



# ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

April 2014

## President's Comment

Greetings Members and Friends,

Finally I think that maybe spring is has arrived; we have definitely been challenged by the temperatures and snow this winter. The cold temperatures can cause many people to do some strange and stupid things to stay warm. Also the cold temperatures are really tough on equipment and heating systems causing failures which can cause damaging results. It is heart breaking to see the pictures in the media of homes and businesses gutted or burnt to total destruction. With the building season fast approaching it would be a good time to consider adding a value added addition to you next building project in the form of fire protection. Calvin Brown Jr. has arranged to have several speakers for our April meeting. Bob Fischer of Viking Supply Net and a representative from BlazeMaster will be speaking about some of their newest products that are available for fire suppression. As an extra bonus the Perry Fire Department will be bringing their Fire Prevention Trailer. They will display a live fire and how a sprinkler system can help save property and lives. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will be able to be outside to witness this demonstration.

Tickets are still available for our Reverse Raffle on May 3rd so if you haven't got yours yet please contact a board member of Michelle and make arrangements to get yours. Chinese raffle items have started to be collected and I am quite pleased by the quality of items being donated. It is not too late to make a donation of a door prize, the more the better.

I would like to thank those that attended the March meeting. If you could not make it let me share with you the topic again, it was about registering the trades through the Ashtabula County Department of Building Regulations. During the meeting we had speakers discussing the benefits of registration and also members giving their opinion as to why we should not have registration. At the conclusion of the meeting I requested that members contact me, a board member, or Michelle with their thoughts on this topic. We have received some comments but not enough for the board to feel comfortable in telling the County Commissioners our decision as a group. The responses that we have received in favor and against are pretty much even in number so we would like to hear from more members. Enclosed in this newsletter, we are going to include a sheet with a fax number and also an email address that this form can be sent to, also you can still call the builders phone number and leave your message with your opinion if that is easier for you. Also we will collect them at the meeting on April 10th if you would like to bring them with you.

Sincerely,

*Bill Romano*

President of the Ashtabula County Builders Assoc.

### Board of Directors

Bill Romanko	President
Calvin Brown, Jr.	Vice-President
Rich Vanek	Treasurer
John Hogan	Secretary
Joe Oros	Past-President
Kim Kidner	
Robert Hegfield	
John Smolen	
George Csepegi	

### Calendar of Events

April 10th	Fire Prevention Elks
May 3rd	Reverse Raffle 4 H Jefferson
June 12th	Steak Fry Elks
Social Hour	6:00pm
Dinner	7:00pm

Please RSVP by the Monday prior to the event.

P.O. Box 745  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004  
ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net  
ashtabulacountybuilders.org  
(440) 645-7496

## CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION LETTER. Continued

Those **IN favor** of licensing for the building trades within the county have many reasons why they are in favor of this being enacted. As above the summary points mentioned are the points mentioned to the writer and may not be a complete list.

1. When we go out of the county to neighboring counties we have to register and pay their fee schedule. Why shouldn't the contractors that come into our county pay a fee schedule similar to theirs in our county?
2. I do a quality job and would be proud to display a license number to prove to my customers that I meet the requirements of the county.
3. The playing field is now level, I take care to be sure that my employees are covered under Workmen's Compensation Insurance and now my competition also has to have insurance for their employees.
4. When the Building Department puts my company name on their website or on their literature as a registered licensed contractor it will be some of the cheapest advertising that I can purchase for a \$100.00.
5. The fact that a contractor is registered shows that the contractor is serious about the profession that they are in and are willing to stay educated and are willing to train their employees to stay current in their trade.
6. I want the residents of Ashtabula County to benefit from having lower insurance rates for their homes and businesses. Because we require registered contractors the insurance companies will look at that when coming up with insurance rates for our structures.

Please give both of these views some thought, as mentioned before the County Commissioners are looking for our opinion on this matter. The Board of Directors would like to hear what you as a member of the Ashtabula County Builders Assoc. have to say about this issue. As always you can call or email any board member or Michelle our director. You can leave a message through our website but please make sure to give us your name and company when you do this. When we feel that we have heard from a majority of members, we will inform the Commissioners of our point of view as a group. If you should have any questions regarding this proposed change they can be directed to Brenda Williams, Chief Building Inspector with the Ashtabula County Department of Building Regulations, she can be reached at 25 West Jefferson Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047 or via phone at (440)576-3737. All opinions and comments will be kept in confidence unless told to share them with others

# Ashtabula County Builders Association

## **Annual Reverse Raffle**

**May 3, 2014**

**Grand Prize: \$1,500.00**

50/50 raffle ~ Instant Bingo ~ Black Jack ~ Silent Auction

*\$100.00 Early Bird  
Drawing at 6:15 p.m.*

**\$50.00 a couple**

Includes dinner and open bar

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Raffle starts at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Ashtabula County Fairgrounds

4-H Building

All Proceeds will benefit:

**Community Care Committee &**

**The Ashtabula County Builders Association**

For more information or tickets contact:

(440)645-7496 or [ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net](mailto:ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net)

## Positive Run Continues for Residential Construction Spending

Private residential construction spending [jumped](#) 2.2% on a month-to-month basis during December 2012. The initial estimate of a 0.4% gain for November was moved up slightly to a 0.6% increase, but the October number was pushed appreciably higher from 1.3% to 3.2%. Spending has registered nine uninterrupted months of growth, as well as 16 of the last 17 months showing expansion. The nominal dollar level of spending has now reached its highest point since late 2008 and the average from the last three months is 32% above the cyclical low.

Spending on new single-family homes decelerated to its slowest pace of month-to-month growth since the first quarter of 2012, rising 0.8% versus November. On a year-over-year basis, the nominal value of spending on new homes has risen over 28%. In addition, since bottoming out around the midway point of 2009, construction spending has surged 59%. The current NAHB forecast calls for single-family housing starts to expand for the entirety of the outlook period, but a slower pace of growth is anticipated during the first quarter of this year. They are expected to re-accelerate over the remainder of 2013, and thus we anticipate a similar pattern will likely occur for construction spending.

Construction spending on new multifamily projects jumped 6.2% during December 2012. Moreover, the initial estimate for November was revised higher from 0.5% to 1.8%, indicating spending activity finished the year strong. Of the three main categories of residential construction, multifamily has experienced the strongest rebound from its cyclical trough. Gains in spending have occurred in each of the last 15 months, with the latest month available representing the second largest percentage increase over this time period. On a year-over-year basis, the level of spending has skyrocketed more than 57% and has gained 97% from the bottom in August 2010.

Remodeling activity improved in December as spending climbed 2.9% from the prior month. Preliminary estimates for October and November were also revised higher, significantly higher in the case of October with a 1.9% decline turning into a 2.3% gain. The 3-month moving average points to a solid upward trend in home improvement spending and closed out 2012 at its highest nominal dollar value since September 2007. NAHB's [Remodeling Market Index](#) (RMI) has offered a similar judgment on recent home improvement activity as the current and future market indicators have achieved their best readings since the first quarter of 2004.