

# WINNEBAGO HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

# NEWS

NOVEMBER 2008



## Upcoming WHBA Events

**WHBA Open House**  
**Wednesday, November 12**  
**WHBA Office**

**4041 State Rd. 91 Suite A, Oshkosh**  
**11:30 a.m. - Kick-Off Meeting**  
**12:00 p.m. til 2:00 p.m. - Lunch**

The Open House will serve as the November General Membership Meeting.

Builder members are encouraged to attend to learn about the benefits of showcasing their businesses and craftsmanship at both events.

And Associate members will learn how exhibiting at the Home Show and working with Parade of Homes participants can gain valuable exposure to thousands of potential clients.

The Association Office will also be accepting donations for Toys For Tots at the Open House.

**Whitetails Banquet**  
**Thursday, November 13**  
**LaSure's Banquet Hall**

**3125 S. Washburn Street, Oshkosh**  
**5:00 p.m. - Social Hour**  
**6:30 p.m. - Dinner**

The November banquet is a great opportunity to support Whitetails Unlimited and the WHBA Scholarship Fund. And it is a lot of fun. Contact the WHBA Office for tickets before they are all gone!

## Toys For Tots Drive Begins



WHBA's 8th Annual Toys for Tots Drive kicks off at the November Membership Open House at the WHBA Office on November 12 from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Past member involvement of this worthwhile event has helped the Association become the largest single donator to Toys for Tots in Winnebago County!

Join us in getting into the Christmas spirit by being one of Santa's Elves this year. Bring a toy or cash contribution to the November Open House! See the enclosed flyer for details.



Bob and Shellie Mathe (MatheTeam Realtors) and Jim Kubasta (Classic Homes by Kuba) shop for toys with funds raised during the WHBA Toys for Tots drive.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Toys for Tots
- WHBA Photo Album
- Calendar of Upcoming Events
- Whitetails Banquet
- WHBA Open House
- Elections

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

October 29 marks the end of my tenure as your Executive Officer. I've truly enjoyed my time at WHBA and I want to thank you for providing me the opportunity to work for such a wonderful Association.

The decision to leave WHBA was certainly a difficult one. I've sincerely enjoyed working with the members, committee volunteers and leadership of the organization to promote the residential housing industry in Winnebago County.

But there comes a time in everyone's life when you have to make sacrifices for the ones you love.

As many of you know, I'm relocating to Tennessee with my girlfriend, Lacey Crisp, who recently accepted a reporting position with the ABC affiliate in Memphis.

This is a big step in her career, and we decided it was an opportunity we could not pass up.

As I wrap up my time at WHBA, I look back fondly at our accomplishments and all the

good times I've had during my time here.

What I will remember most is the time and effort you all gave to get the job done. No matter what event we were working on -- from the Home Show to the Parade of Homes -- I was continually amazed by the dedication of our volunteers.

I want to thank each and every one of you who shared an idea, attended an Association event, volunteered for a committee or served on the Board of Directors. Your dedication to the Association is sincerely appreciated!

In closing, we all know these are challenging times for the housing industry and the economy as a whole.

But as I've seen firsthand, the foundation of the Winnebago housing industry is strong.

And I know that WHBA and our members will overcome these challenges by working together.

I wish you all the best. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me should you ever need a tour guide in Memphis!

## W I N N E B A G O   H O M E   B U I L D E R S   A S S O C I A T I O N

### WHBA OFFICERS

President – John Anderson  
President Elect – Barb Schlieve  
Secretary – Jason Henderson  
Treasurer – Amy Bargaquist  
Past President – Phil Baeten

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phil Baeten      Megan Lindsey  
Chet Wesenberg      Russ Williams  
Mark Stano      Dave Downs  
Brian Kutz      Tim Rusch  
Brian Malchow

### WBA DIRECTORS

Phil Baeten      Brenda Kubasta  
Barb Schlieve      Jim Kubasta  
Jason Henderson

### LIFE DIRECTORS

David Downs      Paul Groskreutz  
Bob Hernke      John Anderson

### NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Phil Baeten  
Jim Kubasta

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mike Mathy  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Stephanie Piper

### WHBA/WBA COMMITTEES

Arbitration – Phil Baeten  
Associate Advisory – Barb Schlieve  
Auction – Brian Kutz  
Building a Better WI – Bob Hernke  
Building Code - Phil Baeten  
Building & Grounds – Dave Downs  
Education – Jason Henderson

Finance – Amy Bargaquist  
Golf Outing - Chris Leitch  
Governmental Affairs – Bob Hernke  
Holiday Party - Stephanie Wright  
Home Show – Scott Waterworth  
Membership – Amy Montgomery  
Parade of Homes – Brenda Kubasta  
Public Relations - Jason Henderson

Scholarships – George Mathwig  
Sportsman (Clay Shoot) - Bob Haese  
State Involvement - Jim Kubasta  
Strategic Planning – Bob Hernke  
Toys for Tots - Bob and Shellie Mathe  
Web site – Jason Henderson  
Whitetails Banquet - Brian Malchow

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello to all,

October had its ups and downs.

One of the biggest 'ups' was our auction. We had a great turn out and it seemed everyone in attendance had a great time. The donations were up as well as the number of attendees. Thank you, thank you, and thank you to all who could help out and/or attend the auction. Your efforts have been noted and very much appreciated!

The biggest 'down' was the news our EO is moving on. Mike has done an outstanding job for our industry and our WHBA members. Mike has proven himself a quality, trustworthy, hardworking person. His reason for leaving? Well if you haven't heard, Mike's girlfriend, Lacey Crisp, has taken a new job in Memphis, Tennessee and Mike has made the decision to move with her. I think we have all been there... the love button has been pushed!

On behalf of the association I would like to wish Mike and Lacey all the best in the future together. I know my life is better for getting to know both of them. If you haven't yet, please give Mike a call to wish him well.

November is another big month. Number one on the list is to find Mike's replacement and I can assure you that your Executive Committee is hard at it. We also have our membership committee meeting the 10th – we need everyone's help, please try to attend. We will have our first ever general membership/open house at our association office on the 12th – everyone is welcome... you should see what we've done to the place! We will also be holding our 5th annual Whitetails Banquet to benefit our scholarship fund on the 13th – tickets are available, just give the WHBA office or a BOD member a call. We have several other committee meetings coming up in November – check out the calendar on the WHBA web site!

In closing, I talked about this last month and I feel it is important to mention it again... we (our membership) have to stand up for our industry, our association and ourselves because nobody else is going to do it for us. Business is tight for everyone, remember the people working with you and for you, your fellow members of our own Winnebago Home Builders Association!

Make sure that on that next deal let everyone know you DO BUSINESS WITH A MEMBER!

Sincerely,  
John Anderson  
President

### WINNEBAGO HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

**The Winnebago Home Builders Association (WHBA), a not-for-profit trade organization, provides resources, services and education about the housing industry to our members and our communities. WHBA promotes attainable, quality housing through industry leadership, ethical business practices and community and government involvement.**

### NAHB Explains Campaign Email Policy

Dear NAHB Colleague:

Over the past several days we have heard from many of you regarding a recent partisan E-mail communication that was sent out over the signature of one of the Senior Officers of the Board. We sincerely apologize to you for any concern this may have caused and for the appearance of any impropriety to this great Association of ours. NAHB takes very seriously its policy of not endorsing any presidential candidate or any appearance to that effect.

NAHB has a long standing tradition of engaging and educating our membership about presidential candidates, on a non-partisan basis. We all believe the more information and support the candidates receive from home builders, the better chance we have of electing a pro-housing President. For the past several election cycles, NAHB has facilitated "Builders For..." programs. During this election cycle, we have facilitated "Builders For..." mailings from every presidential campaign that has afforded us the opportunity to hear their views on NAHB issues. For example, e-mailings in support of candidates McCain, Guiliani, Dodd, [both] Thompsons and Romney have all gone out at various times.

Importantly, NAHB has controlled the mailings so as not to compromise the privacy of our mailings list. We would like to assure you that at no time were the names and addresses contained within NAHB's member email list out of NAHB's control or offered or sold to any outside party. The NAHB email list was not compromised. Perhaps more importantly, prior to this effort starting, a letter was sent by then-President Catalde to the entire federation informing them of the effort and giving every individual an advance opportunity to opt out.

With respect to the Obama communication, we regret that we did not follow the process requiring a candidate to address the Board of Directors (in person or electronically) before distribution of a "Builders For..." outreach without first notifying the Board. As part of regaining your support and confidence we will be undertaking a thorough review of the procedures of this program before the next election cycle and we will report back to you with a plan of action for your consideration and approval.

To underscore that there is no appearance of partisanship on NAHB's part, we will be asking the Executive Board at our meeting in December to adopt a recommendation that any Senior Officer of the Board, "will not endorse any candidate running for President of the United States, as long as he or she serves as a Senior Officer of the Board." A draft of this recommendation is available at: XXXXXXXXXX for your information.

Again, we would like to sincerely apologize for the distraction this issue has created at this critical time.

Sincerely,  
The NAHB Senior Officer Team,

Your vote matters. As we are just two weeks away from the coming election, please remember to vote on November 4.

# HOLIDAY/AWARD PARTY

## Holiday Party Set for January 9

**T**he WHBA Holiday Party will be held on Friday, January 9, 2009 at the Best Western Bridgewood Resort in Neenah.

The WHBA Holiday Party and Awards Banquet is an opportunity for members to celebrate the holiday season and recognize members who go above and beyond the call of duty to preserve, protect and promote the housing industry.

In addition to naming our Associate and Builder Members of the Year, the Holiday Party is also the Association's finest social event of the year that includes a formal dinner and entertainment from River Rats Dueling Pianos!

Prepare to be dazzled as River Rats Dueling Pianos bring your favorite rock-n-roll hits to life on grand pianos as you sing and clap along! Audience participation is completely unavoidable as Jim Steinworth and Daina DePrez deliver rock and pop favorites with great humor.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event. See enclosed flyer for details.

### Sponsorships

A limited number of sponsorship opportunities are available for the Home Show. Contact the WHBA Office for details.

- Entertainment Sponsor \$250
- Beer Sponsor \$200
- Door Prize Sponsor \$50 - \$75

### Holiday Party Room Rates for two occupants

- Double Queen \$69
- King \$89
- Fireplace/Whirlpool Suite \$99
- Sunroom/Whirlpool Suite \$119
- Family Suite \$119

Call for your reservations today  
920.720.8000.

Reference the Holiday Room Rates

## Experience



For just about any type of loan, First National Bank ~ Fox Valley will partner with you to build your investment. We understand what it takes to convert opportunity into reality.

*Call for the experience you've been looking for*

# FNB

FIRST NATIONAL BANK - FOX VALLEY  
Appleton - Menasha - Neenah - Oshkosh

Neenah 920.729.6921 • Oshkosh 920.426.6081  
Menasha 920.729.6900 • Appleton 920.882.1660

Member FDIC • [www.fnbfoxvalley.com](http://www.fnbfoxvalley.com)

You  
First



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## Thanks for Renewing

4x Concrete  
Black-Haak Heating Inc  
Midwest Homes of WI Inc  
Omni Glass and Paint Inc  
Willems Well Drilling Inc  
Zimmer Electric

## Members up for Renewal

### August Renewals:

Allure Homes & Development  
Jackson Glass, Inc  
Rammer Fence Inc  
Stock Building Supply

### September Renewals:

Best Built Garage Builders  
Dewey Homes  
Excell Homes & Realty Inc  
Financial Architects  
Fox Valley Homes LLC  
G M Builders  
Middlestead Mortgage LLC  
RMKE LLC

### October Renewals:

Aardvark Landscape  
Advantage Sunrooms  
Alternative Heat Solutions  
Bay Therm Insulation Inc  
Bay Title & Abstract Inc.  
Beiser Realty LLC  
Curtis Law Office  
Elite Custom Countertops  
Griesbach Diamond Water

Heartland Poured Walls  
Kris Villars, Realtor  
Maritime Insurance Group  
Martenson & Eisele Inc  
Mathe Team Realtors  
McClone Insurance Group  
New Construction Cleaning  
New York Life  
NTD  
Omni Glass And Paint Inc  
Pinnow Sheet Metal Inc  
Royal Electric Inc.  
Serwas Window Cleaning Services  
The Carpet Gallery Inc  
Vanguard Contracting  
West Pointe Bank

### November Renewals:

AnchorBank  
Choice Bank  
Graphic Point  
J & P Excavating Inc.  
Krier's Construction  
Premier Custom Homes, Inc  
Weather Shield Windows & Doors

### December Renewals:

Algoma Homes Inc  
Bastian Construction LLC  
Carpetland USA  
Diedrich Agency  
Gallery Homes LLC  
Heartland Homes  
Jim's Plumbing & Heating Inc  
Kitchen Specialists

M & I Marshall & Ilsley Bank  
Quality Windows & Siding  
Wasco  
Wrightway of Wisconsin, LLC

### January Renewals:

Anchorage Homes Inc  
Duerst Insulation Technicians  
Ladish Home Ltd  
Land Pride Properties Ltd  
Mark Fasel Custom Built Homes, LLC  
MCC Inc the Brick & Supply Co  
United Concrete & Construction Inc  
Wisconsin Vinyl Products Inc

### Welcome New Members:

Mark Hartzheim, Builder Member  
Hartwood Homes, Inc  
W1258 Appleland Way  
Kaukauna, WI 54130  
Phone: 920-766-7103  
Fax: 920-759-9318  
Website:  
[www.hartwoodhomesinc.com](http://www.hartwoodhomesinc.com)

Tom Young, Associate Member  
Arrowhead Construction  
Solutions, LLC  
3255 Medalist Dr  
Oshkosh, WI 54904  
Phone: 920-235-5562  
Fax: 866-580-3212

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## Spike Club Totals

For the Month Ending September 30, 2008

<b>Life Members</b>	<b>Spike Credits</b>
Dave Downs	327
Tim Rusch	183.5
George Mathwig	140
Jim Kubasta	120
Keith Decker	106
Bob Hernke	81
Phil Baeten	61.25
Roger Mathwig	40
Paul Groskreutz Sr.	31.5
Kathy Ertmer	28.5

<b>Members</b>	<b>Spike Credits</b>
Scott Shefchik	21
Barb Schlieve	19
Steve Poeschl	18.5
Arthur Ladish	16
Desiree Boynton	14
Amy Montgomery	13
Cheryl Grabner	8.5
Stephanie Kamrath - Wright	8
Amy Bargaenquast	7.5
Chet Wesenberg	6

### What is a Spike?

The NAHB Spike Club is NAHB's recognition and incentive program for individuals working in membership recruitment and retention.

Members earn one new member credit for each new member sponsored, one retention credit for first-year renewals and one-half a credit thereafter for each year a recruit renews his or her membership.

## WHBA Membership Report

As of September 30, 2008

Total	230
Builders	52
Associates	166
Affiliates	12



*Your financial partner for all your  
Hopes and Dreams*



**HORICON BANK**  
www.horiconbank.com  
Member FDIC

100 E. Midway Rd. • Appleton • 920.954.6565  
1821 Witzel Ave. • Oshkosh • 920.232.7420



# OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

## Auction Generates Political Action, Scholarship Funds

The WHBA Annual Auction took place October 8 at LaSure's Banquet Hall in Oshkosh. Over 70 members and guests attended the meeting, which included a complimentary dinner, silent auction and live auction.

The Auction raised a total of \$4,700. Proceeds for the event benefited the WHBA Scholarship Fund, Building a Better Wisconsin Committee and NAHB Build-PAC, two political action committees that advocate on behalf of the housing industry.

A big thank you goes out to Auction Committee chair Megan Lindsey and all those who bid on items and generously donated products, services and cash to the Auction.



Megan Lindsey (Oshkosh Northwestern) displays a DeWalt Radio/Charger while Greg Bemis (Auctioneer) auctions the item off.

### Auction Donors

4x Concrete Inc	Dream Homes By David Downs	PortSide Builders Inc.
ABC Supply Co. Inc.	Electrical Contracting Specialists,	R.A. Smith National Inc
Alliance Construction	Elite Custom Countertops	SBS Plumbing, Inc
American TV & Appliance - Kennedy Hahn	Evans Title Companies	Schmitt Title & Escrow Corp
AnchorBank	First National Bank - Fox Valley	Skotzke Concrete Construction
Assurance Title Services, Inc.	FloorQuest	Stuart's Landscaping & Garden
Audio Plus of WI Inc.	Fox Valley Savings Bank	The Carpet Gallery Inc
Baeten Building & Remodeling	Grand Opera House	The Sullivan Group
Bauman's Natural Meats & Pheasants	Hallman Lindsay Paints	Thomas Insurance Group
Berlin Building Supply	Horicon Bank	Titan Concrete, Inc
Carpetland USA	Karen Goglweski	Torborgs Waupaca Lumber
Chet Wesenberg Architect, LLC	Kitchen Specialists	United Building Centers
Choice Bank	Land Pride Properties Ltd	Van Vreede's TV & Appliance Inc
Clarity Care	MatheTeam Realtors	Virchow Krause & Co. LLP
Classic Homes By Kuba	MCM Air	Watters Plumbing Inc
Coldwell Banker Schwab Realty	New York Life	Willems Well Drilling Inc.
Cutter Vac	Noffke Lumber	Winnebago Community CU
Diedrich Agency	Omro Building Center	Wisconsin Public Serv Corp
	Oshkosh Designs	Zillges Materials Inc
	Oshkosh Northwestern	

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Whitetails Banquet Thursday November 13

Join Whitetails Unlimited and the Winnebago Home Builders Association on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 5:00 pm at LaSure's Banquet Hall for the 5th Annual Whitetails Banquet.

The November banquet is a great opportunity to support Whitetails Unlimited and the WHBA Scholarship Fund. And it is a lot of fun.

Attendees will have the chance to walk away with fantastic prizes. WTU will provide guns, hunting gear, prints, and more!

There is a limited number of dinner tickets still available. Contact the WHBA office at 920.235.2962 or visit [www.whba.net](http://www.whba.net) for more information.

### Whitetails Ticket Packages

- Outdoorsmen's Package \$110: 1 dinner ticket, WTU membership, \$10 WTU gift card, Sportsmen's Raffle Package.
  - Sportsmen's Raffle Package \$60\*: 72 Sportsmen's Raffle tickets plus a WTU knife or cap.
  - Table Captain \$280: 8 dinner tickets, a table reserved in your name, WTU gift and entry in the Table Captain Drawing.
  - Table Captain Super Pack \$760: 8 dinner tickets, 8 Sportsmen's Raffle Packages, 8 Preseason tickets, WTU gift, a table reserved in your name, and entry in the Table Captain Drawing.
  - Upgrade your Table Captain Package for \$80 and receive 24 Preseason tickets for the price of 12.
- \* Price good until November 10

## Housing Start Report

Below are housing starts and the average square footage of new home permits pulled in September Information courtesy of MTD Marketing Services. For more detailed reports, contact Mike Dietz at (920) 836-1772.

Municipality	Year	Permits	Average Size	Municipality	Year	Permits	Average Size
Algoma	2007	2	2,133	Neenah	2007	3	1,570
	2008	0	0		2008	2	1,272
Clayton	2007	3	2,805	Neenah (T)	2007	1	2,200
	2008	0	0		2008	4	3,684
Menasha	2007	4	1,480	Oshkosh	2007	6	1,839
	2008	6	1,454		2008	1	1,170
Menasha (T)	2007	5	1,407	<b>Totals</b>	2007	27	207,777
	2008	1	1,478		2008	19	277,795

# LOCAL ELECTIONS

The WHBA Governmental Affairs committee developed a questionnaire for local candidates to inform WHBA members where they stand on issues relevant to the WHBA membership. Dick Spanbauer, candidate for the 53rd Assembly District, and Randy Hopper, candidate for the State Senate responded to the following questions.

## ***1. Why are you seeking election? What are your top issues facing the state? What are your top priorities if elected?***

**Hopper:** I believe Wisconsin is at a crossroads. We are facing a nearly \$2 billion budget deficit in the next biennium. Some people, such as my opponent, want us to follow a path that leads to higher taxes, stunted economic growth, and a loss of job that will leave thousands of Wisconsin employees out of work. I believe we need to follow a path that holds the line on taxes, gets government spending under control and builds our economy by offering incentives to employers that create jobs.

**Spanbauer:** Having served in local government for over 30 years, the district needs to be represented by someone that's experienced and in tune with the way government works. Top issues would be balancing the budget, state shared revenue and bringing new jobs into the state. My priority is establishing trust and confidence within the district and better communication.

## ***2. In your opinion, what is the role of housing in Wisconsin's economy? What issues do you think face our industry and how would you deal with them?***

**Hopper:** Home ownership is a basic part of the American Dream. We need to ensure that quality affordable homes are available to families that can responsibly purchase them. In today's economy, there are already enough barriers to home ownership and the government shouldn't be creating more due to overbearing property taxes. I support a responsible property tax freeze that still allows for inflation and new construction. I also believe that by growing our economy and creating family-supporting jobs, we can ensure that prospective buyers have the income necessary to responsibly buy a new home.

**Spanbauer:** We need to get past the mess we are in presently, so that housing which promotes thousands of jobs and revenue can start flowing again. Get tax credits to small businesses that can jump start the housing industry and provide the jobs.

## ***3. As a policymaker, how would you balance land use decisions and private property rights? How would you balance environmental concerns with economic development?***

**Hopper:** As a rule, I believe in preserving as much of an individual's private property rights as possible. When the need for new land use rules collides with the rights of property owners, we must have a process that ensures dialogue from all parties and reaches a solution that's in the best interests of the community.

I also believe strongly in having clean air, clean water, and clean soil. We must strike a balance, however, between environmental consciousness and the need for development to meet the demands of a growing population. Too often, our overzealous Department of Natural Resources is able to stifle needed development due to minute environmental concerns. I believe we must get this under control.

**Spanbauer:** You need to have a solid land comprehensive plan in advance of economic development to balance the amount of land you wish to serve. We can prevent future environmental concerns and infringements on private property rights and farming as well, as long as planning is priority.

## ***4. Often when the legislature limits local tax increases, local governments increase. Do you believe that local governments should have unlimited ability to assess fees instead of taxes? Do you support requiring a process to demonstrate that the fees are necessary and directly-related to the service they fund?***



# LOCAL ELECTIONS

**Hopper:** I support a responsible property tax freeze that still allows for inflation and new construction. I can only support a freeze, though, if it also includes comprehensive unfunded mandate reform. I believe we must put an end to any new unfunded mandates on local governments and that we should commence a review of existing mandates to determine which ones are achieving their objectives and which ones need to be reformed or eliminated. This will help ease the burden on local governments and reduce their need to rely on fees.

At the state level, I believe we need to protect segregated fees to ensure that the money raised is spent only on programs related to the fee. We may need similar reform at the local level.

**Spanbauer:** Assessing fees to me is almost the same as raising taxes. The only difference is the elected official can say “we didn’t raise taxes” Let’s face it, if its vital to have services and keep them, then have the courage to suggest raising taxes if that’s your honest opinion, but don’t hide behind the fact you are only raising fees. In most cases, if not for all, taxes are tax deductible not special assessments!

***5. Workforce housing is an ongoing issue in nearly every Wisconsin community. What is your view of “workforce housing” and what it means? How would you encourage the development of workforce housing?***

**Hopper:** Ensuring that market affordable homes remain within reach of middle class families should be a priority for state government. I believe we need to lower the tax burden on our families so that they can use that money instead to pay their mortgages. We also must be sure that the state is not standing in the way by streamlining our permitting process and ensuring a timely process for permit approval.

**Spanbauer:** We need to get past the stagnation we have now. We need to get people working, period. I like the tax credits and incentives, that allow businesses to expand, and allow employees to further expand there skills through paid education programs. I like the fact that Wisconsin’s workforce have made advances in there attempts to find jobs and retraining programs for our unemployed and helping people with the right skills gain higher paying jobs.

***6. The state Legislature faces a significant structural deficit heading into the 2009-11 budget cycle. What solutions do you propose to balance the budget?***

**Hopper:** We must get our fiscal house in order and balance our budget without accounting gimmicks and without raising taxes on our already overburdened taxpayers. I believe we must establish a system of zero-based budgeting where all state agencies are required to justify each line-item in their budget, rather than simply receiving a percentage increase every biennium. The current structure incentivizes overspending and penalizes frugality. Reversing this is a necessary first step to getting our state budget back on track without raising taxes or pushing more costs onto local governments.

**Spanbauer:** You have some choices: 1) cut spending across the board. 2) Rob Peter to pay Paul: that is taking money out of other funds, which I am against! (transportation, medical malpractice funds, etc.) Raise taxes, which is certainly not popular! Our deficit, by the way, is going to be around 1.6 billion dollars! The states economy has faltered causing much less revenue to flow into the general fund, which is a big part of the problem. Some of the ways to look at might be at creating toll ways coming into Wisconsin such as Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania have. Raising the sales tax, and or looking at removing some tax exempt commodities. I don’t like raising taxes! But...??? We are in a big fix, and there is no easy solution! If we want to continue to have services, we will have to pay for them! As legislators we need to step up to the plate and make some hard decisions, if we in Wisconsin are going to demand the same level of services.

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. Please exercise your right to vote!**

# WBA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## **GAB decides to move forward with issue ad regulation**

Some who supported the creation of the Government Accountability Board (GAB) in January of 2007 are now quietly saying to themselves "be careful what you wish for."

You may remember that the GAB was created after bipartisan legislation was passed early in the 2007-2008 legislative session that merged the Wisconsin Ethics Board and the Wisconsin Elections Board into one agency that would be overseen by a panel of retired judges.

Many have been highly critical of the GAB's recent handling of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements to check voter lists before the November general election. Now the GAB has decided that they believe they have the ability to regulate issue ads in Wisconsin.

The judges who reside over the GAB have instructed agency staff to craft a rule that could regulate issue ads and pass a constitutional test. Most believe this will be a tall order in light of recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court that invalidated many provisions of the McCain-Feingold to regulate issue ads.

WBA, along with a number of associations and issue advocacy groups have worked with an attorney to help track the action of the GAB concerning this very important issue. If a rule like this is passed, it could have a profoundly negative effect on WBA and the Building Industry Council's ability to do issues ads on matters before the legislature.

Look for GAB staff to come back at some point with language to regulate issue ads. That rule would then have to move to the legislature for review. If it was implemented, a lawsuit would most certainly be filed to challenge the constitutionality of this regulation.

## **Budget deficit could reach \$3 billion**

Unfortunately as each passing day goes by there seems to be more and more bad news with respect to our state and national economy. Recently the Department of Administration and Governor Doyle announced that if current economic conditions continue

the Wisconsin budget deficit could reach \$3 billion dollars during 09-10.

In the late 1990's Wisconsin, along with a number of other states were actually running budget surpluses, a politician's dream. I had a boss during that time who was once asked if she wanted tax cuts or spending increases for some social programs and she replied "both." During the days of budget surpluses you could actually do both, tax cuts and spending increases, and state government did just that. Unfortunately, not saving any of money from those budget surpluses makes it much harder during down economic times like we have now.

Governor Doyle, state agencies and ultimately the legislature's Joint Committee on Finance will face a daunting task in early 2009 to piece together a state budget with enough cuts (and likely budget gimmicks) to get the state out of this large budget hole.

## **Opponent for Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson?**

For a number of months now conservatives and business groups have been looking for someone on the right to step up and announce their intention to take on current Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in Wisconsin Shirley Abrahamson.

It now appears that someone may be ready to take the plunge and challenge the long time justice for her seat on the Supreme Court in the upcoming 2009 Spring elections. Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Randy Koschnick recently announced he was considering making a run against Abrahamson and would announce his intentions after the November 4 elections.

Pundits have been highly critical of the way Abrahamson has ruled in her time on the court since 1976 saying that she has been the leader of the far left and have moved the court in a direction of "legislating from the bench."

Koschnick will face a number of challenges in facing Abrahamson, most notably the idea that she is unbeatable and that it will likely be hard to raise a lot of money (which definitely will be needed) from donors most likely tapped out after the long 2008 general election cycle.

## WHBA Open House Set for November 12

The November General Membership Meeting will take place Wednesday, November 12 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the WHBA Office.

The meeting -- originally scheduled at Robbins Restaurant -- is designed to provide WHBA members with the opportunity to see recent improvements to the WHBA Office while enjoying a complimentary lunch and networking with fellow members.

The WHBA Open House will also serve as the kick-off to the 2009 Home Show and Parade of Homes events.

Builder Members are encouraged to attend to learn about the benefits of showcasing their businesses and craftsmanship in both events.

And Associate Members will learn how exhibiting at the Home Show and working with Parade of Homes participants can gain valuable exposure to thousands of potential clients.

### Parade of Homes Discounts

Many Associate Members offer special discounts and promotions to Parade of Homes builders each year.

In an effort to inform WHBA Builder Members about the various promotions available, WHBA is collecting information from member companies through October 31.

The information gathered will be included in the December Newsletter and with the Parade contracts sent to all Builder Members of the Association.

If you have a special promotion or discount you would like to offer, please contact Stephanie in the WHBA Office at 235.2962 or via email at [stephanie@whba.net](mailto:stephanie@whba.net).



## Build your client base

When you work with Graphic Point, watch your business grow through creativity, cooperative efforts and meeting your budget requirements. One-color to full-color printing plus full-service graphics that include logo design, brochures, catalogs, posters and website development.

• Proud new members of the WHBA!

• 10% credit to new WHBA customers



Theresa Fehring  
OWNER,  
Graphic Designer

2303 Jackson Street, Suite A • Oshkosh, WI 54901  
(920) 230-6080 • [graphicpoint@ntd.net](mailto:graphicpoint@ntd.net) • [graphicpoint.net](http://graphicpoint.net)

Satisfaction  
**TRUST**  
*quality*

Roofing • Siding • Windows • Gutters



685 Watermark Ct • Neenah, WI 54956

**ABC**  
Supply Co. inc.

Specializing in select product lines and categories, ABC Supply offers the professional contractor competitive pricing, superior service and the highest quality building materials available. You can depend on ABC Supply for the products you need to be delivered when you need them. Contact ABC Supply Inc. -- for your building supply needs.



# WHBA PHOTO ALBUM

## Scenes from the WHBA Annual Auction



Amy Montgomery (Assurance Title Services) explores the items available on the silent auction tables.



Shellie Mathe (MatheTeam Realtors) and Brenda Kubasta (Oshkosh Designs) bidding on silent auction items.



Dick Van Vreede (Van Vreede's TV & Appliance) and Troy Willems (Willems Well Drilling) enjoy a beer during the Auction at LaSure's Banquet Hall.



Kelly Twohig investigates the Mystery Box during the live auction. The Mystery Box was donated by Zillges Materials.



Desiree Boynton (FloorQuest) and Dave Downs (Dream Homes by David Downs) taking a bidding break at the Auction.



Auction Co-Chair Megan Lindsey (Oshkosh Northwestern) obtains the bid sheets at the closing of the silent auction.

## Mark Your Calendars

### November

- 10**      **Membership Committee Meeting**  
WHBA Office, 4:00 p.m.
- 12**      **Board of Directors**  
WHBA Office, 4:00 p.m.
- 13**      **Whitetails Banquet**  
LaSure's Banquet Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 18**      **Home Show Committee Mtg.**  
WHBA Office, 12:00 p.m.
- 20**      **Parade of Homes Committee**  
WHBA Office, 12:00 p.m.

### December

- 8**      **Membership Committee Meeting**  
WHBA Office, 4:00 p.m.
- 10**      **Board of Directors**  
Robbins Restaurant, 4:00 p.m.  
**General Membership Meeting**  
Robbins Restaurant, 5:30 p.m.
- 16**      **Home Show Committee Mtg.**  
WHBA Office, 12:00 p.m.
- 18**      **Parade of Homes Committee**  
WHBA Office, 12:00 p.m.

The opinions expressed in the articles are not necessarily the opinions of the WHBA. The acceptance of advertising in this newsletter does not indicate approval or endorsement of the advertiser or advertiser's product by the WHBA. WHBA makes no warranties and assumes no responsibility or completeness of the information contained herein.

## SBS PLUMBING, INC

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL  
New Construction, Remodel, and Service

"For Professional and Reliable Services"

4635 Red Fox Road  
Oshkosh, WI 54904  
www.sbsplumbing.net

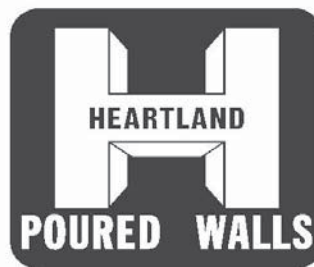
Phone: 920-230-5933  
Toll Free: 877-230-5933  
Fax: 920-230-3657

**FOR RESULTS** be sure to look for the  
**POWER of SCHWAB**

Dennis Schwab      Gail Schwab

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
**SCHWAB REALTY, LTD.**  
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

**920-233-4184**  
601 Oregon Street, Suite B, Oshkosh  
www.coldwellbankerschwabrealty.com



2130 Nee Vin Rd.  
Neenah, WI 54956

**BEST QUALITY  
POURED  
FOUNDATIONS  
IN FOX RIVER  
VALLEY  
GUARANTEED!**

**10%  
WHBA MEMEBER  
DISCOUNT**  
**PHONE:  
Bryan 920-470-0383  
Josh 920-470-1775**

**ACE Hardware**      **Noffke Lumber, Inc.**      **ACE Hardware**  
A YARD OF GOOD LUMBER

**THREE GENERATIONS SERVING THE VALLEY**  
**FREE LOCAL DELIVERIES**  
**FREE ESTIMATES**

1601 BOWEN STREET      N3155 HWY. 22      145 KAUKAUNA STREET  
OSHKOSH WI 54901      WAUPACA WI 54981      MENASHA WI 54952  
(920) 235-3080      (715) 258-8101      (920) 725-2665



November, 2008

Dear Winnebago Home Builders Association Member:

Please join us in getting into the Christmas spirit by being one of Santa's Elves this year. With your assistance, we will be sponsoring the Winnebago Home Builders Association's 8th Annual Toys for Tots Drive.

In the past years, WHBA has had such an outstanding response with member involvement for this worthwhile project, it has become the largest single donator to Toys for Tots in Winnebago County!

Toys can be brought to the WHBA office or to the WHBA November Open House at the WHBA Office on November 12, 2008 from noon to 2 p.m.

Donations can be in the form of TOYS or CASH!

We receive an additional discount from KB Toys for purchasing toys for the Toys for Tots program, which in turn means we can buy more toys!

Please have your GENEROUS donations in by Friday, November 28, 2008.

**PLEASE HELP US MAKE A CHILD HAPPY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

If you have any questions, feel free to call Shellie Mathe @ 379-5341 or the WHBA office at (920) 235-2962.

Sincerely,  
Shellie Mathe  
Toys for Tots Chairs

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
OSHKOSH, WI  
PERMIT NO. 90



## WINNEBAGO HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

4041 State Road 91 Suite A  
Oshkosh, WI 54904

(920) 235-2962  
[www.whba.net](http://www.whba.net)



**Mark Stano**  
(920) 303-4921  
[anchorbank.com/mstano](http://anchorbank.com/mstano)



**Maria Talin**  
(920) 303-4939  
[anchorbank.com/mtalin](http://anchorbank.com/mtalin)

## Recommend AnchorBank to your clients.

Our experienced lenders  
make the loan process easy.

Our lenders have the tools to make the loan process hassle free. We have free preapprovals, online mortgage services, low rates and flexible terms. Plus, we've earned a 98% customer satisfaction rating. For more information, stop by **420 S. Koeller St.** in Oshkosh or contact your local mortgage loan officer.

TeleBranch™ 1-800-25 ANCHOR (252-6246)

WebBranch™ [anchorbank.com](http://anchorbank.com)



PERSONAL BANKING HOME LOANS INVESTMENT SERVICES BUSINESS BANKING

© 2008 AnchorBank, fsb. AnchorBank is a service mark of Anchor BanCorp Wisconsin Inc.

