

Wood County Building Inspection

Contractor's Corner

Fall 2009

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Message From The Chief

WHAT'S NEW THIS FALL

We are a little behind schedule but finally after completing all the logistical paper work and approvals we are accepting financial transactions at our office starting September 11, 2009. We accept Master Card, Visa, Discovery, and American Express, credit or debit. However, there is a convenience fee assessed to your total amount of two and half percent for all processed transactions. You can use your credit card for all permits and contractor registrations. We can accept your transaction over the counter at our office or by fax. Permit applications can be completed, faxed to our office, and issued through payments received via credit card. As a reminder, our fax number is 419-373-6786 and web site address is <http://wcbinspect.co.wood.oh.us>.

All our permit applications have been revised and will be posted on our web site the first week of November. There will be a new link on the web page identified as FORMS. All the permits, contractor registration, and credit card fax forms will be available in a PDF format for access and printing out. Also, the link for our new permit software will be posted along with instructions on how to access files and permit information. I am working on a new web page that will provide online permitting and payments, scheduled to be completed in January.

STAFFING CHANGES

This current economy has impacted the building industry in northwest Ohio at alarming proportions, not in a positive way but a major negative impact. Our permit revenue for 2009 will be close to fifty percent less than 2008, which means reduced work loads. With the down turn in the building industry, building departments throughout Ohio have reduced staff, and with regrets, the time has come for our department to also make changes. Our current staff is composed of 17 full time positions, and 1 part time position. Beginning November 1, 2009 the staff will be reduced to 10 full time and 3 part time positions. The inspection staff will change from 10 full time positions to 5 full time and 3 part time positions, and the clerical staff will be reduced to 3 full time and 1 part time position. The part time plans examiner position was abolished. On a positive note, most of the individuals affected by the changes have been placed in other positions within the County.

How will this impact the service we provide? Inspections may not be the next day. I am currently looking at dividing up the county north/south scheduling on odd/even days, or scheduling areas based on demands. Footing and foundation inspections will take priority and shall be scheduled for the next business day. Inspections need to be called in before 3:00 p.m. to be scheduled for the next day and you are required to schedule with the main office, phone number 419-354-9190, and not with the inspectors. Please do not request inspections by leaving a message on inspector's voice mail.

With the staffing changes, we are still capable of scheduling 55 to 60 inspections per day. We are currently averaging, for this year, 37 inspections per day. Winter is around the corner and this is usually a slower time for the construction industry. If things improve this spring, we will be able to shift the part time inspectors' status back to full time as needed. This will also impact which inspector you may have on your project. Depending on the day scheduled, you may have a different inspector each time for various inspections for your project. Please note that our department operates and exists by permit revenue only. We do not receive any funding from county tax revenues.

CODE NEWS

Believe it or not, we are entering into a new code cycle for 2010. The Ohio Board of Building Standards has completed the review of the 2009 IBC Codes for adoption in 2010. This includes commercial codes for building, plumbing, and mechanical. The final Board hearing is on November 13, 2009 in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. The effective date is to be determined, possibly March 1st, or July 1st of 2010. I will keep you posted. The ICC 2009 Residential Code review is also making progress by the RCAC committee and should be available yet this year for public comments, and may also be adopted sometime in 2010. Please be advised, Ohio is using the IRC 2003 base document for residential code enforcement, with a lag period of 6 years from the national codes.

As a reminder from my last newsletter, we are still experiencing some confusion on what energy code we are enforcing and what the requirements are. There are a few methods to select from for your project; the 2006 REScheck, Energy Star, IECC Prescriptive/Performance packages, and Ohio Prescriptive package. Code requires the Energy package to be selected and submitted at the time of plan submittal. As a reminder, the yellow self-adhesive label listing your energy code information is required to be attached to the electrical service panel for all new 1, 2, & 3 family dwellings. The label will provide future home buyers with the energy package method used for that specific dwelling. The label needs to be posted before the final building inspection and occupancy.

CONTRACTOR NEWS

Contractor registrations will expire on December 31, 2009. The renewal fee is \$25.00 per trade if received by January 31st, after January 31st, the fee is \$50.00. The contractor registration form is available on our web site under the link FORMS. This newsletter is your notice of registration renewal. We will not be sending out additional renewal notices. Please provide your state license number when completing the form.

Have a Great Winter.

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This office operates under the Wood County Board of Commissioners,

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