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Contact Gail Kearns, To Press and Beyond
805-898-2263 or gail@topressandbeyond.com

AUTHOR AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

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A TREND IN THE CRIPPLING HOUSING MARKET

Homeowners Make Improvements to Existing Homes, Adding Value for the Future

(Scottsdale, Arizona, August 01, 2008) -- Tighter lending standards, foreclosures and wary buyers means there is an enormous inventory of empty housing units adversely affecting the sale of existing homes. Homeowners who might want to sell and buy a bigger and better place to live are now choosing to stay where they are and make home improvements on what they already own. But even that can be a financial strain.

As indicated by author Bill Trimble (*Screw It! I'll Be My Own Contractor*; Maricopa Publishing, September 2008, www.maricopapublishing.com), there are some relatively inexpensive ways to spruce up your home until the market stabilizes. Here are a few ideas:

- Clean up your yard and do a little landscaping. **Fixing up the outside** is simple but effective and maybe even the single **most cost-effective investment** you can make to increase the value of your house!
- Put in a new room, or remodel one. The National Association of Realtors says that a **kitchen or bath remodel can return 102.2% of your investment**. WOW!
- There is a rapidly growing demand for energy efficient homes. **Add a solar panel to help with the water heating bill**, or exchange that old rusting furnace with a new unit with high efficiency rating. You could also replace your old single pane windows with thermal pane units.
- **Change patio covers and enclosures** to make these areas more of an extension of the inside living space. This not only improves your living environment but it makes your home appear much larger to a prospective buyer.

In short, **spend money on what can be seen**. And if you've got a little more to spend on a major re-do, why not be your own contractor? Bill Trimble is the go-to guy for all your owner/builder aspirations. Trimble has won the Master Builders Award and the Santa Barbara Beautiful Award and was given the Award of Merit at the Pacific Coast Builders Conference. His new book *Screw It! I'll Be My Own Contractor* will guide you through all the phases of being the manager of your dream project. And you'll have fun doing it! Check it out at www.maricopapublishing.com.

To request a review copy or schedule an interview, contact Gail M. Kearns at 805-898-2263 or e-mail gail@topressandbeyond.com