

LET'S LEVEL

the Official Publication of the Wausau Area Builders Association

**AUGUST 2013
VOLUME 32 - ISSUE 8**



GOLF OUTING WINNERS:

First Prize - \$200

*Team Public Service
Mike Richey
Adam Parsons
Arden Emmerick
Al Radant*

Second Prize - \$100.00

*Team G.A.F.
Joe Hughes
Justin Schultz
Leroy Pettis
Adam Schules*

Third Prize

*Chad Otte
Travis Hoerman
Michelle Lor
Joe Opolka*

Bucket Winners

*Bob Marcell
Al Radant
Jim Woller
Arden Emmerich
Mike Richey
Deb Duncan*



SPORTING CLAY SHOOT

FRIDAY AUGUST 23

Look inside for details!





801 South 24th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401
Phone (715) 842-9510
Fax (715) 845-5435
www.WausauAreaBuilders.com

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Vice-President
Secretary-Treasurer Chad Sickler
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Administrative Assistant Carolyn Wilde

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Golf Outing Gary Zarda
Sporting Clay Larry Meyer
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Facebook Kyle VanOrder & Jesse Maas

MISSION STATEMENT:

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 consumer, building trades, industry suppliers and all facets of the building industry.

The primary goal of our association is to provide quality, affordable housing through community and government involvement, while promoting high standards of professionalism.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His three children were outside, still in their P.J.'s, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers thrown all about the front yard. The door to his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house. Proceeding into the entry, he found an even bigger mess.

A lamp had been knocked over, and a throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room the TV was blaring a cartoon channel, and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, Breakfast food was spilled on the counter, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand lay piled up by the back door.

He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over toys and other piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried that she might be ill, or worse!!

He found her lounging into the bedroom, still in her pajamas, reading a novel.

She smiled, looked up at him and asked how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today?"

She again smiled and answered, "you know everyday when you come home from work and ask me what in the world did I do today?"

"Yes", he replied reluctantly.

She answered, "We'll, today I didn't do it!!"

NOW OFFERING...

We will be starting a new page that will be included in the newsletter every month. A business directory.

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FOCUS ON ENERGY OFFERS CHANCE TO WIN FREE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT AT 2013 WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

Is your home wasting energy? Learn how to save up to 30% on your utility bill while enjoying the State Fair

MADISON, WI (July 29, 2013) – Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities' statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, is offering a chance for Wisconsin homeowners to win a free home energy assessment from August 1 to 11. Eligible contestants can enter to win online at the Focus on Energy booth inside the We Energies' Energy Park at the Wisconsin State Fair from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Why get a home energy assessment? If a home is not properly insulated or has leaky openings, money may be secretly flowing out in the form of wasted energy. Using specialized technology, energy assessments (valued around \$500) pinpoint areas where air may be escaping or entering. By completing air sealing and insulation improvements identified during the assessment, homeowners are eligible for financial rewards through Focus on Energy's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program.

"Many homeowners might be unaware of the energy and money that could literally be flowing out their windows and entryways because of poor insulation," said Sarah Platt, Marketing & Communications Director for Focus on Energy. "We are looking forward to educating Wisconsin residents and businesses about the opportunities to make simple improvements that can help cut down their utility bills."

The Focus on Energy Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program pairs homeowners with trained contractors to conduct energy assessments and make energy-saving improvements. Participants can save up to \$2,500 off the total cost of eligible energy efficiency home improvements including air sealing and home insulation.

Contact:
Sarah Platt
Director of Communications & Marketing
sarah.platt@focusonenergy.com
608-230-7031

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello everyone!

How is everyone's summer been, hope you are spending some time enjoying the nice weather we have been having, all though this last weekend was a bit cool. Can you believe that the Fair is here already, that means summer is passing quick and schools will be starting before to long.

Slow down and enjoy the rest of the summer, spend some time with your family have a cook out or two, before it is too late.

Well if you were one of people that made it to WABA night with the Woodchucks then you know how much fun there was. The weather was great, lots of good food and drinks for all. It looked like all the kids had a really good time, free Woodchuck hats, got to go out on the field, they won the game 11 -7, it was fun for all. Next year I would really like to see everyone there it was a very good time.

I would like to thank Kristin Flamang and Carolyn Wilde for getting WABA up and running on NAHB Touch Program. It will really help us stay in touch with our membership. Thanks for all your work.

OSHA is offering education and training on common-sense fall prevention equipment and strategies that saves lives. OSHA has also created a new fall prevention web site with detailed information on fall protection standards. Go to www.osha.gov/stopfalls. Falls are the leading cause of death in construction. There are three simple steps to preventing falls, Plan – Provide – Train. Plan ahead to get the job done safely, Provide the right equipment, Train everyone to use the equipment safely. Unfortunately there was a residential fall fatality in the Eau Claire area this past month, so please be safe none of us need something like that to happen to us.

Thanks to you all for helping WABA membership grow. October we will be working on a membership drive to help increase our membership even more so please ask everyone you know that is not a member to join WABA it is well worth all the benefits. Watch for details.

Bob Marcell, WABA President

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AUGUST

2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Board Agenda Items Due POH Committee Meeting - 12:30 pm Home Show Committee Meeting - 3:00 pm	7	8 Board Packets Sent - 5:00 pm	9	10
11	12	13 BOARD MEETING - 4 pm	14	15	16	17
18	19 August Membership Renewals Due	20	21	22	23 Sporting Clay Shoot ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER DUE	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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SEPTEMBER

2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Board Agenda Items Due POH Committee Meeting - 12:30 pm Home Show Committee Meeting - 3:00 pm	11	12 Board Packets Sent - 5:00 pm	13	14
15	16	17 BOARD MEETING - 4 pm	18	19 Dinner Meeting	20 ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER DUE	21
22	23 Sept. Membership Renewals Due	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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HTC ONE COMING SOON

Cellcom and HTC, a global leader in mobile innovation and design, today announced that the new all-metal HTC One will be available to Cellcom customers by this fall. Crafted with a distinct aluminum unibody, the HTC One introduces new HTC Sense® innovations that reinvent the mobile experience and set a new standard for smartphones.

"The new HTC One is a stunning product that's grabbed a number of prestigious awards and the interest of Cellcom customers, who will be thrilled that we're bringing them HTC's latest flagship smartphone," said Dan Fabry, COO of Cellcom.

For more information on the new HTC One, visit www.htc.com. Follow Cellcom on Facebook for further details on this product launch

as plans become solidified or sign up to be notified of its arrival.



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NEW BUSINESS SHARE PLANS

Cellcom's new Business Share Plans are here! Members can now receive a special discount!

These Share Plans offer shareable data for all devices on your account on the same plan. Enjoy unlimited nationwide voice, unlimited texting, and mobile hotspot/tethering on all capable devices. We also have special rate plans available for basic devices only.

For more information on these exciting new plans, call Justin Kressel Wireless Sales Consultant at (715) 573-1000

IBS & KBIS TO CO-LOCATE BEGINNING IN 2014!

A big thanks to all of the building industry professionals who attended NAHB's 2013 International Builders' Show (IBS) in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was a fantastic show with over 900 exhibitors and more than 100 education sessions. Check out IBS TV to see what happened throughout the week.

We are pleased to announce that IBS and the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS) will co-locate beginning in 2014! That's right, Design and Construction Week will take over Las Vegas! The two events will remain separate and distinct shows held simultaneously at the Las Vegas Convention Center through 2016.

You will get more bang for the buck during Design and Construction Week. Make plans now to join us in Las Vegas, February 4-6, 2014. Stay tuned for updates throughout the year. Registration opens September 3. Sign up to receive email updates.

COME
JOIN
THE FUN!



SPORTING CLAY SHOOT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

WAUSAU SKEET & TRAP CLUB, BROKAW

Registration 8:00 am

Shotgun Start 9:00 am (Rain or Shine)

\$65 per shooter - \$325 per team

5 person teams are NOT necessary to participate

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:

17 Sporting Clay Shooting Stations • Lunch and Refreshments

Raffles will be available for an additional cost.

Five Shooters per Team / 100 Rounds per Shooter

Side Events Available: Rabbit Station, 5-Stand and Annie Oakley Shoot

6 (six) boxes of #7 1/2 or smaller shells are recommended

(Boxes of shells will be available to purchase at the Gun Club)

Personal Four-wheeler transportation is allowed.

EYE AND EAR PROTECTION REQUIRED - NO EXCEPTIONS!

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Shooter #4 _____ Phone: _____

Shooter #5 _____ Phone: _____

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85 SHOOTERS MAXIMUM

Mail Registration with payment to:

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Call Larry Meyer with questions at 715-848-0518

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THE MONDAY MORNING REVIEW



6 year code cycle and stormchaser legislation signed into law

On July 5 Governor Walker signed into law the 6 year code cycle bill and an improved stormchaser bill that the Wisconsin Builders Association (WBA) supported.

Moving Wisconsin to a six year review of the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) has been a top WBA advocacy priority this

session. This law change will require the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to review the UDC every 3 years and then work with the Uniform Dwelling Code Council to do an extensive review and code update every 6 years. This law change is now 2013 Wisconsin Act 23.



The stormchaser bill that was vastly improved with WBA's input was also signed into law on July 5. WBA staff professionals, working in conjunction with key WBA leaders worked on an amendment to the bill that will still allow consumers, contractors and insurance companies to talk about work involved with an insurance claim. Another substantial change that WBA requested in the final version of the bill was language requiring the consumer to let the contractor know when a job done on the exterior of a home is involved in an insurance claim. This law change is now 2013 Wisconsin Act 24.

These are 2 big wins for the WBA Advocacy efforts this legislative session and with your help moving forward we will be working on more legislative changes this summer and fall.

Mary Burke for Governor?

The search for a candidate to challenge Governor Walker continues with news in June of polling being done to test the possible candidacy of current Madison School Board member Mary Burke as a possible democratic candidate for governor.

Message testing the background of a prospective candidate is nothing new to politics but this story had a unique twist because of some of the issues that were tested and the involvement of a current NAHB staffer with Wisconsin roots.

Some of the things that callers were asked to comment on were the fact that: She took a snowboarding sabbatical and avoided working during stretches of her life. She spent six figures running for a school board seat and could spend millions running for governor. Her family business and former employer, Trek, has outsourced jobs overseas.

Now for the NAHB/Wisconsin twist to the story. This information was contained in a complaint filed by the Republican Party of Wisconsin (RPW) with the Government Accountability Board because the poll did not indicate who was paying for it. Wisconsin law requires a disclaimer on any poll done for political purposes.

The RPW complaint on the Burke poll listed Patrick Hogan of Washington D.C. as the person who received the poll without indicating who paid for it. Mr. Hogan is a former campaign staffer for Mitt Romney's Wisconsin campaign and Governor Walker's campaign and capitol office staff. Recently Mr. Hogan moved to Washington D.C. and took a job with NAHB as a "Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs".

As long as you still have a cell phone with a Wisconsin area code you can still affect politics in the state if you ask the right questions when you receive a political poll!

In addition to doing polling, it was also reported by the Associated Press that websites for BurkeForGovernor.com, BurkeForGovernor.net, BurkeForGovernor.org and BurkeForGovernor.info had all recently been reserved online.

Stay tuned, is Mary Burke the wealthy candidate to challenge Governor Walker that Democrats have been looking for?

Former state senator announces run for old seat

The closest election during the wave of recall elections in the summer of 2012 was between then State Senator Van Wanggaard versus former State Senator John Lehman. After a recount, Lehman bested Wanggaard by 834 votes last summer.

Fast forward to late June with now former State Senator Van Wanggaard announcing he will challenge State Senator John Lehman for the seat he held from January 2011 to June 2012.

Confused yet? The history of this state senate seat has it flipping back and forth between the parties for the past 20 years. With new lines in place after redistricting, that is likely to change.

The 21st Senate District formerly had all of the City of Racine within its boundaries and it was considered a classic "swing district". The newly configured 21st Senate District drawn with the new census numbers from 2010 has very little of the City of Racine and is now considered a very safe GOP seat that Wanggaard, assuming he has no GOP primary challenger, is considered the strong favorite to win in 2014.

Lehman is expected to decide for or against another run before the end of this year.

Shoreland zoning after annexation bill passes assembly committee

Recently the effort to modernize the law concerning land being regulated by county shoreland zoning rules after it has been annexed took another step closer to being signed into law.

The Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage voted down efforts by Assembly Democrats to gut the bill and ultimately passed it out of committee on a 9-4 partisan vote.

Those voting in favor of the bill included Representatives A. Ott, Kleefisch, Bies, Williams, Mursau, Nerison, Petryk, Steineke and Born. Those voting against were Representatives Milroy, Clark, Danou and Shankland.

Calls have already been placed to both assembly and senate leadership asking for this legislation to be considered once the legislature returns to the floor the week of September 16.

Multifamily Code Council members needed

The Department of Safety and Professional Services recently contacted WBA staff professionals asking for help in finding members to serve on the Multifamily Dwelling Code Council.

The Multifamily Dwelling Code Council advises the department on rules for multifamily dwelling construction. The council was created by 1991 Wisconsin Act 39 in the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations and transferred to the Department of Commerce by 1995 Wisconsin Act 27. Its composition and duties are prescribed in Sections 15.157 (12) and 101.972 of the statutes.

Members shall be appointed to 3-year terms and shall consist of: 2 members representing labor organizations for the skilled building trades, each of whom is actively engaged in his or her trade, 2 members representing municipal inspectors, one of whom is actively engaged in inspections in a county whose population is less than 50,000 and one whom is actively engaged in inspections in a county whose population is 50,000 or more, 2 members representing the fire services, each

of whom is actively engaged in fire service work and at least one of whom is a fire chief, 2 members representing building contractors and building developers, each of whom is actively engaged in on-site construction of multi-family housing, 3 members representing manufacturers of materials or suppliers of finished products in one of five categories (cement, concrete block, gypsum, metal, or wood; 1 member representing architects, engineers, and designers who is actively engaged in the design or evaluation of multi-family housing, and 2 members representing the public, at least one of whom is an advocate of fair housing. An employee of the department of Commerce shall serve as the non-voting secretary of the council [15.157 (12)].

If you are involved in the construction of multifamily buildings and would be interested in serving on the advisory code council please click here (bboycks@wisbuild.org) to have your name submitted for consideration.

From NAHB: Pending Home Sales Soar

The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on signed contracts, increased 6.7% in May 2013 to 112.3 from a downwardly revised 105.2 in April. The May 2013 PHSI reported by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) was 12.1% higher than the same period a year ago. NAR reported that the May PHSI was the highest since late 2006, and that pending home sales have been above their previous year levels for the past 25 months.

The strong increase in the PHSI mirrored Tuesday's Census report that new home sales increased 2.1% in May. The May PHSI was flat in the Northeast, but increased 10.2%, 2.8% and 16.0% in the Midwest, South and West respectively. Year over year, the PHSI increased 14.3%, 22.2% and 12.3% in the Northeast, Midwest and South respectively, but only 1.1% in the West.

NAR attributed the robust PHSI increase to buyers realizing that mortgage rates have already passed their low point, and that despite a limited inventory, they need to act to take advantage of current rates and prices. This pent-up demand is likely to drive up prices which will induce more homeowners to place their homes on the market and broaden choices for potential home buyers.

If contracts closed at the same time they were signed, this graph would be the correspondence between sales and the PHSI. So the PHSI is a good indicator of what will likely happen to existing home sales when the contracts close in coming months. We anticipate that the June 2013 and July 2013 existing sales data will reflect today's pending sales report, suggesting continued increases in existing home sales as we move into the summer.

Brad Boycks
WBA Director of Government and Political Affairs
WisconsinBuildersAssociation@bboycks@wisbuild.org
(608) 242-5151 ext.16
Visit our web site: www.wisbuild.org

BUILDING AMERICA SOLUTION CENTER: LINKING INNOVATIONS TO INDUSTRY

Reprinted from the NAHB website

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Building America program has launched the Solution Center, an online resource providing easy access to a wealth of building science and energy efficiency information based on Building America research results.

Building America brings together the country's top building scientists and the biggest names in the building industry to conduct field and lab studies and develop technologies and best practices for new and existing homes across the nation.

The Solution Center includes hundreds of high-performance topics ranging from air sealing and insulation to HVAC components, walls, and windows.

The user-friendly interface delivers a variety of resources for each topic, including:

- Contracting documents and specifications
- Installation guidance
- Energy codes and labeling program compliance
- CAD drawings
- "Right and wrong" photographs
- Training videos
- Climate-specific case studies
- Technical reports.
- Users can access content in several ways, including the ENERGY STAR® checklists, alphabetical lists, a house diagram with selectable components, and an information map. Logged-in users can quickly save any of these elements into their personal Field Kit.

This gives the builder access to a large database that DOE has been compiling over many years, but now is available on a web based platform that is available to the entire residential construction industry.

For example, a builder looking for new strategies for building in cold climates can find a listing of pertinent publications in the Building America Library or review any one of 101 Solution Center Guides, covering topics as varied as attic knee wall, cantilevered floors, duct returns and slab edge insulation. These guides can be further filtered by taxonomy

(Thermal, HVAC, water management, design strategies), climate zones, subcategories (air sealing, indoor environment, advanced windows) and by key words. Entering a search term will highlight all guides that contain that term, making it simpler to find what you are looking for.

Need a drawing of a two-stud corner? The database has that and more than 100 other CAD files for easy download. These files can be used as specification details or as a teaching opportunity to explain proper installation to the trades.

The Solutions Center also has a visual Component Explorer section that allows the user to click on various pictures of the home to quickly drill down to the desired information. Clicking on the entire house gives you access to proven whole-home performance case studies by well-known high-performance home builders. Hover the mouse over roofs and quickly

access insulation and water management tips. There is even a Process category that provides information on consumer behavior, market differentiation, quality management, construction documentation and field verification.

The Solution Center's image

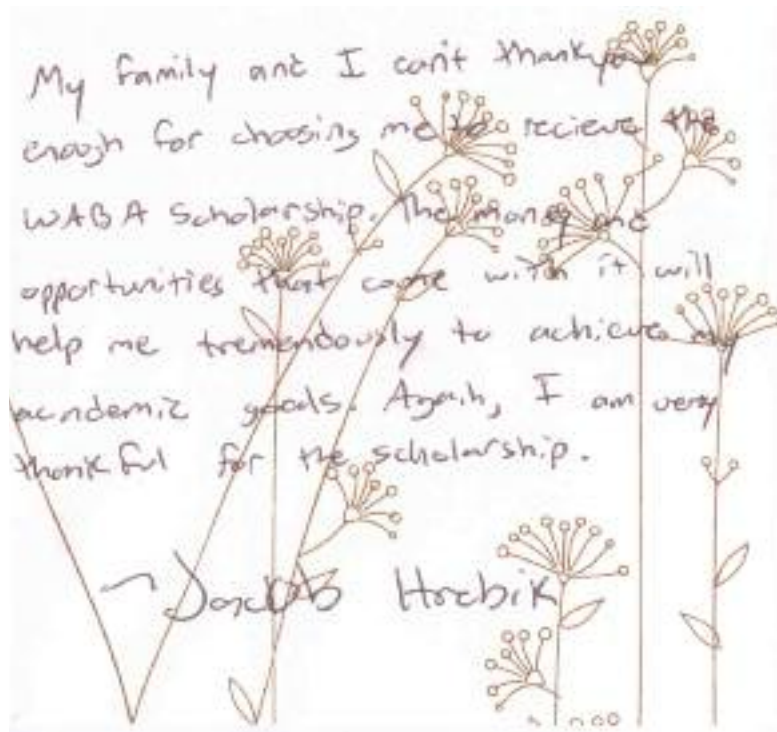
gallery includes more than 1,000 pictures, many of which clearly depict both the "right" and "wrong" approaches to residential construction questions. If you need further resources, the References section provides over 200 links to industry organizations, associations, building scientist and government agencies.

As part of DOE's Building America program, the Solution Center offers easy access to practical tools in developing High Performance homes that reduce annual energy use and improve overall building.

Go to <http://basc.pnnl.gov/> for more information



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COMMITTEES UPDATES

ADVERTISING / MARKETING _____

No updates this month.

GOLF _____

No updates this month.

PERSONNEL _____

No updates this month.

EVENTS _____

No updates this month.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS _____

No updates this month.

HOME SHOW _____

No updates this month.

SILENT AUCTION _____

No updates this month.

SCHOLARSHIP _____

No updates this month.

FACEBOOK _____

No updates this month.

MEMBERSHIP _____

No updates this month.

SPORTING CLAY _____

Event: This year's event is scheduled for August 23

Location: Wausau Skeet and Trap Club in Brokaw

Cost: \$65 (not including your shells)

What's included: Round of sporting clays (you shoot approximately 100 shells per round), Lunch and refreshments, Various other shooting competitions available at an additional cost

Contact Larry Meyer at 715 848-0518 if you would like to help or if you have any questions.

PARADE OF HOMES _____

No updates this month.

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