

Mow Don't Rake

The annual leaf collection by crews for Sylvania Township began Oct. 21 and will continue on its last sweep on the Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

A specific advance schedule of when your neighborhood will be visited by the crew can't be given. The rate of completing the task is often driven by weather conditions.

Heavy rains or even an early snow make the leaves heavy and slows the process. The goal of the road department crews is to complete three cycles through the township.

For those who have tired of the annual task or raking leaves to the street's edge, a number of people suggest simply mowing over them once or twice to provide nutrients to your lawn.

Erica Buri, a naturalist and interim head of The Olander Park System, said she regularly mows over the leaves on the ground at her home. She added that it is good for any soil, but particularly for the sandy soil in many parts of the township.

She said some raking is done at her home, but only to collect leaves to put on the compost pile or for use as insulation and nutrition of her plant beds.

Numerous websites also address the benefits of mowing leaves into the soil rather than raking them for collection.

Gregory Huffman, public works manager, cautions against mixing leaves with brush or other garden waste. Leaves should not be placed in the street nor should they be in plastic bags.

More information is available at the Road Department page.

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