



# Flagler County

## Board of County Commissioners

### Building Department



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## April HBA Newsletter

Recently, Flagler County Code Enforcement and Building Department inspection personnel have been successful in locating and finding a variety of unpermitted work, some of which was being done by unlicensed individuals. The unpermitted work has included but is not limited to irrigation installations, roofs, mechanical work, as well as total renovations. It has been a priority to eliminate this type activity through different methods in our jurisdictional area. One approach is increasing awareness of County personnel when doing inspections whether they are Code Enforcement related or building code in nature.

A second method is an attempt to make permitting as easy of a process as possible. I have consulted with contractors who work in multiple jurisdictions and the comments are generally the same. Since all of our technical personnel have been in the private sector we understand the difficulties sometimes encountered when doing projects. One of the most received comments is the more difficult the process getting permits and inspections, the more tempting it is to avoid permitting altogether. This is not conducive to a cooperative effort in eliminating unlicensed activity.

We also monitor permits applied for but are not picked up in a timely manner. This does not mean we are running out to see if the work is going on as soon as you apply, however it is in your best interest to pick up permits when notified they are ready in a timely manner. Be sure to get all inspections completed required for your project inclusive of the final inspection in order to close out the permit and avoid issues at a later date. While we try to notify you when permits are going to expire, monitoring the permits is the responsibility of the applicant.

A couple months ago, a Flagler County building inspector saw a suspicious vehicle on a construction site in another jurisdiction about 9 PM. He called law enforcement and the individuals were taken away in cuffs. Just as the inspector saw illegal activity and reported it, we ask that you do the same if you think something looks suspicious with a project. Unmarked vehicles and working beyond normal business hours, nights and weekends are red flags.

Certified Contractor license renewal deadlines are fast approaching Be sure to renew your licenses, check your insurances, remind any subcontractors you may work with, and do not forget to complete your continuing education requirements.

Recently there seems to be confusion related to residential sunrooms and the code application. First it is important that the project meet the definition of a sunroom as provided in Chapter 2 of the Florida Residential Code. FBC-R section 301.2.1.1.2 states that sunrooms are then required to be categorized by the permit applicant, design professional, or property owner where the sunroom is being constructed in accordance to one of the 5 different conditions. The specific categorization clearly outlines whether or not the room is considered habitable and whether or not is conditioned space. Inclusion of the category is required in unincorporated Flagler County and Flagler Beach during the permit process in order to determine the code requirements that will be applied.

While it is not the responsibility of the Building Department to monitor and enforce the lightweight truss legislation and law that was effective December 13, 2009 and all buildings marked by March 13, 2010, let this act as a reminder of the requirement. It has been in previous newsletters. Newsletters from the last year are still on the Flagler County website for your viewing under the Building Department link. When designing and permitting structures that fall under this legislation, your plans should be identified as lightweight construction with the proposed signage included on the plan documents. The Building Department is trying to be proactive in an effort to assist you from experiencing delays in the review and inspection process by providing this information. Since this is a fire inspector issue you should contact Bob Growick in Fire Services directly for more information.

Don't forget to look on the Flagler County website (Click on Building Department) for periodic questions posed related to contractor licensing and building code. The question will be asked but be answered at a later date. The first question is posted and asks if a General Contractor can install a metal roof. The answer is....check the web site and you will find the answer.

Until next month,

Gary Hiatt, CBO  
Flagler County

