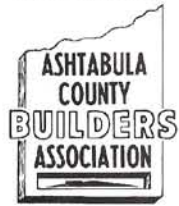


INTEGRITY



BUILDERS PLAN

December, 2008

P.O. Box 745

Ashtabula, Ohio 44005-0745

Telephone/Fax (440) 997-1866

ashtabulacountybuilders@alltel.net

www.ashtabulacountybuildersassociation.org

ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

" The Voice of the Industry in Ashtabula County"

GENERAL MEETING

\$25.00 PER MEAL

INCLUDES:

Happy Hour, Choice of :

Prime Rib, Chicken or Fish with

Baked Potato, Vegetable, Salad and Roll

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

HAIL TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Thank You! , This being my last commentary I feel I should start with that. It has truly been my pleasure and honor to have served you as your president this past year and Thank You to my fellow board members for all your hard work , You have all done an outstanding job this year.

As I look forward to the New Year I'm pleased to report to you that despite the bad economy and due to a very conservative administration of your association, your organization is in a healthy financial position for 2009. However, I also see a challenging year ahead of us all.

Builders and suppliers alike will have to put forth that extra effort this year to make something good come out of what most economist are forecasting as bad times ahead. This will also be true of our organization, as we proceed throughout the New Year I'm sure that the challenges of membership and budget will be of more importance then ever before.

So again it will be of vital importance to be involved with your builders association to keep abreast of the current activities of our membership and the course that we are

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 8th	Celebration Elks Club
February 12th	General Meeting Elks Club
March 12th	TBA Elks Club
April 9th	TBA Elks Club
May 14th	TBA Elks Club

Happy hour is 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Dinner 7:00pm

RSVP by Monday prior to meeting date and if you need to cancel please call by Tuesday evening.

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HALO

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Thank You

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Ashtabula County Statistics

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NAHB Advises Obama Transition Team

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NAHB Advises Obama Transition Team, Continued

charting for our future. As I've said it before and I'll say it again, "This is your organization and we lead by your vote and voice, without your involvement we cease to be effective." So PLEASE get involved, Come to your meetings, Be heard, and as difficult as it may be sometimes Volunteer to help.

So as I hand over the "unseen" gavel to your new president, Rick Miller of U.I.C. I wish him and you all the best that the New Year can bring and ask you to join me in congratulating him at our next membership meeting in January. As always I look forward to seeing you there.

Farewell, Frank

HALO

You still have time
to drop off your HALO gift
to Bill Romanko
at
A.Louis Supply
5610 Main Avenue

**CHECK OUT THE WEB PAGE
THERE HAS BEEN MANY
CHANGES MADE RECENTLY.
SEND US A PICTURE, WE'LL
ADD IT!**

**FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2008

Officers

Frank Curtin, President

Rick Miller, Vice-President

Paul Grease, Immediate Past President, Treasurer

Bill Romanko, Secretary

Trustees

Bill Claycomb

Bill Douglas

Gayle Loftus

Mike Redmon

Terry Strong

Dan Theiss

Rich Vanek

Tim Vogel

Director

Michelle Laveck

THANK YOU

Many thanks Bill Douglas, Gayle Loftus and Mike Redmon for their many years of services on the Ashtabula County Builders Board of Trustees.

NEWSLETTER

If you have any updates about your company or any articles you would like to see featured in the newsletter

please e-mail

ashtabulacountybuilders@alltel.net

ASHTABULA COUNTY

RESIDENTIAL

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 To-date
Valuation of Est. Cost	\$61,810,996	\$49,274,095	\$50,040,197	\$33,355,951	\$20,958,389
New Structures	327	236	241	155	82
Detached Garages	105	51	77	79	62
Manufactured Homes	78	56	64	24	19
Additions/Alterations	319	313	319	336	259
Accessory Structures	64	110	58	68	40
Industrilized Units	13	13	14	6	3

COMMERCIAL

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 To-date
Valuation of Est. Cost	\$97,513,627	\$21,245,193	\$50,023,614	\$57,830,364	\$21,164,741
New Structures	37	29	38	45	23
Detached Garages	0	0	0	0	0
Manufactured Homes	0	0	0	0	0
Additions/Alterations	95	102	90	109	85
Accessory Structures	1	4	1	5	2
Industrilized Units	4	3	6	2	11

NAHB Advises Obama Transition Team on Housing Policy

Along with its efforts to lead a national campaign to "Fix Housing First" with a stimulus plan to restore home buying demand, NAHB has prepared an analysis of key housing policy issues for President-elect Barack Obama so his Administration can hit the ground running next month in addressing the worst housing downturn since the Great Depression.

"As we have seen in previous business cycles, housing has led the general economy into recession and it will be needed to lead the economy back on the road to recovery," said NAHB Chairman Sandy Dunn. "Unfortunately, the financial turmoil experienced this fall has dealt a terrible blow to consumer confidence and it is seriously eroding the credit home builders must have to survive the coming year. Without a helping hand from Washington, we are facing even more perilous times."

"Key data on gross and net home sales, housing starts, building permits, residential construction activity and inventory overhang still paint a downbeat picture of the U.S. housing market," NAHB says in its analysis for the [Presidential Transition Project](#).

"The recent downward momentum in housing markets is bound to extend into 2009, aided by a weakening national economy and stringent financial market conditions," the report notes. "And, of course, there is still a daunting overhang of vacant housing units on both for-sale and for-rent components of the housing market. Consequently, NAHB has recently trimmed its estimates of new-home sales and housing starts for the balance of this year and for 2009."

The slump in residential construction and related activity — which in normal times account for about 14% to 15% of the gross domestic product — will continue to exert heavy downward pressure on U.S. economic activity through the middle of next year, NAHB analysts warn. Based on the assumption that housing conditions will begin to show signs of improvement in the second half of 2009, housing growth should then begin to provide "mild support" to GDP growth.

However, "that switch in direction is essential to the beginnings of economic recovery in the latter part of next year," the report to the incoming Administration says. "The situation cries out for a second stage of temporary economic stimulus, directed squarely at the sector that is at the root of the daunting problems facing the U.S. economy and the financial system: housing."

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Restoring the Housing Finance System

In addition to addressing the crisis at hand, the NAHB report to President-elect Obama lays out a broad range of policies — in housing finance, tax policy, minority homeownership, energy, land use and more — that will be needed to restore the health of the nation's home building industry over the longer term.

Of particular concern, the report finds, are efforts to restore the housing finance system in the aftermath of the “jolting dislocations” in 2007 and 2008.

“It is essential for the federal government to continue to provide a sound underpinning for the U.S. housing finance system,” the report says. “As demonstrated in the current financial crisis, the private sector cannot be counted on to provide and maintain a consistent and reliable flow of affordable housing credit.

“As the Administration considers changes to the U.S. housing finance system, NAHB urges it to consider the following:

- • [Fannie Mae](#) and • [Freddie Mac](#) should retain sufficient federal backing to allow them to reduce mortgage rates and fees.
- Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac should focus on the core business of securitizing mortgages and holding portfolio loans that do not have a secondary market outlet in order to provide reliable mortgage market liquidity and ongoing support for affordable housing initiatives.
- • [FHA](#) should be restructured as an independent government corporation, within • [HUD](#) and separate from • [Ginnie Mae](#), that would continue its current mission of supporting liquidity, innovation and continuity in the housing finance markets by providing mortgage insurance backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.
- FHA should be freed from federal government constraints on hiring, personnel management and procurement, and should have flexibility to develop and modify programs to react promptly to market developments and needs.”