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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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CITY ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO FALL LEAF PICKUP

At Monday night's City Council meeting, the City of Lancaster announced that they will no longer pick up loose leaves raked to the curb. Instead they will collect bagged leaves placed alongside trash cans on the regular collection day. "Based on our budget situation we cannot continue to maintain our old leaf collection process," said Toby Shamblin, Superintendent of Transportation. "Residents want us to make cuts to live within our budget and this is one area that we can see major savings."

Residents have several options for dealing with their leaves. They 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 brown paper bags for collection. During peak leaf season, these bags will be taken to Ohio Mulch for recycling. According to Paul Martin, Superintendent of Sanitation, the crews are ready for the leaf season. "Leaves have always been part of the solid waste stream and the industry has long recognized the benefit of recycling yard waste either individually or as a community." He reminds residents that yard waste in plastic bags will also be picked up, just not recycled. Residents may also take bagged leaves directly to Ohio Mulch at no cost.

"It's good for the environment too," says Denise Crews, Stormwater Coordinator. Leaves entering the storm sewer system end up in the streams. As they decompose they deplete the oxygen in the stream, increase sediment and add unneeded nutrients.

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.