



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

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**COUNTY COMMISSION ADOPTS
REDUCED FEES FOR BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Sept. 21, 2011) – In a unanimous vote during their Sept. 20 board meeting, Marion County commissioners adopted a new fee schedule for the county’s Building Department, reducing fees for 83 different types of permits. The new rates will go into effect Oct. 1 and affect projects taking place in unincorporated Marion County, McIntosh and Reddick.

The commission is enacting the change after a cost-analysis review to analyze the base amount of funds needed to operate the Building Department. The review results indicated permit fees could be decreased without affecting the department’s operational budget. The department’s budget is funded through revenues generated from permit fees.

Homeowners and contractors will see reductions of more than \$95 in some permit types through the new fee schedule. For example, permits for above-ground pools have decreased from \$159 to \$63, air conditioning unit change-outs have decreased from \$87 to \$73, and re-roofs for single family or duplex residences have decreased from \$159 to \$123 and to one fee of \$246 for a three to six multi-family unit homes as opposed to \$159 per unit. The Building Department adjusted the fees by calculating the costs associated with issuing each type of permit.

“At a time when the economy is at an all-time low, the County Commission and Marion County Building Department have made a tangible effort to assist citizens and business owners by lowering fees and implementing this new fee schedule,” said Marion County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Stan McClain. “In total, this new fee schedule is projected to save homeowners and contractors \$212,000 this upcoming fiscal year; this is money that those same individuals will now have to invest and spend as they see fit or put back into the community.”

Ten new permit types also resulted from the department’s review for minor projects such as window or door change-outs that don’t affect structural framing. These permits will only charge minimum fee rates as opposed to the current full-project fee rates.

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“Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations”