

Falling Leaf Fallout

Dear Tim:

I don't know about the trees in your yard, but the dry late summer and early fall dropped the leaves off mine a little early this year. Like a good neighbor, I raked them down to the curb like always to keep them from blowing next door. It turns out I was wasting my time. I got a notice from the city saying that if I didn't have my leaves off the street in two shakes, I'd be subject to a stiff fine. I've been a resident for 40 years and I've never once seen or heard of a start date for leaf raking. I know there's an end date, and I've always abided by it. Anyway, I've raked the same leaves twice now and my back's as sore as my temperament. What gives?

—Raked on Randmore

Dear Raked:

A couple of my neighbors made the same complaint. They saw me dragging leaves from some trimmed limbs to the curb and told me they'd been busted for their premature piles. I, too, was unaware of the policy, but the city must be serious. I couldn't believe the size of



DEAR TIM

the fines! In any event, we've got lawn and leaf bags for your early falling leaves and Tylenol and Advil for your back pain. Bags and pain relievers are both in aisle 5. And ask one of our friendly shelf-stockers to reach for them for you. No sense straining anything else.

Dear Tim:

I've got a demanding job, an active family with two school-age children, and a very busy schedule. It's gotten to the point that my husband and I and the kids are just passing one another on our way to another activity.

I can't remember the last time we all sat around together and relaxed. Sometimes I feel like the constant chaos means I'm a bad mother. Am I the only one?

—Time Warped on Tremont

Dear Warped:

Only in America does everyone have a watch and no one have the time! Believe me, you're not alone. We all lead chaotic lives these days. And doing less with more sometimes means doing more with less time. That's why we're supporting Ohio First Lady Hope Taft's effort to promote the importance of families sharing meals together. It's called "You Gotta Love Parents," and it's aimed at encouraging busy families to slow down for at least a short time each day, relax, enjoy an evening meal together, and share their daily experiences. If you missed our kickoff event here at Tremont Center this month, don't let that deter you. Make time tonight. And if you need family meal ideas, stop by. We've got plenty that will satisfy your brood and your budget.

Dear Tim is presented as a public service by Tim Huffman, owner of Huffman's Market. Write to him in care of Huffman's Market, 2140 Tremont Center, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43221 or at www.huffmansmarket.com. Or bring this ad in for a free 2005 calendar you can use to remember his birthday.