



ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

August 2014

President's Comment

Hello Members and Friends,

The Ashtabula Builders/Chamber golf outing is behind us now and the event again was a great success. The day was picture perfect and the staff at Hemlock Springs Golf Course had the course in great condition for a pleasurable day of golf for all. It is a little early but I would believe that next year will again be another partnership with the Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce. At this time I would like to thank all of those that donated door prizes and sponsored holes at the outing, but most of all I would like to thank all of those that played golf that day because without golfers it would not have been an outing.

Our next meeting, the Annual Summer Social will be on August 14th at the Grand River Manor on the banks of the Grand River, one of our counties natural gems. We will be having a buffet and all of those attending will receive 3 drink tickets for a low per couple price (See enclosed flyer for details). We will also have **The Castaways** as our entertainment for the evening. **Whether you choose to socialize outside on the lawn overlooking the river or enjoying the music I assure you a relaxing enjoyable evening.**

Time has a way of getting away from us at times and I am guilty of losing time like everyone else. It is hard to believe that I have been president for coming onto 2 years now. It is time for me to step down from my post and move on to the position of Past President. With this being said, the board of directors is looking for a few good people to fill some positions. Being on the Board is really an enjoyable position, the board members meet once a month at a different location on the fourth Thursday of the month. The average meeting lasts for 2 hours which includes a dinner break. If you are at all interested in joining the board and have questions please feel free to contact me and I will answer your questions or concerns. Also, we are always looking for new membership if you know of anyone that would like to be a member of the Ashtabula County Builders Assoc. please let me know and I will contact them. At our last board meeting, the board members challenged each other to see how would bring in the most new members before the end of the year, the winner of this challenge will receive dinner for 2 at the board Christmas meeting paid for by the other board members. I would like to take my wife out to dinner, just don't tell her it was free. Call me with your possible new members.

Thanks again,

Bill Romano

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

August 14th	Summer Social The Manor
September 11th	Clam Bake Elks
Social Hour	6:00pm
Dinner	7:00pm

Please RSVP by the Monday prior to the event.

P.O. Box 745
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(440) 645-7496

NATION'S BUILDING NEWS

The Official Online Weekly Newspaper of NAHB

Sponsored by McGraw-Hill Construction and Freddie Mae

Remodeler Confidence Regains Momentum

July 24, 2014 - The National Association of Home Builders' (NAHB) Remodeling Market Index (RMI) rose three points to 56 in the second quarter of 2014, regaining the momentum built in 2013. This is the fifth consecutive quarter for an RMI reading above 50.

An RMI above 50 indicates that more remodelers report market activity is higher (compared to the prior quarter) than report it is lower. The overall RMI averages ratings of current remodeling activity with indicators of future remodeling activity.

"With many home owners on better financial footing, home remodeling has become more popular," said NAHB Remodelers Chair Paul Sullivan, CAPS, CGR, CGP, of Waterville Valley, N.H. "The completion of postponed work has helped remodelers in all regions regain confidence in the remodeling market."

The RMI's future market conditions index rose to 56 from 52 in the previous quarter, under the strength of an increase in all four of its subcomponents: calls for bids, amount of work committed for the next three months, backlog of jobs and appointments for proposals.

The current market conditions component of the RMI increased three points to 56 this quarter. Remodeling jobs valued at \$25,000 or more rebounded to 54, the same level as the end of 2013. Smaller remodeling jobs and maintenance and repair components performed well this quarter with readings of 56 and 58, respectively.

"The recent improvement in the job market has helped restore remodelers' confidence after a dip in the first quarter that was probably in part weather-related. As homeowners feel more secure about their economic situation, they become more willing to undertake remodeling projects—especially larger, discretionary projects," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. "In addition, fewer new home builders are looking to remodeling as a way supplement their revenue, and this has somewhat reduced competition for remodeling projects."

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF THE 2014 GOLF OUTING

A Louis Supply Company

Andover Bank

APL Electric

Ashtabula County Building Department

Authur Louis Steel

Brown Spinkler Services, Inc.

Conneaut Savings Bank

Delta Railroad Construction, Inc.

E. & J. Glass & Trim, Inc.

Famous Supply Company

French's Concrete

HAVE, Inc.

Infinity Resources

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Nelson Sand and Gravel, Inc.

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OROS Builders

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Ringer Screen Print

Saybrook Banquet Center

Simak Trucking, Inc.

Smolen Engineering

Snodgrass of N.E. Ohio

Thomas Fence Company, Inc.

U.I.C. Construction

Valley Building Center, Inc.

Vector Security

W.S.A., Inc.

Witt Enterprises, Inc.

ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
SUMMER SOCIAL



THURSDAY, AUGUST 14TH

at

GRAND RIVER MANOR

1153 Mechanicsville Road

Geneva, OH 44041

6:00 p.m. Mixer

7:00 p.m. Dinner

\$40.00 PER PERSON \$75.00 PER COUPLE

ENTERTAINMENT

THE CASTAWAYS

BUFFET INCLUDED

Grilled Chicken Breast * Sliced Roast Beef

Red Skin Potatoes * Wild Rice Pilaf

Green Beans

Mixed Greens * Pasta Salad

Roll and Butter

Dessert

3 drink tickets per person included in price

PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 8th

to 645-7496 or ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net

Builder Confidence Surpasses Key Benchmark in July

July 16, 2014 - Builder confidence in the market for newly-built single-family homes reached an important milestone in July, rising four points to a reading of 53 on the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) released today. Any reading over 50 indicates that more builders view sales conditions as good than poor.

"This is the first time that builder confidence has been above 50 since January and an important sign that it is strengthening as pent-up demand brings more buyers into the marketplace," said NAHB Chairman Kevin Kelly, a home builder and developer from Wilmington, Del.

"An improving job market goes hand-in-hand with a rise in builder confidence," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. "As employment increases and those with jobs feel more secure about their own economic situation, they are more likely to feel comfortable about buying a home."

Derived from a monthly survey that NAHB has been conducting for 30 years, the NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index gauges builder perceptions of current single-family home sales and sales expectations for the next six months as "good," "fair" or "poor." The survey also asks builders to rate traffic of prospective buyers as "high to very high," "average" or "low to very low." Scores from each component are then used to calculate a seasonally adjusted index where any number over 50 indicates that more builders view conditions as good than poor.

All three HMI components posted gains in July. The index gauging current sales conditions increased four points to 57, while the index measuring expectations for future sales rose six points to 64 and the index gauging traffic of prospective buyers increased three points to 39.

The HMI three-month moving average was up in all four regions, with the Northeast and Midwest posting a one-point and two-point gain to 35 and 48, respectively. The West registered a five-point gain to 52 while the South rose two points to 51.

Bipartisan Energy Codes Bill a Boon for Consumers

July 9, 2014 - Bipartisan legislation introduced yesterday by Reps. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) would help promote savings in commercial buildings and residential homes through the use of more cost-effective energy codes, which set energy efficiency baselines for buildings, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

"By requiring that any code or proposal supported by the Department of Energy has a payback of 10 years or less, the bill would allow home owners to invest in energy-efficient windows, lighting and other features that will significantly reduce their utility bills," said NAHB Chairman Kevin Kelly, a home builder and developer from Wilmington, Del.

In addition to accelerating cost-savings for home owners, the Energy Savings and Building Efficiency Act (H.R. 5027) stipulates that the Department of Energy would serve as a technical advisor in the development of energy codes and prohibit the agency from advocating for certain technologies, building materials or construction practices.

"The agency's strong suit is technical analysis and its calculations on payback and efficiency can help code officials make more informed decisions and result in cost-effective code change proposals," said Kelly. "That transparency leads to better building."

Specifically, the bill would ensure that all Department of Energy code change proposals are:

- Made available to the public, including calculations on costs and savings;
- Subject to the official rulemaking process, allowing for public comment; and
- Taking into account small business concerns.

"This bill will help ensure that new homes become increasingly energy efficient, but not at a pace that the market cannot bear," said John Floyd, principal of Ole South Properties in Nashville. "Our buyers want to be assured that the additional cost comes with a reasonable payback so they can recoup the money they spent."