

**From:** [candacevessella@comcast.net](mailto:candacevessella@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Ann Marie Townshend](#)  
**Cc:** [Candace Vessella](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed amendment to noise ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 1:55:08 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Hi Ann Marie: I wanted to weigh in on this issue in advance of the City Council meeting. Please see my email to the Mayor. Thanks for your consideration,  
Candace

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**From:** candacevessella@comcast.net [mailto:candacevessella@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2020 1:49 PM  
**To:** Ted Becker  
**Cc:** Candace Vessella (candacevessella@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Proposed amendment to noise ordinance  
**Importance:** High

Ted:

I saw this on the City Council agenda. As a Park Commissioner for the City of Lewes, it seems unreasonable. What is the genesis of this and how will it affect the city's own contractors who do city park maintenance? **I do not support this.**

Presentation and possible action on an ordinance to amend Chapter 132: Noise, of the Lewes Municipal Code regarding gas-powered leaf blowers

[I.5. Lewes Noise Ordinance re Leaf Blowers 132-3](#)

Thank you for your consideration,

Candace

**From:** [Theodore Becker](#)  
**To:** [Ann Marie Townshend](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Blowers  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 3:44:48 PM

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Here is the email from Double E Lawn Care, Tommy Engel

-----Original Message-----

From: TOMMY ENGEL <engtom7@aol.com>  
To: Ted.becker@verizon.net  
Sent: Wed, Sep 9, 2020 3:00 pm  
Subject: Blowers

Hey Ted, good talking today. I'm in between jobs and don't have too much time to do proper research, but below I'm just throwing out some talking points for you to discuss with council for tonight's meeting about possible ban of 2cycle/gas blowers.

Running a lawn service mowing on average 25-30 yards per day... the battery blowers technology is not there yet for commercial operators. I will admit they have come along way in the past couple years and I feel they will be the future of commercial companies in the near future.

I purchased a Dewalt and a Stihl blower in the last 3 years for my personal house. My reason was to put them through a trial run to switch over my company to battery. Although I was very impressed, In my mind, they are just not ready for the abuse for the commercial side.

I'm all about switching to battery blowers/ trimmers. Our company will be on the forefront once they are capable of commercial abuse.

Below are some talking points:

- Batteries do not last a full 8-10 workday
- Lack of power..... especially for leaf removal and wet grass
- Cost for a commercial contractor to have to switch equipment once they cross City limits
- If we had to do a large leaf removal job with battery blowers- that \$600 job could turn into \$700-800 due to time
- Not many Dealership to work on equipment

Positives:

- Quieter
- Reduces pollution
- Save \$ on fuel And possible maintenance
- Light weight
- I feel that as the technology improves, more manufacturers will jump in. This will drive performance up and cost down.
- A battery charger that could plug into vehicle would be great if cost effective
- Possibly ban the use of 2 cycle blowers.... unless you have a commercial license???? Just a thought

We have been talking about our maintenance guy (does weeding on a 14 day schedule) switching to battery blower/trimmer next year since they are used little during the day.

Hope this helps Ted

I'm always available to discuss any topics

Tommy Engel

Sent from my iPhone



# Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association

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October 21, 2020

Honorable Theodore Becker  
Mayor, City of Lewes  
[tbecker@ci.lewes.de.us](mailto:tbecker@ci.lewes.de.us)

Dear Mr. Becker and Members of Lewes City Council:

I have been made aware of the proposed ordinance to amend the municipal code of the City of Lewes to ban the operation of gasoline-powered landscaping equipment that uses a 33 two-stroke engine. The proposal, if passed, would be effective on December 31, 2022.

I applaud the Council's efforts to reduce both greenhouse emissions and noise in Lewes. The green-industry is pushing hard for manufacturers to improve upon the equipment currently available to the trade. This includes equipment with increased battery life and charging capabilities, while delivering the power and run time necessary to get the job done. Unfortunately, the technology is not there yet.

If the technology and equipment is not available to the trade by your proposed date, the customer will ultimately shoulder the burden. Increased time and manpower needed to complete the job, without the assistance of the current equipment available, will increase the cost extended to the homeowner, community, and municipality. I hope Lewes City Council will reconsider the proposed ordinance and revisit it when the necessary technology and equipment are available.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valann Budischak', written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Valann Budischak  
Executive Director

**From:** [Theodore Becker](#)  
**To:** [Jim berrigan](#)  
**Cc:** [Ann Marie Townshend](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Leafblowers  
**Date:** Saturday, November 7, 2020 6:25:03 PM

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Jim

Thank you for writing, your letter will be placed in the official record on this matter.

Regards

Ted

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 7, 2020, at 6:05 PM, Jim berrigan <[jimberrigan@comcast.net](mailto:jimberrigan@comcast.net)> wrote:

Dear Mayor and City Council members,

I would like to voice my opinion concerning the noise and air pollution that leaf blowers produce in Lewes.

I am in favor of any legislation you may pass concerning possible restrictions on the noise and the air pollution that is produced by the current lack of mufflers or equipment to stop the noise/air pollution.

The landscapers do a lot of work in our neighborhood and I appreciate that fact. However, they have not taken any action whatsoever to keep up with the times and do what they could to address this issue. Nor do most of them provide any type of earmuffs to their workers to protect their hearing when using said equipment.

The best part of possible legislation is the fact that any cost incurred would only be passed on to the people who use the

services, unlike other legislation that forces the entire community to pay the cost for the benefit of only those who use it. For example:

School tax: Paid for by all but used only by those who have children in the schools.

Bicycle paths: Paid for by all citizens but only used by bicycle riders and those who walk the path(s).

Recycling 2x a week: Extra cost incurred by twice a week collection is paid for by all but mostly benefits those who rent their properties on the beach side.

Leaf collection: Paid for by all but only benefits those who have leaves piled up in the street.

There are many examples but my point is that if you pass something to lower the decibels and air pollution that would also place costs fairly.

I also understand that the landscapers have already expressed their displeasure with any possible legislation but perhaps if they understood it would benefit them to be part of the solution instead of being part of the problem it would help.

Any legislation you could pass would help to maintain Lewes' reputation as one of the best small cities in the WORLD!!

I would like this communication to be read

or placed into the public record.

James J Berrigan  
112 Hornbill Ct  
Lewes, DE 19958



To Lewes City Council

Thank you for taking the time to look at the noise and pollution associated with gas operated machines related to the landscape industry specifically backpack blowers. We here at Bella Terra understand the noise is of concern to homeowners and businesses. We have changed our mowing operation hours to start at 8am to help with this.

Our company attends the GIE Expo every fall in Louisville Kentucky to view new equipment as well as attend continuing education classes. We believe the industry is moving in the direction of electric/battery powered equipment of all sizes. We are in the process of converting our handheld equipment (string trimmers, hedge shears, stick edgers) to battery powered equipment. While at the show we have the opportunity to demo the new backpack blowers that are battery operated and we have come to the conclusion that 1 they are better than they were a few years ago. 2 they are not powerful enough to move the debris ie leaves wet grass etc. 3 the battery life is not long enough for the commercial trade.

With this all being said we continue to look at backpack blowers every year as the manufacturers make improvements. I believe they are getting better and hope to see them on our trucks in the next few years.

Thank you for your time.

Regards  
Mike Schimmel Owner Bella Terra Landscape & Nursey

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