

BUILDING SAFETY NEWS

PUBLISHED BY BUILDING SAFETY DIVISION

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**Work Load
by Tom Kapsha**

Permit activity continues its slow increase from the worst lows of the end of last year and the early part of this year. Inspection activity has also gradually increased over the past month as the major projects permitted in the spring have come out of the ground and are progressing at a steady pace aided by the good summer weather. Inspection activity is expected to continue its upward trend as not only the major projects begun in the spring continue but also as the additional major project of the Wachovia Center progresses. Due to the size and value of these major projects monthly permit and plan review revenue for several months of this year has been relatively high compared to most of the previous two years. In fact, the revenue received last month far exceeds every month over the past two and one half years. (See revenue graph elsewhere in newsletter). Residential plan review remains on track with initial reviews being conducted in less than 5 days. Commercial plan review also remains on track with reviews being conducted in less than 10 days. Inspections are all being conducted within 24 hours.

JOINT EFFORT DAMAGE ASSESSMENT DRILL

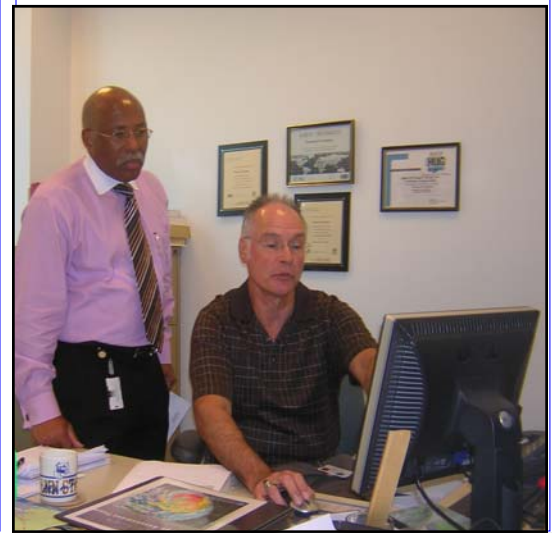


Kapsha displayed the results from the simulated assessment conducted by the teams participating in the drill. Ron Keys reminded everyone about the importance of planning for a disaster and praised the group for their proficiency.

After a disaster, two City of Norfolk departments combine into the Damage Assessment Team to provide a FEMA damage assessment report that is used as the basis for a Presidential declaration for a disaster. Our report is based on collection of data into an electronic system, hastily designed a few days before Hurricane Isabel in 2003 by staff in the City of Norfolk's IT Department. The results of the report, its accuracy and clarity were hailed by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management as outstanding.

A very successful damage assessment drill was held by the City of Norfolk on Friday, July 18. While we do annual damage assessment drills to update personnel records and city maps, this drill was somewhat different with many staff participating for the first time, and it included a much-appreciated visual presentation from Ron Keys, Director and Jim Talbot of Norfolk's Emergency Operations Center. Frank Duke, Director of Planning and Community Development and David Freeman, Director of Neighborhood Preservation participated in the live drill and simulated receiving reports of damage.

At the end of the drill, Vernell Woods, Deputy Code Official led a visual presentation about damage assessment activities conducted after a tornado damaged a portion of Suffolk. Tom



STAFF PARTICIPATES IN LIVE DRILL



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Organization Meeting Schedule

VBCOA Region 8

Regular meeting
 October 10, 2008

VBCOA Chapter

Annual Conference...October 26-29, 2008
 Wytheville, Va.

IAEI Eastern

IAEI National

IAEI Southern Section
 October 12-15, 2008
 Alexandria, Va.

VPMIA

Annual Conference...October 26-29, 2008
 Wytheville, Va.

VFPA

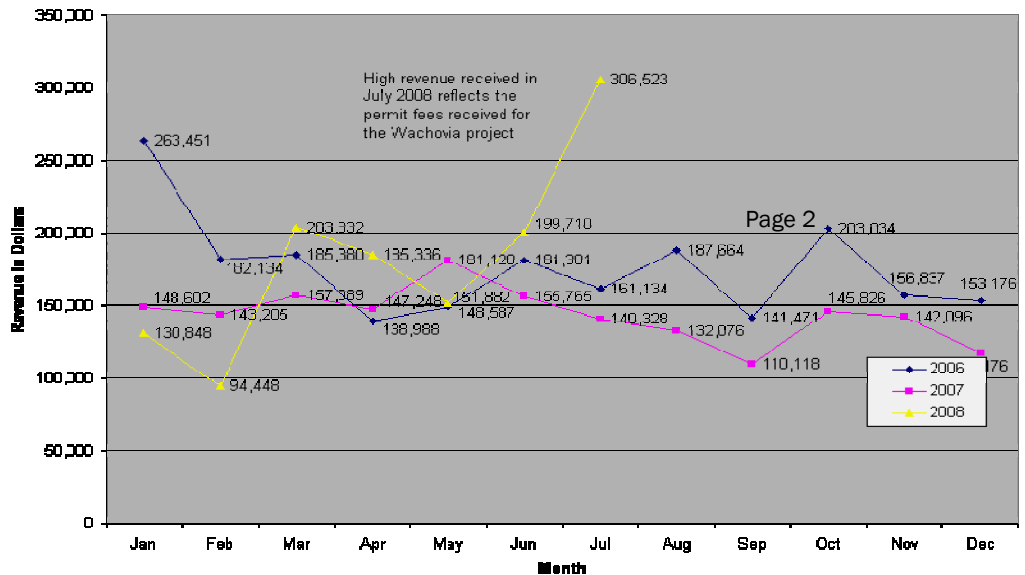
2008 VFPA Fall Conference
 Roanoke

VCCA

General Membership Meeting
 September 26, 2008
 Culpepper, Va.

INSPECTIONS SHOW MARGINAL INCREASE

Combined Plan Review and Permit Revenue Received per Month over Three Years



2005 NEC Changes/2006 IRC Electrical Code Changes by Jeff White

May 1, 2008 marks the date for the enforcement of the 2005 NEC and 2006 IRC electrical code changes. Some of the changes will impact the installation of electrical systems over the next 3 years.

Section 250.50 NEC - All suspended ceiling paddle fans, the boxes used to support them must be listed if they are the sole support of the fan.

Section 314.27(D) NEC—All grounding electrodes as described in 250.52(1) that are present at each building or structure shall be bonded together to form the grounding electrode system. This includes the UFER Type-Concrete encased electrode.

Section 314.27(D) NEC –All suspended ceiling paddle fans, the boxes used to support them must be listed if they are the sole support of the fan.

Section E4107.2 IRC—Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters required on all electrical equipment on storable pools. All 125 volts receptacle within 20ft. Of the inside wall pool shall be protected.

Recent problems with the economy and foreclosures have caused issues with inspectors. Some concerns are:

More homes are being foreclosed and people are

buying these homes trying to flip the home and do the work without any permits or inspections. The homes have already had work done from the past owners with no required inspections. Inspections were never made because permits were never issued. Walls are being covered with no rough-in inspections causing the new owner or the person “flipping” the home to spend more money (admin. & engineering fees) when opening walls. This could be avoided by having the home checked before buying it and getting inspections and permits for the work that is being done.

MECHANICAL MOMENTS BY RICK FORTNER

With fall upon us and colder weather approaching, it will soon be time for starting our heating systems. It is always a good practice to have your heating system and venting system and /or chimney serviced by a qualified technician prior to putting them into use for the season. A common problem this time of year is red-tagged gas meters and/or appliances by Virginia Natural Gas due to faulty gas appliances, venting system problems, leaking gas piping or any other situation where VNG feels the system is unsafe. When the gas company issues a red tag, it puts into motion a process in which a report is sent to the City of Norfolk for follow up. In many cases, permits aren't required if it is a maintenance issue only which can be repaired and the gas meter is not locked out, a process in which VNG shuts the meter supply valve and locks it in the shut position with a locking pin. The locking pin can only be removed by VNG. In cases concerning maintenance issues, only a copy of the repair order may be all that is required. If the gas meter is locked out due to piping leaks or if a gas appliance has to be replaced, or modifications to the venting system are required, appropriate gas and/or mechanical permits are required to be obtained from the City of Norfolk along with the required inspections in accordance with the

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NORFOLK TO HOST VAZO CONFERENCE by Bobby Tajan

September 24-26, the Virginia Association of Zoning Officials (VAZO) will be holding their Fall conference here in Norfolk at the Downtown Marriott at Waterside. During the conference, examinations for certification as a Certified Zoning Official and Certified Zoning Administrator are administered along with an array of helpful workshops. These workshops would allow attendees the opportunity to gain light to the different issues which effect planning personnel and their interaction with not only the public but with their co-workers of today.

Topics that will be covered include:

“How to prepare a court case and be a good witness on the stand”

Presented by Vanessa Valldejuli Esq., Senior Deputy City Attorney, Hampton
 “How a Building Inspector and Zoning Inspector can work together”
 Presented by Cheri Hainer, CBO, Building Official, Virginia Beach
 “How the Housing Inspector and Zoning Inspector can work together” which will be presented by Ralston McGinnis, Team Leader City of Norfolk Neighborhood Preservation

We thank VAZO for choosing to hold the conference within Norfolk. For more information on the schedule and registration of the conference or for more information on the organization, please visit <http://www.vazo.org>.

Plumbing/CC by Leon Yoder

Cross Connection and Backflow Protection is responsible for enforcing a public safety program designed to maintain the purity of potable water supplied for existing buildings. These Inspectors, along with other Inspectors, work to ensure effective measures taken to prevent the return of any water to the potable water system. Eight two-day certification classes are held each year for instruction on backflow prevention to approximately 120 individuals. The Virginian Pilot reports Norfolk’s drinking water was rated fourth most pure among 100 U.S. cities by the “Men’s Health Magazine.”

VBCOA is a Chapter of ICC



ICC Mission and Vision

Vision: Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of people by creating better buildings and safer communities.

Mission: Providing the highest quality codes, standards, products, and services for all concerned with the safety and performance of the built environment.

NEW TEAM LEADERS



Rick Fortner

Building Safety Division congratulates Rick Fortner on his promotion to Code Enforcement Team Leader. Mr. Fortner

Serves as the Team Leader for the Mechanical Inspections Team. He has been with the City of Norfolk since January 1988 following a 4 year employment with Newport News Shipbuilding. Since coming to the City of Norfolk, he has served as a Senior Codes Specialist, Mechanical Inspector. Mr. Fortner has conducted Mechanical inspections, gas piping inspections, cross-connection inspections and plumbing inspections in commercial and residential

buildings in all areas of the City. Residential Combination Inspector, Mechanical Inspector General, Plumbing Inspector General and Mechanical Master Tradesman/Gas Fitter are among the primary certifications held by Mr. Fortner.

Rick is married with two children. He is originally from Washington, D.C. and is an avid Redskins fan. Rick enjoys time with his family, volunteering with church, working around the house and riding his motorcycle.

VBCOA Announces Positions

VBCOA announced the updated officers and Region Chair positions. They are as follows:

- President: John Glover
- 1st VP: Lynn Underwood
- 2nd VP: Jim Collins
- Sgt Arms: Joel Baker
- Region I: Stan Massie
- Region II: Cathy Cook
- Region III: Kevin Kline
- Region IV: Dave Ansell & Paul Snyder
- Region V: Sean Farrell
- Region VI: Rodger Slate & Dallas Johnson
- Region VII: Steve Daum & Harold Stills
- Region VIII: James Pippin

New committee chairs were announced. They are as follows:

- Awards: Bill Butler
- BHCD: Eric Mays
- Education: Roger Robertson
- IBC: Justin Biller
- IRC: Ellis McKinney
- Legislation: Rick/Julie Walton/Dave Duffie
- Membership: Homer McCoy
- Nominations: Cheri Hainer
- Past Pres.: Guy Tomberlin
- Plumbing/Mech: Mike Clift
- Property Maintenance: Ralston McInnis
- Public Info: John Walsh
- Time/Place: Kris Bridges
- Web Mgr: Richard Ritter
- DPOR: Michael Redifer
- Region 7: Rick Witt
- BCAAC: Roger Robertson

Mechanical Moments
By Rick Fortner (Contd.)

Virginia Statewide Building Code. A gas piping permit and an approved pressure test inspection will be required when the gas company locks out the gas meter for any reason and requires a release from a City Code Inspector. Once a pressure test inspection and all appliances associated with the gas piping system have been inspected for safety, the meter will be released by the inspector to Virginia Natural Gas.

Chesapeake where he served as a Senior Code Compliance Inspector. While working for Chesapeake, Mr. LaChance obtained certifications as a Certified Zoning Administrator, a Certified Property Maintenance Inspector, and a Certified Building Inspector. Mr. LaChance has also attended the Advanced Official Module, Electrical Module, and Permit Technician Module. Mr. LaChance is always eager to take new classes and obtain new certifications to assist with his career and knowledge in the Building and related fields.



Paul LaChance

Building Safety Division congratulates Paul LaChance as the new Chief Building Inspector, Structural Team Leader.

Prior to employment with the City of Norfolk, Mr. LaChance was employed with the City of

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**We're on the Web:
[www.norfolk.gov/
planning](http://www.norfolk.gov/planning)**

Policy Highlights

The City of Norfolk has developed policies that delineate methods of conducting business or clarifies acceptable methods of meeting the intent of complex building code issues. These are on our website and available for review. This issue will focus on . This policy may be downloaded from the City's website:

http://www.norfolk.gov/Plannin/g/Policies_BCS.asp

Planning and Community Development Departmental Vision

To integrate the best ideas from all segments of the community with innovative planning techniques in order to create a holistic framework for a vibrant and diverse community to live, work and play.

Planning and Community Development Departmental Mission

To apply the highest quality planning and reflect regulatory principles to preserve, protect and enhance Norfolk's developed and natural environments.

DHCD News:

Continuing Ed. Policy - The Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy (UPVBCA) currently provides a comprehensive basic or advanced functional level of training to the state's code enforcement personnel, generally in the first 12-18 months of their position hire or appointment date. As the industry increases its professional capacity, so does the need for participation in a higher competency level of training, professional career development opportunities, and ongoing skill development activities. Effective May 01, 2008, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) shall require continuing education as component of maintaining active certification status relative to certifications granted by the Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD). All building officials, code officials and technical assistants employed by or under extended contract to a jurisdiction to enforce the (USBC) as well as local building department personnel and private inspectors certified to enforce the Va. Amusement Device Regulations (VADR) shall obtain 16 hrs. of continuing education every 2 years in addition to the mandatory and periodic training required for certificate issuance and maintenance.

Code Corner: By Anthony Anderson

Q: When are permit applications required?

Answer: Section 108 USBC - Application for a permit shall be made to the building official and a permit shall be obtained prior to the commencement of any of the following activities, except that applications for emergency construction, alterations or equipment replacement shall be submitted by the end of the first working day that follows the day such work commences. In addition, the building official may authorize work to commence pending the receipt of an application or the issuance of a permit.

Construction or demolition of a building or structure. Installations or alterations involving (i) the removal or addition of any wall, partition or portion thereof, (ii) any structural component, (iii) the repair or replacement of any required component of a fire or smoke rated assembly, (iv) the alteration of any required means of egress system, (v) water supply and distribution system, sanitary drainage system or vent system, (vi) electric wiring, (vii) fire protection system, mechanical systems or fuel supply systems or (viii) any equipment regulated by the USBC.

VBCOA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Virginia Building and Code Officials Association along with the Virginia Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector's Association will hold a Joint-School and Conference between October 26th - 29th in Wytheville. The school and joint conference will include a VBCOA Region Chair's meeting as well as a Board of Director's meeting on Sunday. Beginning Monday, the opening session will include a business meeting for VBCOA that includes election of officers for the coming year, followed by a series of building safety training sessions. The first training session is entitled, *Green Building Technologies and Impact on the Inspection Process*. A joint luncheon will feature VBCOA Officer installation. A presentation is anticipated from the incoming President of the International Code Council. A joint dinner-theater will be provided for both groups on Monday evening.

Training on Tuesday includes a dual track including mechanical systems and the International Code Council's National Green Building Standard. The mechanical training will include Captive Aire Hood and ACCA HVAC sizing calculations. Concurrently, training in deck construction and gray water installations will be provided. In the afternoon, classes are tentatively scheduled for installation standards for water-less urinals and the science

of rainwater harvesting. An Expo dinner is planned for Tuesday evening. Training on Wednesday will cover the legal aspects of Code Enforcement.

In addition, certain make up classes for DHCD Code update training will be provided during the Joint Conference. Volunteer instructors from both Chapters will provide training.

On Tuesday, October 28, 2008, an all-inclusive **one-day** offering of the 2006 Code Change Training will be presented at the Wytheville Meeting Center, 333 Community Boulevard, Wytheville, Virginia. To replicate the recently completed three one-day sessions presented by the Department of Housing and Community Development, this day-long offering will be divided into three sessions. Session 1 is a duplicate of the DHCD Day 1 session; session 2 is a duplicate of the DHCD Day 2 session; and session 3 is a duplicate of the DHCD Day 3 session. This opportunity is open to DHCD code enforcement certificate holders who are required to attend the 2006 Code Change Training, but were unable to attend the recently-completed sessions. These sessions are free of charge only to employees of localities and other agencies that are required to enforce the provisions of the codes promulgated by the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development . Those attending will receive DHCD

credit. This training is being offered in conjunction with the VBCOA / VPMIA joint conference being held in Wytheville Virginia at the Wytheville Meeting Center and is a partnership effort of the Training and Certification Unit of the Department of Housing and Community Development and the education committees of VBCOA and VPMIA.

**ICC NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
BY JEFF WHITE**

The International Code Council will hold its 2008 Conference on September 14-23, in the Minneapolis Convention Center. An expo will be on September 14-16. The business meeting starts on September 16 which covers Notice of Annual Business Mtg. , Proposed Bylaws Amendments and Board Elections. Check to see if you are eligible to vote in Minneapolis. Final Action Hearings are September 17-23. Conference Activities and events (such as Annual Bob Fowler Motorcycle Ride, Annual Golf Tournament, Fellowship Event and a welcoming event) will take place. Training and Ed. include Conference Ed. Programs and IAS Building Dept. Accreditation Lead Evaluator Training. ICC's Presidential Fireside Chat will be led by Steve Shapiro.