



# Jefferson County Home Builders Association's Building Community Newsletter

October 2002  
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## Little & Little builds big in Port Townsend

At first, Bob Little tried to sidestep the “How many hours do you put in a week?” question with a big smile. The owner of Little & Little Construction was no doubt imagining how his wife, Chris, would answer.

“Well, I try not to work weekends; and Chris’d probably say I’m not too successful at it,” Bob admitted. “I work between 60 and 70 hours a week. But, I love what I do. This is what I want to do. If I’m not with Chris or my kids, this is where I want to be. There’s a passion in it.

“I’m a morning person. I’m usually at work by 5:30 or 6 a.m. I’ve put hours in before the world’s even movin’ and groovin’,” Bob said. “I can put in a 12-hour day and still be home by 6 p.m.”

While many construction workers are out of work in the winter, Little & Little’s employees usually keep working.

“We haven’t gone out and looked for work to bid for years. I know others sub out stuff, but it’s real key to my business to use my own people. They’ve been with me a long time. They know what’s expected. We can guarantee a quality product. And that’s what’s important to me,” Bob said. “I think customers come to us because we have a good reputation for honesty — and quality, as well.”

Bob honed his organizing skills in his father’s Southern California construction business, which, when he left in 1979, was doing \$25 million a year.

“I cut my teeth on commercial work. The only residential work we



**Jefferson County Home Builders Association First Vice President Bob Little has been building residential and commercial buildings in our community since 1979.**

did was for our commercial customers,” Bob said.

Bob and Whitey Johnson (Johnson & Little Construction) moved their families here in 1979.

“We left San Diego to live in a more rural area to raise a large family,” said Bob, the father of 12.

In 1984, he formed Little & Little Construction.

“About 80 percent of our business is design/build,” Bob offered. Most work is residential, but he doesn’t do spec houses.

“When we’re managing, designing and building, I just love it. There’re lots of things going on. The guys all hate remodels, but I love them. To take an old building and bring it back to life,” he smiled, no doubt recalling the old Elks building, Waterman and Katz, and

Nifty Fifty’s remodeling jobs.

The outstanding restoration of the Charles Pink House earned Bob a Jefferson County Historical Society Preservation Award.

“That’s my pride and joy,” admitted the JCHBA’s first vice president (and a past president).

Little went to college for architecture, but doesn’t get to do much drawing these days.

“It’s real time consuming. I see our relationship with a customer as one where we can put on paper what they want. That’s why we do so much design work. We can build dreams,” Bob said.

“I love where I am and what I’m doing. We’ve had some really great projects because of the teamwork,” he decided years ago. “We’re really a team builder.”

# Welcome our new members



New member Bret Thacker was welcomed onboard by President Bill Eldridge.

Two new businesses have joined our association this month. Do make sure to welcome them into the fold the next time you do business with them.

Bret Thacker  
Thacker Masonry  
Sponsor: Bill Eldridge

Jody Locklear  
Jefferson Investors, Inc.  
dba Nesting Bird  
Sponsor: Jim Ferris

## Housing Washington 2002 Affordable Housing Conference

Oct. 30 – Nov. 1  
Hilton Seattle Airport Hotel  
and Conference Center  
Presented by Washington State  
Housing Finance Commission  
and Washington State Office of  
Community Development  
Contact: Kelly Carson  
360-357-8044 or [conf@wshfc.org](mailto:conf@wshfc.org)  
[www.wshfc.org/conf/](http://www.wshfc.org/conf/)

## WSU Realtors' Workshops

“Seep, Drip and Run: Rainwater  
Management and Protecting  
Your Investment in Housing  
and Salmon”  
Wednesday, Oct. 16  
7.5 clock hours  
<http://lstdg.net/s4s/index.html>

“Flushing Your Property  
Investment: Septics 101”  
Friday, Nov. 15  
7.5 clock hours  
The basics, plus a teaser:  
Find out what oysters and  
toilets have in common.

“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,  
to register for WSU classes.



**Congratulations to Bob Little for  
earning the Life Spike Award!**

## A note from your Executive Officer. . .

# I have a challenge for you!!!

“Uh, oh. What’s Sandy up to now?” you ask. Let me explain.

I’ve been weeding through the piles of papers at the Home Builders’ office for about four months now — and I keep coming across the catchy little phrase, “Do Business with a Member”.

It’s on ad slicks and window decals (want one?), and in just about every one of the 547 various publications I get from HBAs from around the state.

But, you know what? It doesn’t mean a thing, if we’re not doing something about it.

So, here’s the challenge: I want to put together a written list of discounts, perks, benefits, warm fuzzies — whatever you want to call them — that you will offer to your fellow JCHBA members.

I’ve even put together a handy-dandy form to make it easy for you. You may mail it, fax it, whatever — as long as you do it!

*Sandy*



## JCHBA: “Do Business with a Member” pledge

Name:

Business name:

I promise to offer members of the Jefferson County Home  
Builders Association:

Signed:



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

**Bill Eldridge  
Eldridge Homes, Inc.**

I would like to thank all of you who attended the Sept. 26 dinner to celebrate our 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary and hear the interesting presentation. It was good to see some members I hadn't had a chance to visit with in awhile. I sincerely hope you will attend the next meeting on Oct. 24.

Sandy Hershelman, our executive officer, is doing an excellent job. She met with the staff at BIAW, on Oct. 7, and came back with a wealth of information to use in support of our association and its members.

If you don't know Sandy, call or stop by the office and introduce yourself. If you have a question about anything to do with our industry, please call her and ask. Sandy is there for all of us and will get you the information you request. (Most recently, she put together our Oct. 12 first aid class; and will schedule another, if there's enough interest.)

The national convention is in Las Vegas this year. If you've never been to a NAHB Convention, this will be a good time to attend. Flights are inexpensive; and, if you book your own hotel, you can find some very reasonable rates. I've attended nine conventions and have always been amazed at how big they are, how many new products come out every year, and how many ideas I come home with.

If you know of a company that is not a member of our association, explain the benefits of being a member and get them to join. Applications are at the HBA office and at the monthly meetings. Bill Irwin is our membership chairman and will assist you in bringing in a new member.

I look forward to seeing **ALL** of you at the Oct. 24 meeting.

## ***Your new Web site***

[www.jeffcohomebuilders.com](http://www.jeffcohomebuilders.com) is under construction and we need your input to make it a truly useful resource for all of us.

Please send 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.

## ***It's election time***

I know it's hard to believe a whole year has passed since you last elected officers for the JCHBA — but it has. It's time once again to elect or reelect officers to run this association.

We'll be asking for nominations at the Oct. 24 meeting, so be prepared.

Elections for the 2003 JCHBA board will be held during the December meeting/Christmas party.

### **Positions to fill are:**

**President**

**First vice president**

**Second vice president**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**



**At our Sept. 26 monthly dinner meeting, Jim Mattison, from Simpson, explained the advantages of using his company's Strong-Wall panels.**

Johnny on the Spot

Neil VanderVen



### **GOOD MAN SANITATION**

Chemical Toilet Rentals  
Septic Tank Pumping

Port Townsend, WA  
(360) 385-7155

1-800-743-2515

## ***Help out in the carpentry class***

Rick Tollefson, Fred Kimball and Pete Raab are teaming up to teach the JCHBA-sponsored Residential Carpentry Class.

They need volunteers willing to give up an evening, or a Saturday, to be an extra set of eyes and ears for those classes when ensuring the safety of the students requires additional experienced help.

Please call Sandy, at 379-8784.

# BIAW shares L&I savings with building trades

BIAW's Tom Kwieciak explains the Return on Industrial Insurance (R.O.I.I.) program

**Highway Twenty  
Roadhouse**

**Thursday, Oct. 24  
Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner at 7 p.m.  
\$13 per person  
(Payable at the door)**

**RSVP by Oct. 17!!!  
379-8784**

Dinner choices: sirloin steak,  
fish and chips, or chicken



**Invite your friends!**

## **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  
379-8784 (fax: 379-8785)  
jchba@olympus.net

**Editor: Sandy Hershelman**

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