

News and Happenings

Calendar

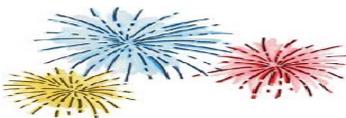
All County offices will be closed on the following days:

Friday, April 14, 2017 in observance of Good Friday



Monday, May 29, 2017 in observance of Memorial Day

Tuesday, July 4, 2017 in observance of Independence Day



Taxi Cab Inspections

The biannual taxi cab inspections are scheduled for April 11, 12 & 13 and April 18, 19 & 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Inspections are conducted in the parking lot at Police Headquarters on Maxwell Frye Road in Millersville.



The Permit Center opens at 10:00 a.m. the first Thursday of every month in order to facilitate monthly training for staff.

Celebrating Building Safety Month to Promote Awareness

Each May the Department of Inspections and Permits joins jurisdictions around the world to celebrate 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 to adopt modern, model building codes, develop a strong and efficient system of code enforcement and a well-trained, professional workforce to maintain the system.

The campaign is spearheaded by the International Code Council and its members along with a diverse partnership of professionals from the building construction, design and safety community. Corporations, government agencies, professional

associations, nonprofits and others come together to support Building Safety Month because they understand the need for safe and sustainable structures where we live, work and play.

This year's theme is Code Officials— Partners in Community Safety and Economic Growth.

Weekly Themes:

Week One - May 1-7, 2017
Mentoring the Next Generation of Building Professionals

Week Two - May 8-14, 2017
Building Design Solutions for All Ages

Week Three - May 15-21, 2017
Manage the Damage – Preparing for Natural Disasters

Week Four - May 22-28, 2017
Investing in Technology for Safety, Energy & Water Efficiency.

All communities need building codes to protect their citizens from disasters like fires, weather-related events and structural collapse. Model building codes are society's best way of protecting homes, offices, schools, manufacturing facilities, stores and entertainment venues. Code officials work tirelessly to keep the public safe.

Building Safety Month is a month-long celebration of all aspects of building safety that helps families, employers and leaders understand and appreciate the best practices that keep the places where we live, work and play, safe.

For more information on the weekly themes or Building Safety Month: <http://www.iccsafe.org/about-icc/building-safety-month/2017-building-safety-month/>.

Inspections and Permits First to Start Online Surveys

Earlier this year, the Department of Inspections and Permits began utilizing online surveys for our internet inspections and application services in order to determine our customers' level of satisfaction and identify areas where we can improve their service experience.

At the time of publication of this quarter's newsletter, we have received 1,814 survey responses—1,374 respondents were Extremely Satisfied, 388 were Satisfied and 52 were Not Satisfied with their online experience.

"We are pleased with the results of the surveys. The feedback we receive is valuable and helps us frame a useful outline of what functions are important to our online customers," said Dan Kane, Director. "As we begin planning upgrades to our technology, comments collected from the online surveys will help with the design of a new, more functional system that will better meet the needs and expectations of our customers."

The Department of Inspections and Permits is the first department in the county to use these types of online surveys and will continue to look for ways to improve service by listening to our customers.

Inspections and Permits Partners with Cultural Resources Division to Highlight County's Heritage

The Department of Inspections and Permits is happy to announce an exciting partnership with the Cultural Resources Division.

In the coming months, Cultural Resources will be adding an archaeological exhibit in the Permit Center. The exhibit will highlight recent discoveries and artifacts from around the County and will be updated regularly with new finds.

A digital photo frame slide show with actual footage of site excavations, lab and field shots, and close ups of artifacts will also be part of the exhibit.

The Cultural Resources Division is tasked with protecting the County's historic sites, buildings, archaeological sites, and landscapes. County legislation protects archaeological sites, historic buildings, cemeteries and scenic and historic roads whenever development is proposed.

Anne Arundel County takes a progressive approach to recognizing historic structures, roads and landscapes, and archaeological sites as resources that require protection,

just like natural resources, such as farmland, wetlands, bogs, and shorelines. Preservation of our heritage safeguards the County's historic and cultural resources, fosters civic pride, protects and enhances the County's resources for citizens, visitors, and future generations, serves as an educational opportunity, and ultimately strengthens the economy of the County.

We hope that Permit Center customers will enjoy the exhibit and learn a greater appreciation for the rich heritage of our County.



The display is funded with grant money provided by the Maryland Humanities Council and the Arts Council.

The Cultural Resources Division welcomes volunteers! Go to: <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/cultural-resources/volunteer/>.



During the first quarter of 2017 we are happy to welcome the following new employees to the Department of Inspections and Permits:

- ◆ Matthew Blankenship, Environmental Control Inspector
- ◆ Bruce Kellermeyer, Construction Code Inspector
- ◆ Bryant Knapp, Construction Code Inspector
- ◆ Melanie Mathews, Office Support Assistant II

Did You Know?

- ◆ The Department recently changed the requirements for construction plans when applying for a shed permit. Construction plans are NOT required for one-story sheds up to 400 square feet—a change from 200 square feet previously.
- ◆ Building Inspections Division added 2 new electrical type inspections. The new inspection types are 515 for Trench inspections and 540 for Slab Rough-in. For the complete list of inspection types and codes go to: <http://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/building-grading-and-trade-inspections>.
- ◆ Code Enforcement/Forestry Division recently signed a second cooperative agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to purchase forest conservation easements on private property. This will help to ensure that the County maintains a healthy canopy cover. The program is funded using Fee-in-Lieu money collected from developers who chose to pay a fee in lieu of planting trees removed from development sites.
- ◆ The Anne Arundel County Department of Health has delayed wet season percolation testing due to low ground water levels, however they are still accepting wet season perc applications. For more information, go to: <http://www.ahealth.org/wet-season-percolation-testing>.
- ◆ The Administration has developed a new County seal for each department. The new seals rolled out on February 1st. Since adopting the new seal, the department has been working to update all forms, business cards and other correspondence with the new logo.



Department of Inspections and Permits redesigned seal.