



"We sell drywall but we deliver service."

Dick Mueller  
Co-Founder of GMS

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Welcome to the December edition of "Gator Gypsum News Bytes." We're glad to connect with you again!

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### Create Better Spaces with Sustain™ Ceiling Systems



#### Create Better Spaces with Sustain™ Ceiling Systems

Watch how the Sustain Ceiling Systems portfolio makes it easy to bring healthy materials, quiet, improved lighting and enhanced air quality to your projects.

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#### Take 2 with Julian Treasure

Hear how you can create better spaces and improve sustainability and well-being for the people who work, play, learn, and heal in today's commercial buildings.

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For more information stop by [your nearest Gator Gypsum location](#). We carry the full line of Armstrong Ceiling solutions, and our product specialists can help you select the right Armstrong Ceiling for your next project.

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### Solution of the Month: Center Cut Lighting Installation Made Easy



### Center Cut Lighting Installation Made Easy

Recessed downlighting adds a sophisticated and timeless lighting visual, and flangeless fixtures add even more appeal. However, cutting panels to receive flangeless fixtures can be tricky. Now you can avoid the hassle and quality issues of inserting trimless light fixtures with new Armstrong Pre-Cut Ceiling Panels. Your installation just got easier!

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## Stepping Up Advocacy Efforts



A significant part of the value of your membership is the advocacy and legislative leadership EIMA provides to the EIFS industry. Members work together to promote and educate the construction industry, governmental leaders, project owners, and designers on the value and benefits of EIFS. EIMA advocates change in local, state, and federal laws and regulations, to encourage equal opportunity for EIFS. Additionally, EIMA represents the EIFS industry at code development hearings and at meetings of standard developing organizations. EIMA has developed an educational package of information on EIFS that can be used by any of its members in promoting EIFS and educating local officials, owners, architects, etc. on the value of EIFS. Please print, distribute and use this information as often as needed to help spread the word about EIFS and move the industry forward. When facing a statutory or regulatory restriction against the use of EIFS or an unreasonable obstacle to its use, consider these steps:

1. Reach out to EIMA to see if it is already aware of the restriction/obstacle, and if EIMA can provide any background or additional information.
2. Set up a meeting with the local planning, zoning, or building codes department to understand the reasoning behind the restriction/obstacle, even though the local governing body might still have the final say on these matters. The goal is to obtain additional background for the restriction/obstacle. If you feel it's necessary to gain assistance from EIMA, please feel free to call EIMA. Please feel free to use the information on this page to help guide your conversation. Information you should obtain from your contact is the following:
  1. How old is the restriction?
  2. What were the concerns when it was passed?
  3. What other exterior cladding or building materials are being restricted?
  4. Typically, durability, appearance, and moisture control (use the Oak Ridge National Laboratory information found under the "Benefits of EIFS") are the most common topics of concern.
3. Follow-up with the locality to provide answers to any of their questions. Again, EIMA is willing to help with this.
4. If it doesn't appear as though the locality is going to budge, reach out to EIMA for
5. assistance and help in developing a plan to move forward.

Examples:

#### Case 1: Success at Planning Commission in Shawnee, KS

In 2017, the EIFS Industry Members Association (EIMA) was contacted by a business liaison working on behalf of the City of Shawnee, KS. Their objective was to look into lifting existing restrictions against EIFS, for wider use in the city.

EIMA, an EIFS manufacturer, and a local distributor all worked together to put a message forward that would resonate with both the planning department and commission. Sharing the evolution of EIFS and the superior performance of the system were key points in addressing concerns raised by the city. Information on durability, aesthetics, and more contributed to successful meetings.

A local Kansas distributor was well equipped with talking points and facts, and attended several meetings on behalf of the group. In April 2018, the planning commission voted to allow EIFS with only a few minor caveats. This was the final approval needed to lift the previous prohibitions.

#### Case 2: City Council of North Augusta, SC

In early 2016, EIMA noticed some city councilmembers discussing the possibility of lifting a restriction on EIFS that had existed in North Augusta, SC. Representatives from EIMA reached out to one of the individuals who seemed to be showing the most support for a change and supplied this individual with useful information.

The information centered around 3 topics: an overall introduction to EIFS, durability, and the aesthetics/appearance the system can achieve. After this case moved through the process, the restriction on EIFS was largely eliminated.

Both of these cases show examples of where information, that can be found in this packet,

[Download the EIMA Advocacy Information Packet](#)

## Regional News: What to know about Sparkman Wharf

The first phase of the reinvented Channelside Bay Plaza - now known as Sparkman Wharf - officially opens to the public Nov. 30.



### Here's what you need to know:

- What's open: A waterfront park that includes the following: dining garden, where 10 new street food concepts from nine Tampa chefs are housed in shipping containers, along with craft biergarten Fermented Reality and a recreational lawn.
- What it replaces: The park is on the southwestern portion of property. A 27,000-square-foot building, where Thai Thani and Hablo Taco were located, was demolished in late 2017 to make way for the park.
- What to expect: The dining garden vendors cater to both visitors and the neighborhood, serving everything from Mexican street food to Detroit-style pizza to acai bowls. Fermented Reality serves only craft beers - no Big Beer - as well as wines, cold brewed tea and natural sodas. There's a stage for live music and both the lawn and the wharf will be programmed with activities.
- What's new: The waterfront. For the first time, the wharf alongside the property will be open to the public, other than when cruise ships are docked there, about 30 to 35 times a year.
- What's next: Interior demolition work is beginning on the 180,000 square feet of office space within the wharf - the spots that were previously home to a movie theater and other entertainment concepts. "We're punching windows all the way around," said Dave Bevirt, executive vice president of office leasing and strategy for SPP. "It's going to be chockablock full of natural light. The current architecture - it feels like a little bit of a fortress, but once we punch in those windows, it'll be totally different: light, bright, airy, and really, really cool."

## Gator Gypsum Helps With Hurricane Michael Relief

### Recently, the trucks at Gator Gypsum in Tampa were carrying more than just wallboard!

In the wake of Hurricane Michael, the Gator team organized a donation drive for hurricane relief and collected cases of water, cleaning supplies, non-perishable food items, clothing, and more. Donations were taken at Gator Gypsum facilities all across the state from customers, vendors, and employees.

Supporting our community in the wake of a tragedy is a fundamental value we take very seriously and we sincerely thank everyone who helped support this effort





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With seven yard locations across Florida.