



CITY OF SEDALIA
Municipal Building
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CODE ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

(SEDALIA, MISSOURI): The City of Sedalia is implementing new code enforcement procedures and working with other City departments to further strengthen recent efforts to clean up the appearance of the city.

“These works in progress, when combined with existing procedures and future ideas, will create an improved, more efficient process for helping our residents deal with trash, rubbish, tall grass and weeds and other city code violations,” said Community Development Director John Simmons during the July 17th City Council meeting.

Simmons noted a few challenges in 2017, such as the need to replenish the City’s demolition budget, chronic nuisance properties and the need to improve the very successful Pick-up On Demand program.

There were 631 trash violations in 2015, 606 in 2016 and 349 so far in 2017. For grass and weeds violations, there were 400 letters sent in 2015, 345 in 2016, and 243 so far in 2017. In the case of trash violations, most are taken care of by the owner, but most grass violations are abated by the city.

One of the new methods already implemented is the use of a door hanger to notify residents of a violation. “In other words, if we see the violation, we immediately write the citation and tape it on the door,” said Jamie Bethel, Code Enforcement Supervisor. “Most of the time I like to knock on the door and talk to the owner or the person living in the house because that opens communications. Our statistics show that this method is improving citizen compliance. Additionally, this approach also cuts down on the cost of sending certified letters.”

The success of the Pick-up On Demand program, which is unique in the State of Missouri, has created unintended problems with citizens now reporting more citywide visible curbside trash. In the past, when the volume of the trash pile exceeded the yearly allowance of 4 cubic yards per pick-up, City staff simply did not remove the debris until the resident drove to City Hall and paid for the overage. That past practice has stopped. Now, under our “get it when you see it” policy, if it’s at the curb, it is picked up with the owner of

property billed at the end of the month for any overage. For example, if the pick-up exceeds 4 cubic yards, a fee of \$23 per additional cubic yard will be billed.

Additional Pick-up On Demand service calls (more than 2 calls per calendar year at 4 cubic yards each) will be billed \$25 per cubic yard.

The brand new “Green Sweep/Clean Sweep” program begins in mid-September. This program allows the City to work with Sedalia neighborhoods to collect yard waste and bulky items, such as sofas and chairs.

Starting immediately, city residents will be allowed to drop off their bulky items themselves at the city’s Materials Management Site instead of waiting for city employees. It will be considered one of the citizen’s two Pick-up On Demand times, and any additional times will cost \$25 per cubic foot and requires proof of City of Sedalia residency (driver’s license, water bill, etc.).

“If we want to continue to bring in new businesses, manufacturers that produce jobs, it’s critical to the City of Sedalia that we keep our city clean. We can’t do this as city government alone,” Mayor Stephen Galliher said. “We need the help of the citizens too. I would ask all of our citizens to please help keep Sedalia clean.”

For more information, contact John Simmons or Jamie Bethel at 660-827-3000.