

North Central News

The Newsletter of the North Central WV Home Builders Association



June 2020

NAHB Members Respond to Community Needs During Crisis

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, NAHB members are meeting needs in their communities. Below are just a few of the many examples of members making a difference in this time of crisis.

Cleaning for First Responders

Southwest Montana Building Industry Association (SWMBIA) member Buffalo Restoration utilized its skills as a damage restoration and disinfectant company to aid area police and fire departments. [The company volunteered](#) to disinfect dozens of vehicles for the Bozeman police and fire department and Gallatin County sheriff, detention center, and search and rescue.

Financial Support

84 Lumber, based in western Pennsylvania, and its sister company Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort, [donated \\$500,000](#) to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Its donation was combined with funds raised through a challenge by a local



Buffalo Restoration volunteered its disinfecting skills in Gallatin County, Mont.

television station for a total donation of more than \$1 million, enough for more than 5 million meals.

Wisconsin Food drive

Racine-Kenosha Builders Association (RKBA) and Wisconsin Builders Association member Bear Homes LLC organized two "Fill the Truck" donation drives at a local grocery store. The drives brought in over 2,500 pounds of food and paper products for Shalom Center, a Kenosha-based shelter, food pantry, and soup kitchen.

OSHA Requires COVID-19 Recordkeeping

OSHA on May 22 announced new policy requiring businesses subject to recordkeeping requirements to record work-related cases of COVID-19 on OSHA injury and illness logs.

The [new policy](#) requires most employers to investigate whether the illness was transmitted on the job, but it applies only to employers currently subject to OSHA's recordkeeping requirements. Many home builders are exempt from most of the requirements. NAHB is working with HUD to make implementation of the policy as practical as possible.

Financing a Home While in Forbearance

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have issued temporary guidance [regarding the eligibility](#) of borrowers who are in forbearance, or have recently ended their forbearance, looking to refinance or buy a new home.

Borrowers are eligible to refinance or buy a new home if: They are current on their mortgage (i.e. in forbearance but continued to make their mortgage payments or reinstated their mortgage); and, three months after their forbearance ends, they have made three consecutive payments under their repayment plan, or payment deferral option or loan modification.

OSHA Considering Tree Care Standard

OSHA is considering a new standard on tree care operations that could add additional requirements to workers when [dealing with trees](#), including those on construction sites.

OSHA states that fatality and injury rates for tree trimmers are extraordinarily high and that there is no existing OSHA standard for Tree Care Operations.

Guidance on PPP Loan Forgiveness

The Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Treasury Department, has released the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness Application and detailed instructions.

The form and instructions inform borrowers [how to apply](#) for forgiveness of their PPP loans, consistent with the CARES Act. SBA will also soon issue regulations and guidance to further assist borrowers as they complete their applications, and to inform lenders about their responsibilities.

Video Highlights Importance of Home

Homes have been central fixtures during the COVID-19 crisis, and will continue to be as we move forward in the months ahead. To showcase the value of home building within communities as we rebuild from the pandemic, NAHB has created a public service announcement video. NAHB members are encouraged to [share the video](#) via social media and post it on their websites.

Survey Finds 22% of Builders Cut Home Prices in April

Roughly 22% of builders cut home prices in April 2020 in order to bolster sales or limit cancellations, according to the latest NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) survey.

As a historical comparison, the 22% of builders [reducing home prices](#) in April 2020 is less than half the share who cut prices during the worst months of the last housing recession: 52% in May 2007 and 49% in March 2008.

Builders who did reduce home prices in April 2020 cut them by an average of 5%. That discount is smaller than the average

price cuts in both May 2007 (7%) and March 2008 (8%).

Only 12% of builders think price discounts are “very effective” in bolstering sales/limiting cancellations. A majority of builders — 58% — believe they are “somewhat effective,” and 17% report they are “not at all effective.” The remaining 13% are not sure about the effectiveness of price reductions.

Regionally, builders in the South (26%) and Midwest (23%) were most likely to have reduced prices, compared with much smaller shares in the West (13%) and Northeast (12%).

Job Losses Surged in March

The number of job losses in the construction sector more than tripled between February and March as the economy was hammered by the public health response to COVID-19.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) data reveals there were 618,000 layoffs in [the construction sector](#) in March, a striking increase over the 202,000 total in February and a 245% jump over the 179,000 count in March 2019.

The March data showed that the layoff rate in the construction industry surged to 8.1% in March from a 2.6% level in February. This was the highest rate recorded in the history of the JOLTS data, which began at the end of 2001.

NCWVHBA Membership Report

Our renewing members are the backbone of our Association... It is for that reason we would like to thank the following members for renewing:

Susan Ralich, Kitchens and Baths by Design
Kate Grove, B&K Direct Flooring Inc
Johnnie Rominger, Bad Lizard Granite & Quartz
Mark Knouse, Bath Fitter
Hayley Graham, Bruceton Farm Service
Beau Henderson, City Construction Co, Inc
Chuck Matala, Davis Kitchen and Tile
Ken Downey, F D Kitchen & Bath
Tony Sainato, Generators Plus
Christine Pauley, Key Realty Company
David Claypool, LifeTite Metal Products
Christine Congado, Nature's Granite LLC
Robert Contraguero, Panhandle Cleaning
& Restoration
Brad Taylor, Precision Concrete, LLC
Yolanda Sarraga, The Joyce Agency
Dan Lanham, Jr., TMS Publishing Inc
Larry Goff, Trulargo LLC

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Alt. National Director

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ncwvhba.org

Calendar of Events

June 2020 is

National Homeownership
Month!!

10-11 July 2020: State Spring
Board Meeting, Lansing, WV

15 Aug 2020: HBAWV Annual
Auction, Moundsville, WV

2-3 Oct 2020: State Fall Board
Meeting, Marietta, OH

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