

## **From The Building Department**

### **Senior Citizen/Consumer Alert**

As inflation grows, so does the number of people who fall victim to scams. It is our job as sons, daughters, relatives and friends to watch over our elderly. The City Of Lyndhurst has a population base of over 40 percent senior citizens. The growing number of senior citizens that have been and will be taken advantage of is overwhelming. There are many simple steps that can be taken to protect ourselves as consumers. Step one, if the deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Usually when this happens, the person selling the good or service will ask for a portion of the money up front. This is a red flag. Never pay someone for something without research. Research can be references, history of past jobs or simply how long has the company been in business. Never make final payment on something until the good or service has been finalized. Another alert may be a scare tactic, which the supplier of the good or service will use to prompt you to make a quick decision. Scare tactics have been around forever and in some cases people will pay anything to resolve what sounds like a major concern. This usually results in an inflated price for the good or service. The golden rule should always be to shop around. Always get at least three price quotes before making a decision no matter how serious the problem may be. You can always contact the BBB or other reference companies before making a final decision. Almost all business contracts can be voided within a 72 hour period. Another simple step you can take is to call the building department for a list of registered contractors. Even though the list is not a recommendation, it is a good starting point. Registered contractors in Lyndhurst are bonded and insured. Remember, you worked hard to save your money, so don't just give it away. Make them earn it with good quality work and service.