

Step by Step



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Chairperson's Message

by Brian Senkbell

May flowers have arrived! No, not the ones that brought the pilgrims. Bad joke, I know. It seems that humor in the workplace whether it is on a grand scale or something as small as a memory of something that happened in the past tends to put an extra bounce in

your step for the rest of the day.

Humor is good for the heart, or so they say. I think I laugh out loud at least 5 times a day; and if it's good for the heart, who needs to work out at a gym? I should save that money I pay to the gym and use it for comic lessons, right? I know!!

I hope that everyone can step back from your hectic schedules, take a deep breath and at least smile. Who knows, you might just break into a bit of laughter.

Congratulations on a terrific tour of remodeled homes. Everything was well done and a pleasure to view. Till next time, thanks for reading.

Brian

What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul.

- Yiddish proverb

REMODELERS
COUNCIL

May Meeting

Keeping Remodeling in the "Green"

Speaker:

Greg Shinaut, Aquila & Green Build

11:30 a.m. • May 11

West Gate Bank Conference Room

(Lower Level, 6003 Old Cheney Road)

Cost: \$8.00

RSVP to info@hbal.org or 423-4225

Funny Things to Put a Smile on Your Face

- If you tied buttered toast to the back of a cat and dropped it from a height, what would happen?
- If you're in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?
- Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?
- Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?
- Why isn't "palindrome" spelled the same way backwards?
- Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo?
- Why is it that when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?
- If you have your finger touching the rearview mirror that says -- "objects in mirror are closer than they appear", how can that be possible?
- Why is it so hard to remember how to spell MNEMONIC?
- If someone invented instant water, what would they mix it with?
- Why is it called a TV "set" when you only get one?
- Why does your nose run and your feet smell?
- Why does an alarm clock "go off" when it begins ringing?
- If pro is the opposite of con, is progress the opposite of congress?
- Why does "cleave" mean both split apart and stick together?
- Why is it, whether you sit up or sit down, the result is the same?
- Why is it called a "building" when it is already built?
- Why do they call them "apartments" when they are all stuck together?

Who Invented Lincoln Logs?

In 1916, John Lloyd Wright, the son of architect Frank Lloyd Wright invented Lincoln Logs, interlocking toy logs children use to build imaginative structures. Wright was inspired by the way that his father designed the earthquake-proof Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan.



No Kids Allowed

(From April, 2005 Remodeling Magazine)

New Labor Laws announced in December went into effect in February, tightening the restrictions on individuals under the age of 18 working on or near roofs.

The new rules, established by the U.S. Department of Labor, prohibit youths from "working in roofing occupations to all work on or about a roof, including work performed upon or in close proximity to a roof," according to a press release. In the December 16, 2004, edition of the Federal Register - the official publication for federal government rules - the Department of Labor said that the ban extends to activities such as working on ladders or scaffolding at or near a roof and installing roof trusses and joints.

The final regulations came after a period of comment and review on Hazardous Occupations Order No. 16, which proposed a ban on all "occupations in roofing operations" but didn't cover other occupations where tasks are performed while the worker is standing on a roof. After determining that the main danger for youths working on roofs is a fall from height, the Department of Labor decided to include these occupations in the ban.

An exemption was made for minors participating in apprentice and student-learner programs. That may be a concession to concerns voiced by the trade group Associated Builders and Contractors, which suggested that such a ban would rob youths of career opportunities in its industries. The Department of Labor agreed that the supervision in such programs was sufficient to reduce the risk of danger to acceptable levels.

For more information, visit www.youthrules.dol.gov.
-H.A.

New Members

John Badami,
John Badami Architects & Builders
Sponsor: Connie Strohmeyer



Did you Know?

Tips from the Building & Safety Department

Building permits are not required for the following work:

1. Fences not over 6 feet 4 inches high.
2. Retaining walls that are not over 4 feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall.
3. Water tanks supported directly upon grade, when less than 5000 gallons, with a height to width ratio not exceeding 2 to 1.
4. Shingling and re-siding (As long as the siding does not also serve as structural sheathing).
5. Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops, and similar finish work.
6. Prefabricated swimming pools that are less than 24 inches deep.
7. Swings and other playground equipment accessory to one or two-family dwellings.
8. Window awnings supported by an exterior wall, with a maximum three-foot projection into the front and rear yards, and a maximum of 24 inches or two-fifths the setback into a required side yard. *This exemption applies only to single and two family dwellings, and retail stores.*

Visit our website at www.lincoln.ne.gov then click on Government, Departments, Building & Safety, and navigate through many valuable sources of information available to you.

Watch for more "Did You Know" Tips from the Building & Safety Dept. in future "Step by Step" issues.



May Day

May Day began as a Spring festival long ago. People gathered together on the first day of May to celebrate the coming of Summer. There are a lot of different customs that have been a part of May Day festivities.

Some people would gather flowers and put them by their doors and windows to keep out troublesome fairies.

Some people would put out their old hearth fires and gather with the people in their village to start a new fire to take home.

Cutting down a tree and putting up a Maypole in the middle of a village is another popular custom. Ribbons are attached to the tree and are woven together by dancers.

One more popular custom is filling May Baskets with flowers and other goodies to give to friends and loved ones.

Some people still celebrate the pagan festival of Beltaine on the first of May. Many of the old customs are part of this celebration.



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Fusion of Traditional & Modern Materials & "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 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.

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.



**New Location!
Earlier Time!**

**REMODELERS
COUNCIL**

Scholarship Golf Tournament

Friday, August 19, 2005

Registration: 9:45 - 11:30

HiMark Golf Course • 8901 Augusta Drive

\$60 per golfer • 4-Person Scramble • Shotgun Start

Friday, August 19, 2005 promises to be another day of fun, friendship, and competition. Please join us for the **13th Annual Remodelers Council Golf Tournament**. The tournament is open to all HBAL members, Remodelers Council members, spouses, and guests.



- Check-in: 9:45 - 11:30
- Driving Range open: 10:00 - 11:15 (due to construction at HiMark, the range is quite a ways from the clubhouse)
- The tournament format is 18 holes, 4-person scramble.
- Shotgun start.
- Tournament is limited to 38 foursomes.
- Hamburgers & hot dogs will be served all day, starting after the driving range opens
- This will be a handicapped event. At the completion of the 9 holes, teams will be flighted for prizes.
- \$60 includes golf, cart, food, & prizes.
- A putting contest will take place before the tournament. The cost is \$5 per person.
- Prizes awarded on the patio following the tournament.



Sponsorship!!! If you are interested in sponsoring a hole or contributing to the **Scholarship Golf Tournament**, call the HBAL office at 423-4225. The cost to sponsor a hole is \$100. All sponsors will be listed in the Lincoln Business Builder and a sign will be posted at the golf tournament.

To sign up, you may fax (423-4251) or mail this form to HBAL... or call (423-4225).

Remodelers Council Scholarship Golf Tournament Registration

If you are interested in a designated foursome, please register all four players together. If not, you will be assigned a team.

1st Player _____ Company _____
 2nd Player _____ Company _____
 3rd Player _____ Company _____
 4th Player _____ Company _____



Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ players.

_____ Yes! We'd like to enter the putting contest.

We will have _____ entries in the putting contest for \$5 each, for a total of \$ _____.



Prepayment is required to play.

Fax this form to HBAL at 423-4251.

Or send it to: Home Builders Association of Lincoln • 6100 S. 58th Street, Suite C • Lincoln, NE 68516

Upcoming Events

- May 11 Remodelers Council
Keeping Remodeling in the "Green" by Greg Shinaut
11:30 a.m., West Gate Bank Conference Room
(Lower level, 6003 Old Cheney Road)
Cost: \$8
- May 8-15 Parade of Homes
See a list of entries at www.hbal.org
- May 16 General Membership Meeting
"A Tribute to Youth"
Speaker: Governor Dave Heineman
UNL Champions Club
6 p.m. Social • 7 p.m. Dinner
Cost: \$20
- May 30 Memorial Day - HBAL Office Closed

Parade OF HOMES

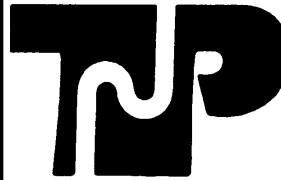
May 8-15, 2005

Weeknights: 6-9 p.m. • Saturday & Sundays: 1-6 p.m.

See www.hbal.org for the Online Tour by citygold.com

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