

## Designing in the Extreme...extreme weather that is!

By Meg Hibbert

The scene was sheer chaos, but somehow, about 200 contractors and and even more volunteers built a totally new house in less days than it took to create the earth.

Salem residents Quinn and Lisa Mongan and their crew from ServPro pulled all-nighters in snow, ice and sub-freezing weather and contributed about \$9,000 in time and services helping make "Extreme Makeover Home Edition" happen for professional dancer Carol Crawford-Smith, who has multiple sclerosis.

Sunday night, the public will get a glimpse into the interior of the Blacksburg house - and the process of building it - when the television show airs on ABC from 7-9 p.m., preceded by one hour of local coverage on Channel 13.

When the pre-show party kicks off at Virginia Tech, ServPro's Jeff Shelton and his family will be there.

Tuesday Quinn Mongan and Shelton, speaking to the Salem-Glenvar Rotary Club, gave members a glimpse into behind-the-scenes work they took part in during the house build in December.

"If you're someone who likes organization, this is not the project for you," said Mongan. "You had to take deep breaths, stand back and do what you had to do."

Initially, his company was contacted by general contractor Building Specialists about doing cleanup work on the site. Instead, ServPro was involved from the start in hush-hush meetings before the project was made public was called on throughout the job to do everything from running to the local grocery store for toilet paper and paper towels for the house where contractors were staying, to toting wall board and painting.

They were there, too, to see Crawford-Smith and her two sons return Sunday afternoon in the white stretch limo with blacked-out windows, and to watch the family's reaction when they saw their 2,400-square-foot handicapped accessible home. The house is valued at \$420,000, Shelton said.

Shelton, who does sales and marketing for ServPro, and Shane Stoll, the company's production crew chief, pulled an all-nighter to help with final cleanup and anything else that needed doing.

Somewhere between midnight and 3 a.m., Shelton explained, what had been only mud was transformed into a yard with rolled-out grass and exterior lighting. It was magnificent.

David Duffy, the company's vice president of operations, and his wife Nancy got right in there for the dirty work, too.

And in the dead of night, 12:30 a.m., to be exact, Lisa Mongan, Salem City Councilman Jane Johnson and her sister, Shelton's wife Kathy and other female volunteers got a renewed burst

of energy when they got Extreme Makeover designer/carpenter Paul DiMeo to autograph their T-shirts.

Shelton captured the moment with his cell phone camera.

He, in turn, was able to get a picture of designer/carpenter Paige Hemmis in her trademark pink hard hat and pink tool belt.

And the TV show's design team leader Ty Pennington?

"He touched my shoulder," Mongan said. "Ty really wasn't there that much, just to lead the "Braveheart March" of construction crew, volunteers and the Virginia Tech band on Tuesday before the old house was razed, and again on Sunday to say the famous words, "Move that bus."

Although show's idea is to tear down and completely rebuild a home in 106 hours, "the demolition didn't start until noon Tuesday," Mongan explained. "The crews were still putting the finishing touches to the house as the family arrived at 3:30 Sunday afternoon."