



Media Contact:
Carrie Hoover (614) 834-9727
choover@canalwinchesterohio.gov

April 1, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

12th Annual Free Tree Giveaway May 7

CANAL WINCHESTER – Canal Winchester residents will have the opportunity to pick up a free tree at the city’s 12th annual free tree giveaway May 7, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. There will be 75 trees given away on a first-come first-serve basis. The event will be held rain or shine.

Lines of enthusiastic residents form early, usually around 8:30 a.m. Last year, all trees were gone within 20 minutes.

“The trees will be larger and sturdier this year, most around 3 to 4-feet tall,” said Dick Miller, Canal Winchester’s Urban Forester. “We also have fruit trees for the first time.”

The decision to use the budget for fewer but more mature trees was made in an attempt to maximize the number of trees that make it to adulthood. It was noted in the past that 18-inch trees in gallon containers were more easily damaged. The selection will consist primarily of ornamental trees, with some shade and conifer trees as well.

The ‘Front Yard Tree Program,’ offered for the first time last year, permitted the first ten residents two trees in exchanged for a signed agreement to plant one in their front yard. This program has been postponed in order to allow time to evaluate its effectiveness.

The annual giveaway and associated programs are part of an initiative by the city’s Street Tree Advisory Board to increase canopy coverage throughout the community. The city’s tree canopy is its first defense against storm water due to its ability to catch rain and prevent it from overflowing drains. Trees also have other well-known benefits such as preventing erosion, promoting clean air, and providing shade for residents.

Since its start in 2000, the giveaway has thrived thanks to enthusiastic supporters. The city aspires to increase its current canopy coverage, currently around 21 percent, to 25 percent in the future.

The giveaway is open to City of Canal Winchester residents only who must present proof of residency such as a city water bill or driver’s license to receive a tree.

-###-