

Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

The Environmental Conservation Board wishes you a Happy Fall!

In keeping with our charge of resource protection education, we offer a few insights into the magic of trees and their beautiful leaves! CONSERVATION TIP: "Leaf" Them Alone



As autumn approaches, we look forward to the beauty of leaves turning orange, red, and yellow. People travel to Ontario County from all over to see our trees turn to vivid colors in the fall. While most people enjoy the beauty of this time of year, they also dread the raking and clean-up that comes along with the leaves falling. It has been drilled into our heads that we need to clean up these leaves otherwise we will kill our luscious grass and will be left with a brown, messy yard in the spring. Think again! By mowing several times in the fall, this will break the leaves down into smaller pieces, creating the perfect mulch for your yard, adding nutrients to make your lawn even better next year! Some people use those leaves for weed control in their vegetable garden. If you still want to rake those leaves, move them to your backyard, woods, or hedgerow for them to decompose naturally through the winter for compost for the garden in the spring. Are you familiar with the

Town of Canandaigua's Yard Waste Recycling Program? Bring those leaves and other natural materials down to the Transfer Station area if you have no other place to let them decompose. The mulch made from the leaves and other tree material is available to residents for the taking at no charge. Fill that pick-up with mulch for your flower beds! So easy.....who knew! Also check out ontariocountyrecycles.org for more information. In addition, think of some fun crafts you could do with kids with all those beautiful leaves. So, instead of despising your fall clean-up think of those leaves as a natural nutrient source that can be used in a variety of ways.

Adapted from OCSWCD Newsletter August 2018

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A FOREST FOR BETTER HEALTH

Most of us sense that taking a walk in a forest is good for us. We take a break from the rush of our daily lives. We enjoy the beauty and peace of being in a natural setting. Now, research is showing that visiting a forest has real,

quantifiable health benefits, both mental and physical. Even five minutes around trees or in green spaces may improve health. Think of it as a prescription with no negative side effects that's also free.

HEALTH BENEFITS FROM FORESTS

- Boosts immune system
- Lowers blood pressure
- Reduce stress
- Improves mood
- Increases ability to focus, even in children with ADHD
- Accelerates recovery from surgery or illness
- Increases energy level
- Improves sleep

Taken from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

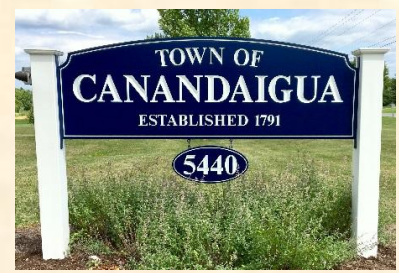
Follow this [Link](#) to read more for further information on 'How Do Forests Make Us Healthier.'



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www.TownofCanandaigua.org



From the Town Assessor: Income Verification Program for Seniors

All senior citizens that are receiving the Enhanced Star Exemption and have not signed up for the Income Verification Program must do so in order to continue to receive the Enhanced Star Exemption on their 2019 school taxes.

Included in the 2018/19 New York State Budget Bill, was a provision that requires all senior citizens who receive the Enhanced STAR Exemption to participate in the Income Verification Program. In the past this provision was optional. However, New York State is now making this program mandatory.

By signing the IVP application, the NYS

Department of Taxation and Finance will determine an income for owners of the property and base their eligibility for the Enhanced STAR on that income determination.

Local assessors no longer have control over granting any STAR Exemptions (Basic or Enhanced). While we will be more than willing to help property owners fill out the IVP application, we unfortunately may not be able to assist in all cases.

In addition to filing the IVP application, all seniors who file for the Low-Income Senior Exemption must file their renewal applications in the normal manner. In the past, if a senior citizen was eligible for the Low-Income Senior Exemption, they were automatically granted the Enhanced STAR Exemption.

New York State has now unlinked these two exemptions and eligibility for the Low-Income Senior Exemption does not automatically mean one is enrolled in the Enhanced STAR Exemption.

To be eligible for the 2019 Enhanced STAR Exemption, a property owner must turn 65 in 2019 and have a combined income of under \$86,300. To be eligible for the 2019 Low-Income Senior, a property owner must turn 65 in 2019, have lived in their house 1 year, and have an income under ~\$29,900. We encourage all seniors that are close to one of these income limits to contact our office even if you believe you may not qualify - New York State's definition of 'income' is not consistent from one program to the next.

Don't forget about the 3rd annual Halloween @ Onanda coming up soon. This free, family-friendly event will take place from 2-5 pm on Saturday, October 27th at Onanda Park on West Lake Road. See attached press release and flyer for details.

Employee Appreciation Luncheon

Thank you to the Town Democrat and Republican Committees for sponsoring an Employee Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, October 9th. The event was held in the Highway Facility. Town of Canandaigua staff, board and committee members, and elected officials all enjoyed a lunch prepared by the Democrat and Republican Committee members, complete with freshly baked apple crisp. Thank you! Everyone appreciated the lunch and the support of the committees.

Halloween @ Onanda



Saturday, October 27, 2018, 2-5 PM