

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2016
(Ama Bartlett)

INSPECTIONS:	CURRENT		LAST MONTH		LAST YEAR	
BUILDING	441		528		757	
ELECTRICAL	18		33		18	
PLUMBING	16		17		21	
MECHANICAL	29		33		39	
WRECKING	1		10		0	
COMPLAINT	88		84		70	
HOUSING	91		120		248	
BEER & LIQUOR INSP	4		0		0	
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	688		825		1,153	
Electrical, Mechanical & Plumbing inspections performed with building projects are not recorded in individual category.						
PERMITS		UNITS		UNITS		UNITS
ACTIVE DEPT PERMITS	2,618		3,984		3,953	
PERMITS ISSUED CURRENT	249		329		353	
NEW SINGLE FAMILY	12		17		15	
NEW MULTI-FAMILY	2	6	3	7	3	6
COMMERCIAL PERMITS	1		3		5	
REMODEL PERMITS	13		25		22	
PERMITS ISSUED FYTD	248		3,628		353	
FINANCIAL						
RECEIPTS CURRENT	39,557		58,085		59,403	
RECEIPTS FYTD	39,557		720,681		59,403	
CODE COMPLIANCE:						
NEW COMPLAINTS	8		12		16	
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS	9		4		11	
ACTIVE COMPLAINTS	67		68		75	
RENTAL HOUSING:						
RENTAL HOUSING UNITS	4,053		4,049		4,042	
NEW UNITS REGISTERED	3		5		10	
UNITS REMOVED	2		7		6	
REGULAR INSPECTIONS	48		156		128	
VIOLATION INSPECTIONS	26		61		54	
OTHER CONTACTS	40		36		66	

DEPARTMENT EDUCATION

On July 14, Ron Hoover participated in a course with the Iowa Association of Building Officials in Des Moines involving the IECC Commercial and Residential Provisions, earning 4 credit hours.

Ron also traveled to Casper, Wyoming for continued education on July 20-21. He attended the International Building Code class for Fire and Life Safety Principles and the International Fire Code class on Performing Commercial Fire Inspections, earning 12 credit hours.

The entire Building Department attended a class at City Hall on July 15 presented by Jerry De Penning concerning inspections of Photovoltaic (PV) solar electric systems.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS



These stairs are over 30" and require a minimum 36" guardrail on the left side of the stairs.



This exhaust is too close to the patio door. Exhaust vents are required to be a minimum of 3' from any window or door opening.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

(Gary Hansen)



This is what the back of the Arbor Trails Senior Housing looked like before work began on the retaining wall.

Here is a current picture of the back of the Arbor Trails Senior Housing. This is where they are required to build a retaining wall to provide frost protection and egress out of the building. From the ground where the wall will start to the bottom of the door is approximately 40' in height.

NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

- Plans have been reviewed and are waiting for pick up for the remodel of the old Irwin's building. Converting it to a Dentist office with office space and a proposed Art Gallery on the 2nd floor, at (1180 7th Ave.)
- Plans have been submitted and are ready to issue for Walmart's training/classroom remodel at (5491 Business Hwy 151)
- Plans have been issued and foundation work has started for a new Professional Building. This will house Parks and Schmit Orthodontist, and 3 other tenants. It is to be built at (901 Tower Terrace Rd)
- Foundation and underground plumbing and electrical has started for Marion Independent's new Longfellow Elementary School at (2900 8th Ave.)

ON-GOING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

- Construction is well underway with the framing nearly complete for Anderson Automotive's new building at (300 44th St.)
- Foundation work is complete and framing is nearly completed, for an addition to a Menards out building at (200 Menards Lane)

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- Rough-ins have just been completed for a new coffee shop build-out at (905 29th Ave Suite 120)
 - Rough-ins have been completed and drywall work has started for Kepros Physical Therapy at (905 29th Ave. Suite 130)
 - Reconstruction work has started for the remodel of the Marion Used Car Superstore, this will be changed to a Volkswagen dealership, at (675 Blairs Ferry Rd)
 - Foundations have been completed for 2 new duplex storage warehouses at (5605/5607 & 5606/5608 Business Lane)
 - Exterior brick and the interior framing work has been completed for the new Lebeda Mattress retail store at (2525 7th Ave.)
 - Kitchen vent hoods and tile work is being completed with occupancy slated for August 12th for Linn Mar High School Kitchen Renovation (3111 10th St)
 - Windows have been installed, HVAC work, and sprinkler work is nearly complete for the LM Oak Ridge Middle School cafeteria expansion (4901 Alburnett Rd)
 - Finish work is nearing completion and an occupancy will be coming soon for Fashion Par Kitchen's new location at (1246 7th Ave)
 - Finish work is continuing for an interior commercial build-out for Klingler's rental building at (4281 3rd Ave)
 - APC Emmert's has been granted a Temporary Occupancy for their new building and exterior parking and fire lanes are being installed at (4155 3rd Ave)
 - A Temporary Occupancy punch list is being completed for Electrical Specialties new building at (6451 Partners Ave)
 - Finish work is continuing on all four floors, the parking lot and retaining wall are being completed at the Arbor Trails Senior housing project at (1362 Blairs Ferry Rd)
 - The first 2 units of 3 Self-storage units, has been issued a temporary occupancy, with the 3rd to be ready soon for final inspection. Grading and landscaping will be completed soon, at (1286 Blairs Ferry Rd)
 - The interior work is being completed and the concrete batch plant equipment is being installed for a new readi-mix plant at (600 49th St.)
 - Framing of floors 1 and 2 are about completed with the 3rd floor starting soon for the 60 unit Blairs Ferry Senior Housing at (830 Blairs Ferry Rd.)
 - A Temporary Occupancy has been granted for Victory Gymnastics building on (North Gateway Dr.)
 - Framing is complete, the sub-contractors are finishing up, and the drywall will be starting soon at the new Hills Bank side of the Goodwill/Hills Bank project at (3204 7th Ave)
 - The second rental warehouse is nearly complete with just an exterior punch list remaining at (570 44th St)
 - Select Construction is completing rough-ins on their new warehouse/shop at (665 49th St)
 - A Temporary Occupancy has been granted for the new office building for Linn Coop at (325 35th street)
 - Integrity Homes has all 5 buildings being completed as they are being occupied at (591 62nd St.)
 - A Temporary Occupancy has been granted for the whole building, with the exception of the front stairs are not completed yet. Workers are completing the exterior concrete work and making a fire lane to the rear of Legacy Manufacturing's 130,000 plus sq. ft. building at (6509 Partners Ave.)
 - Remodeling of the existing building continues. The new additions are nearing completion, the concrete sidewalks and drives are being done now at Linn Mar High School at (3111 10th St.) Expected Completion date is December 2016

- Interior finish is being completed for a 4000 square foot warehouse of Joe Meyers at (3300 3rd Ave)
- Finish work being completed for an addition to the car wash at (1188 Grand Ave.)
- Snugs bar has been issued a Temporary Occupancy for the bar portion of the permit with the punch list being completed at (760 11th street)
- A Temporary Occupancy has been issued for two new Self storage units at (5185 8th Ave.)
- The current Building permit has expired and a new one will need to be obtained before the work can continue. Plans had been received, although new plans are expected prior to construction being restarted. It is unknown at this time when reconstruction will begin at (1204 7th Ave).

BUILDING PROJECTS: COMPLETED

- A Final Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for the new Dunkin Donuts at (584 7th Ave)
- Final CO's have been issued for KTRO Storage's 3 self-storage garages on (4150 3rd Ave.)
- A Final CO has been issued to Hupp Electric building addition and remodel at (500 57th St.)

CODE COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

Compiled by Matt Newhouse - Code Compliance Coordinator

OVERVIEW:

Old and outstanding complaint are being review and many have been closed due to compliance. A few are still going to require staff to pursue further. New complaints are being handled in a timely manner and we are looking forward to continuing the prompt and courteous response to any and all concerns voiced to all involved staff.

EXISTING COMPLAINTS OF INTEREST:

5010 Winslow Road Sam Nemer.

Property remains in compliance for an A1 zoning. There are still building materials on site for the 2 garage expansion and re-roofing permits. Mr. Nemer has yet to pay the +7000.00 fines imposed by the court when he was granted a 30 day extension in June and a motion by Mr. Nemer to set aside the fines was recently denied. Anne E. H. Kruse continues to work on obtaining the fines and Code compliance will monitor for any future activity which violates Marion Code and would place Mr. Nemer in contempt. **At this time there has been no new activity on the construction of garage additions which had expired and were renewed in July 2015.**

Trailers in the Marion Village Mobile Home Park with complaints concerning hoarding and poor living conditions.

- **334 Neta (Patricia Carter)**. Posted for no occupancy after the owner was taken in for mental and physical assessment By DHS. Severe hording, lack of egress pathways and access, severely leaking roof, multiple property maintenance issues. The manager of the mobile home court has advised that there is nobody currently living there and they are actively pursuing the removal of the mobile home. **We will continue to monitor this address.**
- **435 Erin Drive (Claudia Feuss)** Code Compliance was called to property to review living conditions by the DHS. DHS was removing the children from the residence. Conditions were deplorable. 4 dogs and 4 cats in residence and it appears they defecated and urinated wherever they felt like it. Children's bedroom was full of debris and bathroom at the front was a mess, Could not see kitchen counters of floors, smell was terrible, Sink piled high with dirty dishes, appliances were black with food residue. Master bedroom has a pile of clothing 15ft in diameter by 7ft tall in one corner. Unable to see the floor in master bedroom. Master bathroom was not ideal but usable. Gave owner's daughter and son in law 1 week to make huge improvement or the property would be placarded (Claudia is bedridden and stays on the couch in the living room all the time). Requested floor egress be opened up, counter cleared, floors cleared and a path through the house with nothing on it. Also spoke to trailer court manager about getting extra trash containers on site for a while. They agreed and brought down 4 additional containers. Inspection a week later found improvement but also further issues as the counters and floors were disgusting with stuck on food and animal feces. Carpets were severely stained and also shredded by animals. Followed up on weekly basis and eventually children (teenagers) were allowed to return. Property is still far from compliance but being monitored. They have since added one more dog and it may be necessary to have the animals removed from the property as they seem to be causing much of the cleanup issues. **By-weekly inspection have been instituted and so far there has been progress in cleaning of the home. The tenants have made strides towards the home being cleaner. Pets within the home are a large contributing factor to the unsanitary conditions.**
- **241 Normandy Drive. Raymond and Marcia Scott.** Call from MPD and MFD to inspect trailer where there had been a medical call. Trailer had extensive deterioration of entry floor area and portion of the wall is even detached from the flooring. Broken spots in other flooring areas along with very poor sanitary conditions, debris blocking egress openings, and bathrooms inaccessible were cause for the residence to be posted for no occupancy. Family members say the owners will not be returning. Based on health issues with both owners this is a good choice. Property will remain posted until it either passes inspection or is demolished. **As of 7/1/2016 this property remains posted and unoccupied.**

1960 1st Ave. (Claudia Leslie). Property was posted for no occupancy for lack of utilities May 4th. Multiple other violations exist on the property. Owner and her son have started working on getting it back into compliance and will hopefully complete the exterior items over the next few months. Abatement notice sent to owner and her son to motivate them into getting the property exterior cleaned up sooner. They have since removed most of yard debris and are keeping the grass mowed. Code Compliance inspected the property and approved it for occupancy (all utilities back on and minimum requirements for occupancy met). Continuing to monitor progress on garage repairs. They are using special trash pick-ups to manage debris as they clean. Junk car has been removed. Claudia passed away several weeks ago so now her son Tom is responsible for the house. A large pile of debris in the drive near the curb has been there for 2 months now and needs to be removed but I can't get

Tom to answer his phone. A new number for Tom has been found and contact with him has been recent. A pile of garbage has been left at the curb for some time now. Tom plans on having a special pick up scheduled to remove these items. The items have been removed from the curb but Tom has started to accumulate more items by the garage. An abatement letter is being prepared. **Tom has removed all the items and the complaint has been closed.**

1885 Jackson Dr. (Shannon Moyer) A hoarding condition was discovered by the Marion PD during a domestic dispute response. The mobile home was noted as having "a lot of stuff". Although there is a lot of stuff there is no pet issue and no pest or vermin issue noted. Just a lot of stuff blocking pathways and egress doors and windows. An abatement letter was sent noting several items that needed to be completed on a graduated time frame. A few of these items have already been met and we are actively working on getting the remaining items completed. Inspections are being performed on a bi-weekly schedule currently. Shannon continues to procrastinate about getting the items cleaned up. I will have to post this property for no occupancy in the near future if it continues to be an issue. After a very serious threat from myself of posting the home with a Do Not Occupy Shannon has made significant strides towards removing all the clutter and debris from the home. Shannon and Kelly have rented a storage garage and continue to move boxes to the garage. They continue to make strides in clearing debris from the inside of their home. **After months of bi-weekly inspections their home is nearing the completion of my involvement. They are being encouraged to seek the help of someone that can help them organize and maybe even liquidate some items.**

4821 & 4831 Tama Street A complaint was received from a neighboring property owner about brush, trees and overgrowth behind this property. This property presents an unusual case as it butts up to the city owned ROW and DOT property. Coordination between the property owners, Parks Department, Alliant Energy (trees grown into power lines) and IDOT needs to happen in order to gain compliance on these properties. I do not anticipate this complaint being closed anytime in the near future. An abatement notice has been sent to all property owners and contact has been made with the DOT. The IDOT and 4831 Tama have cleaned their areas up. 4821 has been in contact with me and is employing a tree removal company to remove the trees and brush. Most of the trees noted have been cut down but have yet to be removed. Progress is being made albeit slow at times. Most of the trees and brush have been removed. There is one pile left that has been there for a month that seems to be an act of defiance. **All tree branches have been removed and the lawn is being maintained. This complaint has been closed.**

2595 5th Ave. (James Turner) This structure has been vacant for a very long time. The property has continued to deteriorate from the lack of maintenance and Jim was contacted several times by Neal. An abatement notice was sent to Jim recently and it appears that it has given the Turners ambition to sell the property. The lawn has been maintained but nothing has changed on the condition of the property. There were rumors of Ken Spence tearing the house down for them but nothing has materialized. The Turners have made a couple trips to see me here at City Hall to discuss the actions or lack thereof on their property. They are still actively pursuing the sale of the home but have yet to secure a buyer. If it comes down to it they will be tearing the home down themselves. The Turners continue to make trips to City Hall to update me on what is going on. I've made a few phone calls myself to try and secure a buyer for them. **Pat Turner has notified me that they have sold the property but have not closed on it yet.**

NEW OR ITEMS OF INTEREST:

2783 24th Street (Ken Spence) Many hours have been spent consulting and for a lack of a better term, babysitting this project. Ken's Ineptitude and incompetence are really the only way to describe why this project has ended up the way it did. There were 33 corrections noted during an occupancy inspection recently. Some were minor but most are major issues like structural deficiencies on the sunroom, zoning issues on attached and detached structures and foundation anchorage. Ken was informed early on when the house was first being moved that the anchor bolts were not code compliant yet he ignored our multiple attempts to correct this issue before the project nears completion. Now that the project is nearing completion he is combative and non-responsive to my solution to the problem(s). Another issue has arisen recently with the placement of a sunroom that was not on the original site plan that Dave Hockett spent multiple hours with Ken.

It was discovered that after myself questioning him multiple times if the sun room will fit on the lot that it was not located correctly. Ken was question at the following stages in the project:

- When it was perched precariously on blocks on the original lot (3501 29th Ave.).
- When it was finally moved because of myself badgering him on the unsafe condition it was left in and the need to complete all the items left on his purchase agreement.
- When he left the structure parked on the street at the new location blocking the neighbor's driveway for an entire night.
- When the neighbors at the new location called expressing their concern of the placement of the sunroom in relationship to their property.
- When I questioned Ken if he has located the property pins after he parked the trailer supporting the sunroom on the lot.
- When I told Ken to contact Dave Hockett each time before he moved it any closer to the house, before he removed enough material (which he illegally dumped on the 3495 29th Ave. lot and had to be called about), before he re-attached it to the dwelling and when he was all done to insure that the sunroom was not located closer than the minimum of 7' as required by the zoning code.
- Ken completed most of the items needed to be granted a temporary. Before these items were completed he demanded a certificate while at city hall and staged a sit-in until he got what he wanted. Ken requested and was granted a permit to modify the garden shed so to be compliant with the zoning code even though he had made application for a variance on this structure. An application for a variance on the placement of the sunroom remains and will be acted on June 21st.
- Ken's request for a variance on the sunroom was denied however Planning Department staff offered a way that the structure could stay. Ken performed these items and requested a re-inspection without addressing any items noted on the temporary occupancy list. ***Not much has been done within the last month on this project. My personal involvement has subsided as we seem to be getting a better response out of Ken when Amal communicates with him.***

CITY OWNED PROPERTY UPDATES:

29th and 35th properties. There have been multiple complaints received and addressed on the conditions of the properties being worked on by Mr. Spence. Both houses have been moved and only one of the foundations have been filled in and only because of several phone calls and email to Mr. Spence. We are currently monitoring the situations and addressing issues as they arise. Ken continues

to ignore aspects of the purchase agreement and needs to be reminded quite often. The deadline for completion of work on City property is April 1, 2016. Both foundations have been knocked in and covered. Ken called to inform me it was completely done. Again, Ken continues to ignore the items in the purchase agreement and needed to be reminded again of the items he needs to get done to meet the April 1st deadline. Multiple times Mr. Spence has been asked about completing the items set forth within the purchase agreement. Every time I see him on the properties to which the homes were moved he is questioned about it to which I either get silence or an "I'm working on it" response. Ken was also informed that if he doesn't complete the items that the city will be forced to employ someone to complete the job and then will seek reimbursement either through billing him, litigation or both. I'm not completely sure as to what course of action the city can take to seek reimbursement since my inquiries with Anne Kruse have gone unanswered as well. I have sought cooperation with Ryan Miller and the Public Service Department through an e-mail sent in early March and have received no response about completing the remaining items. I have since recently contacted Mike Carolan about finishing the grading and replacement of the sidewalks as this is all that remains and have yet to hear back from him as well. A RFP was sent out and 3 bids were received. I am currently communicating with the city attorneys about this matter before a memo will be sent to the city manager with my recommendations on what contractor I feel would be the best to complete the work left behind by Ken Spence. The bid was awarded to Abode Landscaping. Work commenced on the lots on 6/27/16 and was approved and accepted by the Parks, Engineering and Building Departments on 6/29/16.

- **Abode landscaping has completed all their required items and the lots were accepted. Maintenance on the lots has been turned over to the Parks Department.**

1543 6th Ave. City of Marion purchased property. Council has sent this to Historical Board for review. Parks Dept is maintaining.

525 11TH Street (old Urban Vintage Salon). Parks Department has winterized, secured exterior doors, removed junk, and cleaned up overgrowth from around the property. Looks much better. Decision still needs to be made on the future of this building.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- There were 8 new complaints and 9 complaints were closed making a total of 67 active complaints at this time.
- 15 of these are property maintenance code issues, 17 are housing code issues.
- There were 88 notes on nuisance inspections and communications recorded this month.

NUISANCE BOARD NOTES:

Next meeting will be the 1st Tuesday of September.

Items slated to be on the agenda are:

- New board member will be introduced. (Matt Milburn)
- Starting the review process of a Crime free housing program in surrounding communities.
- Hoarding condition at 988 14th Street.