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On The Level - March 2010

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RECORD ATTENDANCE

The 2010 Home & Garden Show sponsored by the *Temple Daily Telegram*, Carothers Executive Homes, Texell Federal Credit Union, Extraco Banks, Ratliff Ready Mix and Atmos Energy was a wild success this year. We set record attendance numbers for Saturday and Sunday as people flowed into the Bell County Expo Center. By 1pm on Saturday 2,500 general admission tickets had already been sold and the crowd never seemed to dwindle. At 4:30 the facility was still packed. In all, more than 6,000 people came through the Expo doors over the 3 day Show period.

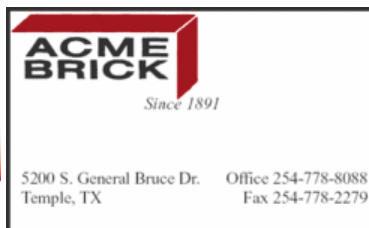
Every vendor we spoke with raved about attendance and the qualified, very interested people that attended this year's show. They further indicated that they will definitely be back next year. If you did not have a booth in this year's show, you may want to consider marking October 1st on your calendar. This is the date that we begin to book new vendors into the show for 2011. Planning for the 2011 show has already begun and information will be out in July.

TABA wants to thank Jared Bryan of Bryan Properties for his leadership on this committee for the past two years and welcomes 2011 chairman, Andy Bass of Bass Electric. A big thank you also goes out to all who worked on this committee including Debbie Swift, Scott Morrow, Brandon Tarnow, 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 2010 exhibitors for participating and supporting this show and of course our wonderful sponsors for their generous contributions.

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Troy Glasson
 Executive Officer

The TABA Government Affairs Committee meets regularly for dialogues with local officials. In fact, at least once a month we sit down with folks like city managers, council members, city staff, or county and state officials. These meetings serve many purposes. They allow us to gain a better understanding of development related issues, build relationships with area leaders, and further our mission "to promote and enhance home ownership."

Recently, our leadership group has decided we should use these meetings to tell the TABA story. That is, the folks that we meet with should leave these meetings knowing a little bit more about TABA than they did before sitting down with us. This is an opportunity I've decided to embrace. In doing so, I've prepared a presentation that can be tweaked to enlighten an audience about TABA accomplishments, industry challenges, and industry trends. That said, I don't just want local dignitaries to know about TABA and our involvement with the government, I want our members to be aware as well.

More often than not, our accomplishments are linked to the successes of our local governments. When our cities grow, look better, offer more amenities--TABA is successful. It is all these things that generate business for our members. A growing community means people are working in the construction industry and other related fields that support this industry. This is what TABA strives for.

That said, our challenges are oftentimes a result of our growth. Our governmental entities must look for ways not only to stimulate growth, but to manage it as well. The government is burdened with looking out for the entire community. They face challenges that we don't see until we run smack dab into them. Examples include sink holes, fires, traffic, wrecks, broken sewer lines, water deficits, etc. These challenges are items we count on our government to handle swiftly and efficiently.

The government also must deal with other issues that are often brought to them by community groups. Most never realize the regulatory changes that these issues often lead to until it hits them in the pocket book. This is not due to the government (at least the local government) being sneaky. In fact, most times, they do everything they can to involve the community when it comes to creating or changing ordinances. However, due to time constraints, most don't have time to get involved.

That is what TABA is here for--these are the challenges that we embrace. TABA is here to be your advocate and to get involved when the government wants to have a say in sidewalk widths, roof pitches, types of materials you put on your buildings, how much landscaping you should do, etc. All of the decisions that the government makes in regard to these issues can affect your customers ability to afford a home (or other type of building) and your ability to do a project.

The regulations the government puts in place affect you. At a minimum, you should be aware of what is going on and convey your thoughts back to us so we can represent you when you need us. The wheels of government may not always turn quickly, but they don't stop turning. As long as TABA is here, you will always have a support system to represent your interests.

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Thank You



For Sponsoring Our Annual Preview Party

The Annual Home & Garden Show Preview Party was a great success and we want to thank our generous sponsor Amos Electric for their support of this event. Check out the photos for the evening:



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15 HOMES ON TOUR THIS YEAR

15 beautiful homes by 9 builders have been entered for our annual Parade of Homes. Homes ranging from 1,200 to over 3,900 square feet and ranging in price from very affordable to high-end. We have it all on this year's Parade of Homes, which will again be presented by **Central National Bank**. We also want to thank our other Parade Partners **Temple Daily Telegram, Choice Rentals, Texas Bright Ideas, Tri-Supply, Keene Roofing and Heart of Texas Landscaping** for supporting TABA in bringing this much anticipated event to the citizens of Central Texas. Below is a list of homes on tour this year. Please check back for maps of home locations to be posted to this website very soon.

[Patco Construction](#)

607 Draper, Saulsbury Phase IV, Temple 1233 sq. ft.
4408 Canyon Ridge, Canyon Ridge Subdivision, Temple 1675 sq. ft.

[EDC Homes](#)

1521 Rusty Nail, Southern Draw, Temple 2170 sq. ft.
4923 Sean Patrick Glen, Stonegate II, Temple 2191 sq. ft.

[Carothers Executive Homes](#)

7628 Gun Barrell, Southern Draw, Temple 2207 sq. ft.
3312 Breaker's Cove, Regatta Oaks, Belton 2482 sq. ft.
615 Cliff Dr., Cliffs of Nolan Creek, Belton 3278 sq. ft.

[Omega Builders](#)

2509 Red Valley, Red Rock, Belton 2220 sq. ft.
238 Vine St., High Crest, Belton 2194 sq. ft.

[Riley Scott Custom Homes](#)

13618 Moss Rose Tr., Woods of Arrowhead Point, Temple 3363 sq. ft.
4919 Waterworks, Water Works Landing, Belton 3901 sq. ft.

[KB Home](#)

716 Moon Shadow, Village of Sage Meadow, Temple 2004 sq. ft.

Arnold Builders

6611 Milan Ct., D'Antoni's Crossing, Temple 2300 sq. ft.

Kiella Homebuilders

821 Villa Como, The Villas of Lakewood, Temple 2503 sq. ft.

Stillwater Custom Homes

11121 Overlook Cove, Overlook Ridge Estates, Temple 3220 sq. ft.

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KICK-OFF PARTY at THE DEAD FISH GRILL

Thursday, April 15, 2010

6-8pm, \$10 per person

For the second year in a row TABA will have our Parade of Homes Kick-Off Party at the Dead Fish Grill. From 6pm until 8pm, heavy finger foods, beer and wine will be served and a cash bar will be available. Admission is \$10 per adult.

This year, judging as been put back into the event and awards will be presented at the kick-off party. You won't want to miss seeing the award winning homes on the 2010 Parade tour. RSVP are required and can be called in to 254-773-0445 or emailed to cheryl@tahb.org.

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NEW HOME STARTS

	Feb '10	Feb '09	'10 YTD	'09 YTD
Temple	38	26	79	39
Belton	7	4	11	17
Morgan's Point	0	0	0	0

Totals	45	30	90	56
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Note: this data represents a compilation of the statistics that are reported by the Temple Daily Telegram every Sunday.

ALL HOME CLOSINGS

Feb. '10	105	'10 YTD	200
Feb. '09	123	'09 YTD	231

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Home PAC Trustees recommended support for two candidates in the primary election – **Rebecca DePew** for County Court at Law #3 and **Ted Duffield** for Justice of the Peace (see photos below). Each of these candidates won their primary races handily. Mrs. DePew faces a second hurdle in the November elections as she'll face a democratic opponent--HomePAC has offered additional support to Mrs. DePew leading up to the general election. Mr. Duffield did not draw a democratic opponent.

Though state races abound this election cycle (highlighted by the race for Governor), most Bell County races are uncontested. With due consideration given about getting involved in a primary election, the trustees opted to meet with candidates for Justice of the Peace (Lee Lingo and incumbent Ted Duffield interviewed--no democratic candidate), and County Court at Law #3 (R-Rebecca DePew and R-Mary Black Pearson interviewed, D-Tyfanny Howard did not respond in time to be interviewed).

In addition to Mrs. Depew and Mr. Duffield, TABA Home PAC whole heartedly supports **RT Schneider** in his bid for re-election to the Temple City Council where we'd like to see him continue to represent District 4. RT has been an excellent public servant for the City and his leadership and background in the construction industry has been beneficial to the City on numerous fronts. He is able to provide significant input on a variety of issues that the Council considers including platting and zoning issues, and infrastructure projects. He is a valued resource that Temple is fortunate to have at its disposal. RT is opposed in his bid for re-election so if you live in District 4, please **be sure to get to the polls to vote for him**. You can vote early between April 26th and May 4th, or on Local Election Day--May 10th.

Another candidate for Temple City Council is unopposed. **Danny Dunn** of the Rodney Dunn Company will take over for Tony Jeter who has decided to step down. The trustees have met with Danny and support him as well. We expect he'll be an outstanding councilman.

Many other offices were considered by the trustees at their February meeting. We will provide a full list of candidates we'll be issuing support to as their elections approach. Locally, there are no contested races in BISD, City of Belton, City of Morgan's Point Resort, or the Village of Salado.



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