

Wood County Building Inspection

Contractor's Corner

Spring 2010

Vol. 8 No. 1

Message From The Chief

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Hope everyone survived the winter. It seemed very long this year. On a positive note, Spring 2010 is here and the weather is great. This would be a good time to start those building projects. Building permits for residential can be issued the same day as application, if the applicant has all the correct information. Commercial reviews are approximately 5 business days for a response or approval. For the first quarter of this year, the permits have been coming in at a steady pace, and permit revenue is up from last year. We had a total of 36 new single family homes and 15 new commercial projects to date. Residential permits are up 48% for this quarter, with commercial permits posting no change from last year. There is a lot of renovation work taking place on existing buildings compared to new buildings being constructed. I am hearing some positive things about the economy in this region and hope to see the construction industry up and running again soon.

CODE NEWS

The good news for contractors this year is no new codes. Ohio was planning on adopting all the 2009 building codes for commercial/residential by July 1, but due to the economic times, the Governor put a hold on any new codes that may impact the construction industry in a negative way. Maybe next year. I will keep you posted.

Note for all underground electrical service work: Toledo Edison is no longer inspecting underground services and they are not providing the service entrance wire. Our department will perform the underground inspection for no additional fees at the same time as the service inspection. We will need to see the trench open at each end to verify the depth, safety tape and wire size. If we need to make a separate trip to the site for the underground, there will be an additional fee of \$30.00 required.

STAFFING NEWS

The department underwent some personnel changes last November, with layoffs, reorganization of the department and a few positions changed from full time to part time. I would like to take this opportunity and commend all my staff for their understanding and cooperation. Everyone has taken on additional work loads and we have been able to maintain the same level of service for the public. That's team work. I am hoping for a turn-around in this economy so I can bring back those key people we lost. As I stated in previous newsletters, our department is totally dependent on permit revenue. We do not receive any revenue from the County general fund.

Happy days are here for Dale Melcher our senior electrical inspector. He has decided to retire. His last day with the department will be April 30, 2010. Dale started with the County on September 28, 1983. For the short time I have known Dale, I can say he knows the electrical business. I have relied on his experience many times and valued his opinion these last 2 years. Some of his peers in the office have said he has quite the sense of humor; I'm not sure about that. The department will be having a retirement open house for Dale on April 30, from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Please join us to wish him many years of happy retirement. Thanks again Dale for all your years of dedicated service to Wood County.

We have found a replacement for Mr. Melcher, his name is David Cunningham. He will be starting on April 12, training with Dale for a few weeks. Mr. Cunningham will begin as a part time employee. He has over 25 years in commercial/industry electrical work and is a certified Electrical Safety Inspector with the State of Ohio.

JUST A REMINDER

Take advantage of the financial transaction process. We accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover. Just remember there is a user fee that is assessed to your payment. Verify with a staff member for your total cost. We have changed our website since November of last year, providing links to our new permit software, and all updated permit forms. Website address: <http://wcbinspect.co.wood.oh.us>.

HAVE A GREAT SPRING/SUMMER



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This office operates under the Wood County Board of Commissioners,

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