

BUILDING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

A PUBLICATION OF THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2005

David Blanken Offers Words of Wisdom



David Blanken, vice president of Ridan Builders and an MNCBIA board member, volunteers his time and building experience to Prince George's County College in Largo, MD, teaching a building course called "Building Your Own Home." The course, made up of students hoping to build their own homes one day, teaches the importance of writing specifications and how they impact on a budget.

"When I built custom homes back in the 1990's, it became apparent to me that many, if not most, custom home clients have no idea of what they are getting into when they contract to build a home," explains Blanken. "They lack understanding about the specifications selections that break their budgets." The course incorporates spec writing skills along with instruction on conceiving house plans and construction scheduling.

"It is a gift to be able to give something back to the community and impart what I have learned over the past 30 years," says Blanken. ■

Artery Group Doles Out Land

The Artery Group, LLC of Bethesda, MD, donated land in Burtonsville, MD, to Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County. According to Habitat, this will be its biggest project ever, involving the construction of 24 back-to-back three-bedroom townhouses. This project alone will more than double the number of Habitat homes in Montgomery County. Construction is set to begin by mid to late summer. ■

Home Builders Care Contributes to Tsunami Relief

Home Builders Care Foundation (HBCF) the charitable service organization affiliated with the MNCBIA donated \$5,000 to the Tsunami Shelter Fund of the National Housing Endowment.

NAHB and its philanthropic arm, The National Housing Endowment, united to establish the **Home Builders Care/National Housing Endowment-Tsunami Shelter Fund** to provide long-term shelter reconstruction support to those affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami in South Asia on December 26, 2004. The fund will also provide for education and training that will enable communities to sustain and participate in the ongoing rebuilding effort. ■

Kaine Homes Supplies Books

Paul J. Fatseas, general manager of Kaine Homes, donated copies of "The 10 Natural Laws of Successful Life and Time Management," by Hyrum W. Smith, to students at Huntington High school who are participating in the Academy of Finance and Business program.

Fatseas spoke to the class about his long career and the importance of the book in learning how to use time wisely and being well organized. He also offered advice to the students concerning what employers are looking for when hiring new employees and gave general suggestions that will help them prepare for college and the business world. ■

Mandrin Homes Makes Donations

Mandrin Homes, Ltd. donated \$1 million to the Hospice of the Chesapeake and earned James and Katherine Mandrin the 2005 Beacon of Hope award.

Mandrin Homes is building the new Hospice home in the Harwood area of Anne Arundel County. The staff of Mandrin solicited many of the areas building contractors and suppliers to provide labor and materials, thus significantly reducing the actual cost of building the home.

In addition to Mandrin's support of Hospice of the Chesapeake, James Mandrin on behalf of the company, also gave a gift of \$50,000 to the Legacy Annapolis Campaign, a \$6 million capital campaign to support the development of the Annapolis History Center and to build an endowment to sustain it. ■

ABOUT THE MNCBIA

The Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association (MNCBIA) is a trade association comprised of builders, developers, and others associated with the shelter industry who do business in Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties, and Washington D.C.

The BIA serves as a valuable resource for its members in the areas of education and training as well as representing the industry at all levels of government, with other trade associations and the general public. The MNCBIA fosters the growth and prosperity of the shelter industry and its members within the community, striving to fulfill every consumer's dream of homeownership within a broad spectrum of price ranges and markets.

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MNCBIA Supports Skills USA Competition

MNCBIA sponsored students from the Calvert Career Center in the carpentry portion of the regional SkillsUSA competition held in Prince Frederick, MD, in March. MNCBIA coordinated pledges, supporters and contributors from fifteen companies who donated money, materials and judges for the competition. The total monetary donation from MNCBIA was \$2,500. Contributing companies included, **Built Rite Home Developers Inc., Curtis Showcase Homes LLC, Kaine Homes, Kettler Brothers Homes LLC, Marrick Properties Inc., Bernie Schultz Realty Inc., Jaklitsch Development Group, K & P Builders Inc., Chesapeake Living Treasures Inc./Bob Davis and Associates, Liberty HomeBuilder Inc., Ben Dyer Associates Inc. and Calvert Commercial Real Estate.** Building materials for the competition were supplied by **Lite House Ltd., Hughes Supply and Dunkirk Supply.** Helping to judge the competition were **Brent Compton from Charleston Homes, Stefan Koczerzuk of Curtis Showcase Homes and Rodney Duvall of Kettler Brothers Homes.**



The Calvert Career Center's Carpentry students took first, second and third place in the team competition. Students also took first, second, third and fourth place in cabinetmaking and first place in the carpentry contest. More than 22 students in carpentry programs from St. Mary's, Charles and Calvert counties participated in this regional SkillsUSA event. "MNCBIA provided for a lot of students to compete in the three counties," said Sandra Holler, job placement coordinator for the Calvert Career Center. ■

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Lending a Hand in Thailand

A few short weeks after the Tsunami hit South Asia, a group of volunteers from the Washington Metropolitan area, and supported by the “Smile on Wings” organization, set off on a mission to Thailand to help victims of the disaster. One of those volunteers was **Cindy Crane**, wife of MNCBIA Board member, **Tony Crane of Crane Homes**. The 10 days that Cindy spent in the hard-hit fishing village of Khao Lak in the Phang Nga province affected her so deeply that she is planning a return trip in July with the “Smile on Wings” team. This time she is taking her husband Tony and her two young children. “My husband is handy with tools,” Cindy says with a smile.



Currently, Tony and Cindy are raising funds to purchase tools that will be used to help villagers in Khao Lak reconstruct their shelters that were destroyed in the Tsunami. Their goal is to raise enough money to purchase at least a dozen full sets of hand tools that will be left with the villagers for communal use. **Home Builders Care Foundation** is donating \$2,000 to the “tool fund.”

The vision of MNCBIA has always been to provide shelter to those who need it, and thanks to caring individuals like Tony and Cindy Crane that vision is making its way around the world. ■

Angel's Watch Project Underway

Home Builders Care Foundation (HBCF) began a new renovation project for the **Angel's Watch Regional Shelter** in Hughesville, MD. *Angel's Watch*, a 52-bed emergency and transitional shelter for homeless women and their children, serves residents of Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties.

The shelter's building, an old Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) office building, was built in the 1950s and has been adapted into the dormitory style shelter. The facility was in need of many repairs and upgrades, including multiple bathroom renovations, HVAC and electrical enhancements, as well as a number of new windows and doors. Improvements will help the agency provide a safe, secure, well-functioning, and comfortable environment that promotes stability and self-respect. “We are very pleased that HBCF will be doing the project at *Angel's Watch*,” said Richard Kalb, Director of Administration and Facilities for Catholic Charities.”

HOME BUILDERS CARE FOUNDATION AND BIA MEMBERS ASSISTING AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE REGION

Builders Overhaul Homes for Christmas in April/Rebuilding Together Event

Christmas In April/ Rebuilding Together, the annual rebuilding event, took place on April 30 this year with local builders **K. Hovnanian Homes, Ryan Homes**

and **NV Homes** once again playing generous roles by adopting home in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, all with long lists of needed repairs.



The home in New Carrollton, which K. Hovnanian tackled, is owned by a 56 year-old single grandparent with severe arthritis, who lives in the home with her 30 year-old mentally ill daughter and six grandchildren, two of which suffer from asthma. With assistance from K. Hovnanian's trade partners, extensive improvements were completed. Project items included: A partial driveway replacement; several new windows and doors; front stoop repair; a remodeled full bath; new kitchen countertops; a new cook top and oven and; a new gas furnace with the addition of central air conditioning.

Special recognition for this remarkable effort belongs to K. Hovnanian Home's House Captain **Shon Gilmore**, Co-Captains **Russ Pepin, Chris Meyers, Justin Beam, Mynell Bowie** and **Phil Tinnen**. Also thanks to many of K. Hovnanian's Trade Partners: **McCrea Heating & Cooling; Lamar & Wallace Millwork; Tri-State Communications (Electrical Division); Clinton Mechanical Contractors; Custom Touch Interiors; Cecil's Custom Painting; Supreme Windows; Baragon Concrete Construction; C. Reed Cleaning; and B&K Hardware.**

In Silver Spring, under the leadership of house captains **Bryan Lindgren** and **Nick Wade, Ryan Homes** completely overhauled a bathroom, cleaned large quantities of debris from the yard, supplied a new cover for the septic tank and painted the kitchen to help an elderly woman with severe arthritis confined to electric wheelchair.

While on another side of the county, a team from **NV Homes** provided assistance to an elderly couple by building a new wheelchair ramp, landscaping the yard, constructing a new upper level bathroom and replacing carpeting throughout the home. House Captains for NV Homes were **Brad Markiewicz** and **Mike Mayo**. ■

MNCBIA Builds Futures

MNCBIA awarded its **2005 Joseph C. Rodgers, Sr. Memorial/MNCBIA Endowed Scholarship** to Montgomery College student Matthew Baker. Matthew is a part-time student majoring in Building Trades Technology with plans to work in Montgomery County in the field of carpentry or plumbing after completing his studies.

The scholarship is named in memory of a very special member of MNCBIA who was dedicated to continuing education, crafts, training and excellence in the building trades. Through this generous support Matthew will receive the additional resources he needs to continue his education. ■

Winchester Volunteers Help Cleanup the Potomac

More than 85 volunteers from **Winchester Homes** participated in the **17th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup** in April coordinated by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. In all, the Winchester volunteers picked up 176 bags of trash and 50 bags of recyclables. Some of their more memorable finds included a lawnmower, a chaise lounge and a \$100 bill.

“It was rainy and miserable and we had a great time,” said John P. Monacci, Winchester's vice president of sales and marketing. “We want to make a positive statement and give back to a community that has supported us over these 25 years.”

According to the Alice Ferguson Foundation, more than 2,600 volunteers at various sites along the Potomac River picked up more than 70 tons of trash in three hours. ■