



February 5, 2009  
Volume 5, Issue 1

# OKEECHOBEE COUNTY BUILDING DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Planning and Development Department

499 N.W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972

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## NEW 2007 FLORIDA BUILDING CODES

### EDUCATIONAL ROUNDTABLE MEETING

The 2007 Florida Building Codes will **go into effect on March 1, 2009.**

A round table educational meeting will be held on February 18, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – Noon at the Okeechobee County Civic Center, 1750 Hwy 98 North to discuss the new code changes.

If you would like to attend this educational meeting, please contact the Building Department at 863-763-5548.

### FAILURE TO CALL FOR INSPECTION FEES

In accordance with the Okeechobee County Permit Fee Schedule which was effective January 1, 2007 the Building Department **is charging a \$40.00 fee for failure to call in any required inspection.** These inspections will be listed on the permit inspection card.

## EXPIRED PERMITS WITH NO FINAL INSPECTION

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CONTRACTORS

**2007 Building Codes take effect March 1, 2009. Any permit which expired on or before February 28, 2009 will be null and void when the new codes take effect. To continue to perform work, a new permit application must be submitted.**

A written request to extend a permit may be submitted to the Building Official to be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Per Section 105.4.1.2 of the Florida Building Code, the Building Official has the authority to require any work completed be removed from the building site if a new permit covering the construction is not obtained within 180 days of the date the permit became null and void.

### 2008 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC)

On February 4, 2009 the Florida Building Commission's Electrical TAC Committee voted in favor of the adoption of the 2008 NEC. The vote was 8-1 to adopt the code with no exceptions, deletions or changes. The expected date of adoption is July 1, 2009.

**COMMERCIAL INSPECTIONS  
REQUIREMENTS FOR REQUESTING**

**CHARGES FOR  
TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY  
AND LETTER OF COMPLETION**

In accordance with the Okeechobee County Permit Fee Schedule which was effective January 1, 2007 the Building Department is charging for temporary certificates of occupancy (C/O) and letters of completion.

The fees are as follows:

- ❖ Temporary C/O:
  - Residential \$35.00
  - Commercial \$50.00
- ❖ Letter of Completion \$50.00

**NEW PERMIT REQUIREMENTS  
LAWN SPRINKLERS  
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL**

In accordance with the Okeechobee County Permit Fee Schedule which was effective January 1, 2007, a permit is required for the installation of new lawn sprinklers for residential and commercial property.

The fees are as follows:

- ❖ Residential Lawn Sprinklers \$40.00
- ❖ Commercial Lawn Sprinklers \$80.00

**RE-INSPECTION FEES**

In accordance with the Okeechobee County Permit Fee Schedule which was effective January 1, 2007 the Building Department **is charging a \$35.00 re-inspection fee for all failed inspections.** The fee must be paid prior to rescheduling the inspection.

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, Chapter 489, the General and/or Building Contractor (herein after referred to as the "Contractor") is the person responsible for all work performed on the job site. Therefore, **the "Contractor" has the responsibility for calling in all inspections; including those for work subcontracted to other contractors.** Should any inspection, including work performed by sub-contractors; be disapproved, the "Contractor" shall be responsible for paying any re-inspection fees charged by the Building Department.

Should the "Contractor" wish to be present, or provide the opportunity for his sub-contractors to be present during the inspection process, a contact phone number should be provided when calling in the inspection to the Building Department along with a request that the inspector call prior to going out to do the inspection.

**NEW REQUIREMENT FOR  
WORK IN RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS**

Pursuant to Ordinance 2008-02 Exhibit "A", amending Ordinance 96-01; Code of Ordinances of Okeechobee County, effective March 1, 2009 a permit will be required prior to the installation of driveways and/or driveway culverts on any County right-of-way.

The Okeechobee County Building Department shall be responsible for the issuance of the *Work in Right-of-Way Permit* and collection of the \$75.00 permit fee.

The Okeechobee County Road and Bridge Department shall be responsible for providing the specifications and requirements which must be met when applying for the *Work in Right-of-Way Permit*. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Road and Bridge at 863-763-3514.

The *Work in Right-of-Way Permit* must be issued and paid for prior to, or simultaneously with any other permits being issued on the property.

## NEW LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS

### FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE NEW LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS WHICH ARE EFFECTIVE MARCH 2, 2009:

- ❖ Residential (single family, two family and three family units)
  - Sod is to be planted to a minimum of 15 feet around the perimeter of the structure
  - Any remaining slope beyond 15 feet is to be seeded and mulched to stabilize and prevent erosion
  - Any disturbed surface on the residential lot/parcel is to be sodded, seeded and mulched or otherwise surfaced to prevent erosion
  - One tree is to be planted for every 1,000 square feet or portion thereof of new dwelling area
  - Required trees must be a minimum of 8.5 inches in circumference measured at 4.5 feet above the base of the tree
  - Tree count and location is to be included on the site plan that is submitted with the permit application
  - Trees are not to be planted in County rights-of-way or utility easements
  
- ❖ Multi-Family (4 or more units) and Non-Residential
  - Landscape plan is required. See Section 7.11 of the Okeechobee County Land Development Regulations
  - No oak tree with a circumference greater than 48 inches measured at a point 4.5 feet above the base of the tree shall be removed unless authorized by a variance

## RESIDENTIAL CULVERT AND DRIVEWAY REQUIREMENTS

### THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE EFFECTIVE MARCH 2, 2009:

	Lots that front an unpaved publicly maintained street	Lots that front a paved publicly maintained street	Lots that front a street with curb and gutter	Lots where dwelling is set back 30' or less	Lots 200' wide or less of right-of-way frontage
<b>Culvert Required</b>	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Paved Driveway Apron</b>		•	•	•	•
<b>Paved Driveway</b>			•	•	•

#### **Culvert Specifications**

All culverts must be no less than 18" in diameter and 30' in length. Culverts must be constructed of concrete. Other materials may be approved by the County. When fronting a publicly maintained street all culverts must have mitered ends and concrete collars.

#### **Paved Driveway Apron Specifications**

The driveway apron must be no less than 12' in width with a minimum 5' radius and shall extend at least 1' beyond edge of right-of-way. A temporary apron must be installed prior to the commencement of construction activity. Alternative methods of protecting the edge of the pavement during construction may be approved by the County but the paved apron shall be completed prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

#### **Paved Driveway Specifications**

The paved driveway must extend to the garage, carport or other defined parking area at or beyond the front of the dwelling. A driveway is not required to exceed 50' from edge of right-of-way. A paved driveway is not required when replacing a dwelling that has existed on the property within the preceding 6 months.

#### **Paving Material**

Paving must consist of concrete, asphalt or concrete pavers. Other similar surfaces may be approved by the County.

## 2009 MEETING DATES

### **ALL MEETINGS HELD AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AUDITORIUM**

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL MAGISTRATE HEARINGS

February 17, 2009	June 16, 2009	October 20, 2009
March 17, 2009	July 21, 2009	November 17, 2009
April 21, 2009	August 18, 2009	December 15, 2009
May 19, 2009	September 15, 2009	

#### CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LICENSING BOARD

March 3, 2009	June 2, 2009	September 1, 2009
April 7, 2009	July 7, 2009	October 6, 2009
May 5, 2009	August 4, 2009	November 3, 2009
	December 1, 2009	

#### BUILDING DEPARTMENT HOLIDAYS

April 10, 2009	Good Friday
May 25, 2009	Memorial Day
July 3, 2009	Independence Day (observed)
September 7, 2009	Labor Day
November 11, 2009	Veteran's Day
November 26 & 27, 2009	Thanksgiving
December 24 & 25, 2009	Christmas 2009
January 1, 2010	New Year's Day 2010

#### BUILDING DEPARTMENT STAFF

- ❖ T.M. English, MCP, CBO; Interim Code Compliance Director/Building Official
  - ❖ Faye Huffman, Administrative Secretary

##### CODE COMPLIANCE

Beth Albert, Code Officer III  
Blanca Saucedo, Code Officer I  
Diana McQuade, Office Assistant

##### PERMITTING

Barbara Cash, Permit Supervisor  
Virginia Derry, Permit Technician  
Diana Heil, Office Assistant  
Sherri Moon, Permit Technician  
Susan Pilgrim, Permit Technician

##### PLANS EXAMINERS/INSPECTORS

Don Determan, Plans Examiner II;  
Inspector (Structural)  
Gary Gerstemeier (Plans Examiner II;  
Inspector (Electrical)  
Kenn Hafner, Plans Examiner II  
Carl Peterson, Plans Examiner III;  
Inspector (Mechanical)

##### INSPECTORS

Bruce Cannon, Inspector III  
Bobby Coons, Provisional Inspector