

Leaf Collection Reminders



The Public Works Department's yearly leaf collection effort has begun and will continue as often as needed through December.

Each week, the leaf truck on the west side of the Village will begin on West Melrose Street and work south ending on Western Avenue; and the leaf truck on the east side will begin on East Irving Street working north and ending on Quincy Street. Leaves on each block in the Village should be collected once per week, weather permitting.

Here are some reminders for residents and their contractors to assist Village crews to assure a safe and efficient leaf collection operation:

- **Residents on Bradley Lane are required to bag their leaves before placing them at the roadside.** Bradley Lane leaf bags will be collected throughout the week, as part of your normal yard waste collections. **Bagged leaves must be placed in paper bags.** Public Works will not pick up leaves that have been bagged in plastic.
- Sticks and other sharp tree and garden debris should be left loose and placed in separate piles from leaves. Sharp debris can tear the leaf collection hoses or dull the blades, resulting in downtime for the machine to address repairs to the vacuum machinery that can cause delays in the schedule. Please avoid boxing in piles of leaves between cars both for easier accessibility for the collection crews and safety for your vehicles.



YES! Proper placement of leaf piles.



NO ! Please do not place leaf piles in the street.

- Please remember to keep your leaves **OUT OF THE STREET!** Rake leaves as close to the curb as possible without putting them in the roadway gutter. **PLEASE INFORM YOUR LANDSCAPE CREWS OF THIS REQUIREMENT.** Placing leaf piles in the street can cause many problems such as:

- Disrupting traffic - many of our streets are narrow streets with on-street parking. Large piles of leaves extending out into the roadway limits parking and the ability of vehicles, especially school buses, to safely negotiate the streets.
- Pedestrian safety - on streets without sidewalks, pedestrians and traffic are forced to share the same narrow strip of pavement. This is especially dangerous this time of year as sunlight diminishes before many return home from their commutes.
- Disrupting surface drainage - rainstorms can cause leaves and debris to clog storm drains and ditches. This leads to localized flooding.
- Hampering snow removal operations - snow covered leaf piles can become frozen to the roadway surface and can also become extremely heavy, taxing the abilities of our snow plows to move them and slowing down snow clearing operations. Snow plow drivers may also mistake snow-covered leaf pile for snow, spreading the leaves all over the street. Residents then have a difficult time raking these scattered leaves back up.
- Posing a fire hazard to vehicles parked over them - there have been many examples of car fires that were caused by the extremely hot catalytic converters of the cars' exhaust system igniting the dry leaves.
- Becoming very slippery in wet weather - causing hazards to vehicles attempting to stop, start or change direction.

Keeping leaf piles out of the streets prevents these problems. Rest assured that our crews can get to your leaves that are placed on the grass. Any discoloration of the grass is temporary as it is dormant at this time of year.