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Photo Courtesy of TK Design & Associates



MID-YEAR ECONOMIC FORECAST STATE-OF-THE-INDUSTRY BREAKFAST **JUNE 27, 2024**

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At the recent Birmingham Builders Forum, Mayor Elaine McLain (left), City Manager Jana Ecker, Building Official Bruce Johnson and Forum Chair Fred I. Capaldi, an honored Past President of HBA.

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At the International Builders' Show in Las Vegas, Paula Badalamente (left) of IMAGIO Glass Design, local PWB Chair Barb Burnham of B.J. Burnham Design and Mike Trego of IMAGIO Glass Design.

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Impressive LandscapingTO UPGRADE NEW & REMODELED HOMES

WRITTEN BY NANCY ROZUM

mpressive landscaping enhances curb appeal, but today's landscaping focus doesn't just encompass the front of homes. Backyards are turning into elaborate areas where families can gather to cook, eat, entertain, play and enjoy a number of outdoor features such as fire places and fire pits. The NAHB surveyed homeowners for its 2024 edition of *What Home Buyers Really Want* and found at the top of buyers' wish lists, in addition to items like laundry rooms and

Energy Star windows, were patios (86 percent) and exterior lighting (82 percent). The survey also indicated that other home features that have seen growth over the past 10 years include outdoor fireplaces (59 percent) and outdoor kitchens (55 percent).

Landscaping these days doesn't just encompass lawns, trees and other plants. Landscape firms are now designing and installing entire outdoor living spaces. "Many homeowners today want to fully use their outdoors space," said

Elizabeth Alexander with D.A.

Alexander & Company. "They want larger, multiple outdoor entertaining spaces with outdoor kitchen areas, bar areas, and dedicated areas for the kids to play and families to gather around a fireplace or fire pit. The pandemic forced people to slow down and stay at home and people found that their outdoor areas just didn't meet their needs. We approach customers today by asking them how they envision using their outdoor space and then we do a custom

landscape design to meet their needs." Water features are not as prominent as they were in the past. "Homeowners are requesting more fireplaces and outdoor kitchens then they are water features," said Elizabeth. "Those with in-ground pools are going with synthetic turf near the pool and pool house. It provides a clean look and prevents live grass clippings from blowing into the pool. Pavers can break up the turf and we are seeing larger paver stones

as a trend. In the past we frequently installed 4" x 8" brick pavers. Now we are routinely installing 14" x 24" concrete pavers. We need special equipment to place these paver so they don't crack. Paver manufacturers have come out with some really nice new patterns and more appealing, natural looking color palettes." Mulch still remains the best option for landscape beds. "Shredded hardwood mulch provides nutrients to the soil," said Elizabeth. "We don't

use mulch made of recycled pallets as they are usually chemically treated and don't provide the nutrients that soil needs. Stone bark is gaining in popularity. It is a newer option that looks natural like bark, but is better for homeowners with allergies as it doesn't decompose. It is more costly to install, but you don't have to refresh it as often as mulch that breaks down." Trees and shrubs are still an important part of overall landscape design. "We advocate

diversity in order to provide seasonal interest," said Elizabeth. "We want to make sure when nothing is blooming, the landscape is still interesting by utilizing different textures, tones, colors, etc. Some homeowners are interested in native or pollinator plants. We can suggest a mix of plants, even in a formal landscape, that won't look messy and will bloom at different times, providing a beautiful landscape all season. There is also a renewed interest in growing food at home so we are getting more requests

for home garden areas, generally with elevated beds. We have also done some planter boxes for community gathering places that have turned out very well."

Pergolas are gaining in popularity for outdoor spaces. "We have been designing and installing StruXure[™] Outdoor pergolas since 2017," said Mike Wozniak with Building Integrity. "Once the pandemic hit, the demand for pergolas really increased. People are using their outdoor spaces more and are upgrading their backyards so they can enjoy being outside whether the sun is shining or it's raining. StruXure Outdoor pergolas have louvers which can be opened or closed depending on the weather. These louvers can also be partially closed to just let in a measured amount of sun. The louvers have a built-in sensor so that if it starts raining, they close automatically. Outdoor kitchens, televisions, patio furniture and other outdoor furnishings stay drier and cleaner under a StruXure Outdoor pergola. Power for television, heaters and other electric appliances runs up a leg of the structure." StruXure pergolas are heavy-duty



and strong to withstand the elements. They are made of rust-proof aluminum with stainless steel fasteners. "StruXure pergolas will last as long as the home lasts," said Mike. "The pergola can be tied into the home or freestanding on a

deck or concrete patio. They come in a number of colors and a variety of sizes from 10' x 10' near a pool, to the most common size of 12' x 20'. We have never done two pergolas the same and they can be manufactured in any size, including sizes that would cover commercial spaces such as clubhouse and restaurant patios. Customers really like the fact that you can place these pergolas over outdoor kitchens and gas fireplaces and fire pits and you have the ability to let the smoke and cooking odors dissipate by controlling the louvers with the touch of a button."

Smart home technology isn't just for inside the home anymore. "We do outdoor home landscape lighting and elaborate outdoor sound systems," said **Neal Check with SoundCheck**. "People are doing up their outdoor spaces like never before. It is very common today for homeowners to request high-end outdoor sound systems. They want these sound systems to reach all outdoor entertainment areas such as



Photo courtesy of D.A. Alexander & Co.

their boat dock area, swimming pool area, and fire pit area. By having each zone programmed, the homeowner can choose to have music throughout the whole backyard area or just in one specific area using the same home automation system they use to open their shades, turn on their alarm system and listen to music indoors. One app can control all of these home automation features. We use a company out of Key West for our outdoor soundscapes.

Coastal Source provides us with highperformance outdoor audio and lighting products. Their products only require a single cable for both lighting and sound. We also use Sonance products. The company offers SLS satellite speakers as well as rock speakers and subwoofers in natural colors and textures designed to hide in garden beds." While drive-in movies may be a thing of the past, you can now offer big screen movies in your backyard. "We can get outdoor projection screen material that's waterproof, so we have done several outdoor movie systems with fantastic audio. We

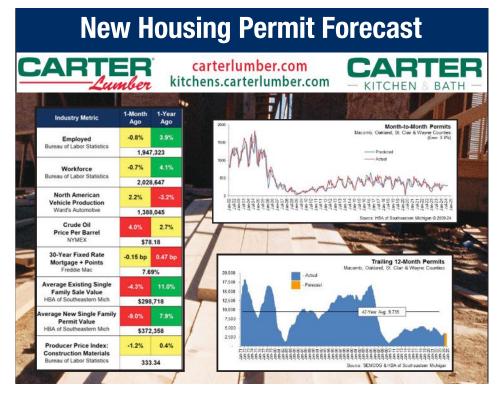
also install televisions and speakers in other outdoor living spaces. Combining outdoor video and audio systems with color changing LED lighting can really turn a backyard into a party place."





March Permit Activity Continues Good Start To 2024

MICHAEL C. STOSKOPF



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ased on residential permit data compiled by HBA and reported in the *HBA/Carter Lumber Southeastern Michigan*Residential Building Activity ReportTM a total of 316 single-family home (SFH) permits were issued in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties in March 2024, up by 2 percent from February's revised total of 311 permits and up nearly 13 percent compared to March 2023 (281). HBA's econometric model had predicted 280 SFH permits in March. The 834 SFH permits issued for 24Q1 are up 48 percent compared to 23Q1 (562).

In stark contrast, a total of only 24 multi-316 single-family home (SFH) permits were issued in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties in March 2024, up by 2 percent from February's revised total of 311 permits.

family (MFH) for-rent permits were issued in March 2024, continuing the slowest start to a year since 2014.

Southeastern Michigan employment and workforce levels decreased for the second consecutive month but are up by 4 percent compared to last year. February's crude oil prices (\$78.18) rose by over 4 percent compared to February and up by nearly 3 percent over March 2023 with rising Mideast tensions.

The 30-year fixed mortgage rate (7.69 percent) declined by 0.15 basis points from February but is up 0.47 basis points compared to February 2023. Finally, the US Construction Materials Producer Price Index (PPI) also declined by over 1 percent over February and is essentially flat compared to last year.

With the continued increase in new home production, the average SFH permit fell to 2,330 square feet, down by nearly 8 percent compared to February (2,530 sf) but up by 7 percent compared to March 2023 (2,169 sf).

With econometric factors beginning to show signs of slowing down, HBA's model continues to predict that trailing 12-month permit totals will peak in April before slowly declining through at least August. Factors contributing to the model's 6-month future output include high 30-year mortgage interest rates, elevated oil prices that remain elevated and stagnant employment levels.



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HBA Members At The International Builders' Show

elebrating its 80th year in 2024, the International Builders' Show was the biggest show in 15 years with 1,800 brands, companies and products, over 76,000 industry professionals, over 120 IBS Education Sessions and a segmented show floor separated into six categories, for ease of use.

Our local HBA members were involved in many aspects of the Show. On this page, you'll see a number of our members in action at the Show.

For instance, Mel Cervin of Lombardo Homes served as a presenter of an educational session. Other HBA presenters included Eric Tiffin of TK Design & Associates and Scott Sedam of TruNorth Development. Live demos taught new techniques and new uses for products. The show floor, education sessions, networking events and social events created thousands of connections.

Awards celebrated the best in the industry, including several honors for our members **KSI**



Kitchen & Bath. They were honored for Most

Innovative Showroom in the U.S. for their Rochester Hills location, designed by Maison Birmingham Founder and KSI Owner Lauren Tolles. At the Best in American Living Awards, KSI Designers were also honored, including Senior Designer Kelsey Powell who won two awards. "As a longtime member of the HBA of Southeastern Michigan and the Professional Women in Building Council, it's truly incredible to earn national recognition from the NAHB," said Kelsey.

Designer Christina Fukumoto won the Silver award in the Bath under \$50,000 category for her Cigar-Lounge Inspired Master Bath project.

Other local HBA members were exhibitors on the show floor, including **Mark Webberly of US Bank.**Our local members continue to serve as honored representatives in numerous aspects of NAHB governance, including **Rich Kligman, Don Pratt, Carole Jones and Lynne Pratt,** Lynne will serve as 2024 Area 9 National Area Chair.

Join us in Vegas for IBS 2025, Feb 25-27! Registration opens September 1, 2024 at www. BuildersShow.com.

Editor's Note: Sincere thanks to our members who provided photos for use in this magazine, including Paula Badalamente, Rich Kligman, Lynne Pratt and Carole Jones.



Mike Trego (left) of IMAGIO Glass Design, Barb Burnham, HBA's local PWB Chair of B.J. Burnham Design and HBA Vice President, Paula Badalamente of IMAGIO Glass Design and PWB Historian and Mark Webberly of US Bank.



Steven M. Jones and his mother, Carole Jones, of Robert R. Jones Homes. Carole has served in numerous positions at NAHB and won many awards at IBS over the years. She has served on the NAHB budget committee, as PWB's Area 9 and Region C Trustee, national chair for the NAHB Professional Women in Building Council. She was honored as PWB's #1 Spke in the Nation for three years in a row and the national council's highest honor. 2007 Woman of the Year.



Mel Cervin (left) of Lombardo Homes with fellow presenters.



HBA and HBAM Past President Rich Kligman (left) of Superb Custom Homes, HBAM Past President Lynne Pratt of Pratt Building and HBA and HBAM Past President Don Pratt of CECS of MI, Inc.







Show honorees from HBA member KSI Kitchen and Bath, Maison Birmingham Founder and KSI Owner Lauren Tolles (left), Senior Designer Kelsey Powell who won two awards and Designer Christina Kukumonto

Create Your Legacy

HBA's Charitable & Educational Foundation

BA's Charitable & Educational Foundation was created to give our members the opportunity to give back to a charity that is uniquely aligned with their profession. The Foundation's success and ability to fulfill its mission are dependent primarily on contributions from HBA members. Gifts to the Foundation are used to improve **COMMUNITIES** housing affordability for the

families of our area.



The Foundation also houses the **HBA** Skilled Trades Scholarship Fund. This fund was formed to support young people who will become the next generation of construction workers in southeastern Michigan. The fund's establishment was made possible, in part, by a generous endowment of \$50,000 by HBA Past President Paul C. and Cheryl Robertson.

The first Robertson Honorary scholarship was awarded in 2021, two were awarded in 2022 and three have been awarded this year.

Additionally, one Compo Family Memorial Scholarship was awarded in 2021, in memory of HBA's 2020 President David S. Compo, his wife Michele and their son Dawson. Two Compo Family Memorial Scholarships were awarded in 2022 and another two this year. Funding for the Compo scholarships is made possible through donations made in memory of the family following their January 2021 plane crash, along with generous contributions from the Irvin H. and June G. Yackness/National **Housing Endowment Fund, donations** from the Slavik Family and Lake Michigan Credit Union.

In December 2021, the Walter R. Stoskopf Memorial Scholarship was established when HBA's now retired CEO Michael Stoskopf donated \$21,450 in memory of his father who passed away in October 2021. That donation, has been combined with an additional donation made by Michael Stoskopf and others made in memory of Walter R. Stoskopf. In 2022, the first scholarship was made from that fund. Two scholarships have been awarded this year.



We are asking you, as an HBA Member, to make a donation to the HBA Charitable& Educational Foundation. The easiest way to donate is online at www.builders.org/foundation/ donate/ Your donation options online are:

- General Donation to promote and improve the availability of affordable housing opportunities
- **HBA Skilled Trades Scholarship Fund** Donation to support opportunities for youth entering the residential construction industry
- In Memory of Walter R. Stoskopf
- Compo Family Memorial Scholarship

- **Fund Donation**
- Paul C. and Cheryl Robertson Scholarship

If you prefer, feel free to mail a check payable to the HBA Charitable & Educational Foundation to HBA offices at: 30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 202, Bingham Farms, MI 48025

If you would like to establish your own Scholarship Fund within the Foundation, please contact Susan Adler Shanteau at 248-563-2083.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and your support. ■

AAM President Andrew Kuhn Takes To The Airwaves To Discuss Rental Fraud

he issue of rental fraud is not just a blip on the housing market radar but a significant and growing concern. As the housing market experiences its unpredictable ups and downs, the cost of housing remains unattainable for many, leading to a surge in rental applications.

As the housing market experiences its unpredictable ups and downs, the cost of housing remains unattainable for many, leading to a surge in rental applications. Unfortunately, this surge is accompanied by a rise in rental fraud attempts, compelling landlords to adopt stricter screening processes.

Unfortunately, this surge is accompanied by a rise in rental fraud attempts, compelling landlords to adopt stricter screening processes.

As a result of increased technology, potential tenants are getting creative in securing false

social security numbers, references, and pay stubs, in an attempt to bypass landlords' screening processes to rent their next home and then not pay rent. Add to that the slow and expensive eviction process, and these criminals have now scored a home rent-free at the expense of the landlord until they can be lawfully evicted.

However, landlords are utilizing more arduous screening processes and third-party companies with the capabilities to identify fraudulent documents to combat this growing trend. Unfortunately, because they need to use more costly techniques to combat the fraudulent application documents, there can be a trickle-down of costs elsewhere. The actions of these bad actors create a precedent that impacts everyone.

AAM President Andrew Kuhn took to the airwaves to discuss this growing trend and



AAM President Andrew Kuhn (right) on CBS News Detroit with Terrance Friday (left) and Kelly Vaughen.

highlighted the Apartment Association of Michigan, which works to educate members on the issues and offer solutions to help the everincreasing problem. Link to the interview: https://www.cbsnews.com/detroit/video/landlords-in-detroit-reporting-uptick-in-attempted-fraud-falsifying-information-to-getapartments/#x

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Advocacy Update

WRITTEN BY HOLLY J. TATMAN, AAM VP-GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS

The Michigan Neighborhood Program is Open for Business!

he Michigan State Housing Development
Authority has started accepting applications
for the new MI Neighborhood Program,
which provides grant money for housing
rehabilitation, public projects, and new units. This
program seeks to address Michigan's need for
more housing units as the housing crisis continues.

The program was appropriated \$60 million in grant money to be used state-wide and combines a mixture of state and federal community development dollars.

- Each project is eligible for up to \$2 million, plus 18% of admin and developer fees
- Any grants awarded over \$400,000 will require matching funds.
- The projects are intended to create housing inventory for individuals making up to 120% of the area's median income.
- The grant money applications are first come, first serve on an every 2-week schedule until July. Then, the applications will move to a monthly schedule.
- Investment strategy regional targets:
 Macomb (M) \$1,624,000

Oakland (L) - \$1,564,000 Wayne (N) - \$1,624,000 Detroit (0) - \$1,564,000 Livingston/Washtenaw/Monroe/Jackson/ Lenawee/Hillsdale (K) - \$8,824,000

The program is expected to be appropriated another \$60 million in the next fiscal year beginning October 1. According to MSHDA Director Amy Hovey's comments to the Detroit News, the grant program will "help to encourage affordable housing development by streamlining and stabilizing available state aid." The state is trying to work collaboratively with local municipalities and nonprofit and for-profit developers to combat the lack of affordable housing across our state. In this election year, there should be no shortage of effort.

Program parameters link:

MIN-Program-Overview.pdf (michigan.gov)

Process Summary link:

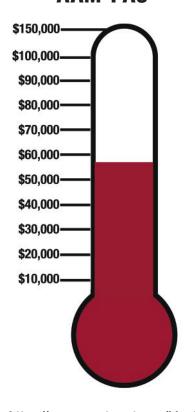
MIN-Ten-Steps---Grant-Process-Summary.pdf (michigan.gov)

Source:

Detroit News.

https://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/2024/04/01/michigan-housing-shortage-crisis-mi-neighborhood-program-taxpayer-subsidies-mshda/73167007007/

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https://www.apartments.org/blog/ pac-contribution-form/

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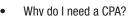
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

HBA'S PROFESSIONAL REMODELERS COUNCIL **LET'S TALK TAXES!**

For business owners and individuals Join us for an educational seminar with the Business Development Team at GULLA CPA!



During this event, we will review:

- What do I need to be keeping track of?
- Deductions!
- 2024 Tax Regulations\
- Q & A and More

Date: Wednesday, May 8 **Time:** Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Place: HBA Suite 202, North Entrance

30400 Telegraph Rd, Bingham Farms 48025

Cost: \$10 per person, including lunch



Ron Jedwab Lincorp/Borchert 2024 Council Chair



Angela Gauthier







TUESDAY, MAY 14

HBA 101: NEW MEMBER WELCOME BREAKFAST You have made the smart business decision to join the **Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan** (HBA) . . . Now let us show you how to make the most of your membership. Join us for a breakfast meeting to learn about some of the benefits of belonging to



HBA. You'll meet Forrest Wall, CEO of HBA. He will introduce you to the Association and answer your questions.

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Association Offices, Suite 202 Please use North Entrance

Register Online At www.builders.org/events.php

Cost: No charge. Please register online, in advance.

SHOWCASE

NETWORKING EVENT WITH PWB BUSINESSES

THURSDAY, MAY 16

HBA Members! Builders, Remodelers and Associates! Get to know the companies represented by the Professional Women in Building and learn how their businesses can help you! Each company will have a small tabletop to showcase their products. A strolling lunch will be provided while you network.

If you are a PWB member and would like to showcase your business please contact

Tanya Strait: @ tanya Strait or: info@sparkleblinds.com or Andrea Rokicsak: andrea@avimagined.com for details. Fee for each Table Top is \$25.00.

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Seminar

Association Offices - 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM Place:

30400 Telegraph Road, Bingham Farms 48025

FREE attendance for ALL HBA Members. Cost:

\$10 per Guest.

ADVANCE RESPONSE REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES!







THE MID-YEAR ECONOMIC FORECAST AND STATE OF THE INDUSTRY BREAKFAST

June 27, 2024 • See Outside Back Cover

HBA ANNUAL PICNIC

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Date: Wednesday July 31, 2024

Time: NOON - 1:30 P.M.

Place: THE LINKS OF NOVI SINGH

50395 W 10 Mile Rd, Novi 48374

COST: \$25/PERSON, Maximum 4/company



*A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE SKILLED TRADES SCHOLARSHIP FUND, PART OF HBA'S 501 (C) 3 CHARITABLE & EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION.









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The morning will begin with a meet & greet reception and tour of tabletop displays, followed by the Economic Forecast Breakfast program and guest speaker, Elliot Eisenberg, Ph.D.







THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024 7:30 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M.

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7:30-9:00 A.M. – Exhibits & Reception 9:00-10:30 A.M. – Economic Forecast Breakfast





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Elliot Eisenberg, Ph.D. is an internationally acclaimed economist and public speaker specializing in making economics fun, relevant and educational. Dr. Eisenberg earned a B.A. in economics with first-class honors from McGill University in Montreal, as well as a Master's and Ph.D. in public administration from Syracuse University. Dr. Eisenberg is the Chief Economist for GraphsandLaughs, LLC, an economic consultancy that serves a variety of clients across the United States. He writes a syndicated column and authors a daily 70-word commentary on the economy that is available at www.econ70.com.

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