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## **Leaf collection now underway in the City**

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** – Leaf collection season is now underway and the Murfreesboro Streets and Solid Waste departments have devised a new procedure they expect will improve service and provide more cost-efficiencies for the City’s resident customers.

“What we’ve done,” said Streets Department Supervisor Raymond Hillis said, “is divide the City by U.S. Highway 41 (Broad Street) so that the Street Department will serve the north and east side and the Solid Waste Department will take care of the south and west side. We want to get the word out early so residents can adjust to our collection schedule, if they need to.”

The goal is to cover the city twice as fast with the same manpower and equipment. The time required for crews to cover the city should be cut in half.

Residents are asked to place loose leaves within five to 10 feet of the street so leaf vacuums can reach them, Murfreesboro Solid Waste Director Joey Smith said. Leaves should not be placed in the street, since this causes traffic hazards and drainage problems. For those who bag them, only the biodegradable paper will be accepted.

Residents are also asked to keep loose leaves separate from yard waste like brush, debris and limbs, because mixing them causes damage to the vacuum units and slows vacuum collection.

Leaves the department collects are trucked to Murfreesboro’s mulch site at 4765 Florence Rd. and mulched.

Crews began collecting leaves on Oct. 21. The heavier part of the leaf collection season ends before Christmas though crews are sometimes still picking up bags of leaves on into the first or second week of January.