With summer upon us, there is an influx of festivals, weddings, graduation ceremonies and parties occurring. The Board of Preble County Commissioners would like to remind you that if you are hosting one of the above, or similar, activities and using a tent(s) for the activity that you may need to get a building permit for the tent. The Ohio Building Code and the Ohio Fire Code both have requirements that must be met for tents when they are over a certain size. The building permit may be obtained at the Preble County Office of Land Use Management at a cost of \$77.25. Please note that there is a 24-hour turnaround time between submitting the building permit and having the tent inspected and approved. The tents must be inspected prior to use and failure to obtain a permit and have it inspected will incur fines for the violation.

Below are the Ohio Building Code requirements for tents for which building permits are required.

Tent Requirements

Based on 2011 Building Code (OBC) Section 3103 Temporary Structures and 2011 Ohio Fire Code (OFC) Chapter 24 Tents and Other Membrane Structures. (90 MPH Wind Load Design)

Temporary Tents and Membrane Structures erected for a period of less than 180 days.

Approval (Permit) required for tents and membrane structures. For the purpose of determining required distances, support ropes and guy wires shall be considered as part of the temporary tent or membrane structure. (Section 3103.1.2 OBC)

- 1. An individual tent or membrane structures with an area in excess of 400 square feet; or
- 2. Multiple tents or membrane structures with an aggregate area in excess of 400 square feet when adjacent temporary tents or membrane structures are located within 12 feet of one another.

Exceptions

- 1. Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
- 2. Tents open on all sides which comply will all of the following:
 - 2.1 Individual tents having a maximum size of 700 square feet.
 - 2.2 The aggregate area of multiple tents placed side by side without a fire break clearance of 12 feet, not exceeding 700 square feet total.
 - 2.3 A minimum clearance of 12 feet to all structures and other tents.

The following information is required for tents over 400 square feet:

- 1. Site Plan (Must Include: lot dimensions, footprint of existing building and location of tent.)
- 2. Anchorage Detail (Section 2403.9 OFC)
- 3. Flame Resistant Material Certification complying with NFPA 701 (Section 2404.4 OFC)
- 4. Floor Plan for tents with 50 or more persons indicating means of egress, seating arrangement and location and type of any heating or electrical equipment. (Section 2403.6 OFC)

Tents having a square footage of 400 or less do not require a permit, but must comply with Building & Fire Codes.

An inspection is required from the Building Department when the tent is erected and ready for use.

Approved Plans with Anchorage Detail are REQUIRED On Site.

The local Fire Dept. should be able to provide information on the items that are required to meet the Ohio Fire Code (OFC).