

ACTION NEWS

The Official Publication of the
Southwestern Indiana Builders Association

2175 N. Cullen Ave Evansville, IN 47715
~ 812-479-6026 ~



APRIL, 2005
VOL. 28, NO. 4

SIBA DATES

- April 1st - SIBA Office, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Parade Book Ad Deadline
- April 12th - 5:30 pm, Holiday Inn
SIBA M'ship Meeting.....pg 5
- April 13-17 - Washington, DC
Leadership @ Leg. Conf...pg 4
- April 26th - 4:30 pm, Home Cnslts Center
Remodelors' Council Mtg...pg 6



SIBA ATTENDANCE AT ALL TIME HIGH!

See details, page 5

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Badger Breaks Records.....pg 4*
- Kitchen Remodeling Trends.....pg 6*
- Whirlpool VP to Address Builders.....pg 9*
- Association Health Plans.....pg 9*
- New Code Delivers Affordability.....pg 10*
- Summer Golf at Rolling Hills.....pgs 12, 13, 24*
- Scenes from State Convention.....pgs 18,19*
- Builder Confidence High.....pg 21*

President's Message

by *BILL BADGER, SR,*
Badger Construction, Inc.

Quality health care coverage provided at an affordable cost to all members of our organization and their employees! Now wouldn't that be a great idea!

In April, we will be going to Washington, DC for the 2005 Legislative Conference. We will be meeting with our senators and congressmen and this affordable health care issue will be at the top of our discussion list. There are 41 million uninsured citizens in the United States - and the majority of those work for small business who cannot afford to offer quality health insurance benefits. Senate Bill 406, the "Small Business Health Fairness Act" that is currently before

See **PRESIDENT'S**, page 25

"Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work."

- Aristotle

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SCHOLARSHIP

Bill Kattman, Kattmann Construction, Inc.

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**ACTION NEWS
2005 DEADLINES**

Issue	Deadline
January	December 17
February	January 14
March	February 11
April	March 11
May	April 15
June	May 13
July	June 13
August	July 17
September	August 12
October	September 16
November	October 14
December	November 11

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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Phone: 812-479-6026
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Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Website:
www.SIBAonline.org

2005 OFFICERS

President

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SPECS

Ad Size	Width	Height
1/9-Page	2 1/2" x	3 1/4"
1/2-Page	7 1/2" x	4 3/4"
Full Page	7 1/2" x	9 3/4"
Insert	7 1/2" x	9 3/4"

RATES

Size	1X	3X	6X	12X
Ninth	\$27	\$80	\$160	\$320
Half	\$54	\$160	\$320	\$640
Full	\$107	\$320	\$640	\$1280
Insert	\$187	\$560	\$1120	\$2240

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SIBA LIFE DIRECTOR: W.C. "Bud" Bussing

The information provided in this publication is for informational purposes only. Due to complexities of applicable building codes, construction applications, and facts specific to each situation, individuals should consult with a qualified contractor regarding specific construction needs or concerns.

IT'S THE PRESIDENT, NOT STEROIDS



The Pedtke Perspective by Bill Pedtke

It hasn't made any headlines. Heck, reporters are not even calling. Maybe no one has noticed - yet.

And although I haven't refused, I did not testify before Congressional hearings. But before the 2005 Major League Baseball season gets into full-swing, I want to take this opportunity to declare that the amazing results by SIBA President Bill Badger are not the product of steroids. No foreign substance was used to generate the success enjoyed by the Builders Association. In fact, I can tell you the results are from SIBA President Bill Badger's leadership, determination and diligence.

This statement is only fair, with all the unrest in professional baseball over statistics and records. Will Bonds break the home run record? Will there be an asterisk near his name? The attraction (or distraction) of new highs and records seems to be irresistible. In my "unpublishable" mindset, SIBA's success must certainly be next to get the spotlight for the public's eye.

In March, SIBA began reaping some of the rewards of Bill's hard work. And those results are undeniable, when you consider SIBA is at all time records for 1) Membership, 2) Parade Entries, and 3) Membership Meeting Attendance.

Association membership hit a record-level with 412 company-memberships, representing almost 18,000 paid employees. Someone estimated that the housing workforce numbers of SIBA alone, represents the employee-base of "about 4 Toyotas Plants". Perhaps a fact that SHOULD interest Congress much more.

This January, Bill Badger marched into the SIBA office and demanded 10 application packets. He said he would distribute them to his subs and suppliers who don't have a membership. Quite

frankly, we hear this a lot - especially from incoming presidents. It usually turns into a few new members. But this year, almost every single application has returned for board approval. Through March alone, Badger has recruited 10 new members. At this pace, he would recruit 40 new members for the 2005 season! Perhaps that would warrant a phone call from the National League President - who may even check Badger's recruiting application for cork!

This spring, we learned there will be a record number of homes entered in the 2005 Parade of Homes. The old record was 73, which has stood since 1991. Rules and fees were then changed to resolve problems with completing Parade homes. However, that record was shattered this year when a new-record 84 homes were entered. This June should be an incredible illustration of the extraordinary fiscal impact new housing has on our community. With just this single-week event, more than \$20 million of real estate value will be added to the tax bases of Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties.

And thirdly, most SIBA members realize spring membership meetings incorporate extra parade activities, requiring Parade builders to attend. The purpose is to incorporate Parade announcements and functions with the Parade builders. But if you moved around the meeting room during the social hour, you probably noticed something different. Like, it was tougher to move around. Attendance hit an all-time high of 214 attendees registered. Of our 128 building companies, 45 were represented by one, two or more in leadership roles. What a savings for supply companies when you compare the \$17 fee for attending the meeting with the cost of scheduling and holding 45 different meetings with the same 45 different building companies. And good luck trying to get that done on your own!

Overall, the first quarter of Badger's reign has been more than successful. New ideas are being tried and proven successful. But all around the league, I'm sure someone is wondering how he gets it all done. If he's not doing it all himself, he should be given credit for surrounding himself with a board of directors and committee chairs.

I can't say if he'd undergo a blood test to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt - because Bill may have a thing about

needles. And speaking of shadow - this guy is whipping himself back into shape. Working out at "The Y" and cutting back on afternoon cookies is causing some serious "pull-ups" on his trousers.

But one thing is for sure. Pine tar, or no pine tar, we better look out for this guy. He's a hitter for the industry, and it's all Badger!

BADGER, KATTMANN TO MEET LEGISLATORS

SIBA President Bill Badger and Vice-President Bill Kattmann are part of an Indiana contingency traveling to Washington, DC this month to meet with lawmakers. These SIBA Builder Members will be part of the National Association of Home Builders Legislative Conference, where thousands of NAHB builders meet with Representatives and Senators to push the most pressing housing-related concerns.

For the 2005 conference, the top issues pinpointed for discussion include Stormwater Regulations and the Endangered Species Act. Also at the top of the agenda during the one-day lobbying blitz will be the issue of providing effective regulatory reform of the government-sponsored enterprises - Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks - while preserving their housing mission. Participants will also be asked to garner cosponsorship of legislation creating a homeownership tax credit.

Held in conjunction with the Legislative Conference in DC is the Spring Board Meeting. The SIBA leaders will stay to attend some of the committee meetings, as well as the board of directors. It's been estimated that those who attend the NAHB committee meetings are approximately 1 - 2 years ahead of the curve on housing issues. That's because NAHB is well-regarded as the authority on housing issues, and is invited to provide expert and in-the-field input on them.

2005 MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

As of:	12/31/04	2/28/05
Builders	119	125
<u>Associates</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>287</u>
Total	384	412
<i>Y-T-D Net Growth: 7.3%</i>		<i>Annualized Retention: 86.3%</i>
<i>Total jobs represented: 18,442!</i>		

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Absolute Painting Contractor Inc.

Kevin Helsley
4704 Timber Lane
Evansville, IN 47715
Phone: 812-471-7113
Fax: 812-471-7113
E-mail:

Gerhardt Tile Contractors

Tim Gerhardt
2544 MJM Industrial Dr.
Evansville, IN 47715
Phone: 812-471-8000
Fax: 812-471-0199
E-mail: tim@gerhardttile.com

Patton Heating & Air

Deb Yager
517 Ingle St.
Evansville, IN 47708
Phone: 812-424-7583
Fax: 812-424-5999
E-mail: dyager@pattonhtg.com

Perk-A-Lawn Gardens

Michael W. Perkins
2470 Maranatha Lane
Vincennes, IN 47591
Phone: 812-882-5752
Fax: 812-882-7425
E-mail: pal@vincennes.net

Regal Homes of So. Indiana

Chris Kimbrough
9501 N. Green River Rd.
Evansville, IN 47725
Phone: 812-305-7557
Fax: 812-867-6997
E-mail: kcats96@aol.com

Terminix International

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6001 Old Boonville Hwy.
Evansville, IN 47715
Phone: 812-479-0244
Fax: 812-479-3122
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Next Membership Meeting:

April 12th

@ **Holiday Inn, Airport**
(US 41 & Lynch Rd.)

"A Smoke-Free Environment"

5:30 p.m.

\$17 with reservation
(\$22 for walk-ins)

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479-6026

~ PROGRAM ~

Dave Swift, Whirlpool
Executive Vice President

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& Lowe's Home Center

BADGER ADDRESSES WARRICK TEENS

SIBA President Bill Badger, Sr. allotted one of his precious Parade work days to speak to teens enrolled at the Warrick Education Center.

Teens at the Warrick Education Center are at the age where they need to make some serious decisions about where their lives are going. They need someone to give them some insights about what's expected of them in the working world. Badger addressed the teens, giving a description of what it's like working in the home building industry. After telling about his life after high school, his service in the Navy, Badger described entering the home building industry.

Then they asked questions. Badger illustrated some of the qualities contractors look for when they hire new workers. He quipped, "breathing makes the list – in and out", but explained how punctuality and honesty can sometimes be more valuable than a college diploma.

SIBA ATTENDANCE HITS RECORD LEVEL IN MARCH

Meetings Most Efficient Connection to Builders

If you missed the last membership meeting, there aren't many people like you. More than 210 builders, remodelers and suppliers attended the March 8 event.

The membership meeting serves a very important role in the association value to members. For each supplier of services and products, there needs to be a connection to a contractor. Like everything else in this world, these connections come with a price.

If your company figures the costs of staff time and resources of finding the opportunity to meet with a builder, scheduling that meeting, and conducting a business meeting successfully, you could be talking about a pretty hefty price tag.

And multiply that cost for each meeting with each builder!

SIBA's monthly membership meetings are designed to provide suppliers with the valuable opportunity to meet dozens of builders at one time in one place. Meeting sponsorships provide an exclusive opportunity to present your company to your customers. However, the SIBA social hour that precedes each meeting has proven to be an ideal opportunity to rub elbows with SIBA builders.

Smart business managers make decisions that make the most of their dollars. Smart suppliers get their sales people to the SIBA meetings!

RC ROSTER

52 Members!

REMODELERS

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Core Contractors, Inc.
Creative Interiors
Dunn Building Services, Inc.
Fest Construction, Inc.
Happe & Sons Construction
Heidorn Construction, Inc.
Homes by John Peninger
JD's Construction
Koch Construction Inc.
Martin Brothers & Co., Inc.
MCF Construction
Nurrenbern Construction
Popham Construction Co.
Sandy Smith Builder, Inc.
Scheessele & Sons Construction
Shepherd Construction, Inc.
Daniel E. Temme Architect
Tri-State Restoration Contractors*

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

*A.B. White & Son, Inc.
Allied Building Products
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Benthall Bros Inc
Champion Windows
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Ken Stevens, F.C. Tucker Emge Realtors
Kight Lumber Co., Inc.
Kitchen Interiors
Koessel Glass Company
Lance Cabinet Shop
Lensing Wholesale Inc.
Light Concepts
Louisville Tile Distrs. Inc.
Michael Gourley & Sons
Old National Bank
Paint 'N Stuff, Inc.
PPG / Porter Paints
Scholz Drywall & Interiors, Inc.
Sears Contract Sales
Shelter Distribution (West Roofing)
Sherwin Williams
Sun Windows, Inc.
Windows of Evansville*

REMODELERS COUNCIL

2005 Officers

*Chairman: Damien Scheessele
Vice Chairman: Larry Koch
Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Freeman*

FUSION OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN MATERIALS AND "HIVING" DRIVE KITCHEN REMODELING TRENDS IN 2005

A perennial hot spot in the remodeling market, the coming year should bring some new twists in the kitchen, according to remodelers participating in an industry trends panel discussion at the 2005 International Builders' Show.

Home owners are also looking for remodeling opportunities to create more versatility and privacy in their living space. Home owners continue to open up kitchen space, the remodelers said, and they have become more receptive to the use of new materials and color blends and they no longer sweat the details of the cabinet construction and appliances.

With kitchen remodeling becoming increasingly popular in recent years and veering toward mass production, the industry professionals said that home owners are now looking for originality and are embracing such creative products as faucets and fixtures with unique shapes, concrete counters in favorite colors or patterns and glass-tile and solid-wood countertops.

Remodelers in the Northeast are seeing a blend of traditional materials with urban accents creating a modern vernacular. "For one project, we used painted white raised panel doors for kitchen cabinets and mahogany on the flooring as well as the casings for the windows and doors for an elegant look," said Paul Sullivan, CGR, CAPS of the Sullivan Co., in Newton Heights, Mass.

"Also, adjacent to the kitchen we installed mahogany wainscot paneling to encompass the perimeter of the dining room," said Sullivan. "We then used a random color pattern of glass tiles as the backsplash and accented the cabinet doors with custom hand-blown glass hardware. This use of traditional style cabinetry and mahogany wood in conjunction with modern materials such as glass and stainless steel appliances gave this characteristically traditional kitchen an extraordinarily modern feel."

Home owners are also using limestone, slate and granite in their kitchens. For those seeking a sleek look, stainless steel countertops with built in sinks and runoff boards are being designed to complement stainless steel appliances.

Cabinets rising to the ceiling are making a comeback, providing more storage space and a cleaner look, according to Michael Strong, CGR, CAPS of Brothers Strong in Houston.

Northwestern home owners like mixing two or three colors in the kitchen, especially on lower and upper cabinets. "Many home owners are going for the 'energized' look where they mix techno-bright and metallic colors with calming earth tones," said Chuck Russell, CGR, CAPS of Westhill, Inc., in Woodinville, Wash.

"Hiving" Is the New Buzz Word

In another big remodeling trend, home owners are moving out of the reclusive "cocooning" period following Sept. 11 into a "hiving" phase in which they want their homes to match a more active, on-the-go lifestyle.

People want rooms to be useful and to serve more than one purpose. For example, they want a room where mom can do her crafting while dad watches television and the kids play on the computer. "While each family member wants to do their own thing, they still want to be in the same space," said Russell.

See **HIVING**, page 25

**REMODELERS'
COUNCIL
NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY,
APRIL 26TH
4:30 p.m. @ Lensing's
Home Consultants Center
(4619 Lincoln Avenue)**

SIBA Spike Club Members

(as of 2/28/05)

SUPER SPIKES

(250-499)

Tommy Thompson	329
<i>Thompson Homes, Inc.</i>	
Bob Hatfield	258
<i>Custom Homes by Bob Hatfield</i>	

ROYAL SPIKES

(150-249)

Carl Shepherd	220
<i>Shepherd Construction, Inc.</i>	
Mike Talbert	206
<i>Homes by the Talbert Group</i>	
Steve Heidorn, CGR CGB CAPS	182
<i>Heidorn Construction, Inc.</i>	
Scott Jagoe	181
<i>Jagoe Homes, Inc.</i>	
Ron Dauby	171
<i>Core Contractors</i>	

RED SPIKES

(100-149)

Ron McGillem	138
<i>R.A. McGillem Construction</i>	
Alan Bosma, CGB CGR	133
<i>Bosma Construction, Inc.</i>	
C. Frank Scholz	127
<i>Scholz Insulation Co., Inc.</i>	
Jeff Hatfield	122
<i>Core Contractors</i>	
Sandy Smith Jones	120
<i>Sandy Smith Builder, Inc.</i>	
Glenn Nurrenbern	117
<i>Nurrenbern Construction</i>	
Dan Buck	114
<i>Dan Buck Development</i>	
Larry Koch, CGB	104
<i>Koch Construction, Inc.</i>	
Damien Scheessele	104
<i>Scheessele & Sons Construction</i>	
W.C. "Bud" Bussing	100
<i>Bussing Construction</i>	

GREEN SPIKES

(50-99)

Brad Sterchi	97
<i>Sterchi Homes Corporation</i>	
Brad Killebrew	93
<i>Killebrew Brick, Inc.</i>	
Al Bauer, Jr.	87
<i>Bauer Homes</i>	
Dick Zirkle	67
<i>Benthall Brothers, Inc.</i>	
Mike Martyn	64
<i>Martyn Custom Homes</i>	
Bill Badger, Sr.	60
<i>Badger Construction, Inc.</i>	
Danny Davis	58
<i>Davis Homes</i>	
Bill Jagoe	55
<i>Jagoe Homes, Inc.</i>	
Jim Muth	52
<i>Complete Lumber, Inc.</i>	
Jim Arvin	50
<i>Arvin Sign Services</i>	
Darrell Spears	52
<i>Spears & Norman Homes</i>	
John Peninger, CGB GMB	50
<i>Homes by John Peninger</i>	

SIBA Members must earn six spike credits within two years to become a Blue Spike. Blue Spikes must then recruit two spikes per year until they reach Life Spike status with 25 Spikes.

* Denotes recruiters who have not earned their 2nd Spike, and therefore do not have enough YTD credits to maintain current status. If recruiters do not earn two spike credits each year, NAHB wipes their repetitive spike total to zero!

LIFE SPIKES

(25-49)

Wayne Henning	49
<i>Old National Bank</i>	
Herb Schumacher	46
<i>Schumacher Custom Homes</i>	
Walt VanZilen	43
<i>Selective Homes</i>	
Rick Oakley, CGR CAPS	36
<i>Creative Interiors</i>	
Robbie Sears	31
<i>VECTREN</i>	
Bert Warner	30
<i>Windows of Evansville</i>	
Ted Ubelhor	27
<i>Fifth Third Bank</i>	

BLUE SPIKES

(6-24)

Chris Combs	24
<i>Combs Landscape & Nursery</i>	
Rick Schapker	24
<i>Pella Windows & Doors</i>	
Jill Hayden	24
<i>J.H. Hatfield Homes</i>	
Mike Frank	24
<i>Scholz Insulation Co., Inc.</i>	
Brent Holweger	19
<i>Holweger Development & Construction</i>	
Jeff Happe	19
<i>Happe & Sons Construction</i>	
Mike Zehner, CGB GMB	19
<i>Zehner Development Corporation</i>	
Tony Arvin	11
<i>Arvin Construction Co., Inc.</i>	
Jon Newcomb	9
<i>Prudential Prime Locations</i>	
Jennifer Mitchell	9
<i>Windows of Evansville</i>	
David McClary	6
<i>River Valley Homes</i>	



NAHB SPIKE CLUB

LENSING FULL PAGE AD



MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS

by
Shannon French Holt

WHIRLPOOL VP TO ADDRESS BUILDERS

SIBA is pleased to have David Swift as the program speaker for the April 12th Membership Meeting at the Holiday Inn.

Swift was named executive vice president, North America Region of Whirlpool Corporation in October 2001.

Prior to joining Whirlpool, Dave was president of Eastman Kodak Company's Kodak Professional group. Before becoming president, he was chairman and president of Kodak's Greater Asia Region, based in Shanghai, China.

A Native of Wilbram, Mass., Dave earned a B.A. in Mathematics and Physics from Amherst College, a M.S. in electronics engineering from Dartmouth College and a MBA from Harvard University's Graduate School of Business.

Whirlpool Corporation is the World's leading manufacturer and marketer of major home appliances. Headquartered in Benton Harbor, Michigan, the company manufactures in 13 countries and markets products under 18 brand names in more than 170 countries.

NEW CODE BOOKS FOR SALE

The IRC 2003 has passed the Fire and Building Services Commission (DFBS), and is highly expected to become effective as early as this summer. Don't delay, order yours today.

Buy a model IRC 2003 by calling the ICC at 1-800-786-4452. The cost for a loose-leaf is about \$70, and is payable via credit card. Be sure to request the FIFTH PRINTING! This is the version that was adopted by the DFBS Commission.

The package of Indiana amendments will be made available later.

ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLAN NOW IN CONGRESS

Wanted: SIBA Letters to Senators

Several SIBA Board members have written letters to Indiana Senators asking their support for Senate Bill 406 – Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005. Additional letters are requested from SIBA members, as this law could have major impact on the cost of health care coverage. The bill would allow large companies and groups, such as the National Association of Home Builders to create groups for health care coverage.

Currently, laws prohibit national groups from forming across state lines without complying with exorbitant sets of overhead costs and regulations. The end result is cost that surpasses what can be provided by small businesses – home building companies. Passing this legislation would be a huge step toward affordable health care benefits to workers in the housing industry.

“Skyrocketing health care costs over the past decade have driven many small businesses out of the health insurance market entirely, forcing them to abandon coverage for their employees,” said National Association of Home Builders President David Wilson, a custom home builder from Ketchum, Idaho.

“It would decrease administrative costs and allow small business owners to negotiate better rates with insurers, enabling them to purchase quality health care at a lower cost for their families and employees.”

We are proud to report that Congressman John Hostettler has already signed on as a Co-sponsor of the legislation in the House of Representatives.

As of mid-March, neither Indiana Senator signed on as a co-sponsor of similar legislation in the Senate. SIBA members are encouraged to write and fax letters to their Senators, requesting active support for **Senate Bill 406 - Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005**. Fax your letter on your company's letterhead to the Senators at the following numbers:

Senator Richard Lugar: 202-228-0360 (fax)

Senator Evan Bayh: 202-228-1377 (fax)

“Association health plans would provide a shot in the arm for small businesses seeking to obtain stable and affordable health coverage for their employees. We urge the full House to promptly consider this measure and for the Senate to act on similar legislation (S. 406) that is now pending,” said Wilson.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

The following are corrections, changes and updates to the 2005 Membership Directory and Reference Handbook. Insert pages were mailed to each member company last month. Additional inserts may be picked up at the SIBA office.

Please make the appropriate changes to your directory to keep it up-to-date.

People's Trust & Savings Bank

Primary Contact: Larry Northenor

Pgs. 4 & 101

Arvin Construction Co., Inc.

New Address: 2434 Kotter Ave.
Evansville, IN 47715

New Fax: 812-402-9141

Pg. 22

First Federal Savings Bank

Primary Contact: Burt King

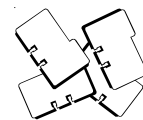
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Nutec Supply South

New Name:

Erosion Resources & Supply, Inc.

Pg. 99



Professional Hardwood Floors

New Name: Flooring Solutions

New Address: 5626 E. Virginia St.
Evansville, IN 47715

New Phone: 812-475-9618

New Fax: 812-962-0266

Pg. 102

Union Planters Bank

New Name: Regions Bank

New Email: karl.kissinger@regions.com

Additional Rep: Alvin Schnantz

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NEW CODE DELIVERS AFFORDABILITY

Builders Association Helps Shape New Code

Members of the Builders Association were well-served by their organization as the newly adopted IRC 2003 was adopted by the Fire and Building Services March 1, 2005. The new code, along with Indiana amendments will deliver affordability, and relief, to contractors across Indiana.

There are many individuals who combined efforts and should be credited with a good building code. Some of them are Ron Dauby, SIBA Codes Chairman; Lynn Madden, IBA Codes Chairman; Roger Lehman, Vanderburgh Co. Building Commisisoner; Mike Winge, Warrick County Inspector; Mark McCreight, The Home Plan CO.; and Marlie Pedtke, IBA's Code Specialist.

The leadership of the Builders Association highly encourages people to purchase and review their own code book if they are connected whatsoever to the housing industry. And at the risk of going against its own advice, here are some highlights of changes included in the IRC 2003:

1) **ALTERNATIVE CAVITY DRAINAGE:** The alternate drainage system was adopted which allows contractors to rain the cavity behind brick veneer all the way down their hollow-core masonry block foundation walls, and into the drainage system for the crawl space or basement (see figures 703.7.6A and 703.7.6 B). It's important to remember, these are methods of avoiding weepholes and flashing at the bottom of the brick veneer (which are commonly dammed by picturesque landscaping and gorgeous tomato gardens). However, other requirements for crawl spaces and buildings are not waived. That is to say, the alternatives are creative methods of draining the wall cavity only. Builders are still required to meet the code as they grade their crawl floor, install insulation, slope the exterior grade, and meet the requirements for conditioned crawl spaces.

2) **SEISMIC:** The seismic design category mostly stayed with its same package. However, there are a couple changes builders should know. First, the steel bars required in footings are now required to be three inches off the ground. This change is greatly in response to some builders laying the steel directly onto the bare ground, then pouring concrete. Thank them. Secondly, there is an exception to strapping gas water heaters. If a builder installs an approved excess flow valve, the

straps are not required. The Builders Association recently sparked discussions on these valves, and it seems the best answer may be to install a valve before each appliance, as opposed to the entire dwelling. Preliminary estimates for these type of valves are \$5.

3) **AIR LEAKAGE:** Section 1102.1.10 requires an air seal between conditioned and unconditioned spaces. This section was brought back into reality by creating an exception for vertical seams and joints with gaps of 1/8th inch or less that break over a stud. This will provide relief for builders as they comply with the energy code.

4) **DEFENSE! DEFENSE!** The work of the Builders Association is not limited to getting good things into the building code. Often, there are proposed additions that need to be argued against. Almost always these proposals come with a higher price tag, without necessarily giving an additional safety factor.

CONDITIONED CRAWLS: There were several ideas being considered, but the current method of building a conditioned crawl space was maintained by the IRC 2003.

AUXILIARY FLOOR DRAIN: The Builders Association convinced the commission not to accept a proposal to require a drain pan underneath A/C and water heaters which are not over a finished ceiling. This would have required a drain pan under these units located on the first-floor, over a crawl space.

ANCHOR BOLTS: A proposal was made to increase the size of anchor bolts from seven inches to 15 inches, reaching into a second course of foundation block. The commission realized if houses are blowing away, they will still blow away, but with an extra row of block..

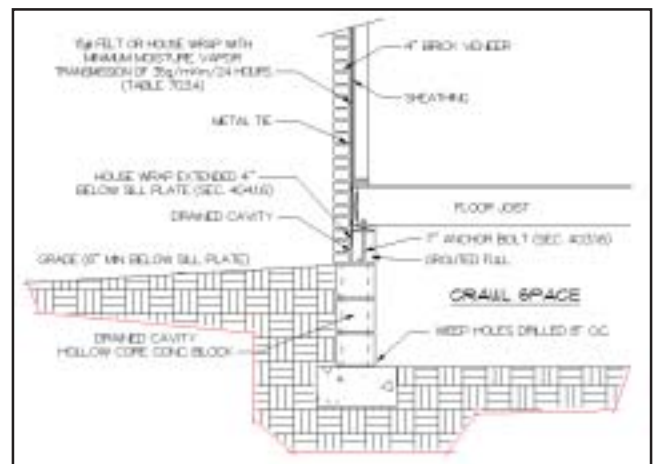
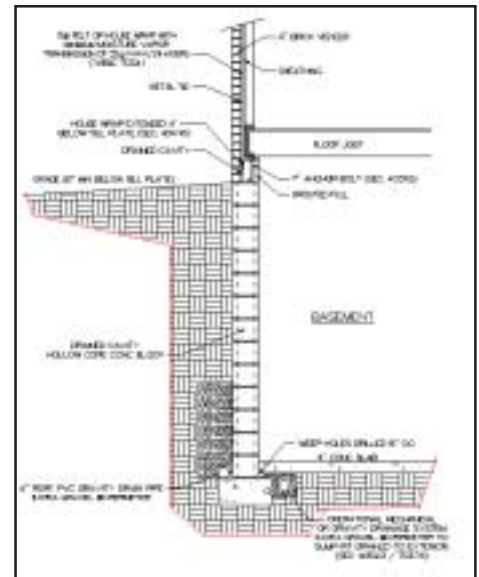
5) **AND THE NUMBER ONE CHANGE....** Perhaps the biggest victory for the builders came in the model code itself regarding Handrails. Under the new code, handrails are required for stairs with **FOUR OR MORE RISERS**. The current code requires handrails if three or more risers. This is a huge benefit for builders who use steps outside a rear door, or between the house and the garage.

But don't take our word

for it. Buy a code book for yourself. It's understandable that inspectors can get frustrated dealing with builders who violate the code, but refuse to buy their own code book. At they same time, inspectors have said repeatedly they never have a problem discussing code issues with someone who has their own code book, and is trying to comply with it.

To purchase your own IRC 2003, you can call the International Code Council (ICC) at 1-800-786-4452. The cost for a loose-leaf version is about \$70, which is payable with a credit card. Be sure to order the **FIFTH PRINTING**, and tell them you are in Indiana.

Since, the code was adopted by the commission, it now goes for review by the Attorney General's Office, the Governor's office, and the Secretary of State's office. If approved by those offices, the people closest to this system estimate the code to be effective as soon as early-to-mid summer, 2005.



HEIDORN EARNS SR. LIFE DIRECTOR

SIBA Director Attends 80th Meeting

Steve Heidorn, Heidorn Construction, was honored at the February board meeting of the Indiana Builders Association for earning his Senior Life Director status. Heidorn attended his 80th meeting as a voting director, and is 31st on IBA's attendance roster. There are only about four board meetings per year, so Senior Life Director status requires a commitment of approximately 20 years of service. And that's with perfect attendance!!!

In 2002, Heidorn, a graduate of Purdue, became only the fifth builder from the Evansville area to serve as State President. Others to serve as State President are Bob Meyers (1957), Bud Bussing (1973), Roy Foster (1982), and Carl Shepherd (1998).

Heidorn served as SIBA President and Chairman of the Board in 1994. Heidorn was a leader in chartering the Evansville Remodelers' Council, and implementing the State Remodelers Committee. Overall, he has earned 182 Spikes, and is in the top ten SIBA recruiters.

Heidorn, a third-generation of builders and remodelers, was named NAHB

Remodeler of the Month in 1992. In 1996, IBA named Heidorn "Remodeler of the Year". Also, he was selected by Remodeling Magazine as one of the "BIG 50". He earned his Certified Graduate Remodeler CGR certification, and has been a Certified Remodeler since 1988. One of

Heidorn's favorite sayings is, "*Staying on top of industry trends is as important as sharpening one's tools.*"

In addition to the Builders Association, Heidorn is very involved in our community. He has dedicated countless hours to the Boy Scouts, serves



Heidorn (left), with 2005 IBA President, Mike Bell.

as an Elder on his Church Council, and spent many hours helping frame Habitat for Humanity houses.

Congratulations to Steve Heidorn and many thanks to him and his wife Chris, for their service to the building and remodeling industries.



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Annual Golf Outing
Monday, July 11, 2005
MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSIONS
LIMIT - 30 FOURSOMES PER SESSION
@ Rolling Hills Country Club



Schedule of Events

7:00 a.m.	Registration Opens
7:30 a.m.	SHOTGUN START
10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Putting Contest
11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Is Served
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.	Putting Contest Finals
1:00 p.m.	SHOTGUN START
6:00 p.m.	Dinner Is Served

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- 3) Signage (banner and/or signs) at the Golf Outing.

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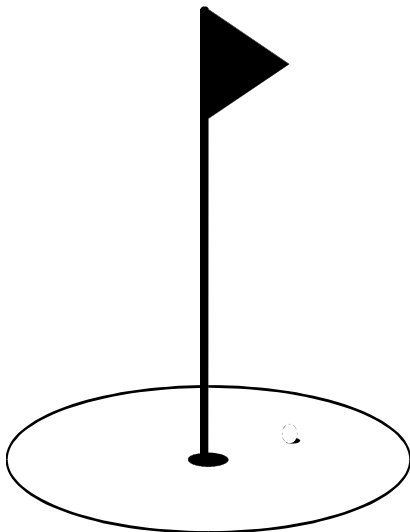
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Evansville, IN 47715

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MARCH MEETING



Special thanks go to Ann-Marie Dougan and Vectren for sponsoring the March membership meeting. Dougan, described by builders as a "God-send", is charged with the duty of helping contractors who have any trouble with Vectren's system for new installations.



Special thanks go to Steve Hare, Carpets Unlimited, for sponsoring the March 8 meeting. Hare introduced a few of the new services and products at his company, and thanked the builders for a great turnout.



Lensing Wholesale's Kevin O'Donohue greeted the SIBA membership with a few updates on products carried by Lensing Wholesale. After introducing more Lensing representatives in attendance, O'Donohue gave away some fantastic meeting prizes to winning builders.



Vanderburgh County Surveyor Bill Jeffers has a little fun with introductions at the March meeting. Jeffers is always welcome at SIBA meetings, and has proven repeatedly to be a friend of affordable housing.



Terry Day introduces himself as the Builder Area Vice President for southwestern Indiana. Day is a builder in Terre Haute, and visits several different local associations to serve as a liaison to the Indiana Builders Association.



Bill Badger welcomes Guest Speaker Morton Marcus to the SIBA membership meeting. Marcus addressed the builders and suppliers in attendance with a direct message about the federal and state economy. One of Marcus's focal points was increased income for employees by increasing their value to employers.



SIBA President, Bill Badger, works the podium during the March meeting where attendance set a new all-time record with 214 building and supply professionals!



Mike Hirsch is the March winner of the Spike Drawing. This month the prize was a gift certificate to Western Rib-Eye Restaurant.

MARCH MEETING



Builders Rolando Trentini and John Diekhoff are with CLGA Properties, and are regulars at the SIBA meetings.



SIBA's Danny Davis seems to impress the Courier reps Angela Mulherin (center) and Jamie Reiter the many responsibilities of being Golf Chairman.



Water Line department's Duane Gilles (right) explains some of the technical requirements to Brad Sterchi (center) and Mike Conti.



Did your denim shirt come with a bottle of beer, too?

Bob VanWinkle (left) tells SIBA builder and board member, Jeff Happe (center), how proud he is of one of Lensing's newest employees, Kevin O'Donohue.



Mike Frank, Scholz Insulation, is having a tough time getting Jon Newcomb, Prudential Prime Locations, to believe his story.



Rob Hoffman, Ferguson Enterprises and Bob Niemeier, Whirlpool Corporation, are impressed with the builder turnout at the March meeting.



Mitch Petty tells John Elpers how things are going at the Pella store.

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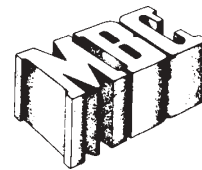
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SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT EWSU METER PICK-UP PROCESS

In order for a new water meter to be picked up, the EWSU must be able to verify the following:

- the water tap fee has been paid
- the meter deposit has been paid
- the appropriate plumbing permit has been obtained and brought in
- the service has been installed and properly documented
- the addresses must all match

The process was specifically designed to ensure that the Evansville Water and Sewer Utility, in conjunction with American Water and EMC, maintains accurate records and accountability with respect to its facilities, customer billing, and ongoing maintenance of service.

In most instances, it takes less than 10 minutes in our office to pick up a new water meter. However, if several meters are being picked up or we are unable to verify each of the above items for every meter, delays and/or return trips may occur.

To help minimize delays and return trips, we offer the following:

- Plumbing contractors who have one or more meters to pick up are encouraged to fax in a list of addresses prior to coming in to pick them up. The fax number is 812-421-2116 (attn: Meter Dept.). Upon request we will fax a form to your office that is designed for this purpose. This may save a trip to our office, if we find that one or more meters are not ready to be picked up, according to our records.
- Plumbing contractors may also drop off the paperwork for the meters and make arrangements with our meter department staff to come back later that same day or the next day to pick up the meters, in order to save time waiting.
- If a plumbing contractor believes that a particular utility-installed service has been completed, yet the records do not indicate such, we will call to verify that the service has been installed in order to pick up the meter. This may save a return trip to our office.
- We are currently reviewing our internal processes to look for new ways to streamline the meter pick-up process as a way to further improve service to our customers.

Suggestions, questions or comments about the meter pick-up process may be directed to Guy Hammond, Customer Service Manager on 421-2120 ext. 205.

REPORT FROM THE INDIANA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

GOVERNOR NAMES HOMELAND SECURITY DIRECTOR

Governor Mitch Daniels named Dr. J. Eric Dietz as the state's first executive director of the Department of Homeland Security earlier this week. The four divisions within the Department of Homeland Security would be the Division of Planning and Assessment, responsible for federal grants; the Division of Preparedness and Training, which includes the Public Safety Training Institute; the Division of Emergency Response and Recovery, which would incorporate the existing State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA); and the Division of Fire and Building Safety, which would include the newly combined role of state fire marshal and the state building commissioner. Dr. Dietz served as managing director of the Purdue Homeland Security Institute from May 2004 to February and was involved in the establishment of a cooperative research and development agreement with the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane, Indiana University, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Council and Purdue University.

NEW DNR CHIEF FIRES 10 MANAGERS

Ten members of the Department of Natural Resources management team were fired earlier this week in a shakeup by newly appointed Director Kyle Hupfer. Among those dismissed were the directors of

forestry, oil and soil conservation. Those fired were: Paul Ehret, deputy director of regulation; Stephen Sellers, communications; Eric Myers, Heritage Trust and Natural Resource Foundation; Mike Nickolaus, oil and gas; Harry Nikides, soil conservation; Randy Braun, soil conservation; John Tryon, human resources; Janet Parsanko, deputy director and general counsel; Barbara Moore, land acquisition; and Burney Fischer, forestry.

INDIANA BUILDERS MEET WITH AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS RULE 5

Members of the IBA staff met earlier this week with officials from the Lieutenant Governor's office, Andy Miller, the soon to be Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, and other special interest groups to discuss soil conservation and erosion control measures, specifically Rule 5 and Rule 13. The Daniels Administration is exploring the possibility of moving stormwater run-off and erosion control measures from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture and/or eventually IDEM and local units of government. Ag. Officials have asked the IBA for input on Rules 5 and 13 and what ways the process can be streamlined. Please contact Rick Wajda at the IBA office if you are interested in serving on a Rule 5 Task Force.

TECH HOTLINE FOR BUILDERS

NAHB's new Technical Assist Hotline is a great resource for our members who have questions regarding building products, techniques, technologies, and preferred practices.

NAHB and the [NAHB Research Center](#) have teamed up to provide this outstanding free service that is primarily designed to assist builder, remodeler and trade contractor members with hands-on construction issues, but may be helpful to associate members, as well.

Call 888-NAHB-MEM (888-624-2636)

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST, Mon.-Fri.

Or email your question to techassist@nahbrc.org

Calls and emails to the hotline will be responded to by the next business day.

You'll need to provide your specific question and contact information, which will be routed to the appropriate technical expert who will respond directly to you. Urgent questions will be given special priority, and if possible will be answered within the same day. In addition, local HBAs should be aware of a great opportunity that exists to allow their members to send questions directly to the Technical Assist Hotline through their HBA website — contact [Shawn Martin](#) at the NAHB Research Center (301-430-6219) to inquire about the hotline and this special offer. All told, the Technical Assist Hotline is one more way that your NAHB membership pays for itself by benefiting your bottom line. So take advantage of it and spread the word!

Scenes from the State Builders Convention February 23-25, Indianapolis, IN



Thanks to Hospitality Suite sponsors (l-r) Mike Sievers, Vincennes Area BA; Darren Spainhoward, Old National Bank; Russ Woosley, Mulzer Crushed Stone and Kevin Becher, Vincennes ABA.

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Builders, Renee & Dan Buck pose for the camera as they socialize in the Hospitality Suite between convention activities.



Suite sponsor, Ted Ubelhor (l), Fifth Third Bank, uses the suite as a networking tool as he talks with builders from other local associations.

Scenes from the State Builders Convention



President Theodore Roosevelt, complete with his secret service security staff, is welcomed to the convention by IBA President Mike Bell (second from right). Look closely, SIBA Builder and former IBA President, Steve Heidorn, may have found a new career!



Comedian, Dana Daniels and his psychic parrot, Luigi, try to pull a fast one on SIBA Builder, Carl Shepherd (l).



SIBA Builder, Ron Dauby, Core Contractors, instructs one of the many seminars at the State Convention that was approved for continuing education credit hours.



Carl Shepherd does another excellent job as the State Convention Chairman.

REMODELERS COUNCIL

*"The January RC meeting was the most beneficial I have been to in ten years."
- Larry Koch*

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GREEN-BUILT COMMUNITY TURNING THE TIDE IN ATLANTA

In at least one Atlanta community, fire officials have acquiesced to the growing popularity of narrowing local streets so that pedestrians don't have to worry about cars tearing through their neighborhood, Pam Sessions, president of Hedgewood Properties in Atlanta, told NAHB's Green Building Conference, which was held in that city last week.

Streets in Vickery, Hedgewood's 214-acre master planned community in Forsyth County north of the city, are only 9-1/2 feet wide leading up to the houses themselves and 19 feet wide for two-way traffic.

Fire chiefs have argued for years and years in favor of needlessly wide streets to accommodate fire engines, but Sessions said that her development's system of alternate roads and mountable curbs ensures that emergency vehicles aren't hindered. Officials may not be overjoyed by narrow streets, she said, but they are starting to accept them because they are clearly something that the home-buying public favors.

Following in the footsteps of traditional town planner Andres Duany, Vickery has put the emphasis on creating a sense of place, said Sessions, in a mixed-use community that follows the rules of classical architecture, showcases authentic materials and quality craftsmanship and achieves harmony with the natural environment.

More than a third of Vickery is being set aside as green space or parks, Sessions said, and tree preservation is an integral part of the community's design. Retaining walls have been used to save some trees on individual lots and the home builder conducts a tree rescue operation that allows

trees to be transplanted. Aside from opportunities to develop parks and interconnected walkways, trees impart "a more established look for the neighborhood," she said, although, regrettably, "some jurisdictions don't allow trees to be put on the streets."

While smaller lots are one of the trade-offs for living in communities like Vickery, privacy is not something people are willing to give up. Vickery residents have private gardens and outside rooms, and the landscaping minimizes sod and uses native plants to reduce maintenance and conserve water.

Water conservation, along with traffic woes, is one of the top concerns shaping Atlanta's future, Sessions said. The city is relying upon the Chattahoochee River for 98% of its water supply and is already consuming water at an unsustainable rate.

To reduce its contribution to the local landfill, Hedgewood grinds organic and construction waste on site, Sessions said, and the materials are used for erosion control and mulch. The cost is neutral and tipping fees aren't high enough in the area to produce any savings.

Since discovering the benefits of integrated design and whole system thinking in home building, Sessions says that her company builds nothing but green homes. "I couldn't see asking our home buyers, 'do you want a better home or not,'" so top-quality is all that is being offered.

Hedgewood is a leading participant in EarthCraft House, a voluntary, environmentally friendly building program of the Greater Atlanta Home Builders

Association that was created with the Southface Energy Institute. As part of receiving that certification, Sessions said that blower door pressure and duct leak tests are performed on every home she builds, providing her buyers with an additional measure of quality assurance.

Like other green building proponents, Sessions builds tight homes with correct ventilation systems and pursues other techniques as well to ensure that living in them is more energy-efficient, healthier and more comfortable. Contributing to marketing efforts was one resident who contacted the builder to report that moving into a new green-built home had resulted in a dramatic improvement in the health of her young asthmatic daughter.

"The market really is leading to sustainable practices if you track the trends of where people are going," said Sessions, but initial efforts to get the zoning to build Vickery were "very challenging," taking nine months, a relatively lengthy period for the Atlanta area.

"We met with group after group" in order to overcome public opposition to Vickery, she said. Sessions asked the community to allow her to build just one home to show what was being planned and that opportunity has opened up new opportunities everywhere.

Apparently, those initial efforts were fairly convincing. A staunch Vickery opponent "just bought a house in the neighborhood," she said.

Reprint from Nation's Building News, the official weekly online newspaper of the NAHB. For further details, or other stories, go to www.nbnnews.com.



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DOE STUDY CONFIRMS WALL INSULATION REQUIREMENTS DON'T DELIVER ENOUGH BANG FOR THE BUCK

A Department of Energy (DOE) report released last week confirms that controversial changes in the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) require increased insulation in wood-framed walls but, depending on climate, take between 40 to 90 years to pay for themselves in energy savings. NAHB opposes the increase in wall insulation requirements.

The changes, which were initiated by proprietary interests in late 2003 and approved last year, add at least \$600 to the cost of an average new home while saving only about \$15 a year in energy costs.

The modifications increase wall insulation requirements — or R-values — in all climate zones for all types of wood-framed construction.

“NAHB supports building codes that promote energy efficiency, but home buyers should not bear the burden for expensive new requirements that provide little benefit,” said NAHB President David Wilson. “Seven to ten years, the average time a new home buyer lives in his new home, is a more appropriate payback period for energy cost savings.”

The primary effect of the change, according to the DOE report, has been “instantly prohibiting products that would

See **DOE**, page 24

MARCH FINDS NO LOSS IN BUILDER CONFIDENCE

A modest increase in home mortgage rates over the past month hasn't dampened builder confidence in the strength of the market for new single-family homes, according to the latest NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI), which was released on March 15. The index remained unchanged this month from an upwardly revised level of 69 in February.

“Robust buyer demand continues to sustain the new-home market, with no sign of letting up in the near future,” said NAHB President Dave Wilson. “Many builders are solidly optimistic about their prospects in coming months.”

“Builders have good reason for confidence even as interest rates gravitate upward,” agreed NAHB Chief Economist David Seiders. “Demand for new homes still exceeds supply in many markets, while financing conditions remain quite favorable and jobs and incomes are on the rise.”

The average interest rate on long-term mortgages rose about 25 basis points between the February and March HMI survey periods.

Derived from a monthly survey that NAHB has been conducting for nearly 20 years, the index asks builders for their assessments of current single-family sales, prospects for sales in the next six-months and the traffic of prospective buyers. Any number over 50 indicates that more builders view sales conditions as good than poor.

HMI readings this month for both current and future sales remained unchanged from revised February levels of 76 and 79, respectively, while the component of the index gauging buyer traffic edged

up by a single point to 51.

“The fact that the HMI has remained at such a high level and within the same two-point range throughout the past six months is a reflection of the ongoing stability and strength of the nation's housing market,” said Seiders.

On a regional basis, the index rose six points to 74 in the Northeast and four points to 83 in the West. The South recorded a one-point decline to 73, and the Midwest, where the job market remains relatively weak, declined two points to 53.

Reprint from Nation's Building News, the official weekly online newspaper of the NAHB. For further details, or other stories, go to www.nbnnews.com.

ATTENTION QABS BUILDERS:

SIBA builders who are participating in the Quality Assurance Builder Standards (QABS) are reminded to be sure their sales contract links the QABS manual to their project. Also, contract language that connects the project to the standards in the manual needs to correspond to the respective edition of the QABS manual.

For example, if a QABS builder provides a second edition of the QABS manual, then the builder's contract should refer to the second edition.

QABS builders are also reminded to incorporate the QABS logo in their own advertising as they wish. QABS logos, and other information are available thru the SIBA office at no charge.



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SEWER TAPS NOW COME WITH PROTEST WAIVERS

The City of Evansville passed a new requirement for those purchasing sewer taps outside city limits. A waiver to remonstrate against annexation must be signed by the owner of the property at the time a sewer tap is purchased. If a builder or developer purchases the sewer tap on behalf of a buyer, or for a spec home, the waiver prevents any future owners of the respective property from remonstrating against annexation. It was explained, "the waiver runs with the land".

The waiver requirement does not apply to taps purchased prior to passage of the requirements, nor to properties inside city limits, nor to properties polluted by someone else whereby the tap is purchased because of that condition.

Future purchasers of affected property may not know this waiver has been signed for their property. There will be legal notice supplied and the information will be available. The stipulation is the owner must sign the waiver and that the waiver must be

See **WAIVERS**, page 25

HOUSING STARTS PEAK AGAIN IN FEBRUARY

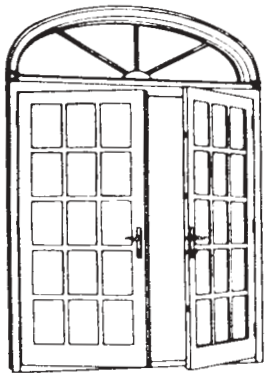
March 16, 2005 - The appeal of homeownership continued to drive the housing market in February as single-family housing starts set a new all-time record and multifamily construction was buoyed by the condominium market. Total housing starts increased by 0.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.195 million units, setting a new 21-year-record for the second month in a row, the U.S. Commerce Department reported today. The February construction pace was also 15.8 percent above a year ago. "Builders are reporting that there is still plenty of traffic in their sales offices," said Dave Wilson, president of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and a custom home builder from Ketchum, Idaho. "Mortgage rates, employment, household income and other favorable market conditions continue to drive demand." "Homeownership continues to plow ahead," said NAHB Chief Economist David Seiders. "Builders are reacting to strong demand in the single-family home and condominium markets, both of which continue to cry out for supply. Stronger job prospects also are fueling the rental market." The rate of single-family home construction reached

1.775 million units, a new record for the second month in a row. The pace was 0.3 percent above the January rate and 16.7 percent above February 2004. Multifamily housing starts increased to a seasonally adjusted rate of 420,000 units in February, 1.7 percent above the January pace and 12.3 percent above a year earlier. "It's perfectly clear that housing will remain an important component of GDP for the first quarter of the year. There's no question that the housing market is still an engine of economic growth," Seiders said. "However, we do expect housing to plateau as the year progresses, other components of the economy pick up more steam and the interest rate structure moves up further." Construction of new homes and apartments increased in the Northeast by 19.1 percent and in the Midwest by 20.4 percent for the month, the two regions that were hit hardest by winter storms the month before. Construction in the South declined by 8.1 percent, following an 18 percent surge in January, and starts increased in the West by 0.7 percent in February. Issuance of total building permits decreased 2.7 percent from January's robust pace to a seasonally adjusted rate of 2.074 million units.


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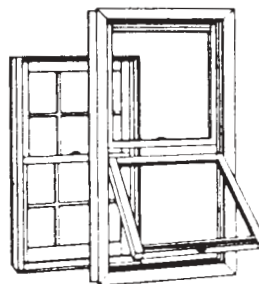
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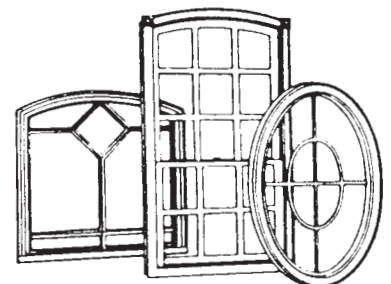


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MAY

Mark your calendars for these SIBA meetings. Members should feel free to call the SIBA office for details on any of the meetings listed on these calendars, or for dates of future events.

SUMMER GOLF AT RHCC

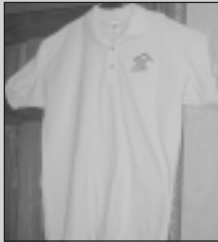
The 2005 Golf Committee has begun meeting to discuss details for this year's SIBA Golf Outings.

The annual summer outing will again be held at Rolling Hills Country Club on Monday, July 11, 2005. Teams will be limited to 30 foursomes in both the afternoon and morning sessions, and foursomes will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis.

See Registration and Sponsorship information on pages 12 & 13.

SIBA SHIRTS FOR SALE

Short-sleeved golf shirts and T-shirts sporting the SIBA logo are now available at the SIBA office. Golf shirts in tan or yellow can be purchased for \$17 each, and T-shirts, in many bright colors to choose from, are only \$9. Shirts are available in 3 sizes ranging from Large to XX Large and can be purchased at the SIBA office during normal business hours, 8:30am to 4:30 pm.



DOE, *continued from page 21*

otherwise maintain market share interests and could be compliant within the original DOE RICC code change proposal if other energy efficiency measures within the building code exceed code requirements."

Many insulation types, including sprayed cellulose and expanding foams, cannot achieve the prescribed ratings without going to more expensive two-by-six walls.

The modifications were made at the last minute during a hearing on a proposal by the Department of Energy to simplify compliance with the IECC; and the onerous insulation requirement was added by the International Code Council as part of a 2004 supplement to the IECC. The change was opposed by both NAHB and DOE.

Last year, NAHB and other groups asked DOE to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the modifications because stakeholders did not have a chance to study them before they were adopted.

"We applaud the Department of Energy for conducting this important analysis and making their non-biased findings public, despite pressure from interest groups to change the results," said Wilson.

NAHB is using DOE's data to advocate reasonable, appropriate reforms during the current round of hearings by the International Code Council being held in Cincinnati from Feb. 22 to March 4.

"NAHB will continue its work to support appropriate code changes that promote energy efficiency and protect housing affordability," said Wilson.

NAHB members should urge the International Energy Conservation Code Development Committee to vote in favor of NAHB's code change to reinstate DOE's original R-values for wood-framed walls. E-mail your message as soon as possible to the ICC's energy committee staff liaison at JWoodward@iccsafe.org.

For more information, e-mail [John Loyer](mailto:John.Loyer@NAHB.org) at NAHB, or call him at 800-368-5242 ext. 8303.

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EVANSVILLE'S HOUSING CODE

Wanted: SIBA Input

The City of Evansville is proposing changes to the Housing Code, also known as the Property Maintenance Code. Not to be confused with the Building Code, the Housing Code affects existing structures and sets minimum standards for premises, structures, equipment, and facilities.

The initial effort is to incorporate standards from the International Code Council, the parent organization of many different codes, including the IRC.

SIBA Members are invited to participate in the review of these changes, and submit comment. If you are interested, please be sure to contact Bill Pedtke at the SIBA office (479-6026) at your first opportunity.

WAIVERS, *continued from page 22*

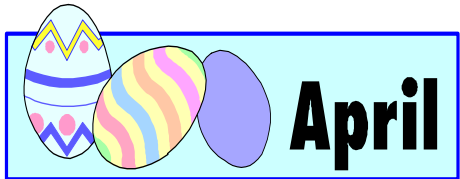
recorded. City representatives stated, "that recording in the County Recorder's office is the 'legal notice' to a potential buyer."

Officials have confirmed the City of Evansville will cover the costs of processing and filing the waiver with the property. For further details, contact Harry Lawson at the Utility Department (812-436-7857).

VANDERBURGH COUNTY BUILDING PERMIT FEES INCREASE

The new fee increases are effective April 4, 2005. Mail-in permits must be post-marked no later than midnight April 1 to be at the old fee. The changes include all permits and all licenses. Remember the minimum fee for any permit will be \$25.00. License fees, if not renewed by April 4th, will be charged at the increased rate and increased late fee.

Also effective April 4th, will be exemptions for permits for certain kinds of work. The details on the newest exemptions are very particular. Those taking advantage of the exemptions are highly encouraged to learn all the details to avoid fines. These details were printed in Roger Lehman's Contractors Letter, dated February 28, 2005. You can also learn the details by calling the Building Commission's office at 812-436-7867.



PRESIDENT'S,

continued from cover

the Senate would allow associations such as NAHB to band together to negotiate affordable health care benefits just like the unions and large employers. This bill will level the playing field for small businesses. Benefits such as health care can help increase employee retention and lower your training costs.

I recently faxed out letters to Senators Lugar and Bayh asking for their active support of this bill. We need your active support. The next time you pay your health care provider or encounter a friend or relative who does not have health insurance, think about S 406 before the Senate. This plan isn't perfect but it is definitely a step in the right direction.

HIVING, *continued from page 6*

Interior glass doors and walls—including glass-paned French doors—are providing a sense of separation while still allowing family members to remain connected. "This allows people to have private spaces but allows for natural light to flow in and for people to see one another," said Russell.

For more information about trends, visit www.nahb.org.

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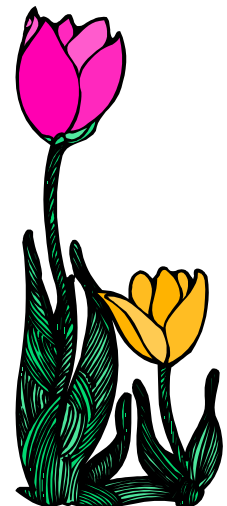
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