

# Media Advisory – Save the Date

Event: Regional Housing Conference: “Finding Common Ground”

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2008

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Place: Covenant Church, 1025 E. Rio Road, Charlottesville

Contact: Billie Campbell, 979-7310 ext 230, [bcampbell@tjpc.org](mailto:bcampbell@tjpc.org)

Web: [www.HousingConference08.org](http://www.HousingConference08.org)



A broad coalition of organizations has come together to plan a regional housing conference to grapple with issues and develop an action agenda for our region. The Regional Housing Conference “Finding Common Ground” will provide opportunities to tackle issues and controversies on a variety of topics, including:

- Density & Sprawl
- Emerging Housing Approaches
- Community Design
- Partnerships
- Community Land Trust
- Proffers
- Lending and Finance
- Mixed Use/Mixed Income

The keynote speaker for the event will be Joseph R. Molinaro, Managing Director for Smart Growth and Housing Opportunity for the National Association of REALTORS in Washington, DC. In this capacity, he oversees NAR’s Smart Growth, Diversity, and Housing Opportunity Programs. These programs include REALTOR training, technical assistance on land use regulation to state and local REALTOR associations, and voter surveys and research on housing, growth and development issues. He is editor of On Common Ground, NAR’s smart growth magazine.

Prompted by the State of Housing Report, commissioned in 2006, this conference will address ways to provide housing for segments of the populations whose needs are not being satisfied by the conventional homes in today’s marketplace. The State of Housing Report evaluated housing trends and needs, and projects future demand particularly for affordable housing. Howard Evergreen, Director of the Fluvanna/Louisa Housing Foundation says “the current and future housing needs identified in this Report pose a huge challenge for the region. This Regional Housing Conference “Finding Common Ground” is an opportunity for citizens to grapple with problems and propose possible solutions.”

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The conference is being planned to appeal to professionals in the housing industry as well as consumers and advocates. Attendees are expected to include realtors, business people, public officials, lenders, builders, developers, architects, site planners, consumers, community leaders, and concerned citizens.

The conference will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. At 9:00 a.m. the opening session will identify housing issues and problems in our region and set the stage for the day. Four concurrent breakout sessions will be offered in the morning, followed by lunch and the keynote address. The afternoon will include four more breakout sessions. The breakout sessions will include brief presentations by two to four speakers to prepare participants to discuss issues and generate ideas for approaches that might be effective in our region. The event will end with a panel discussion on possible partnerships and a facilitated session to hammer out a draft Action Agenda. The preliminary schedule and registration materials are available at [www.HousingConference08.org](http://www.HousingConference08.org). Continental breakfast, lunch and an afternoon break will be provided. Registration for the event is \$20.

In 2003, the Regional Housing Directors Council sponsored a regional housing conference titled "Creating Successful Mixed Use Communities." ([www.tjpd.org/housing/mixedUse.asp](http://www.tjpd.org/housing/mixedUse.asp)) The success of that event spurred the group to begin planning for another regional conference in 2008. Another factor leading to this event was **The State of Housing Report**, commissioned by the Regional Housing Directors Council in 2006. The Center for Housing Research (CHR) developed the report, which compiled and analyzed data from a variety of sources to evaluate housing trends and to project future demand. The Report includes a summary of the findings, a description of current housing programs, recommendations for actions and policies as well as the full CHR document. The report is available on-line as a pdf file at <http://www.tjpd.org/pdf/housing/StateofHousingReport.pdf>. Copies are also available at the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission office at 401 E. Water Street in Charlottesville. Stop by or call 434-979-7310 to reserve a copy.

The planning team for the 2008 Regional Housing Conference includes representatives from the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, the Regional Housing Directors Council, the Charlottesville Area Association of Realtors (CAAR), Livable for a Lifetime, the Chamber's Aging in Place Business Roundtable, and the Central Virginia Mortgage Professionals. Sponsors include the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Cynthia Hash Realtor, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC), and Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA).

The Regional Housing Directors Council is made up of directors of non-profit housing foundations throughout the Planning District. Livable for a Lifetime is a partnership launched by the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA), PHA, and TJPDC to focus on the incorporation of Universal Design principles in the design of housing and communities. The Aging in Place Business Roundtable is a group of businesses and organizations that work together to support an adult's choice to age in their home by providing them with information, ideas and services they can use to remain independent throughout life.

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