

Donna Conkling

From: Bal1998 <bal1998@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 8:10 AM
To: Clerk's Department; Steve Pappalardo
Subject: From Resident Susan Levine...About the Leaf Blower Ban

CAUTION: External sender.

Hello Village Trustees and Village Manager..

For reasons unknown.. I was unable to speak or be recognized on the Zoom meeting last night..
(although I raised my hand)..I regret not speaking..since I had a lot to say....

First..I believe that a large percentage of Scarsdale residents Do Not Know that there is a Summer Gas Leaf Blower Ban from June 1-Sept 30...
NEW residents certainly do Not know about the Ban...so there's that issue.

I have been waging a one woman battle on my own street for decades to achieve summer blower ban compliance and get my neighbors to adhere to the 4 month ban...without success...despite personal notes left in mailboxes.. and phone calls..and speaking to them directly...and to their gardeners. The gardeners tell me that "everyone does it" so they will do it too..use the Blowers...Only MY gardener is forbidden to use the blowers in the summer.

Enforcement has been a failure for reasons we all know.
I could have issued more summonses in two weeks by driving around the village than are issued all summer....75-85 per season....

Second...the Fines are too low. Gardeners chuckle over a \$75 fine.
It is meaningless to them..just the cost of doing business...
\$250 would matter and I think that is what the fine should be...going forward.
The Code should include a \$250 fine for anyone defying the Ban...Period.

Third....Our very smart Village Manager Steve's suggestion/decision on hiring a Code Enforcement Officer to attack the compliance problem is the most important part of the change

we must make...

Actually catching the offenders in the act and issuing a summons will go a long way toward letting the gardeners know that we mean what we say about enforcement.

Until now...that has Not been the case and compliance was minimal. For decades.

Fourth....until homeowners were forced to be home for long periods of time...this year..for the first time ever... they did not realize how invasive and damaging the use of Glass Leaf Blowers is... They previously had never seen their gardeners or heard the terrible noise they make with their blowers...or understood the pollution story...

I believe that is why there was very little compliance... Residents did not understand what the blower ban was all about.. or that there Was a 4 month summer Ban....They just wanted a nice lawn and clean driveway and that was that...

**Please also remember that only about 1/3 of our residents read The Scarsdale Inquirer or subscribe to on-line news at Scarsdale10583....Despite the amazing efforts of Jane Veron and her committee to improve communication within the Village...our residents remain largely uninformed ...and the Summer Leaf Blower Ban is just one issue they know nothing about...or knew nothing about...until Now...

Many do not even know that we have a New Library.

I rest my case.

Thanks for listening.

Susan Levine
Ardmore Road