

Information that can save you headaches and money

Congratulations! You finally moved from the dorms into a residential neighborhood. You will find that many neighborhoods in Whitewater are a mix of permanent residents and students.

This brochure is intended to assist students moving into residential neighborhoods to have a better understanding of the laws and ordinances which govern living in the City of Whitewater. These laws and ordinances were enacted to add to the quality of life for everyone. It is important to know that wherever you choose to live there will be similar rules.

As a citizen living in a free society it is your responsibility to respect those who live nearby and to respect community laws and ordinances which have been established to promote a peaceful and safe community. Ignorance of the law does not excuse a person from responsibility. This brochure can not list all governing ordinances. When in doubt, call for information.

Listed here are some of the more common concerns you neighbors may have that may lead to complaints from your new neighbors which may lead to police intervention.

EXCESSIVE NOISE

One of the most common complaints a neighbor may have is being disturbed by loud noise. Not everyone has the same noise level tolerance. City ordinances prohibit disturbing others by noise of any type whether it is a loud stereo, loud voices, live band, etc.



RESPECT FOR PROPERTY

Have respect for the property of others. Treat it as you would like others to treat your own property. What may seem to you as a “harmless prank” may be viewed by your neighbor as an extremely serious violation of his or her property rights. Advise your guests that you want to stay in good standing with your neighbors. Don’t allow friends invited to your new home to harm or take your neighbor’s property.



ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS

It is unlawful statewide for any person under the age of 21 to possess or consume alcohol beverages. It is also unlawful to provide alcohol to those under 21, or to sell alcohol to anyone if you do not hold a license to do so. Charging a small fee or “accepting donations” to “defray the costs of holding the party” or “only selling a cup” when serving alcohol is considered a sale without license. Possession or consumption when underage, allowing underage to consume on your premises, or sale without license all carry stiff penalties.

Parties where alcohol is served can quickly get out of hand. Alcohol impairs the good judgment needed to keep noise to a level your neighbors can live with, and may lead to guests who steal or damage property your neighbors cherish. Alcohol violations or repeated complaints from your neighbors can result in your landlord terminating your lease.



NEIGHBORHOOD IMAGE

No one would like to live in or next to a garbage dump. Whitewater has ordinances designed to maintain or improve the quality of life in the city. City ordinances cover such matters as:

Garbage and Refuse . . . Trash pick up is on Thursday morning, citywide. Garbage may not be set out earlier than 4:00 PM on Wednesday. Trash containers must be restored to a place out of view from the street by 4:00 PM on pickup day. If containers are left out and the city has to move them there will be a fee charged to the property owner.

Outdoor furnishings . . . Only furniture designed for outdoor use may be placed outside a residence. Furniture designed for indoor use may not be placed or kept on lawns or porches that are not entirely enclosed.

Vehicles and Parking . . . Other than in a paved parking lot, parking is prohibited on front and side lawn areas, and other areas of the property not designed for parking. Uncovered storage of unlicensed, junk, and/or unregistered vehicles is not allowed in residential neighborhoods.

Sidewalks . . . Sidewalks must be kept clean of snow, ice and other obstructions. Know if you are responsible for snow removal on the sidewalk for your residence.

Lawns . . . Grass must be kept cut to a reasonable length and free of noxious weeds. Ask your landlord who is responsible for maintaining the lawn of your new residence.

Litter and other debris . . . Tenants in residential neighborhoods are responsible for keeping the property free of litter, junk and other unsightly debris.

***Be a neighbor
you would
like to live
next to . . .***

Neighborhood relations are based on a foundation of mutual respect. Below are some tips to aid you in building your neighbor's respect:

- ◆ Take time to introduce yourself when moving into a new neighborhood. Tell your neighbors who you are and provide them with your telephone number. Ask that they call you with any concerns that arise.
- ◆ Listen to your neighbors' concerns. Do your best to make them feel comfortable with you as a neighbor. Let them know that you understand their desire to live in a peaceful and safe community. Appreciate the fact that their outlook and life goals may not be the same as yours.
- ◆ Do your part in making yourself a welcome addition to the neighborhood. Offer a helping hand when you can. Help make your neighborhood safer for everyone.
- ◆ Set a good example for others moving into the neighborhood to follow. Work together with your neighbors to help improve your neighborhood.

**Whitewater Police Department
Community Crime Prevention
473-0555**

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***Community
Living:***

***A concise guide
to moving into a
residential
neighborhood***



***How to reduce conflict
with your new neighbors
and avoid costly court
appearances***