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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 27, 2018

Swanton Village Tree Commission recognized as a Tree City USA

SWANTON, OH- The Village of Swanton was recognized as a Tree City USA on April 18 in the Northwest Ohio awards ceremony hosted by the City of Upper Sandusky and their Tree Commission. This is the 4th time our community has been honored with this nationally recognized award. Members of the Tree Commission present were Roger DeGood, Walt Lange, Rickye Heffner, and Mayor Ann Roth.

The awards were presented to the Tree City USA communities by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. Featured speaker, Mr. Jim Chatfield, OSU Associate Professor and Horticulture Specialist, shared an entertaining and enlightening presentation about the importance of trees in communities.

The title of Tree City USA was bestowed upon our community for its ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the quality of life through a comprehensive tree management program. The program is guided by the Tree Commission and the municipal government.

The Ohio DNR, Division of Forestry's Urban Forestry Assistance Program acts as a guiding hand in helping a community to become qualified as a Tree City USA. The Regional Urban Forester recommends a community to the Arbor Day Foundation for this standing. In order to achieve the title and the honors, a community must meet four standards:

- A Tree Ordinance
- An active Tree Commission or forestry department
- A comprehensive urban forestry program supported by a minimum of two dollars per capita
- An annual Arbor Day proclamation and public observance.

Ohio boasts the greatest number of Tree Cities in the country with a grand total of 240. This marks Ohio's 41st consecutive year as the top Tree City USA state, according to the Ohio Division of Forestry. 53 Northwest Ohio's communities are Tree Cities and boasts two Tree Campus USAs (Ohio Northern University and the University of Findlay) and one Tree Line USA (FirstEnergy.) All were recognized for their achievements as the awards ceremony in Upper Sandusky.

For additional information about the Tree City USA program or the Arbor Day Foundation, visit www.arborday.org

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