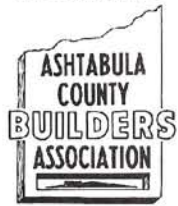


INTEGRITY



# BUILDERS PLAN

JULY 2009

P.O. Box 745  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44005-0745  
Telephone/Fax (440) 997-1866  
ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net  
www.ashtabulacountybuildersassociation.org

## ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

" The Voice of the Industry in Ashtabula County"

### ANNUAL MEETING

November 12, 2009

at

Elks Lodge

It is very important for the membership to attend. Many issues to be discussed. Please let myself or Rick Miller know if you would like anything put on the agenda. We need quorum for a vote.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 9th	Golf Outing Harbor Golf Club
August 13th	Summer Social Gareat
September 10th	Clam Bake Elks Club
October 8th	Building and Health Department Elks Club
November 12th	Annual Meeting Halo 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.

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Hello all! I would like to thank all of you for the great turnout for the Steak Fry. The cooks did a fantastic job on the steaks. I hope everyone had a good dinner and great time. Summer is now officially here and I hope business is starting to pickup for everyone. I know we have a long road yet ahead of us. I would like to thank Mr. Dino DiSanto, Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Steven LaTourette, for coming in his stead because of last minute scheduling conflicts. Mr. DiSanto gave a nice talk on some of the Stimulus Money that is available for us here in the county. I would also like to thank our County Commissioner Joe Moroski for informing us on happenings in the commissioners' offices. Our Annual Golf Outing is just around the corner and if you haven't made reservations yet you can call Bill Romanko at A Louis Supply or Michelle Laveck at the Ashtabula County Builders Association to do this. I hope to see you all at the outing. As always your Association is here to assist you.

Thanks,  
Rick Miller

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## WEB SITE

New and Improved!  
CHECK IT OUT!!

[www.ashtabulacountybuildersassociation.org](http://www.ashtabulacountybuildersassociation.org)

Send photos of your latest projects  
and we can post them on the web site.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2009

### Officers

Rick Miller, President

Bill Romanko, Secretary

Rich Vanek, Treasurer

Frank Curtin, Immediate Past President

### Trustees

Calvin Brown, Jr.

Bill Claycomb

Joe Oros

Doug Spencer

Terry Strong

Dan Theiss

Tim Vogel

### Director

Michelle Laveck

# NATION'S BUILDING NEWS

*The Official Online Weekly Newspaper of NAHB*

*Sponsored by McGraw-Hill Construction and Freddie Mae*

## **New-Home Sales Virtually Flat In May**

**June 24, 2009** - Sales of newly built, single-family homes in May held virtually even with the previous month, declining less than one percentage point to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 342,000 units, according to data released by the U.S. Commerce Department today.

“In the midst of the prime home buying season, builders report that a number of factors are limiting new-home sales. These include consumer concerns about job security, potential buyers’ inability to sell their existing homes, and problems with appraisals coming in too low,” said Joe Robson, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and a home builder from Tulsa, Okla.

“The latter issue is directly related to the use of distressed properties (foreclosures and short sales) as comps, which disproportionately impacts assessed values of nearby homes.”

“Today’s report provides further evidence that the recovery is going to be a slow one as the housing market continues to bump along, trying to find a bottom,” added NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe. “The good news is that, even as the sales pace leveled in May, inventories of unsold new homes continued to shrink for a 25th consecutive month – a trend that is helping bring supply and demand into better alignment and thereby setting the stage for an eventual market recovery.”

New-home sales declined 0.6 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual pace of 342,000 units in May. Meanwhile, the number of new homes for sale fell 2.3 percent to 292,000, which is a 10.2-month supply at the current sales pace.

Regionally, the decline in new-home sales was entirely focused on the South, where sales fell 8.5 percent for the month. Meanwhile, sales of new homes gained 1.3 percent in the West and posted double-digit gains of 28.6 percent and 18.6 percent in the Northeast and Midwest, respectively.

# ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

## Annual Golf Outing

4-Man Scramble

Thursday, July 9th, 2009

at

Harbor Golf Club

11:00 Registration

12:00 Shot Gun Start

\$90.00 per golfer

\$360.00 per team

(if team pays prior to July 9th \$340.00 per team)

1st Prize and Random Drawing for 2nd Prize

Door Prizes, Prizes for Skill Shots and 50/50

Lunch, Dinner and Beverages on Course Provided

Cash Bar at Dinner

Extra Dinners \$25.00

Please Register at (440) 997-1866 or  
[ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net](mailto:ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net)

by July 2nd

Rain Date Thursday, July 16th, 2009



ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL SUMMER SOCIAL

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 13TH**

at

**GaReat**

**Phase 1 Building**

**I90-534**

**Geneva, Ohio**

6:00 p.m. Appetizers

7:00 p.m. Dinner

**\$35.00 PER PERSON    \$65.00 PER COUPLE**

MEOLA'S CATERING

Appetizers

Dinner

Grilled Pork Tenderloin

Chicken Italiano

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Broccoli Spears

Salad

Roll and Butter

Assorted Dessert

Soft Drinks, Beer and Wine Included in price

**PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH**  
**to 997-1866 or [ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net](mailto:ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net)**

## House Votes to Preempt National Building Code Process

By a vote of 219 to 212, the House on June 26 narrowly approved climate change legislation that would establish a “cap and trade” market for buying and selling pollution allowances and create mandatory national energy code requirements for all homes and buildings.

Prior to consideration of the American Clean Energy and Security Act, NAHB sent a letter to House members expressing concern that federal preemption of the states’ rights to determine building codes would needlessly increase the cost of housing in America and fail to achieve its aim by focusing solely on new homes.

“We are troubled that this legislation contains provisions that will establish a national energy efficiency code, impair housing affordability for lower-income families, undermine green building and sustainability programs for new construction and increase already onerous federal permitting requirements,” the letter said. “Because of its negative impact on housing, NAHB has designated opposition to H.R. 2454 as a key vote.” The bill number was subsequently changed to H.R. 2998. By only targeting new homes and failing to pursue an integrated strategy that addresses existing homes, equipment efficiency and consumer behavior, the bill will fall far short of its mark of increasing energy efficiency in the residential sector, according to NAHB Chairman Joe Robson.

“The hard truth is that we can’t build our way out of this problem,” said Robson. “We need to look at our utilities and how they transmit power. We need to make our existing housing stock more energy-efficient. We need to look at how we can reduce our ‘plug load’ — home appliances, televisions and computers — and make these products more energy-efficient. The bill’s focus on new home construction won’t get us far at all.”

The sweeping legislation would require new homes to be 30% more energy-efficient than mandated in the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). By Jan. 1, 2014, the target would rise to 50% above the 2006 IECC. Between years 2017 and 2029, the code target increases 5% every three years until it reaches 75% over the 2006 IECC by 2029. “That’s simply too far, too fast,” Robson said. “The market is not geared up to supply the necessary materials and equipment, and that’s going to drive up costs. The result will be fewer working-class families in these new energy-efficient homes. They’ll be relegated to older, less efficient housing stock and face ever higher utility bills.”

According to the [U.S. Department of Energy](#), homes are responsible for about 21% of the energy consumed each year. “Forcing more regulation on a fraction of those homes just won’t move the needle,” Robson said. States that fail to certify within one year after the date of enactment that they have adopted and will enforce the new code targets will be subject to federal penalties for non-compliance by the U.S. Department of Energy. At that point, if the DOE doesn’t have a certification from a state that its code meets the targets, then the national energy code automatically becomes the applicable building code for that state or locality.

“The mandates in H.R. 2998 will undercut the new programs created in the GREEN Act, which are explicitly designed to preserve housing affordability while delivering sustainability through incentives for green building and energy efficiency,” said Robson. Usurping states’ rights to determine appropriate building efficiency for homes and buildings within their jurisdiction would result in ineffective application of efficiency standards to address varying climate zones and specific needs, he added.

H.R. 2998 would also create the Natural Resources Adaptation Strategy, which directs federal agencies with jurisdiction over natural resources — including agencies considering permits under the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws — to consider the “impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on natural resources.” This new requirement would raise significant obstacles in the federal permitting process, said Robson. There is no companion climate bill in the Senate, and it is uncertain when that chamber will move forward with its energy legislation, which differs markedly from the House bill. NAHB will continue to monitor the situation closely and work to derail the onerous provisions in H.R. 2998 as the legislative process advances.