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www.townofcamden.com

## MEMORANDUM

TO: All Camden Residents  
FROM: Richard E. Maly, Mayor  
DATE: November 14, 2011  
RE: **SUSPENSION OF LEAF COLLECTION SERVICES**

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Over the past several years, the Town of Camden has been vacuuming leaves which residents swept to the curb in a few high foliage density areas of the Town; i.e., Chapelcroft, Main Street, and a few other streets accented by mature trees. This has been a service provided by the Town of Camden for the convenience of our residents.

In order to collect the leaves, we had been using our street sweeper—a piece of equipment which is not designed to collect leaves. Consequently, the street sweeper has been repaired on multiple occasions at a cost of over \$4,000.

A proposal to purchase a leaf vacuuming machine was brought before the Town Council on November 7, 2011. While Council did approve further research into the purchase of a specific leaf vacuuming device and provided the Town Manager with the authority to spend up to \$7,500, there existed significant opposition to such a purchase by our citizens. The primary reason for opposition was the need to conserve Town funds in order to apply such to debts which currently exist.

Moreover, citizens addressed that an alternative to Town sponsored leaf collection now exists because our trash contractor, Allied Waste, now collects yard waste.

It is important to note that the specific leaf vacuuming device for which the Town Manager was provided authority to research and potentially purchase is no longer available—it was sold.

Accordingly, Town sponsored leaf collection services have been suspended for this year. We will consider re-visiting this issue next year after an assessment of the Town financial standing.

In the interim, all residents will be responsible for disposing of their leaf waste in the same manner as yard waste disposal according to the schedule provided on the town website. **Green trash bags may be utilized for leaf collection until January 1, 2012, at which time only bags specific to leaves or yard waste may be used.** It is very important that leaves do not find their way into our storm drains—if such occurs, the obstruction can cause extensive damage to streets and homes.

I ask that neighbors physically able to rake and bag leaves offer assistance to those who are not capable; it is a terrific show of camaraderie when one neighbor helps another. I see this concept in action in many areas of our community...it is great to see and hear

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about. It's what makes our small community so special and frankly is what attracted me to move here.

I apologize for the short notice regarding this issue, but I wanted to make sure every citizen understands why we are taking this approach. Should you have any questions about the "what and the why" regarding this decision, please feel free to call me directly or to contact Mr. Plumley.

In advance, thank you for your cooperation and please know that we are doing what we believe is best for our town balanced with the fiscal responsibility you have entrusted to us.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard E. Maly". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard E. Maly, Mayor  
Town of Camden  
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