**2023 Leaf Collection begins Monday, October 16**

 During peak leaf season, bulk leaf collection by vacuum machine will be performed by the DPW crew. Prior to and after bulk collection, leaves must be delivered to the compost area at the Brush Collection site at Lake Marion.

**Fall Schedule**

Leaf collection by vacuum machine will normally begin on the third Monday in October and continue through the last Friday in November. These dates may be adjusted depending on the leaf fall each particular year and by other needs of the department. Crews will make every effort to maintain a schedule that provides the service to every home once each week during the leaf season.

 Please be aware that vacuum leaf collection will cease if there is any type of frozen precipitation. The vacuum machines are unable to pick up leaves that have become frozen to the ground or are exceptionally heavy from water. Freezing rain, sleet, or snow will halt the vacuum collection of leaves; the vacuum attachments will be removed and the equipment converted for snow removal operations. After this point, loose leaf piles cannot be collected. If the weather forecast is questionable, residents are strongly urged to mulch leaves or transport to the collection site.

 **Vacuum Collection**

Please rake leaves into a windrow **behind** the curb and in the terrace (the area between the sidewalk and curb), **but do not place leaves in the street.** Leaves in the street are more likely to clog inlet drains, cause street flooding, and present a potential safety hazard for children to play in the streets.

**Please DO NOT include any other yard waste debris in the leaf pile.** The vacuum machines are unable to collect twigs, branches, plants, pumpkins or other compostable material as these plug the vacuum resulting in pickup delays and costly repairs. **Leaf piles with these items will not be collected.**

The leaf vacuum is designed to reach out 8 feet behind the curb to pick up your leaves, please assist our crew by not piling leaves around obstacles such as street signs, fire hydrants, and trees. You can also be of assistance trying to park your vehicle away from areas where leaf pickup will be occurring. Temporary no parking signs will be posted to aid in leaf collection if needed.

**Alternative methods**

The preferred alternative to raking is to mulch them with your lawn mower. It is easier than raking. It is free food for your lawn. There are no pile of leaves to blow around or get covered by snow. And it is fewer leaves your tax dollars have to move. Another alternative is to deliver them to the compost area at the Lake Marion Brush Collection Site. Just remember to tarp any open loads and to empty and remove any bags from the site.

Please remember that burning leaves is not permitted in the Village of Mazomanie.

Brush pick up will continue to be the first Monday of the month until the first snowfall.

The DPW crew will make one trip for a spring cleanup leaf collection in April.