

The O·C·E·O·A Enforcer

The Newsletter of the Ohio Code Enforcement Officials Association

First Quarter, 2008

SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS

Rebuilding Together Formerly Christmas in April

Amy Radacci from the Dayton Chapter of Rebuilding Together will be speaking to us from 10:00 until Noon about the Rebuilding Together Program.

Many of you may be familiar with the organization formerly known as Christmas in April.

The mission of Rebuilding Together is to preserve and revitalize houses and communities, assuring that low-income homeowners, from the elderly and disabled to families with children, live in warmth, safety, and independence. In partnership with communities, our goal is to make a sustainable impact.

They make this impact through providing necessary repairs free of charge to existing homeowners. These necessary repairs often include home modifications, roofing, plumbing, and electrical repairs and/or improvements - their goal is to provide a warm, safe and dry environment for low-income homeowners, enabling them to live independently and with dignity.

While many affiliates provide year-round services, all affiliates plan and prepare rebuilding projects or another special event on National Rebuilding Day, typically held on the last Saturday in the month of April.

Rebuilding Together is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and promotes the replication and coordination of affiliates throughout the United States. Founded in 1988, the national office provides assistance to affiliates in program development, board and staff development, marketing, communications, and financial management.

Rebuilding Together preserves and revitalizes houses and communities, assuring that low-income homeowners

particularly those who are elderly and disabled and families with children, live in warmth, safety and independence. Rebuilding Together's goal is to make a sustainable impact in partnership with the community.

Low-income elderly and disabled homeowners and families with children often have no place to turn when the roof begins to leak or the front steps crumble. The goal is to preserve these houses and neighborhoods and assure a warm, safe and dry home for people in need. Homeownership stabilizes and strengthens communities.

The number of low-income homeowners increases each year. The current 24 million low-income homeowner families is expected to grow to an astonishing 28.5 million by the year 2010. More and more families are placed in the position of choosing between vital necessities such as food or medicine and a roof that does not leak. Disabled homeowners cannot afford the modifications that allow them to "age in place" and remain in their own homes. Rebuilding Together works to ensure that as many of those families as possible do not have to make these difficult choices. Individual families are referred to us through neighborhood associations, churches, synagogues, community organizations and service groups or by self-referral. Non-profit facilities are also eligible for their services.

While many affiliates work throughout the year to rehabilitate homes and provide related services to communities, most of our national volunteer effort culminates on National Rebuilding Day, typically held the last Saturday in April. Legions of volunteers come together to rehabilitate homes and non-profit facilities. Homeowners and volunteers work together to preserve and revitalize the communities in which they live.

Anyone can volunteer! And Rebuilding Together needs people with many talents and abilities — from people who can help scrape paint to those who are trained craftsmen. Business executives,

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Your Membership
or Join
Today**

students, bus drivers, politicians and policemen pitch in annually across America to help build better communities. Trades-people are always in demand and thousands of carpenters, plumbers, electricians, roofers, and others with special skills donate their time.

For information about starting a program or to order our national video or a copy of our Step-by-Step Guide, please contact the [national headquarters](#).

Projected Impact of 2006

- 8,900 houses and non-profit facilities rehabilitated
- 267,000 volunteers donating their time and skills
- work done in 1,879 cities and towns across America
- Over 240 affiliates nationwide
- delivering \$98 million market value

Cumulative Impact Through 2006

- 105,020 houses and non-profit facilities rehabilitated
- involving 2.5 million volunteers, committing to 24 million hours of volunteer time
- Delivering \$1 billion market value

Information for this article was copied from the Rebuilding Web Site

2008 OCEOA Meeting Dates

- February 14, 2008 •
- May 15, 2008 •
- August 14, 2008 •
- November 13, 2008 •

All meetings will be held at the Midwest Hotel & Conference Center on Sinclair Road in Columbus, Toll Free Phone No. 1-877-609-6086

**Electrical Systems Awareness
Instructor – Larry Landis**

Larry Landis is currently employed with the City of Springfield, Ohio, as Electrical Inspector for the city’s Building Inspections Services Division. Larry began his electrical career in 1973 as a contractor/electrician for 12 years and operated an electrical construction business for nearly 11 years, dealing in residential, commercial, and high voltage work. Since then Larry has been an electrical inspector working in Greene County and most recently for the City of Springfield.

The main emphasis of this session will be to discuss and become more aware of the electrical violations commonly identified by the enforcement officer. This discussion will lead to a greater understanding and knowledge of electrical safety and allow us, as code officials, to answer some of the frequently asked questions that arise in our duties. Through

visuals and discussion we hope to build upon the existing knowledge of the enforcement officer as we attempt to provide solutions and insight for the public.

**Enforcing the Code
By Joshua Harmon**

We all have different methods and codes we use when addressing the slum/blight and overall aesthetics of our communities. One area that is a constant issue for every locale is the overgrowth of grass and vegetation. Through discussion and information sharing we hope to better enhance the methods and ordinances being used to address such a prevalent issue. Our discussion will include not only the excessive height of grass, but shall engage the ordinances and codes that address shrubbery, dead/dangerous trees, and weeds. The end result of the session will be to identify effective procedures for code enforcement agencies to consider and

to showcase the successes of our individual communities. By working together to better understand how other agencies enforce their ordinances and respond to their citizenry we can hopefully enhance our own operations and encourage ordinance refinement and service delivery in our governments.

MEETING PLACE

There has been some confusion as to what the name of our meeting place actually is. They changed the name from the Ramada Plaza to the Midwest Hotel and Conference Center and now we have been told the name is changing back.

Well Melissa tells me she was by the location recently and the name is still Midwest Hotel and Conference Center.

Not to worry, as long as you either remember where we have been holding the meetings or follow the map.

You can now download the meeting registration form and copies of the Enforcer by visiting the web site at www.oceoa.org

**Kathy L. Werkmeister, Director
Housing and Community Services Department
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**

Our second speaker in the morning, Kathy, serves as the director of the Housing and Community Services Department at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. In that capacity, she oversees housing programs across central Ohio, including programs in Columbus, Franklin County, Ross County, Union County and Delaware County. These programs include housing rehabilitation, homeownership education and foreclosure counseling.

She serves as secretary and staff to the Joint Columbus and Franklin County Housing Advisory Board (HAB) which reviews projects for multifamily housing development and makes recommendations to the Franklin County Commissioners. She has operated a HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant Program and several state and federal HUD programs including CHIPs (Community Housing Improvement Program) in four central Ohio communities. She administers federal, state and local-funded programs and has successfully written grants totaling over \$8,000,000.

She holds a B.A. in Public Administration from Miami University with a concentration in Environmental Science. For four years, she worked in Washington, D.C. for a U.S. Congressman from Ohio. At the time, he was one of the world’s leading experts on the energy crisis of the 1970’s and 1980’s.

. She is on the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative of the Community Shelter Board, and she recently served two terms as Chair of the Membership Committee of the Ohio Conference of Community Development.

OCEOA Officers and Trustees

- Denver Williams, Pres. 937-333-3916
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- Don Tate 937-296-2423
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- Josh Harmon 937-324-7646
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<http://blog.oceoa.org>

Now online

Now at a new location

Sharing ideas and supporting each other in our profession is one of the primary reasons OCEOA exists. We have tried to make that easier in recent years by fielding requests from members about how others hand a problem or conduct certain activities, etc and then sending out e-mails to the membership asking for responses.

We have now taken that question/solution process to the next level. Last fall we tested a blog (web log) for OCEOA and found it can be a helpful tool and one that is more interactive and viewable by more people than with the former email process. Once the question or topic has been entered on the OCEOA blog, anyone can post comments to that specific topic.

We have now moved our blog and OCEOA website to the same web hosting server so there is a new address for the blog. You can still reach it through the link on the OCEOA website at www.oceoa.org or go directly to the blog by entering blog.oceoa.org (do not enter www.). Once you have entered the site you can subscribe to the blog which means you can receive an email every time a new topic, question or comment is posted. You can choose to comment on a specific topic and, if you prefer, subscribe only to that topic.

Commenting on topics/questions is easy. However, the first time you enter a comment, a confirmation e-mail will be sent to you asking you to confirm your entry. This helps eliminate junk comments on the site.

Questions and topics for the blog should be submitted to the moderator at don.tate@ketteringoh.org or to Denver Williams at denver.williams@ci.dayton.oh.us.

CIVIL SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER I

The Springfield Civil Service Commission announces an **OPEN-COMPETITIVE** examination for the **CLASSIFIED** position of **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER I** in the Code Enforcement Division.

LAST DATE FOR FILING

February 4, 08 Before 5:00 PM

PLACE OF FILING APPLICATION:

Personnel Department
City Hall, 3rd Floor
76 East High Street
Springfield, Ohio 45502

DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF EXAMINATION:To Be Announced

PAY RANGE: \$16.03 - \$20.39 per hr

EXAMINATION CUT-OFF SCORE:
70%

This is an entry-level position involving technical work in the inspection and enforcement of city codes relating to nuisance abatement, zoning, and property maintenance issues. Work involves making routine inspections of residential, commercial, industrial, and other property and equipment, ensuring compliance with laws, ordinances, rules and regulations relating to public nuisances and coordinating necessary remedial action. This position also involves providing court testimony as required and attending neighborhood meetings to discuss code enforcement issues.

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or Join
Today***

Applicants must possess a high school education or equivalent and previous construction experience supplemented by work experience providing knowledge of legal procedures related to the enforcement of municipal codes and ordinances. Requires the ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing; ability to deal politely, assertively, and effectively with property owners, contractors and the public; ability to learn and apply applicable municipal code requirements; ability to read and interpret laws; the ability to use photographic equipment and read road maps; and the ability to work with computer systems and applications utilized within the division. The possession of a valid State of Ohio Driver's License is also a requirement of this position.

**EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY/DISABLED
EMPLOYER**



Dana L. Bone
Personnel Analyst

DB/01/18/08

Code Council committees seek experts

Dear OCEOA Members:

The International Code Council is accepting applications for Codes & Standards Committees. The Code Council's Board recently approved the creation of three code action committees (CAC). Code action committees are code discipline specific committees whose sole purpose is to identify opportunities to improve and enhance a particular International Code or portion thereof. This is accomplished by the CAC's submitting proposed code changes, modifications and public comments as well as participating in the Code Development and Final Action Hearings. Please let us know and we'll see that you get the correct contact information.

The three code action committees are:

- (CAC-B) Building related codes — all chapters of the IBC and Chapters 1-10 of the IRC;
- (CAC-MPG) Mechanical, Plumbing & Fuel Gas related codes — IRC M/P, IMC, IPC & IFGC
- (CAC-Oth) Other codes — IECC, IRC Chapter 11 and other I-Codes as evaluated by the CAC

The application deadline is **February 8, 2008**

Michael J. Pfeiffer

Deputy Sr VP, Technical Services