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On The Level - March 2011

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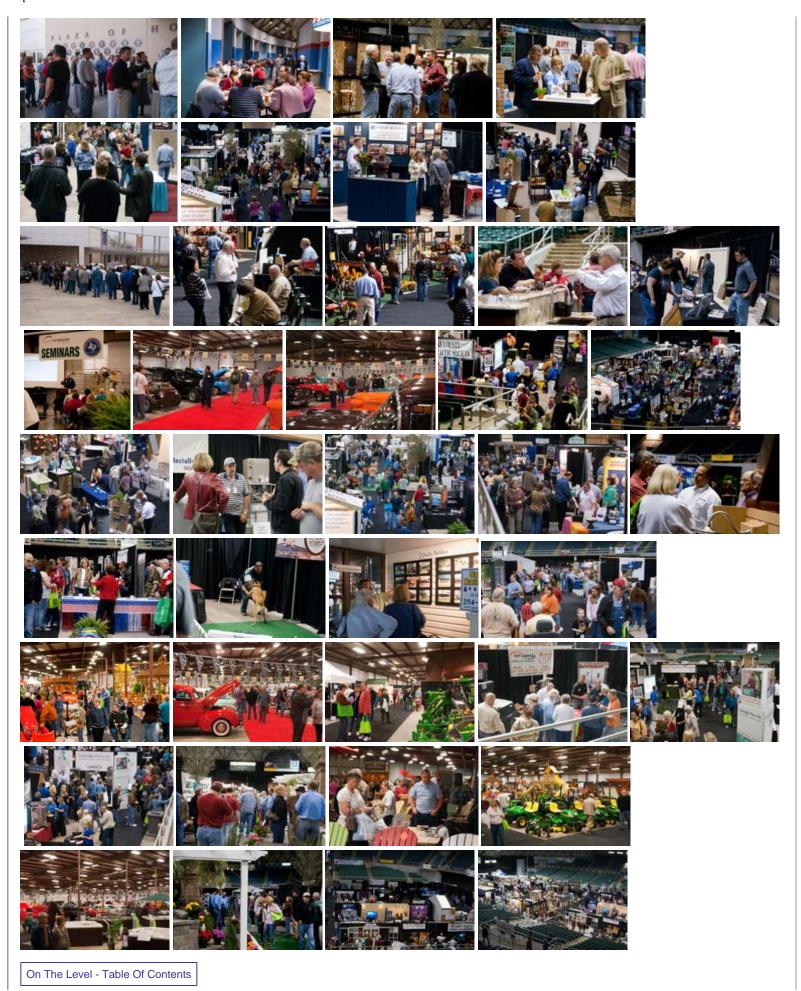
EVENT SUMMARY

The 2011 Home & Garden Show sponsored by the *Temple Daily Telegram*, Carothers Executive Homes, Choice Rentals, Extraco Banks, Stain & Stamp, Russell Patjestka Roofing and Atmos Energy was another success for TABA this year. While we did not set any records this year, the vendors seemed very pleased with the overall traffic and quality of people that came through the show Saturday and Sunday. Sunday's weather was not very helpful in getting out the people with its 80 degree, sunny conditions but all in all, the 2011 show was well attended and well worth the effort for most vendors we heard from.

If you did not have a booth in this year's show, you may want to consider marking October 1st on your calendar. This is the date that we begin to book new vendors into the show for 2012. Planning for the 2012 show will begin immediately and information will be published in July so be watching your newsletter.

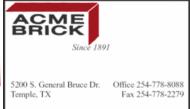
TABA wants to thank Andy Bass of RK Bass Electric for his leadership this year. Andy will return as our chairman for 2012 so if you are interested in helping on this committee please contact him. A big thank you also goes out to all who worked on this committee including Debbie Swift, Scott Morrow, Rusty Betts, Tony Gallagher, Connie Simank, Kim Tyler, Kathy Sodek, Brad Turner and Kelly Hosch. It is only with the help of these volunteers that such a show can be produced. We also want to thank all of our 2011 exhibitors for participating and supporting this show and of course our wonderful sponsors for their generous contributions.

Check out our pictures from the Preview Party and general admission Saturday and Sunday.



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Director of Government Affairs

Blair Anderson

My first few weeks on the job have been quite a whirlwind. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to get me up to speed on the issues, as well as those who have taken me around to visit with community leaders, city staff, TABA members and general tours of the Bell County. I've enjoyed meeting with all of you and learning more about your businesses. We have many issues facing our Government Affairs committee and I am excited to be on board to help insure Bell County remains a great place to build.

Thursday, March 10th, 2011, 1:30-3:30 PM in the City Council Chambers (2nd floor of City Hall), Richard Therriault will be giving a presentation on updates to the city's International Residential Code. All builders, developers, contractors, subcontractors, and anybody else with a vested interest in residential development should plan to attend. He will be giving a presentation outlining all of the changes if the city adopts the 2009 IRC standards. There are many significant changes that will be covered, however, not all of them will affect TABA members. There are a few changes that will result in an additional costs to members, namely carbon monoxide detectors in sleeping areas and higher efficiency windows, both of which we are tracking closely.

<u>Friday, March 11th, 2011, 1:30-3:30 PM</u> in the City Council Chambers (2nd floor of City Hall), Richard Therriault will be giving a presentation on updates to the city's International Building Code. Anyone with a vested interest in commercial development should also plan to attend this meeting.

2011 Temple Unified Development Code Update

The Government Affairs Committee continues to track legislation regarding updates to the City's Unified Development Code. We have a work schedule and stakeholder group in place, and TABA members and myself will be participating in these meetings. It is estimated that the update will be completed some time around April 2012. TABA is also requesting a workshop prior to the city's kickoff of the UDC update in order to better understand what the goals, objectives, and deliverables of the update will be.

Temple Sign Code Update

The city is considering changes to the sign code which will give Planning Staff more authority to address the issue of dilapidated signs within the city. Planning Staff are considering an administrative approval of sign changes, updates and additions. It is unclear at this time how our members may be impacted, but I will continue tracking this issue as it moves its way thru the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Rally Day in Austin

Thank you to all those who were able to attend our Texas Association of Builders Rally Day in Austin. We had approximately 22 members from TABA attend and meet with Representative Sheffield and Senator Fraser to discuss our issues. John Kiella did an excellent job as our spokesman. Thank you to everyone who helped coordinate the event.



Tax Increment Financing Reinvestment Zone Funding

One of the items addressed in our meetings with our Representatives was the issue of Tax Increment Financing Reinvestment Zones ("TIRZ"). This beneficial program provides approximately \$3M of reinvestment funding to the City of Temple each year. I am relieved to let everyone know that we have been assured this funding is secure for the 2011 legislative session in Austin.

HOMEPAC

HomePac recently donated \$5,000 towards the hopeful passage of the Temple Independent School District bond under consideration by voters this May. Passage of this bond is vital to both our community and TABA members as we continue to support a school district that residents are proud to send their kids to. TABA will also be hosting Temple Superintendent Dr. Robin Battershell at our offices, **Tuesday**, **April 5th**, **2011**, **at NOON**, to present information on the bond. Please attend if you can. Out of curiousity, does anybody recognize these Temple ISD students Mike and I presented the check to?



In Closing: Special thanks to my cohort Cheryl Hunka who has spent many, many hours familiarizing me with the association policies, procedures, events, members and the like. Once again, thank you everyone for the help you have given me as I transition into this exciting role with the Temple Area Builders Association. I know I have big shoes to fill, and hopefully you will be as happy with my performance as you were with that of my esteemed predecessor Troy. Please feel free to contact me any time, especially if you hear anything that might affect our members. I always keep my phone on and my ears to the ground.

Sincerely,

Blair Anderson

Director of Government Affairs

blair@tahb.org or 254-239-4309





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HOMES ON TOUR

Kiella Homebuilders

7709 Terra Cotta Cove, Hills of Westwood, Temple 2369 square feet

Omega Builders

7128 Valley Mist Dr., Valley Ranch, Temple 2364 square feet

MF Construction

6065 Miller Lane, Heritage, Salado/Belton 2600 square feet

Riley Scott Homes

250 Arrowhead Point, Woods of Arrowhead Point, Belton 3368 square feet

5891 Denman's Loop, Denman's Loop, Belton 2538 square feet

11122 Overlook Cove, Overlook Ridge Estates, Belton 5060 square feet

Stillwater Custom Homes

1320 Overlook Ridge Dr., Overlook Ridge Estates, Belton 3221 square feet

Jim Vaughn Homes, Inc.

3239 Hester Way, Mill Creek, Salado 2321 square feet

Carothers Executive Homes

1301 Nolan Court, Cliffs of Nolan Creek, Belton 3798 square feet

216 The Creeks Dr., Creeks of Salado, Salado

5386 square feet

Dustin Dewald Custom Homes

1144 Niagara Heights, Springs at the Escarpment, Belton 3000 square feet

Arnold Builders

2302 Sorento Circle, D'Antoni's Crossing, Temple 4059 square feet

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NEW HOME STARTS

| | Feb '11 | Feb '10 | '11 YTD | '10 YTD |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Temple | 26 | 38 | 43 | 79 |
| Belton | 9 | 7 | 13 | 11 |
| Morgan's Point | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Totals | 36 | 45 | 58 | 90 |

Note: this data represents a compilation of the statistics that are reported by the Temple Daily Telegram every Sunday.

ALL HOME CLOSINGS

| Feb '11 | 104 | '11 YTD | 169 |
|---------|-----|---------|-----|
| Feb '10 | 105 | '10 YTD | 200 |

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ANNUAL TABA GOLF TOURNAMENT DATE CHANGE

Originally we published that the TABA Golf Tournament was scheduled for Monday, March 28th however, due to time constraints we have moved this date to Monday, June 27th. The tournament will be held at Wildflower Country Club with a shotgun start at 1pm. Lunch will be served and food and beverages will be plentiful throughout the day. We are currently in need of sponsors for our tournament and have 3 levels in which to participate.

Title Sponsors (only 4 available) \$1200 - your company logo will appear on the golf registration form as well as a banner hung at the clubhouse. You will also receive one team entry.

Tee Box Sponsors (only 18 available) \$300 - your company's golf sign will appear on your tee box (no other signs will be allowed on that tee box), you also can set a table top at your tee box if you wish.

Hole Sponsors (unlimited) \$100 - your golf sign will appear on a hole at the golf course.

All sponsors will be mentioned in the June and July newsletters. If you are interested in sponsoring the

golf tournament, pelase call the TABA office at 254-773-0445 or email Cheryl Hunka at cheryl@tahb.org. Entry forms will be available in April and will be published on the website so please check back.

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EO's Comments
Cheryl Hunka
Executive Officer

I am always happy when the Home & Garden Show weekend is over and behind me. It is a culmination of months worth of work from hundreds of people, not just us here at TABA. We always pray for it to go as smooth as possible and I believe this was one of the smoothest years yet. Of course I don't do this all by myself, I have lots of help from some fantastic volunteers and we here at TABA are very fortunate to have the best exhibitors around. Move-in went great and ended with a woonderful Preview Party that I heard mostly positive feedback about. It seems that most really enjoyed the food this year and I want to thank Jerry Tyroch and Andy Bass for working so hard on putting that all together. Attendance for Saturday was terrific with nearly 2500 people walking through the three exhibit halls. Sunday's attendance was much lighter with 1300 people but all in all, I heard good feedback from exhibitors that they had a very good show.

Now it's on to Parade of Homes. May 13th begins the parade with May 10th the date for our Kick-Off Party which this year will be held at B Bar J's in Morgan's Point. More information will be put out shortly in regards to this party so be watching.

So March and April we take a breather and then it's events each month through nearly the end of the year. Be watching the newsletter for important information with dates, locations and costs.

Again, we here at TABA truly appreciate all of our members for your generous support and participation. You all afford us the resources it takes to do our most important job which is to watch governmental regulation and its effect on housing affordability. I wish everyone a safe Spring Break!

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HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS COMING TO TEMPLE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Homes for Our Troops (<u>www.homesforourtroops.org</u>); a non-profit organization that builds specially adapted homes for severely disabled veterans returning from the War on Terror is currently preparing to build a home for SSgt Jack Pierce in Temple, TX.

Marine Staff Sergeant Jack Pierce was on his third deployment when he was left paralyzed after his vehicle drove over a 300 pound bomb in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on January 9th, 2010. The last of a six vehicle convoy on the main service road on a resupply mission, the blast tossed the vehicle 35 feet, where it came to rest on its roof. Two of the vehicle's occupants were killed in the blast and six were severely injured. SSgt. Pierce received multiple injuries including a broken knee, broken ribs, scapulas, wrist, and vertebrae's as well as a crushed spine resulting in T5 paraplegia; paralysis from the chest down. Evacuated to the local hospital, SSgt Pierce had emergency surgery to remove his spleen and part of his pancreas. Airlifted to Landstuhl, Germany, SSgt. Pierce was stabilized for transport to Bethesda Medical Center in Maryland where surgery fused his spine and he began his intensive rehabilitation. Airlifted to

Palo Alto, California, he would spend the next 5 months at the Palo Alto VA Rehabilitation Center. The Pierces have returned to the San Antonio area so that Jack can continue with his treatments and therapies in his home state.

Homes for Our Troops is now in the process of comprising a team to build this home for SSgt Pierce. Our immediate need is to identify a General Contractor to manage this build for us. We'll then be looking to secure all of the trades necessary to complete this home.

If you are interested in getting involved in this project or simply wish to discuss it further, please contact Mike Duckett at 508-823-3300 or via email at mduckett@homesforourtroops.org

We appreciated your support!

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