

# HOUSING NOW

# **August 2023**

## 2023 SUMMER OUTING – A HUGE SUCCESS!

Our traditional day of fun in the sun was a huge success! We had 28 golf teams and 140 members and friends gather for our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Summer Outing on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Drumlin's Country Club in Syracuse, NY. It was our largest turn-out in many years and a sunny day of lively conversation, laughter and camaraderie. Many attendees have stated this was the best Summer Outing they have

ever attended, and we appreciate the outstanding turnout and positive feedback.

The day started off with our Annual Golf Tournament at the prestigious East Course. Novice and ace golfers alike played a full 18 holes. The 2023 golf outing winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team – Team Blevins #1; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team – Team Blevins #2; and the 3rd Place Team – Team MHD Empire Service Corp. Closest to the Pin

winners for Men and Women were Craig Richards and Ursula Andres. Longest Drive winners for Men and Women were Dylan Bickford and Pam Hallak. Our youngest golfer was 12-year-old Vaughn Thompson from Burke Manufactured Homes. We were told he was the best driver on his team on 12 of 18 holes. Happy belated birthday to Vaughn – he turned 13 on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to all who participated!

Many association members joined with the golfers in the afternoon for a fantastic clam bake and luncheon at the NYHA Networking Reception. Other fun afternoon activities included a Silent Auction offering a fantastic list of great escapes at

various hotels throughout New York, a 50/50 raffle and numerous door prizes. Thanks to everyone who brought a door prize to share with fellow participants; all were extremely generous and appreciated. Congratulations to Dale Walker, winner of the 50/50 drawing. Dale was nice enough to donate his \$750 in winnings back to NYHA and we greatly appreciate his generosity!

> A big thank you to everyone who helped on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, including: Joe Bono, Neil Bandel, Jennifer Whittington and Julie Harper. Without your assistance, this event would not have gone as smoothly, and we appreciate you.

> We would also like to thank all of the Sponsors who helped make this day possible: 21<sup>st</sup> Mortgage Corp; Blevins; Bluestone Construction;

Champion Homes – Atlantic; Champion Homes – Redman; Clayton Lewistown; Colony Homes; Eagle River Homes; Greenberg Traurig; Haylor, Freyer & Coon; Highland Holdings; Hoffman Homes; ManageAmerica Integrated Billing Services; Pleasant Valley Homes; Stark Homes; TammacCorp; Titan Homes; Triad Financial Services; UMH Properties; and Walker Sales & Distribution. Our sponsors help keep costs low for all attendees and we greatly appreciate them all.

Let's make this event an even bigger success in 2024. If you were not able to attend this year, we hope to see you in 2024. *Many thanks for a great* **31**<sup>st</sup> **Annual Summer Outing!** 

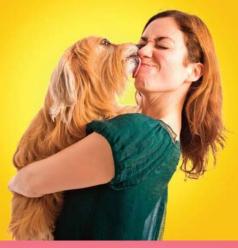
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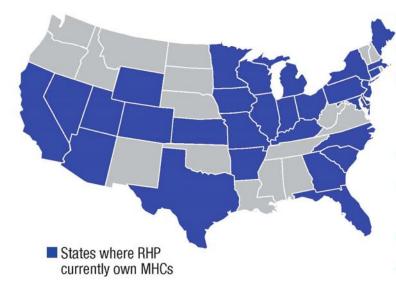




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## FROM THE NYHA PRESIDENT



JOE BUSHEY

#### HOW DO YOU TOP THAT?

We were blessed with a wonderful day of weather for our annual golf outing this year on the second of August at Drumlin's in Syracuse. I want to thank Bob Capenos and Kathy Pratt for all their efforts in planning this event and commend them for once again putting on a first-class event. I have attended this outing many times over the years but cannot remember enjoying myself more than I did last week. Please be sure to mark your calendars for the first Wednesday in August next year and tell all your industry friends that you did not see there this year what a great time they missed out on and they need to be there next year.

Now it's on to our Annual Convention on October 18 & 19 at the world-class Turning Stone Resort and Casino. I have all the confidence in the world that this will

be just as successful as our summer outing and for good reason. Bob and Kathy are always looking for ways to improve upon what we did. They constantly ask the members for feedback on what they like about what we do, and more importantly, for your input on what you would like to see or need to help your business grow.

We all should be constantly looking to improve ourselves, our businesses and our communities around us. The more our industry grows, the more opportunity there is for each of our businesses to grow. I want to urge anyone that has sponsored and exhibited at our Conventions in the past to once again answer the call and support your association and invite anyone that has not done so yet, to reach out to Bob or Kathy and ask about how you can be a bigger supporter of our 73rd Annual Convention. I look forward to seeing all of you in October!

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# HOW CAN <u>YOU</u> HELP AFFECT CHANGE?

Kathy Pratt, NYHA Office Administrator

I don't think I have ever told this story to anyone business-related, but a conversation at a recent NYHA Board of Directors meeting helped jog my memory. I live in the Town of Chatham in Columbia County. In 2019, I was asked to join a committee with other residents to help review the Town's Proposed Comprehensive Master Plan.

The Town had spent many years and a lot of money hiring attorneys, architects, planners, and the like to update the Town's Comprehensive

Master Plan, and many town residents were extremely unhappy with some of the proposed changes. Each committee was given a certain section to review and report back on. We attended multiple public hearings and were able to air our concerns, but the Town Board was determined to pass the Plan without accepting any of our proposed changes.

On the day of the Board's vote, I decided to look through the entire proposed Plan rather than just the section my committee had been directed to review. In the index, I noticed a "Manufactured Home" section. What did I discover? The proposed Plan contained a new section that would prohibit placing Manufactured Homes on private land within the Town. As you should already know, not allowing manufactured homes on private property is discriminatory and not allowed thanks to legislation introduced by NYS Senator Cathy Young which was passed into law in 2016.

So what did I do? Around 10 on the morning of the Board's vote, I emailed the Town Attorney and the Town Board members a copy of A2362/S4193 along with some text outlining the basic interpretation of the law. And guess what happened – the Board postponed their vote. To date, the Town still has not approved the Plan.

We are all part of the giant wheel keeping this big world going around. Every one of us has an impact on whether or not that wheel keeps spinning. Mark Glaser and his staff at Greenberg



Traurig do a wonderful job lobbying NYS officials on behalf of our industry. They spend countless hours trying to protect and promote the manufactured & modular housing industry in our state, but more help is always a good thing. So how can YOU help? One very simple first step: **establish relationships with your State and Town officials**.

NYS legislators are not in session right now, so they are working in their home offices. Whether or not you agree with their politics, NOW is the perfect

> time to introduce yourself to them. Tell them about your business – maybe you own a community and are the highest taxpayer in town, or maybe your business employs the largest number of people in town. Let them know. Have you started some beautification projects that benefit your residents and, by extension, the town? Let them

**know.** Share positive interactions with them – do you provide housing for 600 people? **Let them know.** Do you sell beautiful homes at affordable prices to local residents? **Let them know.** Not sure who your NYS representatives are? Look them up at: www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator and www.nyassembly.gov/mem/search/ or call the Association office at 1-800-721-HOME and we will let you know who your representatives are.

Do you attend Town Board meetings? Are you aware of what's happening locally? Maybe you need to file an application for Site Plan Review to make changes to your property. Having a relationship with your local officials, including building inspectors, code enforcement officers, etc., can help make the process run smoother. Drop in to say hi and introduce yourself. **Let them know** you and your business exist and introduce them to the benefits of Manufactured & Modular Housing.

Keep the wheel turning. You CAN make a difference, and you CAN help improve the Manufactured & Modular Housing industry in NY. Maybe YOU can affect change and stop an entire Town too.

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**NEWS & NOTES** 

#### HAS YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNED ON TO COSPONSOR H.R. 3327?

After successfully delaying the compliance date for the Energy Rule, we need to fix the law to ensure the industry never again faces the challenges caused by conflicting regulations coming from two different federal agencies. Congress must hear from all sectors of the manufactured housing industry about the urgent need to change federal statute.

Congressman David Kustoff (R-TN) and Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D-AL) introduced H.R. 3327, the Manufactured Housing Affordability and Energy Efficiency Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation clarifies and reaffirms the longstanding role of HUD as the sole regulator of federal manufactured housing construction standards. This bill will prevent future issues with conflicting standards originating from different federal agencies.

Join MHI's efforts and tell your Representative to support H.R. 3327. To participate in this Call to Action, please visit: https:// www.manufacturedhousing.org/mhiactioncenter/ and follow the steps on MHI's website. MHI created a template letter you can send your Representative by simply inserting your home address and clicking submit. In addition, state associations and individual companies can use our template letter, personalize it, and send it to your Congressional offices. Contact MHI if you need an updated contact list of staff contacts for your state delegation.

Thus far, MHI members have sent over 340 messages to their representatives. The top states contacting their members of Congress are Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin, and Louisiana. Thanks to these efforts, twelve additional Representatives have signed on to cosponsors the legislation including Representatives Warren Davidson (OH-8), Charles Fleischmann (TN-3), Mike Rogers (AL-3), Rudy Yakym (IN-2), John Rose (TN-6), Bryan Steil (WI-1), Glenn Thompson (PA-15), Lori Chavez-DeRemer (OR-5), Andy Barr (KY-6), French Hill (AR-2), Tracy Mann (KS-1), and Tim Burchett (TN -2). MHI thanks you for your continued efforts to increase cosponsorship of this critical legislation.

# HUD RELEASES \$85 MILLION FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO BUILDING HOUSING AND ANNOUNCES NEW TOOLS TO BUILD & REPAIR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

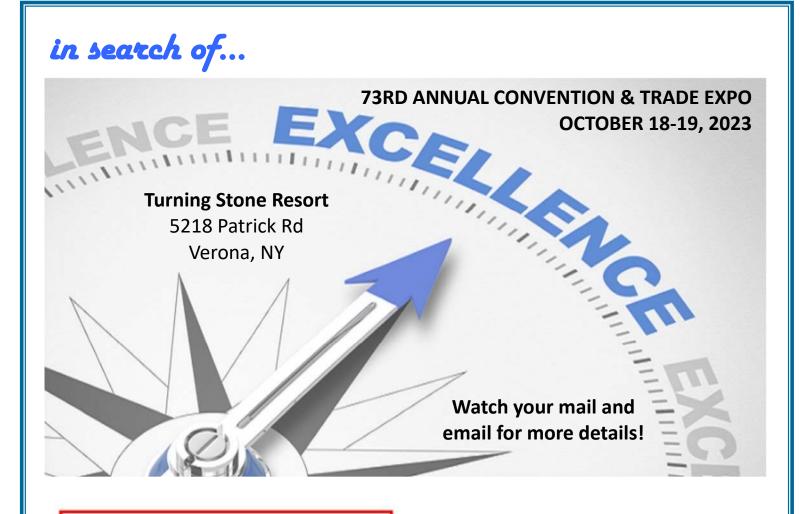
Increasing the supply of affordable housing is one way Bidenomics lowers housing costs from the bottom up and the middle out.

WASHINGTON - On July 27, 2023, the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is taking two actions to lower housing costs for Americans by increasing the supply of affordable housing. HUD's actions today will make it easier to build new housing and providing new tools for and improving deeply affordable preserving housing. An \$85 million first-of-its-kind competitive PRO Housing funding opportunity for jurisdictions and new guidance for providers of affordable housing will help communities address local housing challenges. The White House released a factsheet highlighting the "Actions to Lower Housing Costs Supply," available and Boost at: https:// www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statementsreleases/2023/07/27/biden-harris-administrationannounces-actions-to-lower-housing-costs-andboost-supply/

"HUD recognizes that communities have unique housing challenges and that's why the resources announced today are not one size fits all. HUD is proud to highlight the efforts of communities who are committed to housing-forward policies and practices and through PRO Housing we hope to support them with funding as well," said **Secretary Marcia L. Fudge**. "Today, we are acting to increase the supply of affordable housing, which is crucial to lowering housing costs. We look forward to continuing this work in partnership with local communities."

First, HUD is announcing the availability of \$85 million innovative competitive grants for communities to identify and remove barriers to affordable housing production and preservation. A

HUD, cont. on Page 11





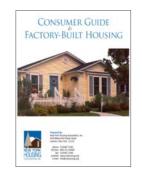
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The **Consumer Guide to Factory-Built Housing** is a fantastic resource to share with prospective tenants and purchasers. Buying a home is a big step! The facts and info included in the Buying Guide help make the process more understandable.

Help your tenants make smart and wellinformed buying decisions by offering them a copy of this Guide. NYHA Members can purchase the Guide from the Association office for \$1 each.

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#### HUD, cont. from Page 7

first of its kind program, Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) will help communities further develop, evaluate, and implement housing policy plans; address restrictive zoning, land use, or regulatory policies; improve housing strategies; and facilitate affordable housing production and preservation. Grants to local governments, states, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and multijurisdictional entities will range from \$1 million to \$10 million.

Second, HUD is also providing public housing authorities and multifamily housing owners participating the Rental in Assistance Demonstration (RAD) with new tools to repair and build affordable housing. Released today, HUD's supplemental RAD notice provides additional flexibilities for housing providers that will enhance RAD's ability to support repairs to thousands of affordable homes over the next three years. The notice also promotes water- and energy-efficiency investments and includes new requirements that address climate resilience and adopt stronger energy efficiency standards. Additionally, the provides \$12 million to support notice preservation transactions of eligible housing for the elderly.

Today's actions follow through on commitments made by the **Biden-Harris** Administration in its Housing Supply Action Plan, with the key objective of lowering the cost of housing for all Americans. These actions build on progress already made by HUD, including reviving the Risk Sharing program, that has so far supported the preservation and creation of 12,000 affordable homes since its restart, and providing communities with \$5 billion for the through HOME -ARP program, which will create over 20,000 new affordable homes for people experiencing homelessness, facing housing insecurity, fleeing domestic violence, and veterans.



# MARKETING TIP #4: ARE PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT YOU?

Here's an interesting fact: On average, people mention a brand, product, or service at least 15 times per day in conversation with others.

Here's another interesting fact: 92% of consumers trust word-of-mouth referrals more than advertising.

That means you have 15 times per day, per person, to get your business name mentioned. And if that that conversation is positive, people will value and act on that conversation.

But here's the question...How do you get people talking about you?

It simple. You don't let them forget about you.

Let's use an example from my experience. For those of you unaware, (which is probably most of you), our family spends a lot of time in our RV. In fact, during 2020, we lived, worked, and did school out of it for the majority of the year. We travelled to 30 plus states, and were able to see more in a year than we could have imagined. It was a great experience.

Unfortunately, RVs are not the most durable of vehicles, especially when they're heavily used by 2 adults, 3 kids, a dog, and 2 pet rats (yikes). After a couple years, our RV had some fiberglass damage and needed to be repaired. In a normal world, that would not have been a problem. But in the post covid RV boom, dealerships were backed up.

So we asked around, and we were referred to JCP Fiberglass in Grand Junction, CO. They were great to talk to, did great work, and charged a reasonable price. Unsurprisingly, they were also very, very busy.

However, no matter how busy they get, they told me they always make time to send out postcards. They send these out periodically throughout the year to all their customers. Some may be a holiday card, a thank you card, or even a birthday card.



### ATTORNEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The NYHA office gets many requests from members throughout New York looking for names of Attorney's with knowledge and experience on Manufactured Housing issues. Sometimes our Attorney members are too far away or are too busy to take on new clients.

If you have an Attorney to recommend, suggest they contact the Association office via phone (800-721-HOME) or email (info@nyhousing.org) to be added to our list.

The current list can be found at: https://www.nyhousing.org/news/attorney-recommendations



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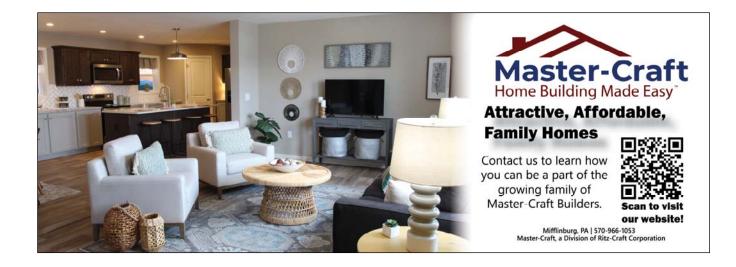


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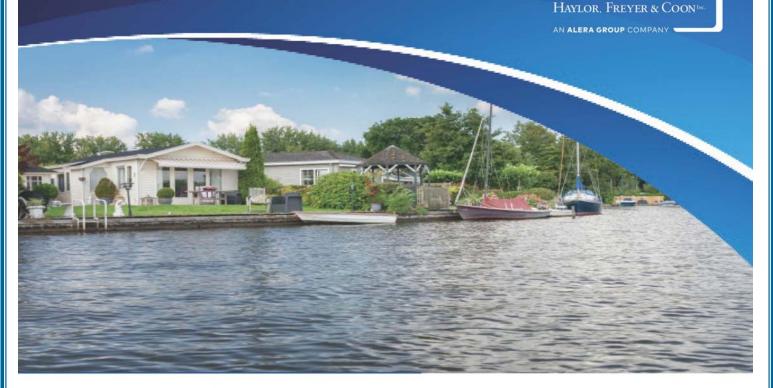


# **CHECK OUT THE NYHA 2023 CALENDAR:**

# www.nyhousing.org/events



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