



B & H Builders

WWW.BH-BUILDERS.COM

SPRING 2008

Message from Tom & Celeste

We build homes to the highest possible standards.

We build client relationships on integrity and open communication.

We build a rewarding work environment for craftsmen who share our vision of integrity and excellence.



Parade Dates
June 7, 8, 10, 12, 14 & 15
Saturday & Sunday
Noon to 5:00
Tuesday & Thursday
6:00 to 9:00

3555 Dolphin Drive SE,
Unit A
Iowa City, IA 52240
319.338.0264

Spring seems to have come to Iowa in the form of rain, rain, and more rain. A new mini-storage complex we're working on has definitely felt the impact of all the rain due to the extensive amount of groundwork required. Located just off Interstate 80 on Herbert Hoover Highway, this commercial project will be a nice addition to the east side of Iowa City.

We continue to stay busy with new construction, numerous renovation projects and our family. Tom used a few rain days to complete his certification as a Green

Builder, while Celeste took the opportunity to focus on the interior design of the Parade Homes.

Austen is looking forward to graduating this month and has been accepted at University of Northern Iowa. He looks forward to majoring in Construction Management and will continue to work full time for us over the summer.

Rayanna recently returned from a two week trip to Spain. She is preparing for a year end dance recital, and will continue her job providing day care this summer. She is looking forward to

being a senior in August.

Landon will once again be working with us this summer. He will be participating in the summer conditioning program in preparation for the fall football season. He will be a sophomore next fall.

We are amazed at how quickly time passes between these newsletters and our opportunity to stay in touch with you. We value friendships that we have made through working with you, and applaud the efforts of our carpenters, painters, and office staff.

Tom & Celeste

Parade of Homes 2008

This year, B & H is excited to feature two homes in the Parade of Homes. An abundance of southern exposure and open floor plan welcomes guests into our first home in Brown Deer Estates. Whether hosting a formal dinner in the elegant Dining Room or a casual gathering around the fireplace, the custom trim details throughout will create the perfect ambience for entertaining. The Kitchen is sure to be the family gathering place with the

cozy built-in bench perfect for enjoying your morning cup of coffee or helping with school work in the evening. In a continuing effort to expand our existing green building practices, a natural Rain Garden has been included in the landscaping plan. See page 2 for our feature article on Rain Gardens.

Our second Parade Home is a charming craftsman-style located on one of three

ponds in Wellington Park. A custom built craftsman fireplace surround is the perfect setting to relax with family and friends. The open stair case to the lower level is set in an atrium with a patio door opening to the large backyard and over 11 acres of common space in a park-like atmosphere. As with all B & H projects, this home utilized green building practices throughout the construction process.

We build more than homes . . . We build relationships.

Rain Gardens

. . . absorb water, reduce runoff, prevent flooding

What's good for the Earth is also good for people. At B & H, we build homes that are not only beautiful; but they're also in tune with our environment. We are excited to feature an earth friendly rain garden in the 2008 Parade of Homes. B & H Builders and the City of Coralville are partnering to develop this rain garden at our Brown Deer parade home.

What is a rain garden?

Rain gardens are depressional areas landscaped with perennial flowers and native vegetation that soak up rain-water. They are strategically located to capture runoff from impervious surfaces, such as roofs and streets. Rain gardens fill with a few inches of water after a storm and then water filters into the ground, rather than running off to a storm drain.

Why do we need rain gardens?

Rain is natural; stormwater isn't. Government studies have shown that up to 70% of the pollution in our streams, rivers and lakes is carried there by stormwater. Although most people never think about stormwater, about half of the pollution that stormwater

carries comes from things we do in our yards and gardens!

As cities and suburbs grow, increased storm water runoff from impervious surfaces becomes a problem. As more impervious surfaces are added to our communities, it is more important than ever to help rain-water infiltrate. This protects water quality and reduces storm water runoff.

Storm water runoff from developed areas increases flooding potential and carries pollutants from streets, parking lots and lawns into local streams and lakes. Rain gardens can absorb most rainfall events.

Planting a rain garden may seem like a small thing, but if you calculate the amount of rain that runs off your roof, you would be very surprised. That rain is supposed to soak into the ground, but instead flows down the street to the storm drain, carrying pollution with it.



Keeping rain where it falls, by putting it into a beautiful rain garden, is a natural solution. You not only get a lovely garden out of it, you have the added benefit of helping protect our rivers, streams and lakes from stormwater pollution. You can be part of a beautiful solution!

How to design rain garden?

Visit any of these internet sites or any of the local landscape companies for information on how to design a rain garden to fit your site.
www.raingardens.org
www.lowimpactdevelopment.org
www.stormwatercenter.net
www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov