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## The REALTOR® Rap Spring Edition 2018

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### A Letter from our President

Dear Stamford Board of REALTORS® Membership,

Welcome to the first REALTOR® Rap Newsletter for 2018. As 2018's President, my goal is to assure that our association maintains high professional and ethical standards. To accomplish this goal as always, an emphasis will be placed on education, integrity, leadership and the professional growth of association members. We will continue to bring you great Continuing Ed classes, Community Fundraisers, fun social events and hopefully some free events as well.

You may have seen our emails that went out regarding our very special year of 2019 coming up. The Stamford Board of REALTORS® will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and our wonderful Centennial Committee has already started planning. If anyone is interested in getting involved with this or any of our committee's please contact the Board.

We have a great Board of Directors and we are all looking forward to a great year.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your 2018 President and I'm wishing you all a very prosperous Spring market.

Ken Fried

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Ken Fried 2018 President, Stamford Board of REALTORS®

## Happy Hour Fundraiser to Benefit the Bennett Cancer Center

Nor'easters Be Damned!

Mother Nature's fury did not deter Stamford REALTORS® from gathering at the new Flinders Restaurant on Summer Street for a happy hour to cheer on the upcoming spring season and to raise funds for Stamford Hospital's Bennett Cancer Center.

Flinders Lane, Stamford's newest gastronomic sensation kept everyone toasty warm with a rotation of delectable servings; arancini balls, ginger salads cleverly served in takeout boxes, dumplings and more. A game of chance added to the spirit of the evening. The drawing winner was Dave Campana. He graciously donated his winnings back to the cause at hand. What a guy! To further incentivize the fund-raising efforts, Penn Johnson, President of Stamford Mortgage upped the ante by matching any \$20 donation!

All told, the Stamford Board of REALTORS® raised an impressive \$2,055. The check was presented to Gayle Alswanger, on a sunny afternoon on April 11th under the coverage of News12. The funds will go toward the expansion of their treatment suite, medical offices and, radiation oncology offices already ongoing. According to Ms. Alswanger, the donation makes a "big impact for our patients and their families". For its large donation, the Stamford Board of REALTORS® will be recognized with a star plaque at the entrance.



Left to right: Gayle Alswanger, Director Bennett Cancer Center Development at Stamford Hospital, Ken Fried, President Stamford Board of REALTORS®, Lara Winters, Director Stamford Board of REALTORS®, Cheryl McCormick, Director Stamford Board of REALTORS®



## Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017

Eric B. Morson, Tax Advisor with Family Tax Advantage, LLC spoke at the First Quarterly meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> to a healthy crowd of nearly 100 Realtors®. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 is now law and prompts many questions; how does it affect homeowners, homebuyers, and our business as Realtors®, how does it affect other aspects of our lives and so forth.

"Everyone's situation is unique," says Eric, the tax changes will affect everyone in different ways therefore, generalizations are difficult to make. Eric's recent newsletter provides a side-by-side summary of most changes, 2017 vs 2018. If you have not received a copy of his newsletter he can be reached at 203-322-4888.

The National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) has provided an extensive summary on the impact of the recent federal tax reform legislation on real estate homeowners and real estate professionals.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.nar.realtor/tax-reform/the-tax-cuts-and-jobs-act-what-it-means-for-homeowners-and-real-estate-professionals>



Eric Morson, Tax Advisor



From Left to Right: Eric Morson, Tax Advisor, Ken Fried, President Stamford Board of REALTORS®, Kristi Olds, CTR.tv Spokesperson

## Play Ball!

Run, run, come the cries from the stands at Drotar Park on Hope Street better known as the Springdale field. It's that time of the year – it's baseball season and Little League players across Stamford took to the fields on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, opening day.

The Stamford Board of REALTORS® is proud to support its little sluggers. This year we are a supporting sponsor of the Stamford North Little League (SNLL). Our banner is proudly displayed at the League's home field in Springdale.

Got a free weekend? Why not catch a game.

Here's the SNLL's schedule for the season:

<http://stamfordlittleleague.com/MasterGameSchedule.asp?org=STAMFORDLITTLELEAGUE.COM>



## 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act

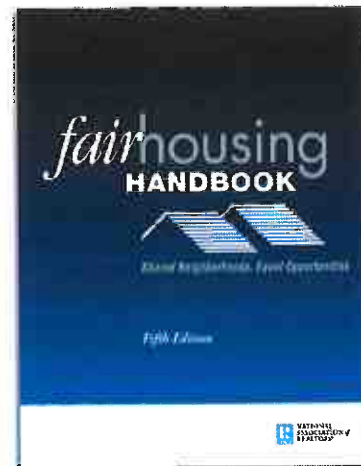
Access to housing for all regardless of race, turns 50 in 2018! Signed into law on April 11 1968, the Federal Fair Housing Act was signed into law recognizing that property rights should not be abridged because of discrimination, based on race, color national origin or religion. Over the years Fair Housing was amended to include gender, disability and familial status and to increase enforcement of the law. The National Association of Realtors® today leads the way to further expand inclusion. As Realtors® we all embrace the common battle cry, "Fair Housing Makes Us Stronger".

As part of NAR's commemoration of this milestone, NAR has updated its video designed to educate real estate professionals on how to comply with the FHA. The updated video includes vignettes that real estate professionals may encounter, including:

- emotional support animals and the FHA in housing
- familial status discrimination
- sexual harassment and unlawful retaliation against those making complaints
- how to avoid steering claims in the age of big data
- HUD's criminal background guidance and disparate impact analysis
- the requirements for NAR's Code of Ethics prohibiting discrimination against protected classes

The video will highlight these scenarios and provide risk management tips to real estate professional on how to meet their obligations under the FHA. This video is available as a digital download and is approximately 17 minutes in length. This video replaces the Fair Housing DVD that was created in 2006. Find the video on:

<https://www.nar.realtor/videos/an-overview-of-the-fair-housing-act>



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## CTR.tv CONNECTICUT REALTORS®

On January 18, 2018 CTR.tv was launched!

A vision by the CT Realtors Executive Committee and President Michael Barbaro, CTR.tv will be anchored by Kristie Olds. CTR.tv provides educational information, is a source for all things real estate in Connecticut. Topics will include legal matters, legislative proposals, events and opportunities, and the upcoming election to name a few. Programming runs for five minutes with the format as "five minutes, five topics".



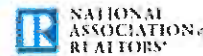
This election season all Realtors(R) are encouraged to watched. Access is easy: <https://www.ctrealtors.com/ctr-tv/>

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## NAR REALTOR® Safety

"This video, published by NAR's REALTOR® Safety Program, highlights safety protocols that all REALTORS® should implement into their daily routine and follow with every client, every day, every time. Watch the video and be sure to share it with your fellow REALTORS®."

Personal Safety Tips  
for Real Estate Professionals



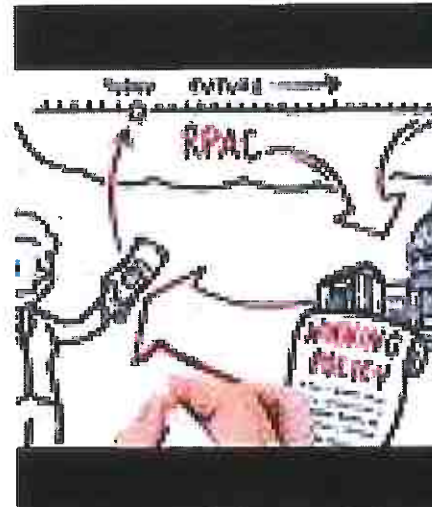
<https://youtu.be/sjhTcGAFdMM>

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## RPAC - The Line of Defense for REALTORS Success

Since 1969, the REALTORS® Political Action Committee (RPAC) has promoted the election of pro-REALTOR® candidates across the United States. The purpose of RPAC is clear: REALTORS® raise and spend money to elect candidates who understand and support their interests. The money to accomplish this comes from voluntary contributions made by REALTORS®. These are not members' dues; this is money given freely by REALTORS® in recognition of how important campaign fundraising is to the political process. RPAC doesn't buy votes. RPAC enables REALTORS® to support candidates that support the issues that are important to their profession and livelihood.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGxTWIii0bY&feature=youtu.be>



## Republican and Democratic Gubernatorial Debates

Don't Forget to Register

Republican Debate  
Tuesday, June 5

Democratic Debate  
Monday, June 11


Shubert, New Haven  
From 6:00 - 9:00 pm

- Free roundtrip bus transportation
- Celebrity Moderators
- "Taste of New Haven" Food and Beverages
- Prizes
- Complimentary Parking
- CTR Members can bring one guest

Call the office to reserve your seat on the bus or for more information  
203-327-1433


To Register:

<https://www.ctrealtors.com/forms/debates-2018/>




CT REALTORS®  
ELECTION COVERAGE 2018

### CTR Presents: Gubernatorial Debates




REPUBLICAN DEBATE  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 5**



DEMOCRATIC DEBATE  
**MONDAY, JUNE 11**


Both Events will be held from 6 - 9 pm



Celebrity Moderators • "Taste of New Haven" Food and Beverages • Complimentary Parking Options

**LIMITED SEATING - LOCK IN YOUR SEAT TODAY!**  
*Open to CTR members and 1 guest*

Exciting announcements coming soon!  
Visit our website for the latest information and to register today.



**CTREALTORS.COM/DEBATES**

## Community Corner

### Local Kiwanis Club Looking for New Members to Do Good!

Kiwanis a service organization dedicated to improving the life of children in our community. We carry out hands-on service projects and donate funds we collect from two major fund-raising projects. We contribute to, or work with the following local groups:

- Kiwanis Scholarship Trust Fund
- Boys and Girls Club of Stamford
- Junior Achievement



- ARI of CT
- Stamford Youth Soccer
- Send High School students to Kiwanis Key Leader Camps
- Scofieldtown Magnet Builder's Club
- Stamford Public Elementary Schools (Kiwanis Smiles program and more)
- Stamford Symphony MusiKids

We are always looking to increase our membership with individuals who want to contribute service for the benefit of children in our community.

For more information, or to join the  
Kiwanis Club of Stamford,  
please go to our

Website <http://www.stamfordkiwanis.org>  
click on Membership Information, or you may  
contact us at:

[kiwanis.stamford@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanis.stamford@gmail.com)

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