

NEW LONDON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Incident type: Enforcement program

Location: New London, city-wide

Date/Time: The week of Halloween, October 29 – November 3

Details: The City of New London is announcing "**Operation Cite for Sore Eyes,**" a program that will focus on citations for neighborhood eyesores.

The City Inspector and the Police Department are teaming up to reduce the number of junk and vehicle violations on private property and parking lots in the City of New London. During the week of Halloween, officers and the inspector will be aggressively handing out citations to those who have junk stored in their yard, vehicles on lawns, unregistered or inoperable vehicles in their driveway, and other nuisance violations.

"We are always doing nuisance violation enforcement as time permits," said Kevin Wilkinson, New London's Chief of Police, "but we seem to be getting farther and farther behind. We're getting continuing complaints from neighbors about properties that routinely violate our ordinances. The people who are causing neighborhood eyesores are going to be hearing from us."

Operation Cite for Sore Eyes challenges all residents to get their properties cleaned up in the weeks before Halloween. "This program is really about giving people a warning and a window of time to get things in order. We hope we don't have to issue many citations, but those who don't do their necessary fall cleaning will be held accountable," said Wilkinson.

City Inspector Paul Hanlon advises that citations for the violations range from about \$100 for most first-time offenders to over \$400 for continuing problems. "Ordinances that control nuisances are important to help maintain quality of life in a city," Hanlon said. "You might be able to store junked cars on a farmette in the country, but we can't have that in town."

Chief Wilkinson said he hopes running the program during Halloween week will help people remember it. "Some of our residents would be giving their neighbors a treat by doing a little clean up. Those who don't may not get a trick, but they can sure expect to get a ticket."

While nuisance enforcement occurs year-round, the concentrated effort of this program will run through November 3.

For further information contact: Chief Kevin E. Wilkinson