

# EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PHELPS NEIGHBORHOOD - ( BUT WAS AFRAID TO ASK!!)

## Parking Permits

*Do I really need these?*

Yes, you will need them if you want to park on the street. Due to the close proximity of the Southwest Missouri State University campus, on-street parking is regulated in the Phelps Grove Neighborhood. Residents of the neighborhood are allowed to park on the street provided a parking permit is displayed on the vehicle. On-street parking for the general public is prohibited at all times, except from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays in Parking District No. 1. Parking for the general public in Parking District No. 2 is prohibited from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Visitors may park on the street with a visitor's card obtained from the resident.

*How many permits can I get?*

Each household is allowed up to three permits for residents living there. One additional visitor permit is issued to each household. To get additional permits for special events (parties, bar mitzvahs, coronations, etc.) that require additional street parking call 864-1617. The special events permits have a specific date and time period in which they are valid.

*Vehicles parked on the street during these times that do not display a valid parking permit will be ticketed—really – ask Nancy!!*

*Where do I get them and how much do they cost?*

Resident parking permits may be obtained **free** (who says everything costs too much?) from the City's Licensing Division located on the first floor in the Busch Building, 840 Boonville Springfield, MO. (the parking lot is accessed from Central Street or Chestnut Expressway). The City requires proof of residence, so be sure and bring along proper documentation. Call 864-1617 for additional questions.

## Overcrowding

As a method of preventing overcrowded conditions, the City's zoning code restricts the number of unrelated persons that can live in the same house.

No more than a total of three (3) unrelated persons may live together as a single house-keeping unit. Even if you live in a four or five bedroom house, you can only have two unrelated roommates in addition to yourself. (It's difficult enough to tolerate 2 other people, why push the envelope and end up despising more roommates than you need too!) For more specific information, check out the city code.

## Loud Parties and Noise

It is a violation of the City Code to produce noise that can be heard from neighboring properties between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. Regardless of how the noise is produced -- televisions, stereos, or loud voices -- it is a violation. ***The police may enforce this ordinance without a complaint from the public.*** Loud noises prior to 11:00 p.m. may also be a violation. Prior to 11:00 p.m. the ordinance is, typically, enforced only when a complaint is received from the general public.

*The police showed up to enforce the ordinance without a complaint from the public!!*

First – read the paragraph above and take note of the **bold print** in *italics*!!

Now, try thinking of the situation compared to the following: You get pulled over on highway 70, north of Kansas City, doing 82 mph at 2:00 in the morning and try explaining to the officer that since no one complained you don't deserve the ticket!! The argument just doesn't hold up. (Trust me on this one folks – it cost me \$112 bucks about 10 years ago!!) The fact that you are loud enough to violate the law means you may be potentially disturbing someone. Just like the speeding ticket – guilty as charged!!

*The police showed up and I wasn't doing a thing!*

That's probably the problem! If you had done something to regulate your guest the police would not be knocking on your door. You are responsible for everyone at your house. When a violation of the peace ticket is written your name will be on it!! (Not the loud drunk guy singing Brittany's latest hit – by the way the bald look isn't really good for her!)

*How loud can I get!!*

If your noise (music, loud talking, etc!!) can be heard beyond your property it is considered by city code too loud.

*Do you mean I can't party??*

You can party all you want. (However, your neighbor may not want to party with you.) Just don't be a problem to your neighbors and everyone gets along great.

- When the party is over, picking up party debris in not only your yard, but in your neighbor's yard, unfortunately your guest may forget that aluminum does not dissolve in the first rain. A neighborly gesture will really get you a lot of respect.
- Front porch smokers can be louder than you think. Our front porches have acoustical properties amplifying conversations. (much like alcohol!)

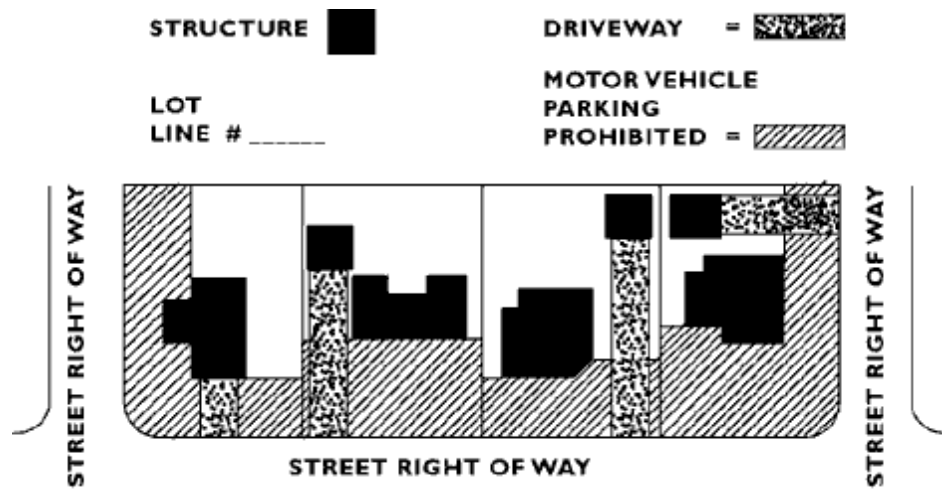
As soon as I got home from partying somewhere else the police showed up – give me a break! Try to remember (I know remembering the next day is difficult) the reason you are hoarse when you come home is because you have been yelling to be heard over the loud roar. Yelling is not required to be heard between your vehicle (TAXI PLEASE!) and your front door. What might seem to be a normal level of conversation at 1:45 a.m. -- might be reported as someone yelling by the guy sleeping 4 houses away!! Leaving the party noise level at the club will score big with not having the police show up to tuck you in!

## Front Yard Parking

Vehicles shall not be parked in the front yard of a residence or on the sidewalk at any time.

*Vehicles parked in the front yard will be ticketed. This violation carries a minimum \$25.00 fine. (That is equal to 3 six packs of Bass Ale, a bottle of Crown, (quality liquor night) or several cases of MGD – pretty steep fine!) The fine increases for repeat offenders.*

Below is the map showing the areas, defined by law, that motor vehicle parking is prohibited



## Trash Containers

Trash containers are not yard ornaments. (Although HGTV did make a barbeque out of one!) Special regulations for the Phelps Grove Neighborhood require that trash containers cannot be taken to the curb earlier than the evening prior to trash collection and must be removed from the curb within 24 hours of trash collection. Also, if you use trash bags for refuse disposal, the bags should be free of rips, tears, leaks or any other means of spillage.

## Outdoor Furniture

That's right – the sofa on the porch isn't legal. Martha Stewart couldn't even if she wanted too! (However, I am sure she would use an appropriate print for the season!) Special regulations for the Phelps Grove Neighborhood require furniture placed out or doors to be designed for that purpose. Therefore, sofas, recliners, etc. typically used indoors is prohibited from front porches and other areas visible from public right of ways or other properties.

## Occupancy of Rental Housing

Each rental house in the Phelps Grove Neighborhood must have an occupancy permit listing all current tenants for that residence. These are provided free of charge from the City of Springfield's Health Department. In addition, all owners of rental housing must register their property with the Health Department.

## Trash and Weeds

Jungle Fever is not allowed in the Phelps Grove Neighborhood (Boogie Fever is allowed but you may want to review the paragraph on "Parties and Loud Noises" before getting the fever). It is also a violation of City Code to allow grass or weeds to reach a height of greater than twelve (12) inches. Remember, if you are renting a house, depending on your lease, you may be responsible for cutting the grass and you are always responsible for picking up any trash that may litter the property.

## Inoperable Vehicles

It is a violation of the City Code to allow a wrecked, junked, inoperable, discarded or partially dismantled vehicle to remain on a piece of property (chop shops are also discouraged!!) for longer than seven (7) days. If your car is broken down, try to get it repaired or have it removed from your property. It is very difficult to convince a code official that it is a planter!

## Who You Gonna Call??

### Contacts

SMSU Police Substation	836-5327 (non emergencies)
Police, fire and ambulance dispatch	911
SMSU Safety & Transportation	836-5510
City Code Violations, Public Information Office	864-1010
Landlord / Tenant Issues, Office of the Attorney General	1-800-392-8222
Parking District Permits, Licensing Division	864-1617
Planning and Development Department Neighborhood Conservation Office	864-1033
Phelps Neighborhood Association	P.O. Box 1183
<a href="http://www.phelpsneighborhood.org">www.phelpsneighborhood.org</a>	Springfield, MO 65801