

# West Lake Hills ECHO

Volume 7, Issue 7

July 2018

## ULI Austin Announces Gary S. Farmer of Heritage Title Company as 2018 Vision Award Recipient



ULI Austin, an education, research and resource organization focused on providing leadership in the responsible use of land and creating and sustaining thriving communities, today announced that Gary S. Farmer, President of Heritage Title Company of Austin, Inc. and Heritage Exchange Corporation of Texas, has been named the recipient of its prestigious annual Vision Award.

The ULI Austin Vision Award recognizes an individual in the field of real estate development or a related area such as finance, planning or design who has made an outstanding contribution in his or her lifetime within the Austin region. Winners are selected annually by the ULI Austin Governance Committee, and previous recipients of the award include Senator Kirk Watson (2017), Alan Graham of Mobile Loaves & Fishes (2016) and Tom Stacy of CapRidge Partners (2015).

"The Vision Award represents the highest honor one can receive from ULI Austin, and it speaks to an individual's impact not just

within the real estate industry but to our community as a whole," said Edjuan Bailey, Vice President of Branding for Milestone Community Builders and current ULI Austin Chair. "Gary personifies what we should all aspire to achieve in our business and civic endeavors, and this award is but one way for us to express our thanks and gratitude."

Farmer has been in the title insurance business since 1985. During his tenure, Heritage has been recognized for its excellence in the commercial title insurance arena and has grown to be among the largest independently owned title agencies in Texas.

"Gary Farmer is that unique citizen whose impact will be felt for decades to come and whose name will be uttered alongside Kozmetsky, Dell, Butler and Johnson," said John McKinnerney, Principal at Castle Hill Partners and past ULI Austin Chair. "Not only is he effective, hardworking and trustworthy, but he is also a magnetic leader and a true Texan. He is the rare individual that works just as hard for his community as he does for his business. Truly a legendary character and beyond worthy of the ULI Austin Vision Award."

Within the community, Farmer is involved in a variety of civic and charitable endeavors. He founded the Greater Austin Economic Development Corporation in 2003 and served as its chairman for eight years. During this time, Farmer oversaw the launch of Opportunity Austin in 2004, which served as a catalyst of growth not just for Austin but the entire Central Texas region. Since 2004, an estimated 319,200 new jobs have been added to Austin's regional economy. Much of Austin's success as an economically vibrant city can be attributed to Opportunity Austin and his hard work.

"Gary has an unwavering commitment to the well-being of our region," said Greg Weaver, Executive Vice President of Catellus

(Continued on Page 2)

# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Property Tax .....	512-854-9473
Appraisal District .....	512-834-9317
Chamber of Commerce.....	512-306-0023
City of West Lake Hills .....	<a href="http://www.westlakehills.org">www.westlakehills.org</a>

## NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. ....	512-263-9181
Editor.....	<a href="mailto:westlakehills@peelinc.com">westlakehills@peelinc.com</a>
Advertising.....	<a href="mailto:advertising@peelinc.com">advertising@peelinc.com</a>

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Development, past ULI Austin Chair and member of the Governance Committee. “His focus, both on the overall economic prosperity of Central Texas and on raising considerable capital funds for well-respected nonprofits, not only makes him worthy of this honor, but also of our community’s gratitude for his many years of hard work.”

Farmer currently serves as chairman of the Greater Austin Economic Development Corporation, Opportunity Austin 4.0 Campaign and co-chair of the Waller Creek Conservancy Capital Campaign. Additionally, he is a board member of organizations including The University of Texas Chancellor's Council, The University of Texas Development Board, the President's Council of The Real Estate Council of Austin, the National Multi Housing Council and The Waller Creek Conservancy.

He is the past chair of Opportunity Austin, past chair of Advantage Austin III, co-founder and past chair of The Real Estate Council of Austin, past chair of Capital Area Transportation Coalition, past chair of Take on Traffic Initiative, past chair of Caritas Community Advisory Board (two terms), and has served as a board member on numerous other civic and charitable boards. He has also chaired six capital campaigns that have raised approximately \$75 million for community endeavors. Additionally, Farmer has served on three Mayoral Task Forces dealing with the economy, the environment and healthcare.

“Gary is a consummate professional who has been an instrumental leader in quality business recruitment for Austin as well as a quiet supporter of many social issues here,” said Phil Capron, Chair at Falcon Southwest, past ULI Austin Chair and member of the Governance Committee. “I am proud to call Gary a good friend who reflects integrity and caring in the real estate business and the city of Austin as a whole. He truly represents all of the outstanding qualities of a ULI Austin Vision Award recipient.”

The Vision Award will be presented to Farmer at ULI Austin’s 2018 Impact Awards event, to be held on August 28 at the Zach Topfer Theater. Recipients of other competitive built project and individual award categories will also be recognized. For more information regarding sponsorship, registration and award entry and nomination, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ULI-Austin-Awards2018>.

About ULI Austin:

The Austin District Council of the Urban Land Institute was founded in 1999. Today, the Austin District Council includes more than 585 Austin-area professionals in the planning, architecture, design, engineering, investor, landscape, lender, legal, construction, communication and government industries, involved in every sector of real estate development, from residential and retail to commercial and hospitality. ULI is known for its topical monthly breakfasts, which feature local and international experts on topics important to the community’s growth and prosperity. For more information, visit [Austin.ULI.org](http://Austin.ULI.org).



## Dine Well, Do Good with Water to Thrive at Chef's Table Austin 2018



Chef's Table Austin is the signature fundraiser supporting the mission of local non-profit Water to Thrive, which has built more than 850 water projects in rural Africa in the last 10 years bringing clean, safe water to more than 450,000 people.

Chef's Table Austin brings its supporters together with some of Austin's top chefs in an exciting, fast-paced evening. The centerpiece of the event, to be held Thursday, September 27, at Brazos Hall, is a high-energy live auction of menus and dinner experiences created by our chefs, giving each winner a unique opportunity to have that chef cook specifically for them and their guests. The 2018 lineup is spearheaded by Austin's renowned and Chef's Table Founding Chef David Bull of Second Bar + Kitchen, with the full lineup to be announced by mid-August.

All proceeds for the event benefit Water to Thrive operations, making it possible for the charity to sustain its mission of bringing clean, safe water to rural African communities in need. Each dollar raised for operations allows the organization to bring in nearly \$6 for water, and to maintain its 100 Percent Promise that every dollar donated for water projects goes directly to fund water projects.

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8	1							
	7		3	8				
		7	8	3		6	2	
	5							9
2						1		

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In addition to the live auction, to be conducted by Heath Hale and his Cowboy Auctioneers, and the opportunity to mix and mingle with some of Austin's top chefs, the evening features a VIP reception, open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and an extensive silent auction including a Hamilton in NY experience.

Tickets for this year's fundraiser are on sale now. For just \$95, or \$175 per couple, you'll have access to the main event which features the silent and live auctions, food and drink, and chances to win prizes. Purchase VIP tickets for \$150 each or \$280 per couple, and your benefits include early entry to the event, exclusive silent auction items, one-on-one time with our chefs, preferred seating for the live auction, specialty appetizers, and more.

For more information about Chef's Table Austin and to purchase tickets, go to [chefstableaustin.org](http://chefstableaustin.org). Here you will also find photos, chef bios and menus, and sponsors from past years of this event. Check our website and Facebook event page for updates and promotions leading up to the event.

We hope you'll join us for Chef's Table Austin 2018, and help us continue to build wells and change lives!

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## National Survey Reveals Roof Damage is One of the Top Issues that Stress Out American Homeowners

Roof damage is among the top 3 stressful issues for homeowners next to burst pipes and flood damage according to a new national survey by Owens Corning Roofing. While a roof is one of the most important items protecting most American's single largest financial investment, 69% of homeowners admitted to rarely, if ever, looking at their roof or hiring a professional to do so in advance of unpredictable weather seasons. Nationwide, the survey also found that 70% say the cost of repairs would be taxing, but only 29% of homeowners have money set aside to address unexpected roof damage.

Specific to Austin, the survey found that 40% of Austin homeowners admit they don't currently have money set aside to repair or replace unexpected roof damage and yet in the last three years only 3% say they always check or have their roofs checked before the start of a season that typically brings bad weather.

"Understanding the importance of checking their roofs and knowing the basics of roof maintenance and damage can help ensure homeowners are better prepared for upcoming weather," says Tracy Sanders and Luke Evans of Sanders Roofing and Exteriors. "It can literally make a huge financial impact for you and your family."

### Checking the Condition of a Roof

According to Tracy Sanders and Luke Evans, there are a few simple steps Austin homeowners can take to identify issues and make sure their roof is ready for upcoming weather: WIN (Walk the Attic, Inspect Your Ceilings, Note Outside Changes).

#### Walk the attic:

Often, early warning signs of current or future roof problems are visible in your attic long before they become apparent from the inside or the outside. Look for daylight coming from around any of the roof penetrations (e.g. chimney, soil pipe, vents, etc.) and check for any signs of moisture or staining on the underside wood of your roof including mold.

#### Inspect ceilings:

The first and simplest check that you likely do without even noticing it, is to occasionally inspect the ceilings in the rooms on the highest level of your home. Check for staining or discoloration on the ceilings of these rooms and hallways, especially during or after heavy precipitation.

#### Note outside changes:

At the start of each new season you should conduct an external visual inspection of your roof from the ground. Things to look for include: curling, blistering, damaged or missing shingles; missing granules including circular shapes; sagging shingle rows; moss or discoloration; and shiny shingles. IMPORTANT: A close-up inspection of your roof is recommended at least once a year, but if you are uncomfortable, inexperienced or have any doubts about your or your spouse's ability to do this safely, you should not try this and

should call a professional roofing contractor instead.

### Importance of a Certified Contractor

According to the survey, more than 54% of American homeowners say that finding a contractor they could trust would be stressful – in fact, it is so crucial that most homeowners (75%) said they would be willing to pay more money to find a contractor they could trust. The survey also found that for three quarters of Americans (75%), the single most important sign to know if a contractor can be trusted was a certification by a national roofing manufacturer.

To find a trustworthy local roofing contractor, Owens Corning recommends the following:

- If someone says your entire roof needs to be replaced, but you are unsure, get a second opinion, especially on newer roofs
- Check to make sure that the contractor is fully insured and make sure you get proof
- Confirm that a contractor carries valid state & local licenses and fully understands local knowledge of codes
- Check that the contractor is affiliated/certified by a trusted national roofing manufacturer
- Make sure the contractor has good standing with the Better Business Bureau; you can find out by visiting <https://www.bbb.org/en/us/search/>
- Looking for a trustworthy and reliable contractor in your area, but don't know where to start? Visit <https://www.sandersroofs.com/> or, for a list of additional reliable, vetted independent contractors in your area, visit [www.owenscorning.com/roofing/contractors](http://www.owenscorning.com/roofing/contractors).

### About Owens Corning

Owens Corning (NYSE: OC) develops, manufactures, and markets insulation, roofing, and fiberglass composites. Global in scope and human in scale, the company's market-leading businesses use their deep expertise in materials, manufacturing, and building science to develop products and systems that save energy and improve comfort in commercial and residential buildings. Through its glass reinforcements business, the company makes thousands of products lighter, stronger, and more durable. Ultimately, Owens Corning people and products make the world a better place. Based in Toledo, Ohio, Owens Corning posted 2017 sales of \$6.4 billion and employs 19,000 people in 37 countries. It has been a Fortune 500® company for 63 consecutive years. For more information, please visit [www.owenscorning.com/](http://www.owenscorning.com/).

### About Sanders Roofing and Exteriors

Sanders Roofing & Exteriors has been pushing the limits for the past 10 years to become the most reliable roofing company in all of

*(Continued on Page 6)*

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(Continued from Page 5)

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