

No leaving leaves behind in Pittsford

Beginning at the end of each October, our Public Works Department becomes extremely busy with leaf collection. Every year brings new challenges, as often the falling of leaves can be unpredictable due to the Rochester area's temperamental climate. For 8 to 10 weeks, leaves fall rapidly and our crews work hard to make sure that they are picked up in a consistent and timely manner to meet residents' expectations.

This year, crews were extremely committed to stay on top of leaf collection and not fall behind. The goal was to be at each resident's house every two weeks. I am proud to report that our crews met and, in many cases, exceeded this goal by staying ahead of schedule. At the height of the leaf season, we had upwards of 8 four-man crews around town picking up leaves six days a week. Crews were also slightly aided by the manner in which leaves came down this fall. Leaves fell in a more staggered manner due to higher than normal rainfall and the lack of a hard frost until later in the season. Crews began the season earlier than anticipated and, therefore, were able to visit homes more frequently.

Adding to this season's success was a new website application that allowed residents to see exactly where crews were working and when they would visit their neighborhood. This application helped keep residents and town staff updated on the exact location of our crews, helping residents plan ahead. Residents can still use this application by visiting www.townofpittsford.org.

So far, this season, our leaf crews have picked up approximately 35,000 cubic yards of leaves. To give you an idea of the size, that amount would fill a regulation football field up to 16 feet high and/or would fill Pittsford's Community Library more than 3 ½ times.

After crews pick up the leaves, they begin the recycle process (our leaves are 100% recycled). Leaves are placed in tub grinders and turned into compost. Residents are welcome to use this compost for mulch or to add to their gardens. Beginning in spring, compost is available and can be found on East Street behind the Little League fields or at our Highway garage on Golf Avenue.

Pittsford crews did a tremendous job this year and I want to personally thank each and every one of the men and women working in our Public Works Department. There is no rest for the weary as crews are already out salting and plowing roads. Some crews will continue to collect leaves. Our plow trucks will go around leaf piles and leaf crews will continue to pick up leaves until they are cleared – regardless if they are covered in snow.

As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions about leaf collection. I can be reached directly at bcarpenter@townofpittsford.org or feel free to stop in and see me at Town Hall.