

## Donna Conkling

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**From:** Mayor  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 02, 2021 9:37 PM  
**To:** Madelaine Eppenstein  
**Cc:** Robert Cole; Clerk's Department  
**Subject:** Re: Scarsdale Village Health, Safety, and Environmental Policy

Ms. Eppenstein, as always, thank you so much for taking an active interest in Scarsdale matters. We appreciate your taking the time to write and to cite relevant code from neighboring communities. As you know, we have implemented a ban of gas-powered blowers for most months of the year, and we continue to discuss their usage as well as code enforcement. We care deeply about the health, safety and environmental impact. Best, Jane

**Jane Veron**  
**Mayor**  
Village of Scarsdale  
Mayor@scarsdale.com  
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On Nov 2, 2021, at 1:56 PM, Madelaine Eppenstein <meppenstein@eppenstein.com> wrote:

**CAUTION:** External sender.

Dear Mayor Veron, and Village Manager Cole,

Across the village concerned residents are wondering what happened to the fall weekend "noise" holiday as provided in L.L. 4-2021, <https://ecode360.com/SC0993/laws/LF1319112.pdf>. The amended law offering residents a couple of days relief from the toxicity of gas powered leaf blowers (GLBs) is not being taken seriously by landscapers, and the April press release in which the Village announced the new regulation is not an effective compliance tool in the long term (<https://www.scarsdale.com/DocumentCenter/View/7063/New-Gas-Powered-Leaf-Blower-Law-PDF?bidId=>). Nor were residents meant to be the enforcement arm of the Village, put in the position of having to call on the SPD to seek relief from the deafening noise, toxic emissions and particulates of gas leaf blowers during the summer months and fall weekend timeouts.

Already piles of leaves, pine needles, and grass clippings are massing in the streets, and flooding rains are washing quantities into the storm sewers – the safety hazards enabled by a decades long policy of permissive landscaper blower use run amok. Some residents have even noted that leaf piles were not cleared for the safety of trick-or-treating youngsters.

As noted in a recent Scarsdale Forum report, <https://www.scarsdaleforum.com/Reports/download/1091>, without a full GLB ban and discontinuance of street leaf vacuuming, violations committed by a largely recalcitrant industry will continue as before. Health and environmental harms will continue to plague the community until all GLBs (both shoulder-held and the ever more powerful wheeled-pushed models) and the industry practice of blowing leaves into the streets are banned completely.

Meanwhile, Scarsdale is becoming more isolated among the more environmentally forward looking Westchester municipalities (like Larchmont, <https://villageoflarchmont.org/leaf-blower-code/>, and recently Rye, <https://mailchi.mp/5ec3b149fae4/rye-sustainability-spring-newsletter-2089822?e=9cfb1fd3d7>). Instead, Scarsdale should be a leader in sustainability and climate resilience, and should be adopting more environmentally rational policies and enforcing its own regulations.

Sincerely,  
Madelaine Eppenstein, Resident  
18 Autenrieth Road  
914.643.9444 (temporary)