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Around the Industry: Real estate

by CityBusiness staff reports

A look at recent news, deals, hires, promotions and upcoming events involving the New Orleans metro area real estate industry.

The week in review

- A flood of federal bailout money pushed a private research group's monthly forecast of economic activity unexpectedly higher in December, while a decline in home prices boosted housing sales. To read more, click [here](#).
- Home prices in New Orleans, Metairie and Kenner decreased 0.82 percent in November 2008 compared with November 2007, according to preliminary estimates released today from First American CoreLogic and its LoanPerformance Home Price Index. To read more, click [here](#).
- North Oaks Health System in Hammond has delayed new construction on its \$200 million hospital expansion until at least this summer. To read more, click [here](#).
- The Louisiana Home Builders Association says it's a good time to buy a home in the state. To read more, click [here](#).
- A judge didn't abuse his discretion when he refused to halt the demolition of four public housing complexes in New Orleans that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina, a federal appeals court has ruled. To read more, click [here](#).
- The city's main redevelopment agency could soon receive the first of thousands of properties the state bought from hurricane-affected homeowners after Katrina in 2005. To read more, click [here](#).
- Nationally, home prices in Case-Shiller's 20-city index tumbled by the sharpest annual rate on record, 18.2 percent, as the deepening housing slump and national recession spared no region. To read more, click [here](#).
- St. Bernard Parish's grand ballroom, which has already been rebuilt after being damaged by Hurricane Katrina, will receive more federal funding to fully cover rebuilding costs. To read more, click [here](#).
- With foreclosures spiking, the Federal Reserve is taking steps to try to keep some distressed borrowers in their homes. To read more, click [here](#).
- Twenty Slidell homes damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita will be rebuilt higher using more than \$3 million in federal funds, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state officials said today. To read more, click [here](#).
- The state intends to move forward on an appeal of the level of funding FEMA has offered for Charity Hospital in New Orleans. To read more, click [here](#).
- The state wants federal housing benefits extended another year for victims of the 2005 hurricanes, citing a lack of affordable housing in the New Orleans area. To read more, click [here](#).

Deals

- The city of New Orleans has awarded a \$2.7 million contract to renovate the district attorney's office

building. To read more, click [here](#).

Hires, promotions, appointments

- **Townsend Underhill IV**, development director for **Stirling Properties**, will serve as the new business coordinator for the company.

- Prudential Gardner Realtors has named Tiesha Edwards-Claborn a sales associate in the Laplace office, Sheryl Boudreaux a sales associate in the Severn office, Pepsi Crowe a sales associate in the Slidell office and Kristin Intravia and Renee Holmes sales associates in the Mandeville office.

- **Donna Taylor**, vice president of asset management and new development for **Stirling Properties**, has been elected president-elect for the New Orleans chapter of the Commercial Real Estate Women Network for 2009 and will become president in 2010.

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