

May 30, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Mow weekly to avoid pests, violations

With the arrival of the growing season, it's important to remember to properly care for lawns by mowing at least once a week. Tall grass and weeds can create homes and food for unwanted rodents, mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, chiggers, snakes and other animals. Some of these pests are known to carry diseases that can be passed along to you, your family and your pets.

City Code states that grass shall not exceed 12 inches in height. When grass exceeds this height, the property owner and/or occupant are notified to mow or otherwise take care of the problem. If not resolved in the given time frame, the property may be mowed by the City at the property owner's expense.

To report tall grass, call **417-864-1010** or fill out an online service request at <http://www.springfieldmo.gov/request/>. Please note that as of last year, the Health Department no longer takes complaints about tall grass unless it involves a confirmed vector problem such as mice or rats.

The City received 657 calls reporting tall grass in May. While the City thanks citizens for taking action, we ask callers for their patience as our inspectors are responding to reports as quickly as possible.

Below is the process that occurs once a violation has been reported.

- An inspector from the City's Building Development Services department visits the property and verifies there is a violation of City Code – that the weeds are in excess of 12 inches or there is danger from overgrowth.
- The property is posted with a notice that states that the occupant needs to mow the property within 12 days or contact Building Development Services to schedule a hearing.
- A notice is also mailed to the property owner on record (with Greene County Recorder's office). The owner may want to schedule a hearing if they disagree with the City's assessment that they are in violation of the ordinance.
- The property is re-inspected after 12 days. If the owner has not requested a hearing or mowed within that time, an order is sent to the City's contracted mower.
- A lien is placed against the property for the mowing fees.