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Chairperson's Message

by Lori Pippitt

In the last few weeks, I have had time to read through some of the industry magazines and email blogs.

We are seeing evidence that things have started to turn around in our industry but it is apparent that "Green" is what is hot!

It is pretty safe to say that if you have a client interested in being Green there is a product out there to fit their needs. There are articles on everything: eco-friendly appliances, reclaimed wine barrel wood flooring, mercury-free LED lighting fixtures, even a space saving toilet with a sink integrated into the back tank that reuses the water from hand washing for your next flush!

At our last Remodelers meeting, Eric from Lincoln Laminating gave a presentation on GREEN countertops making an appearance in kitchens, baths and bar areas. He showed everything from recycled glass countertops made from recycled porcelain, car windshields, mirrors and crystallized ash from industrial furnaces to recycled paper countertops. Did you realize that the paper stone is made from 100% post consumer waste. Its 1" thick top can overhang over 18" without additional support and it is in a similar price bracket as the upper end quartz and granite tops.

This month we are offering a two-day Green Building for Building Professionals class on November 19-20. This should be a great way to become more informed on Green Building and how it is impacting our industry. Also, if you currently hold a designation from NAHB and you complete this course, you will earn your CGP (Certified Green Professional) designation.

Our next meeting will be November 4th when we tour the Lighthouse, a community based after-school program for youth in grades 6-12. Many of our members were instrumental in the building of the new Lighthouse location.

Once you read this article I will have returned from the Remodelers Show in Indianapolis and will have many new ideas and products to share with you next month. I'm sure some will be GREEN!

Welcome New Member!
Brian Neesen
Granite Transformations of Omaha

REMODELERS
COUNCIL OF LINCOLN

November Meeting
Tour of the
Lighthouse

2601 'N' Street

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

11:30 a.m.

\$8 per person

RSVP to info@hbal.org or 423-4225

Save the Date!

Remodelers Council
Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 2

11:30 a.m.

Brewsky's

in the Haymarket
201 N. 8th Street

Remodeling: Wow Is It Important to the Local Economy!

By Elliot Eisenberg, Ph.D.

NAHB Senior Economist, Elliot Eisenberg, Ph.D., gave a presentation to the Home Builders Association of Peoria, Ill., about the economic benefits of the remodeling industry.

While I often give presentations to builders and politicians about how important new home building is to the local economy, last month I had, for the first time, the pleasure of extolling the many virtues of remodeling and how important it is! The event was organized by the Remodelers of Central Illinois, held at the offices of the Home Builders Association of Peoria, and I was the invited speaker.

Rather than just plow through an endless supply of slides with graph after graph, as economists generally do, I began by first explaining how important residential construction is to the local economy. I then proceeded to compare it to remodeling activity. By the end of evening everyone was far more appreciative of what remodeling does for the local economy.

First, just like new construction, remodeling injects a tremendous amount of money into the local economy. Whether you build a \$300,000 house or do a \$300,000 remodeling job, both put money into the hands of local tradesmen (in the form of wages), local suppliers (in the form of purchases), and local governments (in the form of permits and sales taxes). And, once in the economy, that money creates a ripple as it passes from person to person. For example, a tradesman may spend part of his paycheck at a local restaurant. The waitress may then spend some of that money to get her car fixed and the mechanic may spend part of his income going to a chiropractor. While these transactions may be small, together they add up.

On average every \$100 million of remodeling work creates 430 full time jobs, \$2.9 million in local taxes and \$47.7 million of local income. But don't forget the ripple effect. It creates 350 more jobs, \$2.8 million more in taxes and another \$22 million of local income. Combined, the two phases result in 780 jobs, \$5.7 million in taxes and \$67.7 million in local income!

Thought of another way, every 10 jobs created during the remodeling phase leads to eight more jobs during the ripple phase while each dollar of tax revenue generated initially creates another tax dollar due to the ripple. Finally, every dollar of local income from the first phase creates 46 more cents of local income courtesy of the ripple.

Lastly, while new construction almost always results in a permanent boost to the local economy, there may well be a permanent boost from remodeling too. If the remodeling activity results in an addition to the structure then its

Remodeler of the Month



Name: Harry Tompkin

Position: Owner/Designer

Company: The Palace Glass Co.

Phone: 402-476-9661

Fax: 402-476-5069

Email: palaceglas@aol.com

Company Information: Located at 643 S. 25th Street in the Historic Bottlers Building.

History: The Palace Glass Co. was started in 1981 providing glass art to the Midwest including art glass, bevelling, etching and kiln formed.

Favorite Books: The Bible, mysteries by Tony Hillerman, J.A. Jance, Nevada Barr and Harland Coben

Favorite Movie: True Lies or Fifth Element

Favorite TV shows: Torchwood, True Blood, Primeval

Find Rewarding: Any artwork

Biggest challenge in life: Using my time wisely

What inspires you: A brilliant fall day

What did you want to be when you grew up: Archeologist

Pet Peeve: Unsolicited phone sales

Bad Habit: Falling asleep in the comfy chair

First thing I do in the morning: Hug my wife

Favorite vacation spot: Western U.S.

Greatest Hero: Mahatma Gahndi

Childhood fear: Being cut by something sharp

Spare time: What?

Family: Lisa, my wife, and three fur-children

Greatest accomplishment: Is yet to come

taxable value rises and the flow of property taxes to all local governments rises.

After the presentation a very lively question and answer session that lasted well over an hour ensued. A number of very thoughtful questions were asked showing there is a real thirst for this knowledge. It was also clear that those in attendance left far more able to articulate how and why remodeling matters so much. I was gratified to have connected with the audience and hope to have another chance to address a group of remodelers soon.

Elliot Eisenberg, Ph.D. is a Senior Economist at NAHB. He can be reached at 800-368-5242 x8398. He loves hearing from remodelers and builders, and hopes to visit your Remodelers Council in the near future.

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