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Building codes protect your investments ZE

May 6-13 is Building Safety Week sponsored by the International Code Council. The purpose is to draw attention to the purpose and need of codes. After hurricanes Katrina and Rita the Louisiana Legislature passed some laws intended to strengthen the requirements for new home and commercial construction. Unfortunately, some things were added in that were unobtainable. Among those were requiring the entire state to have all buildings inspected by certified building inspectors as of Jan. 1, 2007. It was unobtainable because we don't have enough certified inspectors to inspect the entire state.

The city of Shreveport is working with surrounding communities in Caddo Parish, but we can't stretch our resources to other parishes. Because there aren't enough inspectors to go around, some are

trying to gut the entire law. There are even proposals that the builder sign an affidavit stating the house was built according to code. However, no matter how diligent and honorable the home builder is, most houses have an issue of some type.

In fact, the local home builders have been very vocal about wanting inspections. They see us as an extra set of eyes and they sincerely want to build a quality house. Allowing someone to sign a piece of paper saying they built it

correctly is not in your best interests.

While speaking of your best interests, spring is here and it's time for home improvements.

Some of these will be of your choosing and some will be because of damage caused by Mother Nature. Be very careful when selecting a contractor. There are requirements for license, insurance, permits and inspections. Insist on seeing all of these. Saving a few dollars and allowing work without a permit is not only illegal, but could prove tragic for your family. If there is no permit, there is no inspection.

Remember, codes keep you safe and protect your investment. If you have questions call Permits and Inspections at 673-6100.

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OPINION

