

Escambia County

Code Enforcement Team Visits

In August, the PKA Board was pleased to have a visit from Supervisor Steve Littlejohn and Code Enforcement Officer Richard Craig of the Escambia County Code Enforcement Division. Environmental Enforcement enforces and investigates codes, ordinances, state statutes, and administrative code violations committed in Escambia County. Animal Control is also a section of Environmental Enforcement.

Richard Craig is directly assigned to the Perdido Key area. He patrols SW Escambia and Perdido Key regularly, looking for problems and responding to complaints. In an effort to better understand the role of Code Enforcement and PKA concerns for maintaining the community we invited an informal Question and Answer session. Several members attended and it was an interesting discussion.

Personnel from Environmental Code Enforcement enforce codes and regulations protecting the environment and quality of life in Escambia County. This division investigates environmental issues in response to complaints filed by citizens about various conditions and activities with their neighborhoods. Code Enforcement responds to complaints regarding Nuisance Conditions, Land Development Code, Public Health and Safety, Environmental Crimes, Unsafe Building Structures and Animal Control. They can directly address any issue that is subject to Escambia County Code of Ordinances; however they are also a great resource as a first point of contact for issues wherein the citizen may not know who to call. If the problem is not one that they can help with, they are able to document the complaint and then direct it to the appropriate governing agency, such as the Florida Fish & Wildlife, Army Corp. of Engineers, ECUA or law enforcement. These are the guys on the ground, driving around and ready to help.

Following Ivan, when the island was such a mess, and for so long – Code Enforcement took a beating in the eyes of the public. Citizens wanted it cleaned up and Now! The division had a steep learning curve in entering that literal mountain of work with a very limited staff and resources. Since that time they have added officers, most of whom have some law enforcement training and have added a computerized system on laptops for patrol vehicles. Where officers used to have to go back and forth to an office in order to research property owners, contact owners and file reports: they now can do it onsite. However, even then there are times when complicated legal issues related to property ownership slow clean-up progress. Code Enforcement continues to monitor such problem while the case moves through the court system.

The PKA board was impressed with the level of commitment expressed by both of these gentlemen for assuring that Escambia County is a clean, healthy place to live. Officer Craig has stayed in touch since our meeting to monitor some issues that the board brought to his attention and has been directly instrumental in helping keep the grass properly mowed along the River Road bike path. The Code Enforcement Office can be reached at 850-471-6160. Officer Craig can be reached directly at 554-7160.

