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Junction City joins Oregon's e-permitting program

Buy building permits, track projects online

(Salem) — Junction City became the fourth building department in Lane County to join Oregon's full-service e-permitting program when it debuted the service Nov. 15. The program, administered by the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division, allows contractors to submit plans, track projects, and buy various permits online.

Junction City is the ninth jurisdiction statewide to use the program. The others are Springfield, Cottage Grove, Lebanon, Jefferson County, Milwaukie, West Linn, Lincoln City, and Florence. The division is working to bring 11 other jurisdictions on board. The program has the capacity to serve all 134 local building departments in Oregon.

"The ability to have our permit office open 24/7 is a huge help to our small building department," said Kay Bork, planning director for Junction City. "Full-service permitting will offer our customers even greater options."

Full-service e-permitting builds on the "basic services" e-permitting program, which allows contractors to buy simple, non-plan review permits online from 34 jurisdictions. To date, more than 90,000 permit applications have been processed online through e-permitting, at BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov.

With full-service e-permitting, licensed contractors can access many more services, including:

- Purchasing a full range of permits including permits for the construction of new buildings
- Submitting electronic plans for review
- Receiving correction notices
- Printing their permit
- Tracking the permit progress
- Receiving their Certificate of Occupancy

In addition, licensed architects and engineers can submit applications, including documents for new buildings.

"We love it. It works great, is easy to use, and we get our permits so much faster," said Karen Eliason from Beacon Electric & Lighting in Eugene.

The e-permitting system was developed using software from Accela, Inc., which facilitates shared services approaches for state and local governments.

"As a third-party plan review and inspection agency, we are very excited to be part of this change," Allan Clair, building official for Clair Company, Inc., whose company contracts with Junction City. "We are continuously looking for more efficient and cost-effective means of providing the best building department operations, plan

review, and inspection services to our clients and their customers. With help from the Building Codes Division and the e-permitting program, we are able to do just that.”

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The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon’s largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcb.s.oregon.gov.