

Builders' Showcase



Photo provided

Six ranch homes were sold and five were built at Henning Estates in Huntley in 2010. The latest ranch under construction is a Brunswick model. The developers think sales will be equal if not better in 2011.

Several builders forecast busy year ahead

McHENRY COUNTY – Locally, it is not all doom and gloom for the new housing industry. The industry has been beset by turmoil the past two years during the nation's mortgage default and bailout crisis.

Several builders in this area, though, were busy in 2010 and predicted lots of home building projects for 2011.

One of these builders is Peter Scholl, president of Scholl Construction in Crystal Lake. "We are busy finishing up 2010 projects and we are off to a great start in 2011," Scholl said. "We started framing today (Jan. 3) on a custom, 4,500-square-foot single-family home on five acres in Union. And we are beginning work on the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Lakewood."

Another builder with positive news is Ken Grant, founder and



REVIEWS

Jerry Kuyper

president of Brighton Home Builders in Spring Grove. He is completing two custom homes in Spring Grove while doing renovations or additions to existing homes.

"In addition, we just signed two contracts for new homes in White Birch Lakes of Hawthorn Woods and Ravenna of Long Grove. If all works out on the financing, I can start both of those homes (soon)," Grant said in late 2010. The housing industry, he noted, has undergone a turnaround in the past two years. For him, it means more custom home construction.

Mike Doomis, who operates

Doomis Builders of West Dundee with brother Tom, chimed in with more positive feedback. "For 2011, we have quite a few bids out on new construction. Only one of them is signed up and that customer wants us to build a 5,500 to 6,000-square-foot custom home in Bull Valley. We will start that in June. Meanwhile we are completing home addition jobs as well as a big equine facility in Harvard including an arena, barn, stables and corrals on a seven-acre parcel of land north of the city near the Wisconsin state line. It is a nice project and the lady we are working for is into horse rescue and we should have that facility completed early this year," Doomis said.

"Also, we have two remodeling jobs out for bid so those are prospective jobs, too. That is pretty good activity for the first week of

January. We are off to a good start," Doomis added. "One thing is for sure and that is we have somewhere to go each day for work."

Meanwhile, the developers of Henning Estates in Huntley sold five homes in 2010 and began building a sixth at year's end. The developers, Peter LeSeur and Ryan VanLue of Rock Creek Development of Elgin, hope to do an equal amount of business in 2011.

"Our optimism comes from the fact we are serving a market with a high demand in it. It is a market of empty-nesters looking for a high quality ranch product in a very nice setting. We identified that market as one that was underserved. We are serving it," RCD president LeSeur said.

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Photo provided

Scholl Construction of Crystal Lake helped complete a 13,000-square-foot Camp Delavan Tennis House at Delavan, WI., in 2010. The company also completed 35 other construction projects. Company president Peter Scholl predicts a busy 2011.

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Henning Estates has two phases. The first was opened several years ago. The one- to two-acre sites accommodate single-family homes with at least 3,000 square feet of living space.

The second phase opened in late 2009. "It generated lots of interest," LeSeur said.

The second phase at Henning Estates will accommodate 103 ranch home sites on 100 acres. Prices range from the \$300,000s (including site) and provide 1,800 to 2,260 square feet of stair-free living space, two-car garage and full basement. Most sites are suitable for a walk-out or look-out basement, which can be designed into the ranch at an additional cost.

The one-third-acre sites

open to woods, tall grass prairies or ponds and wetlands. None of the sites back to another home site. Green space prevails, LeSueur noted.

Currently, LeSueur and his partner are concentrating on the second phase of ranches with three designs from which to choose. They are the Southhaven, Newcastle and Brunswick.

"Our Brunswick model differs substantially from the other two (Southhaven and Newcastle). It is a three-bedroom, middle-sized ranch of about 2,000 square feet (2,023)" LeSueur said. It also has volume ceilings, two bathrooms and a full 9-foot basement. "It has a stunning kitchen that will look like those found in architectural magazines or home improvement shows."

When completed, the Brunswick, which is being

built for a customer, will cost \$389,400.

A trend of semi-custom builders is to strip homes of luxury features and then add them on as expensive options. LeSueur noted that RCD has high-end features as standard. They include granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, hardwood flooring, full basements, ceramic floor tile, maple cabinetry, architecturally significant ceilings and a comprehensive landscaping package. "These are only a small sample of the high-end amenities found within the homes at Henning Estates," he added.

Barb Merkel, project coordinator for Scholl Construction, reflected on the past year.

"All in all, 2010 was a very good year for us. We completed the rough carpentry on

a Chicago single-family steel framing job (5,200 square feet feet) , the rough, exterior and interior carpentry on Camp Delavan Tennis House in Wisconsin, which boasts an indoor tennis court and half basketball court of approximately 9,000 square feet. The entire project was 13,000 square feet including the 9,000 just mentioned. The other 4,000 square feet was in the Head (main) House, which includes a spa, guest rooms, workout room, sauna, kitchen and baths.

"Besides the Chicago and Delavan projects, we completed eight commercial/ industrial projects in 2010, three kitchen remodels, 11 large interior/exterior remodels, one garage addition, one pole barn, two sunrooms, one pasture/shed project and seven miscellaneous projects. And we still managed to find

the time to volunteer our services at Midwest Center for Childrens Development (Crystal Lake).

"We had a good year and we are off to a great start in 2011. We were so busy in 2010 that for 2011 we have had to hire six full-time carpenters to our staff. Happy new year one and all."

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For information on Doomis, call 847-833 2008, 847-426 1721 or visit www.doomisbuilders.com.

For Henning Estates, call 847-338-3821 or visit www.henningestates.com.