

CITY OF OSAWATOMIE



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CITY TO CONCENTRATE ON NUISANCE VEHICLES BEGINNING SEPT. 1

The City of Osawatomie is focusing on a specific nuisance violation during a special two-month enforcement period this fall.

Beginning in September, the city's codes department will concentrate on abandoned and inoperable vehicles. On Sept. 1, city officials will begin notifying any person or property owner found to have a motor-vehicle deemed a nuisance (City Ordinance 8-401). This enforcement effort will continue through the end of October.

Based on the city's current ordinance, a motor vehicle is considered a nuisance if it is untagged, unregistered, inoperable or wrecked. A vehicle will also be presumed to be junked or inoperable if there is an absence of current registration plates or one or more parts necessary for operation upon a city street or state highway. The vehicle is also considered to be abandoned or inoperable if it is placed on supports. A motor vehicle is defined by ordinance as "a currently licensed motorized or non-motorized conveyance that includes, but is not limited to an automobile, car, truck, tractor, trailer, motorcycle or watercraft, in operable condition."

Once a city official has determined a nuisance exists, the owner will be notified of the violation. Once an owner has received a notice, he/she will be given 10 days to resolve the matter. If the owner fails to take care of the issue within the allotted time frame, a complaint may be filed in Osawatomie Municipal Court. As a result, the owner may be subject to a fine for each day the violation continues to occur. In addition to a fine, or as an alternative to the complaint, city officials may ask for the Osawatomie City Council to remove and impound the vehicle - with the costs associated with an impoundment to be filed as a lien against the property. Furthermore, after appropriate notice, the city may sell the vehicle at a public auction to cover the expense of resolving the nuisance.

More detailed information related to motor-vehicle nuisances can be found in Chapter 8, Article 4 of the Code of the City of Osawatomie. A copy of the code can be found at www.osawatomieks.citycode.net/index.html#!codeOfTheCityOfOsawatomieKansas.

It is the City of Osawatomie's intention, by announcing its plans to focus on motor-vehicle nuisances, that citizens will comply with the removal of these nuisances prior to the city issuing notices. The city's emphasis on motor-vehicle nuisances does not allow other nuisances to be permitted during this time. The city nuisance officer may also cite or warn citizens about other nuisance violations discovered during September and October.

Anyone with questions about the ordinance, or about how they can abate a nuisance prior to receiving a notice, should contact the Osawatomie Codes Department at 913-755-2146 ext. 102.