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CITY ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO FALL LEAF PICKUP

In an effort to assist those residents having difficulty during this time of transition with the City of Lancaster's New Leaf and Yard Waste Pick-Up policies, the City is announcing that it will perform a one-time, bulk leaf pick-up throughout the City. The City will perform this service during the period of November 16 through November 25.

As the Lancaster Eagle Gazette reported on October 6, 2009, the City of Lancaster announced that they will no longer pick up loose leaves raked to the curb. Instead they will only collect bagged leaves placed alongside trash cans on the regular collection day.

"We recognize and appreciate that many of our City residents have observed our new policies and have made the changes that benefit our City. We thank those residents for their understanding and participation. At the same time, some residents have found it difficult to comply, for various reasons. As we continue to educate the community on their yard waste options and ask for participation, we will go through the City for a one-time clean up of the bulk leaves" said Toby Shamblin, Lancaster Department of Transportation. Shamblin states that after November 25, 2009, the City will no longer perform loose leaf pick-up and will resume regular stormwater maintenance programs.

In the past, the Department of Transportation would begin a steady route of leaf pick-up three weeks before Thanksgiving and would continue this service for as long as 30 days. "This year's one-time pick-up will occur a short time later than previous years; however, we hope to capture the majority of the leaves after the greater part of the leaf drop has occurred. We anticipate that residents will continue to act in accordance with the new policies and we are confident that we can make one successful route throughout the City." Shamblin reminds us that the Sanitation department will continue to pick-up yard waste placed in bags during this time period, when left at their regular trash pick-up location.

The City still recommends other options for dealing with leaves. Residents can mulch leaves using a mulching blade on their lawn mower. Mulching allows the leaves to decompose into the soil providing nutrients for spring growth. Home composting is also an option. Finally, leaves and yard waste can be bagged in paper or plastic bags for collection by the Sanitation Department at no extra cost to the resident. The waste placed in the brown, recyclable bags will be taken to Ohio Mulch for recycling.

According to Paul Martin, Superintendent of Sanitation, the crews have seen a large increase in yard waste for sanitation pick-up. "Leaves have always been part of the solid waste stream. Many of our residents handle their yard waste and leaves in this manner all year long and have done so for years. Residents appreciate the fact that if it is bagged and at their trash pick-up location, the waste will be gone within a week whereas the leaf piles remain until November."

For more information on the leaf pick up program please see the City website at www.ci.lancaster.oh.us or call Sanitation at 740-687-6660.