

HOVNANIAN ENTERPRISES INC  
Form 8-K  
December 07, 2004

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **December 7, 2004**

**HOVNANIAN ENTERPRISES, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or Other  
Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

**1-8551**  
(Commission File Number)

**22-1851059**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**10 Highway 35, P.O. Box 500**  
**Red Bank, New Jersey 07701**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

**(732) 747-7800**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**  
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since  
Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

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- o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 2.02.

Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On December 7, 2004, Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. issued a press release announcing its preliminary financial results for the fiscal fourth quarter and year ended October 31, 2004. A copy of the Earnings Press Release is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

The information in this Current Report on Form 8-K and the Exhibit attached hereto is being furnished and shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

The Earnings Press Release contains information about EBITDA, a non-GAAP financial measure. The most directly comparable GAAP financial measure to EBITDA is net income. A reconciliation of EBITDA to net income is contained in the Earnings Press Release.

Management believes EBITDA to be relevant and useful information as EBITDA is a standard measure commonly reported and widely used by analysts, investors and others to measure our financial performance and our ability to service our debt obligations. EBITDA is also one of several metrics used by our management to measure the cash generated from our operations. EBITDA does not take into account substantial costs of doing business, such as income taxes and interest expense. While many in the financial community consider EBITDA to be an important measure of comparative operating performance, it should be considered in addition to, but not as a substitute for, income before income taxes, net income, cash flow provided by operating activities and other measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States that are presented on the financial statements included in the Company's reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Additionally, our calculation of EBITDA may be different than the calculation used by other companies, and, therefore, comparability may be affected.

Item 9.01.

Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) *Exhibits.*

Exhibit 99.1 Earnings Press Release Fiscal Fourth Quarter and Year Ended October 31, 2004.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

HOVNANIAN ENTERPRISES, INC.  
(Registrant)

|     |        |   |
|-----|--------|---|
| By: | /s/    | J. Larry Sorsby   |
|     | Name:  | J. Larry Sorsby   |
|     | Title: | Executive Vice President and<br>Chief Financial Officer |

Date: December 7, 2004

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit   |
|----------------|---|
| Exhibit 99.1   | Earnings Press Release Fiscal Fourth Quarter and Year Ended October 31, 2004. |