

# Let's Level

The Wausau Area Builders Association chartered in 1967 and affiliated with the Wisconsin Builders Association and National Association of Home Builders, is a professional non-profit trade association. Serving the community, we represent the interests and concerns of the customer, building trades, industry suppliers, and all facets of the building industry.

## Upcoming WABA Events

**August 9**  
**Social Event**  
**Woodchucks Game**

**August 20**  
**WABA Sporting Clay**  
**Shoot CANCELLED**

**September 9**  
**Membership Dinner**  
**Meeting**  
**@PowerHouse Lawn & Leisure**  
**\*\*DINNER MEETINGS**  
**ARE BACK!\*\***

**October 22-24**  
**Home Show**

**October 28-30**  
**\*NEW\***  
**Fall Parade of Homes**



## Welcome!

### Renewing Members

Cunico Electric LLC  
Courtside Furniture, Inc.  
CertainTeed LLC  
Advantage Plumbing Plus  
Modern Sewer, Inc.  
Dan Sillars General Contractor, Inc.  
IncredibleBank Inc.



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## Letter from the President

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to August! I hope everyone made it through the recent storms unharmed. Fingers crossed that was the last extreme weather for the summer.

There are some great events coming up for you to watch out for. First up to the plate is our Wisconsin Woodchucks outing which is on August 8th at Athletic Park. This is a great event that is back on deck for 2021. You will surely strike out if you miss it! Sorry...

I'm extremely pleased to announce that our in-person dinner meetings will be launching again in September. A big thank you goes out to Dave Nelson at PowerHouse Lawn & Liesure for graciously hosting this event.

Also, a reminder that the annual Home Show will be held this year in October. There are still booths available as well as some sponsorship opportunities.

Directly following the home show is our Fall Parade of Homes. So far, we have 8 projects for this new event including, for the first time, a remodel being showcased!

Can't wait to see you all at these events!

Alex Forer  
2021 WABA President

### 2021 Wausau Area Builders Association Board of Directors

President - Alex Forer, Larry Meyer Construction

Vice President - Keith Koenig, Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork

Secretary - Deann Zobrak, Runkel Abstract & Title

Treasurer - Kyle VanOrder, Woodstock Flooring & Design Center

Past President - Russ Utech, Russ Utech Insurance

Directors Thru 2021 - Sam McLellan, Rachele Cota, Ashley Dupuis-Bohman

Directors Thru 2022 - Kevin Porter, Jeremy Voigt, Aaron Beyer

Directors Thru 2023 - Scott Dombeck, Seth Jozwiak, Tara Parks

State Representative(WBA)- Seth Jozwiak, Jeremy Voigt, Kevin Porter

National Representative (NAHB) - Alex Forer

### Committee Chairmans:

By-Laws - Sid Sorensen

Events - Ashley Dupuis-Bohman

Finance - Kyle VanOrder

Home Show - Kyle VanOrder / Rachele Cota

Building Youth into Builders - Roger Lang

Legislative - Cory Sillars

Marketing - Tara Parks

Membership -Kevin Schemenaur

Nominations - Russ Utech

Parade of Homes - Travis Hoerman / Sam McLellan

Personnel - Kyle VanOrder

Scholarship - Cory Sillars

Silent Auction - Amber Gober

Golf - Phil Pesanka

Social - Ashley Dupuis-Bohman

*WABA is going back to the  
WOODCHUCKS!*

*Check your emails or contact  
Cara to reserve your tickets!*

*August 9th  
2021*





## New EVENTS CHAIRMAN

Ashley Dupuis-Bohman of Intercity State Bank is the new WABA Events Chairman!



Ashley is a current member of the WABA Board of Directors, the Social Committee Chairman, and a member of the Golf & Sporting Clay Committees. WABA is grateful to have such a dedicated volunteer that is instrumental in so many of the outings that foster networking opportunities for our members. Ashley has recently accepted the new role of WABA Events Chairman.

Thank you, Ashley!

*If you would like to help out with planning the WABA events or are interested in hosting a WABA Dinner Meeting or cocktail hour, please let Ashley know.*

• [AshleyD@intercitystatebank.com](mailto:AshleyD@intercitystatebank.com) •

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# September 9th - WABA Membership Dinner Meeting

*BBQ @ Power House Lawn & Leisure*

Dave Nelson is going above and beyond to treat us to an awesome experience. He has arranged for a SPECIAL GUEST CHEF, OWNER OF CROIX VALLEY FOODS!

Watch your email for invitation with more details



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**WHOO HOO!!!**

Golf raised over **\$3,000** for the Building Youth into Builders Grant Program at the 2021 Golf Outing!

**WAY TO GO, GOLF COMMITTEE!!!**

Phil Pesanka, Kevin Porter, Gary Zarda,  
Ashley Dupuis-Bohman  
& Golf Volunteers-  
Deann Zobrak, Marilyn Kurtz, Amber Gober

2022 Golf Outing Committee  
Phil Pesanka, Kevin Porter, Ashley Dupuis-Bohman,  
Tara Parks, Joe Tessmer

If anyone else wants to join this fun, growing committee- let us know!

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# Buyers' Outlook on Housing Availability and Affordability Declines

Article from NAHB.org

The increased activity in the housing market in the wake of COVID-19, combined with rising housing prices, has hampered prospective buyers' outlook on the housing market and their ability to buy a home.

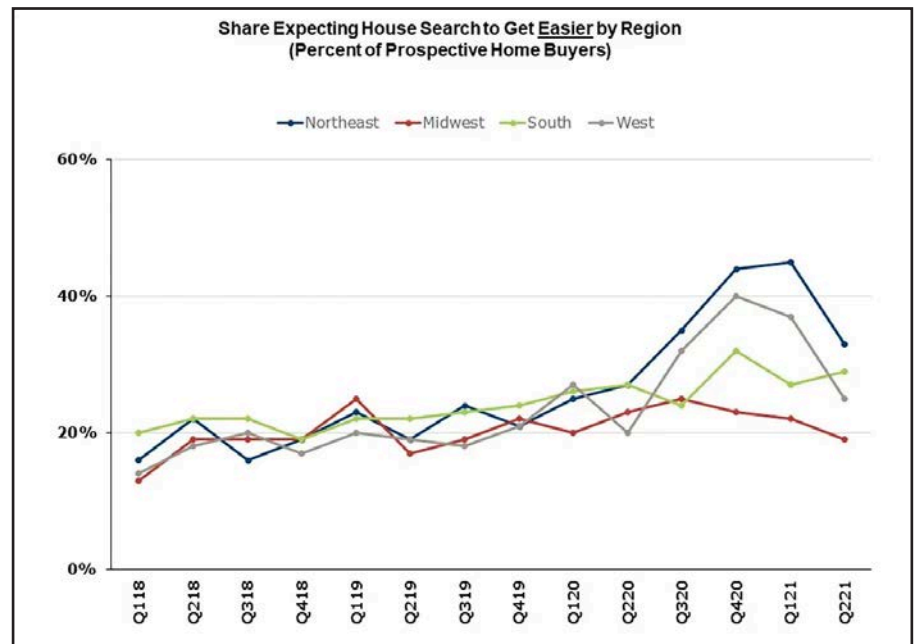
According to NAHB's Housing Trends Report (HTR), 64% of prospective home buyers in the second quarter of 2021 expect that finding the right home will be harder in the months ahead, compared to 54% in the last quarter of 2020. Expectations that finding a home would be easier in the months ahead dropped in all four regions between the first quarter of 2020 and the second quarter of 2021:

Northeast: 44% who thought it would be easier to find a home compared to 33%

Midwest: 23% to 19%

South: 32% to 29%

West: 40% to 25%



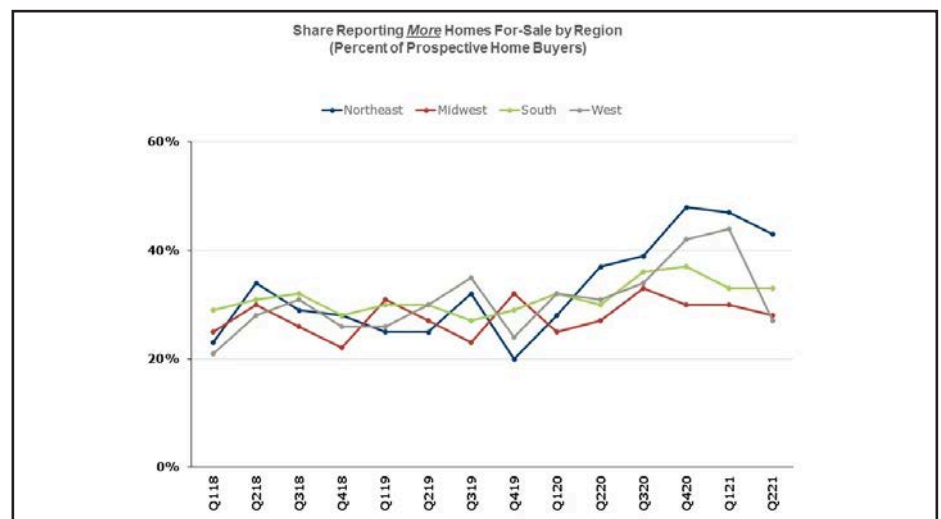
Buyers across these same regions are also reporting seeing a decrease in the number of homes for sale over the same time frame:

Northeast: 48% seeing more homes for sale compared to 43%

Midwest: 30% to 28%

South: 37% to 33%

West: 42% to 27%



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Although inventory is expected to improve — with the number of unsold homes rising 3.3% to 1.25 million from May to June 2021 — buyers are still hampered with rising home prices. The share of prospective buyers who can only afford less than half the homes in their markets rose to 71% in second quarter of 2021, up from 65% in the first quarter of 2021 and 63% in the final quarter of 2020.

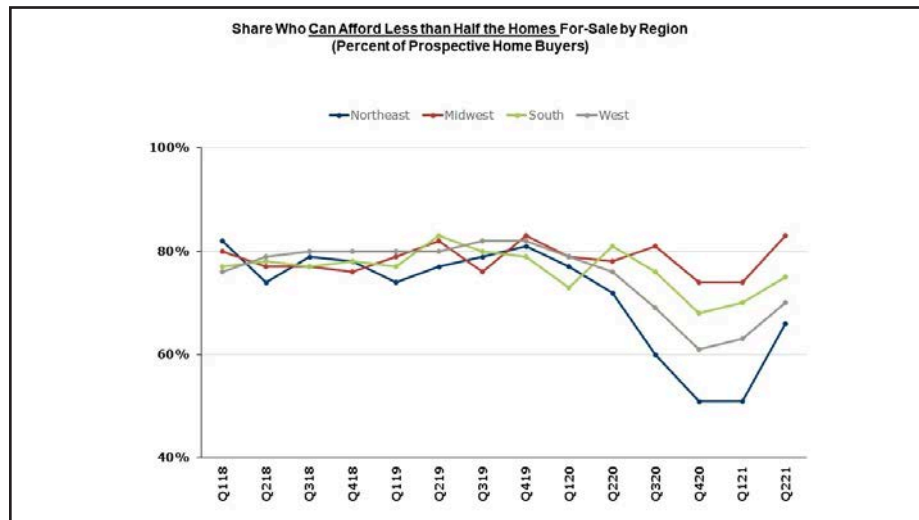
Affordability struggles persist in all four regions:

Northeast: 51% of prospective buyers who can only afford less than half the homes in their markets in the final quarter of 2020 compared to 66% in the second quarter of 2021

Midwest: 74% to 83%

South: 68% to 75%

West: 61% to 70%



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# Advocacy Digest

A monthly digest of top stories from The Blueprint, a Wisconsin Builders Association (WBA) publication.

- WBA advocates the interests of 4,000 home building industry members at the state legislative level, resulting in improved laws and regulations that keep housing affordable for Wisconsin families.

Brad Boyks, Executive Director  
(608) 242-5151 ext. 16  
bboycks@wisbuild.org

## WBA News

- Thursday, October 7- 8:30am- 3:30pm Membership Meeting Day @ Virtual
- January 22nd- WBA 2022 Installation in WAUSAU!!!  
-Cory Sillars being installed as 2022 WBA President at Stoney Creek

### Thirty on Thursdays

Now - Thu, Dec 16, 2021 10:30 AM

Please join us for our web series, Thirty On Thursdays where our guests will range from affinity partners to business executives to government leaders.

WisBuild.Org

July 2021

## 2021-2022 Wisconsin State Budget Highlights



**Schools:** Guarantee a minimum of \$781 per pupil for all school districts that were in-person at least 50% in 2020-21, maintained base-budget funding for all school districts statewide, Special Education (10% increase or \$86M to 30% of eligible costs), Mental Health (additional \$12M that doubles our investment), Sparsity Aid (\$6.3M increase, expanded eligibility), High Cost Transportation Aids (\$13M investment), \$1.6M for the Reading Corps.

**Hospitals & Health Care:** Personal Care worker rate increase (\$78M), Direct Care Workers (\$104M), Hospital Reimbursement increase (\$104M), Long-term care facility (nursing home) reimbursement rate increase (\$254M, 12% increase), Surgical Care Quality Improvement program funding for rural hospitals, Community Health Centers (\$2M increase), Free and Charitable Clinics (\$2M increase).

**Transportation:** \$100M for Local Roads, 2%/2% increase for General Transportation Aids (GTA), all projects remain on schedule with no tax or fee increase, the lowest Department of Transportation (DOT) bonding level in 10 years.

**Broadband:** \$125M for the Rural Broadband Expansion Grant program.

**Corrections:** \$1.3M increase for Length-of-Service Awards for Corrections staff at all prisons, including Boscobel and New Lisbon.

**Agriculture:** Addressed challenges in the meat processing industry by approving four new state meat inspector positions. Created Meat Processor Grant program (\$400,000) and increased the Dairy Processor Grant program. Increased Farmer Mental Health program by \$200,000.

**EMS:** Fully funded the EMS Funding Assistance Program (FAP), which provides funding to local, volunteer departments, Youth Volunteer Firefighting grants (\$100,000).

**Natural Resources:** Reauthorized the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program for four years; invested \$33.25M, added \$1.5M to the Parks Development Fund for State Park improvements such as campsite maintenance, trail maintenance and more, Well Compensation Grants (\$4M), funded at least 7 projects to update facilities at state parks through the State Building Commission, ATV/UTV Trail and Project aids (\$1.5M), Snowmobile aids (\$200,000), Boating aids (\$380,000).

**Justice:** Restored 5.9 Assistant District Attorney positions the Governor vetoed in the last budget and added a ½ position in Lafayette County and one position in Sauk County to manage increasing caseloads, increased funding for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program (\$2.5M), funded Law

continued on the next page

Enforcement Training Grants (\$2M) to sustain this important program for local departments.

**Higher Education:** Invested in UW System by funding building projects on five UW Campuses; UW Madison, UW Green Bay, UW Stevens Point, UW Oshkosh and UW River Falls.

**Income Tax Reduction:** Individual Income Tax Rate Reduction. Reduce the tax rate in the third individual income tax bracket from 6.27% to 5.30%, beginning in tax year 2021.

\*Summary provided by Joint Committee on Finance Co-Chair Senator Howard Marklein, 17th Senate District, and the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau



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# Small Business Administration Streamlines Forgiveness Process for PPP Loans

Article from NAHB.org

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is launching a streamlined application portal on Aug. 4 to allow borrowers with Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$150,000 or less to apply for loan forgiveness directly through the SBA instead of going through their participating lender.

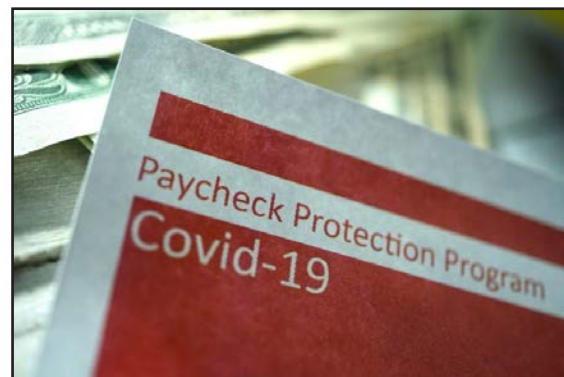
More than 600 banks have agreed to allow access to the portal for more than 2.17 million borrowers.

“The SBA’s new streamlined application portal will simplify forgiveness for millions of our smallest businesses — including many sole proprietors — who used funds from our Paycheck Protection Program loans to survive the pandemic,” said SBA Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman.

The new forgiveness platform will begin accepting applications from borrowers on Aug. Lenders are required to opt in to this program through [directforgiveness.sba.gov](https://directforgiveness.sba.gov).

In addition to the technology platform, the SBA is standing up a PPP customer service team to answer questions and directly assist borrowers with their forgiveness applications. Borrowers who need assistance or have questions should call 877-552-2692, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET.

Established by the CARES Act in 2020, the PPP was among the first COVID-19 small business economic aid programs and provided more than \$798 billion in economic relief to small businesses and nonprofits across the nation.





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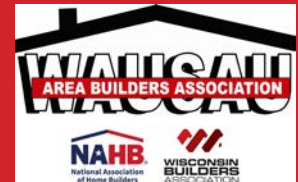
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## Did you know?



## You can access health insurance with your WBA Membership?

WBA is proud to announce the new WBA Association Health Plan in conjunction with The Insurance Center of Wisconsin and underwritten by WPS Health Insurance. WBA membership is required of the business owner, there is health underwriting, and health insurance must be offered to all your employees.

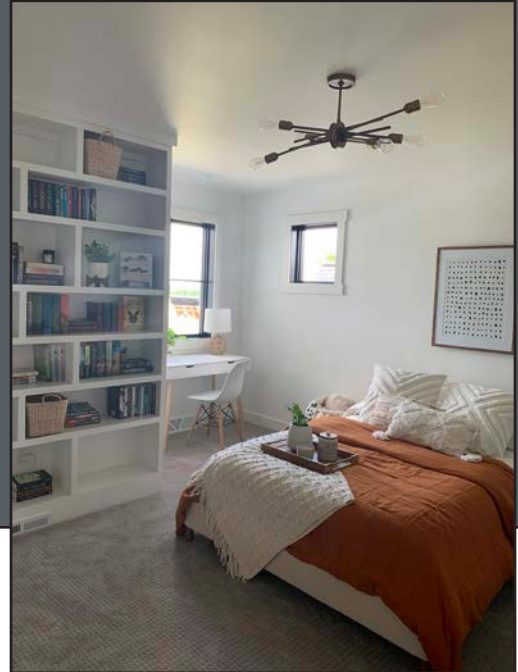
**VISIT WisBuild.Org FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**



# 2021 WABA OCTOBER Parade of Homes

Contracts are in for the October 28-30th Parade of Homes! This event will feature projects from;

Robert Ross Construction  
Woodbury Custom Homes  
Jeremy Voigt Construction  
Timber River Custom Homes  
Blenker Construction



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## 2021 WABA Board of Directors

*Now is a GREAT TIME to start a discussion about joining the WABA Board of Directors in 2022.*

*Are YOU interested? Contact Cara in the office of any of the current WABA Board Members to begin a conversation.*





# Do you want to be an Exhibitor at the 2021 WABA Home Show?

Registration is OPEN!

visit [wausauareabuilders.com](http://wausauareabuilders.com) or

Contact Cara at 715-842-9510 or [Cara@WausauAreaBuilders.com](mailto:Cara@WausauAreaBuilders.com)

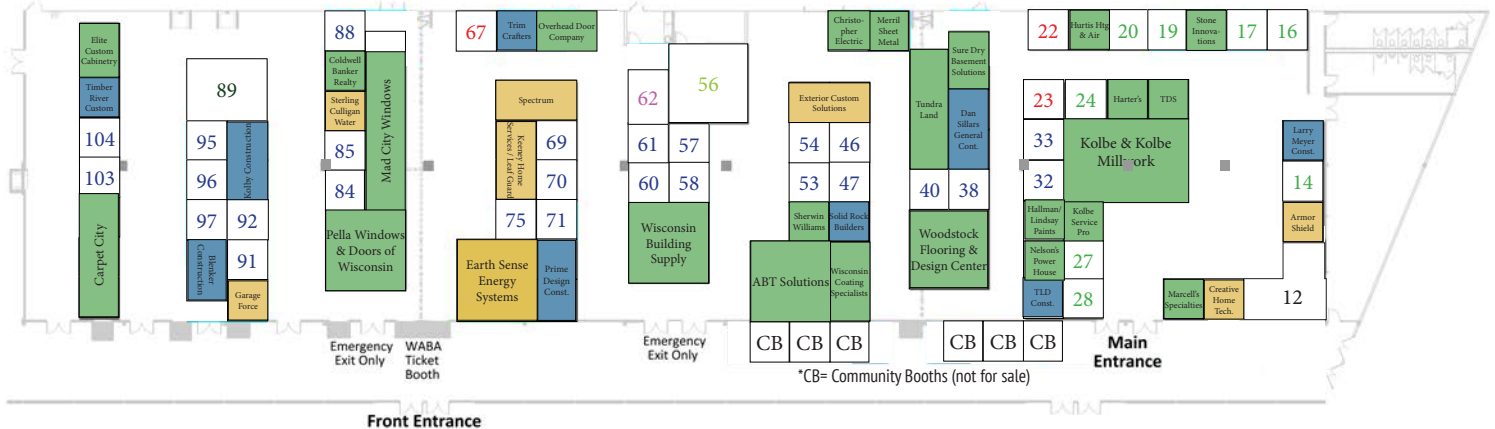


## 2021 Wausau Area Builders Association Home Show

Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center

Rothschild, WI

October 22-24, 2021



	EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION Pricing until April 1, 2021	REGULAR REGISTRATION Pricing valid April 2-Sept 1, 2021	LATE REGISTRATION Pricing after Sept 1st
Front Room 10' x 10' Booth (11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 24A, 26, 27)	\$425	\$550	\$600
Front Room 10' x 10' End Cap (10, 15, 24B)	\$500	\$600	\$650
10' x 10' Booth (29-33, 36-38, 40-44, 46-50, 52-54, 57, 58, 60, 61, 66, 69-73, 75-77, 80-82, 84-86, 88, 90-94, 95-97, 100-105)	\$375	\$500	\$550
10' x 10' End Cap = (22, 23, 44A, 45, 55, 67)	\$450	\$575	\$625
10' x 15' Booth = (35, 62, 65, 79, 98, 106)	\$565	\$775	\$825
10' x 20' End Cap = (68)	\$900	\$1150	\$1200
15' x 20' End Cap = (89)	\$1,275	\$1650	\$1700
20' x 20' Booth = (51, 56, 74)	\$1,425	\$1925	\$2025
20' x 20' End Cap = (39, 59, 83)	\$1,650	\$2150	\$2250