



# *Builders* BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of the Forx Builders Association

*With a Special Tribute to LeRoy Kurtyka*



# Presidents MESSAGE....



*Keith Ostlund*

Board President

Greetings Forx Builders Members,

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a great Christmas Holiday, and that Santa was good to you all. Winter has definitely arrived and has made its presence known with some chilly days already this season.

Hard to believe that 2018 has come and gone, and my time as President of Forx Builders is quickly coming to a close. As I look back over the past year, there were many ups and downs. I was able to meet other members from around the state, representatives from NAHB, and legislators from Bismarck and Washington. I was honored to meet these people and represent our great Association.

The Home Design & Garden Show, Builders after Hours, Golf Tournament, Chili Cook-off / Bean Bag Tourney, along with the countless laughs, memories, and friendships made are definitely highlights for me. The success of our Association is a collaborative effort, and no one can do it alone. I want to thank our members, Forx Builder committee members, and my fellow Board of Director members. I would also like to thank Stacy Anderson, our Executive Officer, for getting involved right away after being hired in June, and helping me to keep the Association moving forward. The first four months of my Presidency were a stressful time after losing our previous Executive Officer. Stacy was willing to do whatever I asked of her to help me “make it work”. I would also like to thank outgoing Board members Brett Thorson, Rob Johnson and Jennifer Johnson for their years serving on the Board of Directors, especially during my term as President.

The annual Home Design & Garden Show is quickly approaching. If you haven't sent in your registration, please do so as soon as possible. The show is a great way to showcase your products and services. Show dates are March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. The 2019 General Membership Meeting and Installation of Officers banquet is Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Inn in Grand Forks. Hope to see you all there!

I would like to Welcome Nate Applegren, our 2019 President, along with incoming Board of Director members. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President!

Sincerely,

Keith Ostlund  
Premium Waters, Inc.  
2018 President, Forx Builders Association



2018

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### *President*

**Keith Ostlund**

Premium Waters

### *Vice President*

**Nate Applegren**

Applegren Construction

### *Secretary/Treasurer*

**Rob Johnson**

J & J Construction

### *Past President*

**Jennifer Johnson**

Gate City Bank

### *Directors*

**Aaron Rosten**

GF Abstract & Title

**Brett Thoreson**

Vreeland Remodeling

**Jeff Vonasek**

Northland Custom Woodworking

**Chad Roberton**

Roberton Construction

**Stacey Kemp**

Simonson Lumber

### *Executive Officer*

**Stacy Anderson**

# *A Special Tribute*



IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND LEROY KURTYKA

As stated in his obituary, LeRoy was a man who loved big—his love was all encompassing, inclusive and genuine. He made room in his world and his heart for everybody he met. His smile and his laugh were infectious. What a great way to describe the wonderful man we got to know. He was one of kind; he was one of the good guys!

I first met LeRoy long before Forx Builders; we tailgated near each other at the Alerus Center prior to (and sometimes after) Sioux football games. He always had time to greet you with a smile and a genuine concern for how you were doing.

Upon becoming a member of Forx Builders, he was one of the first people to reach out to me to “get involved”. He would tell me, “It’s a great way to meet people, make new friends and showcase your products and services”. All of the above are still true today. I was fortunate enough to work with LeRoy for many years while he was a member of the Home Show Committee and also the Board of Directors. Even near the end of his journey, he took time out of his day mid-November to stop by and say “Hi” to all that had gathered for our annual Chili Cook-off & Bean Bag Tournament. He cared about others even with everything he was going thru. Sadly for some of us in attendance, it was the last time we got to see him and say goodbye.

LeRoy served as President of Forx Builders Association in 2002, 2012, 2013 and also served as President of the ND Association of Builders in 2015. In 2002 and 2012 he was selected by his peers to receive the Forx Builders Associate of the Year award; in 2012 he was recognized at the state level by receiving the same award from the ND Association of Builders. This award is presented annually to an Associate member who exemplifies member spirit, association activity and participation and demonstrating good business practices with other members and the community. He was a long time member of our Home Show Committee, serving as Co-chair for many years. He was also a long time member of our Membership and Project House Committees. As you can see from the aforementioned recognition, he was deeply invested in all aspects of our Association. He contributed immensely to the overall success of Forx Builders!

On behalf of myself, our members and the countless others who have had the opportunity to work with LeRoy over the years, I want to thank his wife Jan and their children, Chad and Lindsey, for sharing him with us. His selfless act of giving time, talents and kindness have made us all better people for knowing him. May God Bless You Our Friend!

As we raise our glasses in your memory, “This Buds For You Buddy”.

Keith Ostlund  
2018 President – Forx Builders Association

# Time to Renew!

## FEBRUARY

Members with February Anniversaries

renew by February 28, 2019

**A & L Siding & Home Improvement**

**Applegren Construction [Nate]**

**BeMobile**

**Community Contractors**

**Finley Lumber & Supply**

**In Depth Inspection, Inc**

**Keith's Security World**

**McKenna & Associates PC**

**Mikkelson Consolidated, LLP**

**Newman Outdoor Advertising**

**Northern Plumbing Supply**

**Rick Simon Electric, Inc**

**Rivard's Turf & Forage**

**Rusco Window Company**

**Sterling Carpet One**

**Sticky Construction, Inc**

**Vigen Construction Co.**

## MARCH

Members with March Anniversaries renew by March 31, 2019

**Advanced Business Methods**

**All Seasons Garden Center**

**Applegren Construction [Ralph]**

**Bergstrom Electric, Inc**

**Berkshire Hathaway**

**Century Electric Inc**

**EGF Economic Development**

**Fargo Glass & Paint Company**

**Greg's Lawn Care**

**Lawn King**

**Lunseth Plumbing & Heating**

**Morton Buildings Inc**

**Naastad Brothers, Inc**

**Precision Electric & Plumbing**

**Rusty Wysocki Building Co, Inc**

**Steamatic of Grand Forks**

**Swingen Construction Company**

**Valley Truck Parts & Service, Inc.**

**Vasek Construction, Inc**

**Vibrant Painting & Contracting, LLC**

**Windows Plus, Inc.**



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To get started, visit [xcelenergy.force.com/FastApp](http://xcelenergy.force.com/FastApp).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## January 28

Installation of Officers  
Ramada Inn, Grand Forks

## February 19

MN Contractors Continuing Ed.  
Ramada Inn, Grand Forks

## February 19-21

International Builders Show  
Las Vegas, NV

## March 22-24

44th Annual Home Design & Garden  
Show  
Alerus Center

## Installation of Officers Meeting

Ramada Inn, Grand Forks

Monday January 28: 5:30pm—8pm

All Member and Representatives of the Forx Builders Association are invited to attend the installation of the 2019 Board of Directors.

Bev Collings, Building & Zoning Administrator of the City of Grand Forks will be speaking on updates in her office as well as answering your questions.

5:30pm—6:30pm

Social Hours & Appetizer Buffet

6:30pm—8pm

Installation of Officers Program

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door or in advance at [www.forxbuilders.com](http://www.forxbuilders.com)



## Don't Miss It!

The deadline to be included in the Home Show Publication is  
**February 1st!**

44th Annual Home Design & Garden Show

March 22-24, 2019 @ Alerus Center

Exhibitor Contract and Map available at [Forxbuilders.com](http://Forxbuilders.com)

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**20V MAX\* BRUSHLESS PREMIUM HAMMERDRILL AND IMPACT DRIVER KIT**

MODEL DCK299P2 ..... **\$399.00**  
DCD996 1/2" Hammerdrill: 0 to 2,000 / 0 to 2,250 RPM; 38,250 BPM  
DCF887 1/4" Impact Driver: 152 Ft. Lbs. torque  
**Includes:** (2) 5.0Ah MAX\* XR Li-Ion batteries, charger, (2) belt hooks, side handle and case



**12 IN. DOUBLE BEVEL SLIDING COMPOUND MITER SAW**

Valid through 1/31/19.  
MODEL DWS780 **SALE** ..... **\$499.00**  
WAS **\$599.00** SAVE **\$100.00**  
• 15 Amp motor; 3,800 RPM  
• 60° right and 50° left miter capacity; 10 Positive stops  
• Cuts up to 2" x 16" at 90° and 2" x 12" at 45°  
**Includes:** Blade, dust bag, wrench and clamp



**20V MAX\* XR 5.0AH BATTERY, 2 PACK**

MODEL DCB205-2 ..... **\$189.00**



**10 IN. 1-1/2 HP WET CUT TILE SAW**

MODEL D24000 ..... **\$749.00**  
• 1-1/2 Hp, 4,200 RPM motor  
• 24" length of cut, 18" diagonal cut, 3-3/4" depth of cut  
• Integrated 45/22.5° miter feature  
**Includes:** Cart extension, edge guide, rear pan and cutting cart water attachments, 5 gallon ABS plastic water pan, 10" diamond blade, pump, blade change and rail adjustment wrenches



**12V 3 X 360 GREEN LINE LASER KIT**

MODEL DW089LG ..... **\$699.00**  
• Accurate to within ±1/8" at 30'; Max range 165'  
**Includes:** 2.0Ah MAX\* XR Li-Ion battery, charger, ceiling bracket and case



**M18 FUEL™ BRUSHLESS 1/2 IN. HAMMER DRILL/DRIVER (TOOL ONLY)**

MODEL 2704-20 ..... **\$139.00**  
• 1,200 In. Lbs. torque  
• 0 to 550/0 to 2,000 RPM; 0 to 32,000 BPM  
**Includes:** Belt clip, bit holder and side handle



**M18™ COMPACT DRILL/DRIVER AND IMPACT DRIVER KIT**

Limited quantities at this price. Valid through 1/31/19.  
MODEL 2691-22 **SALE** ..... **\$169.00**  
WAS **\$179.00** SAVE **\$10.00**  
2606-20 1/2" Compact Drill/Driver  
2656-20 1/4" Hex Hydraulic Driver  
**Includes:** (2) 1.5Ah REDLITHIUM™ compact batteries, multi voltage charger, belt clip and case



**M12™ XC 3.0 BATTERY, 2 PACK**

MODEL 48-11-2412 **SALE** ..... **\$89.00**  
WAS **\$119.00** SAVE **\$30.00**



**M12™ 3/8 IN. DRILL/DRIVER AND 1/4 IN. IMPACT DRIVER KIT WITH EXTRA 3.0AH XC BATTERY**

Valid through 1/31/19 or while supplies last.

MODEL 2494-22B **SALE** ..... **\$149.00**  
WAS **\$189.00** SAVE **\$40.00**  
2407-20 3/8" Drill/Driver  
2462-20 1/4" Hex Impact Driver  
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**25 FT. STUD™ TAPE MEASURE**

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or while supplies last.  
MODEL CT225R

**SALE \$169.00**  
WAS \$199.00  
SAVE \$30.00



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**3.0 HP AIR COMPRESSOR**

Valid through 1/31/19.  
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**16 IN. VERTICAL BAND SAW**

MODEL 1600E  
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MODEL 140175  
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Drill not included.



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6-1/4 IN. PLUNGE CUT TRACK SAW**

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**\$690.00**



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MODEL 71938-D  
**\$1,399.00**



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CONSTRUCTION STAPLER**

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**\$249.00**



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BLACK DRILL BIT SET**

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**\$89.99**



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# Permit Reports

Through December 2018

Current Month	Grand Forks	East Grand Forks
<b>Residential-</b>		3
New Construction Single Family	0	\$586,000
<b>Residential-</b>		
New Construction Townhouse	0	0
<b>Residential-</b>		
New Construction Multiple Family	0	0
<b>Commercial-</b>		
New Construction	0	0
<b>Residential-</b>	48	2
Repair	\$389,600	\$118
<b>Commercial-</b>	17	
Repair	\$5,195,868	0
<b>Public-</b>	2	
Repair	\$3,171,958	0
Year To Date	Grand Forks	East Grand Forks
<b>Residential-</b>	122	11
New Construction Single Family	\$32,117,821	\$2,028,460
<b>Residential-</b>	13	
New Construction Townhouse	\$2,826,667	0
<b>Residential-</b>	2	
New Construction Multiple Family	\$6,735,000	0
<b>Commercial-</b>	21	1
New Construction	\$56,649,157	\$222,419
<b>Residential-</b>	1,221	172
Repair	\$10,695,684	\$1,227,084
<b>Commercial-</b>	331	9
Repair	\$38,570,741	\$576,287
<b>Public-</b>	20	2
Repair	\$7,720,855	\$929,709





# NDAB NEWS

Kim Schneider  
**NDAB Chief Executive Officer**

Ring in the New Year!

Happy New Year and welcome 2019! All of us at North Dakota Association of Builders are excited to welcome a new year, new possibilities, new journeys, new challenges and new friends. A new year is the first day to 365 days of unwritten pages to make of them what you want! We wish you all the best with your health, with your families and with your businesses.

If you were able to join us for our banquet, we hope you had as much fun as we did. Celebrating our award winners, recognizing all our members and volunteers, and reflecting on a very busy, yet successful 2018! We truly value all our Board Members and the time and dedication they put into serving on the board. We also send our heartfelt thank you to the board members families for the time away. Thank You!

It's my honor to get to introduce you to our newest board members that join in representing your best interest at the NDAB Board of Directors meetings:

Incoming Board Members:

§ HBA of Fargo-Moorhead: **Kim Hochhalter**

§ Minot Assoc. of Builders: **Kasper Ziegler**

§ Western Area BA: **Terry Olin**

January is also the month to renew your sponsorships or sign up for one! Your company can be an annual sponsor or maybe you are interested in just one of our statewide events. We have many great options and opportunities to display your logo be provided recognition. If interested in learning more, please contact our office at 701-222-2401 or visit our website for details.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> is the first official day of the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. The ND Legislature is made up of two chambers. Two representatives and one senator are elected from each district. The House of Representatives has 94 members and the Senate has a total of 47. North Dakota is unique in that the legislature meets bi-annually in odd numbered years and are restricted to being able to meet a total of 80 days once gaveled in which means this session will end by April 26, 2019. Please be watching your emails for *Call to Action requests where you will be asked to reach out to your local representatives and senators regarding bills that impact our industry. Your voice is important to the legislators and make a big impact to their final vote. We will also be hosting various events and invite you to join us. If you plan to make a special trip to the ND Capitol, please let our office know. We always welcome guests and enjoy having the opportunity to show you around the capitol building, introduce you to the legislators and share with you the various committee hearings that might interest you to sit in on. In ND, we are very fortunate to have great accessibility to our Legislators and be active in the legislative process.*

Cheers to a New Year, I look forward to an exciting year ahead!

*Make this year a year of finding, of fulfillment, of joy, peace and purpose!*

Take care,

Kim Schneider

STATE NEWS



# NDAB NEWS

Bob Horab  
NDAB President

Greetings all,

I would first like to thank those who attended the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet in Williston on November 29<sup>th</sup>. It's always a welcome opportunity when we can host state-wide members along with local association members.

Congratulations to all the award winners of their achievements this past year. Members who stand out and are revered by their peers, motivate us to all do what we can to support our industry and the state association. That same night, the 2019 North Dakota Association of Builders Board of Directors were installed along with myself in the role of President of which I am truly humbled. I want to thank Dan Lindquist for his support and know I have big shoes to fill following his presidency.

We are heading into a legislative year and one of the benefits as a member you can rely on is legislative advocacy representing the association during session. By staying on top of the activity of bills that affect the building industry, we have an advantage of having someone there to promote and protect us while we're at work. With that said, if any members hear of information that could lead to a potential change in business practices, laws etc., please reach to Kim Schneider, CEO at the state office and/or myself. An additional contact is Jason Eid, Government Affairs Chair who is also available to assist with any upcoming issues as session convenes January 3.

I'll make a quick mention of the International Builders Show in Las Vegas which is February 19 – 21. We will again co-host the State Reception with other Area 10 state associations on Tuesday, February 19 at the Westgate. I urge all of you attending to stop in and say hello. This is a great way to build relationships with those in our area caucus.

Again, I want to thank the outgoing 2018 Board of Directors for their dedication and work on behalf of builders and the interests of the industry, and I look forward to the upcoming year.

Wishing everyone a safe and blessed holiday season.

Bob

**STATE NEWS**



# AROUND THE STATE

## **BISMARCK MANDAN HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION**

**DOT FRANK, EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**701-222-2400 ~ [BMHBA.COM](http://BMHBA.COM)**

- The BMHBA is hosting a plaid party on Jan. 18. The Annual Dinner will include the inauguration of the 2019 Board of Directors and new president Jeff Sattler.
- Space is filling for the 2019 Home Show. The BMHBA welcomes exhibitors from across the state to join us for the March 15-16 event and extends member pricing to any member of a North Dakota builders association.
- Builders, Beans & Beer is scheduled for Feb. 19. Board members will square off in a chili competition judged by our members and beer will flow freely to wash the palate between tastings.
- The HBA Government Affairs Committee is excited to share that the City of Bismarck is no longer requiring sidewalk and curb deposits. This is something the HBA has been working on for a long time.

## **DICKINSON AREA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION**

**LINDSAY LANGE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**701-483-0044 ~ [DICKINSONAREABUILDERS.COM](http://DICKINSONAREABUILDERS.COM)**

- The 2019 Home Show is less than 6 months away. We are gearing up for another great turnout April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> at the West River Ice Center.

## **HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF FARGO-MOORHEAD**

**BRYCE JOHNSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**701-232-5846 ~ [HBAFM.COM](http://HBAFM.COM)**

A top priority for our Association and charity continues to be workforce; here are a few things we are doing to act on this issue:

- Fundraise \$1 million for the North Dakota State College of Science Career Workforce Academy. The HBA has already raised almost \$500,000!
- Hosted the Health, Tech & Trades Career Expo on Nov. 30. This event reaches over 3,000 ninth-grade students, giving them hands-on experiences of the trades and more!
- Worked with local NAHB Student Chapters to critique their International Builders' Show presentations.

The New Year Celebration & City Night Jan. 24 will feature newly elected Mayors Johnathan Judd (Moorhead) and Bernie Dardis (West Fargo), as well as Dilworth Mayor Chad Olson, Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney and Horace Mayor Kory Peterson.

Following our Education Summit, the HBA of F-M is hosting its third annual Trade Showcase. This mini trade show allows vendors to talk with attendees finishing up continuing education courses for building contractors, plumbers and power limited technicians.

## **MINOT ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS**

**ELYSHA HEAD, EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**701-852-0496 ~ [MINOTAB.COM](http://MINOTAB.COM)**

- Work has begun on the 2019 Home and Garden Show! Next year's show will take place on March 1st and 2nd. Stay tuned for more details!

**STATE NEWS**

**WESTERN AREA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION  
 AMBER ELIZONDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
 701-572-5744 ~ WILLISTONBUILDERS.COM**

- Exciting news Williston Area Builders Association has proudly been serving Williams, Divide, Burke, Mountrail and McKenzie counties. We are not just Williston and have officially changed our name to the Western Area Builders Association!
- 2019 Home and Garden Show planning is in full swing! We are looking to add more “Kids” items at the event. Kids will get the parents in the door!

**Back your PAC ... your PAC backs you!**

NDAB-PAC is the North Dakota Association of Builders’ Political Action Committee. It is a non-partisan political action committee that provides support for candidates who are friends of the building industry. Contact NDAB at (800) 326-4746, (701) 222-2401 or info@ndbuild.com to contribute or learn more!

North Dakota Association of Builders » 1701 Burnt Boat Drive, Suite 201, Bismarck, ND 58503-0801  
 701/222-2401 or 800/326-4746 » www.ndbuild.com

**STATE NEWS**

**NDAB 2018 Professional Builders**

- Don Dabbert Jr.- Dabbert Custom Homes
- Todd Williams- Todd Williams Construction, LLC
- Mike Workman-Jordahl Custom Homes
- Charles Bon- C’est Bon Construction, Inc.
- Vern Hanson- Hanson Bros., Inc.
- Eric Berg-Eric Berg Construction, Inc.
- Michael Bullinger- Western Productions
- Jason Eid- Eid-Co Homes
- Tom Spaeth- Accent Kitchen & Bath
- Mark Spriggs- M & J Construction, Inc.
- Tyrone Leslie- Heritage Homes
- Todd Halle- T & S Custom Homes, Inc.
- Robert Leslie- Designer Homes
- Charles Zach- Zach Construction, Inc.
- John Gunkelman- Dakota Construction
- Greg Krueger- Krueger Construction
- Robert Kochmann—  
 Kochmann Brothers Homes, Inc.
- Gary Orth- Cornerstone Specialties
- Heather Solberg— Platinum Homes

For more information about NDAB’s Professional Builders Program or the NDAB’s Professional Associates Program contact Sara Frank: sara@ndbuild.com or 701-222-2401.



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## HOW THE FED RATE HIKE AFFECTS HOUSING

Housing affordability last quarter was at a 10-year low, and it appears that conditions at the start of 2019 aren't likely to improve much. The Federal Open Market Committee recently raised its target for the federal funds rate (the interest rate at which banks lend money to each other) by 25 basis points. This was the fourth rate hike of 2018. However, experts predict interest rates will rise at a less aggressive pace next year. NAHB Chief Economist Robert Dietz noted in a recent Eye on Housing blog post that the Fed's "policy projections suggest two rate increases in 2019 and one additional rate increase in 2020." Nevertheless, NAHB is forecasting no rate hikes in 2020, after what some, including Dietz, anticipate will be a noticeable slowdown in GDP growth in 2019. Mortgage interest rates, however, are likely to stay the course for the time being, after a decline in December. The 10-year Treasury rate, which is the key variable for mortgage interest rates, declined recently to below 2.77%. A lower 10-year rate typically means lower mortgage interest rates.

## SURVEY FINDS MOST AMERICANS SEE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

Nearly three out of four American households believe that the nation is suffering a housing affordability crisis, and a majority of respondents reported this is a problem at their local and state level as well, according to a recent nationwide survey conducted on behalf of NAHB. More than 2,200 adults were surveyed Nov. 27 through Nov. 30 to assess the public's attitude on whether a lack of affordable housing is a problem in their neighborhoods, cities, states and nationwide. The poll cuts across partisan, regional, demographic and socio-economic lines. Among its key findings: 73% of respondents believe that a lack of affordable housing is a problem in the U.S. 68% believe this is an issue in their state, and 54% cite housing affordability as a concern in their neighborhood. 58% said that if they decided to purchase a home in the near future, they would have trouble finding a home they could afford in their city or county. Nearly a third of America's 119 million households are cost burdened and pay more than 30% of their income for housing, based on NAHB analysis of 2017 Census data.

## PATENAUDE RESIGNS AS HUD DEPUTY SECRETARY

After 14 months on the job, Pam Patenaude has resigned as deputy secretary of HUD. FHA Commissioner Brian Montgomery will serve as acting deputy secretary. NAHB had a good working relationship with Patenaude, who during her time as deputy secretary helped guide HUD through a number of challenging issues and showed strong leadership in addressing housing and community recovery in areas impacted by natural disasters. NAHB will continue to maintain a very positive working relationship with Montgomery in his new role.



## NAHB RECOGNIZED FOR LOBBYING CLOUT

“The Hill,” a prominent Capitol Hill publication, recently named NAHB CEO Jerry Howard to its list of elite Washington power players. Although “The Hill” highlighted one person from each organization listed, Howard noted that his inclusion represents the hard work of many individuals. “The fact that NAHB is recognized as one of the most powerful trade groups is a testament to the shared efforts of our members; the NAHB staff, most notably Chief Lobbyist Jim Tobin and his government affairs team; EOs; councils and all those who work on behalf of the association to keep housing at the forefront of the national agenda,” Howard said.

## KEY FORESTRY PROVISIONS IN FARM BILL

Congress on Dec. 12 passed the 2018 farm bill that includes key NAHB-supported forestry provisions from Rep. Bruce Westerman’s (R-Ark.) forestry bill to implement critical forest management reforms that will help improve the health of the nation’s forest system and reduce America’s reliance on foreign sources of timber. The bill would also increase funding for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program to empower rural communities to restore effective forest management and improve forest health. It also contains several provisions in the Timber Innovation Act that will support the development of timber products for building construction. NAHB fought hard to ensure the farm bill contains a forestry title in order to increase the supply of domestically produced timber from federal lands.

## FHA PUBLISHES NEW HOME WARRANTY RULE

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) on Dec. 14 published a final rule that streamlines the home warranty requirements for FHA single-family mortgage insurance. The rule eliminates the regulations that require borrowers to purchase 10-year protection plans in order to qualify for certain mortgages on newly-constructed single-family homes. This final rule becomes effective March 14, 2019.

## TRUMP ADVANCES OPPORTUNITY ZONES

President Trump on Dec. 12 signed an executive order to spur more investment in opportunity zones, a type of economic development incentive created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Opportunity zones seek to incentivize investment and economic development in under-served communities. Developers may use a Qualified Opportunity Zone Fund to help fund projects located within an opportunity zone. This new source of investment dollars could prove to be a powerful economic tool if properly administered.





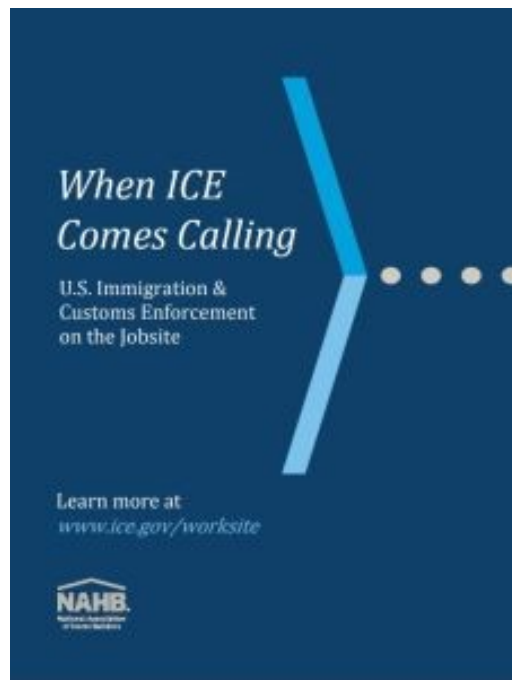
## WHAT TO DO IF I.C.E. VISITS YOUR JOBSITE

NAHB has teamed up with immigration law experts to provide members with information on what to expect – and what to do – if a jobsite gets a visit from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

ICE has ramped up oversight of employers' obligations to verify the validity of each employee's identity and is serving up inspection notices all over the country.

The publication, "[When ICE Comes Calling: U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement on the Jobsite.](#)" offers a look at how these inspections work.

The publication is not legal advice: Employers should consult with immigration counsel and establish a response protocol in case of a raid or audit and ensure that all field superintendents are prepared and all employees know that the first thing to do is to contact their boss.



## NAHB'S MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

The 2019 NAHB International Builders' Show – Feb. 19-21 in Las Vegas – is THE place to be for any housing industry professional. Come for the latest and greatest products from hundreds of exhibitors. Make plans to attend NAHB's annual Meeting of the Members, 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Westgate Hotel in Las Vegas during the International Builders' Show. This meeting provides NAHB members an insider's view of the association's advocacy priorities and gives them a voice in setting those priorities. Attendees also learn about how to take advantage of NAHB's many membership benefits and have the opportunity to network with other professionals in the housing industry. NAHB Chief Economist Rob Dietz will update members on the industry outlook. Randi Zuckerberg, founder and CEO of Zuckerberg Media, will be the keynote speaker.

## SAVE MONEY ON NISSAN OR INFINITY

Nissan North America and NAHB are excited to present members, their employees and HBA staff with the opportunity to purchase a new Nissan or Infiniti vehicle using exclusive incentives for members through the NAHB Savings Program. Click [here](#) to learn how to take advantage of this great member savings benefit.

Members Save Millions  
Start saving at [nahb.org/savings](http://nahb.org/savings)





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