



Metro Codes

E—News For Professionals

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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Carla Langley-Smith, a 31-year veteran of the Department of Codes and Building Safety, has been promoted to Customer

Service Supervisor in the Permit Division, Director Terry Cobb announced.

"Carla is a dedicated Metro employee who works hard everyday to provide great customer service to those who come to the Codes Department," Mr. Cobb said of her. "I would compare her professionalism and customer service skills to anyone, in any department, anywhere. She makes a difference everyday."

As customer service supervisor, Ms. Langley-Smith is responsible for the day-to-day management the five staff members who handle the in-take of all permit applications. Based on permits issued thus far, 2007 will be

the third consecutive "record" year for value of permits issued by the department, expected to be more than \$1.9 billion.

"It has been a great pleasure for me to work with so many good people. I have been here long enough to see transition within some of the companies. I can honestly say the latest generation of people running the construction companies is just as good to work with as the first one," she said through her characteristic smile. "When I started I was working, it was with men who started the companies, then I worked with the oldest son and now I am working with the youngest son. It has been wonderful."

During her tenure, Ms. Langley-Smith has worked with almost all contractors doing business in Nashville.

Johnny Phipps of Phipps Construction described his experience with her.

"I have known her since she was 19 and she has always been accommodating and always smiling," said Phipps of Phipps Construction. "She always shows interest and she is always welcoming."

Tim Giankas of Gianikas Contractors was blunt when asked about this promotion. "It's awesome," he said immediately. "She is a tremendous asset."

Ms. Langley-Smith met her husband, Chuck (a local architect) in a chance meeting at the Codes more than eight years ago. She said the two met one day as he was filing plans with the department. Two years later, they married. She and her husband share a love for boating and football, especially the University of Tennessee. Her stepson, Matthew is a 19-year-old student at the UT Knoxville.

Please Be Advised—Metro's Ethics Policy Changes

Metropolitan Government's Executive Order #006 (dated November 19, 1999) prohibits Metro Employees from soliciting or accepting, "directly or indirectly, on behalf or himself, herself, or any member of the employee's household, any gift, gratuity, service, favor, entertainment, lodging, transportation, loan, loan guarantee or any other thing of monetary value from any [person]."

This Executive Order was reinforced earlier this year by Metro Council's Ordinance #BL2007-1382 (signed into law on June 5, 2007) which establishes an Ethics Standard in the Metro Code of Laws, Chapter 2.222 Standards of Conduct, Disclosures of Interests and Enforcement. Under this Ordinance, **Metro Employees are prohibited from accepting "gratuitous food or beverages furnished by any individual, entity or organization" as well as any item of value, travel, etc.**

Landlord Registration in Full Swing

Property owners started receiving registration forms for the Landlord Registration Program with their annual tax bill in October. Working with the Tax as-

sessors office, the forms where distributed to over 107,000 own-

ers of property in Davidson County. T.C.A. title 66, Chapter 26-101 requires owners of residential rental property to register their

rental units with Metro Codes.

There is a \$10.00 fee to register. The fee covers as many residential properties that an individual (landlord) owns.

Property owners who live in their property and are not renting

required to register. We have received a few registrations from owner occupied dwellings which have had to be returned. Also, persons who own property that is being occupied by family members or friend who are not being charged do not have to register. However, if the property should be rented in the future, then it must be registered as a rental unit.

Owners of residential units who have not yet received their registration form in the mail can register their property(s) by logging onto Metro's web site to download a copy of the registration form. Just type in the link:

www.nashville.gov/codes

any portion of the dwelling (owner occupied unit) are not



Residential Landlord Registration

Effective July 1, 2007, Tennessee Code Annotated Title 66, Chapter 28-101 requires each landlord of one (1) or more dwelling units to furnish contact information with the agency or department of local government that is responsible for enforcing building codes in the jurisdiction where the dwelling units are located.

The Department of Codes & Building Safety is the agency responsible for collecting all registration information. This contact information is only used in the event the Codes Department has to contact the owner to correct any Codes violation at their rental property. All landlords should contact the Codes Department as soon as possible to register. Owners can register using this form, or you may use the expanded form that can be found on our web sight at www.nashville.gov/codes. There is a \$10.00 fee required with each registration. Only one fee is required to register all of your residential rental properties.

The Codes Department has set up a web page that gives complete details about this new requirement as well as a link to the registration form. Owners of rental property or their agents should complete the form and mail it with the required \$10.00 registration fee to: Department of Codes & Building Safety For more information you may also call our office at ATTN: Landlord Registration Program (615) 852-6590. 800 2nd Avenue, South Nashville, TN 37210

MAYOR CALLS FOR UPDATE TO SIDEWALKS AND BIKEWAYS PLAN

Mayor Karl Dean has directed the Public Works and Planning departments to update the Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways in Davidson County.

The planning process is expected to begin next week and will take about five months to complete. It will include receiving community input through a series of public meetings to begin after the start of next year.

A key component of updating the plan is reviewing the Sidewalk Priority Index (SPI), which establishes the order for new sidewalk construction and improvements based on proximity to neighborhoods, schools, libraries, parks and other facilities that create pedestrian traffic.

"Nashville has made great strides in past years to accommodate walkers and cyclists," Dean said. "It's important that we continue that momentum, but I want to make sure that decisions are made based on the most current information.

"Nashville needs to be a city for families and having adequate access to sidewalks and bikeways pro-

vides both safety and recreational space. An updated plan will ensure that areas with the greatest need are made a priority."

The strategic plan provides:

- Recommended pedestrian and bicycle networks
- Design standards for constructing sidewalks and bikeways
- Criteria for establishing priorities for new construction and improvements
- Recommended changes to relevant ordinances and regulations
- Public education and enforcement recommendations
- An assessment of the funding mechanism

The original plan was completed in March 2003 based on Nashville's land use at the time. Since then, 118 miles of sidewalks have been completed with another 29 miles under construction or planned, and 81 miles of bikeways have been completed with an additional 63 miles being designed or under construction.

2007 Metro Code Golf Tournament Sets Record

The community has again stepped up to the tee box and donates a record \$24,000 through the 11th Annual Metro Codes Charity Golf Tournament. All proceeds are donated to Easter Seal Camp on Old Hickory Lake, Miriam's Promise and the Harris-Hillman School through the Metro Employee's Consolidated Charities Campaign (MECCC).

This year 128 golfers and over 100 sponsors made it possible for us to surpass last year's donation by \$4,000. Everyone involved in putting the tournament together, both inside and outside the department, always looks forward to challenging ourselves each year to do all we can to all we can to help these charitable groups.

We are already looking ahead to making next year's tournament an even greater success.



Everyone enjoyed the hospitality of the Ted Rhodes Golf Course



Terry Cobb, Director of Codes & Building Safety assists Jim Winchester, of Mid-South Electrical & Mechanical in handing out door prizes

On behalf of the charities we want to thank all our golfers, sponsors, volunteers inside and outside the Codes Department for their dedication to the continued success of the Annual Metro Codes Charity Golf Tournament, and for making

it a source of support which they can depend upon in our community. On behalf of the Codes Department thanks to each of you for opening up your hearts in such a generous manner to benefit our community.



Four of the 128 golfers prepare to tee-off

PLUMBING NEWS LETTER FOR 2007

The Plumbing Division of Codes & Building Safety is currently using the 2006 International Plumbing Code for commercial work and the 2006 International Residential Code for one and two family dwellings.

Your plumbing inspectors average well over 100 inspections a day. Our goal is to provide our customers with Next Day service, but this cannot always be achieved. Some things that can help us achieve our goal are:

- Safe access into buildings.

- Buildings unlocked for inspections and where the building is occupied someone is there.
- Streets and lots are marked.
- Water lines and P-traps that need to be sealed from attic, outside walls or any other freeze possibility need to be protected before the rough-in is requested.
- Be sure all tests are in place for inspections
- Be sure when calling a final all permits are requested.

Note: All re-inspection fees are \$30.

The Plumbing Division can be reached from 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM and from 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM daily. A message can be left at any time.

Dell Myers—Chief	862-6578	Wayne Butner	862-6584
Frank Spain	862-6581	Lamar Howington	862-6532
Charlie Kinsolving	862-6525	Ronny Douglas	862-6620
Ricky Knipfer	862-6585	Charles Leitch	862-6583

Plumbing License Renewal Notice

It's that time of the year again to renew you 2008 Metropolitan Davidson County Plumbing License. All Plumbing licenses will expire on December 31, 2007. Failure to renew your license will result in a late fee per month if unpaid. Please remember that if your license expired on December 31, 2006, your license will be considered Null and Void effective January 1, 2008. Any license holder over the age of 65 is eligible to receive a Complimentary License.

The Plumbing License renewals were mailed on November 15, 2007. Enclosed with the Notice is a Renewal Notice Application which needs to be completed and submitted with your check and/or money order. Please make your check or money order payable to *The Metropolitan Government*. Please mail the Renewal Fee to:

Department of Codes & Building Safety
Metro Office Building
800 2nd Avenue South
Third Floor
P. O. Box 196300
Nashville, TN 37219

If you are unsure about the status of your license, please contact Ms. Sharon Stephens in the Administrative Office at (615) 862-6598.

OSHA FACT SHEET: Protecting Workers in Cold Environments

As the weather becomes "frightful" during winter months, workers who must brave the outdoor conditions face the occupational hazard of exposure to the cold. Prolonged exposure to freezing temperatures can result in health problems as serious as trench foot, frostbite, and hypothermia. Workers in such industries as construction, commercial fishing and agriculture need to be especially mindful of the weather, its effects on the body, proper prevention techniques, and treatment of cold-related disorders.

The Cold Environment

An individual gains body heat from food and muscular activity and loses it through convection, conduction, radiation and sweating to maintain a constant body temperature.

When body temperature drops even a few degrees below its normal temperature of 98.6°F (37°C), the blood vessels constrict, decreasing peripheral blood flow to reduce heat loss from the surface of the skin. Shivering generates heat by increasing the body's metabolic rate.

The four environmental conditions that cause cold-related stress are low temperatures, high/cool winds, dampness and cold water. Wind chill, a combination of temperature and velocity, is a crucial factor to evaluate when working outside. For example, when the actual air temperature of the wind is 40°F (4°C) and its velocity is 35 mph, the exposed skin receives conditions equivalent to the still-air temperature being 11°F (-11°C)! A dangerous situation of rapid heat loss may arise for any individual exposed to high winds and cold temperatures.

Major Risk Factors for Cold-Related Stresses

- Wearing inadequate or wet clothing increases the effects of cold on the body.
- Taking certain drugs or medications such as alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, and medication that inhibits the body's response to the cold or impairs judgment.
- Having a cold or certain diseases, such as diabetes, heart, vascular, and thyroid problems, may make a person more susceptible to the winter elements.
- Being a male increases a person's risk to cold-related stresses. Sad, but true, men experience far greater death rates due to cold exposure than women, per-

haps due to inherent risk-taking activities, body-fat composition or other physiological differences.

- Becoming exhausted or immobilized, especially due to injury or entrapment, may speed up the effects of cold weather.
- Aging -- the elderly are more vulnerable to the effects of harsh winter weather.

Harmful Effects of Cold

Trench Foot is caused by long, continuous exposure to a wet, cold environment, or actual immersion in water. Commercial fisherman, who experience these types of cold, wet environments daily, need to be especially cautious.

Frostbite occurs when the skin tissue actually freezes, causing ice crystals to form between cells and draw water from them, which leads to cellular dehydration. Although this typically occurs at temperatures below 30°F (-1°C), wind chill effects can cause frostbite at above-freezing temperatures.

Deeper frostbite involves freezing of deeper tissues (muscles, tendons, etc.) causing exposed areas to become numb, painless, hard to the touch.

General Hypothermia occurs when body temperature falls to a level where normal muscular and cerebral functions are impaired. While hypothermia is generally associated with freezing temperatures, it may occur in any climate where a person's body temperature falls below normal. For instance, hypothermia is common among the elderly who live in cold houses.

The most severe state of hypothermia occurs when body temperature falls below 90°F (32°C). As a result, the body moves into a state of hibernation, slowing the heart rate, blood flow, and breathing. Unconsciousness and full heart failure can occur in the severely hypothermic state. retain insulation in a damp environment. Down is a useful lightweight insulator; however, it is ineffective once it becomes wet.

Wade Hill To Serve on ICC Technology Committee

Wade Hill, Plans Examination Chief with the Department of Codes & Building Safety was selected to serve on the International Codes Council's Code Technology Committee.



For information regarding accessibility, please contact Manley Biggers at (615) 862-6521 or fax (615) 862-6499. He can also be reached at manley.biggers@nashville.gov

Why Build Green

When you consider the impact buildings have on the environment, you see how critical it can be to build smart, energy efficient buildings. Building “green”, is the way many are describing a relatively new approach to construction in today’s world.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), buildings account for:

- 39 % of total energy use
- 12 % of the total water consumption
- 68 % of total electricity consumption
- 38 % of the carbon dioxide emissions

Further, the EPA states that “built environment has a vast impact on the environment, human health, and the economy.” By adopting green building strategies, we can maximize both economic and environmental performance. Green construction methods can be integrated into buildings at any stage, from design and construction, to renovation and deconstruction. However, according to EPA reports, the most significant benefits can be obtained if the design and construction team takes an integrated approach from the earliest stages of a building project.

Potential benefits of green building can include:

Environmental benefits

- Enhance and protect biodiversity and ecosystems
- Improve air and water quality
- Reduce waste streams
- Conserve and restore natural resources

Economic benefits

- Reduce operating costs
- Create, expand, and shape markets for green product and services
- Improve occupant productivity
- Optimize life-cycle economic performance

Social benefits

- Enhance occupant comfort and health
- Heighten aesthetic qualities
- Minimize strain on local infrastructure
- Improve overall quality of life

Metropolitan Government has committed to building only “green” buildings through the adoption of a “LEED” ordinance. This ordinance, which was approved earlier this year, requires new Metro government construction (in most cases), to be built to standards developed through the United States Green Building Council.

For more information, visit: www.epa.gov

Installer’s Seminar 2008

Location: Metro Public Health Department
311—23rd Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37203

Dates: January 17, 2008 and January 30, 2008

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on both days
Coffee and donuts will be served starting at 7:30

Certifications for all installers of sewage disposal systems in Metro—Davidson County, Tennessee, will expire on January 31., 2008. Therefore, the Metro Public Health Department is holding two seminars to assist installers in maintaining their certification. **Attendance and a passing grade of 85% or more on the examination will be required to update your installer’s certification.** The updated certification will expire January 31, 2010.

Please note that the seminar will be offered on two different date for your convenience. Installers interested in attending will only need to attend one of the dates to keep their certification. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the Health Department at 340-5604. Reservations should be made early.

Employee Highlights

Algenor Robinson



Algenor Brown Robinson is a Customer Service Representative for the permit issuance division of the Department of Codes & Building Safety. Mrs. Robinson is the first person to greet and assist our customers who do business with the Permits, Plans Review, and Zoning

divisions. She has been with the department for over two years.

Algie, to those who know her, is responsible for issuing building, plumbing, electrical and gas/mechanical permits, setting up new contractors accounts and updating contractor information, and answering general questions concerning building codes.

She has been employed with Metro for twenty-one years. Before joining the Codes & Building Safety Department two years ago, Algie worked for Caring for Children for five years and has worked in the Juvenile Court clerks office for thirteen years.

Algenor is a native of Memphis, Tennessee and has lived in Nashville since 1978. She is a graduate of Tennessee State University with a bachelors degree in Business Administration. Her personal and profession experience in government service has allowed her to provide a level of customer service which our customers appreciate and admire.

She and her husband Gerald Robinson, Sr., have been married 20 years. Gerald is a Professor and Tennis Coach at Tennessee State. They have one son, Gerald Jr., who is continuing the Tennessee State tradition on a basketball scholarship. She is a member of Temple Church.

Richard Thomopoulos



Richard Thomopoulos joined the Department of Codes & Building Safety in 1993 as a Zoning Examiner in the Zoning Review division.

As part of the zoning division, Richard participates in the permit issuance and appeal application process, reviewing each stage of the customers plans before a permit application is issued.

He routinely examines building, sign and use and occupancy permits, analyzes and interprets changes in the zoning ordinance, certifies permit requirements and gives final approval for permit issuance. Richard also verifies that each project is in compliance with applicable regulations.

Richard is certified by the (SBCCI) in Legal Aspects of Codes Enforcement. He is a graduate of the university of Tennessee and a graduate of the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis.

Prior to joining Codes, he was an Assistant Public Defender in the 17th Judicial District, was a staff Attorney with the Metropolitan Nashville Department of Law, a staff Attorney in private practice, a Compliance and Zoning Officer with the City of Gallatin and has served as an Military Police Officer in the US Army.

Richard's hobbies include occasional running and sporadic reading. He is single and shares his home with three dogs and one cat.

Green Building Quote of the month

"We have not inherited the Earth from our ancestors; we have borrowed it from our grandchildren."

-- Author Unknown

Gas/Mechanical Division Add Two Inspectors

Joey Hicks and Shannon Roberts have joined the Department of Codes & Building as Gas/Mechanical Inspectors.



Joey Hicks has over 25 years of experience in the H.V.A.C trade. Prior to joining Codes, Joey worked for C & C Mechanical. He began his career installing residential H.V.A.C. systems and commercial refrigeration systems. From there he began servicing these systems, which is the work he has done for the majority of his career. Joey has a daughter named Sydney and he enjoys golf, woodworking and restoring classic muscle cars.



Shannon Roberts has over 16 years H.V.A.C. experience. Before coming to Codes, Shannon worked for the Lee Company. In addition to installation experience, Shannon has also performed test and balance work on mechanical systems. He is married with three children.

Jack Tarkington Retires



Jack Tarkington, Codes Plans Examiner, has been named City Manager for Paris, Tennessee. Tarkington, a fixture in metro Government for many years, will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Paris city government.. Jack is originally from Paris, Tennessee, and welcomes the opportunity to return to his home town. We thank him for his dedication and service to Metropolitan Nashville and wish him continued success in public service. His hard work and excellent attitude will be missed.



PASS IT ON!

Pass the word about our newsletter! We would be honored if you would share our newsletter with your colleagues and co-workers. If anyone would like to sign up to receive it themselves, they just need to send us their email, and we will be happy to "Pass It On" to them.

Terry Cobb and **Wade Hill** welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. Please send your comments to

[Wade Hill](#)
Plans Examination Chief , 862-6520

**Department of
Codes & Building Safety**

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Director—Terrence Cobb

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