

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **JUNE IS NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH: ACHIEVE THE AMERICAN DREAM**

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois (June 2, 2015) – The Springfield Area Home Builders Association (SAHBA) is celebrating National Homeownership Month in June. Homeownership has long been the foundation of the American Dream, and for generations of Americans, owning a home and providing shelter for your family and valued treasures means owning your future.

According to statements made by the Capital Area Association of Realtors regarding our local market, year-to-date home sales through April of 2015, totaled 959, reflecting a 4.1 percent increase from the 921 sales during the same time in 2014. Year-to-date the median sale price through April of 2015 was \$110,000, reflecting an increase of 6.8 percent from the \$103,000 price during same period in 2014. Overall, things are looking up for our local housing market!

Below are some useful guidelines to follow when considering the purchase of a new home:

### Step 1: Financing Your Home

The first step to the home buying process is determining how much you can afford. Be sure to visit the SAHBA website at [www.springfieldareahba.com](http://www.springfieldareahba.com) to peruse the consumer resource library that contains great information on financing a home.

### Step 2: Prioritizing Most-Wanted Features

Before you start shopping, you should sit down with the members of your household to discuss your preferences and the many options available to you. An easy way to organize your thoughts is to write each separate feature that you want on a 3x5 card, and arrange the cards in order of their importance to you. While looking for a home, consider whether your needs are likely to change over time. If you plan to add rooms, find out if there is enough space on your site for such expansion and whether such additions are permitted by your local jurisdiction.

### Step 3: Selecting the Type of Home

Options include single-family homes and condominiums. Some home buyers prefer homes with large yards. Others opt for condominiums where they can avoid yard maintenance entirely. With a single-family home in a development, you'll be responsible for your own yard and home, but may be restricted to certain design elements or other regulations if there is a homeowners association. A condominium is a home in a multi-unit complex, such as an apartment building or a townhouse cluster. You own the home, and you and your neighbors jointly own the common elements, such as the land around the complex, the parking areas, building exteriors, hallways, utility pipes and recreational facilities. A condominium owners association is responsible for maintaining the jointly owned elements. The day-to-day business of the complex is generally handled by a managing agency.

### Step 4: Starting Your House Hunt

Now that you know the type of home and features you are looking for, and how much home you can afford, you're ready to begin searching for your perfect home. Whether you use a realtor to find an existing home or work with a builder to buy a new home, you'll be more focused with your search.

The American dream of homeownership is still alive and thriving, especially here in Central Illinois. For additional resources on home ownership or to find a local realtor or home builder, visit the SAHBA website at [www.springfieldareahba.com](http://www.springfieldareahba.com)

**ABOUT SPRINGFIELD AREA HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION**

The Springfield Area Home Builders Association (SAHBA) is an organization made up of firms in the building industry that include builders, remodelers, developers, and associated businesses. The association is dedicated to improving the local housing industry through legislation, education, and services for the benefit of the members and local communities. The goal of the SAHBA is to be the voice of the building industry in the Springfield Area. For more information visit [www.springfieldareahba.com](http://www.springfieldareahba.com)

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