

Building Department

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September 2011 HBA Newsletter

We are in the process of establishing the new wind speed lines for each category of building utilizing recognizable landmarks as required by the State of Florida. As soon as we are able to complete the plotting the wind speed lines as well as the wind borne debris line we will forward the information to you so you can take them into consideration for future designs and permits that will be submitted after March 15, 2012. This is not an easy task and we are trying to take everything into consideration prior to finalization. Again, I have been informed that while the wind speeds are changing, the end result in designs is nearly the same.

As many of you are aware the City of Flagler Beach is reinstating their own Building Department effective October 1, 2011. We have had the pleasure of providing plan review and inspection services for over 7 years and will do everything we can to make the transition smooth for the City and the contractors as well. Meetings with City Staff have occurred and it was agreed upon that the County will complete all projects assigned a permit number in the County system. Please be mindful in an effort to expedite the transition we will not approve any extensions on permit applications or permits issued. This means you are required to obtain an approved final inspection prior to the current expiration dates. Permits or applications that expire will be forwarded to the City and you will be required to go through their established process to complete the project. Any addendums or revisions to permits in the county system will still be required to still be submitted to Flagler Beach at which time they will notify us to pick up the documents and return them for you to pick up at the City as currently is done. Please feel free to contact this office for any questions related to the process. We look forward to the continued success of the process and your role in achieving the ultimate goal-Safe, code compliant buildings and structures for the public as a whole.

Please be aware that license renewals of registered and locally licensed contractors are ongoing. In order to avoid late fees, please renew prior to September 30, 2011. Include all applicable insurances with your renewals in order to maintain your license and be current as required to work in the county as well as the cities that are part of the interlocal agreement. If a jurisdiction is not part of the interlocal agreement and does not have their own Licensing Board, they cannot legally allow for locally licensed and registered contractors to obtain permits to work.

The Contractor Review Board is in need of filling a consumer position. One of our original members is taking a much needed rest. We appreciate the service of those who participate on the Board as volunteers. The Contractor Review Board is a thankless position however is much needed. The playing field has been leveled and we believe that much of the unlicensed and unpermitted activity has been curtailed due to their efforts. This protects those who operated their businesses legitimately and even more so protects the consumer. If you know of a citizen

that is not affiliated with the construction industry that may be interested please let them know of this opportunity. Many may not realize that the creation of the CRB also has an economic impact. Individuals that qualify to obtain a legal license can do so and work within the area thus creating jobs for the county.

Thought for the month-A fine is a tax for doing wrong and a tax is a fine for doing well.

Until next month

Gary Hiatt, CBO
Flagler County