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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **City and School Unite for Arbor Day Celebration** *Canal Winchester's Middle School to host the event*

CANAL WINCHESTER – The city and the school district will come together April 29 to celebrate Arbor Day at Canal Winchester's Middle School. Approximately 90 seventh-graders will gather outside at 2 p.m. to plant a tree on school grounds.

The Skyline Honeylocust tree has been selected this year for its ability to withstand tough urban conditions. Canal Winchester's Street Tree Advisory Board (STAB) will be on site to help plant the tree and educate students on the theme of "Sharing the Land" through a variety of other activities.

"We want to teach students about the importance of maintaining the environment and preserving the natural habitat of the trees and animals that share our home," said Dick Miller, Canal Winchester's Urban Forester.

To further this effort, the tree planting will be followed by hands-on education about some of Ohio's native critters. Manon Van Schoyck with Ohio Nature Education will show a barred owl, red-tailed hawk and a flying squirrel as she speaks about the importance of protecting these animals. Students will also be educated about Arbor Day and how trees directly affect their city.

City efforts to support the environment have qualified them as a Tree City USA Community for 18 consecutive years. The nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation provides this recognition to communities that meet specific environmental standards. Members of STAB will attend this year's ceremony on April 21 at the Bryn Du Mansion in Granville. The city also supports the environment by working toward a goal of 25 percent canopy coverage.

In case of rain, the event will be moved to the school's auditorium. The middle school is located at 7155 Parkview Drive in Canal Winchester.

STAB is a five member panel of Canal Winchester residents who work to preserve, protect and enhance trees and plants throughout the community. The city has partnered for Arbor Day with the school district through STAB since the early 1990s.

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