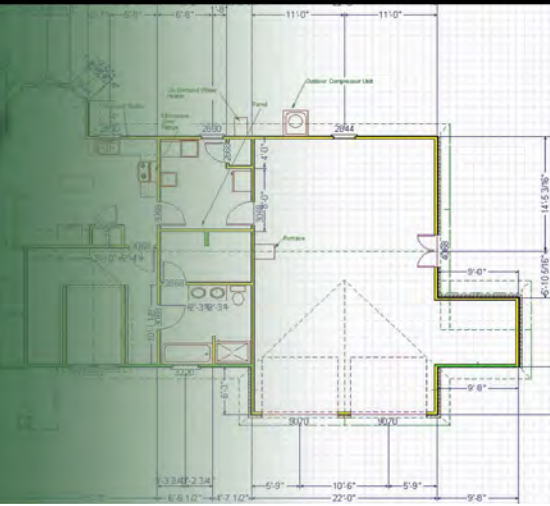


# Building Clark County News

Professionals Committed to Excellence



March 2020 Edition



BIA members storm the Legislature

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## President's Message Dave Myllymaki, ReNew Creations

March has turned out to be a very interesting month thus far. With the coronavirus wreaking havoc on the community, many of us are hunkering down and limiting our interactions with others.

All on-site meetings at the BIA office are postponed until April 6. Many of the events and classes in this timeframe will also be postponed for the protection of our members and staff.

I want to remind you that in partnership with BIAW and NAHB, we have compiled resources for member companies and employees of companies.

[View resources and permit center closures here.](#)

We will continue to update members on the important developments the industry takes to protect companies and jobs.

Wishing you good health in the coming month!

APRIL 16

[Dinner Meeting: Technology in Construction](#)

MAY 14

[Auction for Political Action](#)

# Government Affairs Brief

Read monthly government affairs update online

What's new in code, regulation, legislation & more!



Contact Ryan: 360-694-0933 or [ryan@biaofclarkcounty.org](mailto:ryan@biaofclarkcounty.org)



**If you're not at the table, you're on the menu.... Get Involved!**

**Clark County Permit Center Now Closes at Noon on Wednesday**

Government Affairs Committee  
April 13, 3:30 - 5:00pm  
BIA Office

**Stay Informed & Follow What We Follow**

The BIA will be rolling out a government affairs issue tracker soon! The tracker will be updated weekly to keep you informed of what we are following or doing at the federal, state and local levels.

## Local Permitting and Inspection Services Remain Open Amid COVID-19 Concerns

Permitting and inspections should remain uninterrupted by coronavirus

There is concern that Clark County and other jurisdictions are closing their building permit and inspection services. At this time most services are continuing as normal but there will most likely be changes coming. To stay up-to-date, [view our resources and closures page.](#)

Currently, staff and elected officials are discussing what systems to put in place to keep their staff and the public healthy and safe. They are creating contingency plans to avoid work slowdowns or stoppage. BIA staff and our partners have been in

contact with them since Friday, March 13 and are working to make sure they are aware of industry concerns. We are also being proactive in offering possible solutions to slowdown and stoppages, should they occur.

This is a dynamic situation with changes happening quickly. Please follow us on social media for real-time information:

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Twitter](#)

**Advocacy is effective if we have your engagement!**

**We want to hear from you:** Testify at public hearings, offer expertise on many subject matters, encourage members to get involved.

# Auction for Political Action

Elections matter... your support matters!

Please sponsor or donate to the 2020 Auction for Political Action and get involved. Encourage your friends and subs too... you don't need to be a BIA member to support the PAC.

Are you a BIG PAC Trustee? If not, [contact Ryan](#) and get signed up today!



## Ridgefield: A Song of Signs and Garages

Two issues recently arose in Ridgefield that has caused concern for our members: a ban on directional sign placement and enforcement of a 4' garage setback code. Fortunately, we have been able to work with city staff to address these issues.

Recently, a city staff member told builders that the directional signs used to increase sales traffic are in violation of code. They are, generally, not. However, there are two prohibitions to be aware of: Signs are not allowed in the state highway system right-of-way, so do not place on Pioneer Street. They also not be placed in a hazardous manner, e.g. impeding line of site for traffic. City Manager Steve Stuart is working with staff to make sure they are properly interpreting and applying the nuisance sign code.

More information about this issue can be found [HERE](#).

Staff recently let builders know that they must comply with a 4' garage setback code or they would be denied a building permit. Although this law has been on the books for quite a while, it had not been enforced until last week. No notice was given to our industry. Once again, working with Mr. Stuart, we have negotiated a temporary reprieve to enforcement of this code and are working with Mr. Stuart and his staff to find short and long term solutions that will support the desires of city council while also allowing our builders to continue building the beautiful projects that city wants to encourage.

Please contact [Ryan Makinster](#) to discuss either of these issues.

## Stronger Vancouver

Due to the ongoing health concerns, the Stronger Vancouver discussions have been suspended.

## Legislative Update: Sine Die "End of Session"

The legislature recently wrapped-up and we are still trying to get our arms around everything that did and didn't happen; the good and the bad. We will be sending out a special edition post-session wrap-up notice the week of March 30 so be sure to keep an eye out. A few things we do know:

Good:

- [HB 2673](#) – Expanded categorical SEPA exemption for infill – **on Governor's desk**
- [HB 1395](#) – Direct contractor liability – **did not pass**
- [HB 2564](#) – Mandatory 10 hr off site training for construction workers – **did not pass**
- [SB 6053](#) – Personal property liens for contractors – **did not pass**

Bad:

- [HB 2894](#) – Eliminate double taxation on concrete pumping – **did not pass**

Ugly:

- [HB 2267](#) – Energy code update delay - **did not pass**
- [HB 6492](#) – Increased "service" sector B&O tax (+.25%) – **signed into law**

The good and bad ideas that died this year will most likely be filed again next year, and you can do something about it.

Are you a BIG PAC Trustee? [Sign up today!](#)

## Clark County Manager Shawn Hennessee Resigns

On Friday, March 13, Clark County Manager Shawn Hennessee resigned. Some believe his resignation is due to a lack of support from the County Council. Councilors will begin their second search for a permanent county manager since former administrator Mark McCauley was fired in 2017. In accordance with the county charter, Deputy County Manager Kathleen Otto will fill Hennessee's position in the interim.



The BIAW Health Insurance Trust helps navigate the complexities and costs of employee benefits

capitalbenefitservices.com  
425-641-8093



## Members Save Millions

[nahb.org/savings](http://nahb.org/savings)



## New Members

Beacon Ridge Construction LLC  
 ESP Supply  
 Express Painting & Pressure Washing  
 High Performance Homes  
 Ironwood NW LLC  
 K.P.D. Insurance  
 Luxe Interior Studio  
 Northwest Lien Service  
 Rain City Roofers  
 Standard TV & Appliance

## Renewing Members

### 40+ Years

Performance Building Products Inc.

### 20-30 Years

Gaither Homes LLC  
 Kingsmen Contracting Inc.  
 Morcrete Construction  
 River City Enterprises Inc.  
 Warner Roofing & Construction Inc.

### 10-19 Years

Alder Creek Construction  
 Alliance Industrial Group Inc.  
 Brothers Concrete Inc.  
 J & M Gas Piping & Venting Services  
 Painting Specialist  
 Vision Concrete Inc.  
 You & I Construction Inc.

### 5-9 Years

Advantage Heating & Cooling Inc.  
 Columbia Litho Inc.  
 Hinton Development Corp.  
 Jacobs Heating & Air Conditioning Inc.  
 Lakewood Contractors Inc.  
 Madden Industrial Craftsmen Inc.  
 Marnella Homes  
 Precision Truss & Lumber Inc.  
 Real Living the Real Estate Group  
 ReNew Creations LLC  
 Stewart Mechanical Inc.

### 1-4 Years

Bridge City Contracting  
 Builders Capital  
 David Mucci Interiors LLC  
 Eco-Safe Landscaping  
 Great Floors  
 Husky Drywall Inc.  
 IBEX Roof  
 Lasko Design  
 NW Financial Consultants  
 Pacific Perks Coffee & Catering  
 Service First Heating & Cooling

# Membership Benefit Feature

BIA's Programs & Services add extra value to your membership!

## WSU Vancouver Mentor Alliance Program helps businesses grow

Education very often becomes a two-way street, with educators and students learning from one another. The WSU Vancouver Mentor Alliance Program emulates this idea and allows students, faculty, and business owners to learn from each other in a collaborative way.

This program has already provided \$15 million dollars in revenue for local small businesses and has provided over 109,000 hours of free consulting to small businesses. Students and faculty work in a symbiotic way to consult small businesses who are in the early stages of growing their businesses. Not only does this give students real world experience, but small business owners get free business consultations with both WSUV faculty and students.

The Mentor Alliance Program also holds a meeting once a month. It invites small business owners, students, faculty, and the general public to come and discuss the latest

business practices and strategies for growing small businesses in our region.

The program aims to pair students with local business owners who have been in business for 3-5 years. Businesses that are accepted to the program must invest a minimum of 12 hours over a 16-week semester. Not only does this educate students on entrepreneurship but gives each business 500 hours of free consulting with WSUV faculty and students, helping your business grow. The program is confidential and at the same time allows small business to connect with the local community.

This is a fantastic opportunity to explore the resources that WSUV and the local community have to offer. If this sounds like something your business would like to be involved please visit their [website](#), call 360-546-9533 or [email the program coordinator](#).



## Membership Questions?

Contact Karen Hall at [khall@biaofclarkcounty.org](mailto:khall@biaofclarkcounty.org)

# BIA Council Happenings

## Green Building Council Monthly Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for April 9, 3:30 pm at the BIA Office  
 (pending coronavirus restrictions)

[Email staff coordinator to be notified of next meeting](#)

## Remodelers of Clark County Quarterly Meeting

TBA

[Email staff coordinator to be notified of next meeting](#)

# BIA Events



## Sponsor a BIA Event

Sponsoring a BIA event is the perfect way to promote your company! We have plenty of options available still:

- Member Dinner Meetings
- Golf Tournament
- Chef, Hop & Vine presented by NW Natural
- New Homes Tour presented by Fairway Independent Mortgage
- NW Natural Parade of Homes presented by DeWils & HomeStreet Bank
- Columbia Credit Union Remodeled Homes Tour presented by Contract Furnishings Mart & DeWils

Contact Danielle Kilian:  
[danielle@biaofclarkcounty.org](mailto:danielle@biaofclarkcounty.org)

BIA Dinner Meeting:  
**Technology in Construction**  
 featuring Tim Costello, President & CEO of BDX, Inc.

Thursday, April 16  
 The Heathman Lodge  
**5:00 pm Social Hour**  
 sponsored by Current Home Technologies  
**6:00 pm Dinner & Presentation**

**SBIA**  
**Nothing but Networking**  
 May 7 • 4:00-6:00 pm • DeWils Design Center  
 12907 NE Fourth Plain Blvd, Vancouver, WA

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**chef hop & vine** Thursday **JUNE 4**  
 presented by NW Natural

Pre-sale ticket pricing available until **MAY 20**

Experience some of **CLARK COUNTY'S FINEST FOOD, BEER & WINE** while enjoying a variety of the newest homes on the market!

**NEW HOMES TOUR**  
 presented by **FAIRWAY**

**JUNE 6 & 7 // 13 & 14** 11 AM - 5 PM  
 Experience the finest in new home construction throughout Clark County!

## BIA Members Storm the Legislature; Advocate on Your Behalf



Members from the BIA of Clark County joined members all over the state for the BIAW's Hill Climb. They advocated on behalf of all our members in Clark County on issues ranging from energy code requirements, permitting inconsistencies, and fees. Thank you, members, for taking time out of your busy schedules to fight the good fight!

*Pictured: David Millar, Chuck Neibert, Ryan Makinster, Matthew Clarkson, Senator Ann Rivers, Aaron Helmes, Sarah Neibert, Aaron Marvin, and Michael Shanaberger.*

## ICYMI:

[Matrix Roofing in Vancouver Business Journal](#)

[Kingston Homes helps build home of dreams](#)

[RSV Building Solutions builds relationships](#)

[DeWils Fine Cabinetry, supplying quality since 1959](#)

[McKean Smith is client service driven law firm](#)

[Salsbury & Co. aims to help small-business owners](#)

[Ginn Group & New Tradition Homes Talk Design Trends](#)

## BIA Member Testified on Direct Contractor

### Liability Bill with BIAW

Aaron Marvin of A.C.T. Builders traveled to Olympia to oppose HB 1395. Watch his testimony [HERE](#).

More than 1,000 emails were sent by members and testimony and efforts of members such as Aaron and others around the state were successful as the bill died.

You are capable of making change when you show up and we're united statewide!



## Study Shows Nearly 800 Households Priced Out of Vancouver Housing Market with Each \$1,000 Price Increase

According to a study by NAHB, a \$1,000 increase in the cost of a median-priced newly-built homes in Vancouver pushes 781 prospective buyers out of the market.

This study illustrates how even a relatively small increase in price or interest rates can dramatically impact housing affordability. Housing affordability has reached crisis status in communities across our state. Rising interest rates, regulatory barriers, higher building materials costs and labor shortages all add to the cost of a home, and are preventing households from achieving the goal of homeownership.

According to the NAHB study, the median price of a home in the

Vancouver and Portland area is \$499,279. Although the amount of a physical home is less expensive than the Seattle, Tacoma, and Bellevue area, the home prices are the third highest in the state and continue to rise due to permits and fees.

As legislators convene in Olympia, they need to understand that by adding layers of regulation, taxes and fees, you cannot make housing more affordable. Over 25% of the cost of a new home nationally is the result of government regulation and does not include regulations imposed at the state and local level here in Washington.

# NAHB & BIAW Updates

## Fed Cuts Interest Rates to Zero

The Federal Reserve on Sunday evening slashed interest rates to zero in a dramatic move to boost the economy and keep borrowing costs as low as possible for consumers and businesses in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. [KEEP READING.](#)

## Congress Expected to Pass Coronavirus Response Act Requiring Employer-Paid Sick and Medical Leave

On Friday, the House passed H.R. 6201, the Family First Coronavirus Response Act, which would guarantee free coronavirus testing, establish paid leave for all employees, enhance unemployment insurance, expand food security initiatives and increase federal Medicaid funding. The Senate is expected to pass the bill in the coming days, and President Trump has indicated his support for the legislation. [READ MORE.](#)

## Support NAHB's Build-Political Action Committee

With a minimum donation of \$20 this PAC is accessible to a variety of different member companies. NAHB's Build-PAC was very successful last election cycle, raising \$3.1 million dollars with 85% of supported candidates winning their bid for election. The Build-PAC is bipartisan with the aim of supporting pro-housing and pro-business candidates. With your help the BIA of Clark County will be able to effect change in Congress and beyond!

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please [CONTACT OUR MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANT.](#)



[Now Accepting Excellence in Remodeling Award Submissions](#)

[Start Rewarding Your Business in 2020](#)

[New Mandatory PFML Posters Available](#)

[The who, what, where, when, and why's of Mediation](#)

## Return on Industrial Insurance

You could get a refund on the premiums you pay into workers' compensation

The best way to save money and grow your bottom line is through enrolling in programs that give you a percentage of your money back. If you're committed to safety and to getting back a percentage of your workers' compensation premiums, contact Karen Hall today!

[INQUIRE ABOUT ENROLLING IN THE ROI PROGRAM](#)



[Suicides in Construction Climb](#)

[Costs Up in Recent Builder Survey](#)

[Codes Vote Could Affect Affordability](#)

[Mortgage Delinquency Rates Hit Record Low](#)

[How the Hidden Costs of Housing Affect Affordability](#)

[White House: Cities impose excessive regulatory barriers](#)

[NAHB Podcast: Energy Code Updates](#)

[Labor Department Apprenticeship Program Omits Construction](#)

[Updated Guidelines for Installing Wood Flooring](#)

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LEGAL COUNSEL TO CLARK COUNTY BUILDERS  
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## BIA Leadership

President: Dave Myllymaki, ReNew Creations

Vice President: David Millar, Millar Construction

V.P. Secretary: Aaron Helmes, Generation Homes NW

V.P. Treasurer: Dave Campos, iQ Credit Union

V.P. Associate: Mark Kroll, Biggs Insurance

Past President: Michael Shanaberger, Romano Construction Services

Caleb Blanton, New Tradition Homes

Chuck Neibert, Affinity Homes

Paul McGraw, Servpro of E&W Vancouver & Clark County

Tracy Wilson, DeWils Industries

Kevin Trevena, Parr Lumber

Sunny Parsons, Cascade Flooring America

Janice Hall Matteo, Elite Realty NW

Sheri Hunzeker, WFG National Title

Aaron Marvin, A.C.T. Builders

Albert Schlotfeldt, Schlotfeldt Law Firm

Eric Golemo, SGA Engineering

Jamie Howsley, Jordan Ramis PC

Tony Curtis, Current Home Technologies

Tracy Doriot, Doriot Construction

Matthew Clarkson, Soaring Eagle Homes

## CASINO NIGHT RESCHEDULED



### Want to help us raise money for scholarships and tool grants?

Attend, sponsor, or donate to [Casino Night](#) presented by Riverview Community Bank. Details [online](#) or inquire with Andrea Smith at [andrea@biaofclarkcounty.org](mailto:andrea@biaofclarkcounty.org)

## Education Classes

April 8

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Construction Contracts & Lien Law

April 16

8:00 am - 11:30 am

Significant Changes to the 2018 Codes



103 E 29th St Vancouver, WA 98663  
Phone: 360-694-0933

### BIA Staff

Executive Director: Avaly Scarpelli

Membership Director: Karen Hall

Government Affairs Director: Ryan Makinster

Events Director: Danielle Kilian

Communications & Education Manager: Andrea Smith

Officer Manager & Bookkeeper: Sandy Howard

Membership Assistant: Justin Wood

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