



CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE – PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON: **Monday, October 2, 2017**

AND: **Friday, October 13, 2017**

The City of Athens Public Works Department Announces Leaf Collection

Loose Leaf Collection routes will begin Monday, November 6, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. If you would like your leaves to be collected, simply rake them three to five feet from the edge of the road as soon as they fall to the ground. **DO NOT PLACE ANYTHING IN THE ROAD, IN DITCHES, OR ON SIDEWALKS.** In areas where there are sidewalks, leaves should be placed behind the sidewalk and Leaf Crews will pick them up from there. **DO NOT PLACE LEAVES ON OR AROUND ANY OBSTACLES.** Leaves placed on or around mailboxes, trees, fences, poles, yard decorations, or vehicles will be skipped by the leaf machine operators. The hose on the new leaf machine cannot reach back to vacuum around obstacles. We no longer pick up leaves on a call in basis. For information on areas where leaf trucks will be located, residents may call the leaf line at 423-744-2776 for weekly updates.

What to Expect Questions and Answers:

- **When will we be in your area?** We do not publish routes; however, residents may call the LEAF HOTLINE at 744-2776 for a weekly update on locations where the leaf vacuum trucks are working. We will have up to three trucks working in different parts of the city so it is best to place leaves out early.
- **Why are you not publishing routes?** Most cities do not publish routes since it is impossible to stay on schedule with equipment breakdowns, sickness of crewmembers, weather conditions, and heaviness of the leaf crop. We have an increased number of routes from previous years, with each truck working on a different side of the city, but there is no set schedule. Therefore, it would be difficult to publish the route.
- **What will happen if my leaves have not fallen?** Leaf crews will return in 6-8 weeks so you will have a second chance. Once the leaf crews go around the city two times, we will advertise the third run and give you notice.

- **Crews do not pick up my leaves until after Christmas. Will the City pick them up earlier?** As we did last year, we are using the new system and our routes have changed. Most residents will experience a faster and more efficient service.
- **Crews have already picked up the neighboring streets, but the trucks never came down our street?** Some of our crews can only pick up curbed roads so you may have seen another crew and instead of the crew assigned to your street.
- **How long will leaf vacuum season last?** Leaf vacuum season will end after the first week in February, weather permitting. To ensure that your leaves get picked up, please have them to the road as early as possible.

The City of Athens Department of Public Works wishes to issue this reminder to residents regarding leaf season.

Warning: Leaves In the Road!

In the past, residents have raked leaves into the road. This is a dangerous practice. This does three things. First, it narrows the width of the driving surface. Second, when the leaves get wet they become slick. And finally, the leaves clog storm drains and cause flooding. All of these situations create driving hazards and residents are asked to **keep it back and keep it safe.**

For Faster Leaf Service:

As an alternative, and for faster service, you are encouraged to bag your leaves and the Public Works Department will collect them on the regular Brush / Junk route. You can also mulch your leaves by running your lawn mower over them. This will improve your lawn by adding organic material. Another option is composting your leaves for use in flowerbeds and gardens. If you have any questions, please call the Athens Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.