

Q: David of Tara Farms writes: Chief, I try to walk through the neighborhood but lately I've encountered various new obstacles in my path. Many of the residents have more vehicles than their driveways will hold thus the sidewalks end up being blocked by these extra vehicles. This forces the pedestrians to walk in the streets in many places, putting them in danger of being hit by a vehicle that might be trying to maneuver between vehicles that are legally parked on the street. I've also noticed that people are piling brush, debris and garbage in front of their houses, hoping the garbage will pick them up. Some of these piles are blocking the sidewalks as well. Question; is it a violation of a Anna City ordinance to block the sidewalks with debris or vehicles?

Thanks to you and your officers for keeping our city safe.

First, putting trash or debris out such as large items or brush is only allowed on the 3rd Friday of each month and should be placed at the curb at that time. You have to call first to arrange the pickup. Straight from our Trash Service web site: *"The large bulk item pickup will be the third Friday of each month. Bulk item service allows residents to set out up to 2 cubic yards of bulky waste per month. Please call Bradshaw and Son (972-924-3014) before the 3rd Friday to schedule a bulk item pickup."* There are restrictions on the types of debris that are acceptable for pick up and you should check when you call in.

Second, people should not park on or over the sidewalk; it's just not something an adult should have to be told not to do.

Some would say that many of the residences in our City have short setbacks from the street; so close that a vehicle parked in the driveway up against the garage door will still protrude over the sidewalk. I would say that even though that is true, parking on the sidewalk is illegal and discourteous. Some might say that parking the vehicle blocking the sidewalk is safer than parking in the street. I would say that parking in the street with some regulation (with your right wheels next to the curb line, not blocking a driveway, or within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, or 30 feet of a stop sign/intersection) is legal.

Lastly, the Police Officers are not generally driving around looking for cars parked on the sidewalk and issuing tickets. But, a Police Officer engaged in Community Policing might get some complaints from residents about parking over the sidewalk by persons in their neighborhoods. That Officer will respond to

those complaints and take an enforcement action at his discretion. Please comply with the law voluntarily. You will have a hard time convincing your neighbors that your parking is more important than their kids' safe access to the sidewalk.

***Phone numbers: Emergency???? Dial 911.** To have a police officer sent to you in a non-emergency, call 972-547-5350. During normal business hours, the APD number is 972-924-2848.

*For Crime Prevention information visit www.annacrimewatch.org or www.annatexas.gov and go to the police pages.

If you have a question or comment, please email: kjenks@annatexas.gov