

Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County

Interlaken project to resume soon

During the second half of March work will resume on the house on Lakeview Street in Interlaken.

With many of the regular volunteers spending time this winter out of the area, it seemed prudent to take some time off from construction.

Site Supervisor Chuck Bosman expects to return to the area by mid-March, at which time volunteers will once again be needed at the site.

Rough plumbing and insulation are next, to be followed quickly by drywall installation and finishing.

Chuck hopes that the house will be done so that its dedication can take place on June 5, in conjunction with

the annual Interlaken Old Home Day. The groundbreaking ceremony took place as the kickoff event for Old Home Day last year.

From the outside the house looks done, but there is a great deal of work to do inside. And in April and May when the ground starts to dry out there will be a great deal of effort required to get the landscaping in shape and build the front and rear entrances for the house.

Watch the web site for the latest information on what is being done at the site. Work will take place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays once it gets under way again.

What's up next? House number 5

At the February board meeting, there was a lengthy discussion about what our operating plan will be for this year.

The Interlaken house should be complete by late spring, which should give us enough time to start another house this year and get it closed in before next winter. The question for the board regarded the effort that meeting that schedule would require.

After a thoughtful discussion, the board agreed to move forward with the goal of starting the affiliate's fifth house this summer.

A lot needs to be done in order for that to happen. Some of the items are easier than others, but all will require significant effort.

First we need to find a site. Since we have yet to build in the Waterloo or Romulus school districts, we would be especially interested in sites there. Since Waterloo is the

largest school district in the county and we have yet to build there, that would be our first choice.

We also need to identify a site supervisor who will oversee our next construction project, starting with the initial planning and going through all the stages of construction. The volunteer must be someone who can ensure that the house meets building codes and other requirements, as well as be able to schedule work, make decisions on the work site, and work creatively to keep our construction costs as low as possible.

The third need is for the money it will take to build the house. Our current income each year is less than it costs to build a house, so we need to find other sources of revenue in order to stay on the one-house-per-year pattern that we've set.

Additional revenue can be obtained by increasing the profits from our current activities; finding new

fund raising events to add to those we currently have, and to find other sources of support such as grants from foundations or other benefactors who are willing to support our efforts.

In addition to those three big hurdles, many other projects will be taking place at the same time, most importantly successfully completing the Interlaken house. A new family selection process also will need to take place once a site has been picked.

As part of this effort, the Board of Directors will be working to strengthen the various committees so that they are better able to carry out all the necessary projects for what will be another busy year for the affiliate.

Information on the various committees is on the back. The respective chairs would be happy to hear of volunteers interested in helping with the projects for the year.

Good and bad news on grant applications

We recently learned that while we will receive one grant application we made, another won't be available to us.

We applied to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board for a \$10,000 grant to help with the Interlaken house; we had gotten that amount from the board before to help with the Tyre house. We learned a few weeks ago that that application was not successful, apparently because of a reduction in the amount of money available for the program.

At about the same time we learned that we have been approved for a \$8,000 grant and loan through the SHOP program administered by Habitat for Humanity International.

The SHOP money, which includes a \$6,000 grant and a \$2,000 no-interest loan, will be available for our next project.

While we continue to look for local support for the affiliate's work, we also need to identify sources

of grants and other assistance we can receive from outside the area, such as the grants from the Federal Home Loan Bank Board or the SHOP program. If anyone knows of other possible sources of funding, please contact the affiliate so they can be followed up on.

Committee Chairs

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Development	Kitty Peterson	568-2393
Construction	Ed Leonard	568-2135
Family Partnership	Cate Blakemore	549-8407
Family Selection	Judy Toombs	568-9125
Public Relations	Martin Toombs	568-9125
Site Selection	Marilyn McDougal	539-8427
Volunteers	(vacant)	
Church Affiliations	Wayne Lohr	568-9639

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Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County
 PO Box 223
 Seneca Falls, NY 13148-0223