

ATWATER IN LEAF PICKUP SEASON

That chill is in the air and shorter days mean that soon "Tree City USA" will be awash in fallen leaves. Residents are being reminded again to participate in Atwater's leaf pickup program.

The program begins November 21, 2011, and will continue through January 21, 2012, or longer if conditions call for it. Leaves will be collected on City streets once each week, with some sections collected more often. On First Street from Linden Street to Broadway for example, will have leaf pickup on Mondays, and Thursdays, each week. Normal street sweeping will continue on a request basis only.

Here are the technical details:

Leaves shall be raked into the street in rows, parallel to the curb and about two feet away - not in piles - no more than 18 inches high and four feet wide. Vehicles shall be parked off the street on leaf pickup days. Also, portable basketball hoops and trash cans will be off the street.

Residents in cul-de-sacs are asked to place leaves at least four feet from the curb, and to park off the street.

There will be no debris such as sticks, rocks, grass and branches in the leaf rows. Leaves from the backyards should not be placed on the street for pickup until street tree leaf drops have subsided. Do not mulch leaves that you put in the street. If leaf blowers are being used, keep within 4' width limit and no more than 18" from the curb except in cul-de-sacs.

There will be some flexibility to the pickup schedule in the accompanying map. Pickup days for some locations may vary due to the weather, the amount of leaves, or customer concerns. Some scheduled routes will be checked and leaves picked up on days that aren't scheduled because of rain.

Residents who find their leaves are not getting picked up should consider the following:

- Were leaves placed in the street for the right pickup date?
- Did low tree branches prevent access? Please call Parks Maintenance @ 357-6320.
- Was foreign debris mixed with the leaves?
- Were leaves packed? For example, packed in garbage cans then dumped in the street without spreading?
- Was there a large amount of green leaves not loosely spread?
- Were the leaves not on a paved surface?
- Were cars parked too close? Keep leaf rows at least 20' from the front and back of any parked vehicles.
- Do not put leaves in street traffic lanes.

Finally, a soft reminder - leaf rows make tempting targets for cars or other vehicles. Instruct children not to play in the leaves at the side of the road.