



AMHERST HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO TACKLE LEAF PICKUP

Crews Deal with Late Leaf Drop - Complicated by Early Snowfall

The Town of Amherst Highway Department reminds residents that the leaf collection effort will continue for as long as needed. Residents are asked to leave leaf piles at the front of their property, not in the roadway, and crews will continue pickup until all collection is complete.

“This fall brought a set of weather conditions that significantly affected the timing of leaf drop and, in turn, the Town of Amherst’s leaf-collection schedule. As trees held their leaves longer, and snow, a lot of snow, came earlier, our department had to shift to snow removal and treating roadways. However, crews continue to do leaf pickup as conditions allow and will do so until the last pile is picked up,” said Highway Superintendent Steve Floss.

Climate data for fall 2025 shows why this year unfolded differently. According to the National Weather Service, September 2025 averaged 65.3°F, nearly two degrees above normal (63.4°F), with the agency noting it was a “warm and dry September” and that the final three weeks felt “summer-like.” October followed the same trend, averaging 53.0°F, which was 1.3°F warmer than normal. These warmer-than-average temperatures delayed the natural senescence of many native trees in Amherst. Simply put, leaves stayed green and attached longer than usual.

“As a result of this year’s weather pattern, several species that typically shed their leaves in mid- to late October did not do so until early November. That later-than-normal leaf drop collided directly with the onset of winter weather. Almost as soon as the leaves fell, they were abruptly buried under the region’s first significant snowfall, which arrived earlier than expected,” added Superintendent Floss. “Despite these challenges, I want to assure residents that leaf collection in Amherst is still ongoing. Our crews have been out as often as possible, navigating both the unusual timing of the leaf drop and the complications created

by early snow cover. This department takes pride in our work, and the members of the Amherst Highway Department remain fully dedicated to doing everything possible to complete leaf pickup safely and efficiently.”

Amherst residents are thanked for their patience and understanding as crews adapt to the weather patterns that shaped this year’s leaf-collection season. Amherst residents can continue to place leaves at the curb, and our crews will service every neighborhood.

For additional information, please visit bit.ly/AmherstHighwayLeafCollection or call (716) 631-7117.



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