“Fines for Wrecked Vehicles”

That car that doesn’t start and has been sitting in your driveway since January could mean a nuisance for your next door neighbor and a fine from the City of Norfolk.

“City ordinance states that any vehicle that’s inoperable, wrecked, junked, or partially dismantled is considered abandoned and cannot stay on a person’s property for more than 30 days. It’s a safety issue and doesn’t show consideration for neighbors who don’t want junked vehicles next to their property,” said Police Captain Don Miller.

According to Section 17-27 of Norfolk City Ordinance the property owner and tenant are responsible for keeping abandoned vehicles out of sight.

“The ‘abandoned’ vehicle or vehicle parts must be in an enclosed building. The ordinance does not apply if the vehicle is on the premises of a business enterprise operated in a lawful place and manner or in an actual storage facility; however, they can’t sit on a resident’s driveway or yard,” Miller said.

Property owners and/or tenants will get a 30 day notice to remove the vehicle or vehicle parts. If an owner doesn’t remove the vehicle or put it inside an enclosed building after being requested to do so, he or she will receive a citation for each violation on the property. If they still do not remove the vehicle or vehicle parts the city may remove the vehicles at the owner’s expense.

“We prefer not to remove the vehicles. We would prefer the owners take care of the situation on their own and avoid fees or impoundment,” Miller said, “This summer the Norfolk Police Division will be working on cleaning up abandoned vehicles around town. We are asking residents to be proactive and clean them up on their own prior to needing law enforcement to respond to their property.”