

In This Week's "The EDGE"

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"The Edge" is a weekly tool for managers to use to inform their agents and stay current and up-to-date with important real estate industry issues.

Brought to you by the HAR Communications Department.

“Foot Fetish Creep” Returns

- HAR started receiving calls last week from several members alerting us to the return of the so-called "Foot Fetish Creep." This man has been on and off HAR's and law enforcement's radar for years. He usually identifies himself as Andy or Eddie when he calls and asks to be shown vacant properties above a certain dollar figure. In most cases, he targets female agents whose photographs have been featured in ads in various print publications around the greater Houston area.
- During his harassing calls, the man asks the agent to describe her footwear and will usually request that she remove her shoes for improved cell phone reception. In some cases he asks whether they have had a pedicure and to describe the nail polish.
- HAR urges you to contact the police should you receive a call from the "Foot Fetish Creep."
- HAR reminds you that, in all that you do each day and night, SAFETY MUST ALWAYS COME FIRST!
- We have more information for you on [HAR Connect](#).



Congress Preserves NFIP – for Now



- On the verge of expiration last week, Congress voted to extend the National Flood Insurance Plan (NFIP) for another four months.
- That marks the seventh extension since September 2017.
- NAR President Elizabeth Mendenhall said in a [statement](#), “We applaud lawmakers for taking this needed action to prevent disruptions to closings in thousands of communities across the country. Although the National Flood Insurance Program will be extended through November 30 when signed into law, the NFIP is in desperate need of reforms that will make it solvent and sustainable in the long term. The National Association of Realtors will continue fighting for these reforms as the next NFIP reauthorization discussions loom later this year.”
- HAR thanks all the members who participated in NAR’s Call for Action on this critical issue.
- HAR recorded a [16.19% response rate](#).

Harris County Bonds Against Flooding

- On **Saturday, August 25**, the first anniversary of Hurricane Harvey, Harris County voters get to decide on a \$2.5 billion bond package that, if approved, would be the largest local investment in the region's flood control system post-Harvey.
- That amount would trigger matching federal funds for some projects. “Proposition A” will ask voters to finance a 10- to 15-year program of flood mitigation projects that include drainage improvements, upgraded warning systems, infrastructure repairs, home buyouts, and construction of more detention basins. Homeowners would likely see a gradual increase in property taxes over that time, averaging 1.4 percent.
- **Early voting begins Wednesday, August 8**, and continues through Tuesday, August 21.
- With Hurricane Season in full swing, now is the time to take action on this important matter.
- The HAR Board of Directors recommends to its members a vote FOR supporting the upcoming bond election to help fund flood control projects.
- For more information on the Harris County Flood Control District bond election, visit www.hcfcd.org.
- To find your voting location for the August 25 bond election, visit the Harris County Clerk’s website: www.harrisvotes.com.



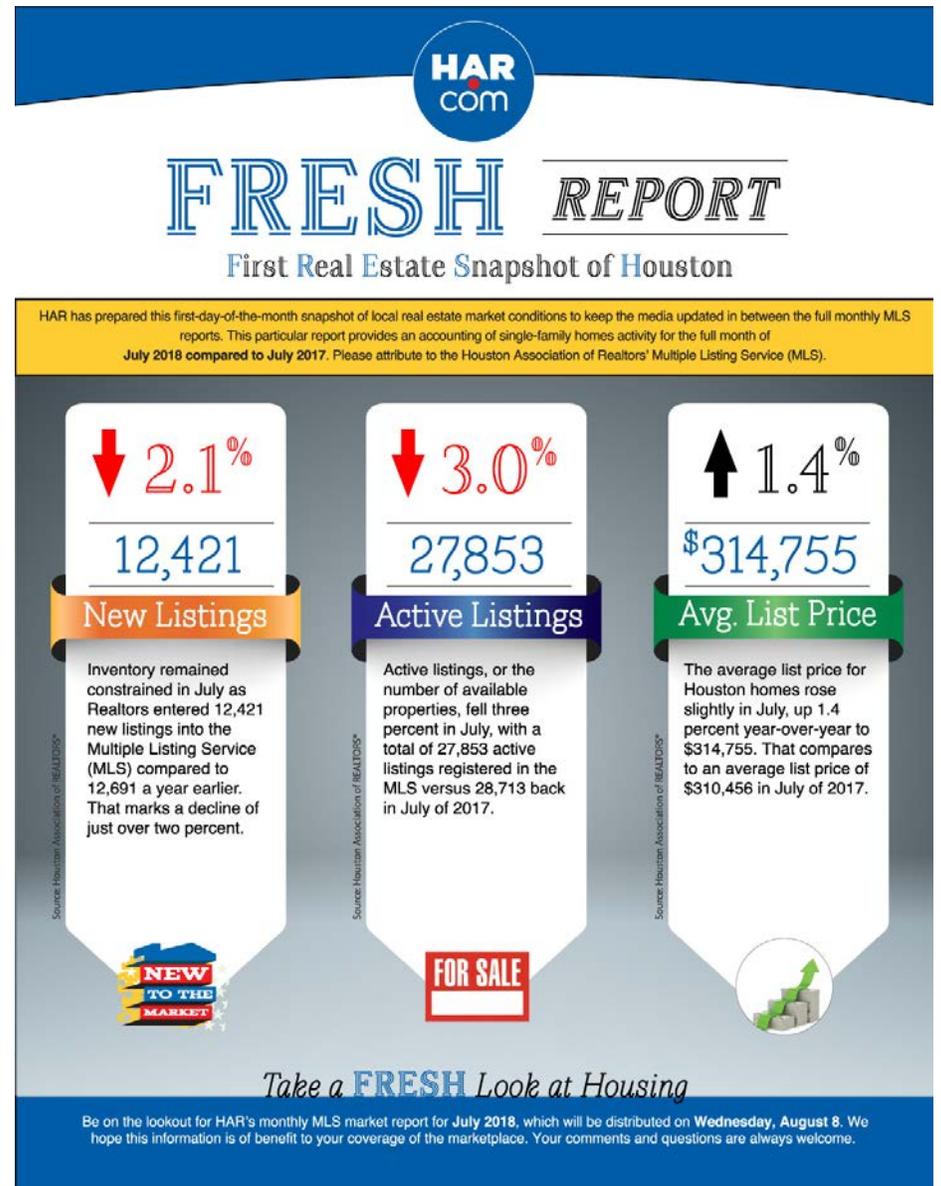
HAR's Bob Hale Among *HBJ's* Most Admired CEOs

- HAR President and CEO Bob Hale is among 48 Houston-area business leaders being honored in the *Houston Business Journal's* first-ever **Most Admired CEO Awards** presentation.
- Hale was among the non-profit honorees. This year marks his 30th year at the helm of HAR, which has grown to be the largest association in Houston and second largest local REALTOR® association in the country under his leadership.
- HAR members Nancy Almodovar, president and CEO of Nan and Company Properties/Christie's International Real Estate, and Mark Woodroof, managing partner of Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene, were among the for-profit honorees.
- All 48 individuals will be recognized during an August 23 luncheon as well as in a special edition of *HBJ* on August 24.
- Read more about the Most Admired CEOs [HERE](#).



A FRESH Look at Houston Housing

- The Houston real estate market had a mixed performance in July.
- Here is HAR's latest First Real Estate Snapshot of Houston (**FRESH**) Report, showing the latest housing trends across the greater Houston area as of **July 31, 2018**.
- Our complete MLS housing report for **July 2018** will be distributed this **Wednesday, August 8**. As always, HAR will provide you with updated coverage in *The EDGE*.



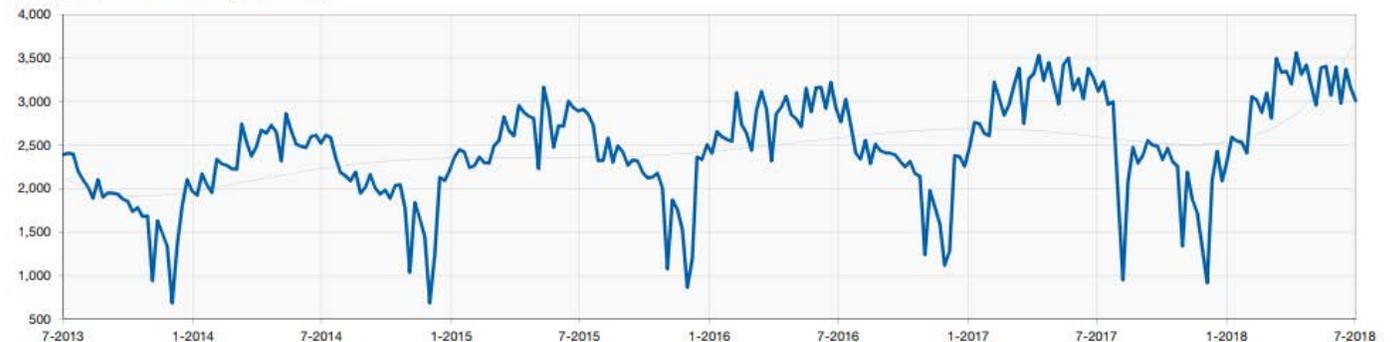
Houston Market Movements

The U.S. Labor Department reported that the economy added 157,000 jobs in July, marking 93 months in a row of job additions. Beginning in October 2010, that is the longest streak of monthly employment growth on record. The unemployment rate dropped to a historically low 3.9 percent, and wage growth remained at an annual rate of 2.7 percent. Meanwhile, escalating tariff conflicts with U.S. trade partners have not yet impacted the day-to-day housing market, but builders have indicated that lumber tariffs are increasing the price of new homes.

In the Houston region, for the week ending July 29:

- New Listings decreased 3.6% to 3,009
- Pending Sales increased 25.7% to 2,251
- Closed Sales decreased 5.4% to 2,043

Historical New Listing Activity



Teaching the Teachers

Advanced Instructor Training

The advanced ITI course will help instructors enhance and improve their presentation and teaching skills. This course focuses on classroom management and creating a productive learning environment that maximizes student involvement. You will learn to utilize resources and incorporate different techniques for individual learning styles. Further, you will explore ways to increase student engagement while fostering collaboration. Finally, you will gain strategies for reinforcing information and increasing message retention.

Dates: Thursday August 23

Location: HAR Central

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Investment: \$119

Register [HERE](#) today!

Questions? Please call 713.629.1900 ext. 6