

To whom it may concern.

I have been working in the Stevenson Library for sixteen years. Every autumn people in the neighborhood burn fallen leaves. Leaf burning pollutes the air and can cause serious health problems. The smoke from burning leaves contains toxic, irritating particles and gases. Large amounts of airborne particles come through the library windows. The dust and soot reach into the lung tissue of the students and staff members. These particles cause the patrons to cough, sneeze, have chest pain and shortness of breath.

The smoke from the burning leaves irritates the eyes, nose and throat of the patrons and staff in the library. The hazardous chemical like carbon monoxide is an invisible gas that results from smoldering leaf piles. After inhaling this gas, it is absorbed into the blood and reduces the amount of oxygen that red blood cells can carry. These tiny particles can accumulate in the lungs and increase the risk of respiratory infections and can cause long term problems.

Leaf burning is bad for our students, teachers, and people with asthma and other heart and lung problems. Please tell our neighbors that burning leaves is extremely hazardous the health of the Stevenson High School population.

Thank you,  
M. Betzy Barnett

## Mark Michelini

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**From:** Debra Durham [ddurham@d125.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 2:12 PM  
**To:** mark.michelini@gmail.com; Mark Michelini  
**Subject:** Leaf burning near school

Mark:

Here are a few thoughts on the leaf burning issue near Stevenson:

Each fall as leaves begin collecting, residents located near Stevenson High School burn leaves as a means of eliminating them from their yards. This annual happening causes a number of problems for both faculty and students. It is during this time of year that I know my classroom will have a less than optimal environment for teaching and learning. During leaf burning, I have experienced a thick haze in the bandroom (and surrounding music department classes). The air in take for fresh air exchange seems to bring in this smoke from the nearby residents. I have had my clothing smell like I was near a firepit when leaving school on such days. I suffer from seasonal allergies and take medication for these allergies. I know when leaf burning begins that I can look forward to having headaches from my reaction to this smoke.

Since band and choir require students to take deep full breaths in order to perform well, I know my students will be breathing poor quality air. This is particularly disturbing due to the large number of students who have asthma as well as seasonal allergies. I have had and do have students with severe asthma and other related breathing problems such as cystic fibrosis. I worry about how the air in my room affects these students on a daily basis. Students and faculty all complain about the smell in the room and the thick air. My choir colleagues have described themselves and students as having overwhelming nausea from the air quality during this "burning season". A colleague from another department (math) can not be assigned to the west building in the fall due to her severe allergy to smoke. She would not be able to breath in the west building in the fall due to this annual burning.

This past fall the band parents were meeting in the bandroom on a day when burning had occurred. They all commented on the poor air quality. The residents had burned leaves all afternoon prior to this meeting resulting in a bandroom laden with smoke-filled air as well as the accompanying smell. These parents wondered why leaf burning was allowed so close to a public building. This is the same question I have had for many years.

I recall leaving school one day when even the parking lot had a dense cloud of smoke after school. I remember thinking tomorrow is going to be very challenging. I knew I could look forward to being headachy and have watering eyes. Who could even predict how my students would react to the smoke. I hope I will not have to deal with this smoke. Perhaps something can be done to curtail this burning so close to the high school due to the health and environmental impact it has on all the faculty and students.

Sincerely,

Debbie Durham  
Associate Band Director/AP Music Theory  
Student Council Sponsor

## Mark Michelini

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**From:** Peg Cucci [pcucci@d125.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 3:13 PM  
**To:** mark.michelini@gmail.com; Mark Michelini  
**Subject:** Leaf burning impact on Stevenson Community

There are @ 700 students with diagnosed asthma, for whom smoke inhalation is dangerous and compromising. There are @ 1000 students with diagnosed allergy, many of whom have seasonal allergy or mold allergy. Smoke inhalation is contraindicated in these students as well. There are 500+ adults in the building, many of whom are irritated by the smell of smoke that pervades the building in the fall. Those with asthma and/or allergy are more than irritated. They are compromised. The people who work and study at Stevenson High School have no choice about coming to the campus daily. The people who foul up the air quality have other choices and choose not to use them. The Stevenson High School community is looking to the Lake County Board to limit the choices of residents adjacent to the school to preclude leaf burning, so that we can peacefully co-exist without injury.

Margaret J (Peg) Cucci, RN, MS, NCSN  
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November 10, 2010

Subject: Residential Leaf Burning Health Hazards

To: Stevenson Administration

From: Annette Michalowski – Parent

I attended a Band Parent Meeting last night. I entered the building at the Sports Center entrance at approx. 7:15 p.m.

The air quality in the building was smoke filled. The smoke odor permeated into the Band Room.

My skin, clothing and hair were saturated with the smoke.

I noticed earlier in the day that in the neighborhood adjacent to the school that some type of yard waste burning was happening and the smoke seemed to be blowing towards the school.

This is definitely an **unhealthy environment** that my daughter is being exposed to along with the entire population of the school including, students and staff.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency “ Burning leaves produces particulate matter and hydrocarbons, which contain a number of toxic, and **carcinogenic** (cancer-causing) compounds **and** leaf smoke also contains **carbon monoxide**. ( This is absorbed into the bloodstream through the lungs and combines with red blood cells. This reduces the amount of oxygen the red blood cells can absorb and supply to body tissues

Leaf burning leads to health problems. Since the visible smoke from leaf burning is composed of tiny particles that contain a number of pollutants if inhaled these **microscopic particles can reach the deepest regions of the lung and remain there for months or even years.** Breathing particulate matter can **increase** the chances of respiratory infection, reduce the volume of air inhaled and impair the lungs’ ability to use that air.

Since the hydrocarbons are chemicals that can exist as both gases and solid particles some of these hydrocarbons such as aldehydes and ketones, cause irritation to the eyes, nose, throat and lungs. A substantial portion of the hydrocarbons in leaf smoke consists of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, some of which are **known** carcinogens.”

What in your capacity can be done immediately to remedy this situation?

Is there a local governing body that regulates the adjacent neighborhood that Stevenson Administration can work with to **stop** the burning.

In many communities open burning of leaves is illegal. Furthermore, the total health, financial, and environmental costs of leaf burning can be quite high. These costs include higher incidences of health problems and increased health care costs.

According to the EPA "a better alternative for homeowners to dispose of their leaves would be composting because is it a safe and environmentally".

I would appreciate your comments along with the corrective action that Stevenson High School will be taking.

Sincerely,

Annette Michalowski

- via email to Eric Twadell March 12, 2008 -

Eric – Attached are copies of the letters I spoke with you about yesterday that I just received (and as of yet you have not received) from Liz Burk, the person who is initiating the effort to get the Lake County Board to ban burning near schools. Liz had contacted me as she was looking for parent support on her initiative to get burning banned within 500 feet of school property. Liz lives in the village limits of Lincolnshire where leaf burning is prohibited. As you can see in her letter to Suzi Schmidt, Chairman of the Lake County Board, she lives across the street from a neighbor who lives in unincorporated Prairie View. This neighbor's property falls under the rules of Lake County which does not have an ordinance that bans burning.

Liz told me that she had tried in the past to get the Lake County Board to consider an overall ban on leaf burning, but they indicated that would never pass. She has now cleverly revised her request to initiate an ordinance that would ban burning in Lake County for properties that are within a certain distance of a school (relying on the facts that children with asthma and other respiratory conditions are adversely affected by the smoke that is generated from burning). It would be wonderful if this initiative could become a reality! I know personally from going to my daughter's softball games what havoc these leaf burners can create on the fields surrounding Stevenson. I have also heard that the smoke can sometimes penetrate into the Stevenson exhaust system.

Liz then went on to tell me that she spoke with Ann Maine who is the elected Lincolnshire District 21 Lake County Board member. I contacted Ann and had a good conversation with her and found out that she has children who currently attend Stevenson and was aware of how the smoke affects the school. (Like myself, she too has a child with asthma.) I asked her about the possibility of a proposal such as this being supported by the Lake County Board. Ann, who is also a member of the Health and Community Services Committee of the Lake County Board, said that she had brought up this initiative to the Chairman (not sure if it was to Suzi Schmidt, Chairman of the entire Lake County Board or to the Chairman of the Health and Community Services Committee) and they were "not necessarily opposed to it". That response seemed somewhat positive. She then indicated that the issue could come down to the fact that Lake County does not provide a service for leaf pickup (as does the village of Lincolnshire) so what alternative would they be able to provide to those individuals that want to get rid of their leaves. (I would think that there would be some funding in Lake County for this to happen, as we are only talking about homes adjacent to schools in Lake County and not the whole county. May be more of a logistic hassle though.)

If such an ordinance could pass it would be wonderful for our kids and the school as there are multiple adjacent neighbors that burn frequently in the spring and fall. Ann Maine stated that it could be helpful to know that the school would support such an ordinance. I spoke with Janet about all this a few days ago and she said she thought the best next step would be to get in contact with Ann to understand this initiative more fully. I have a call into Janet now to see if she has had the opportunity to do that yet. (Ann's phone number is 847-374-9787.)

I am copying Janet on this email as maybe once both of you have had a chance to read Liz's letters we can all three talk and see if this is something the school would outwardly support. I did talk to Liz, though, after I got her letters and told her that she could not refer to me in future mailings in my capacity as President of the PPA as this was not something I could speak on on behalf of the entire organization but that as a parent I support the issue. I believe her heart is in the right place but she may not be following appropriate protocol when referring to either of us in her letters.

Please let me know.

Thanks,  
Debbie

March 3, 2008

Dr. Eric Twadill  
Superintendent  
Stevenson High School  
1 Stevenson Drive  
Lincolnshire IL 60069

Ms Liz Burk  
23444 N. Indian Creek  
Lincolnshire IL 60069

Dear Dr. Twadill

Recently I have initiated an action to amend the "open burning" ordinance of Lake County. It would restrict burning on properties adjoining high schools. Please read the enclosed, which was mailed to Lake County Board Chairperson, Susie Schmidt, this week.

Your PTO President, Debbie Castriano, agrees that this is an issue, which merits action, and she may have approached you already about it. Please permit me to request your support in restricting pollution by school grounds, especially high schools, by voicing your concern to Mrs. Schmidt.

In addition, for this action to bear fruit, I believe that the other high schools in the county must be contacted and urged to call the board, lending their voices in support. - Would it be possible for your office to fax a message to the other high schools? Your leadership would be invaluable in this effort. In fact, I believe our success depends on it.

Please contact me at (847)821-1848. Thank you for considering this request, and let me know what I can do to be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Liz Burk

March 3, 2008

Mrs. Susie Schmidt  
Chairperson  
Lake County Board  
18 N. County Street  
Waukegan IL 60085

Ms Liz Burk  
23444 N. Indian Creek  
Lincolnshire IL 60069

Dear Mrs. Schmidt

Regarding Lake County's "open burning" ordinance... I am initiating an effort to limit burning as follows: 1) No resident who shares a property line with a high school is allowed to burn (or, no burning within 500 feet of a high school). 2) "No burning" means seven days a week. 3) No special "burn permits" will be issued.

I live downwind of a Prairie View (unincorporated) resident who burns once a week, weather permitting. Stevenson High School's playing fields are also affected by this pollution. Others burn in the fall so intensely that there are days when I cannot see my property lines. The PTO President there, Debbie Castriano, agrees that this is a problem. Dr. Eric Twadill, the Superintendent, is being contacted about speaking on behalf of the school, which is proactive on all issues regarding child endangerment, under which this issue indeed falls. Other high schools are being contacted.

The fact is that with smoking bans in place, and the population explosion in our area, this antiquated ordinance needs revision. I have suggested the specifics of my leading paragraph for the following reasons... 1) My neighbor is burning within 100 feet of the Stevenson High School property line and polluting the property on a regular basis- and with his larger fires and the wind behind them, the pollution becomes unbearable. Therefore I suggest 500 feet for complete protection. Properties here are about 320 feet in length, and polluters would simply move the burning site, if the "no burn distance" was less than 320 feet. 2) Since high schools use their playing fields during school, after school, on weekends, and on holiday weekends, burning is unacceptable, any day of the week, year round. 3) Speaking from the experience of sharing a property line with a polluter for 13 years, I know such individuals would simply get a handful of "burn permits" from the village, if that option were available.

Please revisit this issue soon, before the "spring burn season" begins. I can be reached at (847)821-1848. Thank you in advance, for being proactive on this issue.

Sincerely

Liz Burk



### Property Tax Application

The Property Tax application provides tools for finding tax parcels of interest, viewing, printing maps, creating, printing and downloading reports with parcel information.

If this is your first visit we recommend that you read the [Guide to the Property Tax Application](#), which includes suggestions for using this application to evaluate the assessment of residential property.

Some functions in this family of applications require Adobe Acrobat Reader, which can be [downloaded here](#).

Tax parcel maps and related products are available for purchase. Further information is available on the [GIS/Mapping Home Page](#).

The information offered in these applications is subject to the [terms of use](#) and the [policies](#) for the Lake County, Illinois website.

Links to [similar information from nearby counties](#) are available.

Contact [GIS/Mapping Staff](#)  
[GIS/Mapping Home Page](#)  
[Lake County Home Page](#)

### Map Tools

Zoom In

Zoom Out

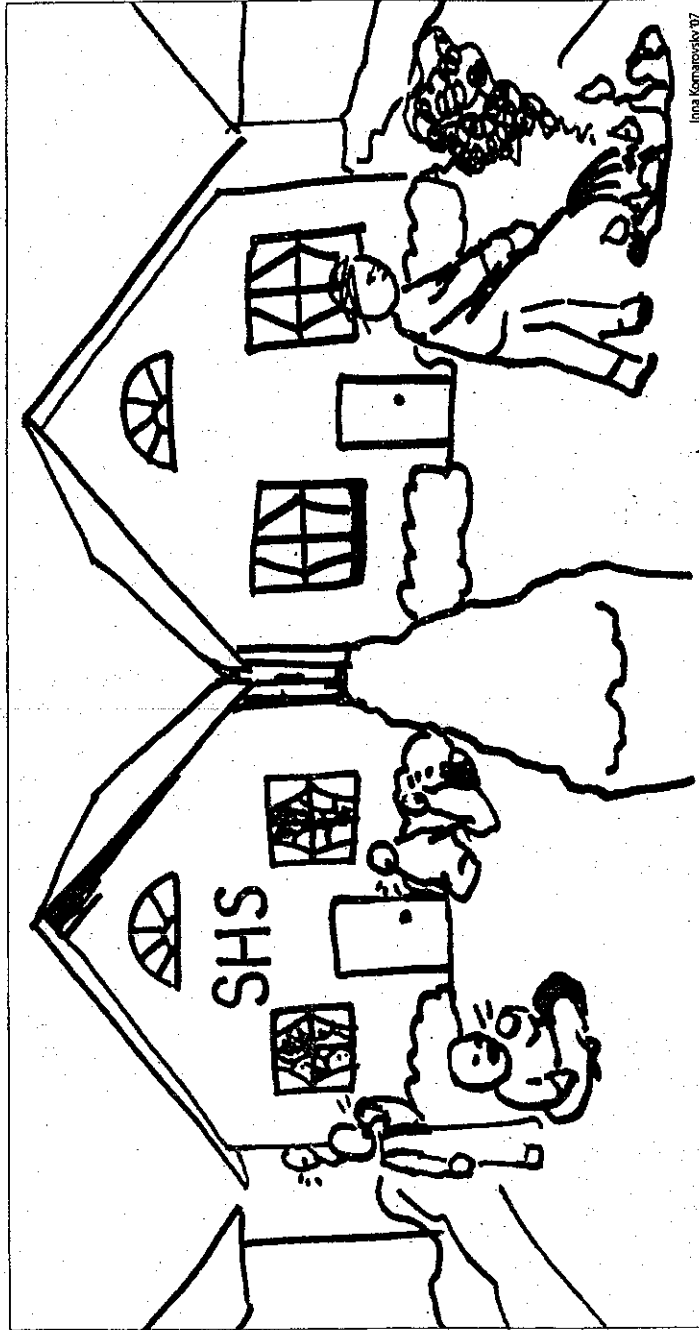
Pan

Clear

Go Back

Location Map





Inna Komarovsky '07

## Hits

- **To Thanksgiving**—good food and a four day weekend; now that's something to be thankful for.
- **To IHOP finally being smoke free**—it's about time customers can enjoy their pancakes without feeling like they're in an ashtray.
- **To Emmitt Smith**—Years of touchdown dances apparently paid off.
- **To Mapquest**—for making road trips possible.
- **To the Food Network**—how many ways can you cook a turkey?
- **To election day**—for finally bringing an end to the negative political campaigns.
- **To the district 103 referendum passing**—for allowing middle schoolers at Daniel Wright to participate in extra-curriculars.
- **To the First Amendment**—for providing all citizens with the freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly and petition.

# Leaf burning disturbances must stop

Neighbors' leaf burning, though legal, creates air circulation problems in school

Every fall, a Stevenson neighbor rakes his leaves into a heap, throws them into the fire-pit that sits near the border of his property facing the West building and sets them ablaze.

As the leaves burn, a gust of wind swoops in from the northwest, funneling the smoke into Stevenson's air filtration system and thus spreading it around the West Building. And therein lies the problem. It's a problem that affects asthma sufferers as well as students and staff with allergies. But the school has provided simple solutions to this problem, solutions that some neighbors are unwilling to accept.

Because the administration understands Stevenson can be an inconvenience to the community, the school tries to make its

neighbors pleased with its actions, Superintendent of Business, Mark Michelini said. To maintain a stable relationship with these neighbors, the grounds crew plows neighboring sidewalks to prevent student trespassing, installed television filters so WAES 88.1 FM will not disturb local television programming and placed garbage bins at the borders of school property to prevent off-campus littering.

"We try to fix [our neighbors'] problems," Michelini said. "We like to think of that as being neighborly and doing the right thing." But being neighborly is a "two-way street," Michelini said, and in order to have an equitable and fair relationship, neighbors need to understand the school's needs just as Stevenson does theirs.

As neighbors of the school for 34 years, Adele and Carl Heyden respect the school's wishes by only burning leaves after school hours when the winds blow from southwest, away from the building.

"I don't want the smoke to go into your school," Adele Heyden said. "We like Stevenson. My son graduated from there." Some neighbors, however, continue to burn leaves during the school day or during football games even though they understand the effects the smoke has on the campus and students' health.

The school board has discussed hiring a leaf pick-up service to satisfy neighbors' needs with no cost to neighbors. But for the health, safety and comfort of a school environment, neighbors must compromise and choose one of the options the school has offered.

Smoke inhalation should not be an issue inside a school or on school grounds. When a student or staff member has difficulty breathing because of the smoke because of asthma or allergies, student learning is disrupted—a disruption that can easily be resolved by burning leaves when school is not in session.