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*****FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE*****

Changes Coming to Inoperable Vehicles Law

Date: June 7, 2010

Beginning July 1, 2010, the Town of Christiansburg will amend its Town Code in regards to provisions for inoperable motor vehicles.

Under the new law, a person must keep their inoperable vehicles inside a fully enclosed building or structure or otherwise shielded or screened from view. **One (1) inoperable vehicle may be kept outside a fully enclosed building or structure but it must be shielded or screened from view.**

"Shielded or screened from view" means the vehicle is not visible by someone standing at ground level from the outside of the property. This can be accomplished by adequate fencing or landscaping, or by using a car cover that was specifically designed for that vehicle. **Using a tarpaulin or other material not specifically designed as a car cover will no longer be acceptable.** The types of appropriate fencing, landscaping, and car cover, as well as definition of an inoperable vehicle, are further described in Sec. 28-1 (A) of the code section below.

After July 1, 2010, a vehicle(s) owner in violation of this law will receive a notice of violation and have 72-hours to comply. After 72-hours, a person still in violation of the law shall be guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor and subject to prosecution. The Town of Christiansburg also reserves the right to remove the inoperable vehicle at a cost to the owner. Please see Sec. 28-1 (B) of the code section below for more information.

The Town of Christiansburg understands this law will require some owners to make changes to how they store their motor vehicles. Citizens' assistance in this matter prior to July 1, 2010, is greatly appreciated, as it will help ensure Christiansburg remains a pleasant and beautiful community for everyone to enjoy.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 28 “TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLES”
OF THE *CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN CODE* IN REGARDS TO PROVISIONS FOR
INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLES**

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Christiansburg has studied amendments to the Traffic and Motor Vehicles Ordinance of the Town of Christiansburg; and,

WHEREAS, a regular meeting of Council of the Town was held May 3, 2010 and resulted in a determination that the following proposed ordinance revisions be adopted; and,

WHEREAS, Council deems proper so to do,

Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Christiansburg, Virginia that Section 28-1 of Chapter 28 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles” of the *Christiansburg Town Code* be amended as follows:

Sec. 28-1. Inoperable vehicles within the corporate limits of the Town.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, except within a fully enclosed building or structure or otherwise shielded or screened from view, on any property within the corporate limits of the Town any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer, as such are defined in Code of Virginia, § 46.2-100, which is inoperable; provided however only one (1) such vehicle may be kept outside a fully enclosed building or structure, provided that it is shielded or screened from view. As used in this section, an inoperable motor vehicle means any motor vehicle which is not in operating condition; or which for a period of 60 days or longer has been partially or totally disassembled by the removal of tires and wheels, the engine, or other essential parts required for the operation of the vehicle or on which there are no valid license plates or a valid inspection decal displayed. However, the provisions of this section shall not apply to a licensed business which, on June 26, 1970, was regularly engaged in business as an automobile dealer, salvage dealer, or scrap processor.

As used in this section, “shielded or screened from view” means not visible by someone standing at ground level from outside of the property on which a subject vehicle is located. Placing an inoperable vehicle within an area completely enclosed by either a solid, rigid, opaque fence composed of standard fencing materials or a landscaped arrangement of non-deciduous trees, sufficient in height, spacing, density and circumference to ensure precluding visibility of the subject vehicle by someone standing at ground level from outside of the property on which the subject vehicle is located shall constitute shielding or screening from view the inoperable motor vehicle in compliance with the requirements of this article. The placing, draping or securing of a tarpaulin or other nonrigid cover over or around an inoperable vehicle shall not be sufficient to comply with the requirements of this section, unless the nonrigid cover is opaque, specifically designed for use as a car cover and is designed for use on the specific model of the vehicle being covered.

B. Any person who is the owner of property within the corporate limits of the Town shall remove from such property any inoperable motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers that are not kept within a fully enclosed building or structure upon seventy-two (72) hours notice by the Town Manager, Chief of Police or Town Ordinance Officer. Upon the failure of the person to remove the same within the time fixed by such notice, the Town, acting by its agents, the Town Manager, Chief of Police or Town Ordinance Officer, may remove such inoperable motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers. If the Town, through its agents or employees, removes any such motor vehicles, trailers or semitrailers after having given reasonable notice to the owner or owners of the same, the Town may dispose of the same after giving additional reasonable notice to the owner or owners of the vehicle or vehicles of such proposed disposition. The cost of any such removal and disposal shall be chargeable to the owner or owners of the vehicle or vehicles or the premises and may be collected by the Town as taxes and levies are collected; and every cost authorized by this section for which the owner has been assessed shall constitute a lien against the property from which the vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer was removed, the lien to continue until actual payment of such costs has been made to the Town.

C. Any person receiving notice of being in violation of this section and failing to comply with any notice given thereof and shall remain in violation for a period of seventy-two (72) hours shall be guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor, and prosecution therefore shall not bar the Town from proceeding to remove the inoperable vehicles as herein defined as provided for in subsection (B) above.

(Code 1972, § 15-40)

This ordinance shall become effective July 1, 2010. If any part of this ordinance is deemed unlawful by a court of competent jurisdiction all remaining parts shall be deemed valid. Ordinances or parts of any ordinances of the Town whose provisions are in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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