

**From:** Joan Weissman <[ws1930@aol.com](mailto:ws1930@aol.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 2, 2016 9:39 PM

**To:** Manager's Department

**Cc:** Mayor

**Subject:** Please Help Our Trees

Dear Mr. Pappalardo:

As a lifelong resident of our village who is concerned with protecting and preserving Scarsdale's ecosystem and aesthetic beauty, I am asking you to take action to curtail the ever-increasing trend among local homeowners and landscapers of creating mulch volcanoes and planting trees too far above grade level.

Only healthy, properly watered, drained and aerated soil can sustain our trees. Overly mulched trees cause root rot, suffocation, insect and rodent infestation, disease, stress, tree-girdling, and, ultimately, tree death. Planting trees too far above ground level causes weak root systems that cannot support the tree. Fortunately, there are simple ways to avoid this problem. The public needs to be educated regarding optimal landscape practices. Tree-planting should mimic Nature by keeping the trunk above-ground and the anchor roots just below. This allows a tree to receive the oxygen and water essential to its life and growth. Mulch in moderation is key: A shallow layer, 2 to 4 inches deep, which does not touch the tree trunk, but rather forms a circle at the edge of the root zone—6 inches to one foot away from the trunk—still allows for reduction of weed-seed germination and moisture conservation without suffocating roots by trapping moisture in excessive-mulch collars.

With Scarsdale at the forefront of environmental awareness, this is an issue that surely deserves your attention. I greatly appreciate all your efforts to save and enhance our Village canopy. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in any way. It does, indeed, take a Village to protect our trees.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Weissman  
3 Kingston Road