



THE  
CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO  
RESIDENTIAL ORDINANCES



## **CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO RESIDENTIAL ORDINANCES**

There are numerous ordinances (or laws) in the Village of Weston that pertain to residential property. Most of these have been enacted to protect and preserve the basic character and quality of life in our residential neighborhoods. They are designed to control the accumulation of junk, trash, refuse, and vehicles, which are abandoned, inoperable and in disrepair. The Village also has an interest in ensuring that businesses and industries do not operate where they are inconsistent and may compromise the residential character of our neighborhoods.

More than one department at the Village, as well as State or County agencies may enforce these ordinances, where applicable. Copies of individual ordinances and sections of the Village of Weston Municipal Code may be obtained by contacting the Village Municipal Center at 359-6114. The entire Municipal Code is also available on the Village's website located at [www.westonwisconsin.org](http://www.westonwisconsin.org). Ordinances are updated periodically to reflect the changing needs of the Village and its citizens.

We welcome any questions or comments that will keep the Village of Weston a safe, attractive and pleasant community. You may contact Dean Zuleger, Village Administrator at 241-2600 or [dzuleger@westonwisconsin.org](mailto:dzuleger@westonwisconsin.org) with any questions or comments you may have.

This Guide to Residential Ordinances is simply a guide, not meant to be final or complete compliance doctrine.

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

First – If you feel comfortable, try the “Good Neighbor” approach and talk with your neighbor about the nuisance, and ask for their cooperation to resolve it. For best results, always approach people in a friendly, rational manner. Never approach someone when you are angry or out of control. Many times, people appreciate their neighbors contacting them first before getting the Village involved and will correct the problem. Other times, people may be offended and become defensive and uncooperative. Therefore, you must use your best judgment before and during the interaction with your neighbor.

## REPORTING VIOLATIONS

Then – If your “Good Neighbor” efforts do not reach your desired outcome, call or email Renee Hodell, Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608 or [rhodell@westonwisconsin.org](mailto:rhodell@westonwisconsin.org) . Please have the following information ready:

- **The general type or nature of the complaint or nuisance.**
- **Your name, address, and telephone number.**  
This information will allow us to keep you updated on the status of your complaint, and also allow us to call you if we need further information. Your information will be kept confidential.
- **The exact location of the problem:**  
Preferably house number and street. If the address is unknown, details that help identify the property are helpful, ex “northwest corner of Alderson Street and Jelinek Avenue, directly across from the blue house.”
- **A detailed description of the offending situation or problem.**  
Be specific about the “type” of activity, or nuisance condition, and “where” on the property the activity or nuisance condition is located. Also, include any other details that may help us to observe an activity, such as, the “time” and “date” the activity is most likely to occur.  
  
**For example:** “Vehicle repair activity in a residential neighborhood. The resident, Mr. Goodwrench, has been repairing cars on his driveway for a month, on Thursdays and Fridays, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. There are car parts sitting in the front lawn.”
- In certain circumstances, we may need your assistance in pursuing violations where photos and records of events may be helpful. For example, certain alleged code violations may be taking place after normal Village business hours.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROCESS

**VILLAGE FOLLOW-UP** – The Village will investigate complaints within 48 hours after they are received. Staff will first determine if the complaint is valid and is covered by the ordinances enforced by the Village. If the complaint is valid, it is the Village's policy to issue a warning notice by mail to the owner(s), in order to give them an opportunity to correct or eliminate the code offence. An exception to this policy would be made in a case where there are **immediate health or safety concerns**, which require an immediate response or correction to reduce or remove a hazard to health or safety.

**NON-COMPLIANCE** – If the responsible party(ies) does(do) not comply, the Village may use any, or all of the following processes to obtain the appropriate compliance:

1. Charge fees for non-compliance,
2. Have the Everest Metro Police Department issue a citation and fine,
3. If appropriate, cause the removal, or abatement of a violation,
4. **Initiate legal action.**

**PROCESSES** – These processes individually, or collectively, can remedy the violation in as little as a few days or several months depending on the circumstances, the nature of the violation, and the cooperation of the property owner.

**ABATEMENTS** – The Village has the authority to remove, or abate property nuisances including, but not limited to: junk vehicles, miscellaneous junk, refuse, garbage, and debris from a property, after the property owner has been notified and fails to comply. If an abatement action is necessary, the Village shall charge the property owner for all costs involved in the investigation and abatement of the violation.

**PENALTIES** – Failure to comply with any provisions of the Municipal Code may be charged as an infraction, or misdemeanor at the discretion of the Village Attorney. An infraction is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100 for a first violation, \$200 for a second violation in one year, and \$500 for each additional violation of the same ordinance within one year of the first occurrence. A misdemeanor is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or by imprisonment in the County jail for a period not exceeding six (6) months, or by such fine and imprisonment.

**CONFIDENTIALITY** – It is not the Village's intent to increase neighborhood animosity, nor to prolong personal feuds whenever there is a need to enforce these ordinances. Toward that end, we will make every effort to keep the names and identities of complainants confidential. Residents are advised, however, that persons who file complaints may be asked to appear as witnesses if their case goes to court. Also, the Public Records Act allows for the release of some public records, which may include the complainant's information. However, the decision to release this information is that of the Village Attorney.

## ADDRESSES ON BUILDINGS

Each house and building in the Village shall have address numbers conspicuously displayed. These numbers must be at least three inches in height and placed on the building in such a manner that the number is clearly visible from the public right-of-way. Identification of premises is very important for emergency responses of the Police and Fire Departments. For more information, or to make a complaint about inadequate house numbers, please call the **Village Building Inspector at 359-6114**.

## ANIMALS

**ANIMAL CONTROL** - Animals running at large are prohibited.

Animal owners shall not allow their animals to disturb any person by continuous barking or howling. Municipal ordinance prohibits owners from allowing dogs and cats to roam at large. Pet owners are also responsible for picking up any pet excrement left by their pets on another's property. Persons disturbed by an animal should telephone the **Everest Metro Police Department at 359-4202** at the time of the disturbance. If an animal is running at large telephone the **Marathon County Humane Society at 845-2810**.



**ANIMAL HUSBANDRY** - The keeping or raising of horses, poultry, beef and domestic livestock, and all related activities, shall be permitted in any district not served with public sewer except as may be restricted in the WPD, OWC, OWP, OME, OFP and OCS districts. The lot must be at least 3 acres. The keeping of horses for private use shall be permitted on the basis of one horse per acre. For example if you have 3 acres, you can have 3 horses. For more information, please contact the **Village Community Development Director/ Zoning Administrator at 241-2638**.

**CATS AND DOGS ALLOWED** – The number of dogs or cats allowed to be kept by one residential unit or by one or more persons constituting one residential unit is restricted by the zoning district of the property unless the premises is licensed as a kennel or animal fancier.

Zoning District	Number of Cats Allowed	Zoning District	Number of Dogs Allowed
R5 (mobile home park)	2 per lot	R3, R4 & R5	2
RTF (duplex), R3 & R4 (multi-family)	4 per unit	RTF	3 per unit
R1, R2, RE, SR, RR, AG (single family)	4	R1, R2, RE, SR, RR, AG	3
		Single family home in an R3 or Commercial District (legal non-conforming use)	3

For more information, please call the **Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608** or the **Community Development Director/Zoning Administrator at 241-2638**.

**CAT LICENSING** – All cats, within the Village of Weston, over the age of 4 months must be licensed. Licenses are available at the Village Municipal Center, located at 5500 Schofield Avenue. Proof of current rabies shots and vaccinations must be provided at the time of license application. For more information, please call the **Municipal Center at 359-6114**.

**DOG LICENSING** - All dogs, within the Village of Weston, over the age of 4 months must be licensed. Licenses are available at the Village Municipal Center, located at 5500 Schofield Avenue. Proof of current rabies shots and vaccinations must be provided at the time of license application. For more information, please call the **Municipal Center at 359-6114**.

## **BUILDING PERMITS**



Building Permits are required for safety reasons for most home improvements including fences, swimming pools, decks, driveways, roofs, siding, garages, yard sheds, building additions and interior remodeling. **Prior** to starting a new project always contact the **Village Building Inspector at 359-6114** to find out if your proposed project requires a building permit.

## **BURNING BARRELS**

Burning barrels are not allowed in the Village of Weston. Please contact the **Weston Fire Department at 355-5419** or the **Everest Metro Police Department at 359-4202** to report a violation.

## **BURNING PERMITS**

Burning permits are issued by the Fire Chief only for the purpose of burning brush and debris from clearing land for the construction of a home or commercial structure, or clearing cropland for farming. Burning permits can be issued for up to 3 days in a row including holidays from 6 p.m. to midnight. Please contact the **Fire Chief at 355-5419** to obtain a burning permit. Please contact the **Weston Fire Department at 355-5419** or the **Everest Metro Police Department at 359-4202** to report a suspected burning permit violation.

## **FENCES**

A building permit is required for all fences constructed in the Village of Weston. Fence height is regulated depending on where the fence is located on the property. In general, no fence shall exceed six (6) feet in height. A fence can be built up to your designated non-street property lines. Fences located in the back



yard and side yards (non-street yard) can be up to six feet in height. A fence located in the front yard can be up to 4 feet high & must be at least 2 feet back from the street property line, no greater than 2 ½ feet high in the vision triangle. See Village Ordinance Section 94.127 Structure regulations for more information. For questions about fence height, placement or to obtain a building permit for a fence, please contact the **Village Building Inspector at 359-6114**. For enforcement of fence height and location please call the **Village Building Inspector at 359-6114**.



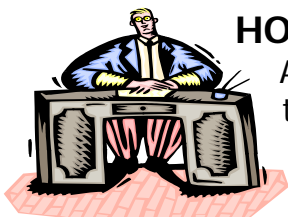
## **GARBAGE, TRASH, JUNK, AND DEBRIS**

The accumulation of garbage, trash, junk, and debris help spread disease, harbor insects and rodents, and detracts from the appearance of your property. You can help control these problems by placing your trash in proper containers. Although law does not require it, storing your trash and recycling containers out of public view does help to enhance the visual image of the neighborhood and the quality of the community. Chapter 66 of the Municipal Code requires the use of garbage containers by all Village residences and businesses. For questions or to report the improper disposal of garbage by a property owner in the Village please contact the **Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608**.

**GARBAGE ACCUMULATION** – Accumulation of garbage, trash, junk, and debris (not properly enclosed within a garbage container or dumpster), including vehicle parts and equipment, are not allowed to be stored outside in a residential area. The Village may abate those items not removed after notification by the Village, and the cost of removal plus administrative fees will be charged to the property owner. For more information or to report garbage accumulation on a property, please call the **Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608**.

**GARBAGE SERVICE** – All occupied premises within the Village are required by ordinance to have weekly garbage service. Veolia Waste Services is the Village's current garbage removal provider (359-6637). Residents can choose from a 45 or 90-gallon trashcan. Residents are able to request changes in the size of their garbage container once a year in October. For more information, to begin service at your new home, to change the size of your trashcan or to report lack of garbage service, please call the **Village Municipal Center at 359-6114**.

**BURNING OF TRASH AND GARBAGE** – Burning trash or garbage is prohibited in the Village of Weston. For more information or to report the burning of trash or garbage, please call the **Weston Fire Department at 355-5419 or the Everest Metro Police Department at 359-4202**.



## **HOME BUSINESS**

Any activity, whether for pay or not, which creates a nuisance, or gives the appearance that a business is being conducted in a residential area is prohibited without the proper Village permit. Please be aware that

all home businesses are required to obtain a Home Occupation Permit or a Residential Business Permit. For more information concerning these permits, please contact the **Village Community Development Director/Zoning Administrator at 241-2638**. For complaints about home businesses, please contact the **Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608**.

## **NOISE**

The Village of Weston observes quiet hours of 10 pm to 7am in all residential neighborhoods. For noise complaints, please contact the **Everest Metro Police Department at 359-4202**.

## **MAILBOXES**

All mailboxes in the Village of Weston shall be built and erected in accordance to the United States Postal Department and Village Department of Public Works recommendations for mailbox mounting, support and location. The Village is not responsible for any damage to any mailboxes that do not conform to postal and Village regulations. For more information concerning the correct placement of mailboxes, please call the **Village Municipal Center at 359-6114** or refer to **Section 70.114 of the Village Code of Ordinances and detail drawings available on the Village's website located at [http://www.westonwisconsin.org/utilities/operations/mailbox\\_garbage\\_placement.php](http://www.westonwisconsin.org/utilities/operations/mailbox_garbage_placement.php)** .



## **RECREATIONAL FIRES**

Recreational fires **using commercially prepared wood or clean dry wood** are allowed from noon to midnight on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays but must be under control and out by midnight. The fires can be in a fire pit no large in diameter than 4 feet, a cooking grill, an outdoor barbecue or an outdoor fireplace. Recreational fires are not allowed when the Fire Department has issued a burning ban for the Village. For more information concerning recreational fires, please contact the **Weston Fire Department at 355-5419** or to issue a complaint about a recreational fire in your neighborhood, please contact the **Everest Metro Police Department at 359-4202**.



## **RECYCLING AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

All occupied premises within the Village are required by ordinance to recycle glass, batteries, metal, plastics and paper. You may also recycle automotive batteries, corrugated paper (cardboard), oil and antifreeze at the curbside with your other recyclables. The Village provides recycling pickup through our current garbage hauler, Veolia Waster Services (359-6637) every other week on your garbage pick-up day. Recycling containers are available for \$6 each at the Village Municipal Center for purchase. For more information, to begin service at your new home, to purchase recycling containers or to report lack of

garbage/recycling service, please call the **Village Municipal Center at 359-6114**. Information is also available on the **Recycling page of the Village's website located at <http://www.westonwisconsin.org/utilities/garbage.php>** concerning the recycling schedule, list of acceptable items and a map of the garbage pick up day for areas of the Village.

Marathon County accepts hazardous materials at their Hazardous Waste Facility located at 301 Alderson Street in Schofield. The Hazardous Waste Facility is open the second and fourth weekend (Friday & Saturday) of the month, April – October. They are open the second weekend (Friday & Saturday) only, November – March. The facility is open on Friday from 2 pm to 7pm and Saturday 9 am to 2 pm. They are closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Weekends. A list of acceptable items is available on the **Marathon County Health Departments website located at [www.co.marathon.wi.us](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us)** or by **calling the Hazardous Waste Facility at 261-1900**.



## **SNOW REMOVAL**

The owner of property or the party in possession of the property abutting on any sidewalk shall, without notice and at all times, keep such abutting sidewalk clean and free from debris, dirt, sweepings, obstructions and clear of snow and ice and shall not deposit or place any sweepings or debris or other foreign matter upon the sidewalk, or in the street. Snow and ice shall be removed within **48 hours**. If any owner shall fail or neglect to keep any sidewalk free of debris, dirt, sweepings, obstructions, snow or ice, the Village may proceed to clear such sidewalk and shall charge the expense, as defined by the Village Board in the village schedule of fees, thereof as a special tax against the premises to be collected as other taxes on real estate. The Village may, but shall not be required to, give notice to the owners of the property before providing for the Village to clear such walks.

The Village will be responsible for clearing sidewalks, walkways, driveways, and parking lots around Village-owned and maintained buildings and properties. The Village will also be responsible for clearing the sidewalks of the three major 4-lane arterials (main thoroughfares) that run through the Village: Camp Phillips Road, Business Highway 51, and Schofield Avenue; the east side of Birch Street between Mount View Avenue and Sternberg Avenue (due to the lack of boulevard on the east side of the street); the Ross Avenue Round-a-bout sidewalks and all multi-use paths within the Village. All other sidewalks of the Village, not listed above, will be the responsibility of the property owners of a building or lot. **For complaints about snow removal, please call the Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608.**

## **VEHICLE REPAIRS**

The registered owner of a vehicle may perform routine maintenance to his/her vehicles, or to vehicles belonging to immediate family members, in public view at his/her residence. Routine maintenance includes: changing the oil, tires, replacement of water pump,



alternator, brakes, shocks, oil, air filters, spark plugs and similar work. Major repairs, including: pulling engine blocks, repair, or replacement of transmissions or front and rear axles, major body repair, dismantling, and similar work, is not permitted in public view and must be done in a garage or carport if there is no garage. For complaints about vehicle repair, please call the **Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608**.

## VEHICLE PARKING AND STORAGE



Parking regulations are designed to maintain and promote safety on our public streets. Parking your vehicle on an all-weather surface, as the Village's ordinances state, helps prevent fluids and oil from seeping into the ground and contaminating the ground water. Parking regulations also improve the look of the neighborhood and the value of your property by preventing accumulations of abandoned and inoperable vehicles.

## VEHICLE PARKING

**ON PUBLIC STREETS** – No person shall park any vehicle for a period of time longer than 30 minutes between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. of any day from October 31 to May 1, except physicians or surgeons, when parking is reasonably necessary on emergency calls. All vehicles parked on the public roadway must have a current license and registration. Please call the **Everest Metro Police Department at 359-4202** for enforcement.

**ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY** – Motor vehicles must be parked on the driveway, garage apron, or similar all-weather paved surface, directly adjacent to the driveway, and not on the lawn or other landscaped open space not designed for parking. Inoperable or unlicensed motor vehicles may not be kept on a residential lot unless parked in a garage. Motor vehicles may not overhang along public sidewalks, designated bicycle paths or rights-of-way. Please call the **Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608** for enforcement.

## VEHICLE STORAGE

**INOPERABLE VEHICLES** – Inoperable vehicles or junk vehicles are defined as those that are not fully operational or do not have current vehicle registration. On private property, an inoperable or junk vehicle may only be parked within a garage or carport. Otherwise, the vehicle is subject to tow. All operable vehicles must be parked on an all-weather surface. Inoperable vehicles left on the street or in parking lots are subject to tow. To report violations on private property, please call the **Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608**. To report violations on a public street or public property, please call the **Everest Metro Police Department at 359-4202**.



**RECREATIONAL VEHICLES** – Trailers, boats, pop-up campers, travel trailers and other recreational vehicles must be stored on a driveway or along side the garage within the appropriate building setbacks. No more than two recreational vehicles may be parked outside on a property at one time for

residential properties with the zoning classification of R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, and RTF. No more than three recreational vehicles per residence can be kept outside on a residential lot in the RE zoning district. No more than four recreational vehicles per residence can be kept outside on a residential lot in the SR and RR zoning districts. For purposes of this ordinance a boat on a trailer or snowmobiles on a trailer are considered one recreational vehicle. All recreational vehicles must be operable and in good repair. Property owners are responsible for mowing under recreational vehicles that are parked alongside the garage on grassy areas. Recreational vehicles may not overhang along public sidewalks, designated bicycle paths or rights-of-way. Large RV's that can be driven and are not pulled behind a car or truck are considered motor vehicles must be parked on an all-weather surface and cannot be parked on the lawn (Refer above to Residential Parking on Private Property). For more information or to report violations, please call the **Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608**.

**WEEDS AND TALL GRASS** – No person owning property within the Village shall allow to grow or pollinate on his property any weeds, grasses or brush that causes or produces or exhales unpleasant or noxious odors or may conceal filthy deposits or provide a place for the accumulation of trash or litter. The existence of noxious weeds on any property in the Village is prohibited. Noxious weeds include Canada thistle, leafy spurge, field bindweed (creeping jenny), goldenrod, bull thistle, poison ivy, poison sumac and poison oak. Lawns shall be maintained to a height not to exceed 8 inches. Landscaping shall be maintained so as not to present hazards to adjoining properties or to persons or vehicles traveling on public ways and shall be maintained so as to enhance the appearance and value of the property on which located and thereby the appearance and value of the neighborhood and the Village. For more information or to report violations, please call the **Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 241-2608**.

