

# BuilderBulletin

Official Newsletter of the Home Builders Association of Southwest Missouri



August 2017

## New Home Sales Rise 0.8% in June

Sales of newly built, single-family homes in June [inched up 0.8%](#) to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 610,000 units from a downwardly revised May reading, according to newly released data from HUD and the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Although we saw modest gains this month, new home sales have risen nearly 11% since the start of 2017," said NAHB chairman Granger MacDonald.

"The month's sales report is consistent with our forecast,

and we should see further gains throughout the year as the labor market continues to strengthen," said NAHB senior economist Michael Neal. "While new home inventory rose slightly in June, it remains tight as builders face lot and labor shortages and rising building material costs."

Regionally, new home sales increased 12.5% in the West, and 10% in the Midwest. Sales were unchanged in the Northeast, and fell 6.1% in the South.

## Is your listing correct?

We have been working on updating your contact information and you will be receiving a sheet in the mail. Please make sure we have the correct email, web site, phone number, and if we need to add any additional contact names to the list.

Plus, we will soon be sending out information on how your company can advertise on the HBA SWMO web site. We have several inquiries for work, so this is a great way to get your company in front of those needing your services.

## LEADERSHIP

**Steve Robbins, President**  
Robbins Construction

**Will Endicott, Vice President**  
Empire District Electric

**Gary Rose, Past President**  
Rose Construction

**Brian Kuehn, Treasurer**  
Four State Homes

**Jon Adams**  
Jon Adams Construction

**Donny Allen**  
Keller Williams Realty

**CD Beaver**  
Generations Construction

**Susan Boyer-Pinjuv**  
ABC Supply

**RJ Hall**  
Joplin Supply

**Scott Marshall**  
Gardner Homes

**Jake Mayberry**  
Mayberry Construction

**Kevin Seward**  
Seward Insulation

**Mark Shallenburger**  
Sunbelt Rentals

## EPA Rescinds Post-Construction Stormwater Rule

EPA announced in July that it is withdrawing long-delayed federal regulations that would require all developers to install [stormwater management devices](#).

In response to NAHB comments, EPA tabled the rule in 2014 that would have required additional “post-construction” controls for stormwater discharges. That rule would have required all builders to retain a certain volume of stormwater onsite, regardless of underlying soils or rainfall patterns.

EPA’s existing rules simply require regulated cities to address post-construction flows to the “maximum extent practicable.”

Since 2014, the shelved rule has sat on the agency’s “long-term action” list – not a priority, but eligible to be revisited at a future date.

On July 27, EPA, along with all other federal agencies, published an updated rulemaking agenda for 2017. EPA announced that it has officially withdrawn its would-be national post-construction rule.

## Apply to Serve on a Committee or Council

The [online application](#) process for 2018 NAHB committee and council board of trustees appointments is now open. NAHB strongly encourages all who are interested to submit an application. Applications must be submitted online before Sept. 22.

Current committee and council members must re-submit an application this year if they want to continue serving; there are no automatic multi-year appointments.

## Register for IBS and Enjoy August Discounts

The 2018 NAHB International Builders’ Show® returns to the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla., Jan. 9-11 and will again co-locate with the National Kitchen & Bath Association’s Kitchen & Bath Industry Show for the 5th annual Design & Construction Week®.

During August, IBS registrants can take advantage of several big

discounts. For more information, visit [BuildersShow.com/august](#).

The two shows are expected to host more than 2,000 exhibiting brands spanning more than a million square feet of exhibit space: the largest annual gathering of the residential design and construction industry.

Register at [BuildersShow.com](#).

## Storage Ideas for Older Home Buyers

Finding accessible storage space can be tricky for 55+ home buyers who have spent their whole life accumulating stuff and can have a tough time navigating stairs.

An article in a recent issue of NAHB’s [55+ Housing magazine](#), Living It Up while Moving Down: Storage, Storage, and More Storage, has great tips for builders on creating more room.

Hallway recesses can provide storage for wine bottles and glasses to save 55+ buyers a trip down to the wine cellar and, more important, let them show off their collection.

To accommodate occasional overnight guests, try pull-down wall beds in a study or den instead of creating a separate guest bedroom.

## DHS to Add 15,000 H-2B Guest Worker Visas

The Departments of Homeland Security and Labor announced in July that they will allow an additional 15,000 H-2B [temporary worker visas](#) to be issued during this fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30.

The H-2B program allows employers to hire temporary

foreign workers for seasonal, non-agricultural positions. In past years, roughly half of the visas have gone to landscaping businesses.

The two departments published [the final rule](#) increasing the numerical limit for H-2B nonimmigrant visas on July 19.

## Family Fun Night at Soar Trampoline Park!

Thank you to our Sponsors: Empire District Electric, Sunbelt Rentals, Abbey Title Company, Family Safe/Varsity Contractors, Federal Protection, Fireplace Shoppe, Four State Homes, Gardner & Marshall Homes, Gary Rose Construction, Joplin Habitat for Humanity, Herrman Lumber, Joplin Supply Company, Mayberry Construction, Robbins Construction, Seward's Insulation, Simpson Sheet Metal, and Southwest Missouri Bank



## HBA Membership Volunteer Day!

Join us Saturday, October 14 for HBA Volunteer Day at Miracle League. We will be assisting the League by being BUDDIES and cheering on the players! Any child with disabilities ages 5 to 20 years old is eligible to play Miracle League baseball. Games are played on a custom field with a flat, rubberized surface to help prevent injuries. In games every player bats once each inning, all players are safe on the bases, and every player scores a run. Buddies run the bases with players and assist them as needed. We will be sending out more information on the event and will get an RSVP closer to the event.

## DOL Considering Next Steps on Overtime Rule

The Department of Labor has issued a request for information on the Obama administration's [overtime rule](#), and NAHB will submit comments independently and as a member of the Partnership to Protect Workplace Opportunity coalition.

The Obama administration last year issued a proposed rule that was set to take effect Dec. 1, 2016, that would double the salary threshold to receive overtime pay from \$23,660 to \$47,476.

Working with Congress and members of our business coalition, NAHB led the effort to mitigate the effects of the rule. Moreover, NAHB joined other business groups in filing a lawsuit to challenge the overtime rule. As a result of these efforts, the rule was never implemented because a judge issued a preliminary injunction against it.

The Department of Labor is providing the public with the opportunity to offer input as the agency mulls its next steps. NAHB will provide detailed comments by the September 2017 deadline.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Events List

### September Member Coffee:

Thursday, September 14

7:30AM at Franklin

Technology Center at JHS

### Fishing Tournament :

Friday, September 22

Take off - 7AM

Elk River Marina

\$100 per boat (two people per boat)

### Membership Volunteer Day:

Saturday, October 14 at the

Will Norton Miracle Field at

the Joplin Athletic Complex at

9AM and 10:30AM

### Clayshoot:

Friday, October 27

Registration begins at 9AM at Claythorne Lodge in Hallowell, KS; Three-man teams are \$75 per person; includes lunch