

## GRANT COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION

Fairmount \* Jonesboro \* Matthews \* Sweetser \* Upland \* Van Buren \* Unincorporated Grant County

To Whom It May Concern:

There have been some changes in the Grant County Area Plan Office! As many of you may already be aware, Nicole Bailey was recently promoted to the Building Inspector position. Nicole can be contacted at **765-517-0262** with any questions you may have for the Building Inspector. <u>If needing to schedule an inspection</u>, please call Rita Garriott, our Permits Clerk at the Area Plan Office at **765-668-4765**. Also noted, Katie Kabel has taken over as our Full Time Code Enforcement Officer & Grace Brown has recently taken over as the Full Time Code Enforcement Secretary.

## "New" for 2024

- 1. For 2024, we will be launching our "New" Permitting Program, GeoPermits is here! You will be able to do your own permits, pay, schedule, review, etc...all from your Home or Office. Starting with Contractor Registration, we ask all that can, please register on-line. Note, we can still register contractors in the Office or over the phone. The cost to register is still \$30.00.
- 2. The Area Plan Office will be planning a couple "Workshops" to better introduce GeoPermits to the community, we plan to help train through workshops or you can set up a time to be trained in the Office.
- 3. GeoPermits will help remind Owners & Contractors of forgotten Inspections by emailing out "Friendly Reminders" of needed inspections at 90, 120, and 180 Days. In doing so, it also allows us to better monitor, administer, and collect fines from those Owners & Contractors that seem to have forgotten about calling for required inspections.
  - a. Area Plan currently has 1,463 Open Permits, with just under half of those permits being from 2021 & 2022. 60% of those Permits from 2021 & 2022 could generate fines due to missed inspections, no Final Inspection, no Certificate of Occupancy, Expired Permits, etc...
  - b. Note, as a reminder, it is the responsibility of the <u>Owner or Owner's Authorized Agent</u> to call for all Required Inspections. Fees & Fines can be assessed for missed inspections to either Owner or Owner's Authorized Agent, or both. Be aware, Expired Permits are now generally turned over to our Code Enforcement Office.
- 4. GeoPermits will allow all information to remain with the Parcel. Eventually every department in the building will be able to add to the Parcel. Records for Septic, past Building Plans, past Permits, past Code Enforcement, etc... can be viewed by all, just by going to the parcel.
- 5. Reminder, Grant County Area Plan's Jurisdiction includes all Un-Incorporated Grant County Areas as well as Van Buren, Upland, Matthews, Jonesboro, Fairmount, & Sweetser.

If you have any questions, please contact our office Monday thru Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Additional Information can be found on Area Plan's web site, found at <u>areaplan@grantcounty.in.gov</u>

## GeoPermits<sup>™</sup>

## GeoPermits<sup>™</sup> Benefits for the Applicant

- No need to drive to apply for a permit.
- Multiple trips to government offices are eliminated.
- Customer service improved by minimizing bottlenecks.
- **24/7/365 access** and communication during the permit process, even when offices are physically closed.
- Permits are processed consistently and efficiently.
- Notifications are automated.
- Duplication of effort is avoided, and errors are reduced.
- Automated data entry.
- Payments can be made online.
- By greatly reducing time & man hours needed in Office, Office is freed up to better service the community.
- 19 Jurisdictions in Indiana are already using GeoPermits!
  - Around Grant County: Howard County, Miami County, and Huntington County already use GeoPermits. Your Username is valid in each Jurisdiction!

Just follow the link to establish your User Name & Password: <u>https://permitting.schneidergis.com/jurisdiction/d3b24025-d6bd-4378-93ce-bdd13037dec2</u>

• Links can also be found on the Grant County Area Plan Web Page: <u>www.grantcounty.net/grant-county-offices/area-plan</u>

As the Area Plan Office continues to work on the GeoPermits Software, your input is needed. We will continue to "Fine Tune" the Software on our end, but we truly want to know how to make your life easier also. In many cases, it will take longer for you to get to the Area Plan Office than it would to fill out the Permit Application at home or in your office. It doesn't get any easier than that, but if you have an idea or suggestion, we are all ears. Believe me, we have been working with 1997 Software, all these years, the staff is exited to move into the future!

Ryan J. Malott, MCP Executive Director Grant County Area Plan Commission 765-668-4765 (Office) 765-506-1762 (Cell) Email: <u>rmalott@grantcounty.net</u> ICC Certified B1 Residential Building Inspector Member of Indiana Association of Building Officials (I.A.B.O.)