



The Citizen's Guide to Residential Ordinances

VILLAGE OF WESTON
WESTONWI.GOV

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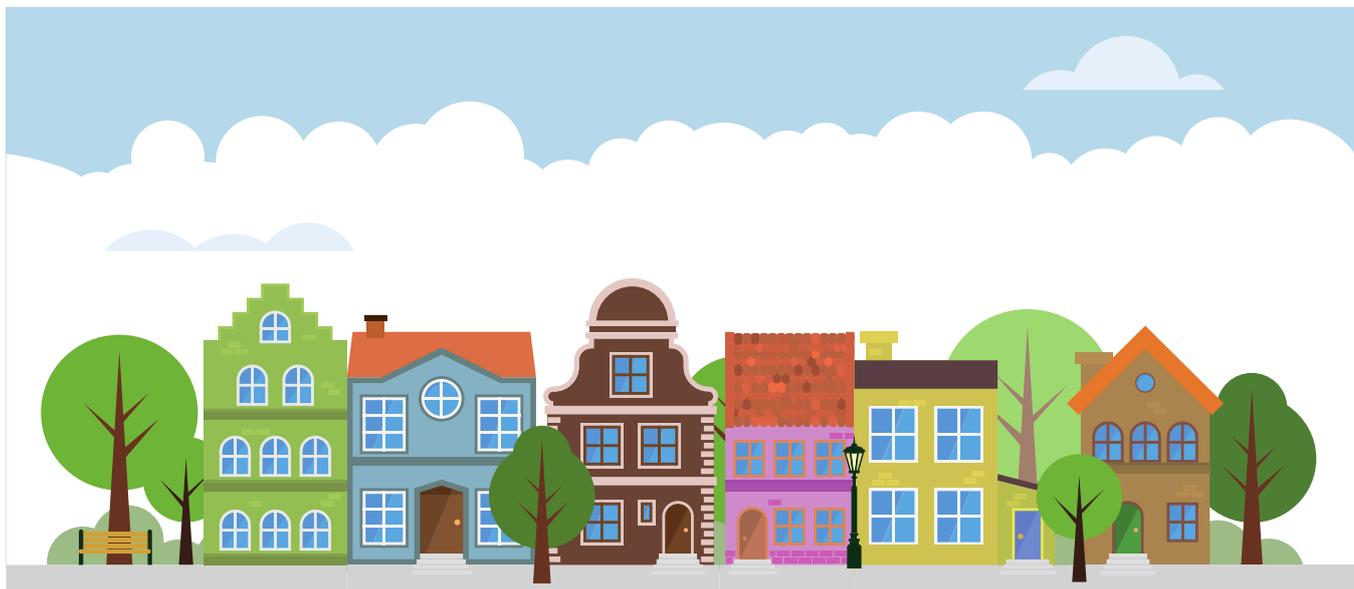
CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO RESIDENTIAL ORDINANCES

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 control the accumulation of junk, trash, and vehicles, which are abandoned, inoperable, and/or in disrepair. The Village also has interest in ensuring that businesses and industries do not operate in an inconsistent manner which may compromise the health, safety, or 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 Weston Municipal Code may be obtained by contacting the Village of Weston Municipal Center, at 715-359-6114. 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 Jami Gebert, Administrator, at 715-241-2610, or jgebert@westonwi.gov, with any questions or comments that you may have.

This Guide to Residential Ordinances is simply a guide, not meant to be final or a 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 frustrated with the situation. 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 judgement before and during the interaction with your neighbor.



REPORTING VIOLATIONS

THEN - If your “Good Neighbor” efforts do not reach your desired outcome, report a code violation on the [Village Website](#). Under zoning, select the violation type, and 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. We make every effort to keep names and identities of complainants confidential.
- **The exact location of the problem.** Preferably house number and street. If the address is unknown, details that help to identify the property are helpful, for example, “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 “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 on the front lawn.”

In certain instances, 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 five business days 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 offense. 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 does not comply, the Village may use any, or all of the following processes to obtain the appropriate compliance:

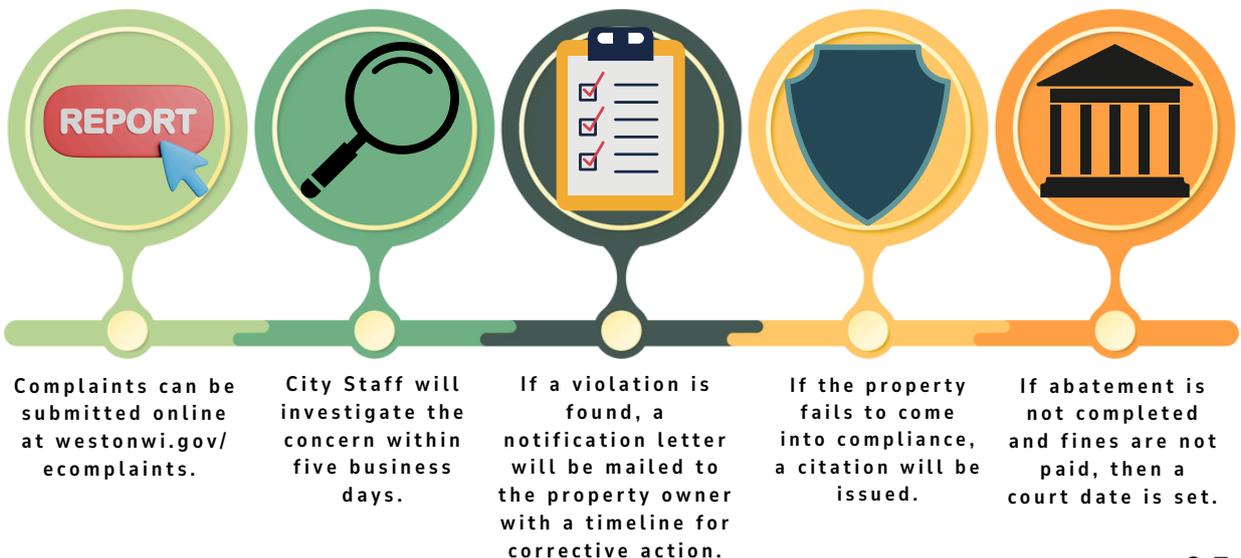
1. Charge fees for non-compliance,
2. Have the Mountain Bay Metro Police Department issue a citation and fine,
3. If appropriate, cause the removal, or abatement of a violation, and
4. Initiate legal action.

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, 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. This could, however, take weeks or months to get resolved through the court system.

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 \$50.00 to \$500.00, together with the cost of prosecution, for a first and second offense. Continuing violations may be charged each day as a separate offense.

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 Freedom of Information Act and Wisconsin Open Records Law allow 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.



ANIMALS

ANIMAL CONTROL: Dogs and domesticated animals must be cared for, handled, and maintained in a humane and sanitary manner. Animals must be kept on a suitable leash or on the premises of its owner. Animal owners shall not allow their animals to disturb any person by continuous barking or howling. Pet owners are responsible for picking up any pet excrement left by their pets on another’s property. Persons disturbed by an animal should contact the **Mountain Bay Metro Police Department at 715-359-3333** at the time of the disturbance.

FARM ANIMALS: The keeping or raising of farm animals is permitted when certain requirements are met in the Farmland Preservation - FP, Agriculture and Residential - AR, Rural Residential - RR-5, and Rural Residential - RR-2 districts. The keeping of hogs and pigs, intended for slaughter or market, goats, roosters, of fur-bearing animals (other than rabbits and ferrets) are permitted only in the FP and AR districts on sites 20 acres or greater. The keeping of bees is permitted in the AR district when requirements for parcel size, a flyway barrier, and freshwater are met.

Backyard chickens are permitted as an accessory use to a principal residential use in all residential zoning districts. The lot must be 15,000 square feet or greater (two acres in the RR district), setbacks must be met, an enclosed chicken coop and run must be constructed, DATCP registration is required, and a license through the Village must be obtained. No more than five chickens are permitted (eight in the RR district) and no roosters are allowed. For more information, please contact the **Planning & Development Department at 715-241-2613 or plandev@westonwi.gov.**

PET LICENSING: All dogs and cats within the Village over four months must be licensed. More information about licensing can be found on the [Village Website](#). The Village partners with Petdata, Inc. to increase the cost effectiveness of the program. Visit www.petdata.com to license your pets. Proof of vaccinations including rabies are required to obtain the license. License applications are due by March 31 of each year and are valid through December 31. For more information, call the **Municipal Center at 715-359-6114.**

NUMBER OF CATS AND DOGS: Unless the property owner holds a valid kennel, breeder, or animal fancier license, no family unit can have over the following number of cats and dogs on any parcel. For more information, contact the **Planning & Development Department at 715-241-2613 or plandev@westonwi.gov.**

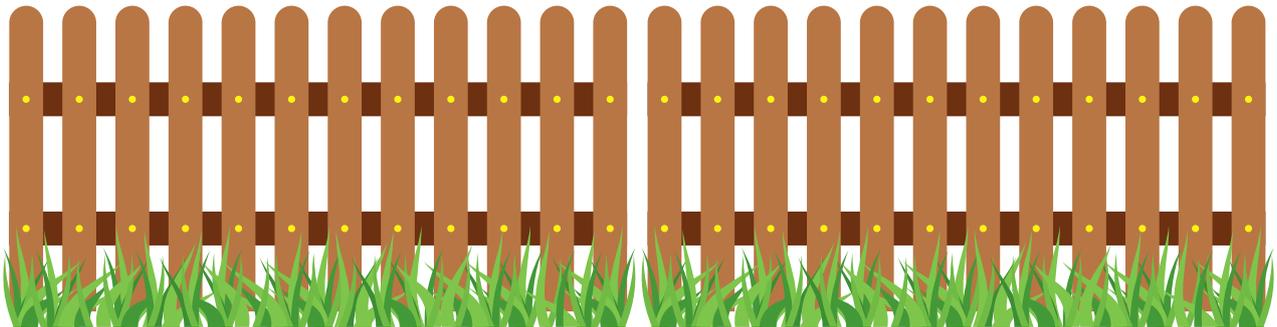
Residential Land Use Type	Number of Cats Allowed	Number of Dogs Allowed
Single-Family Detached Residence	4	3
Two-Family Residence	4 per unit	3 per unit
Multi-Family Residence, Mixed-Use Dwelling Unit	2 per unit	2 per unit
Manufactured Home Community	2 per lot	2 per lot

BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits are required 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 Planning and Development Department at 715-241-2613 or plandev@westonwi.gov to find out if your proposed project requires a building permit. All building permit applications are processed online through Evolve Permitting Software at westonwi.gov/epermits. For more information about permits, contact the **Planning & Development Department at 715-241-2613 or plandev@westonwi.gov**.

FENCES

A building permit is required for all fences constructed in the Village of Weston. For residentially-zoned properties, fence height is regulated depending on where the fence is located on the property. In general, no fence shall exceed (6) feet in height. In street side and rear yards, the maximum height of each fence shall be six feet and four feet in any interior side and front yards. In front and street side yards, fences shall be set back a minimum of two feet from the property line abutting the public street. In interior side and rear yards, any such fence may be installed up to the property line. See Village Ordinance [Section 94.12.03 Fences, Landscape Walls, and Hedges](#) for more information or to find out about agricultural-related or temporary fences. For questions about fence height and placement, please contact the **Planning & Development Department at 715-241-2613 or plandev@westonwi.gov**. Permit applications can be submitted through westonwi.gov/epermits.



NON-COMPLYING STRUCTURES USED FOR STORAGE

Metal canopies, tarp sheds, and other tent-like (fabric/vinyl) structures have been **prohibited for permanent outside** storage and/or garage use in residentially-zoned areas of the Village since March of 2004. The Village has been actively requesting the removal of these structures as we become aware of them being used in our neighborhoods for long-term storage. In an effort to allow temporary use of these structures in residential areas for garage sales or weekend events like graduation parties or other gatherings, the use is permitted for a **maximum of five consecutive days within a 30-day period**. We are aware that businesses in the area sell these structure despite their prohibition. Therefore, it is important to contact the **Planning & Development Department** to determine if your proposed improvement meets current ordinances and whether or not a permit is required prior to making any major improvement to your property. If you have questions, please contact the **Planning & Development Department at 715-241-2613 or plandev@westonwi.gov**.

GARBAGE, RECYCLING, 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 and recycling containers by all Village residences and businesses. For questions, please contact the **Planning & Development Department at 715-241-2613 or plandev@westonwi.gov**. To report improper disposal of garbage or recycling by a property owner in the Village go to westonwi.gov/ecomplaints and click report a violation or email enforcement@westonwi.gov.

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. If you have extra bags of garbage, you can purchase garbage stickers at the Municipal Center for \$1.50 each. For more information or to report garbage accumulation on a property, go to westonwi.gov/ecomplaints and click report a violation or email enforcement@westonwi.gov.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SERVICE: All occupied premises in the Village are required by ordinance to have weekly garbage service. The Village contracts with **Waste Management (888-960-0008)** to provide refuse (garbage) and single-stream recycling service to single-family residences through 4-unit residential dwellings. Household recyclable materials, such as aluminum containers, bi-metal containers, corrugated paper or other container board, glass containers, magazines (or similar paper material), newspaper (and similar paper material), office paper, plastic containers, and steel containers, are to be clean and kept free from contaminants such as food or product residue, oil, or grease, and properly prepared for collection. All household recyclable materials must be placed within your single-stream recycling cart. For more information, see the [Refuse and Recycling Page on the Village Website](#) or contact **Valerie Parker, Planning Technician, 715-241-2607 or vparker@westonwi.gov**.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Wisconsin State Law bans certain materials from going into landfills. These banned materials are required to be separated from non-recyclable solid waste (garbage), and arranged for proper collection and disposal. This pertains to all occupied premises within the Village. Some examples of banned materials include household hazardous waste, lead acid batteries, nickel cadmium, and lithium-ion batteries, major appliances, waste oil, used oil filters, oil absorbent materials, electronics, and yard waste. There are a variety of options available for hazardous material disposal and collection. Some options are free of charge and some require a small fee.

The Marathon County Landfill and Hazardous Waste Facility are located at 172900 State Highway 29 Ringle, WI 54471, approximately seven miles east of Weston on the north side of Highway 29. To drop off hazardous waste, you must call and schedule an appointment by [booking online](#) or calling **715-344-8198**. A list of acceptable items and more information can be found on the [Marathon County Solid Waste Website](#) or by calling **715-344-8198**.

SNOW REMOVAL

The owner/party in possession of the property abutting 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 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, 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 clearing such walks.

The Village will be responsible for clearing:

- sidewalks, walkways, driveways, and parking lots around Village-owned and maintained buildings and properties
- sidewalks along Camp Phillips Road, Business Highway 51, and Schofield Avenue
- sidewalks along the east side of Birch Street from Mount View Avenue to Sternberg Avenue and the Ross Avenue Roundabout
- all multi-use paths within the Village

All other sidewalks within the Village, not listed above, will be the responsibility of the property owners of a building or lot. For complaints about snow removal, go to westonwi.gov/ecomplaints and click report a violation.

YARD WASTE REMOVAL

The Village of Weston has a Yard Material Recycling Site for residents to use 24/7 **FREE** of charge on Ryan Street, one quarter mile south of Weston Avenue. The site contains two designated areas:

- One for **BRUSH** (limbs, small trunks - less than 6" in diameter)
- One for **COMPOST** (grass, leaves, flowers, garden plants, dirt, and mulch)

WEEDS AND TALL GRASS: No person owning a property within the Village shall allow to grow or pollinate on their property any weeds, grasses, or brush that cause, produce, or exhale unpleasant or noxious odors, conceal filthy deposits, or provide a place for 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 eight 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 all new residential construction in the Village, lawns shall be installed within one year of the occupancy issue date. For all new commercial and industrial construction, landscaping and lawn shall be installed 18 months from the issuance of the building permit. For more information or to report violations, go to westonwi.gov/ecomplaints and click report a violation or email enforcement@westonwi.gov.

PRIVATE WELLS (GARDEN WELLS)

Owners of properties served by the Weston municipal public water system are allowed to have a private well (a.k.a. garden well) constructed on their property for the sole purpose of outside watering. Some property owners have their private wells connected just to their outside water faucets and some have their private well connected to an irrigation system.

Please be aware that the Village is required by WDNR to obtain well operation permits from private well property owners, renewable not less than every five years. In order to obtain this permit, a bacteriologically safe water sample must be obtained along with an in-home inspection to confirm no cross-contamination between the private well and public water supply. Inspections are conducted by a Weston Water Utility Operator. Additionally, the well and pressure system must be inspected by a licensed well-driller/pump installer once every ten years to ensure that WI Codes (NR 812) are met.

If you would like to learn more about having a well constructed on your property for outside watering purposes, please contact the **Municipal Center at 715-359-6114 or email plandev@westonwi.gov**. Private wells on properties not served by the public water supply do not require permits, only **WDNR approval at 715-359-5284 or dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Wells**.

BURNING PERMITS

Controlled burning of forestry materials, prairies, agricultural materials, etc. is allowed. Burning of other materials such as building supplies, treated lumber, and general trash is prohibited. At least five acres of single-ownership property must be owned to conduct controlled burning. A burning permit must be issued by the Fire Department. Please contact **SAFER at 715-355-6763** to obtain a burning permit. Please contact **SAFER at 715-355-6763** or the **Mountain Bay Metro Police Department at 715-359-3333** to report a suspected burning permit violation.

BURNING BARRELS

Burning barrels and burning of trash/garbage are not allowed in the Village of Weston. Please contact **SAFER at 715-355-6763** or the **Mountain Bay Metro Police Department at 715-359-3333** to report a violation.

RECREATIONAL FIRES

Recreational fires are allowed without a permit using commercially prepared wood or clean dry wood from noon to midnight, but must be under control and out by midnight. The fires can be in a fire pit no larger in diameter than three feet and constructed of noncombustible material such as stone or steel. All recreational fires must be a minimum of 10 feet from the lot line and 25 feet from a building or combustible fence. Recreational fires are only allowed on properties containing single-family or two-family dwellings and are not allowed when the Fire Department has issued a burning ban for the Village. For more information concerning recreational fires, please contact **SAFER at 715-355-6763** or to issue a complaint about a recreational fire in your neighborhood, please contact the **Mountain Bay Metro Police Department at 715-359-3333**.

VEHICLE PARKING

Parking regulations are designed to maintain and promote safety on our public streets. Parking your vehicle on an all-weather surface as required, helps to prevent fluids and oil from seeping into the ground and contaminating 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.

ON PUBLIC STREETS: From October 31 to May 1, alternate side parking is in effect for all streets in the Village of Weston between 4:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. During this time, vehicles shall be parked on the even-numbered side on the street on even numbered calendar days and the odd side of the street on odd-numbered calendar days, unless otherwise posted or exempted. All vehicles parked on the public roadway must have a current license and registration. Please call the **Mountain Bay Metro Police Department at 715-359-3333 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 right-of-ways. To report a violation, go to westonwi.gov/ecomplaints and click report a violation or email enforcement@westonwi.gov.

VEHICLE REPAIRS

The registered owner of a vehicle may perform routine maintenance to his/her vehicle or to vehicles belonging to immediate family members in public view at his/her residence. Routine maintenance includes: changing the oil, tires, replacement of the water pump, alternator, brakes, shocks, oil, air filters, spark plugs, and the like. 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 conducted inside a garage. For complaints about vehicle repair, go to westonwi.gov/ecomplaints and click report a violation or email enforcement@westonwi.gov.

VEHICLE STORAGE

INOPERABLE VEHICLES: Inoperable vehicles or junk vehicles are defined as those that are not street 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 also subject to tow. To report a violation on private property, go to westonwi.gov/ecomplaints and click report a violation or email enforcement@westonwi.gov. To report violations on a public street or on public property, please call the **Mountain Bay Metro Police Department at 715-359-3333.**

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES: Licensed, drivable recreational vehicles must be kept on a hard surface or gravel surface that was in existence as of March 18, 2015. Recreational vehicles shall not be used as a dwelling unit for more than seven days per calendar year. In most residential zoning districts, a maximum of two recreational vehicles may be stored outside on a lot. Within rural and open space zoning districts a maximum of four recreational vehicles can be stored outdoors. For purposes of this ordinance, a boat or snowmobiles on a trailer are considered one recreational vehicle. All recreational vehicles must have current registration, be operable, and in good repair. Non-drivable recreational vehicles may not be stored in the front yard unless on a driveway. If stored next to the house, they are subject to the parking setback for that zoning district. Storage in the rear yard is allowed, but may require a bufferyard. Property owners are responsible for mowing under recreational vehicles kept on grassy areas. Recreational vehicles may not overhang along public sidewalks, designated bicycle paths, or right-of-ways. For more information, please contact the **Planning & Development Department at 715-241-2613 or plandev@westonwi.gov**. To report violations, go to westonwi.gov/ecomplaints and click report a violation or email enforcement@westonwi.gov.

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 a 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, or for complaints regarding a home based business, please contact the **Planning & Development Department at 715-241-2613 or plandev@westonwi.gov**.

NOISE

The Village of Weston observes quiet hours of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. in all residential neighborhoods. [Municipal Code Section 50.103](#) provides more information about noise requirements within the Village. For noise complaints, please contact the **Mountain Bay Metro Police Department at 715-359-3333**.

MAILBOXES

All mailboxes in the Village of Weston shall be built and erected in accordance with the United States Postal Service (USPS) and Village Public Works & Utilities Department recommendations for mailbox mounting, support, and location. The Village is not responsible for any damage to mailboxes that do not conform to postal and Village regulations. A [Sample Mailbox Plan](#) and guidelines can be found on the Village Website. For more information regarding the correct placement of mailboxes, please contact the **Municipal Center at 715-359-6114**.

ADDRESSES ON BUILDINGS

Each house and building in the Village shall have address numbers conspicuously displayed. These numbers must be at least 3 1/2 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 about house numbers, please call the **Planning & Development Department at 715-241-2613 or plandev@westonwi.gov**.

