



Emily Levitt
2026 STAR President

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Contact Us

Collene Burgess
Chief Executive Officer
cburgess@Star.Realtor

Maggie McAber
Communications & Education
Administrator
maggie@Star.Realtor

Rich Cosgrove
Government Affairs Director
GAD@Star.Realtor

Candice Likely
Administrative Assistant
membership@Star.Realtor

www.Star.Realtor

STAR Monthly News

Powering REALTORS® Across Stark, Carroll, and Trumbull Counties...

President's Message

2026 | July

Homeownership, Freedom, and the American Dream: Celebrating 250 Years of Independence

As we gather with family and friends this Fourth of July, we celebrate more than fireworks, parades, and backyard barbecues. This year carries special significance as our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026—a milestone that invites us to reflect on the values that have shaped America for nearly two and a half centuries.

Among those values, few are more deeply woven into the fabric of our country than the dream of homeownership. Since our nation's founding, owning a home has symbolized opportunity, stability, and independence. It represents the ability to put down roots, build a future, and create lasting memories. For generations of Americans, homeownership has been one of the most effective pathways to building wealth and achieving financial security.

As REALTORS®, we have the privilege of helping individuals and families realize that dream every day. Whether it's a first-time homebuyer receiving the keys to their very first home, a growing family searching for more space, or a retiree finding the perfect place for their next chapter, we witness firsthand the life-changing impact of homeownership.

The real estate industry has experienced significant changes over the past several years. Market conditions, technology, consumer expectations, and industry practices continue to evolve. Yet through all the change, one thing remains constant: people still want a place to call home.

Here in Stark County, we are fortunate to be part of communities that offer strong neighborhoods, excellent schools, thriving businesses, and a quality of life that attracts people from across the region. Homeownership strengthens these communities by encouraging civic engagement, fostering neighborhood pride, and creating connections between neighbors.

As we celebrate Independence Day and prepare to commemorate America's 250th birthday, it is worth remembering that the principles of freedom, opportunity, and personal achievement are closely tied to the ability to own property and invest in one's future. Homeownership remains one of the most tangible expressions of the American Dream.

This Fourth of July, let us celebrate not only our nation's history but also the role that homeownership continues to play in building stronger families, stronger communities, and a stronger America.

On behalf of Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®, I wish you and your family a safe, happy, and meaningful Independence Day as we honor our past and look forward to the future.

Warm regards,
Emily Levitt
2026 STAR President

Classes & Events

JULY

- JUL 3 STAR OFFICES CLOSED | Independence Day Observed
- JUL 10 Affiliate Committee | Staff Liaison: [Collene Burgess](#) / [Maggie McAbier](#)
- JUL 11 [REGISTER NOW](#)
Sophie Bowl | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
HOF Sports Complex | 2121 George Halas Dr NW, Canton, OH 44708
- JUL 16 [REGISTER NOW](#)
MLS NOW CE | My Matrix & More 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720

AUGUST

- AUG 3 Growth & Connection Committee | Staff Liaison: [Maggie McAbier](#)
- AUG 5 Leg. Affairs / RPAC Committee | Staff Liaison: [Rich Cosgrove](#)
- AUG 14 Affiliate Committee | Staff Liaison: [Collene Burgess](#) / [Maggie McAbier](#)
- AUG 20 [REGISTER NOW](#)
MLS NOW CE | Realist: Using Tax Data 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720
- AUG 23 [REGISTER NOW](#)
HOF Half Marathon Water Stop | 6:30 am – 10:00 am
2121 George Halas Dr NW, Canton, OH 44708
- AUG 26 [REGISTER NOW](#)
Civil Rights CE | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720

SEPTEMBER

- SEP 2 Leg. Affairs / RPAC Committee | Staff Liaison: [Rich Cosgrove](#)
- SEP 7 STAR OFFICES CLOSED | Labor Day
- SEP 11 Affiliate Committee | Staff Liaison: [Collene Burgess](#) / [Maggie McAbier](#)
- SEP 21 Growth & Connection Committee | Staff Liaison: [Maggie McAbier](#)
- SEP 24 [REGISTER NOW](#)
New Member Orientation | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720
- SEP 25 [REGISTER NOW](#)
Golf Outing | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sleepy Hollow Golf Course | 374 Homeworth Rd, Alliance, OH 44601



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<https://starrealtor.TheCEShop.com>

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A Note from the CEO

Your Membership at Work

As we move into the second half of 2026, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for being a valued member of Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®. Summer is often a slower season for meetings and events, but behind the scenes, your Association continues working every day to provide the services, advocacy, education, and resources you depend on.

This year has already been filled with exciting progress. We've expanded educational opportunities, hosted networking events across both Stark and Trumbull Counties, strengthened our committee involvement, and continued investing in technology and safety resources that benefit your business. We have also made significant improvements to our office, including our new keyless entry system and updated facilities to better serve our members and the community.

One area we continue to focus on is ensuring your dues dollars are working for you. Whether it's providing free continuing education classes, networking opportunities, advocacy at the local and state levels, member safety tools like FOREWARN, or community service projects such as our Bed & Breakfast event with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, every decision we make is centered around delivering value to your membership.

If you haven't attended an event or class recently, I encourage you to do so. Some of the best business relationships begin with a simple conversation at a committee meeting, Morning Mixer, SHAKERS, or educational program. Getting involved is one of the easiest ways to maximize your investment in STAR.

A quick reminder that Local REALTOR® dues were due on June 30. If you still have an outstanding balance, please submit your payment as soon as possible to avoid interruption of your membership benefits.

Looking ahead, we are excited about several initiatives, including the continued review of our Policy Manual, planning for future member events, and the return of our Young Professionals Network (YPN). Our goal is to continue building an Association that supports every member, regardless of where you are in your real estate career.

Thank you for your continued support, your professionalism, and your commitment to serving your clients and our communities. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and look forward to an exciting second half of 2026.



Collene Burgess
Chief Executive Officer
cburgess@Star.Realtor
office: (330) 494-5630

Collene Burgess
Chief Executive Officer
Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®

Obituary | Martha J. "Marty" Galentine [Please refer to the attached obituary](#)

STAR is deeply saddened by the passing of Martha J. "Marty" Galentine. Martha served as President of the Stark County Association of REALTORS® in 2009 and the President of the Women's Council of REALTORS® in 1995. She was honored as REALTOR® of the Year in 2012 for her dedication to the profession.

Marty's kindness, leadership, and friendship will be deeply missed. Our thoughts are with her family and loved ones.





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June 18: Buyer Basics

Learn how to add a new contact, set search criteria for automatic emails via the Client Portal, and manage prospect details—including editing criteria, tracking emails, scheduling tasks, stopping auto emails, deleting contacts, and using reverse prospecting.

July 16: My Matrix and More

Explore the My Matrix tools, including custom headers and grids, personalized email signatures with photos and links, speedbar shortcuts, team settings, hot sheets for market tracking, and portal notifications to monitor prospect activity.

August 20: Realist: Using Tax Data

Learn how to get more from Realist tax data, including report views, sorting, search tips, flood and assessor maps, neighbor profiles, label downloads, finding comps (even with zero results), setting preferences, and using mortgage calculators.

September 17: CMA

Learn how to find comps using radius or map searches and create a CMA package with customizable reports, cover pages, and stats—saved under the contact for easy editing, printing, or emailing anytime

October 15: Buyer Basics

Learn how to add a new contact, set search criteria for automatic emails via the Client Portal, and manage prospect details—including editing criteria, tracking emails, scheduling tasks, stopping auto emails, deleting contacts, and using reverse prospecting.

***Rayse: Showcasing Your Value as a REALTOR®**

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To learn more, please allow 15 minutes after your class for a brief lesson.

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Committee in support of the Sophia Capo
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Advance with Vitalant so they can plan ahead!

Details on the STAR Website

Saturday, July 11, 2026

from 9 am - 3 pm

during the Sophie Bowl Flag Football Tournament

**Hall of Fame Village
Sports Complex**

2121 George Halas Dr NW, Canton, OH 44708

vitalant 
Blood Donation

QUESTIONS? Contact Maggie McAbier via email
or phone maggie@STAR.Realtor | 330-494-5630


SCAN HERE
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Make A Splash with STAR!



Join the STARS Growth and Connection Committee as we volunteer to hydrate the runners of the Hall of Fame Half Marathon!

Sun - August 23, 2026

6:30 am - 9:00 am

Pro Football Hall of Fame

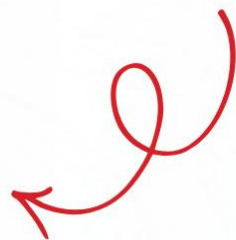
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We're looking to make a splash at the Hall of Fame Half Marathon—and we want YOUR help!

Join us in volunteering at the STAR Water Stop to keep runners hydrated and cheering them on all the way to the finish line!

Sign up today to volunteer and be a part of the excitement!



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QUESTIONS? Contact Maggie McAbier via email or phone maggie@STAR.Realtor | 330-494-5630



3-Hr Continuing Education

CIVIL RIGHTS

Civil Rights: It's a New World

Wednesday

August 26, 2026

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

at the STAR Office

**7110 Whipple Ave NW,
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\$20 for Non-STAR Members

*Credit: This course is certified for 3 hours of
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Registration Deadline: Tues, August 25th

**You will be charged a \$20 No Show Fee if you
do not cancel your reservation 24 hours
prior to the event per STAR Policy.**

**QUESTIONS? Contact Maggie McAbier
maggie@STAR.Realtor | 330.494.5630**

SIGN UP TODAY!



Instructor: JACKIE CASSARA

www.STAR.Realtor

Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®

GOLF OUTING

FRI Sept 25, 2026



Sleepy Hollow Golf Course

374 Homeworth Rd, Alliance, OH 44601

8:00 am Registration / Check In

9:00 am Shotgun Start

\$75 SINGLE GOLFER

\$300 FOURSOME

Registration Includes:

- 18 Holes at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course
- Unlimited Beverages
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and Dan Kozma (330) 323-9366
dkozma@pursuitlendinggroup.com

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July 2026 GAD Report

DeWine signs \$3.7B two-year capital budget for statewide projects: Ohio is set to see billions of dollars in new construction and improvement projects after Gov. Mike DeWine signed the state's new two-year capital budget. The plan totals \$3.7 billion in investments across Ohio. It funds upgrades to college campuses, state parks, behavioral health hospitals, correctional facilities and housing for people with developmental disabilities. The budget also includes money for local parks, trails, county fairgrounds, museums and historic sites.

Budget correction bill includes one-time property tax credit for some elderly, disabled Ohioans: Hundreds of thousands of elderly and disabled homeowners in Ohio who receive the homestead tax exemption will get a credit on their January property tax bills, under a bill that passed before lawmakers left for summer break. It was approved overwhelmingly, but even some of those who voted for it raised concerns about the kind of property tax relief it provides. House Bill 479 started as a measure to allow remote supervision of radiologists. Lawmakers added the distribution of \$1.5 billion in surplus tax revenue, through funds to cover the state's

share of \$875 million in a settlement involving nursing homes, an expanded sales tax holiday and to 710,000 homeowners getting the homestead tax exemption.

Stark County grants final approval for Perry Twp. data center tax break: Stark County commissioners approved a property tax break for a major data center being built along Faircrest Street SW in Perry Township. Getting the county's approval was the final step in granting the Community Reinvestment Area tax deal. Commissioners Richard Regula and Bill Smith voted in support of the deal. "It's going to bring a tremendous amount of revenue," Regula said after the June 10 meeting. "It's really going to benefit the local community and our local sales tax, and it's going to put a lot of people to work." Commissioner Alan Harold abstained from voting. Harold said it was appropriate for him to abstain because of legal and ethical conflicts. He declined to elaborate.



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Rich Cosgrove
Government Affairs Director

Contact for: Legislative Affairs, RPAC

<mailto:GAD@Star.Realtor>
Office: (330) 494-5630



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STAR Affiliate of the Year

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CONTACT: Collene Burgess (330) 494-5630 with questions today!

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Each year, STAR accepts nominations for several Special Awards. If you or someone you know is deserving of one of these Prestigious Special Awards, just click the images (or the links below) to fill out our SIMPLE Online Form!

[CLICK HERE](#) to fill out the online form for our:

- REALTOR of the Year
- Affiliate of the Year

[CLICK HERE](#) to fill out the online form for our:

- Lifetime Achievement Award

Contact Collene with questions or if you want to learn more!

cburgess@Star.Realtor or

(330) 494-5630



it's time to be
Recognized

STAR is accepting nominations for...

STAR Lifetime Achievement Award

If you or someone you know is deserving of this Prestigious Special Award, Fill out our SIMPLE online Form to make your nomination TODAY!!!

CONTACT: Collene Burgess (330) 494-5630 with questions today!

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Collene Burgess, STAR CEO
cburgess@STAR.Realtor
(330) 494-5630

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Contact Collene with questions
or if you would like to learn more!

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or (330) 494-5630

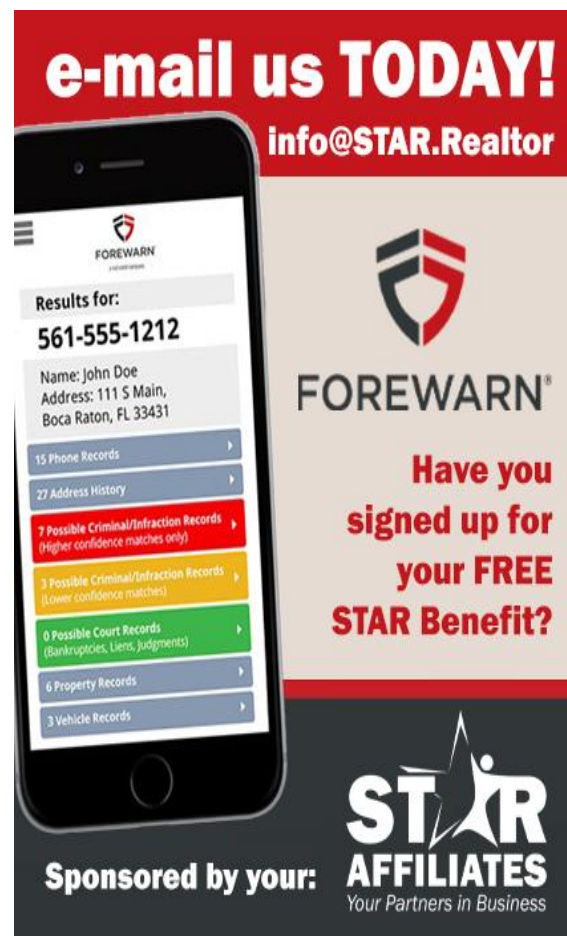


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Monthly Market STATS

May 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out our Blog for shareable assets and watch social media for June STATS soon!

MarketUPDATE

STARK COUNTY

Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®
Single-Family & TownHome Listing
Analysis of Stark, Trumbull, & Carroll Counties



NEW Listings
576



SOLD Listings
359



Average SALE Price
\$264,215



Average MARKET TIME
30 Days

MAY 2026

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MarketUPDATE

CARROLL COUNTY

Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®
Single-Family & TownHome Listing
Analysis of Stark, Trumbull, & Carroll Counties



NEW Listings
33



SOLD Listings
20



Average SALE Price
\$341,290



Average MARKET TIME
62 Days

MAY 2026

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MarketUPDATE

TRUMBULL COUNTY

Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®
Single-Family & TownHome Listing
Analysis of Stark, Trumbull, & Carroll Counties



NEW Listings
243



SOLD Listings
174



Average SALE Price
\$205,020



Average MARKET TIME
50 Days

MAY 2026

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Membership Report June 2026

New Salespersons

Marie Molek, *KW Legacy Group*
Briann Yoder, *BHHS Professional*
Harold Winnale, *BHHS Stouffer*
Sherwood Shoemaker, *KW Legacy Group*
Racquel Scott, *KW Legacy Group*
Marshayla Mitchell, *KW Chervenick-Stow*
Paige Hesse, *Key Realty- Fairlawn*
Lillian VonWyl, *KW Legacy Group*
Hadyn Bower, *Kelly Warren & Associates*
Mary Johnson, *Glasshouse Realty*
Zachary Beeman, *ERA Real Solutions*
Dillan Rynes, *KW Legacy Group*
Chad Tillapaw, *Ryder Realty*
Aaron Ball, *eXp Realty*
Justus Lee, *Re/Max Edge*
Jenevieve Denny, *Re/Max Edge*
Jared Detter, *KW Legacy Group*
Allison Johnson, *Kelly Warren & Associates*
Shaun Benning, *Cutler Real Estate*
David Legg, *Great Move Realty*
Dominic Leon, *KW Legacy Group*
Amy Kunes, *KW Chervenick*

New Office

KW Chervenick- Carrollton, *Arden Lingenhoel*
KW Chervenick- Kent, *Arden Lingenhoel*
Buckeye Professional, *Jonathan Dallas*

Office Transfers

Joann Clark, *KW Chervenick Realty*
Janice Fleming, *KW Chervenick Realty*
Rachel English, *KW Chervenick Realty*
John Ehman, *KW Chervenick Realty*
Sandra Doppelheuer, *KW Chervenick Realty*
Haley Thomas, *KW Chervenick Realty*
Mazie Tietze, *KW Chervenick Realty*
Austin Rovnak, *KW Greater Metropolitan*
Thomas Menches, *KW Legacy Group*
Sara Peters, *KW Legacy Group*
Kathryn Veal, *McDowell Homes*
Adrienne George, *McDowell Homes*
Laurie Flanagan, *ProHelp Kelly*
Melinda Muzi, *Century 21 HomeStar*
Ashley Ewers, *KW Chervenick Realty*
Todd English, *KW Chervenick Realty*
Kerry Leeman, *Re/Max Infinity*
Jessalyn Webb, *XRE Realty*

Office Transfers Cont.

Madelyn Peterson, *XRE Realty*
Julia Collins, *XRE Realty*
Alan Frank, *McDowell Homes*
Jacob Ketler, *Howard Hanna*
Samuel Houk, *eXp Realty*
Abbey Jagger, *Re/Max Trends*

Transfers from Another Board

Christina Pascarella

Dropped Members

James Harouff
Jason Franklin
Nicholas Casto
Kristofer Kampmeyer
Madelyne Flanagan
Daniel Hughes
Michael Felton
Melinda Stewart
Alexandra Chiarappa
Germaine Davis
Tamika Daniels

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LOAN ADVISOR
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Elite Communication

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Candice Likely, Administrative Assistant

Contact for: Membership & Dues Inquiries,
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NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun Says Home Sales Expected to Improve in Second Half of 2026

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WASHINGTON (June 16, 2026) – Home sales are expected to be modestly better in the second half of 2026, provided that inventory and housing supply continue to expand, National Association of REALTORS® Chief Economist Dr. Lawrence Yun said during the Residential Economic Issues and Trends Forum at the [2026 REALTORS® Legislative Meetings](#).

NAR's current forecast calls for existing-home sales to rise 4% this year, with the median home price also climbing 4%. Mortgage rates are projected to average 6.5% in 2026. Yun added that housing wealth accumulation will continue in 2026, with the typical homeowner gaining approximately \$16,000 in wealth this year.

"Homeowners will continue to build wealth, while renters are simply spinning their wheels," Yun said.

Despite headwinds in the housing market, Yun said the U.S. economy will avoid a recession in 2026, pointing to strong business investment in artificial intelligence and data centers. The unemployment rate is expected to remain under 5%, and job gains are projected to reach 400,000 this year.

Yun also offered a long-term projection, running multiple scenarios to estimate when the national median home price—currently \$430,000—would reach \$1 million. Each scenario pointed to roughly the same answer: about 25 years.

To illustrate the power of long-term appreciation, Yun noted that the national median home price was just \$90,000 in 1990. Even San Francisco, considered super expensive at the time, had a median price of only \$250,000.

Also speaking at the forum, Dr. Jessica Lautz, NAR deputy chief economist and vice president of research, focused on who is actually buying homes right now despite the challenging market. Lautz said the housing market may feel like it's in gridlock, but that is not a universal experience—distinct buyer segments are actively purchasing, whether driven by necessity, determination or housing equity.

"I've been traveling around the nation this year, and I am hearing a lot from you that it's a really wonky market," Lautz told the audience. "You'll list a home on the market, and sometimes it'll sit for months. And sometimes it's going to have multiple offers, and they can be next door to each other."

Lautz walked through a series of buyer profiles backed by NAR research data, identifying opportunities for REALTORS® to recognize and reach potential clients they may be overlooking.

"We talk incessantly about first-time homebuyers. What about first-time sellers?" Lautz said, noting that 17% of younger baby boomers who sold this year had never sold a property before.

Lautz also addressed persistent myths holding back potential buyers.

"Misinformation is out there," Lautz said, noting that many potential buyers still believe they need a 20% down payment. "The typical down payment for first-time homebuyers was just 10% last year."

About the National Association of REALTORS®

The National Association of REALTORS® is involved in all aspects of residential and commercial real estate. The term REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark that identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the National Association of REALTORS® and subscribes to its strict [Code of Ethics](#). For free consumer guides about navigating the homebuying and selling transaction processes—from written buyer agreements to negotiating compensation—visit [facts.realtor](#).

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