



Shenandoah County

Office of Community Development

Building Department Newsletter

Spring 2016

BUILDING AN INFORMED COALITION OF SHENANDOAH COUNTY CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS

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May Is Building Safety Month

Building Safety Month is a public awareness campaign to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures. The campaign reinforces the need for adoption of modern, model building codes, a strong and efficient system of code enforcement and a well-trained, professional workforce to maintain the system.

The campaign is presented by the ICC and its 57,000 members worldwide along with a diverse partnership of professionals from the building construction, design and safety community. Corporations, government agencies, professional associations, nonprofits and more come together to support Building Safety Month because they

understand the need for safe and sustainable structures where we live, work and play. Contact your local building department for more information.



Building Department Mission

The mission of the Building Department is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by assuring that all buildings, structures and related equipment are constructed, installed and maintained in compliance with the standards contained within the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.

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Scams

Spring is officially here in the Shenandoah Valley and the onset of warm weather brings an increase in construction and home improvement activity at many local residences. Unfortunately, this increase in activity can also lead to an increase in scams among unlicensed personnel.

Local residents can take simple steps to avoid being victims of such scams. Here are some tips to avoid becoming a victim yourself:

- Never use any person or firm who cannot provide a proper license for the work being performed. You can contact the state contractor licensing department at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation or the Office of Community Development to verify the validity of any license.
- Make sure your contractor obtains the proper permits for the work being performed.
- Never allow any permits to be obtained as owner/contractor. This makes you liable for all work and payments associated with your property.
- Make sure to verify proper insurance for the work being performed.
- Never pay in advance for work that has not been performed. Most reputable contractors do not require payment up front.
- Have a written contract with all of the work that is to be performed. Any change orders from the original contract must be in written form by all parties involved. Even work being performed by the hour is required to have a written contract.
- Get references and check around. Your neighbors may let you know if you may have problems with your proposed contractor.
- Use caution if a price sounds too good to be true. Use common sense and avoid pressured sales.
- The DPOR regulations for contractors can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/uploadedFiles/MainSite/Content/Boards/Contractors/A501-27REGS.pdf>

Free Code Access

Have you ever wondered what exactly is written in the code books? Now you can view free of charge all of the building codes enforced by the Commonwealth of Virginia by going to the following website:

<http://codes.iccsafe.org/#virginia> or find the link on the Shenandoah County Building Inspections website.



SCCC Membership

Membership in the Shenandoah County Construction Coalition is free. By becoming a member you will be networking with other members of your community that work in the same field as you. Membership allows us a contact list to send information to regarding upcoming events. If you would like to be added to the membership send your information to mgum@shenandoahcountyva.us or call us at 540-459-6185.

Did you know...

Anyone contracting in Shenandoah County is required to have a contractor's license issued either by the state, county, or both depending on license type.

All electricians, plumbers, and HVAC persons must have a masters certification issued by the state in order to work unless employed and supervised by someone whom has this license?

It's illegal to use someone else's license to perform work?