

Doug Carr

From: Doug Carr At GLHB-RA [lacey@glhba.ccsend.com] on behalf of Doug Carr At GLHB-RA [doug@glhba.org]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 8:35 AM
To: Doug Carr
Subject: Governments Still Not Aware of Pain

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The Tool Box

A Weekly Publication for Members & Friends
 June 28, 2010



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Golfers:

Dear Doug,

Lack of Awareness of Construction Industry "Pain" Is Surprising!

The other day I was at a social function where the usual round of questions came up, like: "what kind of work do you do?" To which, I replied 'I work with the home building industry.' This led to a variety of give and take about home construction etc. The person that I was speaking to was in shock when I outlined that many home builders had not built anything in three years and that lots of folks have gone without paychecks. In fact, they were in near disbelief because there was no threat to their job. This person worked in government.



Within a few days of that conversation I read an article in the Town Courier about Meridian Township. Jerry Richards, the Township Manager, informed the Board that the township would have to begin making cuts to the staff next year. That's next year, as in 2011. The article goes on further to say that Meridian is considering a millage request to the residents to avoid making these cuts. The problem is that the Headlee Amendment forces property tax revenue to fall right along with property values. The Headlee Amendment was designed to be, a cap tied to values. Passage of a Headlee override would "preserve township jobs," Richards said.

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GLHB&RA
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Consider another recent short news clip. President Obama is discussing the need for another round of bailout money to "protect the loss of jobs at local and state government."

Here's one final for instance. A few months ago I spoke with a friend who worked for a local fire department. We discussed at length how they planned to make cuts when pressured by the administration. The firefighter's union was able to squeeze a substantial amount of savings without cutting jobs. When I asked how they did it. He laughed and said that the "inefficiencies in how they operated were unbelievable."

Here's what I'm learning. First, government seems to be immune from the pain and is just now beginning to feel a little discomfort. Second, their initial response to a suggestion of job cuts is to quickly remind that services will suffer. Third, when really hard-pressed they resort to raising taxes. Fourth, it seems that places to cut do exist.

To be fair, if I worked in government I wouldn't want to cut jobs either. In addition, I admire people who are willing to serve in the public sector. On the other hand, it surprises me how many people I talk to each day that seem immune to the pain that we have felt in the construction industry. Obviously the level of pain relates directly to the urgency to do something about it. For far too long government has been unwilling to cut and simply increases taxes. That strategy must end soon. Those of us who are feeling real pain are tapped out! Does government only cut when they are forced to cut? Now's the time.

Doug

CEO, GLHB&RA
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Upcoming Event!

Golf Sign-up Deadline: FRIDAY, June 25th

Now is the time to reserve your foursome. The outing will be held on Tuesday July 13th. Tee Off is 9:00 AM at Hawk Hollow. Can you sponsor a hole? Provide a Prize? GLHB&RA is putting out an all-call for foursomes and sponsors. If you

know of a member who is not golfing, but should be, now is the time to make the call and make it happen! Call or [e-mail](mailto:Lacey@ghba.org) Lacey Today: 323-3254.

Call or [e-mail](mailto:Lacey@ghba.org) Lacey Today: 323-3254.

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The National Association of Home Builders was successful in encouraging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to delay enforcement of the Lead Renovation and Repair Rule (RRP.) RRP enforcement was set to go into effect April 22, 2010. However

NAHB continued to argue that there were not enough training opportunities available for workers and firms. On Friday, June 18th the EPA announced that they will not take enforcement actions until later this year. Under the new guideline, remodeling firms have until October 1, 2010 to file for certification. Workers must register by September 30th and the required training courses must be completed by December 31, 2010.

Michigan House Moves Toward Ending Construction Lien Fund

The Michigan House of Representatives recently passed House Bill 5830 which would shut down the State's construction lien fund for good. The fund which, has been funded by builders during the licensing renewal process has been running short for the last few years. As the State has struggled to downsize and balance budgets it has been unable to keep the fund solvent. The House bill now moves to the Senate for approval. It is expected that the Senate will approve the elimination of the fund. After the fund is eliminated, homeowners and contractors will be without a lien remedy when affidavits are filed.



GLHB&RA Board Appoints Nominating Committee For Fall 2010 Election

At its May meeting the GLHB&RA Board approved the appointment of the Nominating Committee for the Fall 2010 election of Board members. President [Bill Tanasse](#) appointed: [Brian Schertzing](#) (Chair,) [Tom Motz](#), [Jerry Fedewa](#), [Joe Piggott](#) and [Jim Phillipich](#). Each year several of the GLHB&RA Board member seats come up for re-



*GLHB&RA President
Bill Tanasse*

election. The Nominating Committee's responsibility is to develop the slate of candidates for the election to fill those seats. Board members are elected by the membership at large and serve three-year terms. If you or someone you know is interested in running for the GLHB&RA Board of Directors contact one of the members above by e-mail (click on their name,) or

contact Doug at the GLHB&RA office 517-323-3254.

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MAHB Annual Meeting At Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, July 22-23



The [Michigan Association of Home Builders](#) (MAHB) annual meeting this year will be held at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Michigan. Frankenmuth features the largest Family Fun Center in the midwest with an indoor waterpark and five indoor pools. A full schedule of events and the registration form has been posted at [buildingmichigan.org](#). All MAHB members are encouraged to attend this two-day event. **Everyone who registers for the conference will be entered into a drawing to receive one year of free dues.** The Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 23, 2010 from 1:30 - 4:30 PM. Contact Pam Frankenberger at 517-646-2572 for more details.

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