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**Home Sale Contracts Up 27 Percent in West, South Suburbs**  
*Suburban REALTORS® Group Sees Positive Trends*

DOWNERS GROVE, Ill. – The number of homes under contract increased 27 percent in March over the previous year in the West and South suburban areas, according to statistics on single-family detached homes released today by the Mainstreet Organization of REALTORS® (MORe).

March was the fourth month in a row that showed a year-to-year increase in homes under contract in a 119-suburb area.

“We see this as the beginning of an upward trend,” said Mike Drews, president-elect of MORe, the second-largest REALTOR® member organization in Illinois.

“Low interest rates, the federal housing tax credit of \$8,000 for first-time home buyers, and competitive home prices are all playing a role in our improving suburban real estate market,” said Drews, a REALTOR® with Prudential-Doss in the Aurora and Oswego areas.

MORe measured activity on 119 southern and western suburban communities through information from Midwest Real Estate Data LLC.

The average 27 percent increase in pending contracts from last year to this year across the area was fueled by dramatic gains in some towns.

Standouts in the south suburbs were: Calumet City (132 percent pending contract increase from a year ago); Orland Park (67 percent); Burbank (182 percent); Markham (200 percent); Country Club Hills (192 percent); and Harvey (84 percent).

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In the DuPage County area, activity was highest in Glendale Heights (178 percent pending contract increase from a year ago); Bensenville (183 percent); Woodridge (86 percent); Addison (82 percent); and Downers Grove (57 percent).

Outstanding numbers were posted in the western Cook communities of Franklin Park (320 percent pending contract increase from a year ago); Westchester (275 percent); LaGrange Park (129 percent); Western Springs (100 percent); and Maywood (100 percent).

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