

# February 2017 News Brief

Happy Groundhog Day



## Residential

### Fed Announces Interest Rate Decision

As expected, the Federal Reserve held interest rates steady today as they assess where the economy is headed – and the agency intimated that rates might stay low for a good while to come.

By: Ryan Smith, Mortgage Professional America, February 1, 2017

**Read more:** <http://www.mpamag.com/news/fed-announces-interest-rate-decision-58976.aspx>

### First-Time Homebuyers Are Ready to Test the Housing Market. Can They Find a Home?

First-time homebuyers have met tougher mortgage qualifying standards in recent years, they've saved up for down payments, they've done their homework and know what they can afford.

By: Teresa Mears, January 19, 2017

**Read more:** <http://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/articles/first-time-homebuyers-are-ready-to-test-the-housing-market-can-they-find-a-home/>

### In A Community of Million-Dollar Homes, a Fight Over a \$500 Mailbox Ends in Court

The \$35 wooden mailbox Keith Strong bought in 2009 seemed charming and functional for the home he shared with his wife in a posh golf community in the suburbs of Washington.

By: Lynh Bui, The Washington Post, January 23, 2017

**Read more:** [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/in-a-community-of-million-dollar-homes-a-fight-over-a-500-mailbox-ends-in-court/2017/01/23/1adbdb88-e186-11e6-a453-19ec4b3d09ba\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.057665d7e62f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/in-a-community-of-million-dollar-homes-a-fight-over-a-500-mailbox-ends-in-court/2017/01/23/1adbdb88-e186-11e6-a453-19ec4b3d09ba_story.html?utm_term=.057665d7e62f)

### 6 Signs Your Website May Need an Update

Technology is constantly evolving. It seems every day, a new feature, mobile app, device or operating system is being rolled out that changes the way businesses operate.

By: PAIGE, Better Home and Gardens Real Estate, January 28, 2017

**Read more:** <http://bhgrealestateblog.com/5-signs-your-website-may-need-an-update/>

### When Will Fannie, Freddie Switch to New Credit-Scoring Model?

Borrowers probably know that their credit score is a crucial factor in their ability to qualify for a mortgage.

By: Kenneth Harney, Contributor, The Real Deal, January 27, 2017

**Read more:** <https://therealdeal.com/miami/2017/01/27/when-will-fannie-freddie-switch-to-new-credit-scoring-model-2/>

## Commercial

### What Impact Will Cancelling Trade Agreements Have On Strongest Industrial Real Estate Expansion on Record?

Most Expect to See Short-Term 'Pause' or Trade Headwinds Offset by Other Fiscal Stimulus Measures.

By: Mark Heschmeyer, CoStar, January 25, 2017

**Read more:** <http://www.costar.com/News/Article/What-Impact-Will-Cancelling-Trade-Agreements-Have-on-Strongest-Industrial-Real-Estate-Expansion-on-Record-/188352>

### Finding Attractive Deals Among Top Concerns for CRE Execs in 2017

Despite a recovery that's now lasted more than the usual seven years, the current real estate expansion cycle still has legs, according to senior real estate executives surveyed by consulting firm KPMG for its 2017 Real Estate Industry Outlook Survey.

By: Diana Bell, National Real Estate Investor, January 31, 2017

**Read more:** <http://nreionline.com/finance-investment/finding-attractive-deals-among-top-concerns-cre-execs-2017-kpmg-finds>

### Economy Watch: Millennial Impact on Urban Markets Could Fade Soon

Will the influence of the Millennial generation, which has had an outsized impact on cities—and on urban multifamily developments in particular—start to wane in the coming years?

By: Dees Stribling, Multi-Housing News, January 25, 2017

**Read more:** <https://www.multiphousingnews.com/post/economy-watch-millennial-impact-on-urban-markets-could-fade-soon/>

### Get Ready for the Driverless Revolution

Experts from a wide range of industries agree that the coming decade will be defined by the automation of the automobile.

By: Steven Bandolik and Kenneth Meyer, Commercial Property Executive, January 25, 2017

**Read more:** <https://www.cpexecutive.com/post/get-ready-for-the-driverless-revolution/>

### 3 Tips to Get More Sales Leads from Your Commercial Real Estate Website

Your commercial real estate website exists for two reasons – first, it's there to portray your brand's image, and second, it's supposed to help you grow your business.

By: Mike Wheatly, Realty Biz News, January 25, 2017

**Read more:** <http://realtybiznews.com/3-tips-to-get-more-sales-leads-from-your-commercial-real-estate-website/98737704/>

