



Real Estate Buzz

OCTOBER 2017

- Property lien searches can be conducted through the Lien Services Division. Lien Services researches departments within the city to provide you with any records of liens and payoff information.
<https://forms.cityofpsl.com/Finance/LSD/LiensSearch>
- **Did you know that you can view a list of permits that was pulled on a property?** Simply go to <https://pandapublicweb.cityofpsl.com/Bldg/PropertySearch.aspx> enter the property address and select search. Statuses of all permits are also noted.
- To view a list of residential permits that were issued or applied for within the City of Port St. Lucie's jurisdiction, go to <https://pandapublicweb.cityofpsl.com/PandaReports/Reports.aspx>
- **What to do with hazardous waste such as paint, chemicals, pesticides, oil, etc.?** Household hazardous waste cannot be picked up with regular household garbage, but can be disposed of in two ways:
 - The Public Works Department hosts a free hazardous household waste drop-off day once a year. The department also has free drop off sites at city buildings for rechargeable batteries (cell phones, etc.). Call (772) 871-5100 for more information.
 - The St. Lucie County Bailing and Recycling facility accepts many of these items. Call (772) 462-1768 for hours and for information about what will be accepted. This facility is located at 6120 Glades Cutoff Road, in Fort Pierce.
- **Protect your investment, hire a State Licensed Contractor.** While hiring, an unlicensed Contractor may provide a quick fix in the short term, it could result in serious and lasting consequences, including further damage to your property. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) investigates varying cases of alleged unlicensed construction activity including, work not up to building code, homeowners paying for a job that is not complete, and Contractors abandoning the project. By hiring a licensed Contractor, the homeowner can have peace of mind knowing that the project will be done by someone who has acquired the appropriate education, holds proper workers' compensation and/or liability insurance, and possesses the necessary experience. To report unlicensed activity, please contact the Contractor Licensing Division at 772-871-6371.

Warning signs that a Contractor may not be licensed:

- Unlicensed Contractors often target the uninformed and inexperienced, as well as the elderly.
 - No license number in advertisement or posting. By law, Contractors licensed by DBPR must include their license number in all advertising.
 - They want all or most of the money upfront and will only accept cash. They may also want you to write a check to them individually or make it payable to "cash".
 - They give you a P.O Box address instead of a street address.
 - They show up in unmarked vehicles offering to do work and often have out-of-state tags.
 - They try to convince you a permit is not necessary or that it's cheaper if you obtain the permit.
- **Lobby Hours:** Permitting lobby will close at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays for weekly staff meetings. Lobby hours for the remainder of the week will be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - **Did you know you can leave the Inspector a note when requesting an inspection?** Contractors and Homeowners can leave a note for the Inspector when scheduling an inspection. You can enter notes like key location, access information, permit card location, gate codes, or specific details to help prevent an inspection rejection.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

- Proper fences, barriers, alarms and covers can be lifesaving devices. A fence of at least four feet in height should surround the pool or spa on all sides and should be removable. Access gates shall be self-closing and shall comply with the requirements of FBC sections R4501.17.1.1 and R4501.17.1.7 and shall be equipped with a self-latching locking device located on the pool side gate. Teach children to never to climb over the gate or fence. Install a door alarm from the house to the pool area, and keep pool and spa covers in working order.
- ❖ As part of our commitment to water safety education, we are proud to partner with Pool Safely, a national drowning prevention campaign aimed at ending fatal and nonfatal child drownings and entrapments. Three years ago, the campaign launched the Pool Safely Pledge, a call to action and commitment to keeping families safer in and around water. With our help, over 60,000 people have signed the Pledge, including Olympic champions Michael Phelps and Kate Ledskey. Summer swim season is not over yet! If you haven't taken the Pledge, please take a moment to do so now by visiting, <https://www.poolsafely.gov/pledge>. After you've taken it, #PledgeItOn by passing it on to your friends and family by tagging them on social media. Thank you for your commitment to water safety!

SMOKE ALARMS

- **Why are smoke alarms so important?** Every year in the United States, about 2,000 people lose their lives in residential fires. In a fire, smoke and deadly gases spread farther and faster than heat. That's one reason why most fire victims die from inhalation of smoke and toxic gases, not from burns. A smoke alarm stands guard around the clock, and when it first senses smoke, it sets off the alarm. This often allows a family the precious, but limited time to escape.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas, and inside bedrooms. A smoke alarm should be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.

BUSINESS TAX

- If you did not renew your Business Tax by September 30, 2017, please note an additional fee will be applied to the renewal fee as follows: October 2017 (10%), November 2017 (15%), December 2017 (20%), January 2018 (25%), if the Business Tax has not been renewed by February 2018, a 25% fee will be added to the renewal fee and a \$250 fine will be applied.
- Effective October 1st, Real Estate directional sign permits can be applied for in the Business Tax Department.

HOWS OUR SERVICE? We want to hear from you! Email us at buildingadmin@cityofpsl.com to share your experience, send a suggestion or compliment a staff member.