

THE SPRINGFIELDER

Do we have to Say this Every Spring? Please Keep your Yard Clean

Spring is finally here! With that, the snow has melted to reveal too many yards that were not raked, mowed, or otherwise cleaned up before winter. This is your chance to get that work done.

With the housing market as tight as it is, and with no true end in sight, we need to work together to keep our neighborhoods looking good. Uncut lawns and unmaintained landscaping can have a dramatic affect on the curb appeal of our neighborhoods. We have some great, well-maintained houses in our community . . . we just

need to get a few other owners to take more pride in their homes.

If you'd like an example of what a great, well-maintained Springfield neighborhood looks like, just take a trip into the Harmony Neighborhood. Most of the homes in this neighborhood belong to people on fixed incomes, but each spring many of the homeowners plant fresh flowers and freshen their landscaping. Each week, they mow their lawns, and when home maintenance is needed, they tend to take it seriously. The Neighborhood also has an ac-

tive neighborhood watch. The Harmony Neighborhood is truly a great example of Springfield pride.

Aside from regular yard maintenance, there are a number of issues that many property owners throughout Springfield should survey their properties to address. These are some of the items that Springfield's Code Enforcement Department will be issuing citations for this spring/summer:

1. Fences in disrepair.
2. Trash/rubbish in yards, on porches, and in other ar-

reas that are not fully enclosed.

3. Unsafe houses, garages, porches, or outbuildings.
4. Large brush piles.
5. Vehicles, trailers, RVs, etc. parked in yards or on unimproved surfaces.
6. Unregistered vehicles.
7. Boarded windows and doors.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation, as I'm sure your neighbors do, too. If you have any questions about our Code of Ordinances, please contact the City Manager.



Help us Keep our Streets Clean

Our Department of Public Works is only available to sweep/clean the streets twice each year. Accordingly, it is important that property owners do not blow trash, leaves, grass clippings, or any other debris into the streets. Not only does this detract from the beauty of our neighborhoods, but it is also a driving hazard and a problem for our storm sewers. Please do your part to keep your messes out of the street.

Current ordinances allow for the city to impose a fine for such events, and we are prepared to do so.

In addition, we ask that residents please keep their garbage containers on the curb and out of the street on garbage day. This will help avoid any related traffic problems, and will help keep the streets clear for public parking and any street-related maintenance.

The Census is Coming!

Every 10 years, the US Department of Commerce is obligated by the US Constitution to conduct a Census. 2010 is the year of the Census! A Census is the act of counting all of the residents in the Country (whether they are legal or illegal). The Census is used strictly for counting people and gathering demographic information it affects electoral votes, federal aid, overall community funding, etc.) so it is in everyone's best interest to fully participate. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. Our local contact is Dizzy Warren. Feel free to contact her with any questions about the Census: 269-598-5452.
2. Now through June, census workers will be canvassing the area to make sure all residential dwellings are accounted for.

3. Beginning in October, the Census Department will hire 37,000 temporary workers to assist in counting US residents. Many of these hires will be made locally!
4. In March 2010, the Census Bureau will mail a Census Survey Form to every household in Springfield, and it is the duty of our residents to complete and return them.

The Census will create local jobs

The Census will be hiring for a number of positions this summer and fall; some could pay as much as \$50,000 per year, and others could pay \$15.00+ per hour. If you're interested in employment with the Census Bureau, please visit www.census.gov.

The Farmers Market is Open for Business

The Farmers Market kicked off last week with the first annual Springfield Chili Cook Off. It was a great, well-attended event. More than 200 gallons of chili were sampled for free!

The Market is now open every Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning. Go check it out. Here are some other special events to keep in mind:

Mom 2 Mom Sale: May 9th

Craft Show: June 6

Business Expo: June 17

Health Fair: June 27

Community Potluck: July 18

We hope to see you there soon!



We value what you value.

Orchard Hills

Allen Edwin Homes is honored to partner with the City of Springfield and offer new homes in Orchard Hills.

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