



# HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF THE ALLEGHENIES

APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

[www.hbaahomes.org](http://www.hbaahomes.org) [www.pabuilders.org](http://www.pabuilders.org)  
[www.nahb.org](http://www.nahb.org)

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, April 11, 2011:** The next H.B.A.A. Board of Directors meeting will begin at 6:30 PM at Hoss's Restaurant in Richland.

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Monday, April 4, 2011:** The April General membership meeting will begin at 6:30 at Hoss's Restaurant in Richland. When you arrive at Hoss's come directly into our back meeting room. Our menu selection will be posted at each table. Please place your dinner order **in our meeting room** by 6:30PM.

*\* Both the general membership meeting and Board meetings are at Hoss's Restaurant*

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

6:30 PM Cocktails 7:00 Dinner First Monday of the month

April	4, 2011
May	2, 2011
June	6, 2011
July	no meeting
August	no meeting
September	5, 2011
October	3, 2011
November	7, 2011
December	no meeting

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS:

6:30PM at / Second Monday of the month

April	11, 2011
May	no meeting
June	13, 2011
July	no meeting
August	8, 2011
September	no meeting
October	10, 2011
November	no meeting
December	12, 2011

**Joe Ferrarro from Performance Systems Development** will be our **guest speaker** at our **general membership meeting** on April 4, 2011. He will be presenting information to our members pertaining to the PA Energy Efficient New Homes Program.

The **Pennsylvania Energy Efficient New Homes Program** is intended to encourage builders and buyers of new homes within Met-Ed, Penelec, and Penn Power service territories to include energy efficiency as a design feature. To qualify for the Pennsylvania Energy Efficient New Homes Program, a home must be at least 15 percent more energy efficient than current building codes require. Homes will receive a stringent evaluation conducted by an independent, certified home energy rater to determine whether they meet program requirements. Builders of qualifying homes will be eligible for financial incentives through the program from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

For more information [www.energysavepa.com](http://www.energysavepa.com)



## PA-ONE CALL

### IT IS FREE WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Whether you're laying the foundation of a building or just planting a tree, you must call to have the underground utility lines located before digging. By calling 1-800-242-1776 three working days before you start your project, all member facility owners in your work site area will be notified of your plans and will mark their lines in the vicinity.

### GIVE US YOUR PA ONE CALL BILL.

Members should give their PA One Call invoice to us at the HBAA, we, in turn, verify your membership and fax it to PBA for processing. Last year alone, 825 PBA members used this benefit for a total savings of \$41,250.

*The Allegheny Committee for Affordable Housing is a local political action committee striving to keep housing affordable in our local area. Every time you purchase a 50/50 ticket at our general membership meeting, the proceeds go to this committee.*

## THANK YOU - RECENT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SPONSORS:

### Anderson Windows & Doors

(814)934-2625

[craig.calvetti@andersencorp.com](mailto:craig.calvetti@andersencorp.com)

### Howard Concrete Pumping Co., Inc.

(412)257-1800

[www.howardconcretepumping.com](http://www.howardconcretepumping.com)

### Ebensburg Insurance Agency

(814)472-9557

[www.ebensburgins.com](http://www.ebensburgins.com)

### Owens Corning

(419)248-8281

[www.ocenergycomplete.com](http://www.ocenergycomplete.com)

### Warmup Inc.

(860)995-5725

[robertheslop@warmup.com](mailto:robertheslop@warmup.com)

### Tyco Rapid Response

(215)412-3846

[darren.palmier@tycofp.com](mailto:darren.palmier@tycofp.com)

If you are interested in sponsoring a general membership meeting, please contact Walt Freidhoff at (814)535-8371.

## YOUR ANNUAL DUES AND THE LOBBYING TAX DEDUCTION FOR 2011

Dues payments to The Home Builders Association of the Alleghenies are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, dues payments may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses subject to the exclusion for lobbying activity. Because a portion of your dues is used for lobbying by NAHB and PBA, \$99.31 (\$27.00 + \$72.31) is not deductible for income tax purposes.



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520 HORNER ST.  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15902  
EMAIL MEYERSSUPPLY520@AOL.COM

**Correction:** Last month's meeting sponsor was **The Long Barn** not Anderson Windows and Doors. The Long Barn sponsored the meeting and invited Anderson Windows and Doors to speak.

### A BIG THANK YOU TO THE LONG BARN



Leventry, Haschak & Rodkey, LLC

Attorneys at Law

Timothy C. Leventry, LL.M.

Phone: 814-266-1799  
(Fax): 814-266-5108  
E-mail: [tleventry@lhrklaw.com](mailto:tleventry@lhrklaw.com)  
Website: [www.lhrklaw.com](http://www.lhrklaw.com)

1397 Eisenhower Boulevard  
Richland Square III  
Suite 202  
Johnstown, PA 15904



## DO YOU KNOW THE 2009 CODE?

1. Notches in solid lumber joists, rafters and beams shall not exceed \_\_\_\_\_ of the depth, shall not be longer than \_\_\_\_\_ of the depth, and shall not be located in the middle \_\_\_\_\_ of the span.
2. The tension side of floor joist members \_\_\_\_\_ inches or greater in nominal thickness shall not be notched except at the ends of the members.
3. When the header joist span does not exceed \_\_\_\_\_ feet, the header joist may be a single member the same size as the floor joist.
4. In combustible construction, where there is usable space both above and below a floor/ceiling assembly, draftstops shall be installed so that the area of the concealed space does not exceed \_\_\_\_\_ square feet.
5. The provisions of Section R505 Steel Floor Framing shall control the construction of cold-formed steel floor framing for buildings not greater than \_\_\_\_\_ feet in length perpendicular to the joist span.
6. Flanges and lips of load-bearing cold-formed steel floor framing members shall not be cut or \_\_\_\_\_.

## HELP SAVE THE MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION: SUPPORT BUILD-PAC TODAY!

With Congress looking hard at ways to cut the budget deficit, the mortgage interest deduction (MID) is a cornerstone of American housing policy and a tremendously important element for helping consumers afford the home they want to buy; is in the crosshairs like never before. It seems incredible that lawmakers could consider a move that would certainly result in reduced homeownership, further erosion in home values and a tremendous body blow to a fragile industry whose recovery is so essential to the American economy; but that is what some are doing. We absolutely must do what it takes to make Congress understand what's at stake in this debate. And we need your help! We've already initiated a social media campaign to get the word out to consumers about the threat to the mortgage interest deduction; take a look at some of our resources and messaging on this at [www.nahb.org/mid](http://www.nahb.org/mid) <http://www.nahb.org/mid>. And during our recent Legislative Conference, approximately 500 of our members personally brought our messages on the importance of the MID and other housing incentives in the tax code directly to lawmakers in an impressive show of force for the nation's home builders. But we must do more. NAHB's Political Action Committee, known as BUILD-PAC, is now our most powerful weapon for defending the MID. Quite simply, BUILD-PAC opens doors so that we can continue to educate members of Congress about the critical importance of maintaining housing as a national priority. In view of the tremendous changes that are being contemplated for housing policy right now, we urge you to consider making a donation to BUILD-PAC today <http://www.nahb.org/buildpac> to help strengthen our collective voice on Capitol Hill. Download this form <http://nahbnews.com/nahbmbml/downloads/MID%20BUILDPAC.pdf> and send in your contribution, or donate online at [nahb.org/buildpac](http://www.nahb.org/buildpac) <http://www.nahb.org/buildpac>, because the need to command Congress's attention has never been greater. And on behalf of NAHB's Senior Officer team, thank you for the solid commitment that you make to our industry's survival and ultimate success. Contact: Meghan Everngam [meverngam@nahb.org](mailto:meverngam@nahb.org) (800-368-5242, x8259).

### 2009 CODE ANSWERS

1. 1/6 1/3 1/3 2009 IRC Section R502.8.1 Sawn lumber.
2. 4 in. *Also refer to section R802.7.1 for roof-ceiling construction* 2009 IRC Section R502.8.1 Sawn lumber.
3. 4 ft. *When the header joist span exceeds 4 feet the trimmer joists and header joist shall be doubled.* Section R502.10 Framing of openings.
4. 1000 sq. ft. *Draftstopping shall divide the concealed space into approximately equal areas.* 2009 IRC Section R302.12 Draftstopping.
5. 60 ft. *Read this section for more applicability limits, and many changes to the 2006 code.* 2009 IRC Section R505.1.1.
6. Notched 2009 IRC Section R505.3.5 Cutting and notching.

## LET NAHB KNOW IF YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS ALLOWING LAND-USE APPROVALS TO EXPIRE

Even as the housing industry seeks to recover from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, some local governments are choosing not to renew land-use approvals on subdivisions that have been delayed because of the weak economy. In many cases, the land reverts to its original zoned use &#8212; often as farmland &#8212; which dramatically lowers the value of the land. When this occurs, the builder or developer and the bank that provided the financing may suffer significant losses. NAHB is trying to determine the extent of this problem. If this has occurred in your market or if you have questions about this issue, e-mail Blake Smith [bsmith@nahb.org](mailto:bsmith@nahb.org), or call him at 800-368-5242 x8583.

## PBA MEMBERS CAN SAVE MONEY ON THEIR ELECTRIC BILL

Get More for your Membership; Enroll your Business with Energy Plus! Businesses know that a penny saved is always a penny earned. Now, PBA can help members save on their electricity bill while earning exclusive benefits! You can enroll your business with Energy Plus(r) to receive an Activation Bonus, annual Cash Back, and monthly savings, all while receiving the same reliable service from your local utility company! Your PBA membership can help you earn exclusive benefits and savings on your electricity bill each month with a competitive commercial rate versus your utility company! If you choose Energy Plus, your business will receive a \$50 Activation Bonus AND an automatic 5% Cash Back rebate every year on its total electricity supply charges. You can even enroll your home to receive a \$25 Activation Bonus and annual Cash Back rebates of 3%. Best of all, you can try Energy Plus risk-free. There are no changes to your service - your utility company will continue to deliver your electricity, mail your bill, read your meter, and handle any power outages. Also, there are no sign-up fees, cancellation fees, or long-term commitments. To be eligible, you just need an address within the Energy Plus service area, which currently covers areas serviced by PECO, PPL Electric Utilities and Duquesne Light Company. Enroll your business today! call Energy Plus at 877-770-3323 and mention Offer Code PBA-5029.

## HERE IS THE LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING THE SPRINKLER LEGISLATION:

**Senate** Right now our focus (PBA) is on the Senate Labor & Industry Committee. We are communicating with Senators on the Labor & Industry Committee and we have reached out to our Hammers & Gavels members - as well as our coalition partners - to do the same. We encourage members to reach out to their Senators. We are asking L&I Committee members to retain the key issues in the sprinkler bill (HB 377) and amend the contents of Senator Corman's legislation, which fixes the broken code adoption process (SB 752), into HB 377. It is our hope that L&I will vote on this during the first week of April and the full Senate will vote on it shortly thereafter. It would then go quickly back to the House for concurrence before they break for Easter on April 13. We will be sending a communication to the entire PBA membership next week that includes a status update, as well as direction on contacting Senators and the necessary talking points.

**House** As we have stated before, there are no plans to run Representative Oberlander's bill (HB 725) reforming the code process, because the Senate plans on incorporating the ideas from HB 725 into the Senate bill for passage. In any event, the House Labor & Industry Committee is holding a public hearing on HB 725. The intention is to discuss reform of the code adoption process in PA. PBA members that will be testifying include Dan Wise (on behalf of PBA), Frank Thompson (on behalf of the UCC Review and Advisory Council), and Karen Welsh (on behalf of the Code Officials Alliance of PA). If you have specific questions, please contact Jill Pento at 717.730.4380, ext. 3028 or Fred Cabell at ext. 3007.

## PBA MEMBERS CAN SAVE MONEY ON FUEL

Sunoco SunTrak Fleet Management Program PBA and Sunoco have partnered together to bring you the SunTrak program. Not only does the program offer significant rebates on fuel (2.25 percent minimum, up to 3 percent), it also provides fleet management tools that could save your business thousands of dollars per year! Sounds too good to be true? Lets take a look at what this program means for a company with five vehicles: 5 vehicles X 125 gallons per month X \$3.30 per gallon = \$2,062.51 monthly fuel expenditure \$2,062.51 X 2.25% rebate = \$51.56 savings per month X 12 months = \$618.75 per year Using the free controls and reports that are provided to prevent one unauthorized purchase per month, you can save another \$600 per year (\$50 average fill). That is over \$1,200 in your pocket that would have been out the door without the program. The free management tools will save you countless hours of back office administration time. Visit [www.PaBuilders.org](http://www.PaBuilders.org) and click on the Sunoco link for more information, or contact Ben Hickenbotham to discuss the needs of your business. He can be reached at 484.753.1969 or [ben\\_hickenbotham@wrightexpress.com](mailto:ben_hickenbotham@wrightexpress.com).

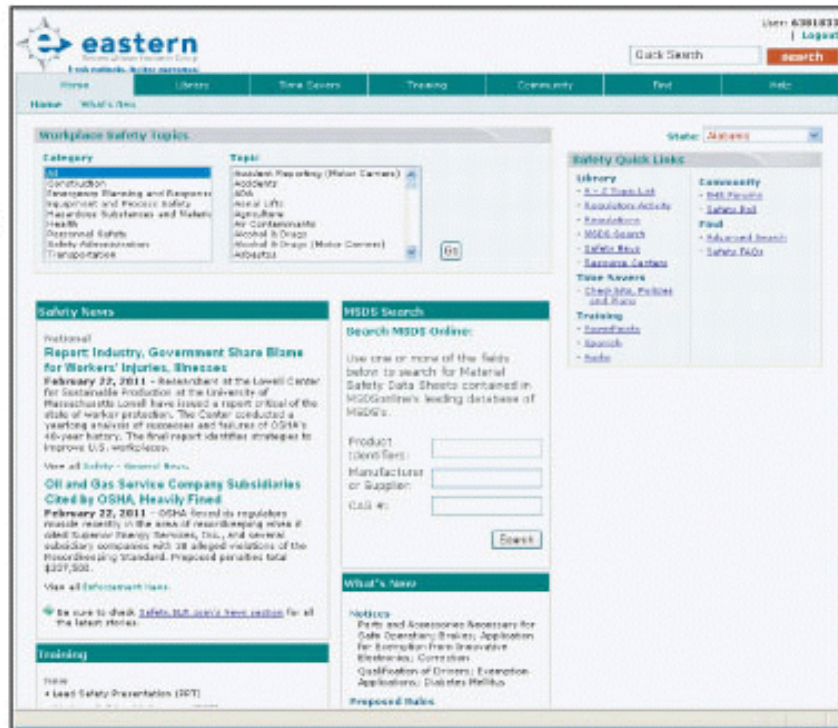


# Another Benefit of the PBA Workers' Compensation Program

**Safety.BLR.com access through Eastern Alliance Insurance Group's Risk Management Resource Center**

What makes Safety.BLR.com access a great benefit?

- Access to this site is normally more than \$995 annually-PBA Workers' Compensation Program members can access it for **free**
- Up-to-date safety news, including OSHA standard changes, large violations, current safety news, etc.
- Info on both federally-mandated and state-specific regulations
- OSHA letters of interpretation, written directives and policies, training materials, toolbox talks, MSDS resources and much more
- Spanish training materials and audio presentations available
- Easy navigation, with searches available by categories, topic, and format (i.e. PowerPoints, quizzes, toolbox talks, etc.)



EAIG offers Program members free access to this resource through the Risk Management Resource Center on [www.eains.com](http://www.eains.com). Policyholders must first register on [www.eains.com](http://www.eains.com) in order to access the Safety.BLR.com. Policyholder registration codes and instructions can be found on the last page of the policy packet materials, or policyholders can call 1.888.654.7100 to ask for EAIG web site assistance.

Safety.BLR.com is yet another great reason for businesses to join the PBA Workers' Compensation Program!

**Program Coordinator:**  
 McConkey Insurance & Benefits  
 Contact Tisha O'Donnell, CPIA  
 717-755-9266 or [todonnell@ekmccconkey.com](mailto:todonnell@ekmccconkey.com)  
[www.ekmccconkey.com/pba.htm](http://www.ekmccconkey.com/pba.htm)



## HOME BUILDERS CALL ON CONGRESS TO REPEAL BURDENSOME AND COSTLY 1099 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

NAHB called on Congress this week to repeal all new expanded 1099 reporting requirements imposed in recent laws that will harm job creation and place a major paperwork and cost burden on the nation's small businesses. Testifying on behalf of NAHB before the House Small Business Committee on Feb. 9, Mike Kegley, a builder from Union, Ky., and president of the Home Builders Association of Kentucky <http://www.hbak.com/>, told lawmakers that the collection of W-9 forms, monitoring payments over the course of a year, and additional staff time will cost individual small businesses thousands of dollars per year. Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act approved last year, starting in 2012 businesses will have to file an IRS Form 1099 for each vendor from whom they spend more than \$600 in goods or services in any given tax year. Kegley, who built six homes last year and employs seven workers, estimates his firm would have had to file an additional 173 forms for 2010, which would have cost him \$9,000 had the law been in effect. "Rather than hiring additional workers to expand and grow, small businesses will be spending money on accountants and bookkeepers in order to keep up with these new requirements," he told the lawmakers. NAHB also believes that the expansion of the 1099 requirements will make small businesses less competitive relative to larger, corporate businesses because smaller firms will take steps to reduce their paperwork burdens by purchasing from fewer sources. The Senate on Feb. 2 adopted an amendment to the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill to repeal the new 1099 reporting requirements <http://www.nbnnews.com/NBN/issues/2011-02-07/Politics+and+Government/index.html> in last year's health care law. "I applaud the Senate's action last week and urge the House to follow suit," said Kegley. To read more, click here [http://www.nahb.org/news\\_details.aspx?newSID=12147](http://www.nahb.org/news_details.aspx?newSID=12147).

## NAHB CHAIRMAN BOB NIELSEN PROMOTES FDIC HOTLINE FOR BUILDERS

NAHB Chairman Bob Nielsen

I want to let you know about a unique opportunity now available through the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) that may help address your difficulties in obtaining financing for your business.

The acquisition, development and construction (AD&C) credit crisis continues to jeopardize the livelihoods of countless home builders and threatens to derail the fragile housing recovery now under way. Alleviating a crippling drought of AD&C lending remains our top priority.

After hosting a recent symposium to examine the credit problems that small businesses are facing, the FDIC has moved to create a hotline and website that allows small business owners to make inquiries with FDIC officials or to register their specific issues or problems they may have concerning credit availability.

The bulk of our membership is comprised of small businesses. This is your chance to weigh in directly with the FDIC to discuss any business constraints you are facing due to the scarcity of credit for housing. Any home builder, developer or associate who is unable to obtain financing, is having a hard time with an outstanding AD&C loan or feels that they have been treated unfairly by their lending institution should alert the FDIC either through the hotline or their website.

Calling 866-924-NAHB (866-924-6242) will patch you through to the FDIC's hotline, where you can discuss your specific situation if you choose not to fill out a business assistance form on the FDIC website. Be aware that you will be talking to a live FDIC representative, so have your information at hand. The hotline is operational Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

To provide more details, the FDIC has created a dedicated website for small businesses at [www.fdic.gov/smallbusiness](http://www.fdic.gov/smallbusiness). Go to the website and then click on the Business Assistance Form at the bottom of the page. This will allow you to fill in information and provide details about lending or credit problems you are having with a specific bank or financial institution. It is our hope that the FDIC will follow through and respond to any inquiries it receives.

NAHB is launching new initiatives to combat the AD&C credit crisis and a strong member response to the FDIC hotline will help raise greater awareness of the AD&C credit problems builders are facing and support our efforts to find constructive solutions that will restore the flow of credit to our industry. So once again, I urge you to contact the FDIC today! It is absolutely essential if we are to keep our fellow builders on the job and help our industry rebound from the worst downturn in decades.



## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Home Builders Association of the Alleghenies  
 Richland Square III, 1397 Eisenhower Blvd.,  
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- . All ad copy and artwork must accompany this contract.
- . All advertising artwork must be photocopy ready. (B&W only)
- . All advertising contracts are for a minimum of 3 months.

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1/2 page (5" x 8")	\$45.00 x _____ months = \$ _____
Full page (8 1/2" x 11")	\$90.00 x _____ months = \$ _____

Circle month you are requesting your ad period to start:

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

9. All advertising contracts must be prepaid, please attach check payable to the H.B.A.A.
10. All advertising must be supplied to the H.B.A.A. office a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the advertising month.

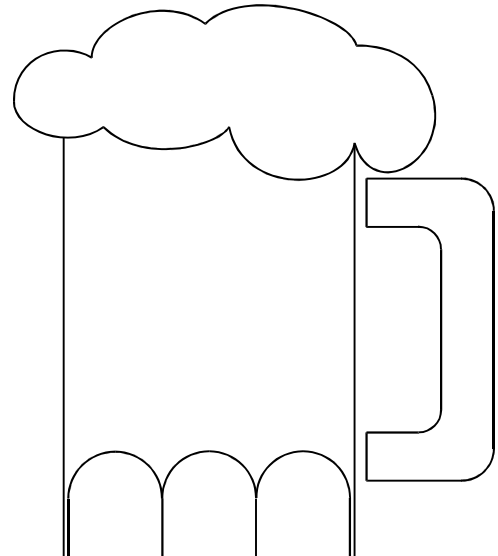
The HBAA does not discriminate against any person or company in accepting paid advertising in its newsletter. Acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the advertiser, its products, services or claims. The HBAA shall be held harmless in the event that a newsletter is not published or distributed as planned, or in the event that an ad is omitted or incorrectly displayed.

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HBAA \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## FLUDDER'S CORNER

11. Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive.
12. A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything!"
13. Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.
14. A sandwich walks into a bar. The bartender says, "Sorry we don't serve food in here."
15. A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says: "A beer please, and one for the road."
16. Two termites walk into a bar. One asks, "Is the bar tender here?"
17. A dyslexic man walks into a bra.



**Home Builders Association  
Timothy C. Leventry  
Suite 202, Richland Square III  
1397 Eisenhower Blvd.  
Johnstown, PA 15904**

**Return Service Requested**



**HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF THE ALLEGHENIES  
NEWSLETTER**

APRIL 2011

Timothy C. Leventry, E.O.  
1397 Eisenhower Boulevard  
Richland Square III, Suite 202  
Johnstown, PA 15904

(814) 269-9268

FAX: (814) 269-1429

President: Leon Lechene

web site: [www.hbaahomes.org](http://www.hbaahomes.org)

email: [info@hbaahomes.org](mailto:info@hbaahomes.org)

**Good News**

Rates are low  
low inventories of new homes  
1 year supply of new homes  
Inflation low  
Economic growth improved  
remodeling is recovering fast

**Employment weak**

Foreclosures/ Short Sales  
PA is top 12 in foreclosures  
34% losing sales because of appraisal forecasts  
Builders who do 25 or more homes a year can get more credit

**where we were in 2008**

PA should recover fast in 4<sup>th</sup> qtr 2012  
Remodeling growing faster than housing  
Single homes sales up 15%  
Multiple family homes up 29%

**Not So Good News**

**Forecast**

End of 2012 sales should rebound to