On August 3, 2016, the Industrialized Buildings Advisory Committee heard presentations regarding the tiny house movement and a tiny house model was brought to DCA for touring. The committee is encouraging factory-built tiny houses for inclusion into the industrialized buildings program. DCA is trying to serve as a bridge between the tiny house movement and Georgia’s industrialized buildings manufacturers. This will provide the housing market with more options for affordable housing, as well as enhance the safety and quality of these homes.

In April 2016, the State Codes Advisory Committee (SCAC) recommended the adoption of a new Mandatory State Minimum Standard Code and Georgia State Amendments. The DCA Board approved these changes in November 2016. The 2012 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) with 2014 Georgia State Amendments has been changed from Permissive to Mandatory. Permissive codes are optional and must be adopted by a local government ordinance in order to be enforced locally. However, the mandatory codes have statewide applicability by state law and do not require local adoption. The 2012 ISPSC with 2014 Georgia State Amendments is mandatory and applicable statewide on January 1, 2017.

Also, Section 3006.4 ‘Machine Rooms’ of the current 2012 International Building Code (IBC) has been amended as follows: “Elevator machine rooms and machinery spaces shall be enclosed with fire barriers constructed in accordance with Section 707 or horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both. The fire-resistance rating shall be not less than two hours. Openings in the fire barriers shall be protected with assemblies having a fire protection rating not less than that required for the hoist-way enclosure doors.” This amendment is effective on January 1, 2017.

Copies of the current State Amendments are available to download at: http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/constructioncodes/programs/codeAmendments.asp. If you have any questions, contact the Codes Program Office at (404) 679-3118 or codes@dca.ga.gov.
NEW, MANDATORY RESIDENTIAL POOL CODE IN GEORGIA, EFFECTIVE 1/1/17.

The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) is the first comprehensive pool code coordinated with the current requirements in the International Codes and APSP standards. Benefits of the ISPSC include seamless integration with the widely-adopted family of International Codes, meets or exceeds the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act requirements, covers fencing, decks, lighting, heaters, circulation systems, pumps, accessibility, diving, sanitizing equipment, filters, and suction fittings, and includes provisions for diving barriers, general design, and water quality safety.

The ISPSC is important to all segments of the industry because it creates one all-inclusive uniform pool and spa code that will be used statewide. The 2012 edition was approved unanimously by the Georgia Dept. of Community Affairs (DCA) in 2016.

DATES & CITIES:
(see registration contact for specific location and address. The first 9 classes are between 11AM – 1PM and lunch is provided.)

- Dec. 7 Macon
- Dec. 15 Decatur
- Jan. 11, 2017 Savannah
- Jan. 25 Columbus
- Jan. 26 Valdosta
- Feb. 22 Augusta
- March 1 Rome
- March 8 Alpharetta
- March 29 Athens
- May 21-25 BOAG Conference @ Marietta Conference Center
- July 23-27 Georgia State Inspectors Association Conference

TO REGISTER, CONTACT:

For building officials
Matt McConnell
Construction Codes & Industrialized Buildings Consultant, DCA
404-679-1739
Matt.McConnell@dca.ga.gov
(No charge for building officials. Must provide own book. Attendees will earn 2.0 hours CEU credit.)

For contractors
Tracie Maxhimer
Chapter coordinator, APSP Georgia
(404) 405-5366
gorgiaAPSP@gmail.com
($75 for APSP members, $150 for non-members. Includes book. Attendees will earn 2.0 hours APSP CEU credit.)

About the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC)

2012 ISPSC Online Order Form

Presented by:

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals®

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs is partnering with the Association of Pool Spa Professionals (APSP) to provide trainings around the state to educate building officials and industry professionals about the International Pool and Spa Code, becoming mandatory on January 1st, 2017. Shawn Still with APSP will be leading the trainings that will include lunch and 2 hours of CEU credits. For further information, please contact Matt McConnell at matt.mcconnell@dca.ga.gov or (404) 679-1739.
The Georgia Department of Community Affairs, upon recommendation of the State Codes Advisory Committee (SCAC), is in the process of reviewing the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and making recommendations to the SCAC regarding its adoption. On December 1, 2016, the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) Task Force was charged with reviewing the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code and any proposed amendments, in order to replace the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code as the State Minimum Standard Energy Code.

Joel Rodriguez and Ryan Taylor were selected as the task force Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this committee. The task force is made of 17 members representing pertinent organizations in the construction industry; the organizations represented are as follows:

- Joel Rodriguez, Chairman, representing SCAC and Building Officials Association of Georgia (BOAG)
- Ryan Taylor, Vice-Chairman, representing SCAC and American Institute of Architects (AIA)
- Neal Davis, representing Home Builders Association of Georgia (HBAG)
- Mike Barcik, representing Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)
- Kelly Cutts, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)
- Stephen Adams, Associated General Contractors of Georgia (AGC Georgia)
- Jim Moody, representing Construction Supplier’s Association
- David Hirsch, representing Georgia Apartment Association (GAA)
- Mark Gallman, representing Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA Georgia)
- Ron Anderson, representing Georgia State Inspectors Association (GSIA)
- James Martin, representing Building Officials Association of Georgia (BOAG)
- Scott Walters, representing American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
- Darrell Howell, representing Utility Companies
- Lauren Westmoreland, representing Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA)
- John Pruitt, representing ASHRAE
- Elaine Powers, representing Conditioned Air Association of Georgia (CAAG)
- Max Rietschier, representing Insulation Industry.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Seti, DCA Task Force Liaison by phone at (404) 679-3104 or by email at setareh.ordoobadi@dca.ga.gov.

DCA is participating in statewide stakeholder engagement by presenting information about the Georgia Energy Code Field Study results.

This includes the creation of the Energy HUB, a content resource that will be available on the DCA website.

The webpage will contain a calendar of events and trainings with reservation information. It will also serve as a central location with web links to all available web-based resources, e.g. energy code materials, documents and other resources related to increasing energy code compliance in Georgia and pertaining to the Georgia Residential Field Study project.

Southface will work closely with SEEA to design and perform a series of trainings based on the key issue items in the Georgia Field Study workshops.
On December 8, 2016, the National Electrical Code Task Force will be charged with reviewing the 2017 National Electrical Code and any proposed amendments, in order to replace the 2014 National Electrical Code as the State Minimum Standard Electrical Code. The task force is made of nine members representing various groups of the construction industry and are as follows:

- Robert Maddox, Chairman, representing State Codes Advisory Committee (SCAC) and Electrical Engineers
- Jim Scerenscko, Vice Chairman, representing State Codes Advisory Committee (SCAC) and Licensed Electrical Contractors
- Mark Mitchell, representing Building Officials Association of Georgia (BOAG)
- Rob Zapata, representing Home Builders Association of Georgia (HBAG)
- Roger McDaniel, representing International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI)
- Josh Roth, representing Georgia State Inspectors Association (GSIA)
- Tim Trotter, representing American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
- Chad Shaw, representing Atlanta Electrical Contractors Association (AECA)
- Vicki Guay, representing State Fire Marshal’s Office (State Fire Inspectors)

The first three meetings of the task force will be on the following dates:

- December 8, 2016
- January 12, 2017
- February 16, 2017

The task force will make their initial progress report to the State Codes Advisory Committee on April 13, 2017 and its final report to the SCAC at the June 22, 2017, SCAC meeting. After approval of recommendations from the task force and the State Codes Advisory Committee, the 2017 NEC is tentatively scheduled for an effective date of January 1, 2018.

If you have any questions or would like to be placed in the interested parties list for the 2017 NEC Task Force, please contact Matt McConnell at matt.mcconnell@dca.ga.gov or (404) 679-1739.

DWAYNE GARRISS ELECTED ICC PRESIDENT

The Department of Community Affairs would like to congratulate Dwayne Garriss, Georgia State Fire Marshal, on being elected President of the International Codes Council. Having been involved with ICC since before the first publication of the ICC codes in 2000, Dwayne has served on numerous ICC Committees and held multiple offices, including Secretary/Treasurer and Vice President of the ICC Board of Directors. His experience and expertise made him the ideal candidate to become President of the International Codes Council.

Dwayne Garriss, State Fire Marshal and new ICC President

MAY - BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

Building Codes: Driving Growth through Innovation, Resilience and Safety.

Governor Nathan Deal signed a proclamation on April 19 declaring May 2016 as Building Safety Month in Georgia. Founded by the International Code Council (ICC), Building Safety Month is celebrated by jurisdictions worldwide during the month of May.

Building Safety Month is a public awareness campaign offered each year to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures. The campaign reinforces the need for adoption of modern, model building codes, a strong and efficient system of code enforcement, and a well-trained, professional workforce to maintain the system.
TINY HOUSES: BIG IDEAS, SMALL FOOTPRINTS

Overview: The idea of tiny houses is gaining rapid popularity over various demographics across the country due to television, HGTV reality shows and internet blogs. The implementation of the idea is receiving attention not only as a viable solution to the housing problem, but also as a path toward the minimalist life style and environmental consciousness. A tiny house may not be ideal for everyone; however, it is a solution to multiple housing issues. It is an option for the housing market which should match with the life style and needs of its occupants. Affordability, job mobility and shifting economic conditions are some of the main reasons for the popularity of this alternative solution. There is no official definition yet, however loosely defined, tiny houses range from about 100 to 400 square feet in total floor area.

Decatur Tiny House Festival (Photo credit: J and D Images)

There are three basic types of tiny houses:

1. **Stick-built Tiny Houses.** Stick-built tiny houses are custom built on-site by state licensed home builders or by the homeowners themselves. They must comply with the current state residential building codes for residential construction and any local ordinance requirements. Local construction permits and building inspections are typically required for tiny houses the same as for stick built houses.

2. **Modular Residential Industrialized Buildings (IB) Tiny Houses.** Residential IB tiny houses are factory-built by DCA approved manufacturers. They are intended for residential use and installed on permanent foundations. Each building is fully inspected during the open construction phase at a state approved manufacturing facility by independent third party agencies. A DCA state insignia is affixed to each completed unit which certifies the tiny house complies with the state codes and IB Program Rules thereby providing a mechanism for local approvals.

3. **Tiny Houses on Wheels.** Tiny Houses on Wheels (THOWs) are factory-built on a metal chassis with wheels and are intended for temporary use and recreational purposes only. Typically, they are factory-built and certified by third party agencies to comply with Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) standards. Park Models and Recreational Park Vehicles, which are RVIA certified, cannot exceed 400 SF in total area.

Note: For questions about HUD manufactured (mobile) homes that are 400 SF and larger, contact the State Fire Marshal’s Office at 404-656-9498.
Building Codes: Tiny houses, like all other houses, are required to comply with the State and local Building Codes. In Georgia, one and two dwelling units must comply with the following State Codes and Amendments:

- 2012 International Residential Code (IRC) w/ 2014 & 2015 GA Amendments
- 2012 International Plumbing Code (IPC) w/ 2014 & 2015 GA Amendments
- 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC) w/ no GA amendments

Some of the typical code barriers for tiny houses are: ceiling height, sanitation, toilet, bath and shower spaces, emergency escape and rescue opening, means of egress, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, ladder stairs, sleeping lofts and minimum room size.

One of the main obstacles for tiny houses to comply with 2012 IRC, is the minimum room size requirement. A proposed State Code amendment has been submitted to IRC Section 304.6 Minimum Room Size, to reduce the minimum room size of the habitable room size from 120 square feet to 70 square feet. This will make it easier for the tiny houses to comply with the code.

A number of cities in Georgia are already trying to find ways to make tiny houses viable.

In the City of Savannah, the Authority for the Homeless is planning to build a homeless village of 65 tiny house units. The City of Decatur has changed their local zoning which makes way for the city’s plan to build a cottage court development. Finally, the city of Atlanta is currently conducting a feasibility study on tiny houses.

Despite many cites starting to move forward, there are still many code compliance issues that will need to be solved. Nevertheless, the discussion about safe, affordable and code compliant tiny houses is well underway.

Ted Miltiades talked to a big crowd on the tiny house code requirement and compliances.

City of Decatur hosted the Tiny House Festival in August 2016.

Zoning Requirement: Another obstacle for tiny houses that must be overcome is local zoning and planning. Local zoning ordinances regulate land use, location, height, width, type of foundation, number of stories and size of buildings. These zoning ordinances vary by cities and counties and the local jurisdiction must be consulted for specific requirements.
RESIDENTIAL STORAGE SHEDS, SHIPPING CONTAINERS AND TINY HOUSES: SHOULD THEY BE INCLUDED IN GEORGIA’S INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDINGS PROGRAM?

The Industrialized Buildings Advisory Committee (IBAC) met on August 3, 2016 at the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The main topics of discussion were residential storage sheds, shipping containers and tiny houses – should they be included in Georgia’s Industrialized Buildings (IB) program?

Residential Storage Sheds. Residential storage shed and utility building manufacturers are not currently regulated by the State of Georgia, but they are regulated by Florida and other states. The IBAC is considering residential sheds to be allowed in GA’s IB Program. Residential sheds are classified as accessory structures, e.g. lawn and garden and tool sheds, detached garages and carports, etc. and must comply with the IRC residential code. They are not designed or intended for human habitation. Regulating residential sheds will ensure safe and quality built structures and assist local jurisdictions with code enforcement issues such as construction permits and inspections. Pre-fabricated ready-to-assemble sheds and do-it-yourself knock-down shed kits intended for assembly onsite by others will be excluded.

The committee heard the proposed draft changes that would be required to include residential sheds in the current IB Rules. The IBAC decided to table any further discussion on the matter until the next meeting. Representatives of the shed manufacturing industry, local building officials and third party inspection agencies were encouraged to attend the next meeting to address any concerns and recommendations.

Shipping Containers. The IBAC also revisited the issue of including new and used shipping containers in the GA IB Program. The IBAC is reconsidering if shipping containers should be allowed for habitable commercial and residential uses, non-occupied commercial uses only and for limited use only as construction site office buildings. Currently, shipping containers do not fall under the scope of GA’s IB program rules. However, shipping containers are rapidly replacing the typical type of IB buildings which have been traditionally manufactured, sold, and rented as construction site office and storage buildings.

There are several issues which need to be resolved regarding the approval and recertification of used shipping containers, specifically, which third party inspection protocols and industry standards should be utilized. As a result, the IBAC recommended tabling this matter for further study until the next meeting. Since then, the Modular Building Institute has formed an industry study committee to review shipping containers and inspection protocols. DCA will actively monitor their progress.
Tiny Houses. The IBAC committee heard presentations on tiny houses and has determined nothing would prohibit tiny houses from being factory-built on frame (not on a metal chassis) by International Residential Code (IRC) approved IB manufacturers for installation on permanent foundations. However, they must comply with the current IRC code requirements and be third party inspected in the manufacturing plant according to the IB Program Rules. Tiny Houses on Wheels (THOWs) are not covered under the scope of the IRC code and since they are built on a metal chassis, they cannot be approved as Residential Industrialized Buildings.

Three SCAC members were assigned to attend the IBAC meeting and report back on any developments to the SCAC. The IBAC recommended a proposed code change be forwarded to the SCAC for consideration, which reduces the minimum area required for habitable rooms from 120 to 70 square feet. If approved, this proposed change will help tiny houses installed on permanent foundations comply with the IRC Code.

Hopefully, including tiny houses in GA’s IB program will stimulate economic development by reopening idle manufacturing plants in South Georgia which were shut down due to the recession. For questions and further assistance, contact the IB Program Office at (404) 679-3118 or by email at dca-ib@dca.ga.gov.

The DCA team visited Industrialized Buildings Manufacturer Frey Moss Structures in Conyers. Currently, there are 85 manufacturers in GA’s IB program. Of those companies, 20 are located in Georgia.

Below, from left: Ed Duggan, Frey Moss Quality Control Manager; Rusty Haygood, DCA Division Director; Mark Irby, DCA Accounting; Ted Miltiades, Director; Seti Ordoobadi, Code Consultant and others.
Q. Are permissive codes, such as the International Property Maintenance Code, required to be adopted by local ordinance in order to be enforced locally?

A. Yes, permissive codes must be adopted by local ordinance in order to be enforced locally. Local jurisdictions must state their intent is to adopt and enforce the permissive code in their ordinance, and they must file the ordinance with the DCA.

On January 1, 2017 the 2012 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) with Georgia State Amendments will become a Mandatory State Minimum Standard Code. The ISPSC was previously a permissive code that required cities and counties to adopt locally in order to be enforceable.
SETI ORDOOBADI, BUILDING CODES CONSULTANT

Setareh (Seti) Ordoobadi joined DCA in May 2016, as a Building Codes Consultant in the Community Development Division, Office of Construction Codes and Industrialized Buildings. Before joining DCA, she worked as a teacher assistant at the University of Southern California.

She also worked as a junior architect at ATEC Consultant for five years. She has gained over five years of research and design experience. Seti holds a Master of Advanced Architectural Studies, Post-Professional in computational architecture from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. She received her Master of Architecture degree from the University of Tehran, College of Fine Art. Seti graduated with a Bachelor’s in Architecture from the University of Shiraz. She has a passion for design and enjoys working on multi-disciplinary discourses in architecture. Her specific interest in the field are modular and computational fabrication as a solution for homelessness. In her free time, Seti enjoys documentary and street photography, kayaking on Chattahoochee River, and hiking the US national parks.

MATT MCCONNELL, BUILDING CODES CONSULTANT

Matt McConnel joined the DCA Office of Building Construction Codes and Industrialized Buildings as a Building Code Consultant in September 2016. Matt obtained his BBA from the University of Georgia and earned a Masters of Public Administration from Georgia State University.

He has spent many years in the construction sector working for an engineered lumber supplier and also as a project manager for a residential builder. Both jobs have given him valuable experience and insight into the construction and codes arena. Matt was born and raised in the Atlanta area. He currently resides in Stone Mountain with wife and son, Rachel and Griffin, and their dog, Luna. They enjoy spending time hiking and picking up after Griffin (2 years old).

SOLI NICOLSON, INTERN

Solidad Nicolson joined DCA’s Office of Construction Codes and Industrialized Buildings as an Intern in May of 2016. Soli is a senior, pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Policy at Georgia State University. She served as House Intern for the 2016 Georgia Legislative Session.

Soli possesses over ten years of experience working within the corporate and non-profit sector. She was born in Manila, Philippines and has lived in Boston, Washington, D.C. and Miami. Soli enjoys cooking, reading and spending time with her husband and two daughters. She serves as a community advocate and volunteered with True Worship Christian Fellowship Church feeding the poor on a weekly basis. Currently, Soli volunteers at Big Bethel Church Saturday School program for children.

KADEDRA CALDWELL, INTERN

Kadedra Caldwell joined with DCA’s Office of Construction Codes and Industrialized Building as an Intern in September 2016. Kadedra is a senior who plans to attain her Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science at Georgia State University in May 2017.

Originally from Nashville, Tennessee, Kadedra’s future aspiration is to attend law school starting fall of 2017. She has served as a Georgia House Intern during the 2016 Legislative Session. Kadedra has recently studied abroad in El Salvador-Bahia, Brazil. Kadedra enjoys researching and staying current on local legislative issues and is also a member of the Pre-Law Society and Honors College at Georgia State University. During her spare time, she loves getting involved in her community, promoting policies and giving back to those who are less fortunate.
WEBSITES OF INTEREST

International Association of Building Officials (IABO)  .......................................................... www.iaboinc.com
International Codes Council (ICC) .......................................................... www.iccsafe.org
ICC Region Chapter ........................................................................ iccreg8.com
Building Officials Association of Georgia (BOAG) .......................................................... www.boagcodes.org
Governor’s Office of Consumer Protection ...... http://georgia.gov/agencies/governors-office-consumer-protection
Georgia Plumbers Trade Association (GPTA) .......................................................... www.gpta.net
Georgia Association of Home Inspectors (GAHI) .......................................................... www.gahi.com
Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) .......................................................... www.dca.ga.gov
Call before you DIG ........................................................................ www.georgia811.com
Georgia State Inspectors Association ........................................................................ http://georgiastateinspectors.com
GA State Historic Buildings Preservation Office (DHR) .......................................................... http://georgiashpo.org/laws
GA State ADA Accessibility Office (GSFIC) ........................................................................ http://ada.georgia.gov/
GA Association of Zoning Administrators (GAZA) .......................................................... www.georgiazoning.org
GA Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM) .......................................................... www.gafloods.org/
National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) ........................................................................ http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/
Plumbing & Mechanical Association of GA (PMA) ........................................................................ www.plumbingpros.com
Storm Shelters: Selecting Design Criteria (FEMA) .......................................................... http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2973
Safe Rooms (FEMA) ........................................................................ http://www.fema.gov/safe-room-resources
Carbon Monoxide Detectors ........................................................................ http://www.aboutcarbonmonoxide.com

CONTACT DCA CODES AND INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDINGS

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