

Rummage sales restricted under new village ordinance

Written by Steve Ostermann
Wednesday, 04 November 2009 19:50

Board OKs rules that limit how often events can be held, placement of merchandise

Village of Grafton residents who enjoy holding rummage and garage sales will now face limitations on how they do business.

The Village Board on Monday approved an ordinance that restricts how often the sales can be held and where merchandise can be displayed.

Adopted by a 6-1 vote, the new regulations limit residential property owners to three rummage sales per year and the length of each sale to four days.

Other regulations call for the daily hours of operation to be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and all outdoor items to be picked up by 8 p.m. on the last day of the sale.

In an effort “to protect public safety and the use of the right-of-way,” the regulations prohibit placing merchandise within a 10-foot setback.

Village Planning Director Michael Rambousek, who recommended the ordinance, said the restrictions were proposed in response to complaints his department received this summer. The complaints focused on the frequency, untidiness and proximity of merchandise to the right-of-way, he said.

The ordinance “will be enforced on a complaint basis only, not for the purpose of searching for rummage-sale violators,” Rambousek added.

He said that when a complaint is received, his department will conduct an investigation to determine whether to contact the police department for a possible citation.

Village Administrator Darrell Hofland said the restrictions are aimed at preventing a small number of potential violators.

“We have some instances where people are running businesses out of their residences,” Hofland said.

Ron LaPean was the only trustee to vote against the ordinance, which he said was unnecessary.

“We shouldn’t be telling people where to put their garbage cans or whether they can hold rummage sales,” LaPean said.

“That’s not the business of government.”

The ordinance was recommended by the Plan Commission after it held a public hearing on the proposal.

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