



The REALTOR® Rap

Summer Edition 2018

A Message from our President

"As we enter our fall market, I hope everyone had a successful and prosperous spring and summer selling season and has set themselves up for a strong year end finish.

To date, our community outreach events have raised funds that enabled the Stamford Board of REALTORS® to make generous donations to organizations such as the Bennett Cancer Center and the Stamford Public Schools. Future events are in the works for us to continue our outreach efforts to benefit the City of Stamford.

September is NAR Safety month and I hope you all have seen our emails and Facebook posts with safety tips. Please be safe. We all want you to have long careers in Real Estate.

Our proposed ballot for our 2019 Board of Directors will soon be published, so look for that and please vote.

It has been my pleasure to lead our board this year and for that I am grateful. I wish you all continued success in the months ahead."

Ken Fried
2018 SBOR President



SBOR President Ken Fried

The Stamford Board of REALTORS® and the CT REALTORS® Foundation Award \$13,000 in Scholarships to Stamford Graduates

At the Harry Bennet Auditorium, the Stamford Board of REALTORS® presented Vedant Gannu, Stamford High School, with two scholarships at a reception hosted by the Board. Out of our 12 students, Vedant received both the Raymond F. Gates, Jr. Memorial scholarship from the Connecticut REALTORS® Foundation and the Frank N. Green, Jr. Memorial scholarship award from the Stamford Board of REALTORS®.

The SBOR increased the number of \$1,000 awards this year from 10 to 12. The Frank N. Green Scholarship is based on community service, school service, demonstrated leadership ability and acceptance by an accredited institution of higher learning.

The scholarship winners from Stamford HS, Westhill HS, and Trinity Catholic, were accepted into some of the nation's most challenging institutions, including Hamilton College, Columbia University, the University of Texas and Marquette University.

"We are proud supporters of our students and the Stamford school system," said Susan Swidler, chairperson of the Stamford Board of REALTORS® Scholarship committee. "Every year, we are presented a challenging assignment to identify the winners of the scholarship. There are so many outstanding, bright young men and women. We're thrilled we were able to increase the number of scholarships, and reward the students for their terrific achievements," Swidler said.



Vedant Gannu with SBOR President Ken Fried



Scholarship Winners with SBOR President Ken Fried

Second Quarterly Meeting June 13, 2018

Ron Marcus, Librarian from the Stamford Historical Society delved into Stamford's past taking us into a history where many of us were a mere glimmer in our parent's eyes. From the historic treasure troves, he shared that Springdale is the neighborhood with the most historical data on file. He further enlightened us with the origin of Stamford street names many of us were unaware of – except for Marie Barker, Keller Williams, who knew Revonah is the reverse of Hanover, the landowner back in the day! Congratulations Marie on answering the majority of the How Well Do You Know Stamford questions! Perhaps one of the more interesting facts learned was the meaning of Shippan, "the shore where the sea begins".

If anyone can be kept at the podium answering questions it would have to be Kathy Elson, CEO – SmartMLS. Our second speaker provided updates on the Display Key and touched on topics ranging from lockboxes to MLS input rules.

A hearty Thank You to the Second Quarterly Meeting sponsors, Sally Schneider of Bearingstar Insurance and April Martin of MovementMortgage.



Ron Marcus, Historical Society with SBOR President Ken Fried



SmartMLS CEO, Kathy Elson

Summer BBQ

The Ponus Yacht Club was the venue for the annual barbeque. A mildly balmy night, the weather could not have been more agreeable. For those who are unaware, this event like many others, serves two purposes. First, we PARTY! Second, and more important, we raise funds to benefit Stamford's elementary school children in need.

On both fronts, the BBQ was a huge success. Burgers were flipping on the grill, drinks were flowing at the bar, and music was blasting from wall to wall. Once the merriment paused we sneaked in a celebratory birthday wish for our Board assistant, Jami Birnbaum! Not one, but two birthday cakes – oh my!



The spirit of giving was running hot this July 24th evening. We were able to raise money for our backpack fundraiser. We raised \$491 which included Peggy Meehan donating her winnings to the pot. Thank you Peggy. We were thrilled when SBOR Attorney John Harness, MATCHED what we had raised. Thank you John. Overall, we had enough to fund the purchase of nearly 200 backpacks for Stamford's neediest elementary school children. Well done, gang!



Jami Birnbaum, SBOR Assistant



SBOR Board member Fermin Vidal

The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round...

The desks are set, the walls are decorated, the textbooks are unpacked, and the buses are ready to roll. However, for many Stamford children there is just one item not checked off on their supply list – the backpacks. What might seem as a trivial supply item to some, to others it's a pricey investment to make after buying the much needed clothing supplies for ever growing kids. With just one week to the start of school, the Stamford Board of REALTORS® made donation deliveries of 192 backpacks for children in need at elementary schools Roxbury, Stillmeadow, Northeast, and Newfield. Administrators distribute the backpacks to students in need. News12 covered the first delivery to Roxbury Elementary School where they received 48 backpacks. :

[Stamford Board of Realtors donating backpacks to schools](http://connecticut.news12.com)

connecticut.news12.com



SBOR Board Member Susan Swidler, Roxbury Principal Mark Bonasera, SBOR Board Member Viktoria Cooper, SBOR Board President Ken Fried

Gubernatorial Debates June, July and September 2018

CTR hosted the first gubernatorial primary debates ever for both the republican and democratic nominees in June and July at the Shubert Theatre in New Haven. Televised, the event thrust the REALTOR® community into the political ring in a show of strength.

"Whomever is going to be the Governor is going to see us (REALTORS®) as important players in what goes on in the State of Connecticut." Scott Cooney, Broker in Danbury said during the primaries. Mary Beth Grasso an agent in Trumbull added, "real estate agents need to have a relationship with Hartford and the Governor." It's clear that REALTORS® are the boots on the ground, the defensive front line on the real estate field. Housing leads the way towards economic recovery.

The Shubert Theater – SOLD OUT, at the Monday, Sept. 17th CTR Gubernatorial debate between Rep. Bob Stefanowski and Dem. Ned Lamont. After just a few minutes the gloves came off! Lamont worked to liken his opponent to the White House leadership while Stefanowski made every effort to align his opponent's strategy as more of the same [Malloy] strategy. The overarching themes included taxes, healthcare, education, and CT's infrastructure, among others that affect our State's struggling economy where housing is down over 20%.

This second debate was not only picked up by various media outlets but also caused a retaliatory reaction from Gov. Dan Malloy. Putting aside the politics for a moment, the fact that CTR rolled out a high-profile debate, was able to fill the Shubert Theatre, and orchestrate a professional match is more than commendable. It highlights the REALTOR® community as a budding and unavoidable force majeure. REALTORS® across all Boards must remain united on the political front.

At the sight of many CT realtors in attendance, REALTOR Laki Papadakos exclaimed, "it's a wonderful thing! We have a terrific community of involved REALTORS®." It's of paramount importance for REALTORS® to engage in and be part of the political discussions that affect our business, our homeowners, our communities.

If you missed the FREE bus that transported Stamford REALTORS® to the debate, here is a link to the televised event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBzJK1-NC-c>

[WTNH Connecticut Gubernatorial Debate - 9-17-18](#)



SBOR Members: Laki Papadakos, Louise Petersen, Tammy Felenstein, Grant Felenstein (Tammy's son), SBOR Board Member Viktoria Cooper



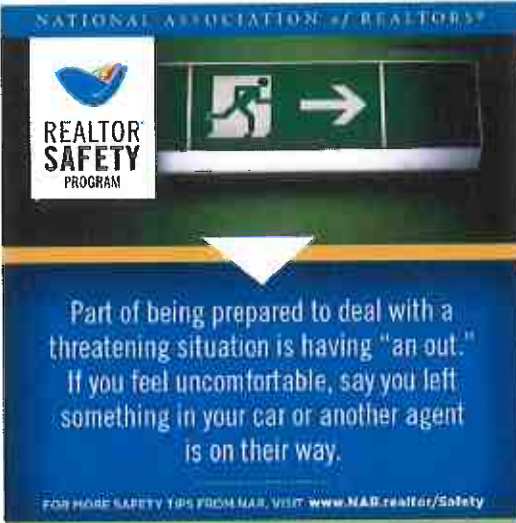
September is REALTOR® SAFETY Month

A Message from NAR:

Knowledge. Awareness. Empowerment. These are the core components of REALTOR® Safety. And helping our members understand the risks they face can mean the difference between life and death.

[See all Safety Tips](https://www.nar.realtor/safety/realtor-safety-tips-from-nar)

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

REALTOR SAFETY PROGRAM

Part of being prepared to deal with a threatening situation is having "an out." If you feel uncomfortable, say you left something in your car or another agent is on their way.

FOR MORE SAFETY TIPS FROM NAR, VISIT www.NAR.realtor/Safety

2018 Member Safety Report

Reminding members about the importance of staying safe on the job via safety materials, messaging, webinars, and other resources.

[This report](#) can help real estate professionals develop the resources, programs, and technologies they need to keep themselves safe.

<https://www.nar.realtor/2018-member-safety-report>

National Association of REALTORS®

2018 Member Safety Report



REALTOR®
SAFETY
PROGRAM



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF REALTORS®



It's almost here.
We're busy getting
ready
and would love
your help...

We're looking
for copies of

photos of REALTORS® - at the office, at a party,
or any event throughout the years (extra credit if
they're 100 years old ;).

We're easy - black and white, color, even
monochrome. The older the better. You can drop
them off, scan or email.

We're always happy to new ideas or another set
of hands, so let us know how you can help us
plan to celebrate this amazing year.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The Stamford Board of REALTORS® Public
Relations Committee is looking for short-term project
volunteers.

For more info, text/email/smoke signals to:
Vikktoria Cooper
917-751-5911
Vikktoria@VikktoriaCooper.com

