

Oberlin Wal-Mart Supercenter “Greens Up” for Grand Opening

New store to reflect town pride as a designated America in Bloom community; carries Green Circle Growers and other Ohio-produced products

OBERLIN, Ohio, Sept. 13, 2006 – Trees, hanging flower baskets and extensive landscaping are some of the exterior features that customers will see at the new Wal-Mart Supercenter in Oberlin, which is opening Monday, Oct. 9. The new store plans to hire 320 new associates by its opening, and will feature many new designs and merchandising trends rolling out by Wal-Mart this fall. It will also give more than \$29,000 to local civic and community groups as a part of its opening celebration. The store is located at 46440 SR 20 and will open at 8 a.m., following a 7:30 a.m. grand opening ceremony.

Local Company is Major Supplier for Wal-Mart

The new store's exterior was specially designed to complement Oberlin's overall beautification efforts as well as its designation as an America in Bloom community. America in Bloom is dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and both personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements, and to providing educational programs and resources to that end.

The new store will carry plants from local supplier Green Circle Growers, which is one of Wal-Mart's largest suppliers of seasonal plants. "We are all so excited about a Wal-Mart opening up in our community," said Todd Summers, sales representative for Green Circle Growers. "During the season we have anywhere from 300 to 500 people working here, so the store will be a welcome addition to the city of Oberlin." Green Circle Growers supplies anywhere from 50 to 60 Ohio Wal-Mart stores with annual bedding plants, fall mums and poinsettias, depending on the season. Ohio is one of Wal-Mart's largest supplier states – with Wal-Mart spending more than \$12 billion last year for merchandise and services within the state.