

# Sechrist Construction and Remodeling, Inc.

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## Stick Built Homes

October 2020

As a custom home builder, we are proud to say that Sechrist Construction and Remodeling, Inc. is a traditional stick builder. One of the most common questions that we get from potential customers who are in the midst of the research process is, “What is the difference between stick built and modular homes?” It’s an important question to ask when considering a custom home. Being a custom home builder allows us to include the infinite customization options and benefits that come with this type of construction. But it isn’t enough just to tell you that we are proud stick builders and leave it at that. Let’s look at the basic differences.

Stick built means that classic home construction is done with local construction materials and nails right on site. Your local contractor builds the home and oversees every aspect of its construction. Laborers assemble the home to your satisfaction, while supplying them with employment locally. The local code enforcement officers are involved, ensuring that everything is up to code and well done through the building process. The homeowner has the power to customize literally every aspect of construction and make the home completely the homeowners’ style, even up to the last minute in construction. With all these people overseeing your project, superb quality will result.

Modular homes are factory assembled homes. Sections of the home are transported across the country where they will be combined and assembled onto a permanent foundation. The method of fabrication was developed in the early 20th Century and came into popularity in the US after WWII, as the troops coming home from war were in need of affordable housing for them and their families. Back in that time period, someone could order a home from a picture in the Sears & Roebuck catalog. Of course modular housing has come a long way since then. Each house is produced with better quality and there are additional models to choose from these days. A homeowner can pick out a home style, have it fabricated, delivered and set up in a matter of five months. Modular homes must meet the same local building codes as a stick built home and when they arrive on site they already have the wiring, plumbing, insulation, flooring and windows in place. The contractor and his crew have little finish work except to connect the pieces together and its done!

The modular home has come a long way over time and they are affordable and of better quality now. However, when it comes to customization opportunities, structural integrity and intrinsic value, we stand by the stick built process. Stick built homes keep their resale value intact over the years, long after construction has been completed.

*In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.* — Albert Einstein



“Like”  
us!

# Floor It, Henry!



When it comes to home improvement projects, some homeowners prefer to emphasize style, and others are more concerned with durability and overall quality. However, it's possible to find a balance between both. Just make sure the type of flooring you choose is also made to last.



Hardwood—It provides an elegant look to almost any room. It comes in countless designs and styles to meet the preferences of any homeowner.



Engineered Tile—Engineered with 70% limestone and other resilient materials to be the perfect alternative to natural stone, porcelain or ceramic tile. It has the character you love but its warmer under your feet.



Vinyl—Durable and easy to clean, vinyl is water proof and won't swell when exposed to water. Vinyl comes in all kinds of styles. It can mimic stone, planks, or even tile.

## Get Back to the Porch

The porch has evolved along with the quickened pace of everyday life. Porches were originally designed to create a more tolerable place to rest and share in conversation after a long, hot day out in the field. However, we can attribute the decline of sitting on the porch to air conditioning, televisions, backyard pools and the ability to be more mobile. Despite modern conveniences, we can still revive the porch, restoring and enjoying its quaint beauty. We need to get back to the porch.

In creating the porch, make sure it is raised up off the ground about 30 inches. This will help to create a sense of security and allow you to look out over the neighborhood while you drink that first cup of coffee in the morning. In the plans, make sure there is a minimum of 8 feet of depth on the front porch. The typical front porch should be large enough for people to move around on it. The best way to ensure that you use the porch is to turn it into an outdoor room. Expand your house and create a new living space to be enjoyed by the whole family.

An inviting walkway to the front door will excite your visitors and give your home great curb appeal. Often we don't think about designing lighting into our plans until after our project has been built but it should be an early design decision instead. Consider adding pathway lights into your design for when your guests are leaving in the evening. Light the pathway to their car.

Getting fresh air first thing in the morning starts the day off on a positive note. Sip your morning tea while watching the morning shape up. Stop and listen to the different birds sing their morning tunes. They are louder than you imagined. Whether you are writing in your journal or reading something inspirational before you begin your day, the porch is a prime spot to slow down and savor the moment.



How often do you pull into the driveway and head into the house through the garage? Start walking through the front door when you get home instead. Not only will you get a little more exercise and fresh air, but you will be able to glance at your front yard and the neighborhood and be satisfied that all is well. From the porch you can take in the glowing sunset as it drops below the horizon and the day fades into evening. The crickets will bring on the cool evening with the last chorus of the day. Take it to the porch to rest, brush the anxious thoughts of the day away and to celebrate all life has given you.



# Email the Expert

**Q** — When the wind blew rain in through the soffit, water dripped down onto the ceiling. It only happened one time but it left a lot of damage to the ceiling drywall. How do you repair a water-stained ceiling.

**A** — Pin a plastic tarp around all four sides of the patching area and let the tarp hang at least 4' down.



Make sure the ceiling is completely dry. Remove any loose or flaking texture and spray a stain blocker and ceiling texture (Kilz Upshot is available at home centers and hardware stores). Applying the new ceiling texture is the trickiest part of the whole project. The texture comes out fast and the propellant dissipates quickly. The texture repair is designed to match the original white ceiling texture color, but you might have to repaint the entire ceiling to completely hide the patch.

If you have a question you would like to ask? EMAIL THE EXPERT by sending your question to [steve@sechristconstruction.com](mailto:steve@sechristconstruction.com). Please be sure to include your name and phone number in case additional information is required to answer your question.

## That's a Smart Thermostat

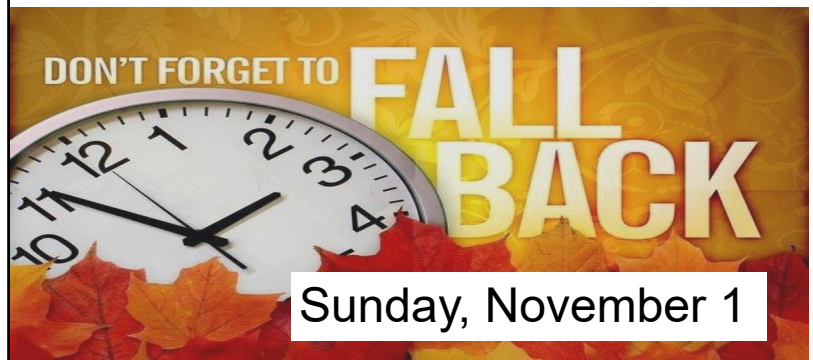
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The Nest Learning Thermostat has Wi-Fi so you can remotely control the temperature from your phone, tablet, or PC. This latest thermostat also has a larger display and a few more sensors and it saves energy.

The Nest Learning Thermostat is the first thermostat to get ENERGY STAR certified. It learns what temperature you like and builds a schedule around yours. The thermostat notices when you are there. It lights up brightly when you walk in the room and displays the temperature, weather or time from across the room.

Control the Nest app from anywhere. Adjust the temperature from the app and the Nest Thermostat adjusts quickly back at home. It is just one part of the heating and cooling system but it can keep an eye on the furnace as well. The Nest Thermostat will send you an alert if the HVAC system is acting up.



Keanu Reeves was born on September 2, 1964 in Beirut, Lebanon. His mother is English and was a costume designer and performer. His father was from Hawaii. Early in his life he left Beirut, Lebanon with his mother to relocate to Australia. His mom met and married a Hollywood director there and in 1970 the couple took Keanu with them to Canada.

Keanu suffered with dyslexia and had a difficult time in school. In his high school years he was swept up in the appeal of ice hockey and even had the opportunity to try out for the hockey team, the Spitfires. He turned it down, however, believing that his future was in performing. At age 17, he dropped out of high school and went to California in order to live with his stepfather and gain some jobs on various Hollywood sets and learn more about acting roles.



In 1989, a movie called Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure came out. Keanu Reeves played Ted and the film became one of the cult classics of the 1980s. After the movie hit the screen he was already on to another adventure. He played bass guitar for a band called Dogstar. They opened up for some extremely big name acts for the time, like Bon Jovi. Later, of course he did commercials, a number of movies, such as, "Speed" and three Matrix movies.

These days, Keanu Reeves has been in the entertainment business for decades with impressive roles in films. He owns a motorcycle company where he spends time designing his own brand of motorcycles. He is private, generous and kind to others.

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Serving all of Clinton  
 and Lycoming  
 Counties



**Check out our Website:**  
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## From My Desk:

What a season of life we find ourselves in at the present time, right?

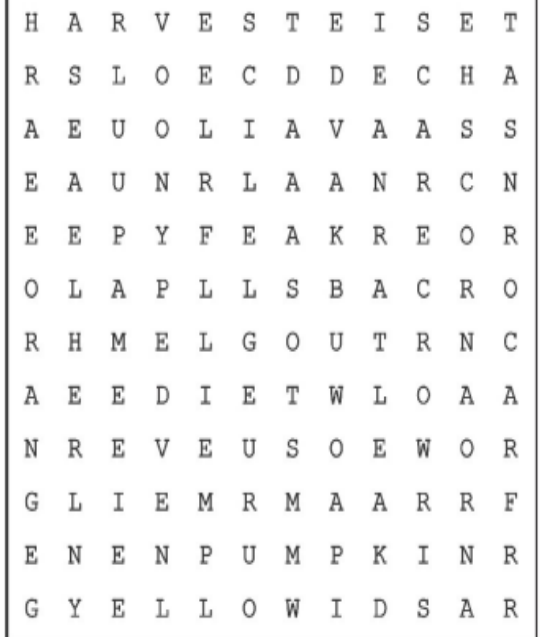
In the midst of this chaos and indecision we continue to work diligently on the construction projects we have on the table. We welcome your indoor remodeling projects as the colder months draw upon us. In closing, I urge all of us to stay motivated to reach our daily goals, spend time with friends and family, help others in need and pray with focus on what really matters in this world.

Thankfully, Steve

## Green Tips for Fall:



- Check the air pressure in your tires. Cooler temperatures lower tire pressure.
- Remove window air conditioners for the winter.
- Move furniture or any obstructions from the vents, baseboard heaters, or registers on the floor.
- Vacuum the refrigerator coils to keep the compressor running efficiently.
- Check your roof for any missing shingles. Clean the roof gutters and make sure downspouts are pointed away from the house.
- Reverse the direction on the ceiling fan. It should run counter clockwise.



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|--------|--------------|-----------|
| red    | corn         | sunflower |
| yellow | harvest      | scarecrow |
| acorns | apples       | pumpkin   |
| autumn | hayride      | football  |
| leaves | Thanksgiving | orange    |

