

THE HOME BUILDER

Dallas Builders
ASSOCIATION

www.DallasBuilders.org



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Dallas BA's Industry Investors for 2020



BRIEFLY

The Dallas Builders Association is planning to launch a series of previously recorded classes for purchase through DallasBuilders.org. This is being done to help support members as they continue to grow their industry knowledge, which is more important now than ever before. Members should let staff know if there are specific topics they would like to learn more about in a virtual training session. Send suggestions to education@dallasbuilders.com.

The Dallas BA has updated the current job board at DallasBuilders.com/constructioncareers/. The new job board platform is now more streamlined and even more user-friendly. The use of this site will be free to members of the Association and job seekers (with promo code). To continue benefiting from this feature please set up your new account, posting any current openings and employee candidate resumes. The Association has entered into a contract with ZipRecruiter to ensure job listings are relevant and vast. This will help match even more qualified candidates with employers.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Plano, TX, and Additional Offices

Association response to COVID-19 and how members can help

By Phil Crone
Executive Officer

These last weeks have been an extraordinary moment for our nation and for the Dallas Builders Association. The battle against this virus is an unprecedented challenge unlike anything we've seen in our lifetime.

The Dallas Builders Association is doing everything in our power to keep the housing industry open for business. This includes working with area jurisdictions to ensure that we are able to continue, with jobsite safety being our utmost priority.

Housing is a Necessity

Along with food and water, housing is a core element of human existence. As such, permitting, inspection, construction, and the transfer of ownership of housing is an inextricable part of our essential infrastructure.

We are in contact with area jurisdictions and working with them to convey changes in their permitting and inspection operations.

Dallas County has ordered all individuals living in the county to shelter in

place. Essential businesses may continue to operate, but must maintain strict social distancing between individuals to the extent possible.

Residential construction (Section 2b) is deemed essential critical infrastructure and may continue to operate subject to the aforementioned guidelines. Specifically, all work necessary to residential construction operations may continue.

Like everyone else, local jurisdictions are implementing social distancing practices and limiting gatherings to 10 or fewer people. We implore you to do the same in your workplace and on your job sites. This will change many aspects of our operations, but it will allow us to continue working. We cannot emphasize enough how important this is.

COVID-19 Resources

Within the Association's COVID-19 response website, DallasBuild-



ers.org/covid19, there is a Google Document where you can view the latest updates and make comments if you'd like to supplement the information we have provided. When doing so, please cite the source of your information.

The COVID-19 website is the Dallas BA's primary resource for keeping you informed. The site also features a list of members who we have identified as potentially being helpful with permitting, inspections, engineering, plan review and other services that jurisdictions may need to look to the private sector for assistance on.

Please use the comments section of that document to provide additional information or email us at info@dallasbuilders.com.

Finally, at press time, the Dallas BA was organizing the Building Hope Drive for urgently needed blood donations and respirators and other equip-

ment in partnership with our friends at the Greater Fort Worth Builders Association.

Again, here is what we need from you:

- Limit your workplace and job sites to 10 individuals or less and adhere strictly to social distancing guidelines.

- Know that we are working diligently with area jurisdictions to keep our industry in business.

- View and update the aforementioned documents in the comments feature or email us at info@dallasbuilders.com.

Remember, all Dallas BA events and meetings are postponed or canceled until April 30. A complete list of impacted meetings and operations is on the COVID-19 website.

We sincerely hope that you and your family stay safe and vigilant through this difficult time. We need your support as Dallas Builders Association members collectively projecting a strong voice for the vital industry we represent.

We will get through this together.

ARC Awards set for August 15 at Vouv

Entries will open May 4 for the 2020 ARC Awards, which recognize excellence for associates, remodelers and custom builders.

This year's gala will be held Saturday, Aug. 15, at Vouv in Dallas. A hosted cocktail reception will kick off the black-tie event.

The deadline for entries will be June 29 at 11:59 p.m. ARC entry fees are \$125 per category.

Awards will be given in multiple categories in the areas of:

- Remodeling and Renovation
- New Construction
- Architectural Design
- Interior Design
- Individual Achievement



ARC Awards partnerships range from \$500 for a Silver Partner to \$8,000 for the Title Partner. Visit ARCAwardsEntries.com.

Home of the Week now features homes in all stages of construction

Now is a great time for Dallas BA builders to take advantage of the Home of the Week program, which allows members to feature homes in all stages of completion. From conceptualization to on the market homes, it's never been easier to promote your project for free. This represents a value of more than \$2,000 in advertising dollars and offers prime exposure.

Since 1959, the Dallas Builders Association has been working in conjunction with *The Dallas Morning News* to offer builder members the chance to have their home featured as the Home of the Week.

During this longstanding partnership, more than 3,000 homes have been recognized in the Sunday paper as well as on DallasNews.com, the Association's consumer-facing website,

DallasBuilders.com, and on various social media platforms.

This is a benefit offered only to Dallas BA builder members. Those who are interested simply apply. Those who are selected will submit an article depicting their home and a high quality photograph/rendering.

Builders can submit a home that is not yet completed or is still on the drawing board. Their homes and company get mass exposure to people actively looking for a home.

Participating builders have reported increased traffic and sales from the exposure provided by the Home of the Week program.

To register, contact Creative and Marketing Coordinator Holly Pemberton at holly.pemberton@dallasbuilders.com.

The following Dallas BA meetings and events have been postponed or cancelled through April 30, 2020:

All Division & Council meetings - **Cancelled**

Committee meetings - held virtually or rescheduled

State of the Industry Summit - rescheduled to Thursday, September 3

March After Hours at KJ Custom Screens and Outdoor Living - **Cancelled**

McSAM Awards - rescheduled to Saturday, August 29

Crawfish Boil - **Cancelled**

Parade of Homes - **Cancelled**

All Education Classes - Postponed

4 from Dallas BA honored by Professional Builder Magazine as 40 Under 40

Congratulations to Dallas BA Executive Officer Phil Crone, who has been named one of 2019's Forty Under 40 by *Professional Builder* magazine.

Also recognized on the prestigious list are the following Dallas BA

members: Cassian Bernard, VP, Sales & Marketing, M/I Homes; Taylor Humphrey, Division Sales & Marketing Manager, Pacesetter Homes; and Sean Ricks, President, DFW Division, Trendmaker Homes.



Cassian Bernard



Phil Crone



Taylor Humphrey



Sean Ricks

BMC hosts After Hours February 27



Matt Walls (Winston Custom Homes), Kevin Bell (GoFor), Cole Baker (BMC)



Matt Walls (Winston Custom Homes), Darryn Edestrand (BMC), Stanton Andrews (Village Cupboards), Cole Baker (BMC)



Matt Walls (Winston Custom Homes), Frank Murphy (Wynne/Jackson), Cole Baker (BMC)



Matt Walls (Winston Custom Homes), Mike Moss (Ornata Residential Services), Cole Baker (BMC)



Phil Crone (Dallas BA), Matt Walls (Winston Custom Homes), Kelli Armstrong (JBC Water Treatment Company), Cole Baker and Darryn Edestrand (BMC)



Jon Stricklin (Pro-TechT) and Matt Walls (Winston Custom Homes)

The HomeFront

-Gov't Affairs News and Info

Government Issues to Keep in Mind During COVID-19 Crisis

David Lehde
Director of
Government
Affairs



Before I type another word:
IMPORTANT: In the effort to keep the housing business in safe operation, Dallas BA instructs members to keep job sites to 10 or fewer individuals to maintain effective social distancing.

You should visit Dallas BA's COVID-19 Response webpage at the following web address for helpful information, including industry operations, regulatory updates and helpful links to resources from agencies and organizations ranging from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and OSHA to the National Association of Home Builders. <https://dallasbuilders.org/covid19/>

Throughout the coronavirus crisis, Dallas BA will continue the effort to keep the housing industry in operation as it should be viewed as critical infrastructure. This includes working with area jurisdictions to ensure that it is done with job safety being the utmost priority.

We understand that members have questions regarding government services and offices related to how residential construction is impacted. As of March 20, here is what we know. Keep in mind this is a fluid situation and may change.

Regarding submittals, permitting and inspections, the more common response we have seen in area municipalities is the intent of the building inspections departments to continue business operations, with the caveat that social distancing must be strictly adhered to. In most cases this means closing public office space to visitors and requiring applications to be submitted via online portals or email, while some may allow drop-offs. While some may consider pre-construction meetings for 10 people or fewer, builders should expect these types of meetings and communication to be facilitated via telephone.

Cities we have spoken with indicate their current strategy is to continue to deliver inspections. However, as this is a quickly changing situation, Dallas BA will continue to look for alternatives as needed.

Another concern is how state law could impact development plat submittals. Due to state law, cities have a timeline that the review process and approval must be completed by. Obviously, in response to COVID-19, public meetings could be impacted, resulting in possible delays.

As with municipalities, special utility districts will also be impacted.

With limited staff and the need to provide and maintain water and other services to existing users, other operations will be stretched, and preventing exposure to the virus, to avoid quarantine, is a priority. Due to those concerns, Mustang Water District on March 17 notified that they are temporarily suspending the setting of meters on new applications. Mustang clarified to Dallas BA that those applications and payments that were already submitted were not subject to the temporary hold. However, due to pressure on operations, there could be delays. And much like other local government entities, things could change.

Builders and developers are encouraged to contact the municipalities in which they have projects to stay up to date on what services are impacted.

Another issue that impacts home building and every other sector of the local economy is municipal elections. On March 18, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation suspending provisions of the Texas Election Code to allow political subdivisions to postpone their 2020 elections. This means local governments now have the ability to postpone their May 2, 2020, council elections until Nov. 3, 2020. Dallas BA will be monitoring area municipalities for any schedule changes.

Obviously, COVID-19 has a national impact. Recently, actions were taken by the President and Congress in an effort to keep the economy going during this time where major sectors that have been boosting the economy have had to temporarily shut down. At President Trump's direction, the U.S. Treasury announced on March 20 that the deadline for filing taxes was extended from April 15 to July 15. The goal is to allow taxpayers, both individuals and businesses, to hold onto cash during those additional months as they deal with the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. Dallas BA is providing this information for general information only. This information does not constitute the provision of legal advice, tax advice,

accounting services, investment advice or professional consulting of any kind nor should it be construed as such. The information provided herein should not be used as substitute for consultation with a professional tax, accounting, legal or other competent advisers.

Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Response Act, which offers free coronavirus testing, enhances unemployment insurance, expands food security initiatives, provides an increase in federal Medicaid funding and establishes paid sick leave for all employees. Under the bill, certain employers would be required to provide 80 hours (or 2 weeks) of fully paid leave to full-time employees (pro-rata rules would apply to part-time employees) on top of any other existing paid leave program of the employer to cover employees not working for the following uses:

- The employee is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to coronavirus.
- The employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to coronavirus.
- The employee is experiencing symptoms of coronavirus.
- The employee is caring for an individual who is subject to an order.
- The employee is caring for their child because the school is closed, or a childcare provider is unavailable due to coronavirus; or
- The employee is experiencing a similar condition specified by Secretary of HHS.

The legislation and the paid sick leave requirement are listed to sunset on Dec. 31, 2020. Employers are provided a "refund" via tax credits.

Dallas BA will continue to monitor for impacts that COVID-19 is having on our industry and provide updates where we can. Again, this situation is changing fast. Members are encouraged to stay safe and be flexible.



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BARCIE VILCHES, Editor

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