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Message from the President William "Bill" LeBlanc, Heritage Home Builders

Happy Spring, everyone! I trust that you are all eagerly anticipating what the next few months has in store for our industry.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I extend a big thanks to all those who participated in the Acadiana Home and Design Show earlier this month. I'd like to especially recognize those companies and organizations who made a financial commitment in the way of sponsorship dollars to assist in successfully executing such a fine event—the REALTOR(R) Association is Acadiana, Bath Fitter, Acadian Total Security, Atmos Energy and Home Bank. The enthusiasm of both our loyal vendors and the attendees gives me optimism that good times are ahead.

In just a few short weeks, AHBA will once again produce it's eagerly anticipated Parade of Homes. I encourage you to visit the homes on this year's tour—each of which is built by LOCAL, AHBA member builders. These builder members have made an investment in and a commitment to our economy and our community. Their finished products represent the countless hours of labor performed by people making a living in our area; they represent millions of dollars in materials purchased from storefronts in Acadiana who

employ our neighbors; they represent a commitment from local builders to continue the tradition of providing quality, affordable housing for the people of Acadiana. It's important that we encourage and support their efforts. I look forward to seeing you on the Parade route!

Shortly thereafter, we shall celebrate the successes of our spring events at our annual crawfish boil scheduled for May 9th at Acadian Village. I hope you make plans to join us for an evening of good food and good company!

In this issue you'll notice that AHBA and KATC-TV3, through our annual Home for the Holidays campaign, recently invested \$140,000 back into our community. These contributions total over \$2.2M that we have been able to contribute to local agencies whose missions are to provide shelter to our neighbors in need. I applaud the efforts of so many who've been affiliated with this campaign since it began back in 2005. These contributions are undoubtedly a testament to the commitment that our association and its members have in ensuring the community in which we all work, live and play is a great continues to thrive.

As I mentioned in my previous address, I'm focused on getting back to the basics during my year as President. I want to hear the needs and desires of our members and I

want to creative an environment in which we can work to confront obstacles that lay in our path and work together to achieve success.

Throughout this year you'll be given numerous opportunities to plug in to our organization and maximize the benefits of your membership. I encourage you to seize that opportunity and play an active role in the association that works tirelessly to better the industry in which we make a living.

As always, I'm available to you all should you have any questions or concerns.

Until next time, take care! Bill

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Brown Goes Extra Mile with Prestige Custom Homes

By Kathy Bowen Stolz

Jeff Brown of Prestige Custom Homes decided when he became a builder in 2014 that he was going to deliver the best product possible. It doesn't matter if he's building a 1,700 or 4,000 sq. ft. home or if it's a speculative project or a presold custom home. He builds every home as if he were going to live in it.

"We go the extra mile. We use higher quality materials, such as Tech Shield on the roof instead of OSB. We blow in insulation instead of using bat. We don't skimp on quality. We would rather spend extra money and deliver a great house."

Going that extra mile saves Brown steps in the long run. He's been using the same skilled subcontractors for a long time. He said that focusing on delivering a great house prevents call backs and increases the customer's experience. "We like to get it right the first time, but if there's an issue, I'm just a phone call away."



Jeff said Prestige Custom Homes' entry in the 2018 Parade of Homes got a lot of interest from attendees because his philosophy of going the extra mile equates to exceeding the customer's expectations. His next two presold projects are a result of last year's Parade of Homes show.

Some of those walking through the show home were empty nesters looking to downsize; others were first-time buyers. A smaller home was appealing to both groups. His 2019 Parade of Home entry will be a 2,600 sq. ft. home in the \$500,000 price range.

He takes prides in providing higher-end finishes, such as crown moulding, exposed beams, special wall finishes, extra shiplap siding, eye-catching island finishes and better quality fixtures. "It's pretty rewarding to have people notice our attention to detail."

Because he's also a real estate agent (working for EXP Realty) he's aware of what is trending and what is not trending in the Lafayette market. "We try to make sure we're incorporating things to set us apart from the competition. Spec homes allow us to showcase our product. And spec homes lead to custom home contracts."

Helping him is his wife of 21 years, Lea Brown. "She is an important part of the process. I couldn't do it without her. She makes the paint selections, the fixture selections, the color schemes. She has the vision to be able to see how things should develop, which a lot of people, including

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\$140K Distributed to Local Shelter Organizations 2018 Home for the Holidays Campaign Proceeds Distributed



Home for the Holidays Inc. recently contributed \$140,000 to local, shelterrelated charitable agencies, proceeds realized from raffle ticket sales during the 2018 campaign.

Home for the Holidays is an annual project of the Acadian Home Builders Association (AHBA) and KATC-TV 3 in which AHBA members construct a new, high-end home, raffle it off and donate the proceeds to local non-profit shelter organizations.

"Despite the continued uncertainty of the economy, the outpouring of support from the great people in Acadiana never fails. The 2018 campaign ranks among some of our most successful ones with regard to ticket sales.. The generosity of our community enables us to continue our mission of providing safe, affordable housing to our neighbors in need and, for that, we are most appreciative," said Doug Trahan, Home for the Holidays President.

This year's campaign brings the total amount of contributions to \$2,213,000 Million that Home for the Holidays, Inc. has been able to distribute to its adopted agencies since the project's inception fourteen years ago.

Monday evening, a reception was

held to distribute the proceeds from the 2018 Home for the Holidays campaign to local Acadiana agencies and educational programs. Doug Trahan conducted the ceremony while members of the Board of Directors presented the monetary donations. Each of the project's four adopted agencies: Faith House, Healing House, Lafayette Habitat for Humanity and the St. Michael Center for Veterans received \$34,000.







Faith House of Acadiana serves an important role in Lafayette by providing protection and aid to abused and battered women and their children. The shelter and its services provide safe housing, food, clothing, health screenings, medications, counseling and legal assistance to help mistreated individuals and their kids escape dangerous situations.

Healing House, Hope for Grieving Children provides support and

education to children and their caregivers who have experience the unfortunate death of a loved one. Their facility provides a safe place where these children are able to express their thoughts and feelings in a comfortable atmosphere through interactive play, expressive art work and discussion groups with peers experiencing the same trauma.

Lafayette Habitat for Humanity's mission is to make the American



dream of home ownership a reality for low income families in the Acadiana area. The organization builds simple, decent, affordable houses and then lends a no profit, no interest mortgage to a selected family to help them purchase one of the newly built houses at a very low monthly payment. In the 20+ years Habitat has been operating in Acadiana, they have built over 100 homes for their partner families.

St. Michael Center for Veterans is a division of Catholic Services of Acadiana and is an emergency and transitional housing program for homeless veterans. They offer supportive services including substance abuse recovery, education, and employment and housing placement. Proceeds from previous Home for the Holidays campaigns have aided the group in their mission to drastically reduce the number of homeless veterans who seeking shelter in our community.

Also receiving donations of \$2,000 each were the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation to be placed within the John "Harry" Hebert Memorial Scholarship Fund and AHBA's Professional Women in Building to assist the organization with their annual "Building a Better Christmas" efforts.

Located in Bayou Tortue Manor subdivision, the 2018 Home for the Holidays was valued at over \$480,000 and was built by Lisa & Bill Schoeffler of Schoeffler Built Homes. The raffle was held and a winner announced during a live KATC-TV 3 broadcast on December 5, 2018. The lucky winner, John Richard, II, took possession of her his home in January.

To make a project like Home for the Holidays successful, it takes

numerous donors, laborers and behind the scenes volunteers. At the reception, these important individuals and companies were recognized for their generosity. Platinum sponsors, those individuals or companies whose donations exceed \$20,000, were recognized for their commitment to the project and Acadiana. Those sponsors included: Bayou Tortue Manor Development, Doug Ashy Building Materials, Home Bank, News Talk 96.5 KPEL FM, Schoeffler Built Homes.

The 2019 Home for the Holidays, to be built by Pam & Lee Weaver of W Homes, Inc., will be located in The Reserve at Woodlake Subdivision in Lafayette. The campaign will launch to the public on September 1, 2019 when tickets are made available for purchase.

Please pass me around the office.
Acadiana Builder makes great reading material for anyone interested in the building market.





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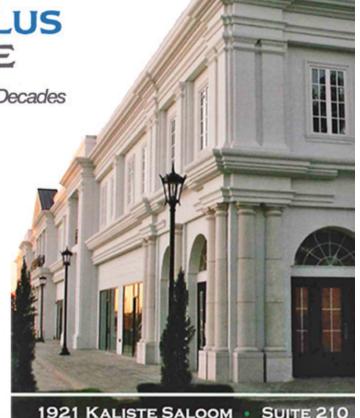
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myself, have a hard time seeing. I let her go with the flow and take the design idea by the reins. Our open houses are always a hit."

Many of Prestige's clients work in technology fields and work from home. Others work in the medical field. The diversity of the Lafayette Parish's economic base is keeping the real estate market stable. Brown noted that 2018 was the best ever for real estate sales, topping 2017 real estate sales.

He got his real estate license in 2010 because he does a lot of lease negotiations for the furniture company where he is the director of operations. One part of that position is to find new store sites, often the size of a supermarket, and renovate them. He now uses his license just for Prestige Custom Homes' purposes of buying lots and selling speculative homes. He earned his contractor's license a few years later, anticipating that he would focus on commercial properties rather than residential building.

He quickly changed his mind when he saw an opportunity to work his wife who was unhappy in her long-time job of working for an oil field company. Jeff laughingly admitted that there have been spirited











conversations in working with his wife, but it has been extremely rewarding for both of them to see the completion of many projects.

Brown prefers to build in the Acadiana area because it's easier to manage projects efficiently and effectively in nearby locations where he check on his two or three job sites morning, noon, and night. He said it usually takes about four and a half months to complete a smaller house and six months to complete a 4,000 sq. ft. house.

Currently using several local architects to customize house plans for clients, he is creating a book of house plans of popular different styles, such as Acadian, Mediterranean and French Country. In the future he envisions speeding up the customization process by using his son's developing CAD skills. His son graduated with a degree in industrial engineering from University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) and is currently a student at the University of Colorado studying drafting. Jeff also has a daughter who is studying to be a nurse at ULL.

In the meantime he encourages clients to take pictures of architectural and design elements that they like. These photos help the architects accurately interpret his clients' desires. Brown noted that clients are more versed in design elements than in the past thanks to social media sites, such as Pinterest.

Jeff uses social media, specifically Facebook, to market his spec homes. He finds that Facebook, in addition to word-of-mouth referrals, open houses and MLS listings to be sufficient in selling his homes. But he's not above stopping people who are scouting for homes in a neighborhood and inviting them to check out his spec home.

He enjoys meeting new people, citing those experiences as one of the most enjoyable elements of being a builder. Like many builders, he also finds pleasure in creating something from nothing.

However, he finds it challenging that there's always a problem in a building project, such as not having materials on the job site on time. "It's always something, but you've got to be able to work around it. It's how you overcome the curve balls."

No doubt Jeff Brown goes the extra mile even in his free time. He loves to fish in salt water, primarily at Venice, Cypermort Point and Calcasieu Lake. He also enjoys listening to live music and hanging out with good friends.

For more information about Prestige Custom Homes, contact Jeff Brown at 337-780-1485 or jeff@prestigecustom-homes.com. The company's mailing address is P.O. Box 950, Duson, LA 70529.







SAVE THE DATE:

Saturdays & Sundays April 6th - 14th 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. each day

The Parade of Homes is a self-guided tour, and ticket purchases include the official Parade of Homes Guide Book containing pictures and descriptions of each home, builder profiles, and a map.

Tickets:

\$10/each (children 2 and under admitted free) On Sale Date: Monday, April 2, 2018

Ticket Outlets:
AHBA Office
135 North Domingue Ave, Lafayette

Doug Ashy Building Materials 4950 Johnston St., Lafayette 1601 Verot School Rd., Lafayette

Home Bank
503 Kaliste Saloom Rd., Lafayette
1020 Coolidge Blvd., Lafayette
1001 Johnston St., Lafayette
4202 Johnston St., Lafayette
5028 Ambassador Caffery Pkwy., Lafayette
1219 Albertsons Pkwy., Broussard
806 Veterans Dr., Carencro
5543 Cameron St., Scott

During Parade of Homes Hours: Sabal Palms Subdivision (off Youngsville Hwy (Hwy89))

Featured Homes:
41 Homes in 24 Subdivisions by 31 AHBA Builder Members

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For more info, visit www.acadianhba.com or call AHBA at (337) 981-3053.



mes 2019 Parade of Homes Tour Features the Following:

Audubon Plantation- Lafayette

205 Red Robin Trail Holliers Home Improvement Co. Inc. Wayne Hollier Builder

101 Kingfisher Hays Homes Jay Hays

Brookshire South-Lafayette

210 Winthrope Row Jeff Wood Construction Jeff Wood

The Reserve at Woodlake-Lafayette

402 Amber Pond Jeff Wood Construction Jeff Wood

503 Ember Grove Crossing Heritage Home Builders, Inc. William J. Leblanc

Walker Village- Phase II Lafayette

110 Bancroft Dr. Prestige Custom Homes Jeff Brown

100 Bancroft Dr. CA Homes Brian Clement

Sabal Palms-Youngsville

100 Rattan Way Hebert Home Builders Inc. Jody & Nicole Hebert 201 McArthur Court Colony Homes Dominick Sparacino

103 Foxtail Trail Passageway Homes Damon Baudoin

503 Bronze Palm Way Eagle Nest Custom Homes Jamie Leger

207 Bronze Palm Way Coastal Custom Builders Don Reboul

105 Foxtail Trail Solis Builders of Louisiana Rodney & Shirlene Bender

103 Royal Palms Acadiana Holdings Bill & Lisa Schoeffler

Green Farms-Lafayette

304 Harvest Creek Ln. Overton Homes Laura Stimpson 203 Harvest Creek Ln. Heritage Home Builders William J. Leblanc

215 Harvest Creek Ln. Heritage Home Builders William J. Leblanc

101 Harvest Creek Lane Prestigious Home Builders Leonard Ray Mitchell, II

The Vineyard-Lafayette

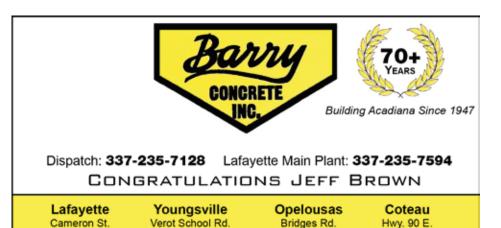
306 Vineyard Row CJS Custom Homes Corey Simon

207 Caldwell Court CJS Custom Homes Corey Simon

Hamlet-Lafayette

203 Dunmore Court New Life Homes Eric Mautner

201 Dunmore Court BECC Enterprises Brett Breaux



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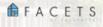




Silver Sponsors















P: 800.572.0011 | jon@emconsultinginc.com











Navigate the 2019 Acadian HBA Parade of Homes with our App!

The AHBA Parade of Homes App allows users to access all the information of the event with the click of a button. Stay up-to-date on news and events taking place during the Parade so you don't miss out on anything. Find the homes you want to tour, and then find out how to get there with ease, using the map location feature. Let the app do the work so you can focus on enjoying the Homes!



EASY TO USE MENU BAR

Get information on builders and **Enhanced Company Listings**

Tuscany-Lafayette

207 Sandbar Platinum Homes Jason & Laurie Huff

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102 Rue de la Rochelle Rajun Cajun Construction Rusty & Erin Broussard

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Oak Trace-Sunset

104 Chateau Lane H.L.P. Builders Lawrence Stoute

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126 Grandview Terrace Dr. Coast Contemporary Construction David Eaton

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112 Genna Lane Greatwood Homes Phil Melancon

Scott

812 South Frontage Rd. Schumacher Homes Paul Schumacher

Sugar Mill Pond-Youngsville

909 Broyles St. The Gen Group Construction Charlie Genin

The Estates at Moss Bluff-Lafayette

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211 Kellogg Ave. Privat General Contractors Fernand Privat

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224 Princeton Woods Loop Braniff Construction Kyle Braniff

save the date

27TH ANNUAL LHBA LEGISLATIVE DAY & CRAWFISH BOIL



When: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Where: Marriott BR & Capitol Park Museum

Food, Fun & Music! Boiled Crawfish, Fried Catfish & Bread Pudding

\$25 per person

For more information, contact Acadian Home Builders Association: 337-981-3053









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433 Langlinais Road Ste. Marie Home Builders Mark Ste. Marie

Whispering Meadows-**Broussard**

206 Whispering Meadows Rd. AM Design and Construction Ali Malekian

Village of Broussard-Broussard

108 Portside TMR Construction Doug Trahan



Congrats Jeff!





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AHBA Welcomes New Members January 2019

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