



SARATOGA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2022 EDITION



The Saratoga Builders Association (SBA) is a non-profit, specialized trade organization representing the construction industry. The SBA is committed to the growth, prosperity and quality of life in Saratoga County.

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2021 SHOWCASE RECAP

SILVER ANNIVERSARY SEES RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

A beloved fall tradition, the Saratoga Showcase of Homes celebrated its 25th anniversary last year, featuring 12 new homes built by the area's finest builders. This year's event saw record-breaking attendance with over 4,000 visitors, raising an incredible \$78,000 from ticket sales for its two designated local housing charities: Habitat For Humanity of Northern Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties, and Rebuilding Together Saratoga County. The Saratoga Builders Association, which organizes the Showcase each year, is proud have contributed over \$1.4 million dollars to the charities since the event's inception.

Participating builders included BDC Group, Beechwood Homes, Bella Home Builders, Belmonte Builders, Bonacio Construction, Caruso Builders, Kodiak Construction, Kohler Homes, McPadden Builders, R&M Homes and Witt Construction. *(Continued on next page...)*

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From left to right: Barry Potoker, Executive Director & Showcase Co-Chair - Saratoga Builders Association; Adam Feldman, Executive Director - Habitat for Humanity of Northern Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties; Dave Trojanski, Trojanski Builders & President - Saratoga Builders Association; Michelle Larkin, Executive Director - Rebuilding Together Saratoga; Lisa Licata, Sterling Homes Real Estate & Showcase Co-Chair; Doug Ford, Vice-President of Sales & Purchasing - Curtis Lumber

2021: A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
OVER 4,000 ATTENDEES
\$78,000 RAISED FOR CHARITY

As always, each home was judged by a panel of experts who determine the best in show for a variety of categories from workmanship to landscaping. Kodiak Construction, Witt Construction and McPadden Builders were among the big winners, each boasting over half a dozen awards for their Showcase entries this year. The public also participates by casting votes for the "People's Choice" award, with McPadden Builders and Kohler Homes claiming the coveted title in their own categories.

The complete list of award-winners is available [here](#). For virtual tours of this years homes & more information about Showcase, visit saratogashowcaseofhomes.com.

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2022 SHOWCASE NEWS

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

The 26th annual Saratoga Showcase of Homes will again take place over two weekends this fall: October 8-9-10 and October 15-16, 2022.

SAVE THE DATES
OCT. 8-9-10
OCT. 15-16

As always, our goals are to produce a cherished fall event for the community, while fundraising for our two local housing charities: Habitat For Humanity of Northern Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties, and Rebuilding Together Saratoga.

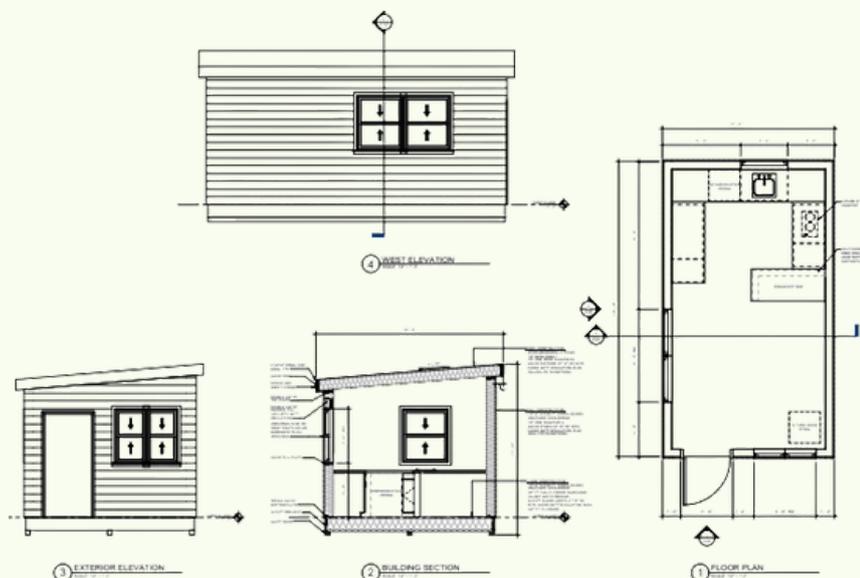
Please join us once again for the area's premier new home tour where attendees can meet award-winning builders and their suppliers, see the latest design trends and give back to our community.

CALL FOR SPONSORS & BUILDERS

Contact: Barry Potoker, Executive Director, SBA
(518) 366-0946 | bpotoker@saratogabuilders.org
saratogashowcaseofhomes.com

BOCES BUILDING CAMP FOR 2022 SHOWCASE

WSWHE BOCES engages their Career & Technical program students by building a construction project to display at Showcase each year. For 2022, the students are working on a 12'x20' camp in cooperation with Curtis Lumber and BCA Architects & Engineers. It will run on a generator, use propane for cooking and will have a water bottle sink system. Look for the tiny camp at one of this year's Showcase homes; it will also be put up for auction after the event ends, and all proceeds benefit BOCES. Stay tuned for more information, or contact:



Bruce Hoffman, WSWHE BOCES
bhoffman@wswebores.org

PBS'S "THIS OLD HOUSE" IN SARATOGA

FEATURING WHITBECK CONSTRUCTION

A historic Dutch Colonial on Clark Street in Saratoga Springs will be featured by the Emmy award-winning PBS reality show, "This Old House." Episodes chronicling the rehabilitation of the 1864 building will begin airing in late March 2022. SBA member Whitbeck Construction and Frost Hurff Architects are spearheading the project.

Owned by Evan and Amy Williamson, the home had previously been modified into a duplex, and endured decades of cob-job updates that the family lovingly refers to as "Yankee engineering."



HOW TO WATCH

NEW EPISODES AIR
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
THIS SPRING.

[CHECK YOUR LOCAL LISTINGS](#)

STREAM IT: THE ROKU CHANNEL, THIS OLD HOUSE APP, PBS APP & [THISOLDHOUSE.COM](https://www.thisoldhouse.com)



FOLLOW THEIR WORK
[@WHITBECKCONSTRUCTION](https://www.instagram.com/whitbeckconstruction)

"It's been something having to tear apart so many different revisions of this house," said Matt Whitbeck, owner of Gansevoort-based Whitbeck Construction. "But every project brings an obstacle or challenge you must plan to overcome."

From uneven beams to newspaper-stuffed walls to antique cast-iron children's toys, the home has certainly provided the film crew a great story to share with audiences.

The goal is to restore the 158-year-old-structure back to a fully-functioning single-family home while salvaging as much of the original character as possible. Some of the renovations will include an in-law living space, new kitchen and living room, master suite with balcony, a third-floor bonus room and new landscaping.

"This home was a great project to showcase how we are not only quality craftsmen, but true stewards of what should stay and what should go," says Whitbeck. "Just because something is old does not mean it should be dismantled."

For more information, contact Matt Whitbeck: (518) 226-0017 or matt@whitbeckconstruction.com.



TACKLING THE CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

SBA TASK FORCE TAKES ACTION

For the construction and skilled labor industries, labor shortages hit home long before the pandemic began. After losing 600,000 skilled workers during the 2008 recession, the U.S. construction industry's "growing pains" have worsened as blue collar Baby Boomers retire in numbers that aren't being matched by younger generations entering the trades. Add to that the increased demand from Millennials finally making the leap into homeownership, and now the endless challenges COVID has presented on every facet of doing business, and the situation is stark, but not unexpected.

MISSION:

"To encourage young people and adults to consider a career in the construction industry by bringing an awareness to the benefits associated with it."



92% of contractors have reported difficulty finding workers. As a result, 42% of them have had to turn down work.

(U.S. Chamber of Commerce Construction Index)

Four years ago, the Saratoga Builders Association recognized the seriousness of this troubling labor trend and launched this Task Force to raise awareness about construction careers and reinvigorate the local workforce. Chaired by Doug Ford (VP, Sales & Purchasing) and Pam Stott (Executive Assistant), of Curtis Lumber, the group has grown to more than 25 members, including educators, builders, suppliers, and representatives from the trades industry.

(Continued on next page...)

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Critical outreach to schools and students has become the group's sweet spot. Over the last few years, they've piloted several efforts to improve awareness and perceptions about construction careers among young people, including presentations to middle & high schoolers, career day events, job shadowing, on-site tours of homebuilding sites, and small building projects with WSWHE BOCES at the Showcase of Homes. Additionally, they have partnered with Mike Baron of HVCC on his Expertise Project, which aims to produce hundreds of videos to create a "Netflix of local jobs."

If you're interested in having HVCC students visit your company, contact Mike Baron: m.baron@hvcc.edu or (518) 650-3978.



Architectural and Construction Technology Students from Hudson Valley Community College recently toured a construction site at Skidmore College at the invitation of MLB Construction. The goal is to expose students to career opportunities in our local construction industry. The visit gave them an opportunity to tour an active site and ask questions of the project team about their personal career paths. The students carried video cameras to record their experience which can now be shared with other students via Expertise Project Online and other social media outlets.

Construction Technology Students from Hudson Valley Community College were invited by Matt Whitbeck to tour a residential renovation project in Saratoga Springs. The project is being featured on the tv program, "This Old House." While touring the active construction site, students had the opportunity to ask questions about the project, learn about career opportunities in the local construction market, and gain an understanding of Matt's passion for the work. The students really enjoyed their on-site experience and hope to be able to do more visits throughout the year.



(Continued on next page...)

SBA TASK FORCE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Declan Ferris is a college student at SUNY Binghamton. He recently did an internship with Whitbeck Construction, and this is what he had to say about his experience:



I cannot thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to work for Whitbeck Construction this winter. From the first 5 minutes when you told me I was using my hammer wrong, all the way to putting up walls and doing projects around the house, I've learned an incredible amount. Getting up early and working outside in the cold sounds tough at first, yet every day I found myself excited to go to work because of how much I knew I was going to learn. Your passion for building homes is extremely contagious and made me even hungrier to learn more about the industry each day. After work, I even found myself watching videos and reading articles about carpentry because of how exciting you made it. Again, I cannot thank you enough for taking such amazing care of me as an employee and showing me the ropes. You taught me so much about carpentry, but also the value of never taking a shortcut and always going the extra to do something right. I am more than looking forward to returning to Whitbeck Construction this summer. Thank you!

David is a Stillwater High School student involved in a work-based learning program at the Curtis Lumber Schaghticoke Store. He's working a few shifts a week through the school year with the store manager and his staff. Work goals and responsibilities were defined with David his first day on the job to help ensure he's in a position to learn from real life work experiences. The following comments were shared by one of David's teachers regarding his placement:

"Your Curtis Lumber in Schaghticoke could not be a better situation for David going there on his own. He loves the two men and is having a great time working with them. I am so thankful for them and your business. This could have been difficult in other settings, but he is loving the placement there. I cannot thank you enough."

-Kim H.



CONSTRUCTION CAREERS

TALKING POINTS FOR THE TRADES

- Construction industry jobs will be the #1 growth industry by 2024.¹
- Median household income for Saratoga County is \$84,291. Construction. Jobs in Saratoga County pay \$72K - \$250K.*
- NYS Department of Labor estimates 300,000 skilled labor job openings.¹
- Job security for skilled trades is higher than most occupations.

*Based off NYS Department of Labor

¹ Based off US Chambers of Commerce

WE WANT YOU!



GREAT REASONS TO CONSIDER

- So Many Jobs – #1 Growth Industry by 2024
- Huge Demand – Over 1.5 million new workers needed
- Top Pay – Jobs pay up to \$250,000+
- Get Paid to Learn – On the Job Training
- Giant Industry – #4 Employer in the country
- Innovative – Constantly Changing Industry
- Transferrable Skills – Go anywhere!
- Benefits – Competitive Packages
- Rewarding – Stand Back and See what You accomplished!



Learn more at SaratogaBuilders.org/careers



TRADES AVERAGE STARTING WAGES IN NY STATE

Architecture & Engineering Occupations - \$56,470

Electricians - \$46,190

Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration - \$41,570

Construction Management - \$78,880

Plumbers, Pipefitters & Steamfitters - \$42,620

GET INVOLVED

A good place to start is right in your own community. Schools are eager to partner with local businesses and organizations. You can start by reaching out to guidance departments or Career & Technical Education (CTE) instructors at your local schools or BOCES center. Ideas for outreach could include offering job shadowing, internships, a career day, tour or classroom visit.

"Ultimately, we can all do something to further the cause," said Ford and Stott in an article published by Northeastern Retail Lumber Association (NRLA). "There are many talented young people in our school systems who would benefit from an exciting, lucrative, rewarding career in the trades...we have a responsibility to provide them with an awareness of the benefits and career opportunities in the trades."

For more information on the Task Force, contact:

Doug Ford | doug.ford@curtislumber.com

Pam Stott | pamela.stott@curtislumber.com

SBA SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

2022 APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1



The Saratoga Builders Association awards two scholarships to local students each year: an SBA Scholarship (\$1,000) and a "Bob Best" Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000). Last year's recipients were Luke Baringer of Wilton and Brendan Lee of Salem. Here are some updates from them:



Brendan Lee

"Since the end of summer, I have been working with the electrical union on a solar field. I am waiting/hoping to get accepted into an apprenticeship program either as an electrician or a lineman to further my training and education."



Luke Baringer

"First off I want to say how thankful I am again for the scholarship from Saratoga Builders Association - it's very appreciated," says Baringer. "I am glad I chose Clarkson, it's a great school and is a perfect fit for me. As a freshman, we are required to take a lot of core classes and I won't declare a firm major until sophomore but last semester the class I enjoyed the most was engineering management. We were able to construct a prosthetic arm on a very small budget and were encouraged to think outside the box in regards to materials and process. This semester I am taking some more business leaning classes including public speaking designed to promote business communication. I'm also on the men's golf team here and enjoying that as well. Again, very grateful to SBA for the scholarship and opportunity."

Scholarships are available to students who are planning to pursue a career in the construction industry. Applications must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2022.

Details and applications available at saratogabuilders.org.

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2022 EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

SBA Golf Outing at Saratoga Lake Golf Club

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Showcase REALTOR Tour

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Showcase Awards Ceremony at VAPOR Lounge

OCTOBER 8-9-10

Showcase Weekend 1

OCTOBER 15-16

Showcase Weekend 2



BECOME A MEMBER: JOIN THE SBA

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT & WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU AS A MEMBER!

The Saratoga Builders Association, Inc. represents an industry basic to the well-being and economy of the people in Saratoga County.

We are a non-profit, specialized professional trade association representing the entire building industry. Members include home builders, developers, remodelers, suppliers, sub-contractors, financial institutions, architects, engineers, realtors, attorneys and other industry professionals.

SBA offers you the opportunity to work together, to learn and to share, the advantage of being better informed, the prestige of belonging, the recognition by government and your peers, the satisfaction of adding to your professional stature - but most of all, the ability to influence your destiny, with a strong voice speaking for you, a voice you are sure is yours. The SBA is committed to the continued growth, prosperity and quality of life in Saratoga County.



[APPLY AT SARATOGABUILDERS.ORG](https://www.saratogabuilders.org)

