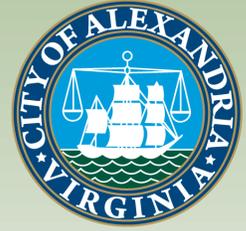


# CODE CONNECTION

## Building Safety Month Edition



### In This Issue:

- Building Safety Month Events Around Alexandria
- Revised Deck Details Package Information
- Code Administration Participates in the ICC Inspector Exchange Program
- Alexandria Receives Potomac Champion Award

## Building Safety Month

**MAY 2014**

**BUILDING SAFETY:**

**Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks**



WEEK ONE

**May 5-11**

Code Officials:  
Keeping Fire in  
Its Place



WEEK TWO

**May 12-18**

Code Officials:  
Helping  
Homeowners  
Weather the  
Storm



WEEK THREE

**May 19-25**

Code Officials:  
Surround Your  
House with  
Safety



WEEK FOUR

**May 26-31**

Code Officials:  
Building a  
Brighter,  
More Efficient  
Tomorrow

### **“Kick-Off” Event**

**Friday, May 2**

**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Market Square,**

**301 King Street**

### **Guest speakers:**

- **Mayor William D. Euille**
- **City Manager Rashad M. Young**
- **ICC Senior Vice-President,  
Government Relations  
Sara Yerkes**

**Refreshments will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Rain location: City Hall, Vola Lawson Lobby**

# “Building Safety: Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks.”

Each week in May will feature a different facet of building safety:

- May 5-11 Code Officials: Keeping Fire in Its Place
- May 12-18 Code Officials: Helping Homeowners Weather the Storm
- May 19-25 Code Officials: Surround your House with Safety
- May 25-31 Code Officials: Building a Brighter, More Efficient Tomorrow

In addition to the Building Safety Month Kick-Off Event, the public is invited to visit informational booths at these locations:

- |         |                               |   |
|---------|-------------------------------|---|
| May 2   | City Hall- Market Square      | 301 King Street                         |
| May 3   | Market Square Farmers’ Market | 301 King Street                         |
| May 3-4 | The Home Depot                | 400 S. Pickett Street                   |
| May 10  | Del Ray Farmers’ Market       | Corner of E. Oxford & E. Monroe Avenues |
| May 17  | Old Town Hardware             | 809 S. Washington Street                |
| May 17  | West End Farmers’ Market      | 4800 Brenman Park Drive                 |
| May 31  | Four Mile Run Farmers’ Market | 4109 Mt. Vernon Avenue Artisans Market  |

## *Building Safety Month Sponsors*



## Alexandria Receives Potomac Champion Award for Litter Enforcement Work

On October 18, 2013, the Alice Ferguson Foundation honored the City with the Potomac Champion Award for its work during Litter Enforcement Month in April. This award recognizes the commitment of several City agencies to protecting the Potomac Watershed.



*Representatives from Code Administration, Police, and Sheriff's Departments accept the Potomac Champion Award presented in October 2013.*

The Code Administration team worked closely with the Police and Transportation & Environment Services to identify and address areas for dumping and trash accumulated. Inspectors conducted 203 proactive inspections and serviced 63 complaints for improperly stored or accumulating trash. The Sheriff's Office Inmate Work Detail collected litter on the grounds of the Beatley and Burke libraries, Van Dorn Metrorail Station, and Hammond Middle School, along Mount Vernon Avenue, in Hume Springs and Four Mile Run Park, and at the cemetery on North Breckinridge. The four-man Inmate Work Detail, under the supervision of a deputy, collected approximately 900 pounds of trash and completed 194 hours of work.

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## Code Administration Revises Typical Deck Detail Package

In September 2013, Code Administration updated our Typical Deck Detail Package based on the 2009 International Residential Code. The revised package can be found at [alexandriava.gov/Code](http://alexandriava.gov/Code).

**Below are some of the highlighted changes:**

1. **Materials** – Wood (2"x4") is included in the approved decking material; floor joists (2"x6") are added to Table Maximum Joist Span Length; wood posts (4"x4" and 4"x6") are added in Section 7, Table 3: Maximum Post Height.
2. **Blocking** – Blocking is required at overhanging joists with the overhang more than 2 feet. Refer to Figure 2 and Figure 4.

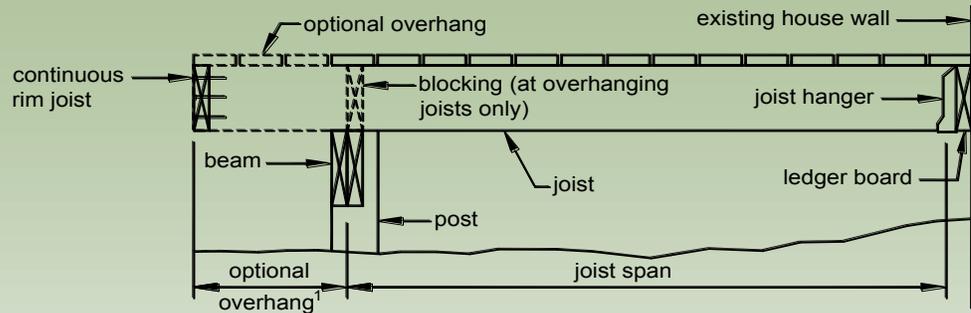


FIGURE 2: JOISTS WITH DROPPED BEAM – DECK ATTACHED AT HOUSE

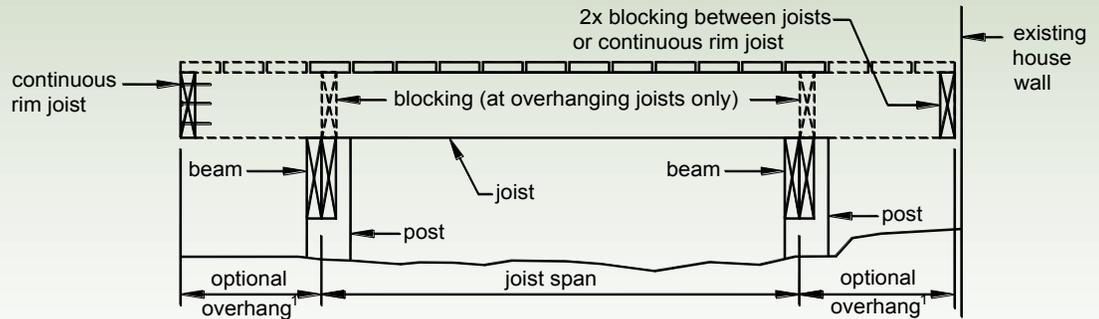


FIGURE 4: JOISTS WITH TWO DROPPED BEAMS/FREE-STANDING DECK

3. **Beam and Joist Spans** – Due to the reduction of design values for Southern Pine No. 2 graded lumber, the Maximum Joist Span Length in Table 1, Maximum Beam Span Length in Table 2, and Maximum Stringer Span Length in Figures 35 are also reduced accordingly.
4. **Ledge Board and Connections** - Recent research indicates that the leading cause of deck collapse in North America is due to some type of ledger board failure. In the new deck package, some new details and limitations are added to improve deck safety in Section 9 for Ledger Attachments and Section 10 for Ledge Board Fasteners:
  - a. The minimum ledger board depth shall be 2"x 8".
  - b. The minimum anchorage spacing and edge distances should be in compliance with new requirements shown in Figure 12, 13 and 14 of the new deck package;
  - c. Through-bolts should be tightened 6 to 12 months after construction due to wood drying and shrinkage;
5. **Lateral Load Resistance** – In the Virginia Residential Code 2009 §R502.2.2.3, deck lateral load connections are required. To comply, the new deck package requires that all decks greater than 30 inches above grade must use the Tension Ties or a Diagonal Bracing method to resist lateral loads.

**Note:** Tension-ties are not permitted for free standing decks. Furthermore, the diagonal bracing method is applicable for decks attached to the existing house with the ratio of the overall deck length to width no more than 2 to 1; refer to Section 13, Lateral Support.

For further information, please contact the Department of Code Administration at 703.746.4200.

# Code Administration Participates in the ICC International Inspector Exchange Program



The City of Alexandria hosted visiting building inspectors from the Al Ain municipality in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on Sept. 16 to 27. The visit was a part of the International Code Council's (ICC) Inspector Exchange Program, where inspectors from differing countries visit and participate in getting to know and understand the business practices while visiting different types of construction currently underway in the City. The visiting inspectors, Hamid Salem and Ali Bukair, also attended the Virginia Building Code Official Association's meeting in Manassas, where the training topic covered safety during excavations. In addition, Code Administration team members joined the Inspectors as they toured the Environmental Consulting Services Mid-Atlantic testing, research and training facility in Chantilly, Virginia.



*Left to Right: Bill Ertumen, P.E., Gregg Fields– Deputy Director, John Catlett, Director, Hamid Salem, Ali Bukair, Pete Mensinger– New Construction Manager, Ken Granata, Plan Review Services Division Chief*

# Annual Employee Recognition Cookout

This year's Employee Recognition Cookout was full of smiles and good food. The day's events started with homemade dishes prepared by the Code Family. Director Catlett manned the grill while team members setup for the festivities. There was great music and games for the kiddies (large and small). Congratulations to the Permit Center Team for winning the Director's Team Award and to all who received a Director's Award and those voted Most Valuable Team Player by your peers. We continue to celebrate you!



*Employee Award Winners: (Left to Right) James Hunt, Gregg Fields, Keesha Dillingham, Tomieka Nicholson, Alonzo Hicks, Sandra Kyer, Penny Frazier, with Director John Catlett.*

## Congratulations, Certification Recipients!

- Navdeep Kaur - LEED AP Building, Design, and Construction Training
- Brian Paige - ICC Accessibility Inspector/Plans Examiner
- Eduardo Luna - ICC Accessibility Inspector/Plans Examiner, Advancement to Code Inspector II
- James Hemphill - ICC Fuel Gas Inspector
- Chris Evans - Certified Building Official
- Keesha Dillingham - ICC Residential Energy Inspector/Plans Examiner Certification
- Pete Mensinger - ICC Property Maintenance Inspector/ Certified Building Maintenance Official

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

## *Building Safety Month 2014*

It's that time of year again when we celebrate Building Safety Month! The theme of this year's event is "Building Safety: Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks." The City of Alexandria has made great strides to achieve an increased resilience within construction, while minimizing the amount of risks that take place. Efforts include an increase in employee and customer training, process improvements, and overall customer service.

We are committed to working toward a full service Permit Center, where all permits are reviewed in a team environment that has a greater element of coordination, transparency, and accountability. In doing so, I'm pleased to announce that our expanded Permit Center space is now in service. The expansion provides our customers more privacy to conduct business. We invite you to celebrate with us at our ribbon cutting ceremony in the Permit Center this summer. Stay tuned to the Code Administration website: [alexandriava.gov/Code](http://alexandriava.gov/Code) for the date and time!

In addition to service improvements and the expansion, we are planning to replace our land use management system with a top of the line, customer friendly permitting and inspection software package. This new system will provide a better customer interface with online applications, improved tracking of permit reviews, and electronic plan submission and reviews.

Your success is the City's success. We look forward to working with you, our community, to achieve continued progress.

Sincerely,

*John D. Catlett*

John D. Catlett, CPCA, CBO, CFO, MCP

Director, Alexandria Department of Code Administration

# Code Administration Activity and Statistics

## Report Year to Date - Quarter 4

	<b>Nov 2013</b>	<b>Dec 2013</b>	<b>Jan 2014</b>	<b>Feb 2014</b>	<b>Mar 2014</b>	<b>2014 (1st Qtr)</b>	<b>2013 (1st Qtr)</b>
<b>New Construction Inspections</b>	3,723	3,436	3,710	3,087	3,868	10,665	10,320
<b>Third Party Inspections</b>	13	16	18	7	3	28	273
<b>Maintenance Code Inspections</b>	552	533	588	458	538	1,584	1,833
<b>Plans Reviewed</b>	1,040	900	999	940	933	2,872	2,552
<b>Online Permit Applications Received</b>	4,600	788	938	1,134	655	2,727	2,030

**Department of Code Administration**

**City of Alexandria, Virginia**

**301 King Street, Suite 4200**

**Alexandria, VA 22314**

**703.746.4200**

**[www.alexandriava.gov/Code](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Code)**