

Mike Harris ventures into making small, affordable housing

By
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With the economy seeing hard times, people are looking for ways to live cheaper but still have certain luxuries. Many are turning to smaller, more affordable housing.

Mike Harris has been catering to just those needs for years, making furniture at reasonable prices. However, he has recently expanded his woodworking knowledge and has begun to make miniature houses. These miniature houses are state of the art, eco-friendly and completely livable with all the comforts of home.

Harris starts with a trailer he sands down, re-paints and makes sure it is sturdy enough for construction. From there, he starts from the bottom and works his way up to the finished product. He starts with flooring and works his way to siding

Then he installs windows and insulation and eventually adds wiring to each house. On average, it takes him probably about a month to a month and a half, depending on the length of the trailer and how intricate the house is, to complete.

Harris also does his best to keep the cost as low as possible. A miniature house starts at around \$5,000 and goes up depending on what a customer is looking for. His goal is to build a good, sturdy and attractive home, but to make it affordable as well. One way Harris keeps costs down is spending a lot of time looking for good deals on lumber and other materials that are needed to complete a miniature house.

"When someone buys one of my houses I want them to feel proud of what they have," said Harris.

He first discovered this idea about two years ago from a television show called "Tiny Houses."

With these types of houses becoming

more popular, Harris is bringing the miniature house movement to the Valley. Harris recently sold his first miniature house and the ideas have been flowing ever since.

The size of the house depends on the size of the trailer that it is built on. Harris' most recent house was eight feet by sixteen feet. With so many ideas and untapped potential for these houses, Harris has many future plans.

Some of those plans include building houses for disaster relief such as major fires. Harris remembers when the Biscuit Fire was raging through the Siskiyou National Forest in 2002. Many of the fire crews needed extra buildings for housing, offices, showers and places to just relax. These miniature houses are so versatile that they can be made to any specification needed and that's just what Harris plans on doing. Not only is he looking to make houses for people to live in

and for disaster relief, but he also wants to help the local homeless population.

"I just thought instead of people just complaining about the problem, build them a temporary place to sleep," said Harris. "Instead of normal house amenities, build bunk beds inside."

Harris doesn't just want to see a place for the homeless to go for the night to get out of the cold. He also wants to help them get back on their feet. With the temporary shelter, Harris would like to see rules and regulations that have to be followed. For instance, you have to be sober to be able to spend the night in the house. In exchange for using the house a person must go to meetings that will help get them get back on track to find permanent housing, clothing and a job.

The first couple of houses that Harris has sold did not have electricity in them, but he plans on working

with a local licensed electrician and getting the houses approved to have electricity, making the houses have a more home-like feel. Because of the small size of the houses, Harris feels that building a full size bathroom would take up too much room. So, with some of the houses he plans on building outhouses to go with the miniature houses while still keeping the shower and or bath inside. In keeping with the homey feel, he also is planning on building furniture to go inside.

Harris plans on continuing with building furniture as he has been for years, but he has found a new venture he has wanted to pursue for a while. With each house he builds, new ideas come to mind and different ways to improve his already thriving furniture business. For more information contact Mike Harris at 541-415-0812.

Oregon Evacuation Levels 2014

LEVEL 1: A Level 1

Evacuation means "BE READY" for potential evacuation. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.

LEVEL 2:

A Level 2 Evacuation means "BE SET" to evacuate. You must prepare to leave at a moments notice.

This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter with family/friends outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. Residents MAY have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk.

THIS MAY BE THE ONLY NOTICE THAT YOU RECEIVE

Emergency services cannot guarantee that they will be able to notify you if conditions rapidly deteriorate. Area media services will be asked to broadcast periodic updates.

LEVEL 3:

A Level 3 Evacuation means "GO" Evacuate NOW

Leave immediately!

Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should evacuate immediately. If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand that emergency services may not be available to assist you further. DO NOT delay leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home.

THIS WILL BE THE LAST NOTICE THAT YOU RECEIVE

Entry to evacuated areas may be denied until conditions are safe. Area radio and TV stations have been asked to broadcast periodic updates. Sign up for emergency notification at <https://flashalert.net> This document has been reviewed and accepted by Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, Oregon Office of Emergency Management, Oregon Fire Chief's Association and Oregon Department of Forestry. This document should be considered an official document for use to the public on All Hazards Evacuations.

Before wildfire threatens

Evacuation Plan - Print your plan and put it on your refrigerator, or put a copy in your disaster supplies kit. Make sure everyone in your family knows where your kit is. Also keep in mind that many of these principles apply to all disaster types.

Get a map of your area and make sure everyone in your family understands the ways in and out of your neighborhood.

Assign tasks to each family member for what to do during Level 1 (Ready), Level 2 (Set), Level 3 (GO!) evacuations. Print

this checklist and post it on your refrigerator.

Designate a meeting place - this could be a friend or family members' house, or an evacuation shelter.

Choose an out-of-the-area contact person to relay information about your welfare to family and friends and to keep your phone lines open.

House Preparation

Make sure house numbers are visible from the street. Make sure driveways are wide enough for fire trucks to enter (10-12 feet wide).

Prepare your defensible space. See the Firewise checklists and tips.

Disaster Supplies Kit

Keep kits supplied and ready at all times in your home and in your vehicle. Kits should include, at the minimum, food and water for each family member for 3 days, battery operated radio, flashlight and extra batteries, first aid kit, and an extra set of sturdy clothing for each family member. Don't forget medications, as necessary. See the "Be Ready" checklist for additional kit items.

Assemble pet kits and keep them in your home and vehicle. Include food, water, leashes, carriers, and medications.

Assemble special documents, like birth certificates, social security cards, legal documents, phone contact lists, family photos, household inventory, and any portable valuables into easily-moved containers that can be loaded into a vehicle quickly and easily.

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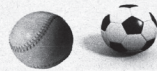
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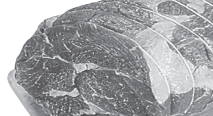
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Sandwich.....
2 organic multigrain waffles with 1 egg, bacon or sausage. Comes with a side of syrup.

GRAB-N-GO **\$2.99** ea.
Hoagies.....
Assorted meats, cheeses, lettuce, mayo, mustard. Reg. \$3.99 ea.

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Reg. 1.99 lb.

Black Beans..... **\$1.09** lb.
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