

SCAVENGERS AT TREEHILL PARK CONDOS, AND WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THEM



Scavengers/trespassers have been an ongoing thorn in our sides for several months now. They dig into our recycling and garbage, hoping to find returnable cans and bottles that they can turn in for cash. In the process they create a huge mess and other problems.

Until now, calling the county non-emergency number to have a deputy dispatched to talk with the scavenger and, if need be, arrest them, has had little effect. Deputies have been reluctant to go to the trouble to actually arrest someone without a commitment that one of our Directors would, if needed, appear in court to testify against the scavenger.

That is about to change. As of May 18, 2019, Treehill Park Condominiums has a signed "Trespass Enforcement Agreement" on file with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. From now on, if a Deputy responds to a complaint against any trespasser on our property, and the trespasser still will not leave after the Deputy tells them to, the Deputy will arrest the person and take them to jail.

There are four important things to keep in mind in order for this to work and to protect the safety of all involved:

- 1) **Call the non-emergency number right away (503-823-3333)** and request a deputy be sent to remove the person from our property. Please try to give as accurate a description as possible. Some of the deputies already know these people but MCSO rotates deputies in and out of areas, and we don't want a deputy new to Wood Village mistakenly confronting one of our residents instead of the actual trespasser.
- 2) **Tell the person they are not welcome on Treehill property**, and if they do not leave they will be arrested and charged with trespassing. They need to get off our property completely, not just leave one cul de sac and go to the next one or that sort of thing.
- 3) **If the operator balks at sending someone, tell them Treehill Park Condos has a signed enforcement agreement** with the Sheriff's Office and they have told us to report these situations and request a deputy be sent as soon as possible.
- 4) **Don't try to physically restrain the person** or do anything that could backfire and wind up with you getting yourself hurt. A bag full of empty cans isn't worth an ambulance ride to Mt. Hood Medical Center's emergency room.

Realistically, trespassing is a low-level crime. If the person is arrested, they will likely be released within a few hours. If it turns out the person has outstanding warrants for more serious offenses, they may be held longer, depending on the seriousness of those offenses and how full the jail is or is not.

Regardless of whether the person is held for short time and then released, or held for a longer period and released, our hope is that sooner or later they will get tired of being arrested here and will move on to greener pastures, so to speak.

Your cooperation will make or break this effort. Thank you in advance for your help!

Treehill Park Condominiums
HOA Board
May 19, 2019

