C. An interpretation that a use not listed in Section 5.01.01(B) is similar shall be based on the tasks and activities normally associated with the proposed use and the similarity of those tasks and activities with the tasks and activities normally associated with a listed use.

Furthermore, Section 5.01.02 provides additional standards by which Home Occupations are to be conducted - as follows:

**5.01.02 Standards for All Home Occupations**

A. All home occupations shall have a business license from Lowndes County.
B. Employees of the home occupation shall be limited to the residents of the dwelling.
C. The home occupation shall be clearly incidental to the residential use of the dwelling.
D. The use of the dwelling for a home occupation shall not change the residential character of the building.
E. No internal or external alterations which are inconsistent with the residential use or character of the dwelling shall be permitted.
F. Products for sale or use in the home occupation shall not be visible from the street.
G. Use of a dwelling for a home occupation shall not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of one (1) floor of the dwelling.
H. The home occupation shall not constitute a nuisance to the surrounding neighborhood, as evidenced by the use of machinery or equipment that produces noise, smoke, odor, vibration, electrical interference, or other objectionable condition beyond the property line of the lot on which the home occupation is located.
I. Outside storage of materials used in connection with a home occupation is prohibited.
J. A home occupation shall not be conducted in an accessory building; however, storage of materials is permissible.
K. Up to two (2) commercial vehicles may be used in connection with the home occupation, provided that such vehicles are parked only in the rear yard.
L. No business shall be conducted between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
M. Only one wall (1) sign shall be permissible in associated with the home occupation. The sign shall comply with the following standards:
   1. The sign shall not exceed eight (2) square feet in area;
   2. The sign shall be motionless.

ZBA may recall a recent Variance request on December 5, 2017, by the property owner of the subject property (Case VAR-2017-24). The request was for Variances to two (2) of the standards for operating a Home Occupation. Because the Variances were unsuccessful, the applicant is required to follow each of the standards for Home Occupations.

Historically, the Lowndes County Zoning office has been challenged with the opportunity to make decisions concerning the application of the Lowndes County Unified Land Development Code (ULDC). Specifically, decisions regarding the qualification for whether a business can be considered as a “home occupations” are consistently made by the citizenry of Lowndes County. When considering applications for “home occupations”, staff’s chief concern is maintaining the integrity of the residential use and the integrity of the neighborhood. For said reasons, the standards for operating a “home occupation” are in place to ensure that the occupation is incidental and accessory to the principal residential use. An occupation that has engagements and/or activities that exceed the principal residential use is then considered a use that is non-residential and must comply with the use requirements for the zoning district that allows said use either “by right” or with the application of “supplemental standards”.

In determining requests for “home occupations”, the Lowndes County Zoning office’s reliance on the ULDC is primarily focused on whether the occupation is accessory and incidental to the residential development. Prior to the adoption of the ULDC, Lowndes County’s land use regulations have always made provisions for “home occupation”, even within the 1972 original adoption of the Lowndes County Zoning Ordinance. Over time, staff has tweaked and amended the provisions and clarified the intended purpose for operating a business from your residence. Furthermore, the intent was to allow and encourage entrepreneurship and allow the home to be used for administrative purposes only, and/or for professional businesses. And, in other cases, to allow the work of a home occupation/business to be performed away from the owner’s residence i.e. lawn maintenance, handyman, painter, plumber, auto detailing, etc. The types of business applications for home occupations have involved ingenuity on behalf of the applicant and staff’s consideration at times. Lowndes County’s Zoning office has experienced over the years an increase and a trend towards the establishment of start-up home businesses. The Lowndes County Zoning office reviews an average of 224 business applications per calendar year and would estimate that over 50% of the applications reviewed are businesses conducted from the home. The Lowndes County Zoning office receives very few complaints from the public for negative effects of the home occupation by the adjoining property owners.