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BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE

PRESS RELEASE

BUILDING PERMITS REEQUIRED FOR SWIMMING POOLS

Effective immediately, the Borough of Greencastle will ensure compliance with the PA Uniform Construction Code (UCC) requirement that all swimming pools and spas constructed or installed in the borough on or after July 1, 2004 have a valid building permit and certificate of occupancy. The borough is taking this position due to the proliferation of pools in the borough, many of which do not meet pool safety standards identified in the borough zoning ordinance or the PA Uniform Construction Code.

Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep requires the permit. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. Safety standards require, among other things, a fence or wall that is not less than four feet in height. In addition, all gates or doors opening through the fence must be erected, maintained and provided with a self-closing, self-locking gate to prevent unauthorized use of the pool and to prevent accidents.

Pool owners will be required to provide proof that the pool was constructed or installed before July 1, 2004, or present a certificate of occupancy for the pool. Property owners who did not obtain the required permit and certificate of occupancy must make application to the borough office for a Land Use Permit. The Land Use Permit must then be presented to one of the Borough's two code inspection services, Commonwealth Code Inspection Service, Inc. in Chambersburg or Accredited Services Code Inspection Agency in Waynesboro, to obtain the building permit. Following inspection of the pool and the completion of any required improvements the code inspection service will issue the required certificate of occupancy. The Land Use application fee for pools already installed is \$25.00. Fees for new pool construction or installation will be based on the price of the work to be done.

Borough manager and zoning officer Ken Womack says that pools already constructed or installed will not be required to meet the setback requirements for new pool construction. However, the pools must meet all current safety requirements in the borough's zoning ordinance and in the PA Uniform Construction Code.

“There are just too many pools in the borough, particularly non-permanent pools, which are being installed without the property safety devices,” says Womack. “Our intent is not to make this an added burden to our citizens, but to ensure there are no tragic accidents that are so characteristic of swimming pools when proper safety measures are not installed and maintained.” (see attached pictures).

For more details, contact the Borough Office at 717-597-7143.

