

# Lee County Community Development

## *e-Newsletter*

### March 2007

#### *CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY*

## Renewals due March 30

Local certificates of competency for contractors doing business in Lee County must be renewed by 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 30. The renewal process began in August 2006. Contractors who allow their Lee County certificate of competency to expire must complete a new application and appear before the Lee County Contractor Licensing Board.

Renewal can be done by phone! Call (239) 479-8997 and press star (\*). Follow the automated prompts. You will be asked for your certificate number. You will also be asked for a major credit card to pay the required fee, so have both ready. The fee for renewal is \$130 for all trades and \$140 for local (grandfathered) general, building and residential contractors.

To complete the renewal, mail or fax proofs of your current liability insurance, Workers Compensation or exemption from Workers Compensation. The fax number is (239) 344-5877 or mail copies to Lee County Contractor Licensing, P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902. Once your documents and payment are received, your updated certificate will be mailed to you.

You may also request that your certificate of competency be placed on voluntary inactive status to avoid March 30 expiration. However, fees are the same as for renewal.

Please try to use the convenient, new phone process. However, applications can also be done by mail or in person. Mail the required information and your check payable to Lee County Board of County Commissioners to Lee County Contractor Licensing, P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902. Or, bring your information to Lee County Contractor Licensing, 1825 Hendry St., Fort Myers.

## New lighting code in effect

All plans submitted for permitting must now comply with Section 13-415 of the 2004 Florida Building Code with 2006 revisions. That section of the code deals with automatic shut-off devices for interior lighting in buildings larger than 5,000 square feet (465m<sup>2</sup>). Read the code at <http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fbc>.

## **Updated Lee Plan available**

The Lee County Comprehensive Plan updated with amendments adopted through November 2006 is now online at <http://www.lee-county.com/dcd1/Leeplan/Leeplan.pdf>. Print copies are available for \$25 from Community Development, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers.

## **Lee permitting holds steady**

The pace of permitting for commercial buildings in unincorporated Lee County, Bonita Springs and Fort Myers Beach remained strong in February while permitting for single-family residences held steady.

Commercial permitting in February was valued at nearly \$23.9 million from 30 permits. That's nearly double the \$12 million value of commercial permits in January. Builders pulled 299 permits for single-family houses in February, down by 6 permits from January. The value of permits for single-family homes was \$73.3 million in February, compared to \$88.3 million in January. Also in February, permits were issued for 226 multi-family units with a combined value of \$35.8 million.

Permit reports are online at <http://www.lee-county.com/dcd/Reports/ReportsMain.htm>