

Stebnitz Builders, Inc.

1102 Ann St
Delavan, WI 53115

phone: (262) 728-8027

fax: (262) 728-1088

www.stebnitzbuilders.com

e-mail: sbi@elknet.net

Home Improvement Review

Dedicated to our more than 1,000 satisfied clients over the last 28 years.

professional remodelers since 1972

volume 4 issue 2 summer 2000

All of us at Stebnitz Builders, Inc. are excited to be able to bring this quarterly newsletter to you. We've always felt that remaining in contact with our clients was important to us. We want to keep you informed about everything happening at Stebnitz Builders. If there are things you would like to see more of in the newsletter, give us a call or write us and let us know. Again, we look forward to keeping in touch with everyone!

2000 Parade of homes opens to remodelers

For years, Stebnitz Builders has been unable to enter Lakeland Builders Association's Parade of Homes because almost all of our projects are remodeling jobs that could not be featured in the event. This year was the first year remodeling projects

could be entered and we took full advantage of the very popular event.

A whole-house renovation project on Delavan Lake's Inlet was a great stop for many of the parade attendees. Early indications of the attendance totals show close to 1000 people toured some or all of the projects.

Jean Gross, our client and owner of the newly renovated home, was gracious

enough to allow us to show her beautiful lake-side home and took great pride in decorating and furnishing the home in time for the parade. There were just as many compliments regarding her decorating ability as there were for the home reformation. Great thanks goes out to Jean for her help, her enthusiasm and her understanding throughout the parade.

The home featured many interesting highlights for people attending the parade,

including a beautiful, window-laden great room addition overlooking the lake, wood floors throughout most of the house, a spa situated in a screened-in porch overlooking the lake and a picturesque in-ground pool nestled in between the house and the lake. A deck wraps around the lake-side of the home, providing an area to entertain or to just relax while enjoying the view.

We are extremely proud of the home's transformation and the work our crew did. We are also very fortunate to have made a great relationship with Jean and her family through their project.

As successful as this year's parade turned out, Stebnitz Builders will be looking to enter next year's parade. Watch for another of our projects at next year's event.



With Jean Gross' permission, Stebnitz Builders was able to show off her beautiful lake-side home, a project we had great pride in, to over 1,000 LBA Parade of Homes visitors.

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Project Focus - As the Bell Tolls *part 2 of 2*



The weather always seems to play a part in the scheduling of projects and how fast they are completed. The Darien Community Baptist Church project was no exception.

The goal was to fix the church's massive bell and install new siding and gable vents on the church steeple as well as new soffit and fascia to not only make it look nice but to eliminate the birds that had taken refuge in the tower. The original timeline had the project starting in May, but with the incredibly wet days we had this spring and early summer, mother nature continually kept us off the project. We needed a full, dry week.

What was unusual about this project was we would not be able to finish this project off an extension ladder, but rather a 65-foot boom truck.

Working off a boom truck is dangerous, not only for the guys working out of the bucket, but it could spell disaster to the structure we are working on if weather interferes and causes accidents. Therefore, waiting for the perfect day with the right conditions, set us back farther than we would have expected.

Once we finally got in the air and were able to get our hands dirty, the excitement of the project was everything we expected, and more.

The church bell and the clapper that needed maintenance were truly relics. When we disassembled the clapper from the bell and brought it down, it looked as if we had just brought it from the bottom of the ocean from a sunken ship. But don't let its appearance fool you, this old girl could still pack a wallop to the old bell.

With a few adjustments to the clapper's mechanism and a redesign of the pulley system to operate the bell, we were able to make this once magnificent bell toll again for many more years to come.

Robert Oleston, the head of the committee that pushed to get this project completed, passed away the week we were working on the project and never had the chance to hear the bell ring again.

In his honor, the church decided not to ring the bell on the following Sunday, but to wait for its first return performance and let the bell ring loudly for Mr. Oleston's funeral. It was a fitting

tribute to the man who saw the beauty and historical significance of this bell and its home with its church and church family.

This is one of those projects that we will always remember and will be close to our hearts. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Oleston and the Darien Community Baptist Church, the massive bell will be around for many years proclaiming their presence.



The exterior of the Darien Community Baptist Church's steeple (above) was ready for repair, and with the assistance of a 65-foot boom truck, Greg Mueller and Chad Maass were able to start the project, safely.



Greg and Chad are putting the final touches on the steeple (above) and the bell's clapper (right) needed some repairs before it would ever ring again. The tape measure shows that this clapper is over four-feet long.



4th Annual 50/60/50 Program a success!

Once again, Stebnitz Builders was able to serve over 50 people, 60 years or older in Walworth County by giving them \$50 worth of labor and/or materials for free. For the last few years this has been our highlight each year. Being able to help those who truly need help is a very rewarding endeavor. The smile on people's faces and a sense of peace that overcame them was more than enough for us to know that it was worth it.

Since the inception of the program, which is in conjunction with Barker Building Supply of Delavan, we have served over 200 people. Tasks usually run the whole spectrum from window glazing to installing a door or window, to cleaning out gutters and even removing an occasional newspaper from a roof. If you would like to take part in the 50/60/50 program next year, watch for the coupons and notices next spring and give us a call, we'd love to be able to help you out.

Mike Jeffrey heads East for Production Symposium

Mike Jeffrey has been a lead carpenter and a valuable member of Stebnitz Builders for over seven years. When the chance came to attend a national conference held in Detroit, MI on production management, he jumped. Mike wanted the opportunity to take his knowledge of Stebnitz Builders and apply it to the new information he would receive. According to Mike, the experience was well worth the time. Over the three-day event, he was exposed to many different ways of handling a business and its production teams.

Although he said he came back with some great ideas on improving Stebnitz Builders, he also feels that many of the issues discussed at the conference were items we were already doing. Because of associates like Mike, Stebnitz Builders will continue to grow and continue to provide the very best product and service to our clients.

Reader Response Card



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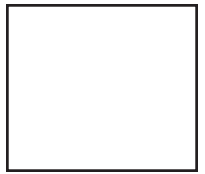
Marginal Note:

“Attitude is KEY. It impacts everything in life. It determines where you are today. If you don't think you can, you can't.”

-Keith Harrell-

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 members of:*



**Focus On
 Lisa Bunne:**

New Face Brings New Talents.

One of the most important pieces in a successful business is the "first" person potential clients come in contact with.

Stebnitz Builders was lucky enough to get Lisa Bunne on staff five months ago for that very important position. As Administrative Assistant, Lisa wears many hats throughout the day, but her most important is being a representation of the professionalism Stebnitz Builders strives for. Lisa does a great job at that.

Before coming to SBI, Lisa worked

as a designer and seller of office systems and furniture. Previous to that, Lisa had experience as an assistant to a general contractor in the building industry.

Lisa has many interests, including her family, consisting of her husband, Jon and their two boys, Kyle and Cameron. She is an outdoors person. Many of her hobbies and activities include time in the great outdoors, like landscaping, biking, tennis,

camping and even rock climbing.

Lisa has been a great addition to the Stebnitz Builders family and has provided us with some excellent gifts and talents.

Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication, Lisa.

Reader Response Card



Please check the appropriate box(es):

Please contact me regarding the following project(s)

I would like to continue receiving Home Improvement Review free.

I would like to see a topic covered in Home Improvement Review concerning the following subject

Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____

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