our vacuum truck. The large piles take extra time and effort to remove and also blow onto neighboring properties. We ask for your help in instructing gardeners on proper procedures so the clean-up can be safe and expeditious.

For many of the same safety concerns, we ask that driveway or sidewalk snow not be plowed onto the public right of way.

The new year will also bring new and more stringent recycling rules promulgated by Westchester County and commencing February 1st. Of particular concern is the requirement that cardboard of any kind be recycled either by collapsing or nesting boxes. The County is adding inspectors at the Yonkers recycling plant and municipalities will be fined and have their truck loads refused if garbage and recyclable materials are comingled.

Garbage, as well as bulk pick-up items, cannot be removed if it is placed in cardboard boxes.

Also, in the near future, the County will be requiring that all trash be placed in clear refuse bags so comingled products will be readily apparent.

The first of the year also signals the new garbage pick-up schedule change. In 2008, Monday/Thursdays routes will revert to Tuesday/Friday routes as planned. A new schedule will be sent out in the next few weeks detailing the switch.

We ask for your vigilance in adhering to the above rules and suggestions. We need all residents to partner with our Department of Public Works to keep the village clean and safe.