

BRIGHAM TREMONTON BOARD OF REALTORS®

“We cannot hold a torch to light another’s path without brightening our own.” Ben Sweetland

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

24 – 25 Christmas
Board Office Closed

JANUARY

1 – New Year’s Day
Board Office Closed
8 – Tremonton Home Tour
9 – Brigham Home Tour
10 – **BOD Meeting 12:00pm**
15 – Tremonton Home Tour
16 – Brigham Home Tour
21 – Human Rights Day
Board Office Closed
22 – Tremonton Home Tour
22 – Brigham Home Tour
24 – **Leadership Training & Strategic Planning meeting 10:00am to 2:00pm**
25 – **UAR BOD Meeting**
29 – Tremonton Home Tour
30 – Brigham Home Tour

FEBRUARY

5 – Tremonton Home Tour
6 – Brigham Home Tour
12 – Tremonton Home Tour
13 – Brigham Home Tour
14 – **Membership Luncheon noon at Maddox Lodge**
14 – **BOD meeting 1:00pm**
18 – Presidents Day
Board Office Closed
20 – **UAR REALTOR DAY**
26 – Tremonton Home Tour

We would like to welcome Tyson Jorgensen with Besst Realty Group, North Ogden as the newest member of Brigham Tremonton Board of REALTORS®.

Sales Up for 2nd Straight Month

Existing-home sales increased 1.9% to a 5.32-million sales pace in November, the second consecutive monthly increase, according to NAR. "Market conditions in November were mixed, with signs of stabilizing home sales," says NAR Chief Economist. "The rise in inventory is clearly taming home price appreciation." Although sales were up on a monthly basis, they're down 7% on a year-over-year basis. [Details.](#)

FHA Raises Loan Limits For 2019

The Federal Housing Administration loan limit in high-cost areas will increase to \$726,525 from \$679,650 in 2019. In lower-cost areas, the base limit will increase to \$314,827. [More.](#)

NAR Closely Watching Flood Deadline

Extension of the National Flood Insurance Program is in the mix as lawmakers hammer out end-of-year budget legislation. Look for an update on this and other federal programs as budget discussions move forward.

Better Title Disclosure Sought

More accurate disclosure of title insurance premiums is needed under federal "Know Before You Owe" closing rules, [NAR says](#). Also, the closing rules need clarity on homeowner discounts. The closing procedures have been in place since 2015, but the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is still tweaking them.

Market Optimism Strong But Dipping

Fifty-nine percent of people think it's a good time to buy, down from 63%, NAR's [Housing Opportunities and Market Experience](#) (HOME) report for the fourth quarter finds. "Fast-rising home prices in excess of income growth has left buyers frustrated," NAR Chief Economist says.

Wins for Rural Housing Development

REALTORS® in rural areas [chalked up a win](#) in the farm bill passed by Congress. It keeps the existing definition of rural area in place, preventing thousands of communities from losing eligibility for safe and affordable mortgage financing backed by the Rural Housing Service. Towns with big prisons or military bases also come out winners, because they'll be more likely to be eligible for RHS-backed financing. The wins are covered in the latest [Voice for Real Estate](#) video from NAR. Also covered: a win on an [environmental rule](#) that was stifling development and an update on an [NAR-FBI meeting](#) about wire fraud in real estate.

