



# Jefferson County Home Builders Association's **Building Community** Newsletter

December 2002  
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## **Tollshark builds custom projects since 1976**

After 26 years in East Jefferson County, Rick Tollefson's Tollshark Construction continues to build fine homes and impressive commercial buildings.

An intriguing assortment of homes and restaurants, the restoration of the old Bell Tower and the First Presbyterian Church addition were Tollshark projects, as was the transformation of the old jail, in the basement of the Jefferson County Courthouse, into county offices.

"What I found, in this small town, is you're really subject to the economic trends that we're not in control of. And there's not much loyalty. Whoever comes in with the lowest price'll get the job," Rick said, of the initial bid.

He often plays counselor for his clients, as well as contractor.

"It's one of the most stressful times of their lives. They're spending all of their money," Rick said. "I think I tend to do the detailed jobs. People hire me because I can figure out how to make it all work. And a lot of it is personality. I believe they hire me for my experience, too."

Rick chuckled, "There were six contractors in the phone book when I started. Now, there are well over a hundred."

Interesting, too, is the lack of younger (20-to-30-something) construction workers in this area.

"Typically, in construction, you get hurt. Backs, knees, hips. I'm 54 and I like working, but I've fallen off a roof," Rick said. "As you get older, you begin to value other people's skills."



**Each of Rick Tollefson's homes is as unique as the lot on which his Tollshark Construction crew builds it.**

The lack of skilled youth was one of the reasons Rick, and Fred Kimball, agreed to teach the Jefferson County Home Builders' Residential Carpentry Class.

The framing class, now in its third year, is offered in partnership with Peninsula College and the Chimacum School District.

Rick hired two workers out of that first class — and they're with him still.

"I had nearly 30 people working for me 14 years ago. These days, I rely on subcontractors. It's the reality of today's economic environment," Rick said. "Everyone talks about how the growth laws have inhibited growth, but I'm not so sure they have. We haven't yet attained the economic base that'll feed the growth."

In addition to being a director

of the JCHBA, Rick has chaired the Jefferson County Community Network, was cochair of Chimacum Schools' citizens bond committee, ran for county commissioner, and is on the boards of Jefferson County Parks and Recreation, Peninsula Trails Coalition, and Thousand Friends of Washington.

Rick — the father of Zöe, 18, and Finn, 14 — also participates in a lot of kid-focused activities.

"Being a contractor suits my personality. I like to build custom homes. It appeals to my creative side," Rick flashed an amicable grin. "It's really gratifying. You have something to show. You have some real physical assets there.

"But, construction's not for everyone," Rick added. "It's hard work. But, you get to work with great people."





## ***A message from your president. . .***

**Bill Eldridge  
Eldridge Homes, Inc.**

I shall start by thanking each and every one of you for your support and assistance in proving to those naysayers that the Jefferson County Home Builders Association is not dead and should not go away.

But, our work is not over. I would like every member to convince a company they work with to join our association. An application form has been included in this mailing. If you need additional forms, photocopy that one or call the HBA office, at 379-8784.

Do plan to attend the Christmas party, Dec. 13, at the Beach Club at Port Ludlow. Bring a guest and prospective members (and their guests).

I attended the state board meeting, in Wenatchee, November 6-8. The biggest issue was the defeat of R-53 — the tax roll back that was passed by the Legislature, so that Boeing could continue to pay its employees extended unemployment benefits. The cost of allowing Boeing, Wal-Mart, Safeway and other big businesses lower unemployment insurance tax rates would have been passed on to the state's small businesses by increasing their premiums.

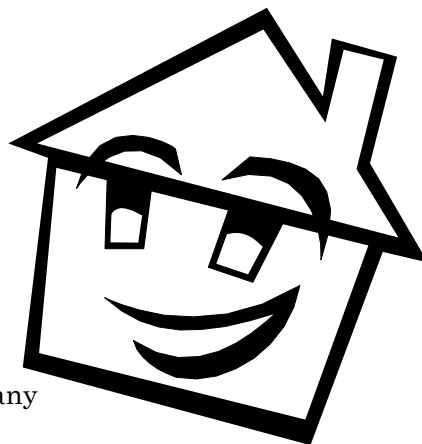
The Building Industry Association of Washington was the force that supplied the energy and funding to defeat R-53. If they had not done so, more payroll deductions (about \$400 per year) would have been paid by every employee. Employers would have had to pay higher unemployment premiums on each employee, as well. Your BIAW dues were well spent.

## **Welcome our new members**

Dan Shaw and Larry McConnell  
Giraffe Gutter Service, Inc.  
385-0323  
Spike: Bill Eldridge

Scott and Marilyn James  
Sound View Construction, Inc.  
360-871-6914  
Sponsor: Bill Irwin

Dave Sather  
Pacific Environmental Services Company  
385-4221  
Sponsor: Rick Gore



Three new businesses have joined our association since the last newsletter. Do make sure to welcome them into the association the next time you do business with them.

Did you notice each new member had a different sponsor? You, too, could bring in new members. If you have any questions about the benefits of joining the JCHBA — or need brochures — just call Sandy, 379-8784.

## **Verify Web site**

Please check the directory on [www.jeffcohomebuilders.com](http://www.jeffcohomebuilders.com) to ensure your company is listed in the categories where it belongs.

This is also the list from which the print directory will be created.

Please send any corrections, additions, and/or links to your Web sites to [jchba@olympus.net](mailto:jchba@olympus.net).

If you have any objection to having your name, address, phone, fax, e-mail, contractor's number and Web site address on our site, do let us know. Call 379-8784.



### **FOR SALE**

Five steel spiral staircases. Heights range from 9 to 11 feet. Diameters from 30 to 36 inches. Concrete steps. Contact David Herrington at the Inn at Port Hadlock, 385-7030.

### **WSU Realtors' Workshop**

"Salmon in Our Backyard"

Dec. 12 – 13

15 clock hours

Learn about the new Puget Sound regional shared salmon strategy and more.

Call 379-5610, ext. 203.

# Join us for Christmas party fun Dec. 13!



**Port Ludlow Beach Club**  
**Friday, December 13**  
**7 p.m.**



***Dance to Captain Fever!***

***Eat delicious finger foods!***

***Invite prospective members!***

***Election and installation of  
your 2003 officers!***

***Dress in festive attire!***

***Please RSVP by Dec. 7!!!***

***379-8784***

***Bring your own alcohol, if desired.***

## **JCHBA Officers**

President: Bill Eldridge  
437-2120  
me@olympus.net

First Vice President: Bob Little  
385-5606  
bob@little-little.com

Second V. P.: Marianne Moe  
437-2740  
haroldmoe@olympus.net

Secretary: Dan Dankert  
1-888-323-7646

Treasurer: Bill Irwin  
437-9344

Board Members:  
Rick Tollefson  
Kevin Miller  
Rick Gore

Executive Officer:  
Sandy Hershelman  
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