

## News and Happenings



### County Adopts 2015 Construction Codes as of March 19th

County Council Bill 123-15: Construction and Property Maintenance Codes - Codes and Supplements will become effective March 19th. The bill changes current construction codes by adopting 2015 International Residential and Commercial Codes for building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical.

While there are many changes in the updated code, a summary of those most notable include:

- ◆ Sprinklers will be required in all residential occupancy structures, without exception.
- ◆ Deck construction guide-

lines and rules will change based on the Prescriptive Residential Deck Construction Guide (DCA6) from the American Wood Council. There are new requirements for deck construction span tables for joists, beams, posts height limits, connections and deck rails with built-in seating.

- ◆ Smoke alarms now must be located a minimum of three feet from a bathroom door when the bathroom contains a bathtub or a shower. Alarms with a photoelectric sensor must be at least 6ft. from cooking appliances and ionization detectors must be at

least 20 ft. away.

- ◆ Carbon-monoxide alarms must be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms that have fuel-burning appliances/fireplaces and or attached garages.
- ◆ Condensation pumps located in attics, crawl spaces and other uninhabited spaces must have controls that shut down the appliance upon failure of the pumping system.

For more information on the 2015 Building Code provisions, please visit our website <http://www.aacounty.org/>

### Upcoming Events:

Semi-annual Taxi Cab Inspections April 12, 13, 14 and 19, 20, 21 from 10 am - 3 pm



### May is Building Safety Month

#### *Building Codes: Driving Growth through Innovation, Resilience and Safety*

Each May, the Department of Inspections and Permits is proud to join jurisdictions around the world to celebrate Building Safety Month.

The annual campaign seeks to bring awareness to help citizens understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures.

It also highlights the importance of the need to adopt modern building codes, a strong and efficient system of code enforcement and a well-trained, professional workforce to maintain the system.

This year's theme is **Building Codes: Driving Growth through Innovation, Resilience and Safety.**

Each week during the month of May will spotlight a specific area of building safety.

**WEEK 1: Building Solutions for All Ages**

**WEEK 2: The Science behind the Codes**

**WEEK 3: Learn from the Past, Build for Tomorrow**

**WEEK 4: Building Codes: A Smart Investment**

Be sure to check our website for more information on the weekly themes: <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/inspections-and-permits/>.



Last year, County Executive Steve Schuh kicked-off Building Safety Month with I&P staff.



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



The first quarter of 2016 has brought a number of staffing changes to the department.

We are happy to welcome the following new employees and congratulate those who have received transfers and/or promotions:

- ◆ Anthony De Saint Hippolyte joined the Permit Center as a Planning Tech II
- ◆ Mary Ford joined the Water Protection & Restoration Program as an Inspector
- ◆ Stephen Devoe and Scott Schneck joined as Grading Inspectors

- ◆ Daniel Smith joined Code Compliance as an Inspector
- ◆ Inspectors Sharon Jacob and James Haupt transferred from Grading to Code Compliance
- ◆ Geoff Bobersky was promoted to Grading Supervisor

### Other Noteworthy News:

- ◆ The Anne Arundel County Council recently voted unanimously to pass Bill 10-16 to eliminate the \$25 Certificate of Occupancy fee.
- ◆ The Code Compliance/Forestry Division has relocated to the 4th floor of 2664 Riva Road. Customers conducting business with the division should continue to report to the 2nd floor reception desk for assistance.

- ◆ Suspect a building, grading or zoning enforcement violation? Here's how to report:

⇒ Complete the "Request for Investigation" form that is available on our website: <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/inspections-and-permits/forms-and-publications/RequestInvestigation.pdf>.

⇒ For building or grading violations send an email to [ipmailbox@aacounty.org](mailto:ipmailbox@aacounty.org).

⇒ For zoning enforcement violations send an email to [zoningcomplaints@aacounty.org](mailto:zoningcomplaints@aacounty.org).

Please note that the email is considered public information.



## Forestry Division Emergent Grasses Program

Spring is right around the corner! Warmer weather means more outdoor projects.

The Forestry Division's Emergent Grasses Program is a county supported effort between the Department of Inspections and Permits and the Department of Recreation and Parks. Through this program, county residents with qualifying living shoreline or other tidal projects can receive appropriate emergent marsh grasses, free of charge, for planting in marsh areas.

For more information go to our website: <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/inspections-and-permits/environmental-programs/forms-and-publications/MarshGrasses.pdf> or call the Forestry Office at 410-222-7441.



Left: Staff plant native marsh grass seedlings that will be used for shoreline projects.

Right: Staff and volunteers install marsh grasses that have matured from seedlings planted during the spring months.

