

If you see problems with overgrown weeds, abandoned vehicles, broken windows, or other property codes violations, you may report them—*anonymously*—to Metrocall by calling 311.

When you call, be sure to give the operator the proper address and give as much detail as possible. The operator will give you a tracking number called a Service Request number that you can use to follow up on your request. Service requests that are not completed in a timely manner get reported to the mayor, so be sure to keep the number near your telephone or on your refrigerator for handy access.

If You Receive a Violation Notice...

...you may contact the inspector whose number will be on your letter. Minor violations, such as overgrown grass or moving an abandoned vehicle, will be given 10 days to remedy. If you receive notice that involves a major repair, such as putting down a durable surface for parking your car, or repairing siding or gutters, the IPL representatives will more than likely be willing to work out an inspection schedule that provides you reasonable time to get your violation corrected.

For more information call 311 or 574-5000.

Cut this page out, post on your fridge, or share with neighbors and block clubs!

Did You Know? It's the Law!

Contribution by Vanessa Lackey, President, Westover

Subdivision Association

If you ever visit the Westover Subdivision in Chickasaw, you won't find many code violations. Residents demonstrate a pride in ownership that is the envy of other parts of town.

New residents – owners or renters- are given information packets that outline the expectations and responsibilities for property maintenance as required by the Dept. of Inspections, Permits & Licenses (IPL). This information is also shared with realtors who show houses for sale in the area so they can share the packet with potential residents. It describes rules for home, yard, street and alley maintenance.

Enforcement of codes ensures the safety and comfort of all residents and goes a long way toward maintaining property values and keeping the neighborhood safe. Besides attention to property maintenance prevents you from being cited and fined for violations.

Here are some of the most common codes/laws that IPL enforces metro-wide:

Vehicles

- Vehicles on private property must be parked on a hard durable surface; gravel drives must be approved.
- All motor vehicles parked outside must be licensed and operable. No flat tires, missing wheels, broken windows, etc.
- Vehicles in a major state of disassembly must be located in an enclosed area.
- No parking on grass, blocking sidewalks, or on vacant lots.
- No auto shops or car repair set up as businesses, this is a residential area.
- No tractor-trailer trucks on any of the streets, and especially not overnight.
- Vehicles parked on the street when street cleaning is posted will be ticketed and towed.
- Vehicles parked on the street must face the proper direction for traffic flow.
- The Noise Ordinance is enforced by the police and the fines can be stiff.

Property Maintenance

- Homes should be kept in good repair with all wood surfaces covered or painted.
- No cooking grills on front porches, front yards or on sidewalks.
- No interior furniture on front porches. Only patio furniture is allowed on porches or yards.

- No basketball goals on the street.
- Put black garbage container back in your yard after trash pick up.
- Do not put black trash container out until day before trash pick up.
- You are responsible for removing graffiti from your garage, house or fence.
- Only put junk out one week prior to scheduled quarterly junk pick up and do not put junk in the street or alley.
- Gutters and downspouts should be properly connected.
- All homes should be secure with no broken windows or doors. Vacant homes must be maintained and secured to prevent entry.
- Grass may not exceed 10 inches in height. Keep weeds off your fences.
- Porch light and lamp post bulbs must be enclosed.
- No rubbish, trash, yard trimmings, etc. allowed on property front or rear.
- Brick, vinyl and other exterior sheathing must be maintained with no cracks, holes or rot to prevent entry by pests.
- Any exterior stairs with three or more treads must have an approved handrail.
- Your address must be visible on your garage or other structure in the alley.
- All dogs should be fenced in the backyard only, licensed and tags.
- Dogs must be on a leash when walking or jogging.

Street and Alley Maintenance

- The occupant of the property is responsible for cleaning the street and alley from the property line to the center of the street or alley.
- Sidewalks should be kept free of weeds, trash, snow and branches. Sidewalks may not be blocked by vehicles in order to allow persons using the sidewalk to freely pass.
- Any overhanging trees or shrubs should be kept trimmed in order to allow persons using the sidewalk to freely pass.

It is the belief of residents of Westover that by observing these and other metro ordinances throughout all of District 5, we may all enjoy an increased quality of life. People appreciate having a clean, tidy, quiet place to come home to and relax or entertain, and that is easily done if everyone knows and observes the laws.