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NEWS RELEASE

SEVERAL COMMUNITY GROUPS PRAISED AT ANNUAL KEEP DELAWARE COUNTY BEAUTIFUL AWARDS CEREMONY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, Oh., Dec. 9, 2010 – Several community organizations, dedicated individuals, and Delaware County’s newest educational institution were praised at the annual Keep Delaware County Beautiful awards reception today.

Columbus State Community College received the **Going Green Award** for Moeller Hall on its newly opened \$15 million Delaware campus. The award recognized energy saving features in the 80,000-square-foot building such as automatic light shutoffs and natural lighting; landscaping with native plants requiring little maintenance; preferred parking for energy-efficient vehicles; and a 90 percent recycling rate for construction waste.

The **Harlem Township Civic Association** received the **Litter Prevention Award** for organizing a township-wide cleanup on Earth Day. The association mustered 20 volunteers who collected 1,440 pounds of litter including tires and scrap lumber from along roadsides in the southeast corner of Delaware County. The organizers coordinated efforts with their township trustees to assure a successful event.

Main Street Delaware Inc. received the **Beautification Award** for its new Flower Pot Program and similar plantings which followed in downtown Delaware. Working with Oakland Nursery and numerous community sponsors and volunteers, Main Street added several large planters to downtown Delaware’s sidewalks this summer, each one lavishly filled with flowers, greenery, and even some exotic palms. This beautification effort is year-round, as the pots are being replanted with seasonal favorites four times a year. All these flower planters came after Main Street worked with the City of Delaware to obtain an ongoing permit allowing such

desirable sidewalk displays.

Ohio Health, parent of Grady Memorial Hospital and the Westerville Medical Campus in Delaware county, received the **Business Award** for providing disposal days for unused prescription medications. This service, begun in 2009 and continued this year, helped to keep considerable quantities of potentially harmful drugs from being misused or improperly disposed in ways which can pollute water supplies and harm wildlife. A total of 823 households dropped off medications at six Ohio Health facilities this year, including 295 at the Delaware County facilities.

The League of Women Voters of Delaware County received the **Community Stewardship Award** for spearheading the two-day Earth Day Delaware celebration last April. The ambitious Earth Day Delaware slate of activities encouraged litter prevention, recycling, and other actions that promote community beautification and sustainability. The events drew participation by hundreds of local residents and children.

Preservation Parks of Delaware County Naturalist **Kim Banks** and parent **Marci Bird** were presented the **Environmental Education Award** for their efforts at Buckeye Valley West Elementary School in Ostrander. Following the philosophy of the Leave No Child Inside Collaborative, they helped the school PTO organize the “Green Barons” group. The Green Barons organize monthly trips for BV West students and families to outdoor education centers such as Preservation Parks, the Ohio Wildlife Center, and the Stratford Ecological Center. They also promote use of the school’s new Learning in Nature Garden, recycling, and environmental lessons.

Genoa Township resident **Charlotte Stille** was presented the **Garrison-Brown Award**. Ms. Stille organized a cleanup along the Genoa Township Trail along Route 3. When the three-hour cleanup was over, 50 volunteers had gathered 56 bags of litter plus tires and roofing scraps. Such grass-roots efforts are the basis for the Great American Cleanup every spring. The award, named for the late Charlotte Garrison and former Mayor Janet Brown of Ashley, recognizes outstanding voluntary initiatives resulting in significant environmental contributions to a community.

Special recognition for a **Quality of Life Project** was given to the **Delaware County Friends of the Trail** for spearheading development of the Hoover Scenic Trail, which opened in October. The Hoover Scenic Trail is a \$500,000 pathway between the Genoa Trail at Plumb

Road and Wiese Road just south of Galena, including a new pedestrian bridge over South Old 3C Highway. It's another link toward the eventual goal of a trail alongside Route 3 from Westerville to Knox County. The Hoover Scenic Trail project also involved the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio to Erie Trail, the City of Columbus, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, Berkshire Township, and the Village of Galena.

The Delaware County Friends of the Trail also was recognized by KDCB in 2004 with the Garrison-Brown Award.

The KDCB Awards Ceremony was conducted in the Deer Haven Preserve lodge. KDCB operates with support from the Delaware General Health District and the Delaware-Knox-Marion-Morrow Solid Waste District.