



# Jefferson County Home Builders Association's Building Community Newsletter

September 2002  
Volume 1, Issue 1

## Eldridge builds homes and Home Builders

A young strapping male gets out of college and needs a summer job. What does he do? In this county, he picks up a hammer and takes his first lessons in carpentry. The scenario's not new, and it's probably as common now as it was back in the late 1960s, when Bill Eldridge got out of college and needed a job.

After a stint working on the construction of the tall precipitator building at the Port Townsend Paper Company mill, Eldridge began working on residential construction sites. It was 1969. He was 25.

There was only one custom home in Port Ludlow when Eldridge was asked to build the second. Undaunted, he agreed to build the impressive 4,300-square-foot house.

"Even then I was confident in my ability to do the task ahead. I never understood all of that psychological stuff. I just do it," chuckled Eldridge.

The young contractor soon began work on a house down the street from the first, and the ball began to roll.

"When I first became a builder, you'd go to the auditor's office and pay \$10 to get a building permit. The only inspection on the whole job was the state electrical inspection," Eldridge recalled.

"Government regulations have probably tacked on about 30 percent to the price of a house, since the late 1980s," he figured. "Some of the regulations are good, some of them are just overkill."

The Jefferson County Home Builders Association was chartered on Sept. 26, 1983.

In 1984, Eldridge was elected president, a post he held until 1991.



**Jefferson County Home Builders Association President Bill Eldridge has been building custom homes in Jefferson County since 1969.**

The JCHBA office was in the Eldridge home until 1993.

This year, Eldridge is once again back at the helm of the JCHBA.

Eldridge has not only held numerous positions of responsibilities within both the Building Industry Association of Washington and the National Association of Home Builders, he's been honored for his efforts by both.

"Probably the most rewarding part of my job has been the people I've worked with. It's been a joy to create their dreams," Eldridge offered. "My favorite job is building a new home on a bare piece of ground that fulfills the dream of a family or an individual. It's something we're both proud of. They're pleased with their new home and the quality of the workmanship."

His philosophy is simple: "I provide my customers with the best

possible price, with the best possible products, so they end up with the home they want, at a price they can afford, that still allows me to make a profit," Eldridge explained. "People put their trust in you and your company. And they don't deserve to be disappointed."

"It's important to me that I fulfill the needs of the customer. I want them to be happy. I guess I've always leaned towards the needs of the customer. I guess that's why I've never had any legal battles," Eldridge observed.

The fact that he's strong enough to say "No" to those who feel like trouble has no doubt helped him steer clear of any disputes.

"A lot of the business I get is referrals from people I've built homes for," Eldridge said. "If I build a house for people and they need a remodel or addition, they'll usually call me."

# It's really easy to get the R.O.I.I. refund you deserve

When JCHBA President Eldridge first hung out his shingle, in 1969, industrial insurance was 17 cents an hour per carpenter. Today, it's \$2 per hour. Make a guy a roofer, and that figure doubles.

"Ours is one of the few states in the nation where the industrial insurance program is state run. And it's one of the costliest in the nation," Eldridge pointed out. "And yet, our state allows anyone who can pay for the license, the insurance and the bond to get a contractor's license."

Eldridge was quick to praise the Building Industry Association of Washington's R.O.I.I. program, where qualifying members can receive as much as one-third of their state industrial insurance premium back.

In July, JCHBA handed out more than \$121,000 worth of refund checks!

Any company desiring to join the R.O.I.I. program must meet the following criteria:

1. Have at least one employee in any one of the 100 risk classifications included in the program.
2. Have at least one full year of experience in the workmen's compensation program.
3. Have a positive (but not necessarily "clean") safety record, and
4. Be a member of an association, such as Jefferson County Home Builders Association.

There is no charge to find out from the BIAW how much you would have saved. It takes just a few seconds to fill out the query card.

Any company in our industry (JCHBA member, or not) seeking further information, should call our office, 360-379-8784.



**It was Christmas in July for Jeremy Vance. He received a hefty Return on Industrial Insurance check.**

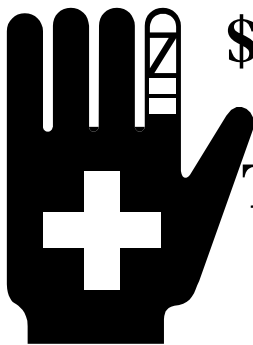
## First Aid/CPR Class

*.. for you and your crew*

**Saturday, Oct. 12**

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Chimacum Schools**



**\$36 per person**

**To preregister**

**call JCHBA**

**379-8784**

**Class size limited**

**Also accepting names for future classes  
and annual recertification classes**

**OSHA-certified American Red Cross class**



**GROVES & CO., INC.**

GLASS & WINDOW SALES & SERVICE

P.O. BOX 120

11084 RHODY DRIVE

HADLOCK, WA 98339

WA ST. LIC. #GROVEI120J8

(360) 385-6282

FAX # (360) 385-6284

## BIAW Spike Party Nov. 6

Spikes, who have recruited at least one new member between Nov. 1, 2001 and Aug. 31, 2002, are invited to the BIAW's Spike party.

From 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6, the BIAW's promised fun, food and music — western style — for you and your guest.

The party, held in the Wenatchee Convention Center, is slated to kick off the BIAW's winter convention.

For reservations, call Amanda, at 1-800-228-4229, no later than Oct. 23.





**Bill Eldridge**  
Eldridge Homes, Inc.

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

September 26 is the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Jefferson County Home Builders Association. It would be great if you would join us for our September 26 dinner meeting at the Highway Twenty Roadhouse to celebrate with us.

I am pleased to be working with our new executive officer, Sandy Hershelman, who has taken over after Dave Herrington was unable to balance the needs of our association and his daytime job. When you see Dave, shake his hand and thank him for the work he did for the association.

Sandy brings with her fresh ideas and a great sense of humor, along with years of experience working with the community. She's a freelance reporter for the *Leader* and others, editor of Chimacum Schools' district newsletter, a Web site designer, desktop publisher, photographer, former Bank of America employee, and is involved in the community — all while raising a son and daughter.

When I was asked to be President (again), the prospects for our future seemed uncertain. With the efforts of the people on the Board of Directors, who have worked to turn things around, our future is bright.

We need to thank Jim Groves for the success of our annual golf tournament that he worked so hard to put together. Nearly 100 golfers enjoyed the day at Port Ludlow, which was supported by the generosity of 30 sponsors.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the September meeting to welcome Sandy — and to celebrate our past 19 years and celebrate our future.

Bill Eldridge

## **New members: Welcome!**

**Jeff Monroe**  
**Monroe House**  
**Moving, Inc.**

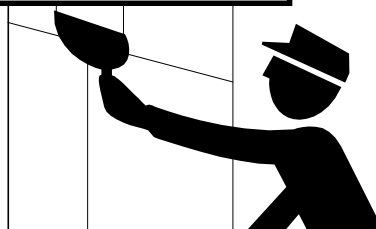
**Barbara Knight**  
**Kitsap Garage**  
**Door Company**

**Promote your business . . .**  
**Support the JCHBA . . .**

*Our business card ad rate is just*  
*\$15 per month.*  
*Call Sandy at 379-8784.*

### **Now under construction**

Your new Web site [www.jeffcohomebuilders.com](http://www.jeffcohomebuilders.com) is not up yet, but will be soon. (I promise!)  
Please send links to your Web sites to [jchba@olympus.net](mailto:jchba@olympus.net).



## **Carpentry class students wanted**

Have you seen the classified ad in the *Leader*?

**Help Wanted: Learn Carpentry and Home Building: Interested in learning to become a skilled carpenter/framer working in the local home building industry or doing your own projects? The Jefferson County Home Builders Association is once again teaming up with Peninsula College to bring hands-on construction training to East Jefferson County. This will be an "after-hours" program taught in Chimacum, lasting 8 months. Requires dedication, a strong work ethic, and the ability to work outside with construction tools and materials. The rewards are superb skill training, strong employment potential, college credit, and the ability to earn substantial wages. For information and to register, contact Nancy at Peninsula College/Port Townsend at 385-4605. Class starts Oct. 15. Financial aid and workforce retraining dollars are available, too.**

Rick Tollefson and Fred Kimball are once again teaming up to offer the class. They're bringing Pete Raab onboard this year, as well.

A heads up: 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 in the room. A perfect example: power equipment is being used for the first time by 20 students. (Enough said. You get the picture, I'm sure.)

Please call Sandy, at 379-8784, your help.

# Simpson's Strong-Wall now meets prescriptive code!

**“In most cases, our Strong-Wall shear walls meet and exceed the UBC provisions for the Alternate Braced Panel.”**

— Jim Mattison, our speaker

**PLUS:**

**Tonia Neal explains why the BIAW says:  
“Vote NO on Referendum 53”**

**Highway Twenty Roadhouse**

**Thursday, Sept. 26**

**Social half hour: 6:30 p.m.**

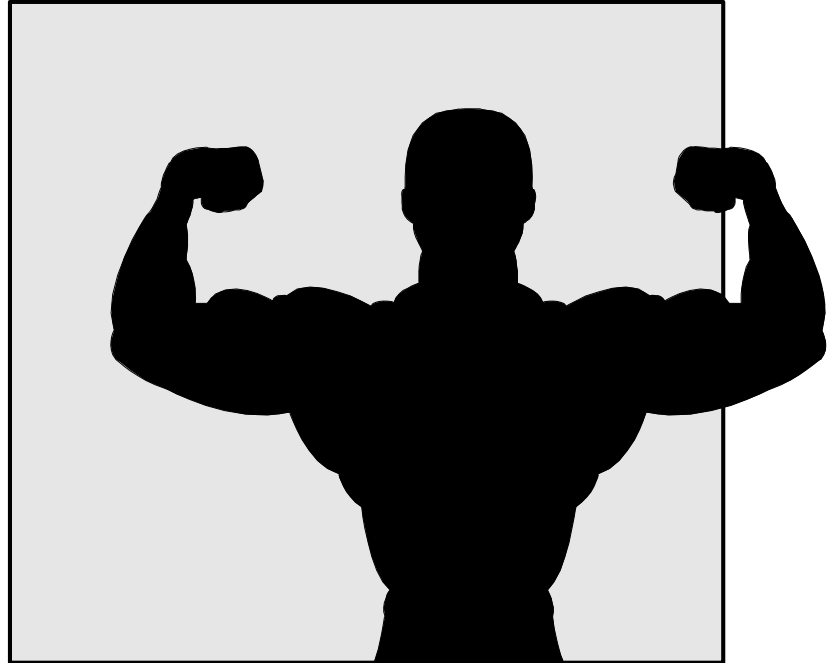
**Dinner: 7 p.m.**

**\$13 per person**

**(Payable at the door)**

**Reservations by Sept. 18**

**Call 379-8784**



**Dinner choices: sirloin steak, fish and chips,  
barbecue chicken or teriyaki chicken.  
Salad and dessert included.**

## **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:**  
Dennis Kelley Rick Tollefson  
Dave Clevenger Kevin Miller  
Rick Gore

**Executive Officer:**  
Sandy Hershelman  
379-8784 (fax: 379-8785)  
jchba@olympus.net

**Editor: Sandy Hershelman**

**Jefferson County Home Builders Association**  
P.O. Box 1399  
Port Hadlock, WA 98339

