

News from Avon Township

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Perhaps the six words I hear most often in my position as Clerk are, “Do I need a permit to . . .?”

Great question. In general, most Township permits – including feedlot permits, conditional use permits, interim use permits, and zoning changes – are all handled by Stearns County Environmental Services.

The County also issues building permits for the Township. You need a building permit in Avon Township if you are planning new construction or are changing the envelope of an existing building. You don’t need a building permit to replace shingles or siding or windows, but you do need one if you change the roofline or install a style of window that protrudes out further than the existing one. You also don’t need a building permit to construct a deck so long as it won’t be more than one foot off the ground. When in doubt, contact Environmental Services or me.

The two main permits residents obtain from the Township are variances and driveway permits. Variances are typically required if you want to build closer to the road than is currently allowed by ordinance. A driveway permit is necessary if you plan to widen or modify your driveway, If you need a variance or driveway permit, then contact me to get the process going (clerk@avontownship.org).

Even though Stearns County handles building permits, you will be required to have it signed by me or other Township official. By requiring a Township signature on the County building permit it insures that the Town will be aware of a planned building project and can get the resident started on a Township driveway permit if necessary.

Burning permits are obtained from the MN DNR.

For more information about permits, contact me, Stearns County Environmental Services (320-656-3613) and/or check out our Township website (www.avontownship.org). Then, you may hear my six favorite words, “Congratulations, your permit has been granted.”

As a final note, I will close by recognizing the passing of Brian Brix and Marcy Heinen who each served the Township for many years. Brian was a past member of the Planning Commission while Marcy served an election judge. We thank them for their service and join their families and many friends who will miss them.