

This week's Around Town Column attached.

Billy Ray McKelvy

Around Town

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**By Billy Ray McKelvy**

**De Queen Mayor**

Anyone who is considering a building project for a residence inside the city should contact the city's building inspector for a building permit.

A building permit is required for any permanent addition to a home. The cost of a permit is \$15 for the first \$1,000 of value and \$5 for each additional \$1,000 in value. Starting at \$50,000, the cost of a permit will be determined by a range of values.

To get a permit, you should provide a real estate card showing the legal description of the property. That can be obtained from the county tax assessor's office. You will also need a drawing of the structure or addition and an estimate of the construction cost. A permit is needed if you are building a portable building. A permit is also needed for reconstruction or remodeling.

Although regulation may seem like a burden to property owners, the building inspection can also prevent sub-standard construction that could detract from a home's value. The building inspector can advise homeowners of setback requirements from property lines, which could be a problem in the future.

To get a building permit, contact the city's code enforcement officer at the De Queen Fire Station, or call 642-5643.