

## Maintaining our *Sterling* Quality of **LIFE**

***Adherence to the city's codes and ordinances promotes neighborhood harmony and enhances property values***

### ***How you can help***

Sterling Heights contains 50,341 residential properties and more than 3,000 businesses. The sheer size of our city dictates that our code enforcement efforts must be supplemented by reports from neighborhood residents.

The city encourages community pride and asks you to inform us of problems you perceive in your neighborhood so that we can work to rectify concerns. Many of the guidelines listed on these pages are supported by the City Code.

#### **ON THE WEB**

[www.sterling-heights.net](http://www.sterling-heights.net) accepts complaints through its state-of-the-art "Citizen Complaint and Request for Service Form" 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Requests are processed during normal business hours (M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

#### **ON THE PHONE OR IN PERSON**

The Community Relations Department's Citizen Contact Center is available at (586) 446-CITY (2489). The center, located on the lower level of city hall, is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F.

As Sterling Heights continues to mature, we can all do our part to ensure that our city ages gracefully and remains a wonderful place in which to live, work and play. By keeping houses or businesses maintained, frequently painted and nicely landscaped, we not only display our pride in the community, but also add to the property values of the entire area. **Mending dilapidated fences, repairing loose siding, cutting weeds and replacing diseased ash trees can go a long way in sprucing up property values. Handsome homes show visitors and fellow residents the importance we, as citizens, place on neighborhood upkeep.**

Over the past 30 years, city administrators have compiled a comprehensive city code containing property maintenance rules and regulations designed to promote beautification and the health, safety and welfare of all residents. By adhering to ordinances and community appearance standards, we can avoid property maintenance issues, promote neighborhood harmony and boost property values.

This *Sterling Heights Magazine* edition of the *Community & Neighborhood Living Guide* contains important seasonal guidelines based on existing Sterling Heights ordinances and community standards.

#### ***Homes & Yards***

- Homes should be routinely painted or coated to prevent surface deterioration with no visible signs of peeling paint. Aluminum and vinyl siding and trim should be routinely cleaned.
- Windows should contain no broken or cracked glass. Screens should not be torn.
- All buildings should be maintained in a structurally sound condition, with no sagging rooflines, worn or missing shingles, or tilted/bowed floors and walls.
- All building extensions and attachments, such as fences, porches, gutters and shutters, should be maintained. They should present an even, straight and structurally sound appearance.
- Single-family homes built in Sterling Heights are designed to be occupied by traditional family units for the safety and comfort of those residing in the dwelling.
- Some home-occupation businesses may be operated out of a residence provided there are no employees, signs, storage, commercial vehicles or equipment or on-site parking.
- Grass and shrub areas should be mowed, trimmed and kept weed-free. No lawn areas should be allowed to grow greater than six inches tall. Mowing and trimming of ditch lines and right-of-way areas, adjacent to the roadway, is also expected. All landscaping is expected to be kept neat and clean. Diseased or dead landscaping should be removed.
- Motorized yard maintenance shall only take place between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- Snow, grass, leaves and other yard debris may not be deposited in the street.
- Yard areas should be free of litter, junk, debris and scrap storage. Failure to keep a yard uncluttered from debris may be considered a nuisance.
- All lawn furniture should be kept in a neat, orderly fashion. Furniture intended for indoor use shall not be kept outdoors.
- Landscaping must be installed at a new home within one year of occupancy.
- Firewood shall be stored 8" off the ground and in piles not higher than 6'.
- Swimming pools must be in proper working order and, for public health reasons, must not contain stagnant water.

# Neighborhood Living Guide

## Garage/Driveways/Garage Sales

- Garage doors should be free of peeling paint and dents, and should close tightly and securely.
- Driveways and sidewalks should be free of broken areas and hazardous conditions (damage corrected by either repairing or replacing).
- It is unlawful to shovel snow from your driveway or sidewalk or rake leaves from your yard into a city street.
- All vehicles should be parked in defined driveways and not in any yard areas. Vehicles should not be parked on the lawn or across the public sidewalk.
- Extreme caution must be exercised with all outdoor cooking and open flames (including barbecuing) and should be conducted outdoors.
- Residents do not need to obtain a permit to hold a garage sale.
- Recurring or continual garage sales (i.e., every weekend) are not permitted. Residents are encouraged to hold no more than two sales per year.
- Garage sale signs (or any other signs) are regulated by city ordinances and are never permitted to be posted in the public street right-of-way.
- Sterling Heights Television and the city's official Web site: [www.sterling-heights.net](http://www.sterling-heights.net) posts garage sale notices free of charge. The garage sale notice form can be found on the city's Web site or can be obtained by calling the Community Relations Department at (586) 446-CITY (2489). Notices must be submitted at least one week prior to event.

## Sidewalks

- All public sidewalks should be kept free of ice, snow and other obstacles. Snow should be removed within 24 hours after a snowfall.
- The parking of vehicles across the sidewalk is prohibited.
- Any dangerous sidewalks should be repaired or replaced as necessary.

## Vehicles (RVs & Commercial)

- Recreational vehicles must be stored in an enclosed building or garage, in the rear or side yard on a paved surface, or if access to these is not available, on a paved driveway no closer than eight feet from the public sidewalk or seven feet from the front lot line if sidewalks are not installed. Recreational vehicles may be temporarily parked in the driveway or street for a period of 48 hours if preparing for or returning from a trip or performing routine maintenance.
- Commercial vehicles and equipment may not be parked or stored in residential areas of the city. Trucks exceeding 3/4 ton are considered commercial vehicles.
- No unlicensed and/or junk vehicles should be parked on the property other than in the garage. Major vehicle repairs, such as engine and transmission overhauls and body work that requires extensive time to complete, should not be attempted and are not permitted.
- Vehicles you do not intend to drive for extended periods of time may not be stored on the exterior of your property. They must be kept in the garage.
- The parking of personal vehicles (new or used) for purposes of sale is not permitted on commercial, industrial or public properties. Dealers are not permitted to operate in residential areas. Vehicle sales on private residential property are restricted by city ordinances. Contact the Office of Planning and Zoning at (586) 446-2720 for additional information.

## Street Trees

- City street trees cannot be removed without the prior consent of the city. Removal of street trees is limited to extreme circumstances as outlined in the city's Street Tree Removal Policy (available online at [www.sterling-heights.net](http://www.sterling-heights.net)). Residents with specific complaints or Emerald Ash Borer concerns regarding a street tree may request a free tree inspection by calling the DPW at (586) 446-2440.



## Animals (Pets)

- No more than four adult animals may occupy a home.
- Exotic animals cannot be kept as pets. Exotic animals are defined as those not occurring naturally in the city presently or historically, which are normally found in the wild.
- Farm animals can only be raised on an 8-acre lot (minimum.)
- Pets, including dogs and cats, must be controlled in public parks by a leash.
- When walking your pet, waste must be cleared from, picked up and disposed from all public places (including parks) and private property. No waste on your property or private property should be allowed to create a nuisance to others.
- Dogs must be licensed through the City Clerk's Office.
- Dogs should not bark excessively.
- Vicious animals are not allowed.
- To report strays, barking dogs, loose animals or deceased animals along roadways, contact the Police Department's Animal Control Division at (586) 446-2800.

## City codes on the Web

For information on city codes and ordinances, please visit the city's official Web site: [www.sterling-heights.net](http://www.sterling-heights.net).

