

From: Bal1998 <bal1998@aol.com>
Date: September 5, 2020 at 1:56:32 PM EDT
To: Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com>
Subject: From Resident Susan Levine...Our Leaf Blower Ban..and NY Times Letter
Saturday 9/5
Reply-To: Bal1998 <bal1998@aol.com>

CAUTION: External sender.

Hello Mayor Samwick...

I hope this weekend will be enjoyable for you and your family..

I have been wishing the summer away for obvious reasons..
but the lovely weather lately has been a blessing..

I am sending you a Copy of a Letter from a newly suburban
resident..printed in today's NY Times..the Real Estate section..
It is self explanatory..but telling.

As someone who has been hoping for years that
Scarsdale would finally gain control over the summer leaf blower
ban..I have to report to you that the violators remain as numerous as always..
and if you get the report from the Police for violations and summonses
issued this summer..they will be no greater than it the past..about 75 by the
end of
September...

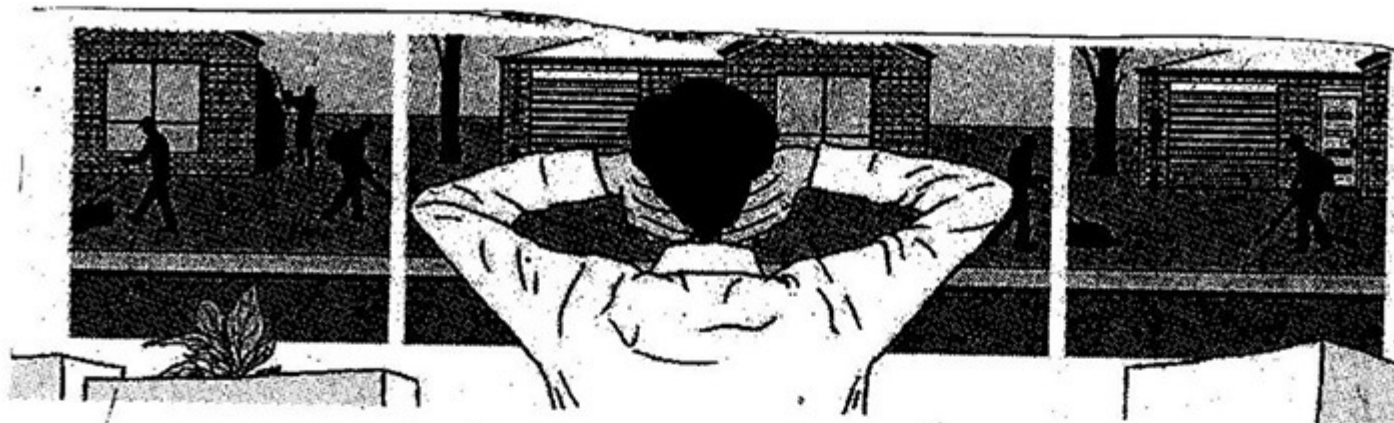
There are dozens of violations that I witness every day...just in the East
Heathcote area..
with no concern and no liability...

I have worked hard on my own block to gain leaf blower ban compliance..
with some success but not complete...
The landscapers are winning and we appear to be powerless
to defeat the noise and the pollution of their blowers..
despite our ordinance.

We need more determined enforcement from the Police..and higher fines.
Perhaps the code enforcement officer needs to direct his efforts
toward the blower ban violators.....

Thanks as always for all that you do..and for listening...

Susan Levine
Ardmore Road



What Can I Do to Reduce the Noise Caused by Suburban Landscapers

I just moved from New York City to the suburbs and assumed I'd need time to adjust to the quiet. I was wrong. The noise from the leaf blowers and lawn mowers is constant and so loud. No sooner has a landscaping crew finished eviscerating the grass at one house than another arrives to mow the next. Does this go on all the time? How do people tolerate it? Are there no regulations about this kind of noise?

You have just discovered a reality about suburban life: It's not so quiet. Landscaping equipment, particularly the commercial-size machines used by professionals, is loud. Leaf-blowing and lawn-mowing season lasts from the early spring through late fall, taking a break in winter, when the snow blowers come out. Suburbanites have been arguing about the issue for years, with some homeowners frustrated by the roar, which they say diminishes their quality of life and pollutes the environment, and

Westchester County, N.Y., for example, enacted temporary bans on leaf blowers so families could work and study.

Check to see if your local municipality has an ordinance in place, as many neighbors may be using the equipment during months that are prohibited. Check to see if any county, state or department rules about noise exist.

Jamie L. Banks, the founder of Quiet Communities, an advocacy organization, suggests keeping a record of when noise occurs, and videotaping or photographing the disruption as it happens. Record the noise levels at your location with your smartphone using a level meter app. (The information gathered could be used to bolster your case should you decide to report your neighbors for noise violations.) But before you take any route, introduce yourself to your neighbors and raise the issue with them.

