

Code Enforcement and You:

“Be a good Neighbor, noise and parties that affect others”

By: Robert C. Solera, Code Enforcement Director / Code Services Inc. President

Our Town of Southwest Ranches is a rural community and strives constantly to maintain the character that our founders and residents envisioned. Many times without realizing we tend to deviate or stray away from this vision, either because we forget or because we are new to our area. This article serves to communicate with our established and new residents that one needs to be conscious of the impact that can be created to adjacent neighbors by our actions and “be a good neighbor”. Issues as excessive noise created by volume, and amounts of guests attending a party are becoming more prevalent and hence this article.

- **Noise Limits (volume, time of day), attendees, parking impact**

Recently the Department has seen an increase in the amounts of complaints related to excessive noise beyond a reasonable time. Many cases relate to parties that start late and continue to even later evening hours or early morning hours, creating noise beyond the normal levels. As a reminder, we follow the regulations that are part of Town of Southwest Ranches Unified Land Development Code, Section 035-080 when it relates to noise.

Our code does not allow for noise amplified or non-amplified to be audible from an adjacent dwelling or guest house (with closed windows and doors) from the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Monday to Friday and 11:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Also as related to New Years’ Eve the hours where no amplified or non-amplified noise cannot be heard in the same manner are from 1:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on New Years’ Day.

In addition, a residential special event assembly application is required if the assembly will be attended by more than 30 people. This permit needs to be submitted within 15 business days from the date of the event.

In addition these parties have presented traffic and parking issues to adjacent neighbors due to the amount of attendees and the parking of vehicles obstructing traffic and side streets. We need to be conscious that a large amount of vehicles parked along our narrow streets and in front of properties, create an impact on our neighbors. The Police Department has been called to these events because cars are blocking traffic lanes, and driveway entrances. Please be mindful of your neighbors and the impact that this issue creates.

As a reminder, the Code Enforcement Department only works based on complaints from residents as it is non pro-active in nature. We believe that everyone has the right to enjoy their property without any outside intrusion. Non-withstanding this fact when a complaint comes into the Department we have to investigate and provide the corresponding notification to the property owner.

We all live in a beautiful and special Town. The Town of Southwest Ranches would like to ask for our new, established, and rental residents to be mindful of these issues and help us continue to maintain the character that we all envisioned. Let's work together to make sure that these simple guidelines are followed, so that we can continue to enjoy the rural lifestyle that we all love so much and moved here for. Enjoy your property but **"be a good neighbor"**. If you have any questions about the above, you can contact the Code Enforcement Department at (954) 434-0008.