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## **Realtor® Open House Event Offers Buyers a Snapshot of Local Housing Market**

With signs of the housing market recovering and favorable affordability conditions, this year's buying season has the potential to be a busy one. Buyers in the Northern and Southern Black Hills will have the opportunity to jump start the buying season on April 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> as Realtors® hold open houses all weekend long as part of the Statewide REALTOR® Open House event.

During that weekend Realtors® throughout the Northern and Southern Black Hills will hold open houses, bringing attention to the many benefits of homeownership, as well as providing an opportunity for them to connect with consumers in the local community about housing issues that matter most to them. Realtors® will also be available to answer questions and provide insight on the local housing market and the home buying process.

"Forty-four percent of recent buyers used open houses as a way to find their dream home," said Beth Mathis; President of the Mount Rushmore Area Association of REALTORS® "The Statewide REALTOR® is a great chance for buyers to do just that, as well as get an idea of what they can afford in the local market. It's also a good time for sellers to market their home and attract potential buyers."

"Realtors® visit hundreds of homes with buyers each year, and have a unique understanding of what buyers want and can get for the price in our local market," said Mathis "Realtors® understand that home is where we make memories, build our futures

and feel comfortable and secure. It's an investment in your future and we are here to help you achieve those dreams.”

**The Mount Rushmore Area Association of REALTORS®** says open houses can also give buyers a clear idea of what features are important to them in a home. According to NAR data the typical recently-purchased home was 1,870 square feet and was built in 1993. The typical buyer purchased a home with three bedrooms and two bathrooms. When it comes to home features, buyers prefer central air conditioning the most, while walk-in closets were second. The two most common rooms buyers were willing to spend more for were a laundry room and a den/home office, though a family/media room didn't fall far behind.

“Buyers who are willing and able to take on the responsibilities of homeownership can begin their home search process by attending the South Dakota Statewide Open House Event and learning more about homeownership and local housing issues,” said Mathis.

**For more information on listings in the Northern and Southern Black Hills, go to [www.mountrushmoremls.com](http://www.mountrushmoremls.com).**