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## PRESS RELEASE

### Owosso Celebrates Arbor Day

November 5, 2009

**Owosso, Michigan.** - Imagine a city or landscape without trees? Trees play an important role in creating great communities and great places to live and play by providing shade, increasing property values and a number of other benefits. To celebrate the importance of trees in our landscape, the City of Owosso declared Tuesday, November 10, 2009 as Arbor Day throughout the City. The event will be celebrated at 10 a.m. at Washington School in Owosso by planting a tree with the assistance of third and sixth grade classrooms. The two classes will also plant a mini-nursery of white pines, provided by the Saginaw Conservation District, to care for in the spring growing season.

“This is part of the City’s efforts to enhance our neighborhoods and improve quality of life” said Sarah Warren-Riley, the City of Owosso’s Housing and Neighborhood Development Coordinator, who also added that the City will also be applying for Tree City USA recognition from the National Arbor Day Foundation and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The City has also applied for funds to plant trees along the Shiawassee River from the DNR Urban and Community Forestry program in partnership with the Friends of the Shiawassee River.

“Trees play an important role in maintaining good water quality”, said Heidi Frei, Director of Friends of the Shiawassee River and The Nature Conservancy’s Shiawassee River Project, who is partnering with the City on the event. “By planting trees in the spring or in the fall, we can help reduce the impacts on our storm water systems and enjoy a number of ecosystem benefits like reduced erosion.”

For more information on the 2009 Arbor Day Celebration, please contact the City of Owosso Department of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services at (989) 725-0540.

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