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- Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.

– Doug Larson



Chairperson's Message

by Lori Pippitt

The first year of The Home and Garden show in the new addition to the Lancaster Event center was a great success, even with all the snow on Friday! The new space provided for more booths, displays and easier traffic flow. Many of the people in attendance I talked with are very interested in all types of remodeling projects both large and small, which should be encouraging for us all. A big "Thanks" goes out to everyone who helped with the Food Bank House and those who brought donations. We collected 4,165 lbs of food this year. That makes a total of 42,124 lbs collected since 2003!

The GO GREEN focus this month will be a presentation and tour of The Home Design Center on March 4th. Lunch will be provided by Illumination, Sark Tile and Absolute Kitchen & Bath. These three companies will give a short 10 minute presentation on green products that they have available. We will then have time to tour the showroom and ask any additional questions.

Please call your reservations into the HBAL office!

We have a few open slots for the March 18th Blood Drive. If you are able to donate or know of someone who may be interested in donating please let Kayla or Jennie at the Home Builders office know.

The Tour of Remodeled Homes is April 25-26th. The deadline for registration is March 13th. If you have never had a home open for the Tour, please feel free to call me (402-475-0650) or Nadine at HBAL (402-423-4225) to get the inside scoop on how the Tour of Remodeled Homes may be beneficial to you!

This tour is a great opportunity to feature remodeling work focused to clients who wish to update or redesign their existing home.

REMODELERS
COUNCIL OF LINCOLN

March Remodelers Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 4th
11:30 a.m.

The Home Design Center
(1901 West O Street)

RSVP to info@hbal.org or 423-4225

Thanks to Illumination, Sark Tile and Absolute Kitchen & Bath for providing lunch!

New Member

David Bayne
A1 Complete Services, Inc.

Tour of Remodeled Homes
April 25 & 26, 2009
Entry Deadline: March 13, 2009

Tax Credits Boost Incentive For Greening American Homes

Expanded tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements in the new economic stimulus package puts more money in consumers' pockets by providing financial incentive for home owners to go green on their renovation projects in 2009 and 2010. While more efficient homes save on water and energy bills, these tax credits will make such home upgrades even more affordable.

The Internal Revenue Code section 25C tax credit for existing homes, which had expired at the end of 2007, was reinstated as part of the economic rescue package passed by the Bush Administration last fall. Homeowners could be rewarded for installing energy-efficient windows, doors, roofing and insulation as well as furnaces, air conditioners and heat pumps.

But remodelers found that the terms of the 25C credit -- equal to only 10 percent of the cost of each product and with a lifetime cap of \$500 -- weren't strong enough to push enough home owners off the fence and into action.

Now, the credit rate and lifetime cap have been tripled -- to 30 percent and \$1,500, respectively -- the list of eligible improvements expanded, and the deadline for applying has been extended through the end of 2010. Congressional estimates indicate that the new rules for the tax incentive will increase aggregate remodeling activity by more than \$6 billion.

"The new tax credit also aligns with industry research indicating that even the most aggressive efficiency goals for new homes won't make a dent in overall energy consumption. Instead, remodeling and retrofitting the nation's older homes is by far the more efficient solution," said NAHB Remodelers Chairman Greg Miedema, CGR, CGB, CAPS, a remodeler from Tucson, Ariz.

"These new tax credits are another way that home building industry can combat the potential effects of global climate change by encouraging home owners to make energy-efficient improvements to their homes," said Miedema.

A 2008 California study revealed that 70 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions related to single-family envelope energy consumption can be attributed to homes built before 1983.

The bottom line: Retrofitting existing homes with energy-efficient features is four to eight times more carbon- and cost-efficient than adding further energy-efficiency requirements to new housing, the study showed.

TAX CREDIT HOW-TO

Details on qualifying improvements will soon be available at the IRS Web site (<http://www.irs.gov>). It is expected that homeowners will need to complete Form 5695 (Residential Energy Credits) and submit as part of their 2009 income tax returns to claim the credit. Further, homeowners should retain for their own records information that includes:

- Name and address of the manufacturer
- Identification of the component
- Make, model or other appropriate identifiers
- Statement that the component meets the 25C standards
- Climate zones for which the criteria are satisfied
- Additional information for storm windows, if applicable
- A declaration that the certification statement is true

Remodeler of the Month

Name: Mark Becher
Company: Sark Tile
Position: Owner
Phone: 402-475-1300
Fax: 402-475-2776
E-Mail: mark@sarktile.com
Company Information:
 Local and National

Distributor/Importer of Spanish and Italian Tiles

History: My wife and I started Sark Tile in 1998 on West Cornhusker and moved to the Home Design Center on West O Street in 2005, where we share space with eight other vendors to create a place for a "one stop home design." Sark operates out of a 30,000 square-foot warehouse located behind HDC.

Favorite Books: Kane & Able

Favorite Movie: Spanglish & Caddy Shack

Favorite TV shows: Leave it to Beaver

Find Rewarding: My staff

Biggest challenge in life: Working past 3 p.m.

What inspires you: Anything exciting and different

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to sail around the world on a sail boat waiting for the wind.

Pet Peeve: People who are not real

Bad Habit: Red wine and dark chocolate

First thing I do in the morning: Change my daughter's diaper

Favorite vacation spot: Spain

Greatest Hero: Grandpa Moses

Childhood fear: Growing-up and carpet

Spare time: Extreme sports, building with Legos and hanging out with my kids

Family: Wife, Sonia, and three children: Daniel (8 years), Cristina (6 years) and Susana (1 year)

Greatest accomplishment: Being a parent, owning a business and still getting to have fun!

Remodelers Council Blood Drive

The Remodelers Council will be hosting a blood drive at the HBAL Office on Wednesday, March 18th. If you are interested in donating blood, please call Kayla at 423-4225 or email to kayla@hbal.org.

Be the Type that Gives.