

THE BUILDER'S JOURNAL™

South Central Michigan Edition



Pete Buzby

Buzby Builders, LLC
The Buzz about Buzby



The limestone, which was imported from Canada, gives this lakefront getaway home loads of curb appeal.

Buzby Builders, LLC

The Buzz about Buzby

Peter Buzby had what some people might call a humble beginning in the building business. Working for his uncle's building company since he was 14, he grew up on job sites, toting construction blocks and learning everything he could. They worked until dark, and even then he wasn't through.

"My uncle would pull his truck up, and turn on the headlights," Pete states, laughing. "Time didn't matter to him. We had a lot of fun, and it was a great learning experience."

After high school, Pete started Buzby Builders, then only a framing company, and set to work doing

roofing, siding, and modular homes.

"I started out small," Pete states. "It wasn't a success until an older colleague of mine took me under his wing and told me I could make it if I hired my own guys. That's when my business really began to take off. Picture me with two big construction

My wife Kathy and I, have enjoyed our home building experience with Buzby Builders, LLC. The quality workmanship and materials utilized in our home met or exceeded our expectations. Coordination of scheduling and performances of all sub contractors was guided by Pete Buzby personally, and we were extremely happy with his level of professionalism. He is definitely dedicated to performing his duties as your home builder and problem solver. We have made a lifelong friend of Pete and would highly recommend Buzby Builders to build your dream home.

– Michael J. LaJiness

guys packed into a tiny multi-colored Ranger, the bed loaded down with so many tools the back is almost dragging the ground. That's all I had to get us around in, and it was a sight to see. I was determined to make it though." At the age of 29 he saved enough money to build his first spec house. After that he was hooked.

His determination paid off. Pete is constantly busy these days building in the Southeastern region of Michigan.

"We prefer to build lakefront homes," Pete states. "Building that type of custom home allows me to be more creative. My clients travel a lot, and they'll see something in Las Vegas that catches their eye. They'll come back and ask me if I can do it. It helps me keep abreast of current trends, and keeps it interesting. I learn a lot from them."

Pete says one of the traits that make him unique is his follow-through after the home is built. If something needs



This master bedroom is a great place to rest after your day on the lake; you can watch the fire or take in your favorite television show on your plasma TV.

fixing up after the client has moved in, Pete will be there.

"Because I have such a great relationship with my crew," Pete states, "if

there's a problem, myself or one of the subcontractors will be there immediately to take care of the problem."

The home Pete just finished work-

This master bath deserves a lot of attention for its design and detail. Beautiful ceramic tile on the floor, a ceramic walk in shower with a granite bench, overhead shower with 2 hand-held shower systems, concrete countertops, a Jacuzzi tub with remote control, bowl style his and hers sinks and elongated toilets.





The entertainers paradise, the bar area of the lower level is done in top-notch fashion by Buzby Builders. Complete with a Sub Zero refrigerator, icemaker, refrigerated wine rack, stainless steel dishwasher, ceramic tile backsplash and concrete countertops.

ing on might well be his masterpiece to date. Built in Stonehedge, a gated lakefront community in Lenawee County, it is an awe-inspiring 5,000 square foot custom home.

“Everything is top of the line in that home,” Pete states. “Touch pads in the rooms control everything from the plasma TV’s to what radio station you want to listen to, or maybe you want to listen to the radio in the kitchen and a CD in the

basement at the same time, a truly modern convenience just a finger tip away. The clients had an idea to do concrete countertops in the kitchen, so we decided to try it, and it turned out absolutely beautiful. We also went with a stained concrete floor in the lower level, not only is it aesthetically appealing, but it also makes for easy clean up with the in and out lifestyle that goes with a lakefront home. Sparing no attention to detail the

railing throughout the home was custom made out of stainless steel. On the outside of the home you will notice the breathtaking landscape using limestone imported from Canada. “It’s definitely my favorite so far.” Pete says.

Pete, ever the practical joker, decided the best way to welcome the clients into their new home would be to stage a harmless prank. Since the house had the custom touch pads built into every room, he decided to

Beginning in November of 2003, we began the project of building a house on Loch Erin with Pete Buzby and Buzby Builders, LLC. Through its completion in August of 2004, the process of the “building” was very positive, which is generally not always the case. Pete and his team were attentive in every step of the way, from the original plan layout and modifications to the selected plan, to keeping the project on plan and schedule. If anything was outside the agreed to plan in terms of design or cost, Pete consistently communicated with us to make sure we were aware of the issues and for our approval. The fine detail of this house was critical to us and Buzby Builders oversaw that all the important design elements were carried out in the process. They were on top of the project all the way through and were always willing to meet with us at any time, including at a moments notice or even Saturdays and Sundays. Living an hour away from the new house posed many logistic challenges for us, but working with Buzby Builders gave us a level of confidence that we did not have to consistently be monitoring the progress. I would recommend Buzby Builders for any future project.

– Gregory D. White



There is plenty of room to roam on this main level. The high ceilings combined with the sleek and subtle lines of the La-z-boy furniture make sure you never feel crowded, whether you are watching TV or just taking a look at the lake from one of the many windows that line the back of this custom built lake front getaway.

pre-set the radio in the living room to stations carrying some of his favorite talk radio programs. When the

day came to show the finished home off to the new homeowners, he made sure to point out the radio.

“We all had a good laugh over it,” Pete states. “They thought it was funny.”

Pete was able to build the home in just eight months, a feat that shocked some of the competition. He attributes it to the excellence of his staff and subcontractors.



The finished lower level of this lakefront home features stained concrete floors, recessed lighting, plenty of windows, a wide screen LCD TV complete with surround sound and power leather recliners from Lazy-boy.

Last year we changed our primary residence to Loch Erin in Lenawee County. We had almost no prior knowledge and no personal contacts in the area. As Buzby Builders, LLC built our new house, Pete was very supportive of us, the newcomers. He was knowledgeable and direct during the whole project. Pete was anxious to communicate with us on any concern, large or small. Since we were not living close to the building site, this was especially helpful. In retrospect, we are well satisfied with both the process and the product. We feel fortunate to have found Buzby Builders.

– Harry and Marge Stevens



The gourmet cooks dream. This kitchen has it all: side-by-side Sub-Zero refrigerator, a 6 burner Viking cooktop, a pot filler dual convection ovens, 2 stainless steel dishwashers, 2 sinks, a warming drawer, and a small plasma TV to watch while you wait for the rolls to get done.

“I feel that by hiring the very best, all the time, we can put a house together in a very short period,” Pete states. “So that’s what I do. All my subcontractors know each other because they’re always working together. We all work as a team because we’re all friends, and that makes the process go really smoothly. When you hire the best you get the best.”

Pete says the relationship with his clients is one of his favorite parts of the job.

“I think what makes my business unique is the amount of time I’m able to give,” Pete states. “I’m not married, and don’t have kids, so I can give that time to my clients, and they really appreciate that. I’ve be-

come best friends with a lot of people I built houses for. We play golf, go to lunch. And I live right here. I can look out my window and see all the houses I’ve built, all filled with friends. It’s very satisfying.”

Having fun on the job is also a top priority.

“I’ve learned the secret to making customers come back,” Pete states, “is to keep them smiling. So we have a lot of fun. We’ll do things together, like have a light fixture day. We’ll go pick out light fixtures together, and we’ll do lunch. I get a lot of repeat customers and referrals, and I think it’s because I keep things fun. Life is too short not to.”

Pete said he’s most proud of what he’s accomplished so far.

“It’s not my desire to be the biggest builder,” Pete states. “I just want to do it right, and I know I’ve done that when my clients get all moved in and invite me over for dinner. There’s nothing better than to see them at home in something I’ve created. I truly feel I’m #1 in my community, and I can’t ask for anything more than that. I see myself more as a concierge than just a builder,” Pete states.

The Builder’s Journal is honored to feature Buzby Builders in this issue and wishes him continued success. For more information call Pete Buzby at 517-467-2717 or visit the Buzby Builders website at www.buzbybuilders.com.

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The Builder’s Journal is a monthly trade publication mailed to residential building professionals in the South Central Michigan area. Individuals and companies featured as cover stories have been nominated by their peers within the industry based upon their business ethics, quality of workmanship, and dedication to their customers.