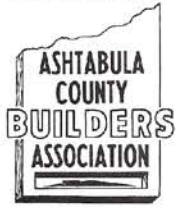


INTEGRITY



BUILDERS PLAN

JUNE, 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

"Come and Get It!"

June brings us to our Annual Steak Fry, where your board of directors will be doing more than just cooking up ideas and solutions, we will actually be cooking up your steaks!

I look forward to this event every year as it provides an excellent opportunity for some of that all important "Networking" with a casual atmosphere and a grilled steak aroma, how can you beat that. So make your reservations early and be sure to tell me how you want it cooked. Your board members are ready at the grill.

See you there.

Frank

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 12th	Steak Fry Elks Club
July 10th	Golf Outing Harbor Golf Club
August 14th	Summer Social To Be Announced
September 11th	Clam Bake Elks Club
October 9th	General Meeting Elks Club
November 13th	General Meeting Elks Club
December 11th	Christmas Party 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.

Page 2	April Upward New Home Sales Blip "Not Much to Celebrate"
Page 3	Steak Fry
Page 4	Golf Outing
Page 5	EPA Releases Lead Paint Rule

NATION'S BUILDING NEWS

The Official Online Weekly Newspaper of NAHB

Sponsored by McGraw-Hill Construction and Freddie Mae

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers

Frank Curtin, President

Rick Miller, Vice-President

Paul Crease, 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

April Upward New Home Sales Blip 'Not Much to Celebrate'

Sales of newly built, single-family homes rose 3.3% in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 526,000 units, the [U.S. Commerce Department reported](#) on May 27, following downward revisions in sales for each of the previous three months, including a particularly large revision for March.

"The fact that new-home sales are up slightly from a dismal beginning to the spring home buying season in March isn't much to celebrate," said NAHB President Sandy Dunn. "We still need a great deal of help from the Administration and Capitol Hill to halt the downward trends in home sales and house prices that are producing such a drag on our nation's economy and disrupting financial markets."

"The modest bounce-back in new-home sales recorded for April followed a sharp decline in March and belies the fundamental weakness that continues to exist in the nation's housing market," added NAHB Chief Economist David Seiders.

"Indeed, sales were down 42% on a year-over-year basis, the largest such reversal since September 1981," Seiders said. "Our latest builder surveys actually show that home buying has not yet stabilized, and we are anticipating some further erosion over the coming months. Certainly, the need remains for Congress to approve targeted policy stimulus, in the form of a temporary tax credit for home buyers and other measures, and to do this as quickly as possible."

April's preliminary sales pace of 526,000 units was equivalent to the previously reported sales pace for March. However, the Commerce Department this month revised March's reading substantially downward to 509,000 units — 11% below the revised February reading.

Sales rose in three of the nation's four regions in April. The Northeast posted a 41.7% gain that erased an equivalent decline in the previous month, while the Midwest and West recorded gains of 5.8% and 8.3%, respectively. The South, which is the nation's largest housing market, posted a 2.4% decline.

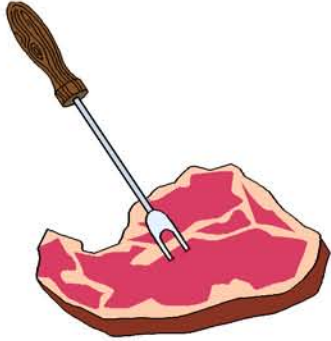
The inventory of new homes for sale declined 2.4% in April to 456,000 units, which is a 10.6-month supply at the current sales pace.

Completed homes accounted for 40% of total new homes for sale, up from 33% a year earlier, and the median

ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

"BOARD OF DIRECTORS"

ANNUAL STEAK FRY



Thursday, June 12th

at

Ashtabula Elks Lodge

(Board Members doing the cooking!!)

\$25.00 Per Person

Choice of:

12 oz. Strip Steak

or

Half Chicken

Dinner Includes: Salad, Baked Potato and Corn on the Cob

Open Bar **6:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.**

Dinner **7:00p.m.**

(cash bar after dinner)

Please RSVP by Sunday, June 8th

(440)997-1866 or ashtabulacountybuilders@alltel.net

ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Golf Outing

4-Man Scramble

Thursday, July 10th, 2008

at

Harbor Golf Club

11:00 Registration

12:00 Shot Gun Start

\$85.00 per golfer

\$340.00 per team

(if team pays prior to July 10th \$320.00 per team)

1st Prize and Random Drawing for 2nd Prize

Door Prizes and Prizes for Skill Shots

Lunch, Dinner and Beverages on Course Provided

Cash Bar at Dinner

Extra Dinners \$25.00

Please Register at (440) 997-1866 or

ashtabulacountybuilders@alltel.net

by July 3rd

Rain Date Thursday, July 17th, 2008



EPA Releases Lead Paint Rule

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting](#) rule governing professional remodelers doing work in homes where there is lead-based paint was signed by EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson last week and will take effect in April 2010.

The rule addresses remodeling and renovation projects disturbing more than six square feet of potentially contaminated painted surfaces for all residential and multifamily structures built prior to 1978 that are inhabited or frequented by pregnant women and children under the age of six.

“The rule is a positive step after so many years of delay,” said Lonny Rutherford, CGR, CAPS, the [NAHB Remodelers](#) chairman and owner of Legacy Construction in Farmington, N.M. “We all need to work together to help reduce the incidence of lead-based paint exposure to young children.”

The rule requires a cleaning inspection after the work is completed and grants the remodeler flexibility in determining the size of the work area, which can reduce the size of the area subject to containment.

The EPA rule also lists prohibited work practices ? including open-torch burning and using high-heat guns and high-speed equipment such as grinders and sanders unless equipped with a HEPA filter.

Additionally, the rule establishes required lead-safe work practices, including posting warning signs for occupants and visitors; using disposable plastic drop cloths; cleaning the work area with HEPA vacuuming and wet washing; and individual certification through a training course.

A 2006 NAHB study on lead-safe work practices showed that a home was better off after a remodel than before, as long as the work was performed by trained remodelers who clean the work area with HEPA-equipped vacuums, wet washing and disposable drop cloths.

“NAHB Remodelers supports lead-safe work practices and training,” said Rutherford. “We need to make sure that the cost of compliance is not so high as to discourage home owners from hiring a trained and certified remodeler. Otherwise, the rule creates a reverse incentive for consumers to do the work themselves and risk lead-paint exposure.”

NAHB Remodelers currently is looking at the training requirements and investigating the development of a lead-safe work practices training course for members, he added

Prior to being signed by the EPA administrator last week, the rule underwent final review by the White House [Office of Management and Budget](#) (OMB). At that time, NAHB members met with OMB staff to outline the association’s concerns about the rule and cautioned regulators against imposing inappropriate and costly regulatory burdens on remodelers that would make it cost-prohibitive for consumers to hire trained professionals, or that could lead to further proliferation of potentially harmful do-it-yourself projects.

For more information on EPA's lead program in English and Spanish, and to obtain copies of the rule and information on how to comply, visit: www.epa.gov/lead.