



HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
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HBAWC E-NEWS – December 15, 2006

Licensing in the City of Hagerstown- we have learned that the City of Hagerstown is increasing its contractor license fee as well as increasing the required bond from \$2,000 to \$20,000. During our conversation with the City we learned the following:

- ❖ A contractor doing **strictly residential construction, improvement and/or repair** is not required to hold a City of Hagerstown Contractors license so long as they hold either a M.H.I.C. (Maryland Home Improvement Commission) License, or MBR (Maryland Builder Registration) License, as appropriate, and who does improvements or repairs on commercial dwelling units so long as they are 3 or less units.

Given the increased expense related to obtaining a \$20,000 bond, we wanted to make our members aware of who was actually required to hold a license. **We do however suggest that you verify that your personal situation does not require a license. We were also told that should the opportunity arise for you to do work on a commercial building, it should take 24-48 hours to obtain a license so long as you have the appropriate proof of bonding.**

Civil citations in enforcement of its trade and building codes - at the Dec. 12 meeting of the BOCC, as part of their proposed Legislative Package to the Delegation for the upcoming Legislative Session, the Board approved a request made by Dan DiVito, Director of the Permits & Inspections Department to allow his department to issue civil citations as listed above. We have been in contact with Dan and will be working with him in the drafting the legislation so that it includes the conditions under which a citation may be issued, and the procedure for the issuance of the citations, including a possible local appeal process. These citations would be in addition to the criminal proceedings already allowed by law.

Carl Gearhart Honored - At the December HBAWC Member Recognition and Holiday Celebration, President Tim Fields presented Carl Gearhart of Reliable Builders a clock to recognize his being the remaining member representative of the

original Charter Members of the Association. We congratulate Carl and thank him for his many years of continued service and dedication to the Association.

Washington County Electrical Board - as you are aware, HBAWC President Tim Fields sits on the Washington County Electrical Board. The Board is currently discussing several issues that affect a segment of our members, including low-voltage wiring and the need for inspections of same. If you are a member of the electrical trades and have concerns relating to your industry, or would like more information on what the Board is considering, please call Tim at 301.331.4117.

January 25, 2007 General Membership Meeting - mark your calendar to attend the January dinner meeting with guest speaker Washington County Commissioner President John Barr will also administer the Oath of Office to your 2007 Leadership and Board of Directors.

Home Show 2007 - Home Show 2007 booth spaces are filling up. If you plan on being a part of the show, we suggest you send in your reservation today. This year's show has a wide range of exhibitors which is sure to attract a large number of attendees. Applications and information are available on-line at the HBAWC website at www.hbaofwashingtoncounty.org