

Wood County Building Inspection

Contractor's Corner

Fall/Winter 2010

Vol. 8 No. 3

Message From The Chief

WINTER ALREADY?

Where did the summer go! It was here and gone too fast, but I would have to say, it was one of the best summers we have had in a long time for Northwest Ohio. Now we have winter coming and lets hope for a mild season which will help construction.

Let's talk permit activity for this year. Permit revenue to date is almost the same as last year at this time. 2010 revenue to date is \$661,028 compared to 2009 revenue of \$679,677. Single family housing is up from last year with 139 new starts to date compared to 98 last year at this time; commercial projects are comparable to last year with a limited increase.

Beginning 2010, we had to make necessary changes within the department to lower our overhead. We reduced staff, reduced office floor space, reduced our vehicle fleet, and with these few changes we were able to reduce our expenditures by \$500,000 for the year. As a reminder, the department operates solely on permit revenue; we are not part of the County's general fund.

CODE NEWS

Ohio should be adopting new codes for 2011. Public hearings are scheduled for January 21, 2011 in Columbus for the commercial codes, (building, mechanical, plumbing and revised reference standards such as the 2011 National Electrical Code). If approved, the new codes would become effective on September 1, 2011. Updates of the changes will be provided for all code enforcement folks and contractors before the effective date. The new codes are based on the 2009 International Building Codes with Ohio amendments.

The Residential code is still undergoing a few changes and may be ready if presented in time for public comments and hearings. I will keep you posted on the significant changes that will affect cost and design of future projects.

CHANGES FOR 2010

The department was certified for manufactured housing; we secured the Village of Bluffton for commercial code enforcement and the Village of Hoytville for commercial/residential code enforcement. I will continue to pursue jurisdictions for code enforcement throughout our region.

We had an electrical inspector, Dale Melcher, retire and replaced him with a resident from Wood County, Dave Cunningham. On a sad note we lost a building inspector, Ken Weislak. He passed away October 4, 2010. He was employed with the County for 13 years and will be missed.

REMINDERS FOR THIS YEAR

Contractor registrations expire on December 31st. If you renew your registration by January 31, 2011, it will cost \$25.00, but after this deadline date, it will be \$50.00. We have enclosed the contractor registration renewal application for your convenience. Please fill out all current information on your company and include a current up to date email address. We email all inspection results the next day after the inspections have been completed. You can fax, mail, or stop in the office to complete your registration.

For easy payment methods, we accept cash, check or credit cards.

HAVE A SAFE WINTER!



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