

2015 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 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 2015. It outlines the growth and change of a number of our main services such as new home permits and inspections.

Building Services Section

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.

For residential building permits, please contact: Building Clerk - 614-525-3166

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:

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

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

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 SIMPLIFIES PERMIT PROCESS

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.

On January 1, 2015, Franklin County Economic Development and Planning released the “Franklin County Online Permit Center”. Using the cloud-based permitting tool, SMARTGov, the Online

Permit Center allows property owners and contractors to apply for building, electrical, HVAC and demolition permits online. This allows the applicant to track the review process of their permit online. When the permit is approved, they may pay for it online using a credit card. Additionally, they can view, download and print any associated inspection cards.

The first building permit filed using the Online Permit Center was on January 8, 2015. Since that time a total of 511 building, electrical, HVAC or demolition permits have been filed or paid for using the Online Permit Center.

Related Links:

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

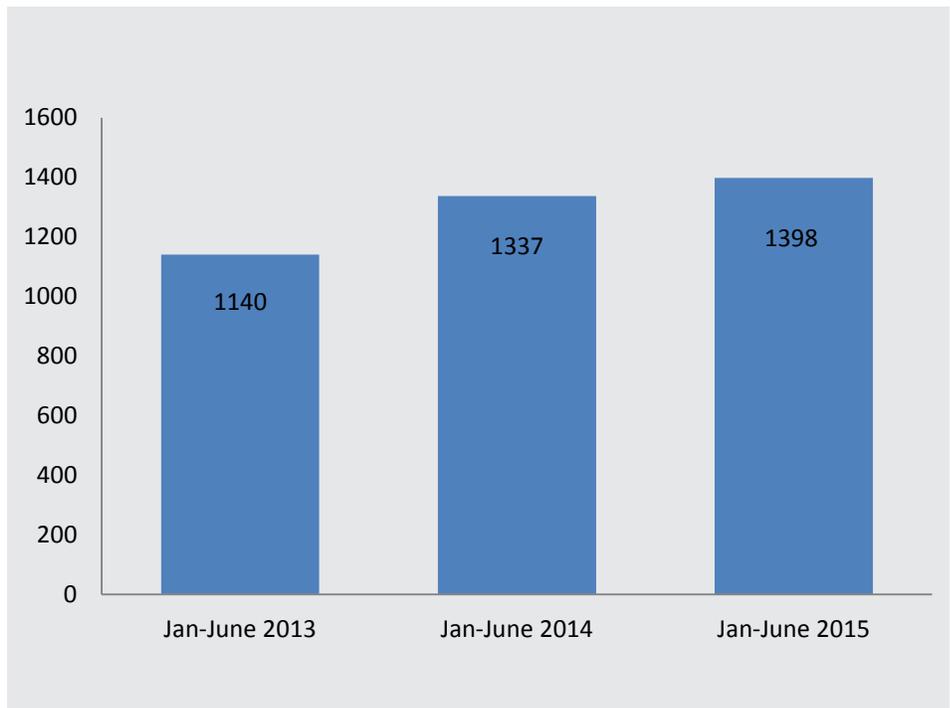
Franklin County Building Services:
<http://development.franklincountyohio.gov/building/>



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.

There were 61 more inspections completed between January to June of this year as compared with the previous year, which is representative of a 4% increase in the number of inspections.

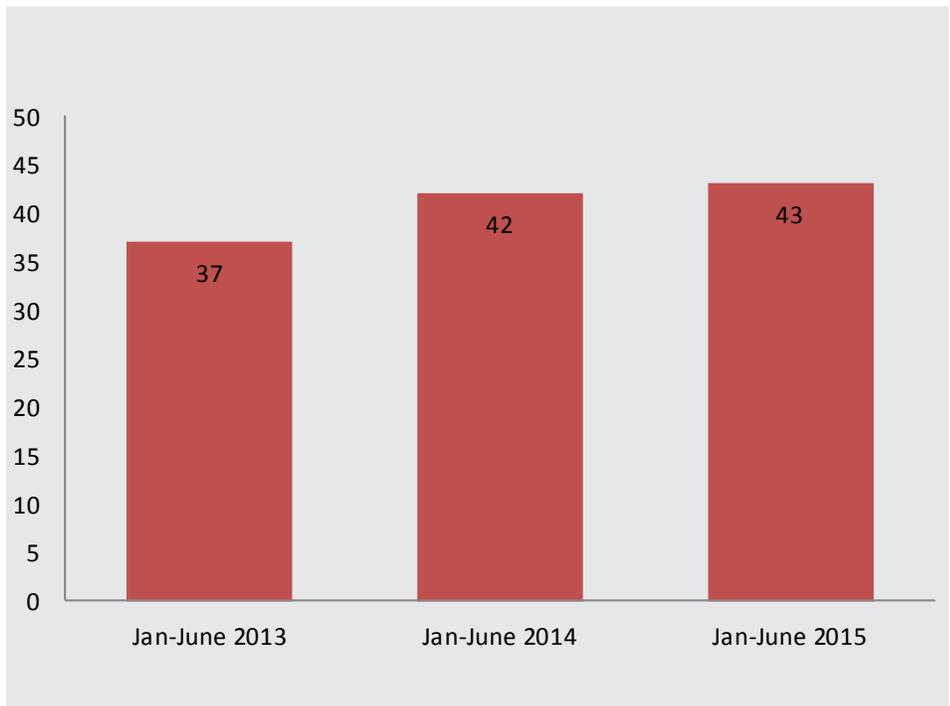


BUILDING PERMITS FOR NEW HOMES

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.

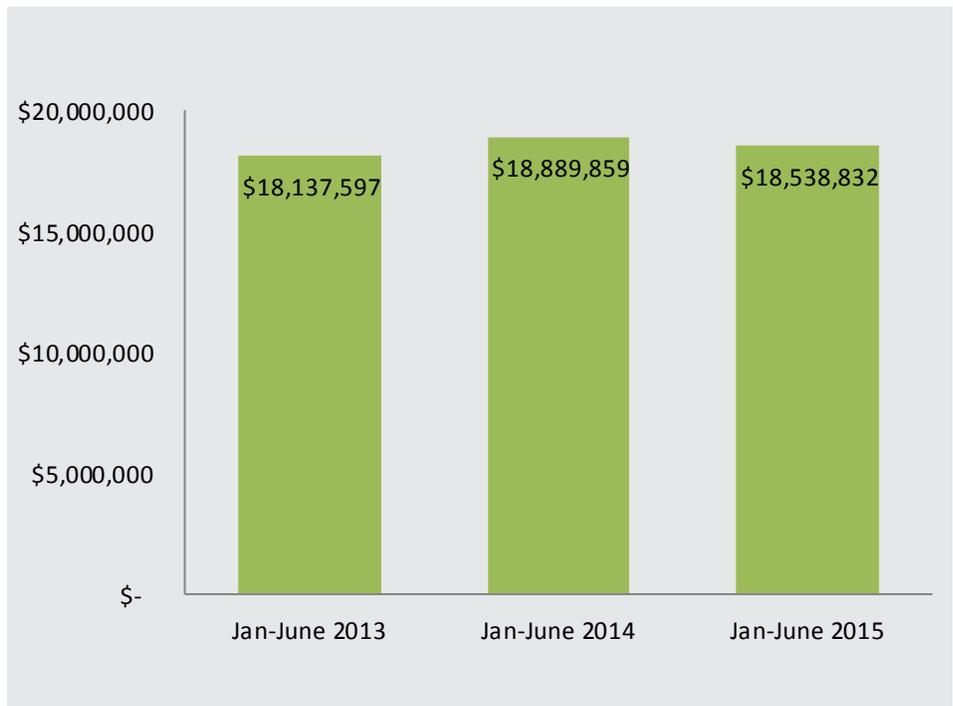
Franklin County has seen 43 new home permits issued which is a 2% increase in the number of new builds compared with the previous year.



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 2015 was \$351,027 fewer than in the first half of 2014, representing a 1.9% reduction compared with the previous year.



OHIO CONFERENCE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

About OCCD

With Franklin County as the host community, the Ohio Conference of Community Development (OCCD) celebrated its 50th Anniversary July 29 -30, 2015. OCCD is a 160+ member statewide association of community and economic development organizations, dedicated since 1965, to helping develop, implement and improve federal, state and local programs for community development. Beyond that, to develop and improve professional standards and practices across all phases of public administration related to community development.

Membership in OCCD provides an instant network to hundreds of Community Development Professionals and Agencies across the State of Ohio. OCCD provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among members, HUD representatives and State officials. OCCD members are community and economic development practitioners from Ohio 's cities, counties, villages, non-profit organizations and consulting firms.

OCCD 50th Anniversary Gala

Led by Gala Chair Rollin Seward, Assistant Director of Franklin County Economic Development & Planning, the 37 members of the OCCD Anniversary and Gala Committee worked tirelessly over the past year to brainstorm ideas, plan events, and get the word out about OCCD's historic accomplishments and bright future.



The committee's first task was development of the 50th Anniversary OCCD tagline, "Honoring Our Past, Transforming the Future," logo and letterhead. Many members then served on subcommittees focused on Member Awards, New Membership Campaign, publishing the 50th Anniversary brochure and conference program, soliciting sponsors, choosing the 50th Anniversary gift, and pulling together social media and direct mail campaigns to promote the festivities and annual meeting.

The hard work and dedication of the 50th Anniversary and Gala Committee culminated in a schedule packed with memorable guest speakers, panels, acknowledgements, awards, and celebrations that all OCCD members were able to enjoy.

HAWTHORN GROVE APARTMENTS

Franklin County Allocates \$70,000 of HUD Entitlement Funds

On June 23, the community celebrated the ground breaking of Hawthorn Grove, a supportive housing development that will be located at 550 East Rich Street. The apartment complex will provide 39 one-bedroom units for those with mental illness and one for a resident manager.

Community Housing Network (CHN) will manage Hawthorn Grove and work with ADAMH to provide supportive services on site, including mental health, recovery and wellness services as well as employment-related programs. All 40 units at Hawthorn Grove will be rent-subsidized by the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority. Rents for the 39 one-bedroom units will be subsidized and limited to 30% of the renter's income. The target population for the building is people disabled by mental illness. One unit will be reserved for a resident manager who will provide monitoring and support to residents.

The project is in line with the many apartment buildings and scattered-site housing that the nonprofit organization has developed throughout Columbus. Dr. Tamara Davis, Board Chair for the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board of Franklin County said of the project;

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It's so important to care for the members of our community and this project does just that. Hawthorn Grove will provide safe and affordable homes and supportive services for residents with mental illness and substance abuse challenges and will also enable them to live independently.

Franklin County EDP and the Board of Commissioners are proud to partner with ADAMH of Franklin County as well as other collaborators on this project, including the Community Housing Network, The Arlington Bank, the City of Columbus, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Huntington National Bank, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Ohio Housing Finance Agency.



EDP WELCOMES NEW STAFF



Carla Williams-Scott joined the Franklin County Economic Development Department in May of 2015 as the Assistant Director of Economic Development & Community Partnerships. In this role, she will oversee the Board of Commissioners Community Partnership

Grant Process and People Works Workforce Development program. Prior to joining EDP, she served in several leadership roles in Government including Assistant Director of the City of Columbus Community Relations Commission, Community Affairs Manager in the Office of Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Assistant Director at the City of Columbus Department of Development and most recently as the Assistant Director at Franklin County Job & Family Services.

She is a board member of Community Research Partners and a former board member of Columbus Metropolitan Library, Friends of the Library and IMPACT Community Action Agency.

In her spare time she works on causes that advance literacy and empower individuals to advocate for themselves and their community.



Eric Gayetsky accepted a Planning Assistant position at the end of 2014 and has been assisting the Planning and Building sections of the office. Eric is in his second year of pursuing a Master's Degree in City & Regional Planning at The Ohio State University. Eric is active in the community and enjoys a variety of activities in his spare time including biking, tennis, piano playing and music listening.



Gabriel Filer accepted a Planning Assistant position with Franklin County EDP last month. Gabe is a writer and community advocate. He graduated from the Community, Environment, and Planning program at the University of Washington and is currently pursuing a Master of City and Regional Planning at Ohio State University. Gabriel is deeply passionate about improving public



Guadalupe Alvarez accepted a Planning Assistant position at the beginning of August 2015. She graduated from Ohio University with a degree in Geography and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning at The Ohio State University. On her free time she enjoys running, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Franklin County Board of Commissioners



Commissioner Marilyn Brown
President



Commissioner Paula Brooks



Commissioner John O'Grady

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