

BUILDING SAFETY NEWS

PUBLISHED BY BUILDING SAFETY DIVISION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Tornado Damage</i>	1
<i>City Assists</i>	1
<i>Damage Assessment Gears Up</i>	2
<i>VBCOA Training Plans</i>	3
<i>ICC Code Development</i>	2
<i>Staff Commendations</i>	3
<i>Zoning Corner</i>	3

Work Load

As better weather arrives, building permit activity has picked up since the first two months of the year. 1996 permits were issued in March and April, and while the numbers are still below the activity for the previous two years, the gap is closing. In fact, the 969 permits issued in April were just 32 shy of the number issued in April '06 (see graph - page 2). Meanwhile, plan review and permit revenue has clearly outpaced the revenue for the previous 2 years as several major projects have been permitted in the past several months, including the new Candlewood Suites Hotel at 5600 Lowery Road and the multi family project known as Belmont at Freemason among others. Residential plan review remains on track with initial reviews being conducted in less than 5 days. Commercial plan review which had slipped to 14 days early in the year has now improved to less than 11 days. Inspections are all being conducted within 24 hours.

Contact Information:

Office Phone Contact Information

Lynn Underwood, Code Official	664-6511
Vernell Woods, Deputy CO	664-6526
Tony Anderson, Team Leader Permits	664-6525
Jeff White, Team Leader Building	664-6545
Jeff White, Team Leader Electrical	664-6545
Leon Yoder, Team Leader Plumbing	
Mechanical, Cross Connection Control	664-6815
Tom Kapsha	665-6580
Interactive Voice Response -Inspections	664-6509
Pretty Lake Office	441-1621
Main Office (400 Granby)	664-6565

Cell Phone Contact Information

Lynn Underwood	641-7275
Vernell Woods	621-5078
Tony Anderson	617-3504
Jeff White	620-2613
Jeff White	620-2613
Leon Yoder	620-2660

TORNADO-DAMAGED SUFFOLK RESPONDS

On Monday afternoon, April 28th around 5:00 PM a tornado touched down, skipped and touched down again in the Suffolk region of Hampton Roads. The damage is expected to rise above \$40 Million with nearly 100 homes completely destroyed. Some homes were obliterated, leaving a cleanly swept concrete slab remaining! The National Weather Service has rated the Suffolk tornado as a strong **EF3** based on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. The twister cut a zig zag path about 25 miles long and brought severe damage in the areas where it touched down. Homes and buildings as close as a few hundred feet of the devastated area remained untouched. "Light poles were bent over, stop signs were rooted up and sent flying through buildings, large vehicles thrown into buildings, a new shopping center completely destroyed, houses stripped of their framing elements and tossed aside. Litter and debris were scattered everywhere", according to Wayne Whitehurst, Suffolk Building Official. Around

125 homes and 15 commercial buildings were declared non-habitable three days after the event. FEMA declaration of a disaster was expected soon after. Hundreds were injured but no fatality was recorded. Whitehurst's and staff reported to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management that 435 residential and commercial buildings were damaged in some way by the storm. He additionally reported that 73 were affected, 246 had *minor damage*, 91 had *major damage* and 46 were *destroyed*, according to FEMA guidelines for evaluating structures. The estimated combined damage reported totaled \$28.6 million. The damaged areas were limited to a narrow swath of destruction less than 2000 feet wide, stretching for several miles long. The hardest hit areas of Suffolk included Sadler Heights, Sentera Obici Hospital, Lakes Edge, Bridgewood on the Lake and the Community of Driver. "Community volunteer effort has been overwhelming", says Whitehurst.



CITY INSPECTION STAFF ASSIST

Three technical staff volunteered to assist the City of Suffolk's Building Department during the week of the tornado. Vernell Woods, Deputy Code Official, Jeff White, Team Leader for Electrical Inspection and Charles Beedie, Fire Protection Plan Reviewer assisted by evaluating the safety of damaged buildings to determine if they were safe enough to allow owners to occupy their homes and businesses.

During this time, they worked under the authority of Wayne Whitehurst, Building Official for the City of Suffolk. They assessed the safety conditions for structural, electrical, gas lines and water supply for dozens of homes. They coordinated efforts with Dominion Power and other utility purveyors to reconnect to buildings that received minor damage but whose service was disconnected. Their efforts were praised by Whitehurst. "These guys work was *Spot On*", he said, expressing his appreciation.



ICC Building Safety Week

Dozens of Building Officials met with members of Congress and the Senate on May 7, 2008. Celebrating Building Safety Week, members of ICC spoke in support of the Building Code Grant Act, proposed legislation that supports a building safety program in communities lacking funds to do so. Attending the May 7th function was Lynn Underwood, Norfolk's Code Official who met with five U.S. Representatives and Senators.



Organization Meeting Schedule

VBCOA Region 8

Regular meeting
August 21, 2008

VBCOA Chapter

Annual Conference...October 26-28 2008
Wytheville, Va.

IAEI Eastern

IAEI National

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

VPMIA

Forty Fifth Annual School of Instruction
August 7-8, 2008
Syria, Va.

VFPA

2008 Annual Training Conference & Mtg.

VCCA

VCCCA 2008 Annual Conference
June 20, 2008
Danville, Va.

BUILDING SAFETY WEEK IN VIRGINIA



Pictured above from left to right are John Applewhite, Battalion Chief, Fire-Rescue, Code Official Lynn Underwood, Deputy Code Official Vernell Woods Jr., and Frank Duke, Director of Planning and Community Development receiving the City of Norfolk, Virginia "Proclamation" urging all citizens to join others by participating in Building Safety Week 2008 activities and assisting in efforts to improve building safety.

Did you know that Building Safety Week was first observed in 1980? It is sponsored by the International Code Council (ICC), a membership organization dedicated to building safety and fire prevention. The International Code Council develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states choose the International Codes—building safety codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC).



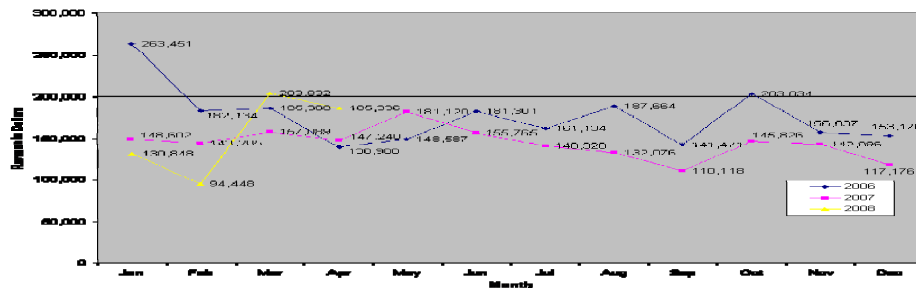
Secretary of Commerce and Trade Patrick O. Gottschalk recognizes **Building Safety Week** with **State Building Officials**.

On Monday, May 4, 2008 Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade met with representatives of VBCOA, VPMIA, AIA, VHBA and DHCD to recognize **Building Safety Week**. Governor Kaine signed the proclamation that was presented as seen below.



INSPECTIONS SHOW MARGINAL INCREASE

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



2006 International Plumbing Codes Updates by Leon Yoder

May 1, 2008 marks the date for the enforcement of the 2006 International Plumbing Codes. Listed below are some of the significant changes that will impact the installation of plumbing systems over the course of the next 3 years.

Section 416.5 - Tempered Water: Tempered water 85 to 110 degrees F. is now required for all public hand wash.

Section 1003.31-Grease Interceptors: This section lists fixture and equipment not previously included in the plumbing code -

restaurants with flood drains to place grease interceptors in the ground rather than on top of the concrete slab.

Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code - **Section 703.6:** Non-metallic building sewer location: Requires an insulated copper tracer wire 18 AWG minimum in size be installed with in 12 inches of the pipe and be installed to within 5 feet of the building wall above grade. The most common reasons for plumbing inspection failures include:

- Not ready when called for inspection or plumbing work covered prior to inspection.
- Improper use of DWV fittings.
- The plumbing system not pressurized for test.
- The plumbing system is not properly vented.
- The water distribution is not properly protected with a backflow device.

Norfolk Zoning Regulations on Fences and Sheds: by Bobby Tajan

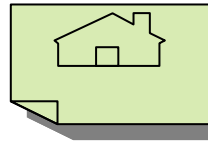
All fences up to six (6) feet tall to be installed in the City of Norfolk require a Zoning Certificate. A Zoning Certificate is a no fee city approval of the location of the fence. (Please note that any fence which is attached to a building or in certain zoning districts which allow a height taller than six (6) feet will require a building permit.)

A Zoning Certificate is also required for accessory structures (i.e. sheds and carports) less than 150 sq ft (10 ft x 15 ft). Typically, the City of Norfolk Zoning Ordinance allows for sheds to be as close as 3 ft from the property line (including any overhangs) and 6 ft from any principle structure. **These setbacks may change based on the loca-**

tion and the zoning of the property, other accessory structures on the property, and all other applicable regulations. A zoning review must be performed in order for the site to be properly assessed. If you are located within an environmentally protected area governed by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance, fees may be assessed for encroachment into this area.

In order to obtain a Zoning Certificate, an applicant will need to bring two (2) copies of a current physical survey of the property to the Building Safety office at 400 Granby Street. At the permit counter, the applicant will be advised on where they are allowed to place a fence or accessory structure which meets the City of Norfolk Zoning requirements. The applicant will then be asked to mark on the

Norfolk Zoning requirements. The applicant will then be asked to mark on the survey where they plan on placing the structures and a Zoning Certificate will be generated for the applicant. Special requirements are in place for any corner lot and for locations within special zoning districts. For questions regarding these regulations, please contact Robert Tajan at 664-6842 or the main Zoning Office at 664-4752. These regulations may also be found in the City of Norfolk Zoning Ordinance in Chapter 13.



VBCOA is a Chapter of ICC



www.vbcoa.org

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 Leader

Ms. Hilliard serves as the Administrative Assistant II, Support Staff Team Leader.

Prior to her appointment with the City of Norfolk, Ms. Hilliard was employed with the Commonwealth of Virginia at Norfolk State University where she served as the Office Manager in the Vice President Office for Research and Technology for over 5 years. While at NSU, Ms. Hilliard supervised division clerical operations and served as a

Board of Visitors along with the Vice President for Research and Technology and Executive Director of the RISE (Research and Innovations to Support Empowerment) campus.

Ms. Hilliard holds degrees in business from West Virginia State University and Franklin University.

Prior to returning back home to Virginia, Ms. Hilliard was employed with the State of Ohio.

Ms. Hilliard enjoys participating in community outreach, hosting home group fellowship, youth mentoring programs, video production, and reading groups.



SHARON HILLIARD

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 Bill Butler & 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 Vernell Woods

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

ELEVATOR INSPECTOR ACHIEVES CERTIFICATION

Insp. Steve Green reports that the QEI Certification course, (compressed into 4 days—160 question, 8 hr test) was held in Baltimore, MD, March 10-14. Elevator training requires dedication to knowing several trades and employing the knowledge of those trades to effectively interpret the day to day code applications in the field and at plan review. The NEC, IBC, ASME, plumbing & safety codes are to be considered during an inspection with numerous personnel and material lifting systems. The QEI certification requires you to have field experience or

to be trained by a QEI certified trainer to understand the many manuals, publications and concepts used to determine a systems viability for life safety and effective transport. Not everyone is accepted in the course. Those who are not prepared or do not have a substantial understanding of the material successful completion is doubtful. My supervisor, Jeff White, and I fought very hard to get into the class and were denied several times.

Finally, the executive director of the program accepted our plea to attend. She was not full of confidence when the OK was given, rather her words were, "Mr. Green, I'll let you in, but you'd better pass that test." No pressure, right. The whole week was long and hard. After the test, the wait was a month for results. Needless to say, the wait was worth it!



**City of Norfolk
Building Safety Division
Department of Planning and
Community Development
400 Granby
Norfolk, Virginia 23510**

**Main Office Contact Information
Phone: 757-664-6565
Fax: 757 664-6899
Email: lynn.underwood@norfolk.gov**

**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.

Division Mission:

Building Safety

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:

Q: What do I need to do to get a Certificate of Occupancy for new construction?

Answer: The USBC Section 116.1 states that a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) indicating completion of the work for which a permit was issued shall be obtained prior to the occupancy of any building or structure, except as provided for in this section generally and as specifically provided for in Section 113.8 for additions or alterations. The certificate shall be issued after completion of the final inspection and when the building or structure is in compliance with this code and any pertinent laws of ordinances. The building official shall, however, issue a CO within five working days after being requested to do so, provided the building or structure meets all of the requirements for a certificate.

The City of Norfolk verifies that all requirements are completed. Laws and ordinances related that are affected include: Zoning, Public Works, Storm Water, Drive Way, Landscaping/Parks & Forestry, Environmental and other agencies.

A BUILDING PERMIT FOR A BATTLESHIP

The Building Safety Division will issue a Building Permit and conduct inspections for a Battleship. The City of Norfolk intends to renovate the U.S.S. Wisconsin for increased public access and certain occupancy. The retired Nave Battleship is permanently berthed at Nauticus Seaport Museum. At a cost of \$6.2 million, the goal is to add improvements that will open the ship up to more extensive tours into lower decks and be more of a floating museum. The work will allow for some social gatherings including parties or ceremonies in certain locations around the ship. In addition, there will be some office space. Also, a portion of the ship will allow for overnight stays by youth groups such as the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets. In order to achieve the goal, the City will need to add some architectural, fire and life safety features. Some of the work being proposed includes fire detection, fire suppression and heating and air conditioning systems.

In order to get a clear understanding of the scope of work, Underwood travelled with the several others on the design team

to inspect the U.S.S. New Jersey in Camden, New Jersey. The U.S.S. Wisconsin and U.S.S. New Jersey are IOWA-Class Battleships, and they are virtually identical. Wisconsin, however, has been more recently overhauled by the Navy, so does not face the same depth of environmental challenges. Their restoration is instructive, but different - they cut through a lot of bulkheads to create an on-board museum space, they used ship's systems that are not working out as well as hoped (primarily the chill water HVAC), all their administrative offices and workshops are on board (we use the Nauticus building), they did much more work in the beginning than we plan. Our plan is to phase improvements almost continuously over the next two decades, rather than open a bunch of the ship at once. (However you wish to say it or not, our phasing modus operandi will affect your division's work and our cooperation for a long time, I think.)

While a case can be made that work on a ship is exempt from a permit, this Division offered to issue a permit, conduct inspections and guide the safety aspects for the restoration", said Lynn Under-

wood, Code Official for the City of Norfolk. Our work will be more along the lines of advisory with recommendations for safe installations. We will apply the intent and spirit of the Code rather than the strict prescriptive provisions of the code since there is no Building Code for a battleship, Lynn continued. The Division of Building Safety has been reviewing concept drawings for several months, and conduction on-site investigation in the project. The construction documents including plans will have a full review by Plans Examiners when complete. During various stages of construction, inspections will be performed by Division Inspection staff. The work is expected to begin within the next several months and take approximately three years. "This will be a fantastic opportunity for our Division to demonstrate our ability to apply the intent of the Code, said Underwood.

