

For Immediate Release  
**Jo Daviess County Planning & Development Department**  
**815-591-3810**  
5/3/24

## **Construction Season: When and Why You Need Permit**

Warmer weather is here and you may be considering starting a home repair or residential construction project. Did you know that repairing deck railings requires a permit? Finally finishing the basement? Yes, that needs a permit too.

The Jo Daviess County Planning and Development Department wants to remind those living in the unincorporated areas of the County that certain construction projects will need a building permit from the County Planning and Development Office, located at 1 Commercial Drive in Hanover. Some of the projects that would need a permit in the unincorporated areas of the County are:

### Any New Structure

- ✓ House
- ✓ Accessory Building (over 120 sq. ft.)
- ✓ Deck
- ✓ Ag Structure

### Remodeling, Repairs, or Additions

- ✓ Any structural change or reinforcing
- ✓ Any work that involves electrical wiring and/or plumbing
- ✓ New Deck Railings or Deck Stairs
- ✓ Finishing the basement
- ✓ Converting part or all of an accessory building into living space

## **Why Do You Need a Permit?**

We understand the investment that you are making when you begin a construction project. Permits provide the first line of defense to ensure that work is done safely and help protect you and your investment through our site review, plan review, and construction oversight. Permits also provide a record of the work performed. Lack of permits and inspection approvals may:

- Void insurance coverage for any damages caused by or to the unpermitted work.
- Make your house or property more difficult to sell, as the buyer or lending institution may require that unpermitted work be corrected before closing.

More information and applications for Planning & Development can be found on the Jo Daviess County website at [www.jodaviesscountyil.gov](http://www.jodaviesscountyil.gov).

For questions, call us at 815-591-3810 or email [plan@jodaviesscountyil.gov](mailto:plan@jodaviesscountyil.gov).

Pick up or drop off an application at our office at 1 Commercial Drive, Suite 1, Hanover IL.