

Building & Safety inspectors target Commercial areas in cleanup blitz

Building & Safety inspectors are going to boost the curb appeal of the city's commercial areas through a three-week sweep of all business districts in Dearborn.

Each of the 23 Neighborhood Services field inspectors will be assigned to specific areas of the city. They primarily will be looking for three possible violations: high grass and weeds that have grown over 6 inches; junk, debris and trash on the property; and non-permitted temporary banner signs.

“We want to try and make these businesses look better to people who are driving by or walking along the street,” said Renault Arseneau, of the Neighborhood Services Division. “These businesses should be maintained with the same high standards as residential properties.”

For example, many business owners or managers fail to pull the necessary permits to hang temporary banners across their buildings. Often times these promotional banners are left hanging for several weeks, sometimes in tattered condition.

Or some properties are littered with trash and debris in the landscaping, along the building and in parking lots, but no one cleans it up.

The three-part commercial sweep will begin on August 28. First, inspectors will visit the property and identify any problems that need addressing. If the owner is not present, it will be up to the tenant or manager to make any corrections, or contact the owner to do so.

Inspectors will make contact with the business again to see if the tenant has made the improvements or has any questions. Then they will make a final walk-through of their entire district, and if upgrades have not been made by the last visit, a Violation Notice will be issued to the property owner/tenant.

The “Commercial Sweep 2006” is an expanded version of an annual cleanup program that usually targets one commercial district. This year Mayor Michael A. Guido has asked for the entire city, rather than one section, to receive the inspection services of the Building & Safety Department.

Arseneau said that Dearborn area Realtors and representatives from the city’s Neighborhood Associations have requested stronger enforcement from the Building & Safety Department with commercial properties.

They complained that too many commercial property owners are not maintaining their buildings, which, in turn, reflects poorly on the entire city, he said.

“It can be difficult to market the City of Dearborn, as a whole, when there are problems with the commercial areas,” Arseneau said.

The cleanup program should be wrapped up by September 15.

The Neighborhood Services Division can be reached at (313) 943-2696.

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