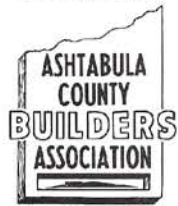


INTEGRITY



BUILDERS PLAN

March, 2009

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 12th Dan Hoffman
Wachovia Securities
Elks Club

April 9th TBA
Elks Club

May 14th TBA
Elks Club

June 11th Steak Fry
Elks Club

July 9th Golf Outing
TBA

August 13th Summer Social
TBA

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

Greetings to all! I would like to thank our member/vendors (A Louis Supply, Famous Supply, Knaack Boxes, Knickerbocher Equipment Co., Valley Building Center, and Weathersealco) for their participation in our New Products Expo held this past month at our general meeting. Without your efforts this event wouldn't have been possible. I would also like to thank our Ashtabula County Commissioner Mr. Joe Moroski for keeping us informed about our governments' efforts with the stimulus package to help get Ashtabula County's economy back on track. He will update us as more information becomes available. Well, Mr. Ron Kister continues to be our leading promoter. He has added two more members to our rooster they are MC Holdings and Northeast Hyro Action. Way to go Ron! Mr. Kisters' challenge is still on the table for anyone to accept. As we head toward the spring season we hope that everyone's efforts will help us turn things around a make this a good year for all! As always your builders association is here to assist you in any way possible.

Thanks,
Rick

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BUILDERS CHALLENGE

At the January meeting a challenge was given to the membership. The challenge was that anyone getting more new members to join the Builders Association than Ron Kister of *Kister Construction* in 2009 would receive \$250.00 from him personally. The Board of the Builders applauds Ron's Challenge and we are willing to help in your recruiting efforts. The Builders' will pick up the cost of your guest's meal (one meal per potential member company please) when they attend one of our regular monthly meetings. To qualify, the applicant that you sponsor must be approved as a new member by the board and pay their dues in full for the upcoming year. The Board would like to see Ron pay dearly for his challenge and we would also like to see our membership grow as a benefit of Ron's Challenge. Good luck to all those who are going to attempt to get

\$250.00 from Mr. Ron Kister.

All reservations for monthly meetings should be directed to Michelle at 997-1866 or through our website at www.ashtabulacountybuildersassociation.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2009

Officers

Rick Miller, President

Bill Romanko, Secretary

Paul Crease, Treasurer

Frank Curtin, Immediate Past President

Trustees

Bill Claycomb

Joe Oros

Doug Spencer

Terry Strong

Dan Theiss

Rich Vanek

Tim Vogel

Director

Michelle Laveck

NEW MEMBERS

Action Plumbing

Scott Lester

214 Lake Avenue

Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

440-964-7878

M C Construction

Matt Carson

P.O. Box 1747

Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

440-969-4111

North East Hydro Action

Michael Wall

5255 State Road #18

Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

440-812-3219

R D Real Estate Ventures

David Chah

2024 Aetna Avenue

Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

440-997-5676

Roto-Rooter

James Carney III

708 West 30th Street

Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

440-992-6401

Local Non-Profits Need Our Help

Let's give back!

It has come to our attention that a few non-profits need our assistance.

Listed below are a few projects needed. If you have any questions or could help please give Michelle a call 997-1866 or e-mail ashtabulacountybuilders@alltel.net.

Samaritan House – Ashtabula Counties Homeless Shelter.

Samaritan House needs removal and replacement of a 96 sq. ft. concrete pad.

Homesafe – Ashtabula Counties Domestic Violence Shelter.

Homesafe has two projects.

1. Painting of Basement with water seal paint. Paint has already been purchased.
2. Distruction and Removal of 468 sq. ft. garage. Garage is in horrible shape and is a hazard.

Any help that we can give to these non-profits would be greatly appreciated.

NATION'S BUILDING NEWS

The Official Online Weekly Newspaper of NAHB

Sponsored by McGraw-Hill Construction and Freddie Mae

Builders Launch Tax Credit Web Site

NAHB has launched a newly-designed Web site that provides detailed information on the \$8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers, a key provision in the sweeping economic stimulus legislation signed into law by President Barack Obama.

“The new tax credit provides a great opportunity for first-time home buyers,” said NAHB Chairman Joe Robson. “Combined with today’s near record low interest rates, the large selection of homes on the market and very competitive pricing, the tax credit should provide the extra incentive needed to get prospective buyers who have been sitting on the fence into the market.”

In addition to being limited to first-time home buyers, the tax credit:

- Is equal to 10% of the home’s purchase price up to a maximum of \$8,000.
- Is available for homes purchased on or after Jan. 1, 2009 and before December 1, 2009.
- Does not have to be repaid.
- Has income limits of \$75,000 for single taxpayers and \$150,000 for married couples.

The Web site at www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com includes basic information about the tax credit and a detailed question and answer section. It also includes information about other housing-related and small business measures in the legislation and a number of home-buying resources for consumers.

Expanded Energy Tax Credit to Boost Demand for Renovation Jobs

Beefed-up tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements in the new economic stimulus package are expected to help increase demand for green renovation projects this year and next.

The Internal Revenue Code Section 25C for existing homes, which had expired at the end of 2007, was reinstated as part of the economic rescue package passed by the Bush Administration last fall. Installing energy-efficient windows, doors, roofing and insulation as well as furnaces, air conditioners and heat pumps all qualified for the credit.

But remodelers found that the terms of the 25C credit — equal to only 10% of the cost of each product and with a lifetime cap of \$500 — weren't quite strong enough to get enough home owners off the fence and into a contract.

Under the stimulus legislation signed by President Obama, the percentage of the cost and lifetime cap have been tripled to 30% and \$1,500, respectively; the list of eligible improvements has been expanded and the deadline for installing them has been extended through the end of 2010.

The newly expanded tax credit also is in alignment with industry research showing that remodeling and retrofitting the nation's older homes will have a far more significant impact on reducing residential energy consumption than meeting even the most aggressive efficiency goals for new homes, according to Greg Miedema, [CGR](#), [CGB](#), [CAPS](#), chairman of [NAHB Remodelers](#). "These new tax credits are another way that the home building industry can combat the potential effects of global climate change by encouraging home owners to make energy-efficient improvements to their homes," said Miedema.

A 2008 California study showed that homes built before 1983 were responsible for 70% of the greenhouse gas emissions related to single-family envelope energy consumption.

The study also found that spending \$10,000 to retrofit a 1960s home could save 8.5 tons of carbon at a cost of \$588 to \$1,176 per ton, depending on existing tax credits and incentives. By comparison, increasing the energy efficiency of a new home 35% over current state requirements would cost about \$5,000 and would reduce emissions by 1.1 tons at a cost of \$4,545 per ton. The bottom line is that retrofitting existing homes with energy-efficient features is four to eight times more carbon- and cost-efficient than adding further energy-efficiency requirements to new housing, the study showed.

Tax Credit How-to

Details on qualifying improvements are expected to be available soon on the [Energy Star Web site](#). Remodelers should familiarize themselves with the model types and products that qualify for the tax credit so they can advise their customers. However, they do not need to give their clients the product sales receipts to verify the claim. Certification statements in the manufacturer's product information may suffice. Home owners can claim the 25C credit on Form 5695 when they prepare their income tax returns. They should also retain records that include:

- Name and address of the manufacturer
- Identification of the component
- Make, model or other appropriate identifiers
- Statement that the component meets the 25C standards
- Climate zones for which the criteria are satisfied
- Additional information for storm windows, if applicable
- A declaration that the certification statement is true

Prefab Systems Can Help Solve Freddie Mac Appraisal Issue

Building systems that expedite the construction process can help home builders deal with a new appraisal policy from Freddie Mac on one-time close loans that combine construction financing and a permanent mortgage, housing industry experts said at a press conference at last month's [International Builders' Show](#) in Las Vegas.

In a Nov. 24, 2008 bulletin, [Freddie Mac](#) reminded lenders that an appraisal must be completed within 120 days of the permanent financing of the home for mortgages with settlement dates on or after Jan. 2, 2009. If the effective date of the appraisal is more than 120 days before the effective date of the permanent financing, then the seller must provide an appraisal update.

Building systems can help builders complete their homes within the 120-day period and avoid the need for a new appraisal, participants at the press conference said, and modular homes are a prime example.

“While the builder is working on site to complete the foundation, the various modules are being framed and finished,” said Charles Bevier, editor of [Building Systems Magazine](#). “Sometimes manufacturers will even install cabinets and floor coverings in the factory. This leaves minimal work for a set crew to finish on site.”

Even large, custom modular homes can be completed in less than 120 days from the start of construction, Bevier said.

Panelized homes, concrete homes and log homes include some amount of prefabrication, according to participants at the press conference. These building system techniques save builders time and money, and in the case of the new Freddie Mac lending requirement, the time saved can make an important difference.

However, there will be occasions in which not even the speediest of systems can produce a house in such a short time frame.

“That does not mean that the builder is out of luck,” said Tracy Keyser, a vice president of [M&T Bank](#). “A re-appraisal or official confirmation of the original appraisal will keep the loan intact and the project moving forward.”