

Fairfield Allows Urban Farming

On March 11, 2019, the City of Fairfield Building & Zoning Division issued a Notice of Violation to Mr. Anthony Pippin and Ms. Stephanie Spies who operate Pippin's Produce at 771 Symmes Road.

The location in question is zoned R-1 One-Family Residence. The notice included violations relating to the Property Maintenance Code and Fairfield Building Code including:

- Unpermitted construction of an accessory structure (hoop house / greenhouse)
- Unsafe electrical wiring which presents a real and dangerous fire hazard
- Unsightly property maintenance including plastic ground coverings, debris, and stockpiled materials

The Notice of Violation does not cite urban agriculture (or farming) as a violation.

"The City of Fairfield wants to be clear that there are no regulations that prevent residents from farming and gardening in their back yards," explained Development Services Director Greg Kathman. "Residents should however check with the Building & Zoning Division before they construct any accessory structures or utility extensions to support their efforts."

The City received multiple complaints from a neighboring property owner regarding the greenhouse and the general condition of the property. The Notice of Violation orders the owners to remove the unpermitted greenhouse within 10 days. However, it is possible for the owners to pursue a variance through the City's Board of Zoning Appeals.

The Locavore Movement – the buying and consuming of food grown within 100 miles – is giving rise to urban agriculture not just in Fairfield but across the country. The City of Fairfield remains committed to providing residents with local produce, gourmet fare, and artisan goods at the Village Green Farmer's Market (411 Wessel Drive.) Upcoming market days include April 3 and 17, and May 1 and 15. More information about the farmer's market can be found on the City's website at <https://www.fairfield-city.org/FarmersMarket>.