

Holyoke Health Board urges people to keep it clean

HOLYOKE – Spring has finally arrived after what seemed like an eternal winter and summer is just around the corner. Leaves, flowers, grass and wild weeds and other natural foliage is growing. It's that time of year that we all should take time to motivate ourselves and focus on spring cleaning.

Whether you are a tenant, residential property or business owner, the Health Board asks that everyone should take pride in keeping their properties and the city clean.

It is everyone's responsibility to control litter and rubbish by using proper placement of containers. Property owners should participate in recycling every other week, keep sidewalks and alleys clean, trim shrubbery and mow lawns as needed, and register vehicles. Unregistered vehicles are prohibited on all properties except for licensed auto repair and auto sales business.

Homeowners can obtain a disposal permit from the Department of Public Works (DPW) which allows seven visits to the DPW site at 63 No. Canal St. Residential yard waste is collected on a regular basis at the curb. Copies of trash and yard waste pick-up schedules can be found on the DPW website or obtained at the DPW Office.

In accordance to the rules and regulations of the City of Holyoke Code of Ordinances, Property owners and tenants are required to abide by the following laws and requirements:

Residential rubbish receptacles shall be watertight containers with tightfitting covers of metal or other durable rodent-proof material. Sufficient numbers of containers shall be provided by the owner and/or residents to keep the property clean.

All owners of commercial, professional, industrial, multifamily and residential property must maintain their property, and occupants and business

tenants must keep the premises they occupy, as well as common areas, including adjacent sidewalks, grass strips, one-half of alley, and rights-of-way to the edge of the surface of the vehicular travel way of any public street, in a clean, and litter-free manner. Rubbish, refuse or other litter on any property must be removed by the owner, occupants and/or business tenants.

It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the bulk container area free of odors, scattered debris, overflowing, and all other nuisances. If the property owner is notified that the bulk container upon his property is in violation of any of the foregoing offenses, the property owner shall within twenty-four (24) hours of notification cause the offense to be remedied or shall be in violation of this ordinance.

The Board of Health often receives complaints regarding litter, rubbish, illegal dumping, overflowing trash containers and dumpsters, overgrown vegetation, abandoned and unregistered vehicles on private and business properties as well as vacant lots and alleyways. Upon receipt of a complaint an inspection will be made and the owner will be sent a letter with orders to clean up. Upon re-inspection, if the property is cleaned as ordered it is noted and filed.

However, if the property owner fails to clean up as ordered ticket fines ranging from \$100 to \$50 are issued until the owner cleans the property as ordered.

The Board of Health is asking everyone to please not be a litterbug, and that all Holyoker's contribute daily to "Help Keep Holyoke Clean."

If you have any questions concerning keeping properties clean, rubbish collection schedules or about items for pick-up, please call the Department of Public Works at 413-322-5645 or the Holyoke Board of Health at 413- 322-5595.