

# LET'S LEVEL

the official publication of the Wausau Area Builders Association



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST

23 - WABA Sporting  
Clays Shoot

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## OUR MISSION

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.



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Golf Outing \_\_\_\_\_ Phil Pesanka  
Social \_\_\_\_\_

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Summer is finally here and going fast, unlike last year, July has been the month of mowing lawn!

In August we will have our Sporting Clay Shoot to benefit several Veterans programs, and we usually book up fast on this. Come out and join in the fun on August 23rd. This is a morning event so it is usually cool as the day begins. Look for more information in the newsletter and your email in-box.

Speaking of the Newsletter, now is a great time to consider advertising in ours to promote your business among our members. Check out the great ad space available here and contact Cara at the office to get your spot lined up for next year.

Two quick reminders for you as summer flies by:

First, the 2020 Home Show reservations will be taken by Cara and Carolyn in our office, so if you have yet to confirm your booth for next year, please call her for more information and to reserve your booth.

Second, as fall approaches keep in mind your organization needs you to participate to keep us healthy, vibrant and strong. Each year, there are spots available on our Officers and Directors Ballot. Election is normally held in November, but we try our best to have a slate of candidates ready for publication in October. Please consider taking a turn on the board, contact me or any officer to submit your name.

We are also looking for a person to assist with the oversight of our association marketing and advertising on a volunteer basis. This would not need to be one person, in fact preferably it would be two and the committees could operate independently. If you, or someone in your organization has an expertise in self-marketing, or buying advertising, these are two committees that could use some fresh ideas, and also offer your business additional networking opportunities both inside and outside our organization. Contact me or Cory Sillars for more information.

*Russ Utech*

WABA President  
Central Wisconsin Insurance Associates

## Sporting Clay Shoot August 23rd



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# 2019 WABA GOLF SCRAMBLE

Thank you to all that attended our WABA annual golf outing. I also sincerely appreciate all that donated raffle items towards are fun event. We had a very successful turnout of over 100 golfers. This is most golfers I have ever seen. It was a great day for fun in the sun. I hope everyone had a great day of good food, beverages, and winning raffle prizes. A big thank you to all our sponsors that help fund and promote this event. Their support makes this event as Awesome as it was.

*Phil Pesanka*

WABA Golf Committee Chairman  
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## NAHB Commends White House Commitment to Workforce Development

NAHB.org, July 25, 2019



Greg Ugalde, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and a home builder and developer from Torrington, Conn., issued the following statement marking the one-year anniversary of the White House executive order on workforce development:

“NAHB applauds President Trump for his tireless commitment to expand job-training and apprenticeship opportunities for students and mid-career workers alike so that they will develop the skills and tools needed to secure well-paying jobs and succeed in the American workforce.

“As a representative of an industry that is vital to the U.S. economy, it is my honor to attend this White House event marking the first anniversary of the president’s executive order that established the National Council for the American Worker.

“With the housing sector grappling with severe labor shortages, NAHB is pleased to do its part to help in this vital initiative by pledging to train 50,000 new workers over a five-year period for a career in the residential construction trades. Our commitment to workforce training starts with the Home Builders Institute, a member of the NAHB federation, and a national leader in workforce training for the construction industry.

“NAHB shares the president’s dedication to training a workforce that meets our needs at home and makes America more competitive abroad and we are proud to participate in this worthy endeavor.”



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# AUGUST CALENDAR

- 6\_ Parade of Homes Committee Meeting, noon
- 6\_ By-Laws Committee Meeting, 4pm
- 7\_ Home Show Committee Meeting, 3pm
- 13\_ Board of Directors Meeting,
- 23\_ Sporting Clay Shoot

## Highlights

### June 23rd WABA Golf Scramble

This year, we had a beautiful day for our annual golf scramble which was held at Trapp River Golf Course. A big thank you to Phil Pesanka and the rest of the golf committee for setting up a great event!





# Remodelers' Confidence Holds Steady in Second Quarter

NAHB.org, July 18, 2019

The National Association of Home Builders' (NAHB) Remodeling Market Index (RMI) posted a reading of 55 in the second quarter of 2019, rising one point from the previous quarter. The RMI has been consistently above 50—indicating that more remodelers report market activity is higher compared to the prior quarter than report it is lower—since the second quarter of 2013. The overall RMI averages current remodeling activity and future indicators.

“The demand for remodeling continues to hold strong throughout the country,” said NAHB Remodelers Chair Tim Ellis, CAPS, CGP, CGR, GMR, Master CGP, a remodeler from Bel Air, Md. “However, the lack of skilled labor continues to be one of the largest roadblocks in the industry.”

Current market conditions rose two points from the previous quarter to 55. Among its three major components, major additions and alterations increased four points to 53, minor additions and alterations and the home maintenance and repair component both held steady at 55 and 56, respectively.

The future market indicators gained one point from the previous quarter to 55. Calls for bids stayed at 54, amount of work committed for the next three months fell two points to 52, the backlog of remodeling jobs increased four points to 58 and appointments for proposals remained steady at 55 for the third quarter in a row.

“The remodeling market has decelerated somewhat due to ongoing supply-side challenges, as well as year-over-year declines in existing home sales,” said NAHB Chief Economist Robert Dietz. “However, remodelers' confidence continues to be positive. Market conditions would be better if not for labor shortages and rising construction costs making it difficult to complete some projects at prices home owners can afford.”

For the full RMI tables, please visit [www.nahb.org/rmi](http://www.nahb.org/rmi). For more information about remodeling, visit [www.nahb.org/remodel](http://www.nahb.org/remodel).



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# 6 Emerging Construction Technologies You Need to Know About

Discover construction software and other advancements that can increase efficiency and safety. One of our business networking tips is to attend local industry trade shows.

As the construction trades continue to evolve its business practices, advancements and software tools are becoming more critical than ever for continued growth. These six emerging construction technologies could help increase efficiency and safety – and might be key to the breakthrough your business needs:



- 1 Cloud-based collaboration
- 2 Wearable technology
- 3 Drone imagery
- 4 Modular construction
- 5 Green construction
- 6 Management software

Learn more about these construction technologies and tools below.

## Cloud-based collaboration

The internet and advancements in digital technology have made it easier than ever to collaborate with your team. Taking your files digital with centralized storage means every member of your team can find the information they need, wherever they are. You can ditch cumbersome binders and paperwork on the construction site for cloud-based collaboration tools like Dropbox that can store all of your essential documents in one place.



## Wearable technology

Trades-focused wearable gadgets like 3D glasses and smart helmets may make construction sites safer and more efficient than ever before. These emerging construction technologies can help your crew communicate on-site, track the location of a tradesperson who may have had an accident, and help with difficult tasks such as handling heavy machinery and equipment.

## Drone imagery

Drones are already making their way into other commercial industries like delivery and agriculture, and we predict they may soon transfer over to the construction trades as well. Imagine being able to achieve absolute accuracy in measurements with 2D or 3D images of the entire job site before you ever visit. The coordinate-based features of drones provide this and other opportunities to streamline your business – with the potential for an even more

*continued on the next page*

significant role as the intelligence behind this technology continues to evolve and improve.

### Modular construction

Modular – or off-site – construction, refers to standardized processes of assembling as much as possible off-site. Manufacturing companies that have already started implementing this strategy have seen lower costs, a reduced number of injuries, and a lead time reduced by as much as 65%. There may also be some environmental benefits of factory assembly because more materials can be recycled instead of tossed into landfills on the job site.



### Green construction

Speaking of the environment, green construction is an eco-friendly take on the processes that typically go into a construction project. Construction technologies and innovations that repurpose recyclables and other materials for construction and incorporate renewable energy and energy-saving techniques into new builds are helping to pave a more sustainable path forward in the construction trades.

### Management software

Our final emerging construction technology on our list is construction management software. These digital tools are designed to help you handle every detail of a construction project, from scheduling and timelines to managing workflow, finances, and clients. This list of top construction management software options may be a good place to start if you're looking to streamline your company's processes and harness the power of tech for efficiency and growth.

Keep your eye out for more on these and other emerging construction technologies and software – they may soon find their way to your construction site. Find more helpful predictions and tips for the construction trades on the Wisconsin Builder's Association's blog on their website, [wisbuild.com](http://wisbuild.com).



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## State Budget signed into law

On July 3 Governor Tony Evers signed the state budget into law while also announcing 78 partial vetoes. Evers' commented that he "sternly considered vetoing the Legislatures' entire budget."

Ultimately Governor Evers decided to issue 78 partial vetoes and went on to say that "vetoing this budget in its entirety would have been more of the same divisiveness and petty, political theatrics that the people of Wisconsin have had to put up with for far too long."

We have been tracking several provisions that were addressed by the Joint Finance Committee that were not changed by Governor Evers' vetoes including:

- No changes to TIF laws
- No additional flexibilities for municipalities to exceed revenue caps
- No changes to prevailing wage laws dealing with developer financed infrastructure
- A first-time homebuyer saving account provision was deleted by the JFC and moves on in the legislative process as a stand alone bill
- DSPS will receive \$5 million in additional funding to update and streamline the credential approval process which WBA supported going back to Advocacy Day.

Some veto language that affected provisions we were tracking:

- The original Evers' budget had a 27% increase on the registration fee for heavy trucks that was removed by the JFC. Governor Evers was able to remove language requiring the DOT to charge the same fee for all trucks regardless of weight. This change likely will lead to an increase in the registration fee for heavy trucks.
- A transfer of \$5 million from the DSPS Safety and Buildings fund was vetoed by Governor Evers. Transfers from this fund have been approved by both Democrat and Republican governors in the past.

Other highlights of the state budget that is now 2019 Wisconsin Act 9 include:

- A \$518 middle class tax cut
- \$570 million more for K-12 education
- \$465 million in additional funding for roads

## NAHB Opposes Portman-Shaheen Energy Bill

Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) today introduced the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, legislation opposed by NAHB because it would mandate overly costly and aggressive energy efficiency requirements in model building energy codes, which harms housing affordability.

Moreover, the Senate bill would discourage states from amending codes to meet their specific needs and could encourage the Department of Energy (DOE) to move beyond its current role as a "technical advisor" and push overly prescriptive and costly energy targets.

At the same time, NAHB is supporting bipartisan legislation introduced in the House by Reps. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) and Bill Flores (R-Texas) that offers a more cost-effective way to encourage energy efficiency. The Energy Savings and Building Efficiency Act would accelerate cost-savings for homeowners by requiring that any code or proposal supported by the Department of Energy has a payback of 10 years or less.

The House bill also stipulates that regarding the development of energy codes, DOE would be prohibited from advocating for certain technologies, building materials or construction practices.

NAHB continues to work with Congress to advance cost-effective ways for the federal government to incentivize homeowners to upgrade their homes to be more energy efficient.

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**Registration 8:00 am**

**Shotgun Start 9:00 am (Rain or Shine)**

**\$75/shooter (until Aug. 16) • \$85/shooter (after Aug. 16)**

\*If this event is cancelled due to weather, \$50 of the entry fee is refundable

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# **SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT**

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