

JV Barr Construction

A Second Generation Of Building Excellence



by Susan Roush



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Brandon Elvis meets with Amie Barr in the Venture Engineering conference room. Amie and Brandon have worked together since the 2000's and plan on working together on many more future projects. Brandon was instrumental in Amie & JV Barr Construction joining the Horry Georgetown Homebuilder's Association.

Some of life's greatest gifts come wrapped in peculiar packages. Amie Barr, Owner and General Contractor of JV Barr Construction knows this first hand. Amie graduated in 2002 from Coastal Carolina University with a degree in Dramatic Arts and Musical Theater. "My journey to the GC license is actually quite interesting," she said. Amie and a group of friends intended to move to California to pursue their acting dreams until Amie was involved in a bad car accident.



The S&ME Engineering office building is located on Hwy. 501 business in Conway. This project was referred to JV Barr Construction by Steve Powell. JV Barr Construction was the General Contractor responsible for the construction.

She spent two weeks in a hospital enduring body reconstruction with pins, rods and plates, followed by four months in a hospital bed in her parents' living room. Her father Joseph Virgil Barr, founder of JV Barr Construction Company, would bring home plans in the evening. "He sat by my bed, and we would go over plans. I just found it so intriguing and enlightening; it just fed my soul at the time," Amie recalled. After healing, Amie started accompanying her father on job sites and began to pick up the practicalities of the trade. She decided to go for her GC license. At the time it was a migraine-producing 8-hour



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JV Barr Construction worked with the owner and Venture Engineering overseeing the construction of the Dunkin' Donuts and attached office spaces located on Hwy 707.

exam that everyone told her not to expect to pass the first time. Amie had the fortitude to stay focused hour after hour. She passed the test (the first time) to become an unlimited general contractor. Amie said, "It was such an amazing success after such a letdown of not being able to go to California and fulfill my dream of becoming a great famous actress!"

Joseph Barr was a full-time minister, and he was also a carpenter, which was his start in the building industry. His ministry in small

churches allowed the flexibility to take on carpentry jobs to add to the family income, and eventually he decided to get his GC license. In hindsight, Amie now realizes that in many ways she and her father didn't realize the company's potential – partly because of the lack of mentorship and support from the building community at the time. "Now I'm in the HGHBA and all these people are willing to help. I see where God has put these people in my life to help me grow this business as big as I want," Amie said. The business began

to gather momentum and then the financial crisis forced Amie to take a job outside of JV Barr, though she kept her hand in, returning frequently to Horry County for various projects.

In 2018 Joseph Barr suffered a fatal heart attack. Amie decided to dedicate herself to JV Barr Construction so that she could redesign and redevelop the company, not only to honor her father's legacy, but to build a future for her own family. Going forward, Amie imagines doing more commercial than residential work. She said, "I just really



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JV Barr Construction was the General Contractor responsible for the construction of the Dunkin' Donuts and attached office spaces located on River Oaks Dr. in Myrtle Beach.



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JV Barr Construction designed and constructed the Conway Church of Christ. This was the home church of Joseph Barr. This building, completed in 2005, is located on Hwy. 378 just outside of Conway. The original architectural shingled roof was replaced in 2016 following Hurricane Matthew.

like the commercial industry. I like up-fitting and taking buildings that have good bones and turning them into something else.” She also likes remodeling, site work, and watching land transform into a dynamic new purpose.

“When things happen, we don’t necessarily know why, but as time passes, we look back and go – ah,” Amie observed. Had it not been for

the car accident, she would have missed precious time with her parents, including caring for her mother who passed away in 2012, six years before her father. In the broader scope Amie believes, “I just feel the reason I’m here is to spread joy, and if I can do that in any small way – bringing people joy by turning a house or store front into something special – that is my passion.”

Steve Powell, owner of Venture Engineering in Conway, has known the Barr family since the early 2000s. Joseph Barr was the GC on a three-building complex, one of which is the office space for Venture Engineering. Steve came to know Joseph Barr through the Conway Church of Christ when Joseph was their minister. “He actually went out and got his GC license so he could be the contractor to finish the church so they would not have to hire a more expensive contractor,” Steve said.

JV Barr has been the general contractor on some of Venture Engineering’s Dunkin’ Donuts projects, additions and upgrades to Sands Ocean Club, and a number of other jobs. Venture Engineering prepares structural plans and works with architects to prepare architectural plans for a building. “A lot of times people will ask if we know a general contractor we can recommend,” Steve said, “and JV Barr is often one of the names we would recommend.” Steve added, “There’s a lot of commercial work going on right now and there’s a variety of commercial work.



The inside of the Conway Church of Christ was designed by Joseph Barr. Amie Barr took on the role of interior designer, with a desire to give the church a modern look and feel.

Sometimes commercial work is simply an up-fit in a strip center where you have a shell space to up-fit to add a business. There are fewer commercial GCs in the area than residential contractors.”

Steve has known Amie since she was in high school. He said, “Contractors come in all shapes and sizes. When you have clients that really want to be intimately involved, that’s where I generally find that JV Barr excels because of their interpersonal skills. Amie is probably even better than her dad in talking with people, meeting with people, and developing consensus. I think JV Barr’s strength is having the ability to work with people that want to be hands-on involved with the construction process.”

In Steve’s view, “Trust and integrity fundamentally comes down to character and that’s something Amie has learned since the day of her birth. Her dad and mom were two of the kindest, most generous people - I couldn’t go on enough – and she’s got that in every fiber of her body and that’s probably why I would say she has a great future in the industry because of those characteristics.”

Sylvia Hickman, Realtor with Century 21 Broadhurst, met Amie through the HGHBA. She said, “I



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Venture Offices, owned by Steve Powell, was built shortly after the construction of the Venture Engineering office building. JV Barr Construction was the General Contractor responsible for the construction.

found her to be a person of integrity. That’s the main thing with me is that I need to trust the person that’s going to be working with me.”

Sylvia learned how Amie came into the business and said, “I realized Amie wasn’t just doing this for herself; it was like a legacy, she wanted to do a really good job because this [business] is something her father left her and it just meant the world to her.”

The Hickmans have land in Conway where they will build a gracious four-bedroom, all-brick two-story home. Once all the architectural changes are complete, Amie will price it out for the couple. This will be their

second custom build. Sylvia said, “We had one in Columbia and worked with a builder there who was very hands on throughout the process, and I feel Amie will do the exact same thing.” Sylvia’s husband walked Amie through their current home so she could get a feel for their taste. Sylvia added, “She made me feel very comfortable. There’s going to be things that you’re not going to see, and people can take shortcuts. I feel like she’s not that type of person that would take a shortcut.” They hope to break ground in early Fall 2020.

Besides the Hickman’s residence, JV Barr Construction is currently



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JV Barr Construction assisted the owner of the Northwood Community property in permitting and overseeing the construction of the homes. This subdivision is located off Dongola Rd. just outside of Conway.



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Sylvia Hickman (middle) is a fellow member of the Horry Georgetown HBA. Sylvia and her husband Marvin (right) review a set of plans with Amie Barr in front of their land off of 701 North in Conway. The Hickmans hired JV Barr Construction to build their beautiful 3,500 square foot home on this one acre lot.

The rendering of the Hickman's home mentioned above. The Hickmans are excited about building and moving into their new home where Marvin will have a small wine cellar and Sylvia will have a fire pit in the back constructed from bricks salvaged from Marvin's grandmother's home.

involved in a Kingstree SC project "that is directly in line with my goals, motives and morals," Amie noted. It is an up-fit of barracks for Veterans housing. They will also transform a building on the same property into an after-school and summer camp facility for kids. Amie is also working on a multi-unit apartment project, and is in preliminary discussions for a church construction project. ■



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The Importance Of Making The Proper Decisions Regarding The Exterior Design & Installation Of Today's Roofing & Guttering Systems

The exterior of any home or business is the first thing individuals notice. The curb appeal and durability of today's exteriors, including the roofing and guttering systems, have become increasingly important in the design and planning of both new construction & remodeling projects. The Grand Strand area has experienced a lot of heavy rain over the past couple of months. This is in addition to the fact that we are currently in the middle of the 2020 hurricane season. An effective roofing and guttering system can help to protect your investment from the above for many years to come. *Building Industry Synergy* reached out to three respected professional companies in our area that carry the products and offer the services that our local building contractors, property management companies and homeowners need to successfully design, plan and install the proper exterior systems.

A roof is a major investment in one's home, and when it's time for a new one, homeowners need assurance that the roofing company offers experience, quality, and integrity in both its products and its service. Spann Roofing has been in the roofing business for 63 years, and this family-owned company takes pride in selling and installing durable roofing that fits the homeowner's needs.



Kimberly Stoffel, division manager of **Spann Roofing**, said the company is a certified GAF master elite contractor, a claim very few roofers can make.

"Only 3 percent of contractors in North America have that title; you

have to meet certain criteria including the volume, quality of work, proven reputation, and ongoing professional training," Stoffel said.

Dave Wahrendorff, project estimator, is a key element in the integrity of Spann Roofing.



Dave Wahrendorff

Wahrendorff completes the initial site visit and determines the homeowner's needs depending on the condition of the current roof.

"Dave has gone out to look at a roof and he'll say, 'You have another three years before you need to have it replaced.' Then, he'll give them an idea of what it will cost, so they can prepare for the future. He doesn't say, 'Oh yes, we want to sell this to you right now.' He'll be upfront with the homeowner."

Spann holds its work to the highest standards and avoids taking shortcuts that will, in the long run, lead to a



shorter life for the roof.

"We do complete tear offs and re-roofs, so whatever roof you have on there, it's coming off," said Stoffel. "Some companies put a roof on top of the existing roof. You can do that, but you're not going to get near the lifetime out of it. And I try to explain to people, 'It's like putting a band aid on it. Who knows what kind of issues you have underlying in your wood? You're spending thousands of dollars, and you're going to have to do it again.'"

Project field manager Hilton Knight oversees each job, ensuring the project runs smoothly with complete customer satisfaction. In addition, Spann Roofing always has a cleanup person on the ground constantly

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