# RE+VIEW

NOV+DEC 2017

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NOV+DEC Volume 100, Issue 6

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### REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR OF LEADERSHIP

REALTORS® DO CARE

By Bob Adamson

In my final column as your 2017 chairman of the board, I want to share some of what I've learned about our industry, our community and our members.

We care about our clients and their ability to be able to buy, sell or lease a home for themselves.

We care about our industry and know that it takes advocacy to keep laws in place that favor homeownership and a free market – so that homeownership can be obtained and maintained.

We care about our communities where our clients and their families work, live and play. Safe and healthy neighborhoods with good schools and public services are what make Northern Virginia such a desirable place to live.

Because we care, we must act. NVAR provides our members with the opportunity to make a difference at all levels.

NVAR Cares – about what we do in the communities, and offers multiple ways to get more involved: with Graham Road Elementary School; with Habitat for Humanity build days; with our NVAR Cares Committee, making recommendations about delivering support to worthwhile organizations. There are many ways to act and show that you care, too. Check out the stories on page 18 about some of our members who have heeded the call to serve others, and who are nominated for our first-ever NVAR Hero award.

NVAR Acts – through advocacy that supports our industry. Understand the issues, and be prepared to respond to the Call for Action on tax reform. Learn more about what's at stake on page 15.

NVAR is **#WorthIt**! And so are you. Our 2017 Convention & Trade Show, which took place on October 10, proves NVAR continues "Taking us Further." Take a look at the photos on pages 7-10, which demonstrate that our association knows we are **#WORTHIT**. The NVAR staff and task force chair Karen Hall worked with a group of leaders to make sure that we have the tools, knowledge and connections we need to help our clients understand that we're **#WorthIt** – and they are, too! Consumers deserve the professionalism that we deliver, with the help of our association.

I am looking forward to our December 7 Installation and Recognition event when I will pass the baton to your 2018 Chair Lorraine Arora, and we'll also announce our NVAR Hero Award winner. Mark your calendars!

It has been an honor to serve as your 2017 chair. As always, my door is open and my phone is on, ready to hear your comments, suggestions and concerns. I wish you all the best for a happy, healthy, productive and successful 2018.

Bob ademson

Bob Adamson 2017 Chairman of the Board chairman@nvar.com



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The views expressed in this publication may not reflect NVAR policy, and may be the opinions of the writer or interviewee. Reach us by email at re+view@nvar.com.

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#### VISION 2020: KEEPING AN EYE ON THE FUTURE OF YOUR BUSINESS

STRATEGIC LEADERS ARE PLANNING TO GO THE DISTANCE



As 2017 draws to a close, your leadership team is thinking about how NVAR can continue to help you achieve your professional vision.

At the beginning

of 2015, NVAR adopted a three-year plan that is drawing to a close. Looking back at our accomplishments, I can state with confidence that together we've achieved success in delivering on our strategic goals in these areas: Advocacy and Government Relations; Professionalism and Education; Technological and Digital Relevance; Community and Public Relations; and Strategic Leadership.

You're probably familiar with the phrase, "Hindsight is 20/20." The saying implies that it's often easier to know the correct course of action after something has already happened, but it's hard to predict the future.

Of course, in every organization, there is opportunity to reflect and to take things further. A new year brings new opportunities to deliver the education, tools and resources that you, our members, expect and deserve.

Our industry is evolving in significant ways. We're committed to understanding industry trends so that we can keep our members at their professional best. While we may not have perfect foresight about what the future holds for real estate professionals, we have an excellent team of staff and volunteer leaders who are ready to move forward. Having 20/20 vision does not necessarily mean perfect vision, but it does indicate sharpness or clarity of vision *at a distance*.

In 2018, members of the NVAR leadership team will work with a task force to develop a new strategic plan that will focus on going the distance for the next three years—through the year 2020. The Strategic Plan task force will provide clarity about our "Vision 2020."

For NVAR, Vision 2020 means digitizing to simplify and streamline your interactions with NVAR, and to help identify the best tools for your business. It means collaborating with members, brokers, strategic partners and the community in a way that elevates your professional image and expands business opportunities. It also means professionalizing NVAR in a way that positions us as the best service provider and uncontested leader among Realtor® associations locally, nationally and internationally.

Be on the lookout for advancements that will help you work smarter to achieve success. Collaborate with us to ensure that you get the most out of your NVAR membership. Take advantage of all that we offer so that you can be the trusted professional making a difference for homebuyers and sellers.



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#### Regional Development That's #WorthIt!

EXPERTS TACKLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CHALLENGES, OFFICE OBSOLESCENCE

By Jill Parker Landsman



**Experts Discuss the Regional Landscape.** (left-right) Moderator Mark C. Looney, attorney with Cooley, LLP; David R. Millard, principal of Avison Young; David Diaz, CEO of The Tysons Partnership; Bo Menkiti, CEO of KW Capital Properties; Buddy Rizer, CEO of Loudoun County's Department of Economic Development.

#### THE REGIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

GAP is a dilemma for the long-term, agreed NVAR Convention session panelists discussing the current commercial and residential market. Reality is that many neighbors are challenged to secure affordable, decent housing.

Presenters at the 11:15 a.m. Regional Market session said that local governments continually struggle to solve that need. One point of agreement: a longterm solution for their respective locations is years or perhaps decades ahead.

It is no secret that reduced federal funding for housing has meant that local governments must make decisions about how to provide workforce housing. Discussing the commercial and residential market were Moderator Mark C. Looney, attorney with Cooley LLP; David R. Millard, principal of Avison Young; David Diaz, CEO of The Tysons Partnership; Bo Menkiti, CEO of KW Capital Properties; and Buddy Rizer, CEO of Loudoun County's Department of Economic Development.

#### HOW WELL IS THE CURRENT SYSTEM WORKING?

"Going to the office" just isn't like the old days, according to Millard. "Trends that started five years ago focus around the mantra that work is what you do, not where you do it anymore," he said. With the advent of working remotely and digitally, the virtual office arrangement "is going to accelerate."

He pointed out that with new emphasis on work-life balance, commuting to work by Metro is just one choice; working from home or from the local Starbucks are viable work site alternatives.

The commercial market has its own growing pains regionally. Millard cited that "65 percent of all office buildings in Northern Virginia are at least 20 years old [and reaching] the end of their useful life." What developers do with aging buildings that are not amenity-rich is a problem for commercial practitioners.

Diaz knows that with the region's high vacancy rate, the market will take

time to "absorb all that product." He announced plans for more residential diversification around Tysons, which will include townhomes and senior housing residences. "As a city planner, I like that the region appeals to millennials and boomers," he said. "Five years from now, we will offer more nightlife and culture." While most think of work or retail for the Tysons area, he predicts that will change. "Capital One is building a 1,500-seat performing arts cultural center, among other Tysons upgrades," he noted.

A work-lifestyle balance shift is also taking place in Washington, D.C., according to panelist Menkiti. He pointed out that while the District offers established retail corridors, as in Georgetown, D.C. retailers also want to remake themselves. Expansion is happening more broadly in the city, with the idea of 'the downtown' as a broader geographical land mass.

Lifestyle is a major priority to those living in the District, Menkiti said. "People want a living working lifestyle experience. It's about where you work; where you live; where you play."

Since Class A luxury apartment products predominate the construction landscape, he explained the dilemma that current D.C. job growth does not sustain the high-end housing that is being created.

Rizer highlighted the rapid growth of Loudoun, which went from 100,000 people to 375,000 people in the past 10 years. "That has been an interesting dynamic, he said. "We are known for our 10 million square feet of data centers with another 3 million square feet under development."

continued from page 7

Metro is a main consideration when planning Loudoun's future, as three stops are scheduled to open in Phase 2. "We added 10,000 new jobs in the last three years. This is a pace that will grow even faster," he said. "Surely some new employees will want to move there. How are we going to house these people? That is making a big difference in our planning. We have to change our conversation about housing, as we do want walkable

communities. [Housing] has been cash negative in our community."

With the current housing market throughout Northern Virginia and in the District, all panelists know that residential affordability questions prevail. It used to be that people would drive until they qualify, they all agreed. Consensus was that there are new challenges that must be addressed in the coming decade. The panelists agreed

that incentivizing affordable housing at the government level was one solution that could help each region create a solution in its own backyard.

"Workforce housing is a neglected part of our economy," concluded Millard. +



**Jill Parker Landsman** is the NVAR vice president, communications & media relations.

#### Value Visualized!

#### RECORD-BREAKING NVAR CONVENTION 2017

From the early morning Networking Pods to the closing Marketplace Mixer, the NVAR 2017 Convention & Tradeshow, held October 10 at the Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, reinforced Realtor® value—proving the theme, Realtors®: You're #WorthIt!

During the opening session annual meeting, Chairman Bob Adamson annual NVAR Realtor® of the Year honors for 2016 Chairman Virgil Frizzell and introduced the newly-elected 2018 board of directors, led by incoming Chair Lorraine Arora of Weichert, Realtors®.

Frizzell helped to establish NVAR as an ambassador to real estate professionals from across the country and around the globe by initiating NVAR's mid-year showcase of innovative ideas, now in its fourth year—just one significant accomplishment during his years of involvement.

Under the volunteer leadership of Convention Task Force Chair Karen Hall, NVAR pulled out all the stops with new technology, all-star speakers and innovative learning experiences. Pictured on these pages are just a few of the #WorthIt moments from October 10.



NVAR Chairman Bob Adamson (left) congratulates 2016 Chairman Virgil Frizzell on his 2017 Realtor® of the Year honor.



Returning and newly-elected 2018 board members pause for recognition during the opening session annual meeting. Pictured (left-right): 2018 Immediate Past Chair Bob Adamson, 2018 Chair Lorraine Arora, 2018 Chair-Elect Christine Richardson, 2018 Secretary-Treasurer Nicholas Lagos, Craig Lilly, Tracy Comstock, Peter Nguyen, Derrick Swaak, Reggie Copeland, Gary Lange, Ann Yanagihara, Coral Gundlach, Dallison Veach, Robert Wittman and Heather Embrey (Not pictured: Marc Pina).



NVAR Chairman Bob Adamson gets a hands-on product demo in the Realtor® Marketplace.



Your Bright Future: (left-right) Bright MLS board member Scott MacDonald asks Bright's Secretary/Treasurer Cindy Ariosa and CEO Tom Phillips about how Bright will help members expand their markets and improve their business.



New technology tools were in evidence throughout the 2017 Convention venue, including online bidding for the NV/RPAC silent auction, pictured here. Automated registration kiosks expedited attendee entrance.



Closing celebrity keynote Hilary Farr of HGTV's Love It or List It (second from right), poses for photo ops with invited guests during an afternoon reception hosted by CEO Ryan Conrad. Pictured here (left-right): Convention Task Force Chair Karen Hall, NVAR Chair Bob Adamson, reception sponsor MBH Settlement Group CEO Fred Westerlund, Hilary Farr and NVAR CEO Ryan Conrad.



Capping off a day of blockbuster keynotes, experiential learning and interactive networking, members mingle with colleagues and make new connections during the Marketplace Mixer happy hour.



NVAR COO Frank Doyle announces prize winners from a perch above the Marketplace Mixer crowd. Lucky members took home everything from an Apple TV to Amazon Echoes and Dots. #WorthIt!



New York Times, Wall Street Journal and USA Today best-selling author of Wealth Can't Wait, David Osborn, packs the house during his opening keynote session.

continued from page 9



Social Media Steve, aka NVAR
Digital Engagement Manager Steve
Russell, helps members navigate the
Scavify digital scavenger hunt app,
making its NVAR debut at the 2017
Convention and Trade Show.



HGTV star Hilary Farr of HGTV's *Love It or List It* wows the afternoon closing session crowd with her presentation on design do's, don'ts and trends.



"Standing Room Only" is the phrase of the day as members take advantage of powerful learning opportunities, including this session about Technology and Demographics presented by Leo Pareja, Remine CEO.



An all-new charging station kept attendees' and exhibitors' smartphones powered up to participate in the digital scavenger hunt, online bidding and lead capture app.



Scores of convention-goers take advantage of free professional headshots offered for the first time this year by HDBros.

# EKKO



Look Who's Joined Our Team!
Ekko Title welcomes
Karen Daily to our new
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#### **Pre-Convention Politics**

#### KELLY O'DONNELL SERVES UP STORIES OF PRESIDENTIAL COVERAGE

CONTINUING AN ANNUAL CONVENTION-DAY TRADITION, the NVAR Government and Public Affairs Committee hosted breakfast for registered members and legislator guests to kick off the day's festivities. This year, Kelly O'Donnell shared reflections about her experiences as an *NBC News* White House and Capitol Hill correspondent.



Delegate Jackson
Miller (R) (left) and
NVAR Chair-Elect
Lorraine Arora
exchange insights
about upcoming
local elections, just
before the Politics
and Pancakes
Breakfast.

This year's Politics &
Pancakes speaker was Kelly
O'Donnell, political reporter
for NBC News, who serves
as the White House and
Capitol Hill correspondent.
She explained what it was like
to report on the Presidential
candidates.





Senator George Barker (D) (left) connects with Realtor® Audrey Shay and other breakfast attendees



The morning opportunity provided pre-Politics and Pancakes networking for (left-right) NVAR Secretary-Treasurer Christine Richardson, Arlington County Board member John Vihstadt (I), 2015 NVAR Chair Mary Bayat and Arlington County Clerk of the Court Paul Ferguson.



Delegate Dave Albo (R) (left) talks Northern Virginia politics with Fairfax Supervisor John Cook (R).



Arlington County Board member Christian Dorcey (D) (center) discusses politics of the moment with NVAR Board Member Derrick Swaak (right) during breakfast.

#### Going Once, Going Twice, Going Digital

NVAR'S FIRST ONLINE NV/RPAC AUCTION YIELDS TOP RESULTS



BIDDERS at the 2017 Convention-day NV/RPAC Silent Auction may have noticed something missing...the bid sheets! This year the auction went digital with an all-new mobile bidding platform, thanks to our online sponsor, **Remine.** 

The results are in: the event and new online bidding platform were a tremendous success! Raising \$15,500 from 51 individual investors, including 24 new NV/RPAC supporters, the 2017 auction was the largest and most profitable to date.

Special thanks to our auction-day sponsors, **Quantum Title** and **Toll Brothers,** as well as our generous item sponsors and donors:

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2018 NVAR Legislative Program

#### A Mixed Bag of Priorities

SIGNS, EARNEST MONEY DEPOSITS, FAIR HOUSING, TOLLS AND PROFESSIONALISM ON THE REALTOR® RADAR

By Josh Veverka

EACH FALL, NVAR compiles legislative and regulatory policy goals for the following year's legislative session. The program is developed based on feedback and recommendations from NVAR members.

The process begins in March, when NVAR committees and forums, as well as the membership at-large, are asked to submit issues to the NVAR Public Policy Committee for consideration. Following approval by the Board of Directors, NVAR forwards the program to the Virginia Realtors® for consideration in the statewide list of legislative priorities.

The issues in the 2018 NVAR Legislative Program listed below, as well as those developed by local associations throughout Virginia, have not yet been adopted as part of the state program and may not move forward as proposed legislation in 2018. Local associations are working with the Virginia Realtors® to develop the statewide program that will be published in January. The full NVAR legislative program may be found at **NVAR.com/Advocacy**.

- REAL ESTATE TEAMS and INDUSTRY COMPETENCY/ PROFESSIONALISM— NVAR supports legislation to enhance the knowledge and professionalism of Virginia's real estate licensees. To this end, Realtor® members from associations throughout northern and central Virginia have met with the Virginia Realtors® and proposed legislation to define real estate teams and their responsibilities. NVAR also supports strengthening the licensing and education requirements of real estate licensees.
- SIGN ORDINANCES NVAR supports limited, reasonable on-site and off-site sign restrictions and the enforcement of sign prohibitions in highway rights-of-way by trained and authorized local government designees.
- TIMELY DISPOSITION OF EARNEST MONEY DEPOSITS—
  NVAR will seek legislation to ensure timely and responsive services to buyers related to earnest money deposits (EMDs).
  This issue is in response to the practice of some sellers who intentionally fail to respond to the release of funds request.
  Such sellers allegedly withhold EMDs from buyers because the sellers are upset over the termination of the transaction.



The proposal reduces the amount of time that a buyer must wait for return of the EMD when a seller is non-responsive.

- FAIR HOUSING NVAR—and the NAR Code of Ethics—maintain that all consumers should be treated equally in their housing transactions. NVAR will support legislation under the Fair Housing law to prohibit discrimination in housing transactions on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- STUDENT LOAN DEBT REFINANCING NVAR will support legislation to develop creative solutions, including the authority to refinance student loan debt, to mitigate the impact of rising student debt on homebuyers, and to protect the dream of homeownership for all Americans.
- DULLES GREENWAY TOLLS Currently Dulles Greenway tolls are permitted to rise each year under a formula tied to inflation. This is mandated by 2008 legislation, set to expire in 2020, which states that the State Corporation Commission shall approve toll increases by one of three rates outlined in the statute, adopting the highest calculation. NVAR will oppose any legislation extending the expiration date of this law beyond 2020. NVAR recommends legislation granting the state flexibility in the rate setting process and providing for, or encouraging, reasonably apportioned distance-based tolling on the Dulles Greenway. •



Josh Veverka is the NVAR government affairs director.

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# National Association of Realtors® Urges Congress: Protect Middle Class Homeowners

NAR has launched a Call for Action and public issue advocacy plan to highlight Realtor® opposition to any proposal that results in a higher tax burden on middle class homeowners. The graphic below is running in targeted Capitol Hill publications. Additional efforts are aimed at influencing Virginia Senator Mark Warner (D), who serves on the Senate Finance Committee, where any tax reform measures will be heard. Please take notice of opportunities to engage legislators and make your voice heard in opposition to homeowner tax increases. +



# NVAR Public & Government Affairs

# 2018 Legislative Trip To Richmond Thursday, February 1, 2018

#### Sign Up Today!

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- Lunch at the Virginia Capitol
- Meet your elected officials
- Lobby for Realtor® legislation
- See the General Assembly in action

7:30 a.m.-Depart from NVAR Fairfax 6:30 p.m.-Return to NVAR Fairfax



#### Questions?

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# 2017 NV/RPAC Investors List

(October 12, 2017)

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Michelle Doherty Frank Donnelly Allan Dosik Catherine Drosos Wanda Farrar Wallace Felts Kathleen Fong F. Gary Garczynski Deborah Gill David Gillis Jr. **Brandon Green** Coral Gundlach Elizabeth Gunggoll Ann Gutkin Julie Hall Melinda Hanson **David Hess** Janet Hewitt **Guo Huang** Song Hutchins Ellen Ing Sally Irizarry Kenneth Isaacman Jo Ann Jones Marianne Jordan Sanjay Joshi Janet Kang Terrilynn Kelley Kathleen Kennedy Christian Kerge Gve Shil Kim Marin Kinov Victoria Kiser Robert Koenig Subba Kolla Sarah Kwon Frances Kyte Joseph Labow Dana-Jean LaFever Jill Landsman Mary League Agnes Lee Diane Lee Stephen Lefave Keri Lesniak **Daniel Lesniak** Jose Lopez-Boggio Helen Lyman Ann Malcolm

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Ali Mansouri

Margenau

Nathaniel

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Donny Samson Michelle Sanoske Pat Ann Sawhney Janet Scaffido **Brian Schantz** Mary Schrodt Jason Secrest Teddi Segal Amir Shahna Pat Shannon Joyce Sheftic Jeffery Shumaker Carol Simmons Maureen Simpson John Slye Ronald Smith Robert Spigner Kathleen Stark **Nancy Steorts** Connie Stommel Kristin Stone Jeffrey Surdyk Carol Sutfin Joan Sutton **Swindell Sutton** Babak Taghavi Nisha Thakker **Gregory Tomlin** Karen Trainor Kenneth Trotter Kenneth Ulsaker Marriah Unruh Terrell Varley Kamlesh Verma Jonathan Villalobos Janet Weatherford-Baker Charles Weihbrecht **Brad Weissbratten** Susan Westhrook Rhoda Wheeler Whittman

William **Kevin Wiles** Vernada Williams Ann Wilson Sarah Wittig Laura Woodbury Holly Worthington Steven Wydler

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#### **NVAR Cares, Communities Thrive**

REALTOR® ACTIONS MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

By Jill Parker Landsman

WHEN NVAR CHAIRMAN BOB ADAMSON was installed in December 2016, he announced his theme for 2017: NVAR Cares. This year, NVAR members and staff have been taking caring to a new level, and there has been a significant impact. We do know why our members volunteer: THEY CARE, and they are #MoreThanRealtors.

Each effort put forth made a difference – to someone, some group, some neighborhood, some pets, some passion that our members care about.

In addition to April's Community Action Day successes, NVAR members volunteered at two Habitat for Humanity ReStores and dispatched an NVAR Cares team to a Herndon townhouse. Plus, a team of NVAR Young Professional Network volunteers helped Second Story for Homeless Youth move to a new location. Check out the photos on the next page.

Perhaps the crown jewel of the NVAR Cares achievement list is the creation of NVAR's first ever Hero Award. The following stories of award candidates prove that NVAR members care about community, lifestyle, prospering neighborhoods and family life.

#### HERO AWARD NOMINEES

The NVAR Hero Award recognizes members who have gone above and beyond to make a difference to others. Each of the candidates nominated has made significant contributions to our community and continues to improve the lives of others. We are thankful and proud to support NVAR members who continue to exemplify leadership in volunteering, organizing charitable work and providing valuable resources.

The following five candidates were nominated by their peers and are excellent examples of what it means to be an NVAR Hero.



Stacy Hennessey has been involved with Homestretch for 18 years and currently serves on its board of directors. The goal of Homestretch is to empower homeless families to obtain permanent housing and achieve self-sufficiency, by giving

them the skills, knowledge and hope they need to be

productive participants in the community. This year Stacy organized an auction that raised more than \$100,000 for the organization.



Since 2006 Sasala Challa has donated nearly \$300,000 to various undergrad and post-graduate scholarship programs and research organizations. In addition to supporting programs across the country, Sasala also provides funding for the Challa

Foundation, which contributes to higher education and research institutions.



Nichloas Pasquini Jr. is the chairman of the board for Redwood Gives Back, a charitable platform for Century 21 Redwood. A recent example of the work Nicholas and his team have accomplished includes raising \$50,000 to build homes for Haitian families

impacted by the 2010 earthquake.



Ed Huebner has been a Realtor® for more than 30 years, during which he has contributed time to several volunteer efforts and thousands in donations to charitable institutions. Some of the organizations Ed has been involved with include The Bethany

House, the 29 Diner Christmas Gifts for Children Program. This year, he was a major part of the Centreville Moose Lodge efforts to fill a semi-truck with supplies for victims of Hurricane Harvey.



Mary Ann Burstein has led volunteer efforts at the Arlington Animal Shelter, Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter, Arlington Food Assistance Center and several City of Falls Church Arts and Humanitarian events. Mary also encouraged Long & Foster Falls

Church colleagues to expand their volunteerism, and the office now participates in a volunteer activity each month.



NVAR's YPN
volunteers help Second
Story for Homeless
Youth move furniture
and office supplies to
the organization's new
location.

#### The Sweat Equity that Proves NVAR Cares:

This 2017 NVAR Cares
Team deployed on Friday,
Sept. 8 to work on a
Habitat-for-Humanityacquired foreclosed,
Herndon townhouse.
Working on the fully gutted
home were the Habitat





Restore in Chantilly. On Sept. 29, the NVAR Cares Team helped the community. Team members were (left-right: then clockwise from bottom): NVAR Chairman of the Board Bob Adamson, Amy O'Dell, Heather Embrey, Miguel Calvo, Mary Ann Burstein, Bethany Ellis, Anthony Barr, Val Sotillo, Helen Krause and Javier Gonzalez.

#### VHDA's 2017 Top Producing Loan Officers

Northern Virginia Region



#### Carlos Larrazabal 476370\* WashingtonFirst Mortgage 192767



Joanna Butler	310500 C&F Mortgage Corporation		147312
Laura Triplett	181420	Atlantic Coast Mortgage, LLC	643114
Jeffrey Neilsen	193504	First Heritage Mortgage 110	86548

#### SILVER CIRCLE

Brian Whetzel	194118	C&F Mortgage Corporation	147312
Rob Heltzel	203008	George Mason Mortgage, LLC	153400
Jerome Jones	207537	First Savings Mortgage Corporation	38694
David Bridges Jr.	222490	First Heritage Mortgage, LLC	86548
Sarah Pichardo	229120	George Mason Mortgage, LLC	153400
Ana Tolentino	659522	Atlantic Coast Mortgage, LLC	643114
Vickie Tiller	609892	Virginia Credit Union®	407552
Jennifer Brown	175902	J.G. Wentworth Home Lending, LLC	2925
Alexander Branower	1136409	NVR Mortgage Finance	1127
Janice Lanning	247520	Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC	75164
Liz McElroy	659461	First Heritage Mortgage, LLC	86548

#### 15-19 Loans BRONZE CIRCLE

Lea Frye	192699	George Mason Mortgage, LLC	153400
Don Gay	148501	Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation	2289
James Walker	303104	First Heritage Mortgage, LLC	86548
Ireldy Fuentes	340509	J.G. Wentworth Home Lending, LLC	2925
Glen Bralley	233063	McLean Mortgage Corporation	99665
Jeremy Johnson	251879	McLean Mortgage Corporation	99665
Melissa Bell	450558	McLean Mortgage Corporation	99665
Sebastian Rivera	190984	MVB Mortgage	181319
Mac Church	659377	Atlantic Coast Mortgage, LLC	643114
Scott Hill	187713	Freedom Bank of Virginia	518039
Kimberly Ramey	232472	George Mason Mortgage, LLC	153400
Todd Call	214957	McLean Mortgage Corporation	99665
Christian Searle	659508	MVB Mortgage	181319
Ana Arana	204145	First Heritage Mortgage, LLC	86548
Richard Donohoe	659392	Fidelity Bank Mortgage	477139
Greg Mullan	483951	George Mason Mortgage, LLC	153400
Jacque Sommer	194354	McLean Mortgage Corporation	99665
Nick Bohn	450883	Movement Mortgage	39179
Shannon Leydig	197958	WashingtonFirst Mortgage	192767

See the full list of Top Producing Loan Officers at: vhda.com/FindALender



\*NMLS Numbers





"You just call out my name, and you know wherever I am, I'll come running, running, yeah, yeah, yeah, to see you again."

Well, maybe Carole King wasn't singing about your broker, but being available by phone, email or text is an essential part of the job of a real estate broker.

"I can always reach my broker if I have a situation and need help," says Bonnie Rivkin, a Realtor® with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Alexandria. "I even got an immediate text response from her when she was on vacation overseas."

By Michele Lerner

# "Petersen says building a new office with an open workplace and lots of windows was one of the best things her company did, since it encourages people to come into the office and collaborate."

The Virginia Administrative Code, which regulates the Virginia Real Estate Licensing Board, establishes the broad responsibilities of a broker, which basically require the broker to be available to agents for essentially every business-related need.

"I am in my office and always accessible to my agents," says Lorraine Arora, managing broker of Weichert, Realtors® in Fairfax. "My agents know I've got their back unequivocally and will be ready to face the public if a mistake has been made."

Brokers have broad responsibilities. On the basic side, they are responsible for reviewing and approving documents, providing training and written policies to agents, supervising the management of the brokerage and updating agents about regulatory changes. Also each brokerage can determine how to structure its office, establish its own policies and train and interact with its own agents.

"Every broker should have an office policy manual, which should be a good indication for agents of the level of involvement they should expect from their broker," says Sarah Louppe Petcher, NVAR General Counsel. "Agents should also read their independent contractor agreement so they know what to expect."

For a complete list of broker responsibilities mandated by Virginia regulations, visit **nvar.com/VABrokerDuties** 

#### COMMUNICATING IN THE AGE OF THE HOME OFFICE

A big challenge for many brokers is that many of their agents are working from home and don't come into the office, says Petcher. She says there are a variety of tools brokers can use to address that lack of face-to-face communication.

"We don't see the agents who work from home very often," says Athena Petersen, managing broker of Long & Foster Real Estate in Reston. "I go through my roster of agents periodically and just call the ones I haven't seen in a while to see how they are doing and whether they need anything from me."

Petersen says building a new office with an open workplace and lots of windows was one of the best things her company did, since it encourages people to come into the office and collaborate.

Petersen also schedules purely social events once each month and makes it a point to connect there with the agents she rarely sees.

"One great way to communicate with people who aren't in the office is through Facebook forums and similar group sites," says Bic DeCaro, a Realtor® with Westgate Realty Group in Falls Church. "It's a good replacement for weekly meetings to get information and to collaborate with agents without needing to be in the office."

DeCaro says internal sites connected to a brokerage could be used to upload new forms and even to record the weekly sales meeting so that agents could watch it later if they must miss it.

Petersen's office is structured with two brokers so that one of them is always available for their 180-plus agents.

"I never delegate my accessibility to agents if I can help it, because that's what I want to do the most," says Petersen. "We have mentors and trainers to help the agents, too. If someone specifically wants me to do one-on-one coaching, I do that, too."

DeCaro says that her broker, Vinh Nguyen, is always available via text or phone even though the brokerage is large. She says Westgate also has an office manager to provide quality assurance and to double-check every contract. The office manager acts as support for the broker, too.

Arora asks her agents how they prefer to communicate, such as via text, email or phone. She also uses BombBomb™ videos, sent through email, to share news or a special listing with her agents.

"Although I'm in a large office, my broker is always available by cell phone," says Scott Shawkey, a Realtor® with the Capital Area Real Estate Group of Keller Williams Realty in McLean. "We also have a compliance specialist on our team who watches over everything we do and checks all our documents, plus a compliance officer for the entire office who reviews all contracts."

Shawkey says he has a team leader, an assistant team leader and a leadership committee with mentors at his office to handle business planning and career advice, which frees the broker to handle specific situations.

"If agents aren't happy with the support they are getting from their broker, they should talk to the broker, find a mentor or ask for help at their association," says Petcher. "They need to figure out the kind of brokerage model that will make them comfortable from a risk management perspective and from a business perspective. If the structure at their current brokerage isn't working for them, they can start interviewing elsewhere."

continued from page 21

### ADAPTING TO VARIED PERSONAL STYLES AND LEVELS OF AGENT EXPERIENCE

Depending on the size of the brokerage, brokers could have dozens of new Realtors® working alongside midrange agents, as well as top producing agents. Realtors® of all skill levels could all be eager to take their business to the next level.

"We provide a wide range of meetings and training sessions so that agents can get exactly what they need," says Petersen. "New agents meet one-on-one with mentors, and I provide one-on-one coaching with some agents, too, for accountability."

Some brokers work with their agents to set goals and write a business plan, while others are more hands-off.

"It's not mandatory, but I do an annual goal-setting meeting with my broker," says DeCaro. "But I also get outside coaching, which a lot of other agents do, too. Agents who have been in business awhile tend to rely less on their broker, at least on a regular basis."

The frequency of interactions between a broker and an agent should be different with each agent, says Petersen.

"Brokers need to be careful so that they are not overbearing and not micromanaging, but they also need to provide the right amount of attention when someone needs it," she says.

Arora says she tries not to bombard her agents with too much communication, but she sends out an email every Monday to all agents updating everyone with what happened over the weekend. On Fridays, she sends an email asking about open houses and reminding her agents to send information about listings, traffic and sales to her on Monday.

"I sometimes also send small group texts or one-on-one texts about specific issues," says Arora. "There are lots of different methods of communication to use. I meet one-on-one quarterly with each agent and work on business plans with each agent in September."

Arora says she works more closely with new agents to help them make decisions about how they'll handle their work and to talk about their strengths and the kind of work they like best.

"I have a business planning session once per year with each agent to set goals and do time-blocking for the year," says Petersen. "Accountability is a big part of this business, so we work in groups or individually to track expectations and success."

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO SUPPORT AGENTS

The amount of training provided by brokers varies from office to office, but DeCaro says what agents want most is relevant training that relates to what is happening in the market now.

"My coach is out-of-state, so it's very helpful to have a broker with lots of news and local information that we can use to help our clients," says DeCaro. "It's also good to get perspective on housing market statistics and hear from lenders about what's happening with financing."

Arora schedules a sales meeting every Tuesday and offers in-house training every Thursday, taught by affiliate leaders, outside teachers or sometimes by her, depending on the topic.

"I teach the [terms of the] contract, paragraph by paragraph, to help agents avoid mistakes," says Arora. "We also provide technology training, marketing training and budgeting."



Arora says her agents requested that she reinstate weekly meetings when she reduced their frequency because they like to engage with other agents in the office. Anywhere from five to 40 agents attend each week.

"We get almost too much training," says Rivkin. "It's great for new agents, though."

Rivkin says she tries to attend weekly meetings where she can learn about loan products and contract changes from the in-house lender and title company.

Petersen provides twice-per-week training and accountability sessions for new agents and once-per-week training for mid-level agents.

"We also have our core service partners teach classes twice per month for continuing education credits," says Petersen. "I teach a post-licensing class for new agents and a 'Ninja Selling Services' class four times per year for three-and-a-half days each session." Shawkey says his office provides a variety of training sessions three or four times per week, taught by senior agents, the broker and other office leaders. He asks his team members to take at least three classes per month and asks everyone to attend the weekly meeting when the broker provides updates and ideas about what's happening in the local market.

While training agents provides the foundation for a strong brokerage, both agents and brokers say that the most essential function of a broker is for support during special situations such as a tough negotiation, an uncooperative client, or a conflict with another agent. Arora says, "Your broker should be a buffer between you and a client or a difficult situation."

Rivkin says great brokers have a calm personality and can cope with lots of different agents with various personalities. "It's important that agents feel comfortable with their broker and don't feel a separation between themselves and their broker," she says.

Petersen says an important part of the broker's job is to listen well to agents and to teach agents to listen to their clients and peers.

"Even if someone is knowledgeable, it's important to ask questions and wait for the answer," says Petersen. "Clients and agents need to know that someone will listen to them and work toward their goals."

It is important for each practitioner to set goals and enlist the help of their brokers to achieve them with success. The chemistry between the Realtor® and the broker must be right for both parties or it might be time to find a better match. +



Michele Lerner, a freelance writer based in the Washington, D.C. area, has been writing about real estate and personal finance for more than 20 years.

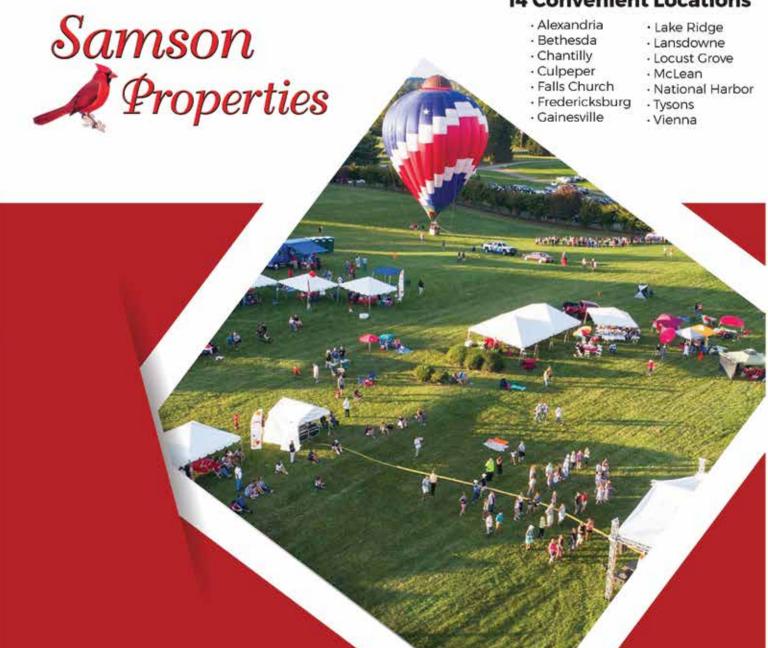
#### Tips for Agents

- Agents should go out of their way to ask for help from their broker when they need it and not expect the broker to intuitively know when they need help.
- Agents should ask their broker questions to increase their knowledge.
- Agents should be collaborative with other agents and their broker to foster a positive atmosphere.
- Agents should listen to their broker, their peers and their clients to understand everyone's needs and to work toward mutual goals.
- Agents should let their broker know how they like to communicate and how often.

#### Tips for Brokers

- Brokers should get to know their agents and adjust their expectations for each agent's goals.
- Brokers should check in periodically with agents to ask them how they are doing and what they need.
- Brokers should be able to cope with widely different personalities and be the voice of calm during stressful situations.
- Brokers should listen to their agents as much as they talk, so they understand what the agents are thinking and also get new ideas.
- Brokers should establish a mentoring program for new agents.
- Brokers should let their agents use them as a sounding board and a place to vent.





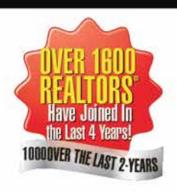
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"Before any of us agents came to Samson Properties we asked ourselves if it was really as good as advertised. Truth is, it's way better. Danny has given us all the framework to build a business as big as we can dream! I feel like I'm a dreamer, but the tools and support Samson Properties continues to add outpace what I could envision. In my near six years with the company, our family has benefited from his kindness, generosity, vision, support, encouragement, and all the tools to build a sustainable and growing business. For that we are forever grateful."







"This is brokerage is experiencing fantastic growth with an entrepreneurial business model. Management is genuinely interested in the success of the agents, and not just the corporate success. It's been a refreshing change of pace for me, a proud Samson Realtor for over two years. Feel free to contact me with any questions about why I chose Samson."

- Mary Williams, Realtor®

"At Samson Properties, they care about me genuinely and want to see me succeed. If you are a top performer, it doesn't go unnoticed; I am in the Cardinal Club and I feel very blessed to have that opportunity. I have been able to increase my income significantly because of the 100% commission, and it has definitely helped me to better my life for myself and my kids. They will sit down with you and give you hands-on opportunities to grow your business even more. Samson Properties made everything so seamless for me and I would never think of going anywhere else."



#### - Desiree Rejeil, Realtor®



"Danny Samson changed my life. His vision for real estate and passion for running a company are unequaled, and translate into people like me who know nothing about real estate, switching careers and ending up earning more money than ever dreamed possible."

- Bernie Kagan, Realtor®

"I've been with Samson Properties for almost two years and it's been absolutely incredible. What you see and hear from Danny Samson is exactly what the company is all about. Agents gain respect; we are respected for what we do, and there's more support than you could ever need. I was with another company for 32 years, so it was a hard decision to make, but it was the best move I've ever made."



#### Margaret Ireland, Realtor®



"Samson Properties is the best place to work! The owner, Danny Samson, is so motivating and truly cares about his people. He wants everyone to be successful and provides a commission structure that ensures that. The program is fantastic for both agents and clients. The meetings aren't mandatory but I never want to miss them; I learn so much. Top producers share their secrets and we all share ideas. It's like a family. I can't imagine working anywhere else!"

- Nancy Femrite, Realtor®

"An amazing establishment of which I am so proud to be a part of. Samson is by far in a league of their own in Northern Virginia. From the moment you walk through the door of the office you feel welcome because of the professional and kind staff who are all eager to assist. The great part about this brokerage is that it has a "family feel" to it because it actually is a family run business. The integrity and the charismatic attitude sets these Realtors apart from the rest. I am so grateful to work with such a great group of individuals."



- Kelly Finucan, Realtor®

#### Millennials: Crowded Out of Homeownership in the NVAR Region

By Spencer A. Shanholtz



SEVERELY LOW INVENTORY of available homes has plagued the NVAR region and much of the U.S. during the past year. In September there were 4,561 active listings in the region—a figure 6.1 percent less than the five-year September average.

Low inventory pushes housing prices up, and, therefore, makes new entry to homeownership increasingly difficult. Census Bureau figures from the 2016 American Community Survey released in September, 2017 show 340,000 owner households in the NVAR region, excluding Fairfax City and Falls Church, which were excluded from this survey.

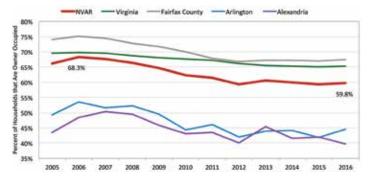
Who is living in these households, and why are they staying put? Answering these questions and addressing the dynamics of homeownership could help us understand the region's persistent inventory issue.

#### HOMEOWNERSHIP RATE IS DECREASING

The NVAR region homeownership rate has been on a downward general trend over the past decade. Owner-occupied households have declined almost 10 percentage points between 2006 and 2016 (Figure 1), and this trend is persistent both statewide and nationally. However, homeownership levels have remained relatively stable in the NVAR region—around 60 percent—since 2012.

By no coincidence, the region's population growth has slowed significantly since 2012; from 18,870 new residents in 2012 to 4,859 added in 2013. This, combined with extremely low inventory, has led to a stuck housing market where younger renters generally continue renting and older owners continue to remain in their homes.

Figure 1: Homeownership Rate in the NVAR Region (Excluding Fairfax City and Falls Church)



Source: 2016 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, US Census Bureau

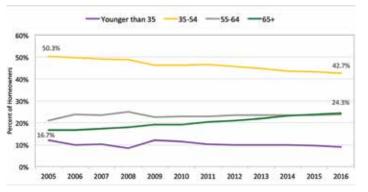
Demographic trends contribute to the overall decline in homeownership as younger households and minority households, who are less likely to own their own homes, replace older households, many of whom own their homes. The total number of owner-occupied households has remained relatively unchanged over the past decade—341,128 owner households in 2005 and 340,145 in 2016—yet the distribution among age groups has shifted.

#### YOUNGER PEOPLE ARE INCREASINGLY LESS LIKELY TO OWN THEIR OWN HOMES

When broken down by age group (Figure 2), homeowners aged 35 to 54 made up half of all homeowners in 2005, and 43 percent in 2016. During this time, homeowners aged 55 and up increased from 38 percent of homeowners in 2005 to nearly half in 2016.

The millennial age group (younger than 35) has stayed relatively stable as a proportion of homeowners at about 9 percent, but in absolute numbers they have decreased nearly 25 percent since 2005. Since the total number of owner-occupied households has remained stable, we can conclude that homeowners are simply "aging up," with little new entry into the homeownership market.

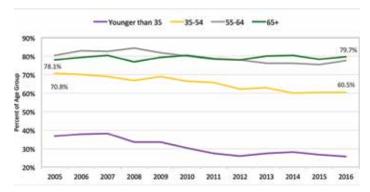
Figure 2: Percent of Homeowners by Age group, NVAR Region (Excluding Fairfax City and Falls Church)



Source: 2016 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, US Census Bureau

When age groups are broken down by homeownership, we see that younger households are increasingly less likely to own homes. Figure 3 shows the proportion of owners within each age group. In 2016, 25 percent of millennial households were homeowners, compared to 37 percent in 2005. For households aged 65 and older, 80 percent owned their own home in 2016—an increase of 2 percent during the past decade.

Figure 3: Percent of each Age Group that are Homeowners, NVAR Region (Excluding Fairfax City and Falls Church)



Source: 2016 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, US Census Bureau

#### THE TIGHT MARKET IS MULTIFACETED

The NVAR region's stalled housing market is two sided. Current homeowners who are typically older are not moving out, while new homeowners who are typically younger are not entering the housing market. Although it is often framed in such a manner, the narrative should not focus on a clash between boomers and millennials, as both have logical motivations for their actions.

#### HOMEOWNERS ARE STAYING IN THEIR HOMES LONGER

As homeownership rates have declined over the past decade, owners are mostly staying in the same home. In 2005, 89.1 percent of those living in owner-occupied households were in the same house one year ago, compared to 92.2 percent in 2016. It is logical that older owners would be more likely to live in the same house for longer, and vice-versa for younger homeowners.

Overall in the NVAR region, 91 percent of owners who are 65 years or older have lived in the same home for more than five years (Figure 4). However, we see that across all ages the proportion of homeowners who have been in the same home for more than five years has increased between 2011 and 2016. In other words, a positive change number highlighted in red in Figure 4 indicates that a greater proportion of people in that age group are staying in their homes longer. In the NVAR region as a whole, regardless of age, more homeowners are holding onto their homes for longer.

Figure 4: Percent of Owner Householders that Have Lived in the Same Home for More than Five Years by Age Group, NVAR Region (Excluding Fairfax City and Falls Church)

	Age	2011	2016	11-16 Change
NVAR	15-35	12.0%	12.1%	0.1%
	35-64	66.4%	68.1%	1.8%
	65+	90.5%	91.3%	0.8%
Fairfax	15-35	12.1%	13.4%	1.3%
	35-64	67.8%	69.4%	1.6%
	65+	90.2%	91.4%	1.2%
Arlington	15-35	17.3%	9.8%	-7.5%
	35-64	60.6%	64.8%	4.2%
	65+	91.8%	93.9%	2.1%
Alexandria	15-35	3.8%	6.8%	3.0%
	35-64	60.3%	60.9%	0.7%
	65+	91.4%	86.0%	-5.5%

Source: 2016 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, US Census Bureau continued from page 27

Why are homeowners not moving out and freeing up inventory? Often it is because there are no open homes to buy. In order to put their house on the market, they need another house that matches their needs. Such homes often are not available due to tight inventory.

Many are also locked into unaffordable mortgages, or older homeowners are drawing from their mortgaged assets to fund their retirement years. As older generations in the U.S. continue to live longer than in the past, homes are increasingly occupied with aging homeowners who do not plan on moving.

#### PROSPECTIVE HOMEBUYERS CANNOT FIND OR AFFORD A HOME

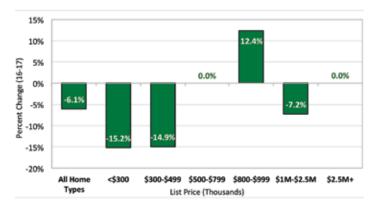
The limited number of available entry-level homes makes choices low for potential new homebuyers, and also drives up prices.

The September median sold home price in the NVAR region was \$479,950—the highest September sales price on record and the 10<sup>th</sup> straight month of year-over-year median price increase. Someone buying a \$515,000 home with a traditional FHA 3.5 percent down-payment loan should expect to come up with \$32,500 for the closing minimum—nearly twice as much as the national figure.

A 2015-2016 Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey reports that the average resident of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area spends \$26,743 on housing related expenses each year—with \$10,715 each year for mortgage, taxes and maintenance for owned residences. This makes homeownership even more difficult for those who do find a suitable home to buy in the region.

Inventory is not tight at all price points—lower list price homes make up the lowest proportion of active listings but are decreasing the fastest (Figure 5). NVAR region properties listed for less than \$300,000 make up 13.9 percent of active listings in September, down 15.2 percent from September 2016. At the same time, property listings on the higher end of the market—often not accessible to first-time homebuyers—are decreasing at much lower rates and even increasing, as is the case of the 528 available homes in the \$800,000 to \$1 million range.

Figure 5: Change in Inventory by List Price, September 2016-2017, NVAR Region



Source: Bright MLS. Statistics calculated 9/6/2017

YOUNGER HOMEBUYERS ARE HELD BACK, BUT THINGS ARE LOOKING UP

High home prices combined with increasing student debt have created a financial equation that has hindered many young potential homebuyers. Nationwide, there was \$1.44



"As older generations in the U.S. continue to live longer than in the past, homes are increasingly occupied with aging homeowners who do not plan on moving."

VA **NVAR** US '05-'16 '05-'16 '05-'16 2005 2016 2005 2016 2005 2016 Change Change Change Family households: 66.9% 65.4% -1.5% 67.1% 66.1% -1.0% 62.7% 64.3% 1.6% Married-couple family: 49.7% 47.9% -1.8% 51.2% 49.9% -1.3% 50.5% 51.9% 1.4% Householder 15 to 34 yrs 8.8% 6.8% -2.0% 8.8% 7.1% -1.6% 7.6% 7.9% 0.3% Householder 35 to 64 yrs 34.4% 35.9% 32.2% 30.1% -2.1% 31.9% -2.6% 35.3% -0.7% Householder 65 yrs + 8.8% 11.0% 2.3% 8.0% 10.9% 2.9% 7.0% 8.7% 1.7%

Figure 7: Family and Married Couple Households by Age as a Percent of Total Households)

Source: 2016 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, US Census Bureau

trillion in outstanding student loans at the end of the first quarter of 2017, according to the Federal Reserve, and 20 percent of all households had student loan debt in 2015, up from 12 percent in 2001. Survey estimates from the National Association of Realtors® say that student loan debt delays homeownership by seven years.

Not only has increased debt itself prevented home buying, but across the country it typically has also delayed other milestones that prompt entering the housing market. Life events such as getting married or having children are typical triggers to buying a home.

Compared to previous generations, millennials are less likely to be married, have children, and own a house. But, as shown in Figure 7, the NVAR region is opposing this trend—between 2005 and 2016 the percent of family households has increased 1.6 percentage points, and this figure has increased 1.4 percentage points for married couples. This is compared to decreases in the proportion of family and married-couple households in both the US and Virginia. People in the NVAR region are increasingly forming families, but not buying homes.

Things are looking up in the Washington region, as recent census data showed that in 2016, millennials' incomes jumped 7 percent, far more than most other groups. Employment data also shows that the percentage of 25-to-34-year-olds in the labor force is the largest it has been since the recession.

In a stronger financial position, more millennials are starting families and the US Census Bureau projects that national household formation will average about 1.5 million per year through 2020, up from the 900,000 annual average in the past five years. If demand is expected to increase for new homebuyers, but affordable starter homes are not available, then people will be more likely to leave the region or avoid the area entirely.

It is intuitive to think that an increase in young people entering the housing market would boost demand and further tighten inventory, but the future of the region's housing market depends on steady new household formation. Homeownership has long been considered an important factor in wealth formation for middle-class households. Continued low entry into homeownership will impact the region negatively moving forward.

The longer households wait to buy, the less wealth they will accumulate throughout their lifetime. This could exacerbate income inequality and limit future regional sale volume.

#### AN INVENTORY JUMPSTART IS NEEDED

The overall cause behind the consistently low number of active listings is simple: demand is steadily outpacing supply. A large portion of housing supply relates to homes already on the ground, and the financial availability to enter into homeownership drives demand. The current stalemate between the two has led to low and stagnant inventory levels, especially for lower-price-point homes. The needed turnover between current and future homeowners is not occurring due to roadblocks on both sides.

Unfortunately, homebuilding to open up inventory has slowed, and the homes that are for sale are attached to bigger price tags than ever before. The slower homebuilding is caused by a combination of high building costs and builder hesitancy lingering since the previous housing crisis in the late 2000s. As more millennials age into household formation, the pace of housing starts will need to not only meet—but also exceed—the growth in new households. Absent an influx of new homes, the inventory shortage will continue to burden the region's housing market. +



**Spencer Shanholtz** is a research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis.

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#### FROM BRICKS AND MORTAR TO ONLINE SHOPPING

# Technology and Consumer Preferences Spell Change for Retailers, Landlords, Realtors®

By Frank Dillow

WITH THE CLOSING of familiar retail stores and the growth of e-commerce, it's easy to forget that 90 percent of retailing is still done in "brick and mortar" retail stores.

Nevertheless, e-commerce, combined with the emergence of younger consumers who prefer to shop with their computers rather than their feet, and who spend their retail dollars on experiences rather than things, is driving the most profound changes in retailing in the past 100 years.

Author Marc Levinson, in his book "The Great A&P and the Struggle for Small Business in America," has used the history of this once-dominant grocer to analyze the changes in American retailing. Starting in the 1860s as a Manhattan tea importer, A&P mastered the skills of "low price/high volume" grocery retailing to achieve \$1 billion in annual sales by 1929, becoming the most profitable retailer in America.

Here's what grocery retailing looked like in 1929:

- there was one grocery store for every 51 families, mostly in neighborhoods and downtown locations where shoppers could walk every day
- the typical grocery store occupied a 20 x 30-sq.-foot space, with the owner at the front counter selecting products such as coffee, sugar and flour that the customers requested from bulk containers. The proprietor would measure or weigh the products, then package and sell them to the customer, usually on credit. But crucial advances in technology



soon resulted in profound changes in food retailing:

- ➤ tin cans, cardboard boxes and cellophane allowed stores to prepackage and brand their foods; products such as canned vegetables, evaporated milk, and breakfast cereals became popular
- ➤ refrigeration enabled fresh produce and meat to be shipped by railroad across the country to be sold by grocers
- ➤ automobiles allowed customers to drive greater distances to shop in larger stores with more selection.

As Levinson points out, no retailer was more adept at mastering the new technologies than A&P. The company would hold its place as America's most successful retailer for a remarkable 44 consecutive years.

By 1962, new retailers such as Target and Kmart began to offer a broad array

of products at discounted prices in "big box" stores and regional "power" retailing centers. In 1963, Sears upset A&P's grocery cart to become America's most successful retailer.

The A&P stores, which had clung to their grocery-only format, became isolated in their older, smaller, lower-cost locations. Revenues dwindled. By 2015, A&P declared bankruptcy.

The store-based retailing model created in the 1920s has run its course. The Walmarts and Amazons have taken their place. Retailers face new challenges to create convenient, price-competitive alternatives combining 'high tech" online shopping with "high touch" personalized sales of products and services:

 Walmart is testing a "shopping cart to the fridge" service in which groceries would be purchased online, delivered to the customers' homes and placed in their refrigerator or pantry

- Nordstrom is trying out a "local" concept with 3,000-sq.-foot retail space, rather than its typical 40,000-sq.-foot store. The space has no merchandise, but instead employs tailors to take measurements for custom-made clothes, personal shoppers, personal stylists, manicurists and a bar
- Apple, known for its high-tech products, is opening its latest store in the D.C. market not in a mall, or even a store, but rather in the old Carnegie Library. Built in 1903, and most recently home to the D.C. Historical Society, the location is being called a "town square"—a gathering place where customers can socialize with friends.

Meanwhile Amazon recently spent \$13.7 billion to purchase Whole Foods grocery chain, giving the leader in e-commerce retailing 440 stores and 11 distribution centers in high-income neighborhoods. This expansion into store-based retailing also bolsters Amazon's "last mile" delivery service, even for non-grocery products.

As the definition of retail expands, Realtors® are also seeing the traditional retail physical space adapting to new uses, replacing department stores and big box retailers with spaces dedicated to new purposes:

- "experience" venues such as restaurants, athletic centers and spas;
- "medical" spaces, such as urgent care centers, clinics, wellness centers or health food stores;
- "entertainment" destinations such as movie theaters, game rooms, microbreweries and wine or hookah bars;
- "educational and religious" locations such as places of worship, learning centers, language schools and tutoring programs.

As the definition of retail expands to fill the new demand and investors respond with mixed-use developments that combine retail with residential and office uses, local governments and landlords will need to be more flexible with zoning and exclusive-use restrictions.

The stakes are high for landlords, who see many traditional retailers, including large anchor tenants, closing shop or downsizing.

For local governments the threat is just as great. For instance, the top three taxpayers in Fairfax County in 2016 were the operators for Tysons Corner, Fair Oaks Mall and the redeveloped Springfield Town Center. These three properties provided roughly \$27 million of Fairfax County's annual real estate tax revenues.

For Realtors® in commercial real estate, their long-term survival could depend on how well they adapt to the new retail environment. +



Frank Dillow is a past chair of NVAR's Realtor® Commercial Council and is a senior commercial broker in Long & Foster's Commercial Division. He can be reached at francis.dillow@longandfoster.com.





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#### What's Driving Demand in Northern Virginia?

2017 NVAR ECONOMIC SUMMIT SPEAKERS EXPLORE COMMERCE, INVENTORY, TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES

By Ann Gutkin

# the 2017 NVAR Economic Summit, one might conclude that Northern Virginia is a victim of its own success. With shortfalls of affordable housing stock, skilled IT workers and viable transportation options, the region faces

transportation options, the region face challenges in its continuing quest to retain its title as the "Silicon Valley of the East."

#### THE NATIONAL OUTLOOK

Opening the September 18 Summit with an analysis of how national economic trends impact the local Northern Virginia market, National Association of Realtors® Chief Economist Lawrence Yun drilled down on interest rates, demand and potential challenges to the mortgage interest deduction.

Yun noted an immediate increase in mortgage interest rates following the U.S. presidential election one year ago, which came as a surprise to some economists. Whether fueled by the prospect of a better economic picture with a probusiness leader, or by the anticipation of a worsening budget deficit, the result was a higher cost to borrow for homebuyers. However, mortgage rates remain comparatively low from a historical perspective, and nationwide home sales are higher compared with the 12 months prior, Yun explained.

Post-election, consumer confidence grew, according to NAR survey results, with respondents believing it was a good time to buy a home. The problem, Yun said, is one of too many buyers and not enough inventory. Builders are not building enough, Yun noted. "We have



Pictured here (left-right), summit presenters took questions from the moderator and the audience: Supervisor Martin Nohe, chairman of the Northern Virginia Technology Council; Dr. Jerry Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority; Dr. Terry Clower, director of the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis; and Dr. Lawrence Yun, chief economist and senior vice president of research for the National Association of Realtors®.

a shortage of lots, labor, lending and lumber."

Despite a continued consumer belief in homeownership as the "American Dream," the homeownership rate is at a 50-year low, pointing to a pent-up housing demand, Yun said. "There are 6.9 million missing households," Yun said. "Young adults, aged 25-34 are living with their parents, therefore not creating housing demand."

Yun's housing market outlook for 2018: an increase in prices due to low inventory and overall improvement in total sales.

#### NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES

The number one thing about the region's economy, said Dr. Terry Clower, chairman of the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis: "I'm surprised by the strength in our job growth."

Even with lower federal procurement spending, our economy is still growing, Clower said. We're creating Professional and Business Services jobs, which are "pretty high paying," he noted.

"Unemployment is not a problem," Clower said. This doesn't mean that everyone has the job they want, however. "A substantial number are underemployed."

Northern Virginia is faced with the problem of outmigration, Clower said. More people have chosen to leave the region than to come in. "We're trying to understand why," he said. "Are key workforce people leaving for a lower cost of living?" Clower suggested that Realtors® may be well positioned to learn the answer to this question.

A lack of inventory is the real challenge for this region, Clower said, echoing Yun's assessment. "We're continuing to underproduce housing in this market."

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION: KEYS TO REGIONAL GROWTH

"We must have growth in the business community to offset the cost of services to residents," said Dr. Jerry Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development continued from page 35

Authority. With such a dramatic population growth, comes an increase in public works—schools, roads, safety, libraries, he explained.

Virginia provides public services on the basis of income taxes, Gordon noted. "44 percent of all income tax in Virginia comes from Northern Virginia," he said. "Just shy of 25 percent comes from Fairfax County alone." These funds are distributed throughout the state, with just 19 cents of every dollar available to the county for programs and services, Gordon explained.

Emphasizing the importance of commercial development, Gordon said, "64 percent of all Country expenses [are funded by] real estate taxes." There are two parts to the real estate tax: commercial and residential, Gordon said. "Residents take back more in services than they pay in taxes—\$1.60 for every \$1.00 paid; businesses take back around \$.35 for each \$1.00 paid."

The good news, Gordon noted, is that Fairfax County has grown to have the second largest volume of suburban commercial space in the U.S., behind Orange County, California. The bad news, he said, is that of the 120 million sq. ft. of available office space, 18 million sq. ft. is vacant – all of the tax burden is on owners, and can't be passed through to tenants.

The challenge for FCEDA: fill that office space! The county is pursuing new opportunities that include companies providing IT, including cyber-security, data analytics and cloud computing; software development; translational medicine; and telecommunications.

"One of the greatest flaws we have is that we don't have enough IT [Information Technology] workers," Gordon said. "You're golden if you have those skills. And you're golden if you have a security clearance."

"Diversity is important," Gordon emphasized. The Fairfax County population is 48 percent minority, he said.



Special thanks to Fidelity Bank Mortgage, Interstate Relocation, MBH Settlement Group and VHDA for sponsoring the 2017 Economic Summit. Representatives of each organization were on hand to share information and giveaways with attendees.

Residents come because they want a diverse community, and businesses appreciate the many different problem-solving perspectives that a diverse workforce brings, he noted.

And surprisingly, Gordon said, compared to our top competing regions, homes in Northern Virginia are actually more affordable, and traffic is less congested!

#### BUSTING THE REGIONAL BOTTLENECK

"Northern Virginians talk about traffic the way people in other parts of the country talk about the weather," said the Honorable Martin Nohe, chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and a member of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors.

Speaking about the number one complaint of many Northern Virginia residents, Nohe said, "The biggest challenge we have is that we don't have enough options." While there are many transportation systems in the region, they aren't networked, Nohe said.

A significant roadblock to improving the region's transportation woes is convincing nine governing bodies to work together, Nohe explained. "Intra-regional transportation has become a bigger challenge than before," Nohe explained. A



A camera crew and reporter from New Tang Dynasty Television captured comments from Dr. Lawrence Yun following his presentation.

regional plan would need to address seven major corridors.

"How can we deliver congestion solutions and target regions where people are most in need of help," Nohe asked. There are 358 projects that have been identified, which would cost \$44.1B, Nohe said. The catch:

"I don't have \$44.1B."

The region has \$300M earmarked annual for Northern Virginia as a result of legislation passed during the McDonnell Administration. The NVTA staff is tasked with determining how to spend those funds. And the bottom line, Nohe said: "If we build everything, things get marginally better, but not good."

Involvement in an organization like NVAR is valuable not just for a Realtor's® business, but also for the region, Nohe said to the audience of real estate professionals.

"If you're not talking about transportation in Northern Virginia, you're not talking about making Northern Virginia a better place," Nohe concluded.

To view the speakers' PowerPoints, visit **nvar.com/presentations.** +



Ann Gutkin is the NVAR senior communications director.

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# ADA Compliance for Brokers: Sufficient Accessiblity Includes Websites, Buildings, Accommodations

PREPARATION COULD PREVENT FUTURE LITIGATION

By Sarah Louppe Petcher and Greg Hoff

IN 1990, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with the aim of providing equal access and protection to millions of Americans living with disabilities. Title III of the ADA requires that public accommodations and commercial facilities provide adequate accessibility to disabled persons. This requires businesses to conform to regulations and standards dictating how new facilities should be constructed, and how existing ones must be altered to achieve the required conformity. Brokerages that maintain physical office spaces must comply with Title III in order to avoid vulnerability to lawsuits.

For many years, businesses have focused on the **physical** requirements of Title III. However, as more commerce has shifted online, websites have become intrinsic to transacting business. These online spaces have become the next frontier of Title III compliance.

There is no explicit provision in Title III, or anywhere else in the ADA, addressing online spaces. But recently, the Department of Justice ("DOJ") proposed regulations that would create some Title III accessibility rules for company websites. Thus, it is increasingly important for companies to provide adequate accessibility to both their physical and online business spaces.

Title III guarantees people with disabilities the "full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations of any place of public accommodation." These regulations involve "surmounting whatever physical barriers may exist, but also [ensuring] that the eligibility criteria for participating in the site's activities do not screen out people with disabilities, and the public spaces may not bar individuals with disabilities from enjoying the benefits and privileges available at the site."

Construction standards for accessibility can be found in the ADA Standards for Accessible Design (which can be accessed through the ADA government website www.ada.gov), and were updated as recently as 2010. Specific regulations governing accessibility to public accommodations can be found in Title 28, Part 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Such accommodations can include, but are not limited to:

- Installing ramps and ensuring that curbs are ramped
- Widening doors and walkways to allow for wheelchair access
- Installing accessible door hardware
- Creating designated accessible parking spaces
- Removal of obstructing furniture or other objects that block access to areas such as restroom facilities.

While Title III regulations have undoubtedly provided much-needed accessibility options to millions of disabled Americans, the ADA, since its inception, also has triggered an increasing tidal wave of litigation. Companies with physical spaces frequently have been the subject of lawsuits resulting from building specifications that fail to comply with ADA standards, even for minor compliance issues. Since Title III

permits the collection of legal fees, this has created a cottage industry for attorneys who visit properties looking for easily missed accessibility violations, such as the height of door handles, improper signage, or poorly marked handicapped parking spaces.

Further complicating the matter is the lack of a "notice-and-cure" provision. This means that the property owner is not given a reasonable amount of time to remedy the infraction before a suit can be brought. In his City Journal article, The ADA Litigation Monster, author Mark Pulliam explains that when a property owner receives a demand letter, the options are either to "pay a sizable settlement and correct the violation, or go to trial." The costs of defending this type of lawsuit often "can add up to a hefty bill," Pulliam says. Furthermore, he adds, "courts have held that any member of the public can bring Title III claims, including 'testers' who are not even patrons of the allegedly noncompliant business." As of 2016, Pulliam notes, more than 26,000 ADA claims were filed each year.

With the advent of new technologies, the scope of Title III will continue to broaden to include online space. In 2010, the DOJ issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to potentially revise Title III by establishing compliance parameters for public accommodations via the internet. While the DOJ has not yet issued new rules or revised Title III, it has published Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0). These non-binding guidelines provide a framework for making websites



adequately accessible, similar to what could be required if the ADA is extended to regulate online spaces. Online content publishers can utilize WCAG 2.0 (found on the ADA government website, www. ada.gov) to ensure that their websites and other online content conform to the overall ADA mission of providing sufficient accessibility to all.

WCAG 2.0 is based on four main principles, instructing companies to ensure that their websites are perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust. These principles suggest that information and operation of a website's user interface must provide clear language, and be robust enough that it can be interpreted reliably by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies.

Given this uncertain landscape, what can business owners do to protect themselves from a Title III lawsuit? While the DOJ has yet to release regulations governing website accessibility, consent decrees reached between the agency and some companies do provide guidance.

Consistent in these consent decrees are two requirements: (1) that the company's website contain an accessibility statement which provides an alternative method of communicating with the company either via email or via phone. An

example of this can be found at www.nar.realtor/accessibility; and (2) that each company provide training to at least one staff person to respond to accessibility concerns raised by website users.

There also is consensus that if a business has the means to do so, the best step is to hire a digital accessibility expert to perform a website audit, and consider needed accessibility improvements. Affordable alternatives may include web-based accessibility evaluation tools. However, these programs are fairly rudimentary and may not provide accurate assessments.

Absent a full compliance review, initial steps toward WCAG 2.0 compliance can include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Adding text equivalents to every image on the site. This includes text stating the names and positions corresponding to any pictures of staff
- (2) Making sure that any documents, including fillable forms or articles, are uploaded in a text, rather than PDF format, or providing a text alternative to the PDF
- (3) Allowing users to control the font size and colors on the site through their browser settings or operating systems
- (4) Providing keyboard accessibility

- (5) If posting videos to the website, providing captions (or a transcript) and audio description of the video
- (6) Avoiding or minimizing blinking and flashing features
- (7) If the website contains pages that time out, ensuring that this feature can be turned off.

Taking these steps towards website accessibility not only benefits the community at large, but also demonstrates to "drive-by" plaintiffs a commitment to comply with WCAG 2.0 guidelines.

The varied and complex ADA Title III regulations make it difficult for a business to achieve full compliance. The combination of complex regulations and a fast-track litigation process has seen Title III claims skyrocket since the regulation's inception 27 years ago. While ADA compliance litigation has yet to find traction in the online sphere, brokerages should take steps to make websites accessible in accordance with WCAG 2.0 in anticipation of a likely regulatory expansion. +



Sarah Louppe Petcher is senior vice president of professional services and general counsel for NVAR.



**Greg Hoff** is 2nd year law student at George Mason University's Scalia Law School, serving as a legal intern for NVAR.

CONTINUIN	IG EDUCATION (CE)	POST-LICENS	SING EDUCATION (PL)
Broker CE : Brol Time: Date/Location:	Kerage Risk and Liability  8:45 a.m 12:25 p.m.  December 13Fairfax  January 18Fairfax	Post Licensing ( Time: Date/Location:	Day 1) - VA Agency Law & Ethics 9 a.m 4 p.m. November 13
	ductive Agents and Offices	Dock Licensing /	February 5Herndon
Time: Date/Location:	1 - 4:45 p.m.  December 13Fairfax  January 18Fairfax	Time: Date/Location:	Day 2) - Contract Writing 9 a.m 4 p.m. November 14Herndon
16 hr CE Day 1 Time:	8:45 a.m 4:45 p.m.		January 9Fairfax February 6Herndon
Date/Location:	December 2 Fairfax January 20 Fairfax	Post Licensing ( Time: Date/Location:	Day 3) - Real Estate Law and Board Regulations 8:45 a.m 4:45 p.m. November 15
16 hr CE - Day 2 Time:	8:45 a.m 4:45 p.m.	Date/Location.	January 16Fairfax February 12Herndon
Date/Location:	November 11 Fairfax December 9 Fairfax January 27 Fairfax	Time:	Day 4) - Risk Management & Escrows 9 a.m 4 p.m.
16 hr CE - Eveni Time:	6 - 9:30 p.m.	Date/Location:	November 16
Date/Location:	November 7 (Part 1A)Fairfax  November 9 (Part 1B)Fairfax  November 14 (Part 2A)Fairfax	Post Licensing (	Day 5) - Fair Housing and Current Industry &
	November 16 (Part 2B)Fairfax December 12 (Part 1A)Fairfax December 14 (Part 1B)Fairfax	Time: Date/Location:	10 a.m 3 p.m.  November 17Herndon  January 23Fairfax
	December 19 (Part 2A)Fairfax December 21 (Part 2B)Fairfax		February 20Herndon
CE: 8hr Mandate Time: Date/Location:	d Course 8:45 a.m 4:45 p.m. November 28Herndon	NEW MEMB	ER ORIENTATION
Date/Location.	Decmeber 5 Fairfax January 10 Herndon	Time: Date/Location:	9 a.m 1 p.m. November 10Herndon
CE Elective: Buyer Time: Date/Location:	er Beware - Foreclosed and Neglected Properties 8:45 a.m 12:25 p.m. November 29Herndon		November 28Fairfax December 9Herndon
CE Elective: Envi Time: Date/Location:	ronmental Issues 1 - 4:45 pm November 29Herndon	To registe	r for a course listed, view a class
Time: Date/Location:	8:45 a.m 12:25 p.m.  January 11Herndon	•	tion or find other offerings, visit
	ection and Prevention of Contract Fraud  8:45 a.m 12:25 p.m  December 6Fairfax	Real	torSchool.com
CE Elective: Age Time: Date/Location:	ency and Disclsoure in Virginia 1 - 4:45 p.m. December 6Fairfax		
CE Elective: Hor Time: Date/Location:	ne Innovations and Trends 1 - 4:45 p.m. January 11Herndon		

### **FEATURED OFFERINGS**

**RPR Basic** 

Time: 10 a.m. - noon
Date/Location: November 15.......Herndon

CRS 201: Listing Strategies

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Date/Location: November 16 (Day 1).....Fairfax

November 17 (Day 2).....Fairfax

**RPR Mobile App for Tablets** 

Time: 10 a.m. - noon

Date/Location: November 29 ......Herndon

Friday Focus Lunch 'n Learn

Time: 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Date/Location: December 1 ......Fairfax

February 2.....Fairfax

**VHDA Professional Training Course** 

Time: 10 a.m. - noon

Date/Location: December 13 ......Herndon

**Getting Started with RPR** 

Time: 10 a.m. - noon

Date/Location: January 18 ......Fairfax

**RPR Mobile App** 

Time: 10 a.m. - noon

Date/Location: January 25 ......Herndon

**GRI 504: Working with Buyers** 

Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Date/Location: February 8.....Fairfax

### **PRE-LICENSING EDUCATION**

Principles of Real Estate: Day 1-11

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Date/Location: June 4 - 21.....Fairfax

November 1 - 16.....Fairfax

### D.C. CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE)

D.C. Fair Housing and D.C. Legislative Update

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

June 12 ......Fairfax

DC Fair Housing and DC Ethics

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

### **BROKER PRE-LICENSING**

**Broker Appraisal** 

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Date/Location: January 31 - March 7.....Fairfax

Broker Law

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Date/Location: June 7 - August 19 ......Fairfax

Broker Management

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Date/Location: August 16 - September 20 ......Fairfax

Broker Finance

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Date/Location: October 4 - November 8.....Fairfax

### FAIRFAX HO ACCESSIBILITY:

Underground parking is available with direct access to lower level classrooms. Elevator is available, accessible from main entrance on building's west side.



### Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (10/2017)

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Signed – September 28, 2017

Jill M. Landsman, RE+VIEW Editor-in-Chief



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# **PROPERTY SERVICES**

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Amanda Rae Smith			Home Sweet Home Inspections LLC	Andrew Gardner
AMC Appraisal Group	Keith Smith	571-282-5952	HomeTeam Inspection Service	Carl Craig
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arish & Associates of Frederi	Stephen Barish	540-693-53/3	Inquiz Home Inspections	Peter Anspach
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nevy Chase Bank	Donald Shoon	301-907-5850	NOVA Home Inspection LLC	Sergio Delhovo
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& F Annraisals	Jerry Fleming	703-963-1743	Protect Inspect LLC	Timothy Zenobia
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enner, Hansborough, & Reese esidential Value Services EX Appraisal Services verpoint Appraisals	Jan Symons	301-258-8181	1-800-GOT-JUNK	Snane Gaboury
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X Appraisal Services	Esther Umorodion		Atlas Services LLC	Shannon Hildreth
			Atlas Services LLC	Lori James
ewart Jarrett R E Appr & Con	Stewart Jarrett	703-671-3662	Atlas Services LLC	Claire McLeay
Jourban Appraisers & Consultants	James Loizou	703-591-4200	MOVING & STORAGE	
uburban Appraisers & Consultantsch Appraisal Group LLC	Amy Switzer	703-631-1111	MOVING & STORAGE	Pohokoh Millor
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e Benjamin Group, Inc.	Joseph Grouby	/03-684-35//	Interstate Moving and Storage	Sherry Skinner
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estover Appraisals LLC	Ray Taylor		Moving is Easy	Muslim Muratov
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ena Deeb	Zeena Deeb	703-964-7473	Paxton Van Lines	Brittany Hampton
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minion Environmental Testing LLC	Rex Brouillard	703-496-3799	Asian Pest Services LLC	Unau Iran
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ARL Home Certification	Cynthia Adams	434-825-0232	Holiday Termite Pest Control	
Illard Environmental LLC			Hughes Pest Control, Inc.	Robert Hughes
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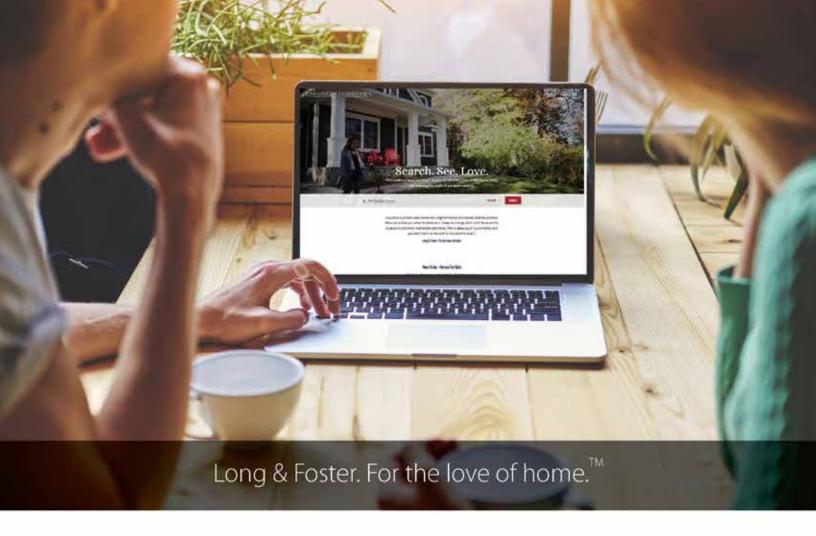


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