

July/August 2020



Special points of interest:

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Building Safety Month

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Building Safety Month Events



As Building Code Officials, Inspectors, Plans Examiners, and Permit Technicians we promote building safety on a daily basis. During Building Safety Month we hold events for the public so that we can bring awareness to those citizens that we do not work with on a daily basis. Some of the topics that are discussed are when a permit is required, hiring licensed contractors, and deck safety.

President Moss participated in a Building Safety Month Podcast that was shared on social media. Here is the link: <https://anchor.fm/virginiadhcd/episodes/Building-Safety-Month-with-Galax-Jimmy-Moss-The-Code-as-the-roadmap-to-where-we-want-to-be-eelfck?fbclid=IwAR2294jCrQF24sh8Y9Wt6ffmfV4PPpL3thT2xUWkoSRBgkj2lqSGneOyFGY>

Emporia's Building/Fire Official Randy Pearce, wanted to show some of the work by a one-man office for Building Safety this year during hard times. Along with getting a proclamation signed he provided handouts and gifts to contractors and workers on the jobs. Handouts were items rom vendors, VPMIA, VBCOA, VFPA, and ICC. He also visited elderly housing areas and provided fire safety information, and appliance safety information along with evacuation assistance in the event of a fire. He also included children by having a coloring contest. Outstanding job, Randy.

City of Galax Building Department held Daily Radio Spots, The City of Galax Building Official Terry Atwell and James Moss, VBCOA President, enlisted the help of Captain Mike Hash of the Galax Fire Department to provide Building Safety Month daily public information spots on Radio 98.1 WBRF and Radio 96.5 WCGX throughout the month of May. The four weekly themes for this year's Building Safety Month, under the banner of "Safer Buildings, Safer Communities, Safer World," are: disaster preparedness; water safety; resiliency, sustainability and innovation; and training the next generation. Building Safety Journal Link to article:

[Read more](#)

VBCOA Annual Conference and School

Dear VBCOA Member,

The Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, as many of you all know, started in December 1929 when a handful of Building Inspectors and other officials worked diligently to form what is now known as the VBCOA. Those in attendance at that first meeting were Front Royal, Hopewell, Lynchburg, Manassas, Newport News, Petersburg, Richmond, Roanoke, and Staunton. Today, the VBCOA is a strong association, with 1,000 members, dedicated to carrying out the mission set forth almost a century ago.

As we prepare for the VBCOA Annual Conference, we are reminded that those who saw the need to form this great association, did so within weeks of the worst stock market crash in history and what became one of the catalysts of the Great Depression. We are currently working and living in very challenging times, yet looking over our history, we recognize the vision of those who came before us and the need for us to be able to come together and continue the great work of this Association, in good times and bad.

VBCOA will, as you all are as well, continue to monitor the implications of the COVID-19 as we make decisions about plans in the future. It is the intent at this time to continue with the 2020 Annual Conference as planned in Williamsburg. We recognize many may not be able to plan that far into the future, but it is our hope that we will be able to have this event, albeit recognizing the challenges we are facing.

Throughout the history of VBCOA, recognizing the important and critical relationship between the uniform enforcement of building codes and public safety, now, more than ever is an important time to remind yourself that your jobs are important and necessary for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of all persons who live, work, or visit the Commonwealth. Keep up the good work and we hope to see you all soon.

When and Where

September 12 - 15, 2020
Williamsburg Lodge
310 S England Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Registration

Attendee Registration: <https://vbcoa.org/attendee-registration-2020/>

Exhibitor/Sponsor's Registration: <https://vbcoa.org/exhibitor-registration-2020/>

Lodging

Room reservations use the following link:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/ded2b560>

or call reservations
(800) 261-9530

Committee PULSE...

EDUCATION— Christina Jackson

VBCOA is offering training events to our membership in order to help them prepare for their various certification exams. Each training will be held for 4 hours.

A typical class will consist of instruction on how to sign up for an exam as well as how to determine what materials will be needed. The instructors will also provide test taking tips. A times practice exam will be given, 25-30 questions. Once the exam is over the instructors will go over the answers and provide the code section for each answer. The floor will then be open for questions and general discussion.

Time and Place Committee: Mike Eutsey, John Broughton

Board of Directors Virtual Meeting—July 27, 2020 9:00 a.m.

VBCOA Annual School and Conference—Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA, September 13-15, 2020

2021 VBCOA Mid-Year Conference—Madison Hotel, Harrisonburg, VA, March 21-22, 2021

2021 VBCOA Annual School and Conference—The New Virginia Beach Marriott, September 12-14, 2021

PUBLIC INFORMATION— Chair, Tom Coghill

Past President Mensinger and President Moss have encouraged the publication of this Newsletter. We hope to continue this communication into the future. We can only accomplish this with your assistance.

Please provide any story ideas you may have to: tom.coghill@jamescitycountyva.gov

MEMBERSHIP—Chair, Michelle Coward

I would like to thank each of our members for choosing to continue your partnership with VBCOA. By renewing your membership you show your commitment to the organization. It is this commitment that allows us to accomplish great things. To our new members “Welcome Aboard” we look forward to working with you as we continue to promote our purpose. I encourage you take advantage of the opportunity that being a member brings; join a committee, find someone to mentor or be a mentee, make recommendation for code change. No act is too small. If there is anything we can do to assist, you don’t hesitate to let us know.

Remember— “Our Strength is in Our Members”

Michelle Coward CBMO

A Message From The President...

Valued Member,

As we navigate the strains of conducting VBCOA business during this time of COVID-19, it make us realize the importance of having effective communication. Communication is paramount to all aspects of our organization and the more reliable the communication system, the better the likelihood we will achieve our desired goals. VBCOA is striving to develop and improve communications by updating our website and evaluating ways to make the site more user-friendly. This effort is being spearheaded by your Second Vice President, Mike Eutsey, and your Sargent at Arms, John Broughton. The Public Information Committee has continued to publish the *VBCOA Newsletter*, providing an ongoing format for you, the VBCOA member, to gain and provide information on topics of interest. I want to challenge each of you to contribute to this effort. If you have items for the newsletter please send them to Tom Coghill, Public Information Committee Chair.

I value the support that you have provided to VBCOA. I also realize the sacrifice on your time and resources this support demands. Be assured your commitment is recognized and the benefit relevant to all who utilize the built environment.

I hope to see you all at this year's Annual Conference in Williamsburg.

Be well and stay safe,

James Moss, CBO, CBMO

President | Virginia Building and Code Officials Association

I am pleased to share with you this unique **“Housing Camp”** training opportunity from **Virginia Tech**.

Have you ever hoped for one place to **easily and affordably** gain comprehensive knowledge across topics fundamental to housing affordability? Are you interested in **quickly** expanding your knowledge of housing with bite-sized segments **at your own pace**?

Welcome to *Housing Camp at Virginia Tech*. *Housing Camp*'s online educational offerings are grounded in **adaptive lifelong learning**. We believe learning should be more granular and more flexible. Our courses break down the traditional credit hour to only about 250 minutes of in-class time.

Our courses are mostly asynchronous, meaning that you can learn at your own pace. But we also recognize the **importance of collaboration** and **building your network**. Therefore, each course will have at least 50 minutes of real-time interaction, either online or face-to-face, with the instructor and other learners.

The curriculum is **built** on *competency credentialing*. Using Badgr and Portfolium, each course has a unique Course Badge associated with it, and evidence in a digital Portfolio tied to that Badge - something that shows you have acquired knowledge and skill, such as a report, a spreadsheet, a video, an illustration. You can earn Course Badges at a pace that works for you and then earn Pathway Badges that demonstrate mastery within a topic area, such as Finance, Law, Policy, Construction, Design, or Data & Analysis.

Join us! Watch this brief video below and go to [the Housing Camp website](#) to sign up before July 15th.

Looking forward to seeing you in class this Summer.

Andrew P. McCoy, Ph.D.

Director, [Virginia Center for Housing Research](#)

Beliveau Professor, [Department of Building Construction](#)

Associate Director, [Myers-Lawson School of Construction](#)

DHCD Corner...

MAY 1, 2020 DHCD CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) DEADLINE EXTENDED.

Due to the cancellation of our CE courses and most other in-person events that provide Continuing Education hours, DHCD has [extended the May 1, 2020 CE deadline to AUGUST 1, 2020.](#)

The 2018 code update process has been paused to allow everyone to focus their attention elsewhere over the next several weeks. All previously scheduled regular workgroup meetings have been postponed. The schedules for both the workgroup meetings and the final phase process are posted on cdpVA .

We have completed the Fire Code Edit meetings for chapters 20 through the end of the SFPC.

The Manufactured Housing and Industrialized Building Division has begun pilot-testing their 100% virtual Records Review and Plant Audit program. The first audit was conducted on June 9th with Fleetwood Homes.

2020 Amusement device stickers can be obtained by emailing sbco@dhcd.virginia.gov. Remember that stickers will only be distributed to building officials. To expedite the process, please provide your name, mailing address, and quantity of stickers needed in your email.

VBCA Report

Virtual certification courses are 4 days, from 8a-3p each day, and the latest virtual online course schedule is as follows:

Commercial Plans Review - 7/14 - 7/17 (7 seats remaining as of 6/12)

Electrical Inspection - 7/28 - 7/31 (11 seats remaining as of 6/12)

VA Existing Building Code 8/11 - 8/14 (19 seats remaining as of 6/12) ¶ The VBCA Fall semester is scheduled to begin in September with the Core course on 9/1.

We are accepting registrations for Fall semester courses, but please understand that it is too early for us to know when we will be able to hold live in-person classrooms due to the constantly evolving COVID-19 situation. Additional Virtual Certification and Continuing Education courses will be added based on course demand and other factors. We will be doing our best to ensure that your path to certification is as minimally impacted as possible.

Please check the message board on the homepage of the Code Academy's Online Registration System regularly for updates and newly added courses.

Before registering for any course, please take a moment to make sure your contact info and supervisor's contact info is correct in the Online Registration System. This ensures that registration and certification approval requests go to the right person, and helps avoid registration and certification delays.

DHCD's New Faces

Sarah Foote joined the State Building Codes Office as the administrative assistant for the Division of Building and Fire Regulations.

Florin Moldovan joined the State Building Codes Office and will be working on the Industrialized Building and Manufactured Housing programs.





ICC Region VII...

ICC Region VII will hold a virtual meeting for items of discussion ONLY.

Please see our [Meetings and Events](#) Page for details!

ICC Governmental Relations

Follow [@ICC_GR](#) on Twitter for breaking news & announcements throughout the month.

For any government relations inquiries, please contact [Lisa Berger](#). Lisa is the Government Relations Associate with ICC who is managing VA and WV.



International Code Council ...

Take your next ICC certification exam PRONTO! Taking your next ICC certification exam is now more convenient than ever before. With ICC PRONTO, you can take many of ICC's certification exams online from any secure location, such as your home or office. Learn more today: <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F2CFktEy&data=02%7C01%7C%7Ca7d96d521d114ee62a6408d81e9ef405%7C05609332b9054a6bbf744807fa89857d%7C1%7C1%7C637293015658834144&data=SP%2F%2B5xW4KHAC4%2BkpPB3kcAQ%2Bu5rRCPKrOZ4R%2BiKRBRg%3D&reserved=0>

Virginia Fire Protection Association...

The Virginia Fire Prevention Association continues to be active during the second quarter of 2020. Work on our strategic plan continues and it is hoped that it will be ready for presentation to the VFPA general membership at the Fall Meeting.

Due to the coronavirus we have canceled our 2020 VFPA Spring Conference that was to take place in Virginia Beach at the Sheraton, Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, May 18 through May 20. As a result of this, our Annual meeting and election of officers had to be postponed.

Planning for the 2020 VFPA Fall Conference is underway. The conference will be held at the Best Western Plus in Waynesboro, VA, October 13 through October 15.



Virginia Fire Prevention Association



Virginia Fire Protection Association Continued...

The Fall conference will have our Annual meeting and election of officers as a part of it.

Recognizing that many of the VFPA's and VBCOA's membership are involved in response to the coronavirus and there still being a need for continuing education training, the VFPA had partnered with the American Wood Council, Virginia Fire Marshal Academy, and Virginia Department of Fire Programs to offer free training webinars on several subjects during the months of May and June. This training, as a part of the VFPA Outreach program, is approved by both the International Code Council and the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy as continuing education hours toward recertification. As it is ICC Preferred Provider training, it will qualify for DCHD continuing education hours also.

Our work continues on several code related issues through our membership and fellow stake holder's actions concerning barricade doors, mobile vehicle fueling, and the 2018 Statewide Fire Prevention Code development.

American Wood Council News...

It was brought to the AWC's attention by the folks at the American Lumber Standards Committee (ALSC) that lumber from a company from Germany, is sitting in the Port of Red Hook in Brooklyn, ready to be sent out to either lumber wholesalers or retailers. This product is from Ziegler (see attached photo) and they are no longer an ALSC accredited or affiliated mill. It is not a structural grade of lumber per ALSC guidelines and should not be used for framing lumber. If this material were to end up as a structural framing component of a house, it would be problematic to say the least.

