

Dear Mayor Samwick:

I am very encouraged and agree with the points made in the letters I've read in the Inquirer regarding the restriction of leaf blowers in Scarsdale. As an adjunct to those letters, I'd like to mention the noise hazards created by other gardening machines that are in use as well as the tools of enforcement.

I agree using Police for enforcement is impractical, but perhaps it would be more efficient by creating a real consequences scenario. If landscapers were required to obtain an annual permit/license (nominal fee) were they would sign an agreement to follow village mandated operating guidelines in terms of the equipment used, hours of operation as well as proper basic insurance requirements (to protect the homeowners). This may provide an avenue to communicate with the landscaping community and inform them of the operating rules and codes are in the village. The consequences could then be probation, suspension and revocation based (with fines). A list in good standing, perhaps posted on a website would also be source of customers for those companies that want to do well by our village – as would the companies that have been barred.

I'm sure today if approached a gardener would be ignorant, or would feign ignorance if they were ticketed for using a leaf blower in June. And I can tell you, the summer leaf blower ban is flagrantly violated all summer on my block.

In terms of the equipment being used and the very loud disruptions made by landscapers it is not only the noise from leaf blowers we are hearing. On our 50x100 lots, I highly doubt a 30 inch lawn mower designed for use on a golf course is needed. And weed wackers are noisy and overpowered. Noise levels for this type of equipment should also be restricted. In addition, the sound from these three machines running in close proximity to each other produce an incredible wall of sound which make it very uncomfortable to be outside...I find it an insult as a homeowner that I cannot sit in my own yard when this type of noise is going on.

Finally a message to my neighbors – It is possible to use rakes, brooms and grass clippers to accomplish these tasks...it's an easy and a great way to clear your head, exercise, get fresh air and many times presents an opportunity for a chat with a passerby...

Thank you very much

John Bonanno
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