

**Doug Carr**

**From:** Doug Carr [lacey@glhba.ccsend.com] on behalf of Doug Carr  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 8:50 AM  
**To:** Doug Carr  
**Subject:** The Tool Box From GLHB&RA

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# The Tool Box

*A Weekly Publication for Members & Friends*  
 May 18, 2009

## In This Issue

- [Golfers: Save the Date!](#)
- [Dates-At-A-Glance](#)
- [Bernero Announces Election Plans](#)
- [Parade Builder Pick-Up Day](#)
- [RC Goes NUTS!](#)
- [Home Sale Headlines Can Mislead](#)
- [GLHB&RA Golf Set To Go!](#)
- [LCN Offers Special Ad Rates for Parade](#)
- [Energy Rebates Coming From Consumers](#)
- Quick Links**
- [Remodelors Council Spike Status](#)
- [Board Directory](#)
- [Membership Info](#)
- [Housing Starts](#)

**Golfers:  
Save The**

Dear Doug,

### Let's Keep Cutting Government Budgets Wherever We Can!

In this column I don't like to focus too much on state issues. But in these trying times it seems like that's where change is needed most. Last week I noted the proposed cuts by the Governor of \$349 million. I also noted that the Governor and the legislature will continue to haggle over further cuts. Some say 'why worry? We've had state deficits since 2001.' The answer is that the need is more pressing today.

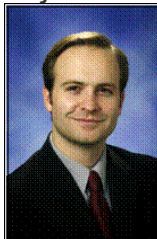


### Why not use the Federal Bailout Money?

Currently the talk at the state level is to use Michigan's share of the Federal bailout money (around \$7 Billion) to start covering our debts. On the surface it sounds good. However the Citizen's Research Council of MI [issued a report](#) that stated that the stimulus money:

- 1) Will not be enough to prevent deep spending cuts;
- 2) Will mask the size of the cuts we really need;
- 3) Will not be enough to carry us through the recession we are in due to lost tax revenue;
- 4) Doesn't even address the loss of GM or Chrysler; and
- 5) Will leave us on a budgetary cliff when it runs out!

### Why Is It so Hard to Find Ways To Cut?



According to Brian Calley, a House Representative in the the 87th District, one issue is a lack of transparency. He states in a letter to a local paper that "the details of how funds are actually spent are kept secret." In other words it is next to impossible for legislators to make "surgical" cuts to the budget when all they are given are broad

categories.

**Date!**  
**July 14**



**Hawk Hollow!**

**Reserve A  
Foursome!**

**Or**

**Sponsor A Hole!**

**Or**

**Sponsor The  
Event!**

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**Call Lacey for more  
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Benefits This Month!**

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### **A Call For More Transparency**

Representative Calley's solution is to require the state to implement a transparency policy. He suggests that the state "place their checkbook online" where the public can see how every dollar is spent. That could stimulate some cutting activity a little quicker than today's pace!

I'm definitely in favor of more transparency. If we are to get everyone talking about where the cuts need to be made then the state should share more information with both the public and the legislature! It's time to get the ball rolling on the road to recovery!

**[Email me your thoughts](#) anytime!**

**Doug**

CEO, GLHB&RA

### **Dates & Events To Remember:**

May 20 GLHB&RA Board Meeting

May 25 GLHB&RA Office Closed: Happy Memorial Day!

May 27 Parade Builder Breakfast 8:30 - 10:00 AM

May 30-31 First Weekend Parade Homes Open

Jun 4-7 Second Weekend Parade Homes Open

Jun 9 RC Summer Outing: Lansing Lugnuts \$8/person

Jun 11-14 Third Weekend Parade Homes AND Remodeled Projects Open

Jul 14 [GLHB&RA Golf Outing](#), Hawk Hollow

### **Virg Bernero Announces Plans To Re-Run for Lansing Mayor**

Most people either love Mayor Virg Bernero or hate him. Regardless of how you feel about him you have to admit that he is an advocate to change things up and has kept the City Council on their toes. He closed the golf courses, unloaded Potter Park Zoo and sold the South Grand Parking Ramp. He got the Accident Fund/Ottawa Power project moving and has surrounded himself with some good people that understand the importance of economic development. All of that is a good thing for our home building community members in the long run. He should get credit for continuing to cut costs where he can. The GLHB&RA supported him in the last election and we encourage him to stay the course!



### **Attention Parade Builders: Pick-Up Day With Breakfast Wed May 27th!**



All Parade Builders should plan to stop in the GLHB&RA office on the morning of Wednesday, May 27th between 8:30 - 10:00 AM. This day has been set aside for you to pick up your Parade guidebooks, signs and tickets for your Parade Home. This is the only scheduled time to pick up! Some delightful breakfast snacks will be on hand for you and your employees. The office is at

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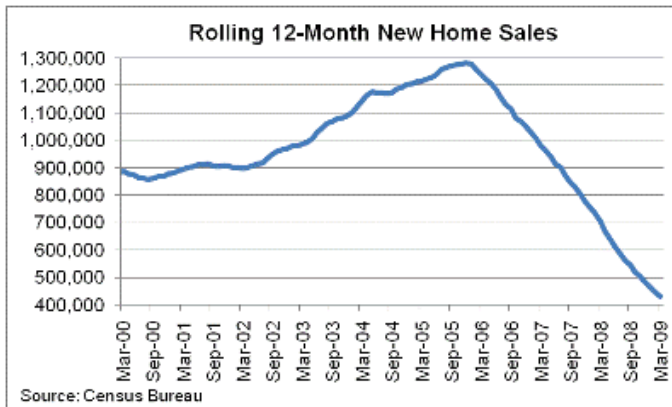
Remodelor Council Summer Outing:  
 Lansing Lugnuts On June 9th

The Remodelor Council has plans to  
 launch into the summer with a fun  
 outing to a Lansing Lugnuts game.  
 Bring your crew, bring your family!  
 Join your RC friends for a fun night of



\$1 hot dogs to cheer the Lugnuts on when they play the West  
 Michigan Whitecaps! GLHB&RA will reserve a block of seats.  
 The cost is just \$8 per person. The [ticket order form](#) is on the  
[GLHB&RA website](#). Payment must accompany the order form  
 and be received at the GLHB&RA Office by May 29th. Call  
 Doug for more information, 323-3254.

Home Sale Headlines Can Be Misleading



According to Real Estate Consulting Expert John Burns,  
 headlines can be misleading. The reason is reporters don't  
 always take the time to do an in-depth analysis. According to  
 Burns, home sales should be analyzed on a 12  
 month rolling basis. On [his website](#) he is  
 reporting that sales volumes have not  
 bottomed out yet, contrary to national reports  
 to that effect. The chart above illustrates  
 this.



GLHB&RA Golf Tee'd Up & Set to Go!

Our economic situation may be a  
 little slow, but that's not going to  
 stop GLHB&RA members from  
 having fun for one day at the annual  
 golf outing! It's set to happen on





One very good  
reason to be a  
member of the  
Greater Lansing  
Home Builders  
And  
Remodelers  
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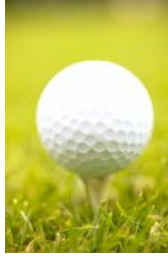
During the Month  
Of May:

Spend \$25 or more  
on General  
Merchandise and  
get an additional  
\$5.00 Off!



Want To

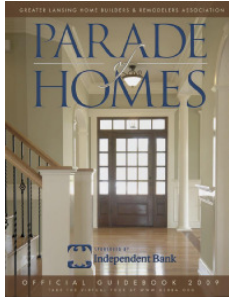
Tuesday, July 14 at Hawk Hollow in Bath. Now is the time to [send in your reservation](#). Member rates are \$400 for a foursome or \$100/single. Non-members are \$480 for a foursome or \$120/single. The cost includes 18 holes of golf, lunch and dinner.



Thank you to the following Associate Members who have already signed up to sponsor a hole: Commercial Blueprint, Eaton Federal Savings Bank, Greenstone Farm Credit Service, Paul Davis Restoration & Remodeling, Rural Gas & Appliance, Bank Of America, The Kitchen Shop, Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis Law Firm, McClelland & Anderson and Wimsatt Building Materials. If you would like to sponsor a hole, [download the attached form](#). Fill it out and fax back to the GLHB&RA Office or call Lacey at 323-3254.

**Partial sponsorships are also available for the entire event!** For more information: [click here](#).

### GLHB&RA And LCN Offer Special Rates for Parade Advertising Insert



The Lansing Community News is offering low cost ad rates on a Special Edition Insert to help GLHB&RA promote the 2009 Parade of Homes. The insert will be published in all 13 editions of the May 31st Lansing Community Newspapers. It reaches nearly 150,000 households. The insert will include a listing of all the Parade Homes as well as general information about the Parade of Homes.

GLHB&RA members can advertise in the insert for as low as \$165. For more information about placing an ad in the insert contact Anna Trudell at 517-377-1167.

### Energy Rebates Coming Soon From Consumers Power for Upgrades

Back in the fall of 2008 the Michigan legislature passed a law that required Michigan utilities to develop a [comprehensive plan](#) that assured the optimization of energy in the state. Consumers Energy has been ironing out details with the Michigan Public Service Commission. Both are getting ready to announce the plan. It will be good news for both home owners who are ready to remodel an home buyers that add upgrades.



For new homes, high Energy Star ratings will qualify for cash rebates of \$500 to \$1000. On remodel projects, upgrades on everything from light bulbs, to water heaters, furnaces, insulation, doors, windows and more will bring back cash incentives. Consumers Energy is even considering working with local banks to provide low-interest financing to encourage these upgrades. This is a very significant program to keep an eye on. Once it is announced later this summer, it will be a big boost for the remodeling industry!

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