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NAHB Chairman Urges Congress to Boost Lumber Production from Federal Lands

To help resolve lumber supply shortages and rein in elevated prices, NAHB Chairman Chuck Fowke today called on Congress to increase domestic lumber production from federal lands, both as a means to improve housing affordability and address the resilience of our national forests.

Appearing at a forum conducted by Republican members of the House Natural Resources Committee and GOP members of the House Western Caucus to discuss skyrocketing lumber prices, Fowke said that boosting domestic lumber production is just part of the solution.

“We also need to resolve the long-standing trade dispute with Canada over softwood lumber imports as well as solving supply chain and labor supply disruptions that continue to linger,” Fowke said.

Illustrating the unprecedented rapid rise in lumber prices over the past year that has added nearly \$36,000 to the price of a new home, Fowke told lawmakers that



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Thurs., August 19, 2021**

Legislative News

**Shortages Cause Builders to
Raise Prices, Pre-Order
Materials**

How a Bill Becomes Law

**Sedgwick Articles on OSHA
& True-Up Reporting**

(Cover Story - Continued on page 2)



(Cover Story - Boost Lumber Production - Continued)

lumber prices have increased more than 165% percent since April 2020. OSB prices are also up nearly 400%, and the Random Lengths Framing Composite Index price shot past the \$1,500 barrier for the first time ever in May.

"For context, the previous high was \$582 in 2018 and framing lumber typically trades around \$425 per thousand board feet," Fowke noted. "These historic price increases are dramatically raising home prices and rental costs and threaten the nation's economic recovery."

Lumber prices currently stand at elevated levels, though they have fallen in recent weeks. However, these recent price declines are not due to an increase in supply.

"We see it due to a slowdown in housing production, which should alarm everyone," Fowke said. "In May, single-family starts fell 5.9% and that follows significant downward revisions to the April estimate and previous months' readings."

Regarding the nation's federally owned forests, Fowke noted that timber harvests from the National Forest System averaged between 10 and 12 billion board feet for a 40-year period from the mid-1950s and then plunged precipitously to an average between 1.5 and 3.3 billion board feet per year starting in the mid-1990s due to bureaucratic red tape and litigation.

Over the course of three decades there has been a dramatic decline in timber production from our federally owned forests.

"We must strike a more appropriate balance in how we manage our national forests," Fowke told lawmakers. "Doing so will restore the health of one of our great natural resources and offers the potential to reinvigorate the forestry industry while improving housing affordability. That's a win-win-win in my book."

Ken Cleveland	1,079*
John Sumodi	319.5
Andy Leach	140
Bob Knight	96
Mark Zollinger	41
Mike Hudak	37
Doug Leohr	33.5
Russ Sturgess	29
Dave LeHotan	7.5
Ed Belair	7
Rex Gasser	3.5
Charlie Ash	3
Chris Chatterelli	2
Ray DiYanni	1.5
Jake Lewis	1
Sean Smith	1
Paul Spenthoff	1
Jeff Stuart	1
Ryan Suppes	1

Above list has been updated via the most current NAHB Spike Club Roster Report

*Current Life Spike status









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From the MCHBA Office ...

Members and Friends:

It appears we had a fairly successful Parade event. The feedback I received primarily from our physical entries was very positive. A lot of interest, steady traffic, etc. It's a little harder to gauge the virtuals, but our traffic online most definitely increased for them as well. Please try to plan on our Fall Parade. I believe it will be even better than this past one.

Once again, I would like to sincerely, thank all of our sponsors for their support of the event - Major Event Sponsor Carter Lumber and our Parade Partners: 84 Lumber, All Construction Services, Clement Construction, Inc. James Hardie Building Products, Medina Lighting, Inc., Paramount Plumbing, Inc., Sundance LTD, and Third Federal Savings & Loan.

Please put our upcoming annual golf outing on your calendar, reserve your foursome and if you can, we appreciate your sponsorship as well.

I am also hearing rumblings that construction prices will be coming down this fall - fingers crossed and we hope that truly happens.

Susan Bloch

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2021 Save The Dates

Thurs., August 19, 2021

**Annual Golf Outing -
Save the Date - Support by
Sponsoring - Reserve your
team NOW!**

October 2-17, 2021

**Medina County Fall
Parade of Homes -**

*Tentative dates - watch for
info*

From the Executive Director

Members and Friends:

Thanks to all the builders, developers and associate members who helped make our recent Parade of Homes not only possible, but also successful. We appreciate the support and participation of our sponsors as well, especially during these challenging times. Keep in mind our Fall Parade - details will be sent to you within the next few weeks so watch your email.

I urge every one of our builders members to reach out to Congress regarding the lumber shortage and rising price issues we are currently facing. Your support in this effort will help force our local, state and federal governments to look more seriously at this growing problem and address it.

We are holding our Annual Golf Outing at Shale Creek on Thursday, August 19th. Shale Creek has informed us that all COVID restrictions have been lifted so we feel confident this will once again be one of our main annual member get-togethers. Mark your calendar for this event and consider sponsoring as well. See pages 12 and 14 for more info and get your reservations in now.

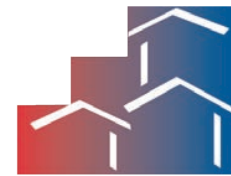
Stay strong, safe and healthy. We appreciate your membership and your support of the Medina County Home Builders Association.

Respectfully:

Dave LeHotan
Volunteer Executive Director



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Home Builders
Association



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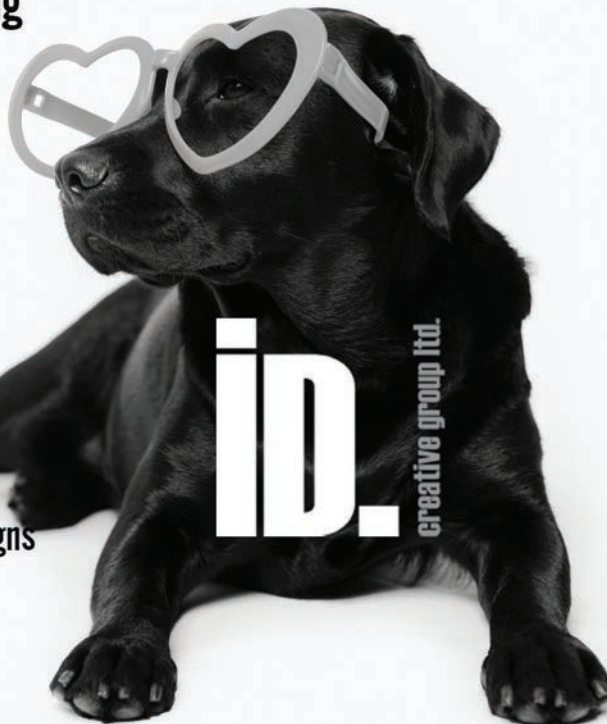
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LOTS & ACREAGE

BATH

Lot 57 N Shore Dr: Beautiful setting on Crystal Lake. This 2.43 acre lot has about 350ft of lake frontage and 110ft of street frontage. The lot is mostly cleared with a few trees left on each side of property for privacy. Build your dream lake home today! **\$375,000.00, Matt Stouffer 330-814-4616, Gary Stouffer 330-805-6900.**

Autumn Lane: Private road leads to unique 2-acre lot providing quiet, very secluded setting. Buildable w/minimum 3-bedroom approved by Summit Co. Health Dept., can build 4-5 bedroom. **\$179,900. Bill Snow 330-990-0256.**

BRECKSVILLE

8310 Settlers Passage: This private 32-acres w/all utilities available at the street. Wooded entrance w/approx. 650' frontage, currently Zoned R-60 Single Family. Bring your own builder. **\$899,000. Matt Stouffer 330-814-4616, Gary Stouffer 330-805-6900.**

HINCKLEY

The Trails at Redwood Falls: Located where old Skyland Golf Course was. Conservation development has 97 parcels, walking trails, club house & 5 lakes. City water & sewer. **Robin Pickett 330-322-3181.**

KENT

5036 SR 43: Approx. 43 acres on SR 43. Zoned G-C General Commercial. Subject to new survey per Portage Co. Sewer/Water/Gas/Electric/Cable (Buyer's responsibility to verify accessibility, capacity, etc. on all utilities). **\$895,000. Gary Stouffer 330-805-6900, Tara Kleckner 330-289-1315.**

MEDINA

Blue Heron: Just 1 lot left. Walking paths, pool and tennis courts. City water and sewer. **Maryanne Phillips 330-714-3393, Robin Pickett 330-322-3181.**

3337 Old Weymouth Rd: Approx 18 acres in Medina Twp. Corner of Remsen & Old Weymouth. This property has it all, lush meadows, wooded areas of mature trees all leading you to the rippling river bordering the edge of the property. Build your dream home within your own nature park! Also has Pole Barn 32x80 / 2500sf and minutes from Rt 71. **\$390,000. Sharon Holderbaum 330-349-2599.**

MONTVILLE TWP.

NEW Windfall Estates: Highland Schools' newest fully improved residential development, Windfall Estates. Gorgeous wooded setting with walk out basement & cul-de-sac lots. Prices from the mid **\$400,000s. Robin Pickett 330.322.3181.**

NORTH CANTON

8215 Arlington Ave NW: Approx 74 acres in Jackson Township w/approx. 2,467 ft. of frontage (on Arlington Avenue) and 1,377 ft. deep on the North Side. Approx 1,000 ft. of frontage on Strausser Street. Large house on property built in 1861 offering more than 5,500 sq.ft. of living space, 5 bedrooms. Connected to the house is an office building with six separate office spaces and half bathroom. Four car detached garage and storage outbuilding on property. **\$1,975,000. Gary Stouffer 330-805-6900, Sarah Halsey 330-268-0102.**

RICHFIELD

Revere Schools

V/L Brecksville Rd: Approx. 32 wooded acres w/various possible building sites. Approx. 550' frontage. Topography is nicely rolling with slight slope from front to back. Approx. 5 acres is in the Village of Richfield with water/sewer and approx. 27 acres in Richfield Township. **\$470,000. Gary Stouffer 330-805-6900.**

SHARON TWP

Highland Schools

7022 State Rd: Approx. 17.3 acres in Sharon Twp. with the possibility of being subdivided. Zoned R-1. All transfers would need to occur at the same time. Beautiful wooded area with rock ledges along northern border. Moving south, property rises to crest of a hill with ideal homesite and expansive views. **\$350,000. Gary Stouffer 330-805-6900, Gina Luisi 330-814-4747.**

Crooked Stick Dr: 1 lot remaining on a private cul-de-sac. Highland Schools. No HOA. **\$169,900. Robin Pickett 330-322-3181.**

STREETSBORO

V/L SR 43: Approx. 43.5 acres w/approx. 682ft frontage on State Rt 43 & approx 1600 ft frontage on Kennedy Rd, zoned Rural Residential. **\$499,000 OR 33.5 acres for \$399,000 OR 13 acres for \$105,000. Gary Stouffer 330-805-6900, Sharon Holderbaum 330-349-2599.**

UNIONTOWN

3663 S. Arlington Rd: Over 4 acres of commercial land w/194' frontage on S. Arlington Rd. & Fortuna Dr. Zoned B-3. Utilities at street. Convenient to I-77 & shopping/retail. **\$450,000. Gary Stouffer 330-805-6900, Matt Stouffer 330-814-4616.**

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BUDGET DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE OVER THE WEEKEND; AFFORDABLE HOUSING AMENDMENT ONE OF MANY ITEMS

As HB 110, the Biennial Budget heads to conference committee, there are numerous items to be reconciled between the House and Senate versions. Discussions were ongoing over the weekend to try to work through some of these differences. The conference committee is scheduled to meet this week. One amendment added by the Senate, at the request of the current Senate President, proposes changes to O.R.C. 5715.01 and 5713.03 dealing with the valuation of subsidized residential rental property. The amendment would require county auditors to value Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) properties and other properties receiving federal subsidies to be valued as market rate properties without regard to governmental use restrictions. OHBA has been closely following the issue, and has conversations with all the parties involved, including President Huffman.

Feel free to contact OHBA with any questions.

LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION BILLS ON THE MOVE

HB 107 ELEVATOR LAW

HB 107 Elevator Law (Baldridge, B.) To revise the Elevator Law.

The House Commerce and Labor committee heard concerns from elevator contractors from around the state who OHBA has been working with on HB 107. While the proponents are using public safety to justify a one size fits all licensing bill, both Mike Simko, Access Solutions, Inc., and David Fesman, Med Mart, testified sharing concerns about the overreach and scope of HB 107. While residential elevators have been exempted already from the contractor licensing, OHBA has suggested changes to address the accessibility equipment also making up the business of the contractors who do the residential work. While the bill is not scheduled

for another hearing this week, OHBA is scheduled to meet with the sponsor to reiterate concerns heard from those in the residential elevator industry. OHBA continues to watch HB 107 and work on language to further clarify the scope of the licensing legislation.

EXPANSION OF LICENSING TO RESIDENTIAL PLUMBING, HVAC, ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

SB 142 Occupational Regulation (Schaffer, T.) To license residential only construction contractors and to make changes to the law regulating specialty construction contractors.

*(Legislative News –
Continued on next page)*



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*(Legislative News –
Continued)*

OHBA continues to have discussions with the bill's sponsor, and has submitted proposed changes to SB 142 to further clarify the ability to use subcontractors, and maintain the scope of the bill as it applies to specialty contractors.

RESIDENTIAL ROOFING REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

SB 64 Roofing Contractors
(Hottinger, J., Lang, G.) To regulate and require the registration of roofing contractors.

The Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee accepted a substitute version last week before hearing testimony from the insurance industry. Among the changes is language to clarify that new home construction is not covered. OHBA has been working closely with the sponsors and proponents, the insurance industry, on a bill that makes the most sense in that it is primarily tied to regulating roofing contractors as their work is tied to insurance payments. SB 64 includes various provisions already in the Consumer Sales Practices Act (CSPA), as well as protections such as, provisions that allow consumers to cancel the contract three days after finding out that their insurer has denied their claim, in whole or in part. SB 64 clearly allows for subcontracting, and would not apply to new home construction.

HB 110 BUDGET AWAITS GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE AS LEGISLATURE BREAKS FOR SUMMER RECESS

Numerous differences between House and Senate versions of HB 110 were worked out and voted on by the conference committee earlier this week. The House and Senate were in session until late Monday night finally voting to pass HB 110, sending it to the Governor's desk. One amendment added by the Senate, at the request of the current Senate President, proposed changes to O.R.C. 5715.01 and 5713.03 dealing with the valuation of subsidized residential rental property. The amendment would have required county auditors to value Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) properties and other properties receiving federal subsidies to be valued as market rate properties without regard to governmental use restrictions. One of hundreds of changes included in the conference committee report, removed this language and replaced it with a study committee of ten members appointed by the Governor. OHBA is one of the ten to be represented on the committee.

Feel free to contact OHBA with any questions.

LEGISLATIVE RECAP

HB 107 Elevator Law
(Baldrige, B.) To revise the Elevator Law.

Member *News*

New Associate Member

Costco Wholesale

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Web: costco.com
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Business: Retail / wholesale / member programs

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Renewed Associates

ID Creative Group, Ltd. – Valley City
Stewart Title Company – Medina

Renewed Builders

Drees Homes – Brecksville



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The House Commerce and Labor committee voted HB 107 out of committee and the full House passed the legislation last week with a vote of 81-9. In prior hearings, the committee heard concerns from elevator contractors from around the state who OHBA has been working with on HB 107. While residential elevators have been exempted already from the contractor licensing, OHBA has suggested changes

*(Legislative News –
Continued on next page)*



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*(Legislative News –
Continued)*

to address the accessibility equipment also making up the business of the contractors who do the residential work. OHBA will continue to work on changes in the Senate to HB 107 over the summer and when the legislature returns in the fall.

HB 175 Water Pollution (Hillyer, B.) To deregulate certain ephemeral water features under various water pollution control laws.

The House Agriculture Committee had a hearing last week where HB 175 had been marked for a possible vote. Unfortunately, the Chairman decided not to report the bill out of committee, but instead held the legislation, asking the parties to work together over the summer. OHBA responded, expressing disappointment with the lack of vote, and failure to keep HB 175 moving through the process while discussions were also taking place. OHBA continues to work with interested parties and the

sponsor in support of HB 175.

HB 201 Natural Gas And Propane (Stephens, J.) To prevent local governments from limiting use of natural gas and propane.

Passed in Senate (6/24/2021; 24-7)

A measure prohibiting local governments from preventing consumers from obtaining natural gas service or propane is on its way to the governor after clearing the Senate on Thursday. HB 201, which is opposed by local government groups that claim it infringes on home rule, cleared the chamber in a party-line vote. OHBA has been part of several groups offering its support of HB 201.

Please feel free to contact with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar for OHBA's Fall Board of Trustees Meeting on November 16, 2021 at the Hilton Easton, Columbus.

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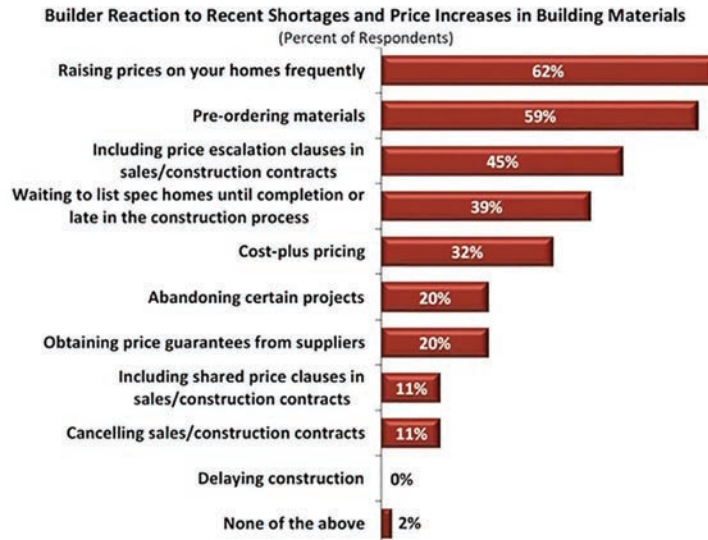
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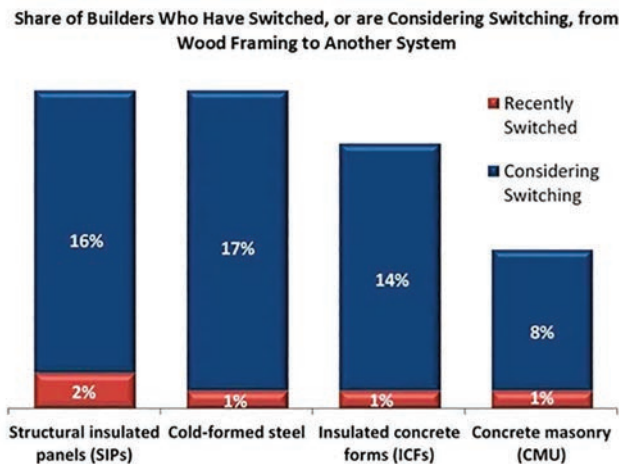


Shortages Cause Builders to Raise Prices, Pre-Order Materials

Recent posts have discussed how builders are facing widespread shortages of many building materials, and how materials prices for the same house have increased by 26 percent over the past year. Results from a follow-on NAHB survey show that builders have reacted to the shortages in a variety of ways, most commonly by raising the prices of their homes and pre-ordering materials.



The source for these results is the monthly survey for the NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI). The basic results establishing widespread shortages and rising costs came from the May 2021 HMI survey. The follow-on questions dealing with builder reactions were included in June.



In particular, the June survey asked the HMI panel of single-family builders how their businesses have reacted to recent shortages and price increases in building materials. As previously noted, the most common reactions (cited by 62 and 59 percent of builders, respectively) were raising the prices on their homes frequently and

pre-ordering materials, followed by price escalation clauses (45 percent), waiting until late in the construction process before listing spec homes (39 percent) and cost-plus pricing (32 percent). Only 2 percent indicated they had adopted none of the listed techniques for dealing with the shortages and rising cost of materials.

Some of the most dramatic increases over the past year involved lumber prices. So far, this has caused very few builders to switch away from traditional wood framing, although some are considering it. In particular, 17 percent are considering switching to steel, 16 percent to SIPs, 14 percent to ICFs, and 8 percent to concrete masonry.

Rising material costs are one of the reasons, along with the cost of regulation and ongoing shortage of construction labor, that buyers with relatively modest incomes are being squeezed out of the market for new homes.



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How a Bill Becomes Law

Not to give you the high school civics lesson, nor recite the famous cartoon rendition, "I'm just a bill on capitol hill", but a view from beneath the surface. As having plied my trade in this profession for close to five decades, I see a lot below the surface, which often rises to the actual policy ruling the good citizens of Ohio. At the outset, I will declare many, many good and well-meaning officeholders have been true to their duty and tried their best to serve admirably.



Not a news source in Ohio failed to headline the expulsion of former speaker, Rep Larry Householder: the first since before the Civil War, a most rare occurrence. Just about all the other 98 House members found this to be a troubling and emotional ordeal. However, the facts which led to the dismissal are most rare, as well. The stage was set with an 80 plus page indictment from the federal government and sworn statements by FBI agents.

The charges were principally RICO conspiracy allegations surrounding a 60 million dollar bribery scheme to pass a bill. According to the FBI, this is the largest of its kind in Ohio history.

While the trial is not expected for some time yet (the indictment was issued a year ago), the House had removed the Speaker from his leadership post, though he remained a member after being reelected last November. Despite

his reelection, Householder was urged to resign, but refused to do so. Upon a petition to expel him, the House voted him out. Here is where it gets interesting.

The Ohio Constitution provides for expulsion of a member for certain conduct, somewhat defined in the Ohio Revised Code, as using physical force against another member. While a felony conviction is, being charged with a crime is not so listed. Nonetheless, members from both parties made pleas for expulsion despite no clear violation, as described in the constitution, occurred. This led to a spirited debate around if the members could stretch the definition of disorderly conduct in the Constitution to include the alleged "conduct" of Rep Householder: overseeing the conspiracy as described in the indictment. As we all know, the majority prevailed and Rep Householder was expelled by the House of Representatives.

The lesson here is how and when can a term be used to fit a particular set of allegations? The answer simply being, when a majority thinks so. While this is an extreme set of circumstances, it pretty much frames what you need to support a particular issue or grievance. We take no side in this debate, nor criticize how legislators voted on the issue. However, this adequately describes how powerful the legislature can be as it exercises its authority. ■



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Support Your Association

Remember, whenever possible, always try to do business with and patronize our Parade Sponsors, your Fellow Members and support your Medina County HBA & local community!

Premium installment & true-up reporting for private employers

Employers must pay premiums timely to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) to receive and maintain workers' compensation coverage.

Through the year, employers have been making premium installment payments based on estimated payroll. As we near the conclusion of the 2020 policy year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021), BWC will be requiring all employers to reconcile ("true-up") the payroll that was used to estimate their premium with their actual payroll for the policy year. BWC will also be sending information regarding premium installments for the upcoming 2021 policy year (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022).

Important reminders

BWC mailed 2021 estimated annual premium notices along with your installment schedule around May 1, 2021.

- If you expect your payroll to change during the 2021 rating year from the estimate provided, you can call BWC at 800-644-6292 and request a change to your payroll and installment schedule.
- Failure to make installment payments based on the installment schedule can result in lapses in coverage, therefore make sure installment payments are paid by the due dates as noted on the installment schedule. The first installment payment will be due by mid/late June 2021.
- If you pay your full 2021 premium by the June installment due date, you can earn a 2% Early Payment Discount. There is no need to switch to an annual installment, but the premium must be paid in full by the due date. BWC will issue the 2% refund the following month.

BWC will mail notices regarding the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 true-up around July 1, 2021. True-up reporting and payment is due by August 15, 2021.

- Failure to true-up and pay any additional premium will result in your policy being removed from all discount and rebate programs and it will remain ineligible for discounts and rebate in future years.

Employers can receive a rebate for paying premiums and completing true-up online with BWC's Go-green Rebate Program.

If you have any questions regarding premium installments or the true-up process, contact our Sedgwick program manager, Bob Nicoll, at 330.418.1824.

2021 MCHBA Annual Golf Outing

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Shale Creek Golf Club

5420 Wolff Road, Medina

Schedule of Events:

Registration – 8:45 a.m.

Shotgun Start – 9:30 a.m.

Social – 2:30 p.m.

Followed by Dinner – 3:00 p.m.

(All restrictions have been listed –
Shale Creek back to normal operations)

Golf Package – \$150 per person

Includes 18 holes of golf, half a cart, box lunch & dinner

Dinner Package – \$60 per person

BBQ Dinner Plate – Ribs & Chicken – Corn on the Cob

Herb Roasted Potatoes – Salad – Rolls – Dessert

Dinner Only – Name[s]: _____

Golf & Dinner:

Names (required)	Company	Phone # to verify
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please place me with a foursome _____

_____ Invoice me – Members only

_____ Check

_____ Credit Card – American Express, Discover, MasterCard or Visa (circle one)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____ 3/4 digit code _____

PLEASE NOTE: All fees are nonrefundable and no shows will be billed.

Please return this completed form with your check or credit card information

BY AUGUST 5, 2021 to: MCHBA, P.O. Box #233, Valley City, OH 44280 (NEW ADDRESS)

Phone: 330.725.2371 or 330.483.0076 • Email: susanb@medinacountyhba.com

MAJOR EVENT SPONSOR



Jeff Barnes
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PARADE PARTNERS

Thank you to all the companies that made this event possible!



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GET INVOLVED Opportunities:

----- **Par Level / Hole Sponsor - \$100**

Your company will be recognized with a sign at the putting green

----- **Water Sponsor - \$150**

Will receive recognition throughout the day by announcement

RESERVED

----- **Box Lunch Sponsor - \$250**

Will receive recognition throughout the day by announcement

----- **Long Drive Sponsor - \$350**

Sponsor gets announcement

----- **Proximity Sponsor - \$350**

Sponsor gets announcement

RESERVED

----- **Putt Off Sponsor - \$350**

Sponsor gets announcement



**MEDINA
COUNTY**
Home Builders
Association



MCHBA Annual Golf Outing Sponsorships & Promotional Opportunities

Sponsorship participation gives you an opportunity to get more involved with our biggest social event of the year and provides you with more visibility among your fellow associate and builder members! We appreciate your consideration and support of this fun event.

----- Invoice me – Members only

----- Check

----- Credit Card – American Express, Discover, MasterCard or Visa

Credit Card # ----- Exp. Date -----

Name on Card ----- 3/4 digit code -----

All fees are nonrefundable.

Please return this completed form with your check or credit card information

BY AUGUST 5, 2021 to: **MCHBA, P.O. BOX #233, OH 44280 (NEW ADDRESS)**

OSHA launches program to protect high-risk workers from coronavirus

In response to President Biden's executive order on protecting worker health and safety, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has launched a National Emphasis Program (NEP) focusing enforcement efforts on companies that put the largest numbers of employees at serious risk of contracting the coronavirus. The program also prioritizes employers that retaliate against workers for complaints about unsafe or unhealthy conditions, or for exercising other rights protected by federal law.

NEP inspections will enhance the agency's previous coronavirus enforcement efforts, and will include some follow-up inspections of worksites inspected in 2020. The program's focused strategy ensures abatement and includes monitoring the effectiveness of OSHA's enforcement and guidance efforts. The program will remain in effect for up to one year from its issuance date, though OSHA has the flexibility to amend or cancel the program as the pandemic subsides.

For programmed inspections, the NEP will target high risk industries for COVID-19. The primary targets for COVID-19 inspections remain in the healthcare and personal care industries, including physicians' and dental offices, home healthcare, ambulance services, hospitals, including psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals, nursing care facilities, residential intellectual and developmental disability facilities, and retirement and assisted living communities.

For un-programmed inspections, which include inspections initiated based on complaints, referrals from media reports, reports from other agencies like local health departments or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and severe incident reports such as in-patient hospitalizations and fatalities, OSHA will be prioritizing these cases for on-site inspections, especially allegations of potential worker exposures to COVID-19. This is in stark contrast to how OSHA handled the thousands of complaints received in the last year, most of which it treated through an informal process of allowing employers to self-investigate allegations related to COVID-19 and report back to OSHA their findings and detail the measures they had in place to protect employees. Most inquiries of this nature resulted in closure of the cases without a formal inspection from OSHA. Fatalities cases also will be prioritized.

New to OSHA's target list for this NEP are certain non-healthcare industries such as meat processing, poultry processing, supermarkets and other grocery stores, discount department stores, general warehousing and storage, temporary agencies, restaurants, and prisons and correctional facilities. OSHA also has identified a secondary list of non-healthcare essential critical infrastructure industries such as food and agriculture and manufacturing of food, beverage, wood, paper products, chemicals, energy sector manufacturing, plastic and rubber, mineral products, and metal manufacturing.

For questions or additional information, please contact Sedgwick's Jim Wirth at 614.546.7331 or jim.wirth@sedgwick.com



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