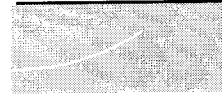




Volume 2, Issue 1

October 1, 2003

CONTRACTOR'S NEWSLETTER



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

CONTACTS:

DIVISION SUPERVISORS

- Permitting - Michael
620-3848
- Plan Review - Nestor
369-2500
- Licensing - George
620-7427
- Plumbing - Jim
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- Electrical - Ed
620-3838
- Mechanical - Wally
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- * Structural - John
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What a difference a year or two makes!!

Do you remember when we hardly ever gave much thought to lot drainage? A few years ago, brief afternoon showers were quickly absorbed by even the poorest of soils. Then the heavy rains came back, day after day, and it became obvious again how important proper lot drainage is. If we don't follow the master plan for the project, we will most likely create drainage problems for someone. It may be a problem for the project we are building now, or for the neighbor who was there first, or will come later. This rainy season has saturated the ground in many areas. The year to date rainfall in Ocala through August 2003 is 45.7 inches, 8.92 inches above normal. The year to date rainfall in Ocala through August 2001 was 27.73 inches. If we have a tropical storm or hurricane move through Marion County this season we will have bigger problems than water standing in someone's yard.

It's time to start paying more attention to drainage related issues again. Over the next few weeks the Marion County Building Department will publish a guideline that will explain the requirements of existing Land Development Code (LDC) sections related to drainage issues. These guidelines will define what must be submitted at the permit phase and what will be looked at in the inspection phase. New LDC provisions are being developed for future projects and will soon be presented to the County Commission for consideration. Until then there are a few things we all need to be thinking about:

Is there a master drainage plan for the subdivision or project?

Is there a lot drainage plan for the lot(s) you are building on?

Does your lot drainage plan match the master drainage plan?

If a minimum slab elevation is indicated, how do you verify that the slab will be built at or above that elevation?

Do you have a lot drainage plan to submit with your building plans at permit application?

Can you execute the lot drainage plan, given the existing conditions on adjacent properties?

Setting the slab elevation too low is the most common error, and the most difficult condition to correct. Lot line swales are most frequently specified to move excess water to the main collection features of the project. They are also the feature that is most frequently overlooked.

We look forward to working with you to implement reasonable guidelines for the proper design and construction of drainage plans. Let us know your thoughts on this issue.

John O'Connor

Personnel Changes-

Congratulations to Wally Medhurst who is now the Chief Inspector, Division Supervisor of the Mechanical Division.

Wally has been with the Mechanical Division since February 1999 and will be a great addition to our leadership team.



Personnel Changes-

Ed Hollenbeck is now the Chief Inspector, Division Supervisor of the Electrical



Mechanical Division

FBC Mechanical section 301.13 requires that all mechanical equipment and supports exposed to wind loads shall be designed and installed to resist those wind pressures. Anchoring of all exterior equipment must be per the manufacturer's installation instructions or the prescriptive method in section 301.13.1.

FBC section 1503.4.4 requires condensate drain lines to discharge at least one foot away from the structure.

Fire dampers are to be installed per the manufacture's installation instructions and those instructions are to be available to the inspector at the time of the inspection.

Energy Performance Level (EPL) display cards must be posted on the air handler at the time of final mechanical inspection.

Electrical Division

NFPA 72 chapter 2-3.5.1 requires in spaces served by air handling systems that smoke detectors shall not be located where air flow prevents proper operation of the detectors.

NEC article 406.8 requires that all exterior receptacles have "weather-proof while in use" covers if they are subject to beating rain, water run-off or water saturation.

NEC article 110.16 requires "arc flash warning" labels to be installed on all panel boards, switch boards, control panels and motor control centers when installed in other than dwelling occupancies.

NEC article 250.104 (B) requires that all attachment points of gas pipe bonding jumpers be accessible.

NEC article 110.26 requires proper clearances around all electrical equipment including mechanical equipment disconnects: 30 inches in width, 36 inches in front of and 6 foot 6 inches in height.

Hot wiring of electrical systems in buildings that have not yet been supplied with permanent power is inherently unsafe. It is the responsibility of the electrical contractor, builder or owner/builder to ensure the electrical safety on all job sites. Unsafe electrical conditions may cause the removal of temporary power to the job site.

All electrical wiring installed underground or incased in concrete must be inspected prior to covering with dirt or concrete.

Structural Division



Chapter 1 ADMINISTRATION - FLORIDA BUILDING CODE - BUILDING - INCLUDING MARION COUNTY REVISIONS AUGUST 2003

1. Inspections by Private Providers:

105.13 Inspection Service. "The building official may... accept reports of recognized inspection services provided...he or she is satisfied as to their qualifications and reliability."

A written request which includes inspector names, license numbers, qualifications, and insurance providers must be submitted and approved by the building official prior to using a private provider for inspections. Otherwise you must have the required inspections performed by the building department inspectors.

2. Threshold buildings:

105.13.1 "The enforcing agency shall require a special inspector to perform structural inspections on a threshold building pursuant to a structural inspection plan prepared by the engineer or architect of record. The structural inspection plan must be submitted to the enforcing agency prior to the issuance of a building permit..."

105.13.2 "... A fee simple title owner of a building which does not meet the minimum... criteria (for) classification as a threshold building under FS 553.71(7) may designate such building as a threshold building..."

105.13.3 " The (special) inspector shall be a person certified, licensed, or registered under Chapter 471 Florida Statutes as an engineer or under chapter 481 Florida Statutes as an architect."

105.13.6 "The building department may allow a special inspector to conduct the minimum structural inspections required by this code...without duplicative inspections by the building department. The building official is responsible for ensuring that any person conducting inspections is qualified as a building inspector..., or certified as a special inspector. Inspections of threshold buildings are in addition to the minimum inspections required by this code."

Any building meeting the requirements of a threshold building or designated such by the owner must have a threshold inspection plan submitted and approved prior to the issuance of a permit. Threshold inspectors must hold a Florida special inspector license and a Florida license as an architect or engineer. Their name, license numbers, qualifications, and insurance provider information must be submitted in writing to the building official for approval.

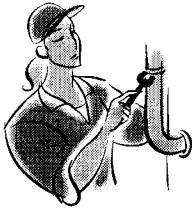
A written request to the building official must be made to obtain permission for the special inspector to perform the required structural inspections as well as the required special inspections. Otherwise the building department inspectors must perform the required structural inspections.

Chapter 1 Online-

Administrative amendments to Chapter One of the Florida Building Code, effective October 1, 2003, have been published as one document. It is available online at our website www.marioncountyfl.org. On the building department page — look for "Hot News" under internal links or you can request a copy at the Permitting Center. Marion County amendments are indicated by grey shading. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Reminder: Screen Enclosures: Retaining walls supporting screen enclosures must be constructed using engineering by the screen enclosure engineer. For example: If Bennett Engineering is used for the screen enclosure, the retaining wall must be constructed as shown in the Bennett "Aluminum Structures Design Manual" 2003 edition page 1-53 or separate engineering must be provided.

Plumbing Division



CPVC pipe passing through concrete slabs or masonry walls shall no longer be required to be sleeved.

Testable double check valves are an approved means of backflow prevention when installed on irrigation systems.

Plan Review

Aluminum Contractors-

Some of you may already know that a completed Design Checklist must accompany the plans you submit for all your aluminum projects. This form is found in the back of your Engineering Design Manual.

Effective December 1st, 2003, the completed Design Checklist must be included with each application package.

We are pleased to offer a workshop on this and other related topics of interest to Aluminum Contractors. Please plan to attend.

* This is a problem solving workshop, not a lecture.

We will be available from 8:00 to 11:00 AM to work with you individually on your problems and questions.



PLAN TO ATTEND

The Plan Examiners:

Tony

Rick

Debra

Anthony

Mark

Nestor

look forward to seeing you....

Workshop:

"Successful Plan

Submittals for Aluminum Projects"

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2003

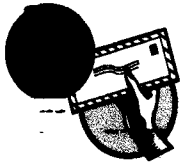
Time: 8:00-11:00 AM *

Location: Marion County Building Department
Permitting Center

2631 SE 3rd Street

Ocala, Florida 34471-9101

Permitting



Please be advised that the Marion County Building Department will no longer mail out 5-month notification letters telling you that your permits will expire.

- Be advised that expired permits will result in a "PERMIT HOLD" status on new permits until the expired permits are renewed.
- In a continuous process to improve service, we are requesting that all Contractors provide the Building Department with an e-mail address. This will allow us to provide you with a Newsletter and new bulletins via the internet.
- Prior to recording your Notice of Commencement, please verify with our (Permitting) Service Representatives that you have correctly filled out the form. This will help prevent from having to re-record the document due to incorrect information.

SAME DAY PERMITS THAT REQUIRE ZONING & PLAN REVIEW

- THE PERMIT(S) LISTED CAN BE SUBMITTED UNTIL 4:00
- LIMIT 1 PER DAY

- AFTER 4:00 PERMIT(S) MAY BE PROCESSED AS A DROPOFF(S)

- POOL OR SPA
- POOL ENCLOSURE
- SCREEN ROOM OR SCREEN LANAI
- SHED - PREFAB ONLY
- PATIO SLAB
- REPLACEMENT WINDOWS/DOOR
- SOLAR SYSTEMS
- LP OR NATURAL GAS INSTALLATION
- DEMO - RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
- MH ROOF OVERS & METAL ROOFS
- ELECTRICAL REPAIRS (COMMERCIAL) CASE BY CASE

SAME DAY PERMITS WITH NO REVIEW

- THE PERMIT(S) LISTED CAN BE SUBMITTED UNTIL 4:30

- AFTER 4:30 PERMIT(S) MAY BE PROCESSED AS A DROP-OFF(S)

- REROOF
- VINYL SIDING
- WINDOW AWNINGS (LESS THAN 3FT)
- RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICAL REPAIRS
- RESIDENTIAL RECONNECTS
- IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
- CENTRAL WATER / SEWER HOOK UPS
- HEATING & AIR INSTALLATION / CHANGE OUTS ONLY
- WELL REPLACEMENT / REPAIR

Inspections

Please remember to schedule your Inspections AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

If the A. I. R. S. System is not working, please try our Website at www.marioncountyfl.org.

Click the Departments Tab/ Under Growth Management, Click the Building Tab / Move scroll bar to the far right column/Click on Schedule Inspections.

Permittingcontinued

213 PRELIMINARY POWER RELEASE

Contractors requesting a "213" preliminary power inspection, must also satisfy the following requirements to have the power company notified:

Approved "213" or "201" Electrical Inspection

All Fees Paid

Preliminary Power Release Request form completed and given to the Building Department

Approval of the Building Director or his appointee

If any of the above steps have not been taken, the power company will not be notified. Any questions please call our office @ 620-7422.

Personnel Change

Congratulations

to

Douglas

Watkins

who has moved to

Service

Representative I

from

Staff Assistant I

Agricultural Exemptions- There is not an automatic exemption from permitting for pole barns or other outbuildings.

The Florida Building Code exempts a non-residential farm building on a farm from the provisions of the code. You must apply for and receive an exemption certificate from the Marion County Zoning Department to be exempt.

One requirement of that application is for the property owner to sign a disclosure statement.



A contractor's license is required to build non-residential farm buildings. The agricultural exemption only applies to the building and the building code, not to contractors and contracting regulations.

Licensing

Mission

The Marion County Building Department Contractor Licensing Division is dedicated to protecting the citizens of Marion County by efficient and effective enforcement of Marion County Ordinances and State Statutes.

Recent operational changes within the Building Department have given the license investigators the ability to spend all of their time investigating licensing regulation violations. They will be working closely with Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Worker Compensation, and various contractor associations to identify licensed and unlicensed contracting activity that is in violation of regulations. Your input is always welcome. Please contact either George or Ed at the numbers listed below if you have any questions, comments or tips.

The goal of this division is to achieve complete compliance with regulations by all contractors. Citations (fines), License Review Board action, and sometimes court action are some of the tools used to achieve this goal. You can help us achieve this goal and fulfill our mission by knowing and following contracting regulations, and by reporting others who are violating the regulations.

Office	352-620-7424
George Carey	352-572-6268
Ed Pritchett	352-572-6276

New!! Effective October 1, 2003- It is a violation of Marion County Ordinance 03-15 for a contractor who is required to be licensed, to work on a project without being listed on the permit for the work. Make sure that you are listed on the permit for every job you participate in. Check this information on the website or call our office if you do not know if you are listed on the permit. A citation may be issued for violations of this provision.

New!! Effective October 1, 2003- All contractors will be required to declare the number of employees they have. Worker's Compensation coverage or exemption certificates must be provided for all employees. Be advised as well that there are new penalties in place at the State level for making false representations to avoid providing worker's compensation coverage for your employees.

New!! Effective January 1, 2004- All Worker's Compensation exemption certificates will become void on this date, unless it is issued to a qualified officer of a corporation. Please check with the Worker's Compensation office if you have questions about your exemption. After January 1, 2004 the Marion County Building Department will not be able to list a contractor on a permit if the exemption is not valid.

To report an
unlicensed contractor
or a project
without a permit,
call
Michael Adams
@
620-3848.

Personnel Change

**Licensing
Investigations
Supervisor
-
George Carey**



Marion County
Board of County
Commissioners
Building Department

2631 SE 3RD STREET
OCALA, FLORIDA
34471-9101



CONTRACTORS NEEDED

Marion County Community Services is seeking qualified contractors to participate in the SHIP (**State Housing Initiatives Partnership**) Rehabilitation Program. The SHIP Program partners with local contractors to assist homeowners that cannot afford to repair their home. SHIP provides a 0% interest loan to qualified homeowners.

To participate as a SHIP approved contractor you would need to complete an application and provide the following information:

Current Residential Contractor (or higher) license. Have an active status with the Marion County Building Department. All licenses and insurances up to date. No complaints or violations within the last two years.

Have repaired and pulled permits for at least three homes within the last two years under current contractor license.

Provide three written references from subcontractors or customers in Marion County.

Provide information on last 3 permits pulled.

Qualified contractors who are interested in participating in the SHIP Program should call Marion County Community Services at 620-3375 for an application. For more information on the SHIP Program visit our website at www.marioncountyfl.org/CS522/CS_home.htm.

WebSite News

A new feature has been added to our website for your use.



LET'S

SURF

You may now find and print a list of the most common items that our Inspectors will be looking for in the field. Enter our Marion County website address www.marioncountyfl.org.

Once the MCBCC Homepage comes up, look on the top left side for the "FIND" menu, click on "Departments". When the next page comes up, find the "Growth Management Bureau" section and click on "Building". Now look on the right side for the "Services" menu and click on "Inspection Division". Find "What Will the Inspectors be Looking For". You may now click on any one of the four items in blue: **Electric, Mechanical, Plumbing, or Structural** to view a list of items most commonly looked for in those trades by the field inspectors.