

## Junk, Waste and “Unwholesome Substances”



In order to keep Park Township the beautiful place that it is and maintain a high quality of life the township has two ordinance sections that deal with junk, waste and unwholesome substances: section 38-486(d) and section 14-19.

Known violations of these ordinance sections will result in a letter being sent to the property owner and any occupants. This letter will contain a re-inspection date. If the violation still exists at the time of the re-inspection a civil infraction ticket may be issued to the property owner or the occupant. Further civil infraction tickets may be issued if the violation continues. The fees associated with these tickets are \$50 for the first, \$250 for the second and \$500 for the third ticket. A court date may also be scheduled.

**Section 38-486(d)** of the Park Township Code of Ordinances states “Waste materials shall not be allowed to accumulate on a lot or property in such a manner as to be unsightly, constitute a fire hazard or contribute to unsanitary conditions.”

This ordinance section refers to waste materials. This could include, but is not limited to, trash, garbage, construction and yard waste. When an inspector looks at a situation to determine whether or not there is a violation he/she first determines if the material is waste. This means that it would have no further use for the occupant of the property. Second the inspector would then make a determination of whether or not the waste is unsightly, constitutes a fire hazard or contributes to unsanitary conditions.

**Section 14-19** of the Park Township Code of Ordinances states “No unwholesome substances shall be deposited, dumped, or accumulated by any person on any place or premises, private or public, situated in the township, unless the place has been designated as a public dumping ground by the township.”

The ordinance defines unwholesome substances as: “Any trash, garbage, tin can, automobile body, stone, junk, offal, refuse, rubbish, debris, filth, or any other material which constitutes a threat to the health, safety, or general welfare of the public.”

This ordinance is intentionally broad in its scope. When an inspector looks at a situation to determine if there is an unwholesome substance he/she will consider if the situation is a threat to the health, safety or general welfare of the citizens of Park Township.

If you have any further questions contact the Park Township Code Compliance Officer, Ed de Vries at (616) 738-4238.