

Building Department

1769 E. Moody Blvd Bldg 2
Bunnell, FL 32110

www.flaglercounty.org

Phone: (386)313-4002

Fax: (386)313-4102

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September 2012 HBA Newsletter

I want to take the opportunity to thank the Flagler County HBA and Builders First Source for coordinating the lunch and educational opportunity related to Flagler County Marineland Acres development changes presented by Matt West, Administration and Chuck Merenda, Development Engineer, as well as energy information and code changes to opening treatment for window and door installations presented by Builders First Source as outlined in the Florida Building Code-Residential section R703.8.

The relationships and partnerships in all phases of development work best when information is shared and questions are answered in these types of settings. The Flagler County Building Department was in attendance for the purpose of clarifying any questions to the policy created and published in early August for the window requirements. For those who may not know, the opening treatments went into effect on March 15, 2012 with the new code implementation. I have heard numerous times that we are the only ones that are requiring compliance with this code section. This is a sad statement if it is in fact true. Always keep in mind that the code must be followed and is minimum requirements. This responsibility falls on the contractor. Many of you work in a variety of jurisdictions and while we make attempts to be consistent through the Volusia/Flagler Building Officials and Inspectors Association and the Unified Code Committee made up of Building Officials over the two county areas there are some differing requirements but the code does not change. Flagler County has made and will continue to make ourselves as available as staffing levels allow in an effort to avoid confusion and major obstacles for building code related issues. It was a requested meeting through the Flagler HBA with Builders First Source that led to the policy for window and door treatment to be created. We listened and working with the industry was able to come up with a policy that I believe to be fair and provide clarity. Please keep in mind that any policies and procedures we provide are valid in unincorporated Flagler and the Town of Beverly Beach. We are your partners in being the front line of public safety and the protection of property for all citizens of Flagler County.

Recently you have seen a great deal of awareness brought forth related to unlicensed activity in this area. There was an arrest made that hopefully sends the message that unlicensed activity will not be tolerated and more importantly helps to educate the general public. The collaborative efforts of Ramona Zavacky with Flagler County and Jay Maher of the City of Palm Coast will continue to make great strides in eliminating this illegal activity. The Contractor Review Board continues to make headway within their regulatory authority in the unlicensed activity as well as other items that are brought forth to the hearings. Consumers are being protected by getting jobs done by properly licensed contractors thus having a positive impact financially. A special thank you goes out to those who volunteer their time to sit on this Board. Please continue to pass the word to report any unlicensed or unpermitted activity to the local departments for investigation.

Congratulations to Rebecca DeLorenzo for being named Woman of the Year-I think a large part of the award is knowing that she has to keep Jason in line. **In all seriousness -JOB WELL DONE Rebecca!**

Remember: "A day without sunshine is like, well, night"

Until we talk again

Gary Hiatt, CBO
Flagler County