

2014 Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department Building Services Mid-Year Activity Report



Permits & Inspections

Affordable Housing Programs

Resident Safety & Demolitions

MISSION

To protect the lives and safety of residents and visitors of Franklin County, preserve the quality of life and contribute to economic development.

Commissioners
Marilyn Brown, President
Paula Brooks
John O'Grady



OVERVIEW

The Building Services Section of the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department is responsible for the unincorporated townships of Franklin County and six contract jurisdictions.

The **purpose** of the Building Services Program is to ensure compliance with the Ohio Residential Building Code for 1, 2, and 3 family dwellings.

Our **services** include plan examinations, new construction building inspections, building permits, electrical permits, HVAC permits, building condemnations, court testimonies, preventative inspections, complaint-based inspections, technical assistance, and consultations.

The Building Services Mid-Year Activity Report serves as a community update on the daily activities of this office as we work to ensure building safety.

This report uses specific measures to outline the progress of the Building Services Section on a monthly basis for the first half of 2014. It outlines the growth and change of a number of our main services such as new home permits and inspections.

Resources

Building Services Section

Residential Building Permits
Franklin County Building Services Section
614-525-3166
Building Clerk

Community Services Section

The following is a list of services and programs offered by the Community Development section of the Economic Development and Planning Department that residents may find useful.

In order to receive these services, recipients must reside in Franklin County but outside the Columbus city limits and meet certain income eligibility guidelines.

- Accessibility and Minor Home Repair Grants
- Urgent Repair Grants
- Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance
- Sewer Tap-In Assistance
- Women's Employment Services
- Fair Housing Services

For more information visit our website:
<http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners/edp/>

Jurisdictions We Serve

The following is a list of townships and jurisdictions in Franklin County that the Building Services section serves. In addition to the Townships we work with, six other jurisdictions contract with us to conduct building inspections and other essential duties.

Townships

Blendon Township
Brown Township
Clinton Township
Franklin Township
Hamilton Township
Jackson Township
Jefferson Township
Madison Township
Mifflin Township

Norwich Township
Perry Township
Plain Township
Pleasant Township
Prairie Township
Sharon Township
Truro Township
Washington Township

Villages

Harrisburg
Lockbourne
Minerva Park
Riverlea
Urbancrest
Valleyview

Brown Township



SMARTGov

The Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department began using the SMARTGov permitting software system in December 2012. Since that time, the department has continued to configure the system to meet the demands of the planning, zoning and building sections and make permit and application processing more efficient for the department as a whole.

A new fee schedule was approved in January 2014 and SMARTGov was configured to accommodate these new changes. This involved creating new fee codes and user input fields that effectively allowed the system to generate new prices based on the type of permit being filed. In the case of building permits, the new fee schedule introduced fees for smaller projects such as roof, window and siding replacement, which were less expensive than the standard building permit. With the help of Paladin Data Systems, SMARTGov's licensing component was updated

to administer General Contractor registration and process the associated fees.

In August 2014, the planning and zoning sections completely transitioned from the CATHE permitting software to SMARTGov for all processing of planning and zoning applications. This allows for streamlined management and processing of all building, planning and zoning permits and applications in one system. In terms of record keeping, this allows for users to effectively search for all zoning and building permits associated with a particular property dating back to December 2012. Additionally, all fees for zoning and building permits can be processed within SMARTGov improving the time of permit intake and ease of financial record keeping. SMARTGov continues to demonstrate that it is an effective tool that can be modified to suit the various needs of the department.

Related Links:

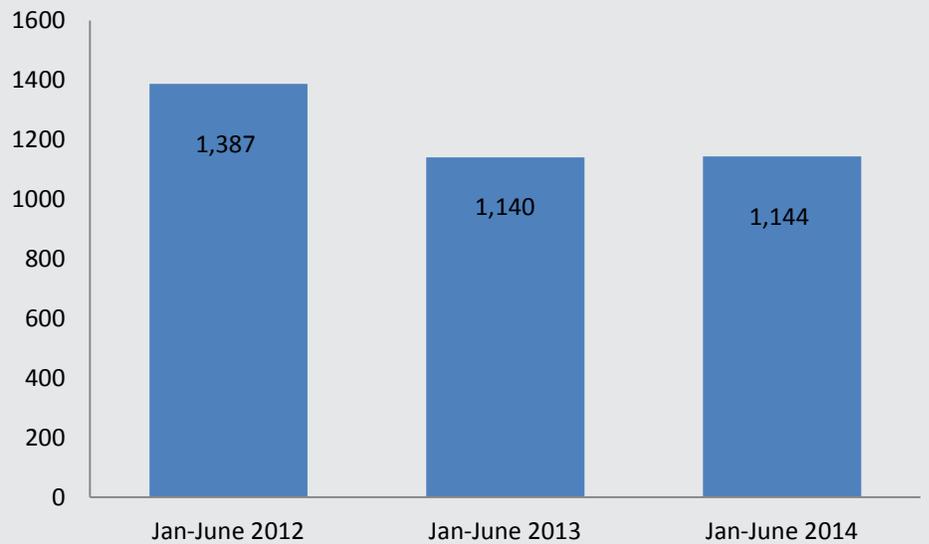
SmartGov website:
<http://smartgovcommunity.com>

Franklin County Building Services:
<http://development.franklincountyohio.gov/building/>



INSPECTIONS COMPLETED

The Building Services section inspects electrical and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems to ensure they are working properly and comply with all relevant Ohio codes.

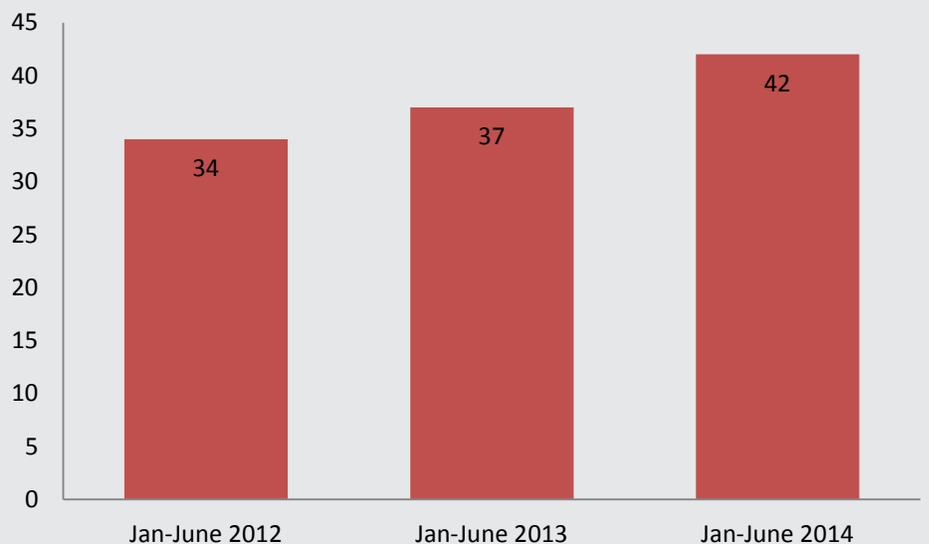


BUILDING PERMITS FOR NEW HOMES

The Building Services section issues permits to developers seeking to construct new homes in Franklin County townships.

Building permits for new homes are a key indicator of economic growth and are reported nationally to gauge the health of the nation's economy.

Franklin County has seen a 12% increase in the number of new builds in the first half of this year.



ESTIMATED COST OF CONSTRUCTION

The estimated cost of construction is the amount of money expected to go toward construction projects for which Franklin County has issued permits. This includes new builds, reconstruction, repairs, upgrades, additions, and alterations.

The estimated cost of construction for the first half of 2014 was 40% higher than during the first half of 2013. This reflects an improving economy and correlates with the increase in new home permits.



NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

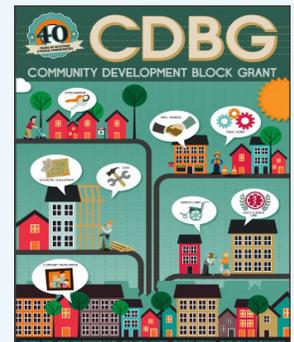
NCDA Conference Overview

Established in 1968, the National Community Development Association (NCDA) is a leader in securing effective and responsive housing and community development programs for local governments. NCDA is a national nonprofit representing over 500 local communities that work with federal housing and community development programs, including programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and the HOME Investment Partnerships programs. June 25-28, 2014 Franklin County was the host of the 45th Annual National Community Development Association Conference.

Over 200 community development professionals from across the nation came to Columbus to celebrate the 40th anniversary of HUD's Community Development Block Grant Program and discuss innovative ways to positively impact and transform our communities.

Conference Sessions

- CDBG: 40 Years of Building Strong Communities
- North Market/Short North Arts District
- HOME Program Underwriting and Subsidy Layering
- eCON Planning Suite: Local Experiences
- HOME Final Rule Implementation
- HUD Update
- Best Practices
- Project and Luncheon Bus Tour
- Tools for Managing Federal Grants
- Working with New Immigrants
- National Community Development Week Awards
- Discussion Roundtables
- National Housing Trust Fund
- Important Issues for Community Development Directors



EDP WELCOMES NEW STAFF

The Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department has recently welcomed several new staff members. In the past 12 months, EDP has greeted a new Assistant Director, Planning Administrator, Planner, Planning Project Coordinator, Senior Program Coordinator, Grants Coordinator, Junior Program Coordinator, Building Inspector and Planning Assistant. The new staff is dedicated to continuing the Department's service to residents, business owners and townships.

WHO WE ARE



Jenny Snapp oversees the Planning, Building and Zoning sections of the department as the Assistant Director. Prior to joining Franklin County, Jenny was the Director of the Logan-Union-Champaign (LUC) Regional Planning Commission for 12 years and worked for the Toledo Area Regional Growth Partnership in economic development and site selection. Jenny holds a Master's Degree in Geography and Regional Planning from the University of Toledo.



Matt Brown was recently promoted from Planner to Planning Administrator. As Planning Administrator, Matt will assist the Assistant Director in all operations of the department's Planning and Zoning sections. As a planner, Matt worked with county residents and communities for eight years. Matt holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from Case Western Reserve University and is a Certified Floodplain Manager by the Association of State Floodplain Managers.



Jonathan Lee was recently promoted from Planning Project Coordinator to Planner. As the Planning Project Coordinator, Jonathan worked with residents and business owners on zoning matters and was responsible for issuing zoning permits for new development. In his new position, Jonathan will be responsible for reviewing zoning cases including variances, conditional uses and rezonings. Jonathan holds a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University.



Neil Fulton previously worked with the department as a Building Inspector from 1995-2005, and returned to the department in February 2014 to resume his role in that position. Neil is responsible for inspecting residential construction projects to ensure that new buildings comply with the Residential Building Code of Ohio.

WHO WE ARE



Kendra Spergel recently started with the department as the new Planning Project Coordinator. Prior to joining Franklin County, Kendra worked for the City of Grove City as a Planning Assistant. Kendra will serve as the front line for zoning questions, permits and applications. Kendra holds a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University.



Kate Matheny serves as Grants Coordinator for EDP, however, her contract responsibilities are key to the Franklin County Office of Management and Budget as well. Kate monitors approximately 30 Community Partnership contracts that span local agencies across the community, ranging from health care to affordable housing, access to health care, and the environment. As part of EDP, Kate provides policy input on community development initiatives and assists with CDBG contract monitoring.



Alex Beres became EDP's Senior Program Coordinator in September 2013. Alex staffs the private-sector focused economic development activities for the department. Alex has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Ashland University in Political Science and History. He is also a certified Economic Development Finance Professional from the National Development Council.



Omri Gross accepted the position of Junior Program Coordinator with the Community Development section of the office in March of this year. Prior to joining Franklin County, Omri worked with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Omri will assist the Senior Program Coordinator in administering federal housing grant programs. Omri is pursuing a Masters of Environment and Natural Resources Degree from The Ohio State University.



Chloé Greene has accepted a Planning Assistant position with the department and will be assisting the Community Development section of the office. Chloé is pursuing a Masters Degree in both City & Regional Planning and African American & African Studies at The Ohio State University.

Franklin County Board of Commissioners



Commissioner Marilyn Brown
President



Commissioner Paula Brooks



Commissioner John O'Grady

Produced by:



James Schimmer, Director
Rollin Seward, Assistant Director
Jenny Snapp, Assistant Director

Economic Development and Planning Department
150 South Front Street, FSL Suite 10
Columbus, Ohio 43215-7104

Tel. 614-525-3166
Fax 614-525-7155

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