



Emily Levitt  
2026 STAR President

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# STAR Monthly News



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

## President's Message

**2026 | January**

It is truly an honor to serve as the 2026 President of the Stark Trumbull Association of REALTORS® (STAR). I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me and excited for the opportunity to serve our members, our profession, and the communities we represent. STAR has a long-standing reputation for leadership, advocacy, and professionalism, and I am proud to be part of an association that continues to move the needle forward in meaningful ways.

Our association has a proud history of creating positive change and consistently increasing the value we provide to our members. Whether through education, advocacy, networking, or community involvement, STAR remains committed to supporting REALTORS® at every stage of their careers. I look forward to building on that strong foundation while working alongside our dedicated staff and leadership team to ensure STAR continues to grow and thrive.

I would like to personally invite all members to attend our Installation Ceremony on Thursday, January 15th, at 4:00 PM at Haymakers Mill. This event is a special opportunity to celebrate our collective achievements, recognize the hard work of our volunteers, and officially introduce the 2026 Board of Directors. The Installation Ceremony also allows us to come together as an association and set the tone for what promises to be an exciting and productive year ahead. I encourage you to join us as we kick off 2026 together.

One of my primary goals this year is to increase interaction and engagement among our members. Building strong professional relationships is essential in our industry, and STAR provides countless opportunities to connect with fellow REALTORS® who you may already be doing business with—or will be in the future. I encourage you to pay close attention to upcoming events, educational offerings, and networking opportunities designed to bring our members together.

Our STAR staff does an outstanding job communicating these events and opportunities to our membership, and I encourage each of you to take advantage of them. Whether you attend a class, committee meeting, social event, or community initiative, your involvement strengthens our association and enhances your professional experience.

The STAR staff, Board of Directors, and leadership team are thrilled to serve you this year. I look forward to working with each of you and making 2026 a successful year for STAR.

Emily Levitt  
2026 STAR President

**www.STAR.Realtor**

# Classes & Events

## JANUARY

JAN 1-2 OFFICES CLOSED | New Years

JAN 7 Leg. Affairs / RPAC Committee | Staff Liaison: [Rich Cosgrove](#)

JAN 9 Affiliate Committee | Staff Liaison: [Collene Burgess](#) / [Maggie McAbier](#)

JAN 12 Growth & Connection Committee | Staff Liaison: [Maggie McAbier](#)

JAN 15 [REGISTER NOW](#)  
Presidents Installation  
Haymaker's Mill | 7192 Wales Avenue NW North Canton, OH 44720

JAN 19 OFFICES CLOSED | Martin Luther King Day

JAN 22 [REGISTER NOW](#)  
MLS NOW CE | Listing Input 1:30-3:30  
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720

## FEBRUARY

FEB 4 Leg. Affairs / RPAC Committee | Staff Liaison: [Rich Cosgrove](#)

FEB 9 Growth & Connection Committee | Staff Liaison: [Maggie McAbier](#)

FEB 9 [REGISTER NOW](#)  
First Time Home Buyers Seminar  
STAR Office | 7110 Whipple Ave NW Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720

FEB 13 Affiliate Committee | Staff Liaison: [Collene Burgess](#) / [Maggie McAbier](#)

FEB 16 OFFICES CLOSED | Presidents Day

FEB 19 [REGISTER NOW](#)  
MLS NOW CE | My Matrix and More 1:30-3:30  
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720

FEB 22 [REGISTER NOW](#)  
TRUMBULL Shaker at Cork & Cap  
3225 Elm Rd NE Warren OH 44483

FEB 26 [REGISTER NOW](#)  
New Member Orientation 2:00-3:30  
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720

## MARCH

MAR 2 [REGISTER NOW](#)  
Beacon Pharmacy | 10:00 am - NOON  
2525 13<sup>th</sup> St NW, Canton, OH 44708

MAR 4 Leg. Affairs / RPAC Committee | Staff Liaison: [Rich Cosgrove](#)

MAR 10 [REGISTER NOW](#)  
STARK Shaker at M Bar  
5260 Dressler Rd, Canton OH 44718

MAR 13 Affiliate Committee | Staff Liaison: [Collene Burgess](#) / [Maggie McAbier](#)

MAR 19 [REGISTER NOW](#)  
MLS NOW CE | Realist Using Tax Data 1:30-3:30  
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720



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# A Note from the CEO

## Serving Together: Committees, Community, and the Year Ahead at STAR

One of STAR's greatest strengths is the opportunity for members to get involved, build relationships, and help shape the future of our Association and our communities. As we head into a new year, I encourage you to consider serving on one of our committees—your involvement truly makes a difference.

If you enjoy planning events, education, and giving back, the **Growth & Connections Committee** may be the perfect fit. This committee oversees all STAR events and continuing education programs and leads our community outreach efforts, including partnerships with **Habitat for Humanity** and **Beds for Kids**. It's a great way to connect with fellow REALTORS®, support meaningful causes, and help create engaging experiences for our members.

For those interested in advocacy and staying informed on local issues, the **Legislative Affairs Committee** plays a vital role. This committee monitors local and state issues affecting our industry and interviews government officials before any endorsements or support are considered. If you want a voice in protecting private property rights and shaping public policy, this committee is essential to that mission.

Another important way to get involved is through **RPAC – the REALTOR® Political Action Committee**. RPAC focuses on fundraising for candidates who understand and advocate for REALTOR® issues. Funds raised through RPAC events enable the Legislative Affairs Committee to support candidates who align with our values and priorities. Participation in RPAC helps ensure REALTORS® have a seat at the table when decisions are being made.

If any of these committees interest you, please email me directly. I would be happy to share meeting dates and times and add you to the appropriate committee list. Getting involved is one of the best ways to maximize your membership and make lasting professional connections.

I also want to personally invite you to join us as we welcome our new President, Emily Levitt, and our 2026 Board of Directors at our **Installation** on January 15 from 4:00-6:00 PM at Haymaker's Mill. Seating is limited, so please register as soon as possible.

During the Installation, we will also recognize outstanding members of our Association, including **Amy McConnell** as **REALTOR® of the Year**, **Mattie Easton** as **Affiliate of the Year**, and present our most prestigious honor, the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, to **Rich Motts** and **Rick Perkins**.



**Collene Burgess**

*Chief Executive Officer*

[cburgess@star.realtor](mailto:cburgess@star.realtor)

office: (330) 494-5630

## With Deepest Sympathy

It is with sympathy that the Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS (STAR) Board of Directors and Staff shares the news of the passing of Robert Dale Lupton, the husband of our respected member, Andrea Lupton. We extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to Andrea and her entire family during this difficult time.

We wish to acknowledge Andrea's significant and instrumental role in the successful merger that formed STAR from the Warren Area Board of Realtors and the Stark County Association of Realtors. We also recognize her valuable service on the STAR Board of Directors at the beginning of the merger and her continued support of STAR.

For more information on Robert Dale Lupton, click [HERE](#)



# 2026

## INSTALLATION of Officers and Directors Awards Ceremony

### *Emily Levitt*

2026 STAR President

**THURS Jan 15, 2026**  
**4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

**Haymaker's Mill**

7192 Wales Avenue North West  
North Canton Ohio 44720

**STAR**  
**AFFILIATES**

Your Partners in Business

**4:00 pm Cash Bar**

**4:30 pm Hors d'oeuvres**

**5:00 pm Installation**

Find an Affiliate for a FREE Drink Ticket!

**FREE for STAR Members**

**\$15 for Non-Member Guests**

**REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE TODAY!**

*Join us for the Installation of our STAR President.  
We will also honor Special Award Winners!*

**2025 REALTOR® of the Year**

**2025 Affiliate of the Year**

**2025 Lifetime Achievement Award**

Questions? Contact Collene Burgess, STAR CEO  
(330) 494-5630 or [cburgess@STAR.Realtor](mailto:cburgess@STAR.Realtor)

**www.STAR.Realtor**



www.MLSNow.com | (216) 485-4100

**1:30pm - 3:30pm**

**at Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®**

7110 Whipple Avenue NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720

### **January 22: Listing Input**

The Matrix Listing Input class should be taken by those who have broker permission to input listings. This class will go over how to properly use the input portion of Matrix while following MLS Now rules.

### **February 19: 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.

### **March 19: 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.

### **April 16: 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.

### **May 21: Listing Input**

The Matrix Listing Input class should be taken by those who have broker permission to input listings. This class will go over how to properly use the input portion of Matrix while following MLS Now rules.

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

Rayse is the all-in-one platform that helps agents deliver the transparency and professionalism today's buyers and sellers expect. You've seen how it works for buyers—now discover the new seller experience with tools like the Seller Services Presentation, Seller Journey, and enhanced reporting. These features make it easy to demonstrate your value from listing to closing.

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

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2 Hours Elective CE Credit EXCEPT  
Listing Input.



MLS Now LEARNING



# Fall In **LOVE** with Your New Home

## First Time Home Buyers Seminar

### MONDAY February 9, 2026

**5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the STAR Office**

**7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720**

**Hear expert tips straight from Lenders,  
Local Realtors®, Title Companies, Home  
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**QUESTIONS? Contact Maggie McAbier  
[maggie@STAR.Realtor](mailto:maggie@STAR.Realtor) | 330-494-5630**

**Register at  
[www.STAR.Realtor](http://www.STAR.Realtor)**



# VOLUNTEER with STAR!

Join the Stark Trumbull Area **REALTORS®**  
Growth & Connection Committee as we lend  
our time to Beacon Charitable Pharmacy!



**MON. March 2, 2026**

**10:00 am - NOON**

**BEACON CHARITABLE PHARMACY**

**2525 13th St. NW, Canton, OH 44708**

Give just a couple of hours to make a meaningful impact by supporting this vital Community Resource! It's an exciting chance to connect with fellow Agents and Affiliates while making a difference in your community. Lunch will be provided.

No special skills needed—if you know your ABCs, you're already qualified to help!

**Sign up on our Website TODAY!**

**www.STAR.Realtor**

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency providing prescription medication assistance to uninsured and underinsured residents of Stark and Carroll Counties who have a low to moderate income.

QUESTIONS? Contact Maggie McBier at [maggie@STAR.Realtor](mailto:maggie@STAR.Realtor) | 330.494.5630



# STAR *Shaker*

**5:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Complimentary Food & Drinks**

Join the STAR Affiliates for a Fun & Relaxing Networking Event!  
FREE for STAR REALTOR® Members \$20 for STAR Affiliates

## Rumble in Trumbull

**at Cork & Cap**

3225 Elm Rd NE  
Warren, OH 44483

**Sunday, February 22:  
"Trivia Night"**

## After Dark in Stark

**at MBAR in Canton**

5260 Dressler Road  
Canton, OH 44718

**Tuesday, March 10  
Tuesday, October 27:  
"Halloween Karaoke"**



**RSVP TODAY! [www.STAR.Realtor](http://www.STAR.Realtor)**



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January 8<sup>th</sup> 2026 | 11AM-2PM

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*STAR OFFICE*

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WEAR PINK

WEDNESDAY

18

— FEBRUARY —

— 11AM-1PM —

STAR OFFICE

7110 WHIPPLE AVE SUITE B  
NORTH CANTON, OH

## January 2026 GAD Report

**Ohio bill could limit where some immigrants can buy homes:** Immigration and civil rights advocates are raising concerns about a bill that would put new restrictions on certain foreign citizens buying land in Ohio. If passed, House Bill 1—also called the Ohio Property Protection Act—would prohibit the citizens of nations the federal government has designated as “foreign adversaries” from buying land within ten miles of critical infrastructure facilities.

**Ohio lawmakers pass landmark property-tax reform package aimed at cutting costs, increasing transparency:** The County Auditors Association of Ohio is praising the Ohio General Assembly for passing a package of four bills aimed at slowing the growth of property taxes, expanding relief for homeowners and improving transparency in the state’s tax system. The legislation – House Bills 186, 309, 335 and 129 – now heads to Gov. Mike DeWine for his signature, with the reforms expected to take effect early

next year. Savings are expected to show up on tax bills beginning in June and July.

**Gov. DeWine aims to improve access to housing across Ohio:** Gov. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik hope to provide housing for more Ohioans through the Welcome Home Ohio program. The program is receiving \$65.6 million in funding to increase access to housing across the state. The program will allot \$22.8 million for the purchase of foreclosed properties and the rehabilitation or construction of homes. Another \$20 million portion will be available through nonrefundable tax credits for qualifying rehab and new construction once a property is sold.

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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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## Monthly Market STATS

November 2025

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

## Market UPDATE

### STARK COUNTY

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

**NEW Listings**  
632

**SOLD Listings**  
367

**Average SALE Price**  
\$270,827

**Average MARKET TIME**  
30 Days



### OCTOBER 2025

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[www.STAR.Realtor](#)

## Market UPDATE

### CARROLL COUNTY

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

**NEW Listings**  
28

**SOLD Listings**  
23

**Average SALE Price**  
\$258,660

**Average MARKET TIME**  
58 Days



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## Market UPDATE

### TRUMBULL COUNTY

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

**NEW Listings**  
205

**SOLD Listings**  
154

**Average SALE Price**  
\$202,374

**Average MARKET TIME**  
45 Days



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# Membership Report December 2025

## New Salespersons

David Kramer, EXP Realty  
Raquel Campbell, KW Legacy Group  
Myreko Harris, KW Legacy Group  
Kylie Gamble, Key Realty  
Rachel Ivers, Whipple Auction & Realty  
Bronson Gilyard, KW Legacy Group  
Chance Schrecengost, C21 Asa Cox Homes  
Brian Collins, Key Realty  
Alexcia Dee, KW Chervenic  
Luca Leone, KW Chervenic  
Rana Irfan, KW Legacy Group  
Kreslie Eberly, DeHoff Realtors  
Madelyn Peterson, BHHS Stouffer  
Kelly McGilton, KW Chervenic  
Delaney Wyant, BHHS Stouffer  
Christy Clayton, Re/Max Edge  
Jennifer Cramblett, Re/Max Edge  
Jesse Wood, BHHS Professional  
Lily Hess, KW Legacy Group  
Jessalyn Webb, EXP Realty

## Transfers from Another Board

Olivia Craig  
Christine Chervenic  
David Chervenic  
James Duncan  
Jacqueline Anderson  
Shannon Weber

## Transfers from Another Board Cont.

Dorinda Young  
Cieara Irizarry  
Laurie Flanagan  
Alexandra Moga  
John Moody  
Mary Bodnar  
Tia Lentini  
Stephen Berkshire

## Dropped Members

Cynthia Li  
Lonzie Padgett  
Mark Winans  
Zachary Laird  
Susan Williams  
Preston Ford  
Ann Marie Shinn  
Michelle Neal  
Blake Youssef

## New Secondary Members

Heather Lindsey, BHHS Professional  
Sara Brenner, Axen Realty  
Jesse Willis, Willis Group Realty  
Mike Love, Great Move Realty

## New Secondary Office

Heather Lindsey, BHHS Professional  
Sara Brenner, Axen Realty  
Jesse Willis, Willis Group Realty  
Mike Love, Great Move Realty

## New Affiliate Members

Kiona Stevens, Chosen 1 Consulting LLC

## Office Transfers

Aaron Robey, EXP  
Nicholas Remark, EXP  
Abigail Salvino, Re/max Edge  
Alessia Maculaitis, KW Greater Metro



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Janice Rich – Title Agent / Office Manager  
[jrich@mckinley-title.com](mailto:jrich@mckinley-title.com)

Daniel Thomas - Escrow  
[danielthomas@mckinley-title.com](mailto:danielthomas@mckinley-title.com)

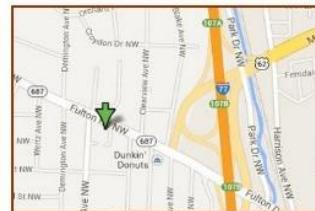
Danette Stone –Title Processing  
[dston@mckinley-title.com](mailto:dston@mckinley-title.com)

Attorney Michael Gruber  
[mgruber@aghattorneys.com](mailto:mgruber@aghattorneys.com)

Attorney David Thomas  
[dthom@mckinley-title.com](mailto:dthom@mckinley-title.com)

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## Candice Likely, Administrative Assistant

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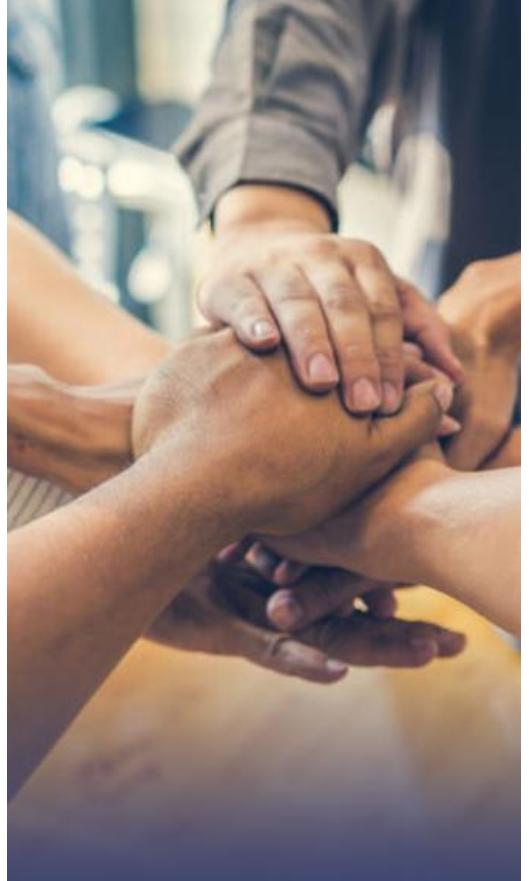
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and Informative  
NEW Member  
Orientation,  
and take the  
guesswork out  
of getting started!**

**Orientation Dates**

Thursday, February 26

Thursday, June 4

Thursday, September 24

Thursday, November 12



**Sign-Up TODAY!**

# Utility Costs, Indoor Air Quality, and Energy Efficiency Drive Commercial Real Estate Sustainability Decisions

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WASHINGTON (December 4, 2025) - Commercial clients are putting building performance at the center of their real estate decisions, with a strong focus on operating costs, indoor air quality, and energy efficiency, according to the National Association of REALTORS® [2025 REALTORS® Commercial Sustainability Report](#).

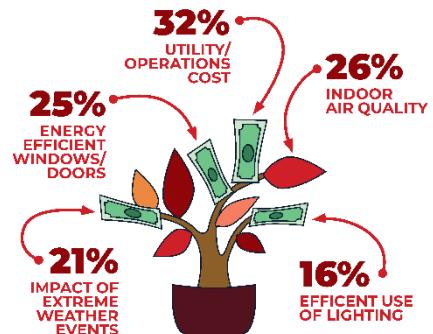
"Commercial real estate agents recognize the importance of sustainability when purchasing, leasing, or selling properties," said NAR Deputy Chief Economist Jessica Lautz. "Properties with green building certifications tend to have higher property values and are more energy efficient than buildings without a certification."

"More commercial practitioners are exploring adaptive reuse to transform vacant or underused properties into new spaces, often for residential use," Lautz added. "Repurposing buildings can be an innovative way to sustainably increase both housing supply and new community spaces."

In August 2025, NAR surveyed its commercial-focused members about sustainability issues facing the industry. The report found that when deciding where to buy or lease, agents who are REALTORS® say the sustainable building features that their clients consider very important include utility and operations costs (32%), indoor air quality (26%), energy-efficient windows and doors (25%), the impact of extreme weather events (21%), and the efficient use of lighting (16%).

Additional findings from the report:

- 55% of agents and brokers say promoting energy efficiency in listings is very or somewhat valuable
- 30% report that green certifications increase commercial building property values in their markets
- 37% have completed some form of educational or professional training with commercial properties featuring sustainable elements, such as energy-efficient appliances, renewable energy systems, or eco-friendly building materials
- 32% of brokerage firms have experience working with repurposing commercial buildings
- Top market issues and considerations surrounding sustainability cited by agents and brokers:
  - 38%: Improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings (down from 43% in 2024)



Source: 2025 REALTORS® Commercial Sustainability Report 

- 35%: Valuation of solar panels on a building (up from 22% in 2024)
- 34%: Understanding how solar panels impact transactions (up from 27% in 2024)

## About the National Association of Realtors®

As America's largest trade association, 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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