



Texas Association of Builders
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(800) 252-3625
www.TexasBuilders.org

Tax Credit Announced

Prospective first-time home buyers now have a significant financial incentive to explore the opportunities available in today's housing market.

H.R. 3221, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 — which was passed by the Congress on July 26 and signed by President Bush on July 30 — allows first-time home buyers to take a \$7,500 tax credit from the purchase of a single-family home, townhome or condominium apartment.

To get the word out to the home-buying public, NAHB has assembled materials that will help association members maximize the impact of this temporary sales incentive.

At www.nahb.org/mythbuster, NAHB has posted talking points, print ads, a consumer handout on the "top reasons you shouldn't wait to buy a new home" and a banner ad for Web sites — all geared to alerting home buyers to the availability of the credit.

NAHB has also published a Web site for consumers — www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com. The site includes details, questions and answers on how home buyers can use the credit.

Andrade Named Texas Secretary of State

Gov. Rick Perry named Esperanza "Hope" Andrade of San Antonio as Texas' 107th Secretary of State. As secretary, Andrade will serve as the state's chief elections officer, the governor's liaison on border and Mexican affairs, and Texas' chief protocol officer for both state and international matters. The Office of the Secretary of State also serves as the formal repository for official and business records, publishes government rules and regulations, keeps the state seal and attests to the governor's signature on official documents.

Star Awards 2008

The chance to enter the 2008 Star Awards has come and gone. The Texas Association of Builders would like to thank all those who contributed their excellent work and helped TAB make this year one of our greatest to date.

Even in a challenging market, we received over 500 entries for this year's Star Awards! Our builder members are aware of the marketing value that comes with this prestigious award given by their association. During tough times, you will find even more value in setting your busi-

ness above the rest by taking home a 2008 Star Award.

We look forward to thanking each of the entrants at the Star Awards Gala on November 7, 2008 at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine in conjunction with the Sunbelt Builders Show™.

New Inspection Requirements

The Texas Association of Builders (TAB) has announced that new legislation requires that all new residential construction and applicable remodeling, which occurs in unincorporated areas or those not subject to municipal inspection, have a minimum of three inspections to ensure compliance with all applicable building codes. All construction or remodeling that begins on or after September 1, 2008 is subject to the inspections.

Inspections are to be performed by a third party Fee Inspector and are to occur as applicable, at the following construction stages:

1. Foundation (prior to the placement of concrete);
2. Framing and Mechanical Systems (prior to frame coverings); and,
3. Final Inspection upon completion of the project.

To see a copy of the formal rules, visit the TRCC's Web site at: <http://www.trcc.state.tx.us/Inspectors/CountyInspections.asp> or call the TRCC at (512)463-1040.

Tour of Texas

The Texas Association of Builders' "Tour of Texas" is ready to hit the road. TAB Leadership will criss-cross the state and will stop in your area. The first stop on the tour will be the HBA of Greater Austin on August 14. For approximately two months, TAB Leadership will travel from city to city, before making its final stop at the HBA of Greater Dallas on October 22. For tour dates and times, check with your local association.

TAB Leadership is looking forward to not only being seen, but also seeing what's going on at your local association; being heard, but also hearing what you have to say. We will open a dialogue that crosses the state and will help us achieve our greater goals through greater participation in state and local events. We want to insure that you have a voice in the upcoming Legislative Sessions that will affect your business.

TAB's main event, the Sunbelt Builders Show™ and Education Conference, requires your support and that of all 33 locals to be successful year after year. Without success at Sunbelt, TAB would be hard pressed to accomplish its efforts at the Capitol. So, support your association by turning out for the Tour of Texas and by participating in the Sunbelt Builders Show™, November 6-8, 2008 at the Gaylord Texan, Grapevine, TX/DFW.

Register at www.SunbeltBuildersShow.com