

# CITY CONNECTION

## Help Make Stillwater Beautiful

The City of Stillwater is committed to improving the attractiveness and safety of the community. To help accomplish this, the City has set up the **Property Maintenance Action Line, 742.8383**. This action line provides citizens an opportunity to anonymously call in concerns about unsightly and potentially dangerous high grass and weeds, trash, and junk motor vehicles. The caller will hear a recorded message after which they can leave a message to report their concern. Callers are asked to be as specific as possible on the location and a description of the reason for their call. Messages can be left after regular business hours and on the weekend. The line is monitored regularly during the work week, and all concerns reported are followed up to determine appropriate action.

While the responsibility for assuring the attractiveness and safety of our community falls to all citizens of the City, the property owner is the person or organization legally responsible for correcting any violations. Violations occur when weeds or grass exceed 12 inches in height, harbor rodents or vermin, give off an unpleasant odor, constitute a traffic or fire hazard, or, regardless of height, harbors, conceals or invites deposits or accumulation of refuse or trash. Junk motor vehicles are any motor vehicle, the condition of which is wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, inoperative, abandoned, discarded, or does not display a current vehicle registration. Parking or storing a junk motor vehicle, whether attended or not, on any private property within the City for a period in excess of ten days, is prohibited.

Once a violation is determined, the owner is notified by registered mail and by posting on the property that a violation has occurred. This notification gives the owner 10 days from the date of mailing to correct the violation. If more time is needed, the property owner needs to contact the City to work out a mutually agreeable time frame for taking care of the problem. If the violation is not corrected, the City will take action to have the violation abated. All associated costs plus an administrative fee will be billed to the owner. If after 30 days the costs have not been paid, a lien is filed with the Payne County treasurer for collection with property tax.

With the arrival of spring, this is the time of year our attention turns to cleaning and sprucing up our properties. Through the cooperative efforts of all citizens, Stillwater will be a pleasant, attractive and enjoyable community for everyone.

City Connection is brought to you by the City of Stillwater as a public service to provide regular information about City services and to respond to general questions asked by the public about their local government. The Code Enforcement Division is available to provide further information or assistance regarding property maintenance, dilapidated structures, or other code enforcement issues by calling 742.8346 or 742.8343.