

August 3, 2010

Now is the Time!!!! How do the leaves look?

August is a great month to examine your trees. The leaves should be dark green; the crown should be full of leaves.

As the foliage is inspected, here are some questions to find answers to:

1. Did the tree have a crown full of leaves after the leaf out period in the spring?
2. If the crown is not full, what percentage is without leaves?
3. What about the color of the leaves, yellowing, brown spots?
4. Are the leaves being eaten?

If the tree did not leaf out, it is most likely dead and should be removed. If the crown is declining, why? The heat from this exceptionally hot and dry summer could have taken a toll on the health of the tree. The best way to find the answers is to call a Certified Tree Expert or a Certified Arborist. They can help you determine what should be done with your trees.

Safety to your family, your property and the public is the most important action to consider. The Borough of Franklin Lakes is concerned about hazard trees! Property owners are responsible for all of the trees on their property, all the way to the road. If a tree has died, it might not be a hazard immediately; but, as the roots begin to decay, the tree becomes unstable. The greatest concern for the Borough of Franklin Lakes, is trees that have the potential of injury to the public. Any hazardous tree that has the potential to fail and injure someone or damage property, should be removed. Property owners should not neglect their duty to protect the public from their hazard trees.

A Tree Removal Permit is required to remove any tree, dead or alive, that is 8 inches or greater in diameter, 3 feet above the ground.

The Borough of Franklin Lakes does not own the trees in front of your house. Many trees were planted as part of subdivision agreements. The maintenance of these trees is the responsibility of the property owner. These trees should be pruned to maximize their aesthetic appeal. They should also be pruned to keep the roads clear. There should not be any branches lower than 12 feet. The truck drivers, clearing roads of snow, complain at times, that the branches hit their side mirrors.