

We've Got Spirit

Fitness Company Announces Expansion



Plus:

Nice-Pak Expansion Nearing Completion

Home Sales Stay Strong

Colson Factory Taking Shape

Fit For Growth

Spirit Fitness Announces 3-Phase Expansion Plan

Spirit Fitness, a world leader in residential and commercial fitness equipment, is pleased to announce plans to expand the company's operation in Jonesboro with the addition of a new facility in Jonesboro's Craighead Technology Park.

"Spirit Fitness has been blessed to grow over our many years in Jonesboro," said Tiger Chen, President of Spirit Fitness, "Adding new space to house our Technical Support Department and Warranty Parts Department will help Spirit hire additional people in Jonesboro and continue to serve our customers."

Spirit's new facility will occupy a 20-acre site on Barnhill Road, just south of Highway 18. Construction of a new 150,000 SF building will be the first of three phases of expansion for Spirit. Over the next five to ten years, Spirit plans two more phases of expansion that would push the size of the Barnhill Road facility to 450,000 SF.

"Spirit Fitness continues to invest in Jonesboro," said Mark Young, President of Jonesboro Unlimited, "This addition marks the third time Spirit has added to its Jonesboro operation since they first came to Jonesboro."

"We keep seeing great opportunities in Jonesboro," Chen said, "When we were considering where we needed to expand and where we could find the right people to best serve our growing customer base, Jonesboro stood out."

When complete, Spirit's \$10 million investment will create approximately 40-50 new jobs. Adding to Jonesboro's growing reputation as a focal point of distributing goods and services across the country.

"Our central location and efficient means of distribution make Jonesboro stand out no matter how you look at the numbers. Add in the quality of our workforce and the dedicated, hardworking people we have in Jonesboro, and you quickly learn companies don't just give Jonesboro a try. They stay and continue to invest," said Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of Jonesboro.

Adding the new building will free up storage and warehousing space at Spirit's current location on Nestlé Road. The new building is scheduled to be completed 8-9 months once construction begins. A start date for building the new facility has not yet been announced.



Project Updates

Colson Factory Nearing Completion

[The construction of Colson USA's new factory](#) in the Craighead Technology Park is making significant strides. The 147,000 SF facility is nearly "in the dry" as installation of the final sections of the wall and roof continues. Peter Backus, Manufacturing Strategy Manager for Colson, says they are looking at the middle of November as the target of what he calls the "substantial completion" of the facility.

Backus says that they expect to start moving equipment and personnel from the existing factory on Airport Road to the new building 10-12 weeks after obtaining a certificate of occupancy. Backus adds that they plan to have the new facility in full production by the end of the first quarter of 2022.

Nice-Pak Expansion

Nice-Pak continues to hire and train new associates as the pre-moistened wet wipe manufacturer pushes ahead with its \$50M expansion.

Currently, the company is focusing on completing its new manufacturing suites. Following that, Nice-Pak will begin the process of converting and commissioning the new equipment. Stanley Lichucki, Site Director of Nice-Pak, Jonesboro, says they expect production to start in mid-October.

Camfil Plant

The focus of construction on Camfil APC's new factory in the Craighead Technology Park is pouring the foundations and footings and installing underground utilities, says Camfil APC Senior Project Manager John Williams. He says the new [254,000 SF building](#) has a scheduled completion date for the third quarter of 2022.

At that time, Williams says, Camfil APC will begin moving production from their current, temporary facility to their new home on Nestle Road. He adds that the process will take several months. The timing of the move depends on the needs of their customers. Williams says moving will be methodical to allow manufacturing to continue as all team members move to the new facility.



Quality of Life

City To Apply For \$20M Federal Grant

\$20 million for the continued construction of multi-use trails it could be heading our way if the City of Jonesboro receives The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant.

The grant is a product of the U.S. Department of Transportation. It is the same grant through which Jonesboro received \$89 million four years ago. That money has been and is being used to build railroad overpasses and widen roads.

In a press release from the City of Jonesboro, Mayor Harold Copenhaver said the primary focus is creating more connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians. Still, the plan calls for more than just trails.

"This would include areas dedicated to flood mitigation and broadband access. It will help local and commercial traffic, increase accessibility for residents, businesses, and A-State students. And it will provide key tools for redeveloping needed areas of Jonesboro. For our future, this is a game-changer," he added.

Winning the grant would require a 20% match from the city, roughly \$4 million. The city says that money will come from various sources, including partnerships.

One of the plan features includes an Arkansas Veterans Wall of Honor railroad crossing commemorating Arkansans wounded in military service. It would also establish the long-sought connection that will redevelop areas between downtown and Arkansas State University.

Arkansas' elected leaders have overwhelmingly supported the application for the grant. Governor Asa Hutchinson, U.S. Sen. John Boozman, and U.S. Representative. Rick Crawford have written letters of support. ASU Chancellor Kelly Damphousse, Jonesboro Unlimited President Mark Young, and other nonprofit leaders around the region have also written letters supporting the grant.

The city will officially apply for the grant this fall. If you would like to see [Jonesboro's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan](#), [click here](#).



Commercial Development

Construction of a new Kum & Go location is underway in Jonesboro. The city's 6th Kum & Go is located at Southwest Drive and Kellers Chapel Road. The 5,600 SF store will be the company's new "Marketplace" concept. Kum & Go says the latest store will be open in December.



The Buckle is going to be a tenant in the new Uptown development on Highland Drive. Haag-Brown says the store will occupy 8,700 SF next to Gearhead. It's a homecoming of sorts for The Buckle. The retailer was once in the old Indian Mall.



Zales is returning to Jonesboro. The former tenant in the Mall at Turtle Creek is reopening on Red Wolf Boulevard in the former Sprint location, right across from Chick-fil-A. The 2,000 SF space is currently going through a remodel before opening later this year.

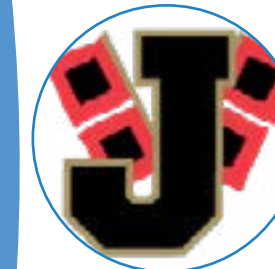


Valley View Public Schools has a 5,900 SF women's fieldhouse under construction. The \$1.8M project features a weight room, locker rooms, and offices for coaches. The project has a target date for completion in the spring of 2022.

Elite Eyecare has announced plans to anchor an 8,400 SF, 3-tenant building on Highland Drive facing the new Uptown development. Developer Haag-Brown says announcements on the other two tenants are coming soon.



Jonesboro's Veterans Administration Clinic is moving from Caraway Road to Highland Drive. Stonebridge Construction is finishing out a space between Hobby Lobby and Shoe Carnival for the new clinic. According to the permit filed with the city, the alteration is a \$1.4M project.



A \$10M project is underway at MacArthur Middle School. JPS says the project will feature a new, two-story classroom building. The 42,000 SF addition will feature an addition to the existing gym and expand the cafeteria.



The Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library is adding a 2,100 SF addition to the children's library. Brandi Hodges with the library says the \$740,000 project will create additional room for the children's collection and staff. Completion is scheduled by October.

More retail is coming to Fair Park Boulevard. Once Upon A Child, a buyer and seller of gently-used children's clothes and apparel, will occupy a new building across from Kohl's.



Alexander's Machine Shop Celebrated 50 years in business in April. Jimmy Alexander says his dad, James, started the business with a 2,500 SF building and 4-6 people in 1971. Now, they occupy a 50,000 SF building and employ over 30 people. Happy Anniversary!



Healthcare

New Clinics Coming To NEA Baptist

Two new clinics are on the verge of opening at the Reserve at NEA Baptist.

The new Dermatology and Mohs Surgery center has plans to open at the end of July. According to Ty Jones of NEA Baptist, Mohs Surgery is a procedure that combines surgery and pathology to remove skin cancer and surrounding tissue in a single procedure.

Jones adds that the new NEA Baptist Pediatrics Clinic at The Reserve at NEA will open in August. Jones says two doctors and two nurse practitioners will staff the clinic, offering a full scope of pediatric care.

NYITCOM Graduates New Class

NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University (NYITCOM) continues to create the medical professionals of today and the future. NYITCOM graduated and hooded 117 new physicians in May. Those new doctors have just started their residencies all over the country.

There's no shortage of action at NYITCOM this summer. A pair of summer programs are encouraging high school students to pursue careers in science and medicine.

Eight local students are taking part in the SHARE program. The program provides the students with eight weeks of laboratory exposure as well as career development activities. The goal is to help the students work their way into a career in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medicine).

NYITCOM is also hosting the Project HEART program for the fifth straight year. The four-day/three-night medical-themed camp engages students with challenging and fun activities. Like the SHARE program, HEART is designed to help the students learn about careers in health care.

St. Bernards Adds New Clinic

St. Bernards has expanded its dermatology services with the addition of the St. Bernards Dermatology Procedure Center.

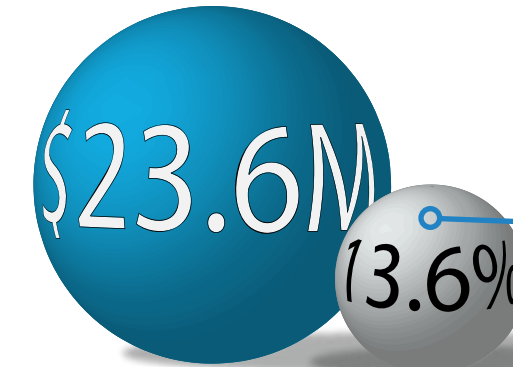
This new clinic will specialize in Mohs micrographic surgery. This precise surgical technique for skin cancers other than melanoma provides the highest cure rates among skin cancer treatments while leaving the surrounding tissue intact. According to St. Bernards, Dr. Colton Nielson, D.O., will be leading the Mohs procedures at St. Bernards.

The new clinic is located at 800 S. Church, Suite 103.



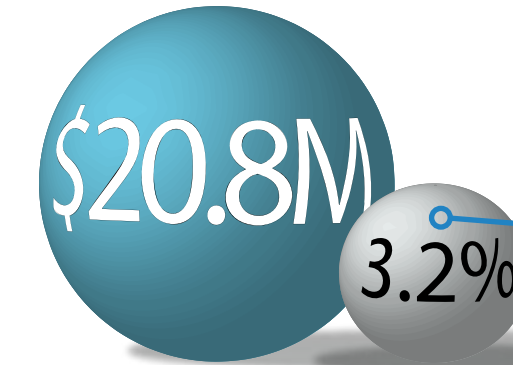
Sales Tax Revenue

City & County Combined (2.0%)



2021 / *jan thru june*

• Increase in collections over 2020. Highest 6-month totals on record.



2020 / *jan thru june*

• Increase in collections from first two quarters of 2019

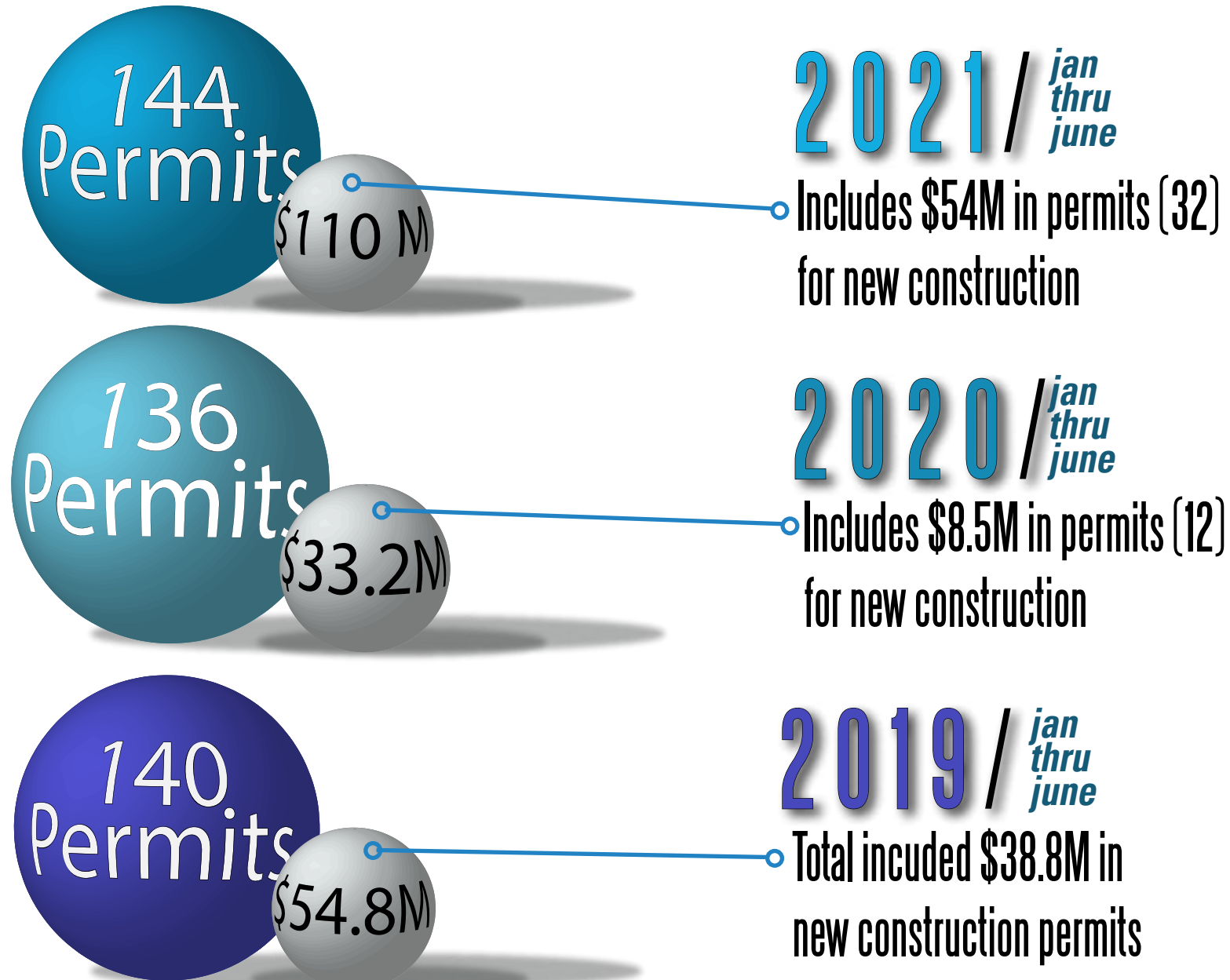


2019 / *jan thru june*

• Increase in collections from 2018 (\$1.24M)

Commercial Construction

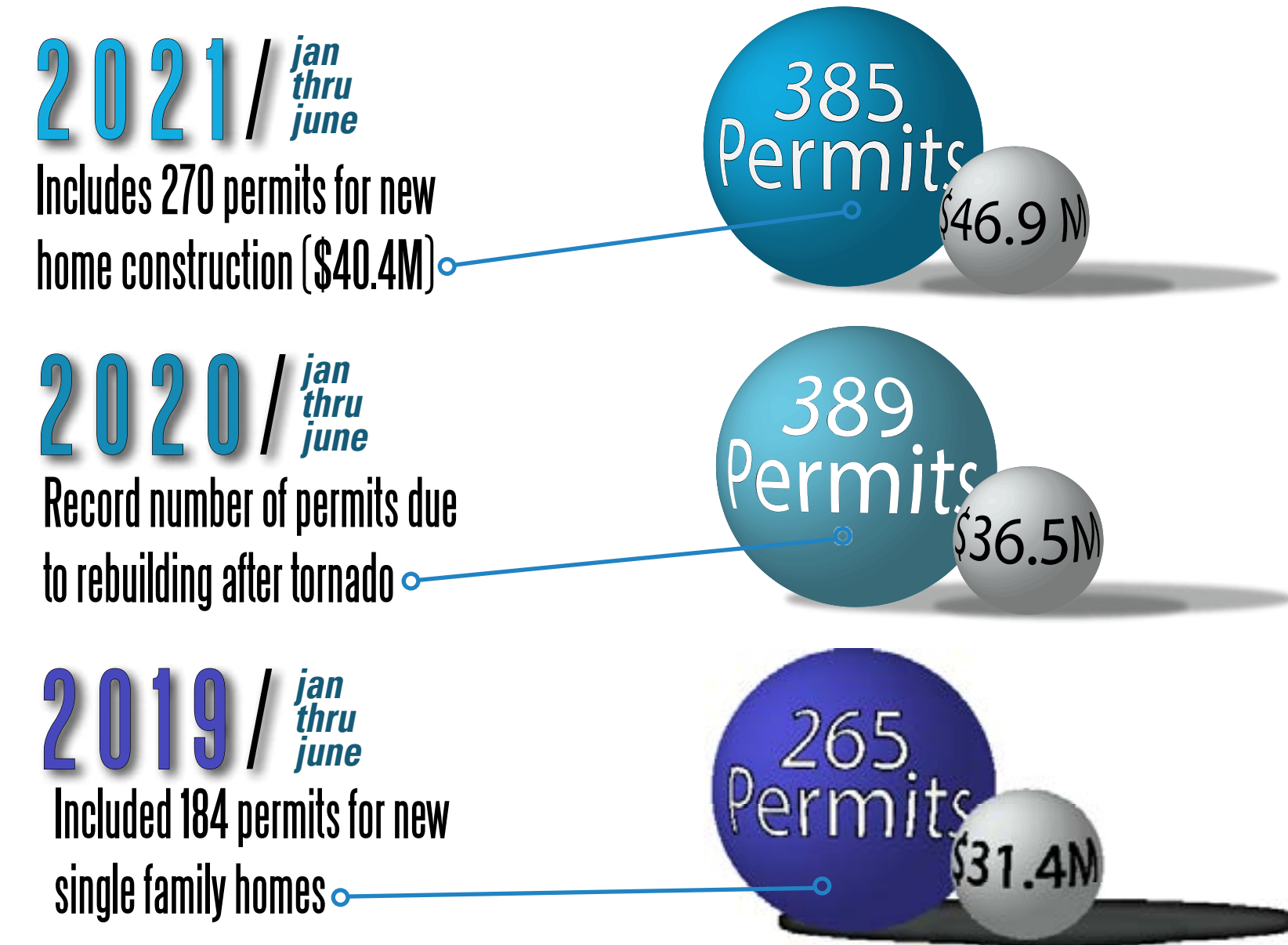
Year-To-Date 2019-2021



Permit totals include: new construction, apartments, additions, alterations, & signs

Residential Construction

Year-To-Date 2019-2021



Permit totals include: new homes, additions, alterations, duplex, storage, & swimming pools

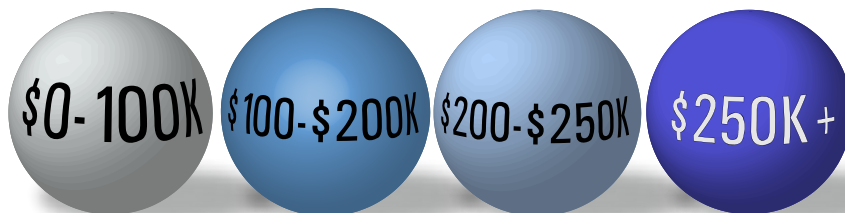
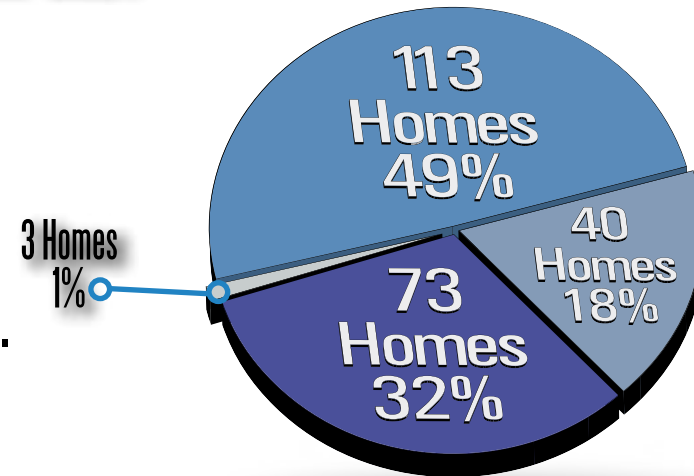
New Home Sales

Year-To-Date 2020-2021

229
Homes
Sold

2021/
jan
thru
june

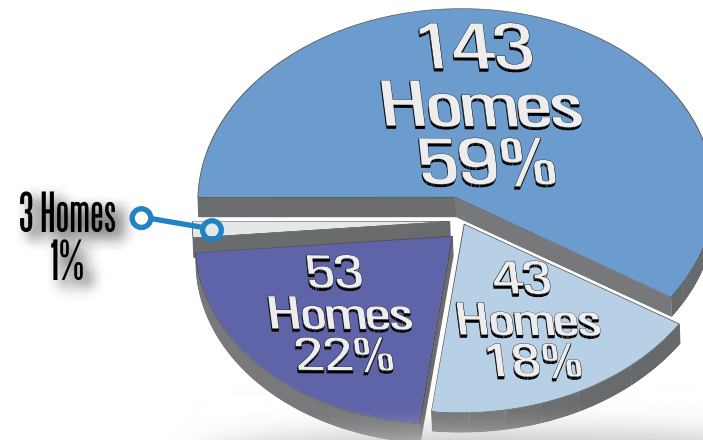
52 homes sold in June.
2nd biggest June on record.



242
Homes
Sold

2020/
jan
thru
june

58 homes sold in June.
Biggest June on record.



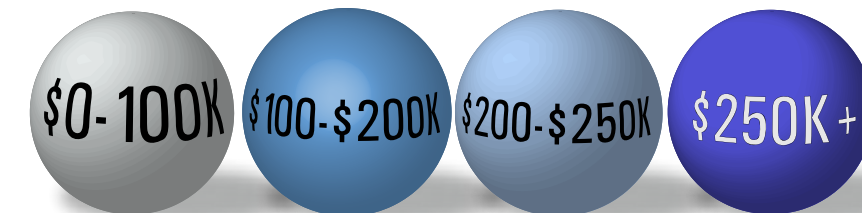
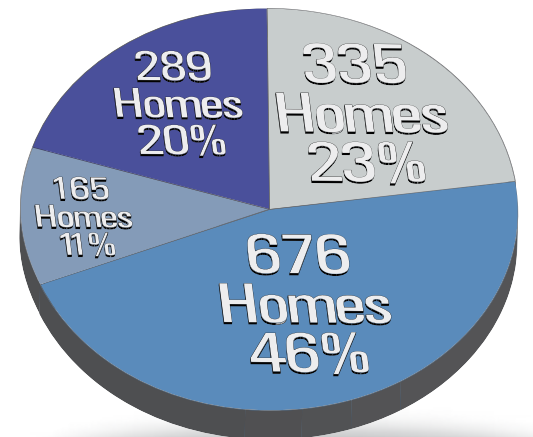
Existing Home Sales

Year-To-Date 2020-2021

1,465
Homes
Sold

2021/
jan
thru
june

29% Increase over 2020.
Record 307 homes sold in June.



1,140
Homes
Sold

2020/
jan
thru
june

264 homes sold in June.
Most ever in one month

