

Builders Connection

7D

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 11, 2007

Citrus County Builders Association

Parade of Homes beings Feb. 23

The Citrus County Builders Association will present their Annual Spring Parade of Homes from Feb. 23 through March 11. Models will be open for viewing, at no charge, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Saturday, and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Visitors perusing the Parade of Homes will receive a special postcard to be stamped at the parade sites they visit. Once completed, the postcard may be turned in to the drop box provided at the showcase home, located at 5384 North Elkcam Blvd. in Pine Ridge Estates, to be drawn for one of the 27 door prizes valued at \$100 each.

Our special thanks go to:

- Diamond Sponsor
Citrus County Chronicle
- Platinum Sponsor
SunTrust Mortgage
- Gold Sponsors
Capital City Bank and Florida Home Builders Insurance
- Silver Sponsors
Progress Energy, Regions Mortgage and White Aluminum
- Bronze Sponsors
AAA Roofing, Central Florida Gas, Countrywide Home Loans and Nicholson Engineering.

For more information on the 2007 Spring Parade of Homes, go to www.citrusparadeofhomes.com or look for the Official 2007 Spring Parade Book in the Sunday, February 18 edition of the *Citrus County Chronicle*.



Knowledge is power

You need more power!

Construction industry continuing education classes are now being offered at CCBA. Earn 15 hours of C.E, credit while attending a business planning and construction business management workshop. Satisfy 4 of your required hours in the first day. Price includes materials and lunch. This class is open to members and non-members.

For more information and class dates, contact the CCBA at (352)746-9028, ext. 6301.



You've waited a long time and so have we...

Plug into the CCBA and check out our all new, redesigned Web site at www.citrusbuilders.com.

CCBA CALENDAR

- FBA Field trip to Berger Construction Job Site — Feb. 2.
- Parade Awards Banquet — March 16.
- Family Fishing Tournament — April 21 & 22 (Plantation Inn & Golf Resort)
- South Eastern Building

- Conference — July 11-14 (Orlando, FL)
- Annual Jim Blackshear Memorial Golf Outing — Oct. 2007 (Black Diamond Country Club)
- Annual Home & Outdoor Show — Nov. 2007 (National Guard Armory, Crystal River)

Event dates, times, and locations subject to change. PLEASE contact the CCBA at 352-746-9028 to confirm or obtain further details.

The CCBA welcomes new members

New members



KERRY THOMPSON/Special to the Chronicle
The CCBA welcomes three New Members to the Citrus County Builders Association. Pictured left to right are Wait Stachowicz of Citrus CAD Corporation, Paul Micali of Cast-Crete and Michael and Sandra Shiflett of Shiflett Construction Co Inc.

Renewing members



KERRY THOMPSON/Special to the Chronicle
The CCBA thanked and congratulated renewing members for their investment in the industry at the Membership Meeting of Jan. 25. Pictured from left to right are Gary Marantz of Sterling Construction LLC (3 years), Buddy Fowler of Job Site Services, Jeff Colebrook of Cemex (3 years), Ana Cruz of Gulf Coast Ford (8 years) and CCBA President Ron Lieberman of Nu-Era Homes Inc. (6 years).

Building Lincoln's log home and the American dream

NAHB.org

Each February, a national holiday honors the past leaders that have shaped the country we live in today—President's Day. As children growing up, we often learned to associate these leaders with certain things—George Washington and his cherry tree; Theodore Roosevelt and his bull moose; Abraham Lincoln and his log cabin.

Like America itself, the log cabins of today have come a far distance from the one-room structures Lincoln knew in the 1800s. According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), over 26,000 log homes are built annually—

sales figures have more than doubled to \$1.7 billion since 1995—and comprise nearly seven percent of the American custom home market. With the wide variety of choice available and their high-energy efficiency, it's no wonder the popularity of log homes is rising. Planning and building a log home is a unique opportunity to build your dream home, but it's important to do some research first.

Talk to professionals who know the process and who can help you understand the value and challenges of building a log home. A good place to start is with National Association of Home Builders' (NAHB) Log Homes Council. Council mem-

bers are log home manufacturers and producers who have united to develop and promote quality building systems and ethical business practices by participation in both mandatory and voluntary council programs designed to benefit log home customers. The rigid standards designed by the Log Homes Council are developed to benefit the consumer, and members are always willing to answer questions you may have.

Consider the site of where you hope to build, says Al Theriault, director of Operations for Kuhns Bros. Log Homes Inc., a Pennsylvania log homes manufacturer and president of the

Log Homes Council. Buyers should own the land where they plan to build before committing a manufacturer to a particular design. The cost of the site can affect the overall project cost dramatically.

While most log homes are situated in more rural environments, due to baby boomers leaving the hustle of city life, they don't have to be. In 2001, the last year of record, the most popular states for log home construction were Colorado, New York, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, Minnesota, and New Hampshire. Costs from state to state can vary widely.

"Consumers need to consid-

er the cost of the land they are interested in," Theriault states.

When selecting a site, first get your budget in order and think carefully about the site. Will the site allow you to orient the home the way you want? Keep in mind other details as well—will the site allow for that walkout basement you want?

It is important to have financing in place for the entire project before you break ground... Also, as with any major purchase, make certain that you understand your manufacturer's terms. Pay attention to the time period of your agreement and know what happens if you exceed that time limit.

"Know your budget and get realistic estimates," Theriault emphasizes.

When buying a new home, most consumers don't have to think about the kind of wood in the 2x4s or a construction-to-permanent mortgage. But the tens of thousands of consumers in the market for a log home quickly learn that buying and building their rustic dream house is very different from purchasing a conventional home. By knowing this going in, and doing your research, you'll be in your new log retreat in no time. Want to know where to start? You can visit www.loghomes.org for a whole host of resources designed just for the log homeowner.