

THE

METROPOLITAN BUILDER

INSIDE SHOWCASE



J. Hunter Homes' Owners
Easily Accessible



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By Kathy Bowen Stolz

Building a home is such an important, expensive project that most people appreciate dealing with the builder directly.

Eric Jones, president of J. Hunter Homes, and his wife Stacey Jones, vice president, pride themselves on being “easy to get ahold of. If you build with us, you’re going to go to me or my wife” with questions or problems, said Eric, who has been building homes since 2006.

The Joneses pride themselves on creating a smooth building process for their clients, whether they are young families or empty nesters, who want to get away from being too close to their neighbors.

Most of their clients personalize one of the 20 or so established floor plans that J. Hunter Homes offers. “It’s a quicker process and pretty smooth” to build from a floor plan than to start from scratch, Eric noted. Construction takes eight or nine months on average to complete once it starts.

“We build a lot of open floor plans with large back patios, which makes for a nice flow. Most of our plans can be modified to be ADA compliant with large showers with big openings to accommodate aged parents of the clients or to allow the clients to age in place.” He added that most of their plans include several bed and bath en suites with the living focus on the first floor.

While Eric handles all aspects of construction, Stacey Jones focuses on the homes’ finishes. She creates a portfolio of her selections for the clients’ approval, then accompanies the clients to the vendors so they can examine the faucets, handles, countertops and tiles in person. “Our clients enjoy Stacey being involved. In fact, one of the attributes of our company is having her involved. She’s a big part of our success,” Eric commented.

The company moved to the northwest side of Houston a year and a half ago because the build-on-your-lot custom subdivisions in the Katy and Fulshear area were depleted with the rapid growth in the last five years, according to



Eric. Many of their projects are on lots of 1 or 5 acres in Waller and Grimes counties. “This area is growing; there’s a lot of growth coming this way, and it’s getting farther out [from downtown Houston].”

J. Hunter Homes most often builds custom homes in the \$750,000 to \$1.5 million range between 3,000 and 5,000 sq. ft. on lots owned by their clients. “We typically do everything, including utilities, for these undeveloped sites. Not every piece of property is equal, so we make sure

the client knows the price will increase if the slope needs more dirt, for example,” Jones added. “We also build outbuildings, barns and even pools.”

While the Joneses typically build five or six custom homes a year, they also build speculative homes, which range from 4,500 to 5,000 sq. ft., with a building ratio of 3:1 contract to spec. The spec homes – which also serve as model homes – usually are 1½ stories with a game or media room upstairs and are built in the popular Modern Farmhouse style. They



also keep several lots in inventory and always have a spec home in the design phase for a quick build time.

“This will be a busy year for us. We’ve got five projects underway right now (four contracted plus one spec) and more under contract, but we don’t want to hire a construction superintendent because we want to control and maintain quality. I’m a hands-on builder. I enjoy being outside, and I like to be out on the job sites. It’s not uncommon for me to pick up a broom. You’d be surprised what [oversights] you can find when you’re sweeping.”

Eric continued, “I take a lot of pride in our work, and I expect a lot out of our guys [subcontractors]. A house is a big expenditure for our clients, and I want the best possible product we can produce.

“I’ve been doing this [building] for a long time. Most of the trades we’ve used for years. We know their families; we know their kids. If there are problems – and there will be – we’ll meet with the subcontractor or the supplier and work it all out. Usually, problems are fixable, but we may have to reset expectations with the clients.”

With all that said, where did the name J. Hunter Homes come from? Eric explained that the J is for Jones and Hunter is their younger son’s middle name. Compared to Jones’ Homes, it just sounded “right” to him and Stacey. That son is currently in college and at some point may work in the family business, really making it J. Hunter’s homes!







J. Hunter Homes

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