Noise in the Neighborhood

The City of Seattle has laws specifying what constitutes a disturbance and when citations can be given. Knowing the law concerning noise complaints can help you be a more considerate and proactive neighbor.

Before making a formal complaint, the city of Seattle suggests that you try contacting the people responsible for the noise. Sometimes, they are not aware of the discomfort they are causing. If you feel uneasy about direct contact or the person has been uncooperative or is "under the influence," you can call 911 for assistance. Remember, often times the best way to prevent legal issues is to be considerate and communicative within your neighborhood.

What constitutes a noise violation (Laws):
Seattle Municipal Code 25.08.225: "Residential disturbance" means a gathering of more than one (1) person at a residential property located in a single family or multifamily zone, as defined SMC Section 23.84.048 between the hours of 10:00 P.M., (11:00 P.M. on Friday and Saturday nights) and 7:00 A.M., at which noise associated with the gathering is frequent, repetitive or continuous and is audible to a person of normal hearing at a distance of seventy-five (75) feet or more from the property.

Penalties: Officers may issue a civil infraction (citation) on the spot. (Without giving a warning.) The fine for the infraction is $250. A person who continues to be in violation of this ordinance after receiving an infraction or who again violates this ordinance within 24 hours of receiving an infraction, can be charged with a crime. If found guilty, a judge may impose a maximum sentence of up to 180 days incarceration in jail, and/or a fine up to $500.

For more information go to http://www.seattle.gov/spd/prevention/Neighborhood/noise.htm

Tips for Responsible Alcohol and other Drug Consumption on Halloween

Halloween is on a Saturday this year. There’s also a home UW football game that day. This combination of events, inevitably suggests a large amount of alcohol will be consumed by students, tail-gaters, and visitors to the neighborhood.

In the State of Washington, It is illegal to consume alcohol or use marijuana products if you’re under the age of 21. Regardless of the substance involved; however, the Good Samaritan Law protects the caller and the person they are calling about from sustaining any possession charges. That being said, we urge students, party-goers, and tail-gaters to act responsibly if they make the choice to consume alcohol or other drugs on this Halloween holiday.

Here are a few tips for responsible drinking:
- Keep track of the number of standard drinks you consume, not the number of containers. A standard drink is any beverage with 0.5 ounces of ethyl alcohol. These could be:
- 12 ounces of beer
- 4 ounces of wine
- or 1.25 ounces of 80 proof alcohol
- Don’t accept a drink from anyone if you don’t know what’s in it and always keep an eye on your drink—especially if you rest it on a table.
- To reduce the risks associated with alcohol or drug consumption:
- Grab a buddy! Look out for your friend throughout the night.
- Make a plan for the night of where you’re going, who will be there, and when you want to leave and let your buddy know your plan ahead of time.
- Eat during and prior to drinking
- Stay hydrated: alternate drinks with water

For more resources about alcohol and other drugs, visit: depts.washington.edu/livewell/alcohol-drug-education/
Halloween Costume Safety Tips

Everyone loves to dress up and trick-or-treat, but this Halloween, don’t let your costume put the trick on YOU. Dressing as the spookiest monster or the most creative witch might be putting you at risk come this Halloween. Below are some tips to make sure your costume doesn’t give you a fright:

- Fake Weapons: at night, it is often times hard to see if the perfect prop to complete your outfit is real or not. Avoiding objects resembling guns, knives, or other weapons could greatly reduce your chances of harming yourself or others as well as keeping you out of legal trouble.

- Costume Material: Long, flowy costumes or that perfect pair of clown shoes could cause you to trip while walking around on Halloween, we highly recommend costumes that fit you to avoid falling. Also, we suggest avoiding costumes that are made of all dark material so you are able to be seen late into the night.

- Warmth: It is important to remember that Halloween is on October 31st, the middle of Fall. It is cold, so we recommend wearing a light jacket in order to stay warm (or dry, in case of rain) this Halloween.

- Use make-up, not masks: Masks can really decrease your overall vision. One will often lose most of their peripheral vision when wearing a mask, which could make you very susceptible to becoming a victim of crime while walking around at night.

Halloween is a fun time to be someone or something else, just make sure your awesome costumes are also keeping you safe on this SPOOKY holiday!

Keep Your Street Spick-n-Span

Trash on a street is a troubling eye-sore. And by remaining vigilant of your own property, you can contribute to making your neighborhood a pleasure sight for any passerby.

- Have trash disposals available for you and your guests to throw trash into.
- Remove any trash you may see on your sidewalk. Be sure to pick up garbage with a protective layer to keep your hands from getting dirty.
- Regularly take out your trash and recyclables for garbage pick up. Three feet of the curb by 7:00 a.m. On collection day. It can be out the night before.
- Encourage a fellow neighbor or a friend to maintain their property!

Got an old piece of furniture you’re trying to get rid of? Contact the City for a special pick up!

Check out the City of Seattle’s Website to find out more about garbage pickup and recycling. Sustain your neighborhood! seattle.gov/living-in-seattle/utilities/garbage

Got questions or ideas? Please contact us!

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uw.edu/cssc/husky-neighborhood-project
facebook.com/N45Community

How do you mend a broken Jack-o-lantern? With a pumpkin patch!

Why don’t angry witches use brooms? They’re afraid of tripping on the handle!