



NICE TO KNOW
 The TV show 'Leave it to Beaver' made its debut on the same day the Soviets launched Sputnik (Oct. 4, 1957).

What kind of a neighbor are you?

By Sarah Bultema
 Illustrations by
 Kate Wyman
 Reporter-Herald Staff



You love them, you hate them or you may not even know their names — but either way, you have to live with them.
They're your neighbors.

And while they may reside down the block or right next door, they're an inevitable part of your daily life. Unfortunately, there may not be much you can do to change a bad neighbor's behavior. But a good place to start is setting your own example — and making sure you're not the bad neighbor on the block. With the help of the city of Loveland's municipal codes and city ordinances, we've made a short quiz to test how good (or bad) of a neighbor you really are.

1. How's your lawn looking?

- a) Long and luscious: My grass is so healthy it's grown as tall as my neighbor's small trees.
- b) Trim and tidy: My roses are pruned, my garden gnomes are smiling and my grass is as green as my thumb.
- c) Alive and average: I try to mow the grass every week, but I'd much rather lounge in the lawn than slave over it.



4. Who calls your house home sweet home?

- a) Only me and my four best friends forever!
- b) My spouse and I. Our love nest is hardly big enough for the both of us, let alone anyone else.
- a) Just me, myself, and I — and Mom, Dad, Aunt Holly, Uncle Craig, second-cousin Sammy, his wife and their 4-year-old triplets.

5. We all have trash, but where does your garbage end up — really?

- a) Duh, in the trash can.
- b) Well, there's a few extra tree limbs on the ground that I should get rid of.
- c) Hey, I thought rubbish was a British form of lawn art.



6. Where do you keep your trash cans?

- a) On the curb: Why spend all that time lugging them back to the house if I just have to do it all again next week?
- b) Out of sight: I don't air my dirty laundry or my trash.
- c) In the driveway: My 13-year-old swears he can only drag it so far.

7. You have an unregistered "fixer-upper" vehicle. Where do you keep it?

- a) In my driveway. I need room to reach under the hood.
- b) In my lawn, right next to my buddy's unregistered ride. We like to repair as a pair.
- c) Tucked away under a tarp. She's not ready for her unveiling quite yet.



8. How does your garden grow?

- a) On its own, actually. My lawn has become a sea of beautiful yellow dandelions and purple loosestrife.
- b) It doesn't. My green thumb has yet to sprout.
- c) With a lot of hard work. But it's worth it to see my beautiful flowers, shrubs and veggies.



9. Describe your ideal Saturday night at the house.

- a) Gathering with friends. Why have neighbors if you can't kick back together once in a while?
- b) Alone. Socializing is for college students and barbers.
- c) Party hardy through the night. You only live once, better live it loud.

10. We all love our pets, but how much does your pooch miss you when you're gone?

- a) Fifi, my princess, knows she's loved and simply lounges and sleeps when I'm gone.
- b) Sparky misses me so much he makes sure I can hear him all the way down the block. Heck, even when I'm home again he can't stop the love barks.
- c) Fido has perfected the sad puppy eyes that he shoots at me each time I leave. Sometimes there's even a few whimpers before he quiets down.



11. Everybody poops, even dogs. Where does your dog answer nature's call and what do you do about it?

- a) In our backyard. His presents build up a bit, but we clean them as soon as it gets stinky.
- b) Around the neighborhood. Hey, who would complain about free fertilizer?
- c) On our daily walks. And I pick it up almost faster than it can hit the ground.



12. Pets are part of the family. Who's part of yours?

- a) Harry the hamster.
- b) Franky the ferret.
- c) Ricky the raccoon.

2. Where do you park your vehicles?

- a) Tucked away in the garage. Don't want the neighborhood kids messing with the paint job.
- b) In the driveway. Who wouldn't want to show off this sweet ride?
- c) On the lawn. My motorcycle, boat and truck are in the driveway.



3. After a day on the lake, where does your boat rest on shore?

- a) In the street — but only until next weekend. Besides, if there's a flood, we'll be ready.
- b) The S.S. Number One has her own storage shed, thank you very much.
- c) Right next to my car in the driveway. My wife doesn't mind parking in the street.



Your Score

Check the answer you circled in the quiz and give yourself the points allotted. For example, if you answered "A" on question one, you get 5 points. Also, read below the points to see the **Loveland municipal code and ordinance** about that topic, and maybe why your score wasn't as high as you expected. Add up your scores to find out where you fit on the neighbor scale.

- 1. Points: a) 5; b) 1; c) 3. Careful, your lawn and weeds need to be trimmed below 8 inches.
- 2. a) 2; b) 1; c) 4. While they may not be the perfect yard decorations, registered vehicles can be parked anywhere on a homeowner's property. And there is no limit to the number of registered vehicles a person can have on their land.
- 3. a) 5; b) 1; c) 3. Boats and trailers are not considered vehicles, so they can be parked anywhere on a person's property. If they're parked on the street, boats and trailers must be connected to a vehicle and moved every 72 hours.
- 4. a) 5; b) 1; c) 2. No more than three unrelated people can reside within one dwelling unit. However, there is no restriction to the number of relatives, including extended family, who can live together.

- 5. a) 1; b) 3; c) 5. For the most part, there shouldn't be any accumulation or stacking of materials on your property. If your lawn is littered with trash and the city gets wind of it, it could cost you a ticket.
- 6. a) 5; b) 1; c) 3. Your trash must go in a container and, after trash day, that container must be screened from view of the street.
- 7. a) 2; b) 5; c) 1. A resident is allowed to do repairs, maintenance and restorations on one unregistered vehicle in an open space on their property at a time. They must be the owner of the property and the vehicle, and there can't be more than one vehicle being repaired at a time. An unregistered vehicle can also be stored or collected on the property as long as it's clean, enclosed and the only one.
- 8. a) 5; b) 2; c) 1. It is a homeowner's responsibility to control weeds and noxious plants. And watch out: some of these noxious plants are sold as ornamental plants, including myrtle spurge, purple loosestrife and tamarisk. If you don't keep the garden and lawn clean of them, it could mean a ticket from the city.
- 9. a) 1; b) 2; c) 4. Watch out: If things get too loud, your uninvited neighbors could call in a noise complaint to the police department.
- 10. a) 1; b) 4; c) 3. Pet owners need to make sure their dogs and other animals keep quiet. Loud and persistent

barking, baying, howling, yipping, yelping, whining — you get the idea — can leave you crying over a ticket.
 11. a) 3; b) 5; c) 1. When pooches poop on public property, it's their people's job to pick it up.
 12. a) 1; b) 2; c) 5. We know they're cute, but some animals just can't be pets in Loveland. Some of these forbidden friends include: poisonous reptiles or reptiles longer than 6 feet, primates, felines other than house cats, bears, raccoons, porcupines, skunks and wolves.

Problem Neighbor?

If you've passed the test but think your neighbor still needs some help, why not pass this quiz along. But if you think they're still violating a code, here are a few numbers to call that could help solve the problem:

- City of Loveland Code Enforcement, 962-2506
- Loveland Police Department, 667-2151
- Larimer Humane Society, 226-3647
- If you live in a neighborhood that has a homeowners association, remember that you may be subject to more stringent requirements. Most HOAs have a representative you can contact with concerns.



How do you rate?

• If you scored 12-28 points:
You're the Future President of the HOA.
 Congratulations! You're a great neighbor. Not only do you follow the city ordinances and codes, but you do it with style. Your lawn is clean and green, your vehicles are properly parked and pets are perfectly behaved. Now, just make sure you always wave and smile at your neighbors — no matter how well they scored — to treat them as well as you treat your own property. Why not hold a potluck for them? A great neighbor like you needs to celebrate.



• If you scored 29-44 points:
You're Worth a Wave.
 You may not be one of the Cleavers, but you're still doing a good job as a neighbor. So maybe a few of the chores slip through the cracks, but life's too short to spend every day weeding the garden and picking up after the pets. And most likely, the police aren't going to be knocking at your door for violations anytime soon. But to better your score a bit, choose one part of the yard to clean up, find a new place to park the boat or take your pet to an obedience school. You'll be a top-notch neighbor in no time.

• If you scored 45-57 points:
You're THAT Neighbor.
 Well, you have a little ways to go before becoming an all-star neighbor. Sorry to say, but weeds don't make for a great garden — even if you park your car on the lawn to hide them. And while you may call your pet a "free spirit," the city might call its behavior illegal. To save yourself from a ticket or two, and to begin impressing your neighbors, start by cleaning up one aspect of your routine. Build an outdoor shed to hide the trash cans or buy a tarp to cover your unregistered vehicle. There's no day better than today to start becoming a better neighbor.

Santa Cops plans golf fundraiser

Santa Cops of Larimer County, an organization of five local law enforcement agencies that work together with private citizens and businesses to provide underprivileged children of Larimer County with gifts at Christmas, will hold a fundraising golf tournament next month. It is one of two large fundraisers the group does each year to raise money for gifts that uniformed officers will deliver on Dec. 13. The fourth annual Santa Cops Golf Tournament will be held Aug. 23 at Highland Meadows Golf Course, 6300 Highland Meadows Parkway, Windsor. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. and the tournament begins at 7:30 a.m. Contact Stephanie Gundry at 224-6041 for more information on participating in the tournament or being a corporate sponsor. The second fundraiser will be the Santa Cops Silent and Live Charity Auction on Oct. 18 at the Lincoln Center, Canyon West Room, 417 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins. The auction includes a semi-formal dinner starting at 6 p.m. The auction starts at 7 p.m. Dessert and coffee will follow the live auction. Contact Melissa Grogan for more information at 498-5284. — Reporter-Herald staff

What not to say to terminally ill

Local psychotherapist and author Dr. Judy Underwood will present a free program 2-3:30 p.m. Friday on the 12 things not to say to the terminally ill and their families. The session will be held at the Guaranty Bank and Trust at 807 Mountain Ave. in Berthoud. Underwood tries to help people find meaning and grace at the end of life. She is the author of "Dying: Finding Comfort and Guidance in a Story of a Peaceful Passing," which focuses on compassion, acceptance and peace during the final transition. Underwood said conversations with people who are terminally ill or with their family members can be among the most difficult to have. Those attending will receive three-page handout of useful resources. Light refreshments will be served. Call to register: 532-8120. — Reporter-Herald staff

DEAR BUCK

Take a walk on the pile side

Dear Buck:
 I can't believe that pet owners walk their pets and don't pick up what pets leave, regardless of small piles or big. I take my little Misty out every day to the sculpture park (which is beautiful) and it's sickening what you see. Why aren't there signs up letting people know that fines will be given if found not picking up after their pet? I made a call one time ... and the answer I got was "We don't like to put signs up because it makes it look tacky." ... In other words, signs were worse than pet piles all over the place. Please can you see if you can talk them into putting up signs with fines? Signed: A Fine Day for a Walk



Dear Fine Day:
 The city does have signs, in select parks, reminding residents that there are fines for failing to pick up after your pooch. The signs are typically in larger areas, such as North Lake Park, the Loveland Sports Park and along the recreation trail. The signs do not specify a fine, instead reminding people they are subject to the city's municipal code. "It's a gentle reminder for people to take personal accountability and responsibility for their pets," said Larry Callihan, Loveland parks manager. Officials will consider placing signs in other parks if there is a demonstrated need, he said. However, if residents see someone repeatedly failing to remove a poopy problem, they should note a description of the person, animal, time and location and call the Larimer Humane Society. The city contracts with animal control to enforce regulations, and an officer will respond as soon as possible. Send your questions to 201 E. Fifth St.; Loveland, CO 80537; or to neus@reporter-herald.com.

LOVELAND IN HISTORY

25 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK:

A number of lights were taken down from four city parks in order to save the city money on electricity and maintenance costs. The parks affected were Eastside, Lakeside, Sherry Mar and Westside.

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK:

What was called the largest gun show ever in the Rocky Mountain region was held at the Loveland Community Building. The two-day event attracted about 5,000 spectators.