

Donna Conkling

From: malenitb@verizon.net
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 8:48 PM
To: Clerk's Department
Subject: Potential Discontinuation of Grass Clipping Pick-up

Re: Potential Discontinuation of Grass Clipping Pick-up

Dear Mayor Mark and the Board of Trustees,

I am writing in response to the recent Press Release issued by the Deputy Village Manager's office concerning the proposal to exclude grass clippings from the organic yard waste materials eligible for curbside pick-up by the Village's Sanitation staff.

When my schedule permits, I "grass cycle" when mowing my lawn and the effect on our grass is usually good - especially after a good rain. My wife and I practice organic vegetable gardening, we use only organic fertilizer such as milorganite on our lawn, we use no pesticides, and we weed our lawn by hand.

While I appreciate the Village's commitment to encourage residents to practice sustainable gardening and other environmentally friendly practices such as grass mulching and composting, I feel very strongly that all Village residents continue to voluntarily choose between grass mulching or bagging their grass clippings for pick-up for the following reasons:

1. Based on our experiences both grass mulching and bagging our cut grass (we use a grass mulching mower that is also equipped with a bagging feature), we have found that to properly grass mulch, lawns must be mowed on a consistent schedule (e.g., every week in the summer). For many Village residents who cut their own lawns, this can be difficult. Because my wife and I work full time, it is a challenge for us to care for our garden and lawn on a regular, weekly basis. Grass mulching on a lawn that has not been cut in two or more weeks is generally ineffective, aesthetically unpleasing, and tends to suffocate the grass.
2. For residents with small lot sizes, the composting of bagged grass is not really an option because of limited space.
3. I think disputes between neighbors may increase because of the placement of compost piles of mulched grass that will continue to grow in size over time.
4. For our senior neighbors who choose not to grass mulch or compost, if curbside pick-up of grass clippings is discontinued, the physical effort for them to bring bagged grass to the Village Recycling Center will be unduly burdensome.
5. Discontinuing curbside pickup of grass clippings will encourage illegal dumping of grass clippings.

If the Village discontinues curb side pick up of grass clippings, Village residents will no longer have a choice in the matter. Such a decision would be unfair to all residents.

Appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely, Robert Malenitza