

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT -- TOM MCKINNEY IN BUILDING CODES OFFICE



Tom McKinney has spent 46 years as a local volunteer firefighter, and during that time he has learned a lot about the right way and wrong way that structures should be built and protected from fire. The last 13 years, he has brought that knowledge to Warren County Building Codes Office, where he conducts code inspections, specializing in fire safety inspections.

McKinney, former Lake George Fire Chief, chairs the Firefighters Association of the State of New York's (FASNY) Standards & Codes Committee, and has also represented FASNY on the International Code Council.

That experience on the state and local level has allowed him to work well with local builders and building owners to explain what they need to make their buildings comply with state and local codes.

On Thursday, he had three inspections in Lake George, including one of a new home front porch that was being built (pictured) by J Squared Contracting. He asked about joists, looked at the materials, chatted with the contractor about ice barriers, and the project was good to go.

McKinney came to work for Warren County after 26 years working for local cable companies, and said he enjoys the county job. Inspections range from a few minutes at a home building site, to fire inspections that last 8 hours or more at children's camps.

"It's challenging and I really enjoy it," he said. "My job is to make sure the consumer is getting what they are paying for, and that it is safe. We are here to provide guidance and information and most of the time they (property owners and builders) will do the right thing."

Warren County Building Codes has inspector openings, and McKinney said the job is particularly interesting to experienced contractors who are looking for stable hours, county benefits and NYS pension.

The Building Code Enforcement Office is responsible for:

- Issuance of Building Permits (including manufactured homes)
- Issuance of Solid Fuel Burning Device Permits (woodstoves, fireplaces and pellet stoves)
- Issuance of Demolition Permits
- Conducting Plan Reviews for Code Compliance
- Conducting construction inspections
- Issuing Certificates of Occupancy, Completion, Compliance and Operating Permits
- Conducting Fire Safety Inspections
- Inspection of structures following fire or explosion
- Responding to fire safety and life safety complaints
- A high school diploma is required, and either experience as a builder or building inspector. More information about the openings can be found at [warrencountyny.gov/jobs](http://warrencountyny.gov/jobs).