

THE TIMES

homes

nwi.com

Buy Build Rent Sell Communities

Today Featuring Open Houses

LOOK FOR YOUR HOME MAGAZINE
Available in any Times office, news racks and in The Times the last Thursday of every month.



219-932-SELL (7355)

Monastery Woods Cedar Lake
Townhomes from \$130's. Paired Ranch Homes from \$160's
219-374-4040
DIRECTIONS: US Hwy 41 east on I29th, south on Parrish Ave., turn right onto W. 130th Place.



The Townhomes at The Gates of St. John
Paired Villas and Townhomes from \$190's
219-365-1818.
DIRECTIONS: US Hwy 41 east on Hwy 231 to entrance between Parrish Ave. and Olive Ave.

VISIT US: Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat 11-4, Sunday 1-4:00

McFarlandHomes.Net

Doubletree Lake Estates Winfield



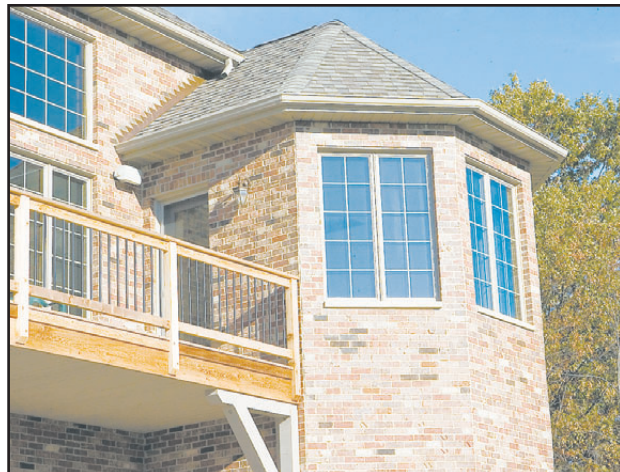
A premier community. Wooded lots, lake lots, townhomes, coach homes. Lots starting at \$59,900. Crown Point schools, low Winfield taxes, lake Michigan water, 50-acre lake, walking/biking path, gated with 24-hour staffed security. Located in Winfield, just 6 miles SE of Westfield Shopping Town.

DIRECTIONS: Take US 30 East, South on Randolph Street 3 miles.

FOR MORE INFO: Call 219-945-1331 or visit us online at www.doubletreelake.net

PURCHASE YOUR LOT WITH ONLY 10% DOWN!
*call for details

Use Your Home Buying Power for Incredible Results with Cook Builders



ROBERT WRAY | THE TIMES

BY MICHELLE KRUEGER
Times Correspondent

When you consider the daily news coverage about the plight of our economy and the current state of the national housing market, it's no surprise that Brad Ericks of Cook Builders has encountered a handful of homeowners wondering whether now is really the best time to build a new home.

Some, who had found just what they were looking for in a builder when they visited the Cook Builders model at 8958 Crooked Bend in St. John's exclusive Lake Hills neighborhood, even considered postponing their plans to design and build the home of their dreams, at least for a bit.

"What I've been telling them is, with all

things considered, it couldn't be a better time to build," he said. "Interest rates are the best they've been in a long time, and our subcontractors and suppliers are working very hard to remain competitive by avoiding price increases. Odds are that pricing isn't going to stay where it is right now. As shipping costs continue to rise, those costs will be passed on to consumers in time. As soon as the market starts coming back, with many people predicting that it will rebound in the next 6 months, prices will definitely increase."

Family owned and operated since 1974, Cook Builders has built some of the finest custom homes in many of northwest Indiana's most desirable neighborhoods. Ranging in price from the \$200s to well over \$1

million, every home built by Cook Builders is a one-of-a-kind project from start to finish. The same attention to detail, quality products and experienced group of hand-selected subcontractors comes together to make your dream a reality regardless of the budget.

See COOK, 14

FOR MORE INFO
For more information on how you can take advantage of today's home buying power, contact Brad Ericks of Cook Builders at Brad@CookBuilders.com, the company's office located at 6919 W. Lincoln Highway at (219) 322-3303 or log on to www.CookBuilders.com.

Krystal Oaks Estates | Cedar Lake
• Affordable Homes • Crown Point Schools
• Wide Variety of Plans
• Homes starting in the \$180's

AJP Custom Homes
www.ajpcustomhomes.net
219-864-1131

Sales Hours:
Saturdays 12 to 4 pm. & Sundays 11 to 4 pm.

Cook

continued from I1

Led by owner Richard Cook, the current president of the Building Industries Association of Northwest Indiana (BIA), who founded the business in 1974, Cook Builders started out doing a considerable amount of referral home remodeling and commercial work. Over time, the company's focus turned to residential building, and for the last 10 years Cook Builders has created an impressive portfolio of custom-built homes.

"We sit down with every homeowner and go over plans to find out exactly what they want in a home," Ericks, who has been with the company over 4 years and works closely with each and every client alongside Cook, said. "Throughout the entire process, Rich, Wade Cunha and I are the point people when it comes to customer service. A lot of people tell us that it's very rare for the owner of a company to be so involved, but Rich sets a great example and is very protective of his reputation."

Steadfast in their commitment to build homes that are beautiful, solid and efficient, Cook Builders routinely includes standard features such as Andersen Low-E windows, 2 x 6 exterior wall construction, blown-in cellulose R-25 insulation in exterior walls, and significant flooring and cabinetry allowances.

"We build thicker exterior walls, which allows us to use more insulation, making the home even more energy efficient," Ericks said. "Every home we build is independently tested for an Energy Star rating, with the majority of our homes registering a five-star-plus rating, the highest recognized by the program."

To see the impeccable quality and craftsmanship of



Cook-built home for yourself, visit the Lake Hills model weekdays from 2:30-4:30pm and on the weekends from 1:00-3:00pm.

This impressive showplace demonstrates some of the finer details Cook Builders can add to your custom home. With 2,852 square feet, this 1 1/2-story 4 bedroom home features an amazing walkout lower level plus stunning main floor great room with built-in wet bar for entertaining and direct vent fireplace highlighted by natural stone surround. The gourmet kitchen includes stainless steel appliances and custom cabinets with granite tops. Attractive hardwood and tile flooring are featured throughout the main level which also includes the well-appointed master suite with enormous marble shower and walk-in closet.

While this home is also available for viewing by appointment and priced at \$559,000, Cook Builders recently completed a 1,600 square foot ranch home priced in the lower \$180s on a client's lot in Cedar Lake. Both homes share Cook's custom quality, just on different levels, according to Ericks. Some of the finishing



materials may change, but the same high level of quality and attention to detail remain the same.

"Because of our energy-conscious building practices, Energy Star® has recognized us for building 100% of our homes in the past two years with 5-Star or 5-Star Plus ratings," he said. "These are the highest ratings possible which will save each of our homeowners hundreds or thousands of dollars per year in gas and electric consumption."

Cook Builders is happy to build your home on your lot or one of their lots which are currently available in Lake Hills, Crown Point's White Hawk Country Club or Feather Rock. Five of

their last 10 homes were built for clients who owned their own lots.

"We must be doing something right, as we have been fortunate to continue building and working consistently with our select subcontractors. There is a fairly distinct difference between our local housing market and what's being reported in the national media," Ericks said. "From our experience, there are definitely people interested in building a new home here, it's just a question of the timing. When they see all of the nice details they're getting for such a fair price with Cook Builders, they definitely see that now is the time."