

# Burleigh BPZ Bulletin

Burleigh County Building/Planning/Zoning

FEBRUARY 2015

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Special points of interest:

Safety Might Have a Price Tag.

Homes for Our Troops

Portable Heater Safety

Star Gazing



## It's Certified!!

If you have recently filled out a New House Permit Application, or had a building inspection, you might have noticed a few new items. The Burleigh County Building Inspections Department is now officially performing Energy Code Compliance inspections on every new home. New homes will now get an Energy Code Compliance Certificate when the final inspection of the home is completed.

Contractors building in the county are now being asked to supply for our records: the type of insulation and the installed R-value for the roof/ceiling, walls, slab-on-grade, floor, rim joist, and foundations walls. They are also asked to call for an additional inspection of the insulation (insulation inspection) after the

framing inspection and before any sheet rocking is done. The insulation inspection will verify the insulation is being installed properly and is the right R-value.

During other inspections of the home, the County Inspector will be recording the heating system, cooling system and water heater for the type of equipment and its efficiency. Windows, opaque doors, and skylights will have their fenestration rating recorded.

On the final inspection the Energy Efficiency Certificate will be placed in the mechanical room of the home and the information will be kept on file in the Burleigh County Building/Planning/Zoning office in the event of federal inspection or home owner inquiry. The goal of the Energy Efficiency

### ENERGY CODE COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE:

MUST BE COMPLETED BY BUILDER;

LOCATION	TYPE OF INSULATION	INSTALLED R-VALUE
ROOF/CEILING		
WALLS		
SLAB-ON-GRADE		
FLOOR		
RIM JOIST		
FOUNDATION WALL		

## In this issue:

From the Desk of Ray Ziegler 2

Join the Burleigh County Board of Commissioners 3

Don't Space it Out! 4

Sky Watching 5

Apple Creek Township Partnership 6

## From the Desk of Ray Ziegler, Burleigh County Building Official

### Safety May Come With A Price Tag

The following blog posted by Jim Buchta appeared January 26 in the Star Tribune. It's interesting in the aspect of housing costs and how new building codes have an impact. As the appointed Building Official, life safety is always the number one item, especially when considering new building codes. Now the tough part is categorizing, just because one code group calls something a life safety issue does not mean we should automatically adopt it locally. However we can't over regulate to the point that new homes are only for the select few with the increase cost of code compliance being the primary reason.



When this issue comes up, I will do research, talk to people in the industry, keep an open mind to the group presenting the code and look at local past history on the issue. Passing new rules that will increase housing costs while showing little or no benefit takes very close consideration. I will also tell you that the cost to implement is way down on my checklist.

This modern age of construction materials and methods has changed a lot, kind of like new cars, more creature comforts, half the weight of the old ones, but also a lot safer as long as you're buckled up and keep up with all the required maintenance. Your home is a product of extensive testing, engineering, fire prevention, clean water, working sewer, energy efficiency along with air quality. So keep up with the maintenance and in many ways you will also have a much safer place, and just like a new car, it may come with a price tag.

"Twin Cities builders continue their fight against new rules they say add unnecessary costs to new houses. The Builders Association of the Twin Cities (BATC) has filed a Petition with the Minnesota Court of Appeals challenging the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI) amendments to the state's International Residential Code (IRC) and International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

BATC also requested a stay of enforcement of the rule pending a ruling on its main petition.

Shawn Nelson, a former BATC executive and president of New Spaces, said the new rules are "the largest regulatory tax on home buyers in Minnesota history," and creates a financial burden that exceeds the value of the changes.

The suits follow several years of rule-making that concluded with an agreement between BATC and the DLI on most changes. For the energy code, rather than "prescriptive standards" that are more expensive, BATC advocated for more flexible performance-based rules that the group says would be less expensive and just as effective. BATC was opposed to a sprinkler requirement, which the group says is unnecessary and expensive. BATC estimates that the codes will add \$6,000 to \$10,000 to the cost of the average newly built home.

The IRC and IECC updates are part of a routine code update. The building code was set to be implemented on January 24th and the energy code on February 14th.

What's next? The state is expected to respond within the next few weeks."



## JOIN THE BURLEIGH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Many of our country's young men and women decide to write a blank check to America by joining the military. It is an honorable and brave decision these young men and women are making, most at the young age of 17, 18 and 19. They are serving our country and protecting

our freedom, and some are coming back injured. One such young man is Marine Cpl. Mark Haegele of Bismarck, ND.

Corporal Haegele at the age of 19 lost both his legs, suffered hearing loss and injury to both arms when he stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED) in Mehraj, Afghanistan. Because of his injuries, he needs a specially adapted home. Homes for Our Troops is helping Cpl. Mark Haegele's home become a reality.

Homes for Our Troops is a privately fund 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization which builds mortgage free homes nationwide for severely disabled veterans. These homes give our veterans a chance to focus on their recovery and rebuilding their lives. Homes for Our Troops is in the process of building 50 homes nationwide for qualifying veterans. One of those homes is located in Burleigh County.

Using volunteer workers and donated construction materials a home for Corporal Haegele is being built in the Country Creek Subdivision on the outskirts of Bismarck ND. The home is specially designed by Home for Our Troops (HFOT) to fit Corporal Haegele's specific needs. HFOT is involved in every step of the building process and working with a local builder – Patriot Homes of Bismarck - to insure the home meets local, county, and state code. Burleigh County Building/Planning/Zoning is also doing inspections and assisting with advice when needed. The Burleigh County Board of Commissioner even voted to waive the fees for permits, which saved HFOT over \$2,000.00.

If you are interested in joining the Burleigh County Board of Commissioners in assisting Home for Our Troops and Burleigh County resident Marine Cpl. Mark Haegele you have several options:

- ◆ **VOLUNTEER** your time and/or materials. Go to [www.hfotusa.org/Haegele](http://www.hfotusa.org/Haegele)
- ◆ **MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION** at [www.hfotusa.org/donate](http://www.hfotusa.org/donate)
- ◆ **CALL** Home for Our Troops at 886-7-TROOPS (886-787-6677) and ask how you can help
- ◆ **SPREAD THE WORD** follow Patriot Homes (the local builder) on Facebook to view the progress on the home and answer the volunteer call out
- ◆ **CALL** Patriot Homes 701-471-2332 and ask them what they need

# Don't Space It Out!

Winter time.... the chance to catch up on all those projects that would have kept you inside during the summer months. Besides, you have a huge shop in the back to work on your vehicles during the winter, or maybe even a wood working project or a honey-do list of fix it projects. The cold is not a problem because you have a portable propane or electric heater to keep you warm while you are working. Portable heaters, however, can be dangerous unless precautions are taken.

There are three basic types of portable heaters. The first is the electric heater. An electric heater is the perfect solution for indoor heating. They come in 2 different types – oil filled radiators and oil free radiators. Oil filled is just like they sound. They are filled with oil then sealed shut. The unit then heats the oil. The drawback on oil filled is they take longer to heat up. Oil free radiators use electricity to heat the coils. Oil free radiators are very easy to use, environmentally-friendly and are fairly low maintenance.



There are two types of propane heaters, the free standing model which has a base, body and a propane tank attachment, and the attachment type which just attaches to a standard propane tank. Portable propane heaters, unless marked for indoor use and then only used in a large space, are to be used for outdoor settings. They are great for construction sites, large workshops or outdoor patios spaces.

Kerosene heaters are very similar to propane heaters, but use kerosene. It is important to use the right type of kerosene in these heaters.

No matter what type of portable heater you use, there are several basic do's and don'ts for operation of your heater.

- ◇ Place the heater at least 11 feet away from combustible materials, including curtains, upholstered furniture and walls.
- ◇ Always keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
- ◇ Place portable heaters on the floor or place in a location with secure footing. NEVER place a portable heater on a table or chair.
- ◇ Check your unit before using it. Look for damaged parts, knobs, coils, leaking (on oil filled units), damaged cords or legs. If the unit has any signs of damage, don't use it until it has been repaired by a competent service person.
- ◇ Always keep clothing, plastic and other combustible away from the heating coils as they can instantly ignite and start a fire.
- ◇ For electric units, make sure the unit is plugged into a properly grounded outlet.
- ◇ Always keep and maintain a smoke detector by your unit.
- ◇ Avoid using extension cords. If you have to, use one with a power rating that is at least as high as the heater itself.
- ◇ Makes sure the extension cord or electrical cord is not exposed to the intense heat generated by the heater.
- ◇ Before moving your heater, let it cool down.
- ◇ Do not place a fan in front of a portable heater. They can melt and start a fire.
- ◇ NEVER leave a portable heater unattended, especially when leaving the workspace.

Simple common-sense when using portable heaters will go a long way in keep you and your family safe

# Sky Watching!!

One thing Burleigh County has plenty of is wide open spaces, and wide open spaces are perfect for sky watching. Even in the winter sky watching is an enjoyable way to spend an evening with the family. 2015 has plenty of opportunities to watch the sky including meteor showers, total and partial eclipses and planetary events. Below is a partial list of solar events for 2015. Take a moment to step outside at night and enjoy the show the sky puts on for us!

DATE	EVENT
February 6	Jupiter at Opposition – Jupiter can be seen at its highest point in the southern sky at 12:59 am
February 22	Conjuncture of Venus and Mars You should be able to see both planets
March 20	Total Solar Eclipse
April 4	Total Lunar Eclipse
April 12	Virginid Meteor Shower
April 22 – 23	Lyrids Meteor Shower
April 27	a-Scorpiid Meteor Shower
May 5—6	Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower
June 10	Ophiuchid Meteor Shower
June 20 – 21	Ophiuchid Meteor Shower
July 15	Capricornid Meteor Shower
July 21	a-Cygnid Meteor Shower
July 26	Capricornid Meteor Shower
July 29	Aquarid Meteor Shower
July 31	Piscis Australid Meteor Shower
	WWW.EARTHSKY.ORG



Possible Orionid meteor moving by Gemini stars Castor and Pollux

Burleigh County Building/  
Planning/Zoning

221 N 5th Street  
PO Box 5518  
Bismarck, ND 58506-5518

Phone: 701-221-3727  
Fax: 701-221-3726  
www.burleighco.com



Building, Planning and  
Zoning for a brighter future

## Apple Creek Township and Burleigh County Building/Planning/Zoning

### A great partnership!

Do you live in Apple Creek Township?  
Are you a builder planning to build in Apple Creek? If so, we have good news for you. As of January 1, 2015, the Burleigh County Building/Planning/Zoning Department has signed an agreement to do all septic and mechanical (gas lines, water heaters, furnace installs) inspections for Apple Creek Township. Shawn Whitney, the newly hired Building Inspector for Apple Creek Township, will continue to assist Apple Creek Residents with their building needs such as permits and building inspections. Burleigh County Building/Planning will issue permits and handle all inspection needs for septic systems and mechanical needs.

*Rural living,  
close to the city.*



This is an exciting partnership with Apple Creek Township; we look forward to working with them and continuing to assist them in their inspections needs. If you need a septic or mechanical permit, please call us at 701-221-3727. Call Shawn Whitney at 701-214-3311 for all your other permitting needs in Apple Creek Township.