

Sally Roberts

From: James Barney
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 10:44 AM
To: Kathleen Gill; Sally Roberts
Subject: DPW response regarding Memo about Bagging Leaves

This has been proposed several times while I have been employed here over 20 years and there are some points to make in regard to the memo.

Leaf piles DO take up parking....

- However, these piles continue to pack down as the rain, vehicles and elements beat on them. Bagged leaves are mostly fluffy and cannot be packed tightly into the paper bags because the bags rip. A pile of leaves takes up probably 1/3 of the space that bagging the same pile would make. Most neighborhoods with sidewalks would not accommodate that many bags street-side and they would be lined up in the parking spaces anyway.
 - For reference, 5 “Home Depot” leaf bags holds just over ½ cu. Yard, for the most part this remains dry and unpacked which prevents it from compacting into the dump trucks. 10 yards of leaf bags, in theory, is 100 leaf bags.
 - 100 leaf bags (10ynds) would take up between 50-80 linear feet in front of a home if stacked single file, maybe half of that if doubled.
 - 10yrd leaf pile before compacting from elements would be approximately 10ft long x 9x
 - VoM Dump trucks have a 10-yard capacity which should be 100 leaf bags, but that is impossible to compact into a dump truck, they are too “fluffy”, however, we can fit almost a 30-foot-long leaf pile into a single dump truck.

Piles over a month...

- Each section of this village was picked up at least 3 times prior to Christmas eve. That's 2x a month. Piles were not left for more than an average of 2 weeks unless they were inaccessible for whatever reason, i.e. cars parked.

Catch basins being blocked....

- We are aware there can be issues from leaves around or on the basins, and we are diligent in checking and cleaning the areas where this could be hazardous.

Leaf piles covered in snow...

- After Christmas eve, we went through the entire Village 2x, and as of Friday 1/9/26, we had been through a third time. The snow did not prevent us from continuing leaf pickup, the holiday schedule and staffing did.

Leaf pickup defers other work...

- The sign department is still only one man, we would not be sending an entire highway department to clean signs if we finish leaves early. There is other highway work that could start earlier than planned if the opportunity arises.
- Cleaning Catch basins during hurricane season when leaves are actively falling is counterproductive. Water is needed to clean basins properly and it would freeze in the street and the vac truck, during the colder winter months which would cause damage to the truck and could cause a hazard on the roadway. We clean basins the months that we clean them, March/April-June, because it is the most efficient and practical period to do so. We cleaned the most basins ever in one year this year and the truck we own couldn't handle it. The truck needed extensive repairs. This truck was purchased by the previous administration solely for the tasks we performed, not for expanded work. Cleaning more basins is not practical for the staffing or equipment we own.
- Cleaning downtown sidewalks is a responsibility of one Parks Department employee, it is not monitored by DPW, nor does it coincide with leaf pickup scheduling. Street sweeping of the downtown area can only be performed in early hours prior to 7am as almost half of Mamaroneck Avenue has vehicles parked by 7am every day.

Bagging will decrease the pickup time...

- If all the leaves are bagged, is it suggested that staff pick these bags up by hand?
 - If yes, the 20-50 individually stuffed and unknown weighted bags could be over 50lbs each. There would most likely be an increase in work related injuries, as well as many bags left behind if too heavy.
 - If no, then the same equipment and machinery and staff would be performing the same operation, only picking up bags instead of piles. There would be no significant decrease in pickup time except for the final raking/blowing of leaves.
- If all the leaves are bagged, is the suggestion that we use our already stressed sanitation truck fleet to compact the leaves? There aren't any other trucks at a decent working height that a human can throw hundreds of bags into a day.
 - This would restrict leaf pickup to starting after Sanitation routes were finished. (after 11am the earliest)
- As of 12/22, there were still contractors cleaning yards in Orienta and Shore acres, so we would still have leaves to pick up after Christmas, regardless of the DPW process.

We haul a tremendous volume of leaves from our community's properties in comparison to neighboring communities where it may or may not be practical. Bagging leaves sounds great on paper and may have some environmental benefits, but logically and fiscally it isn't going to change anything.

Thanks,

James Barney
General Foreman
Public Works
Village of Mamaroneck
(914)351-6380

