

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WABA

JUNE 2025

Message from the President/CEO

Greetings,

Welcome to WABA monthly newsletter.

We are in the final days of our Spring New Member Drive! Thank you to everyone who has brought new members aboard. Right now, we are offering an incentive of \$100 off of annual membership for anyone who signs up before June 30. So please, stop reading this and reach out to a few more potential new recruits or follow up if they need that extra push here in this final week!!

During the second week of June, our national delegates and I had a very productive week in Washington, DC during NAHB's Spring Leadership Conference. The meetings and interactions we had with Members of Congress were a prime example of how powerful we can be when we work together as a membership organization, versus trying to tackle regulatory and legislative issues as individuals. Members were receptive to cosponsoring the CONSTRUCTS Act, as well as the Stronger Workforce For America Act. Lastly, I am very interested in coming to meet YOU at your place of business or at a job site. I want to learn more about each of you, your products and services, and your clientele. Please feel free to reach out and invite if you'd be willing to host me for a tour or a conversation. -Tyler York

ENJOY THE
SUMMER

New Member Drive Bash

WABA will be hosting a celebration for the Spring New Member Drive on July 1, from 4:00-6:00pm at the Ninth Floor Club atop the Ruffin Building. This event is for all members to welcome and get to know the new faces joining our organization. Please RSVP to susan@wabahome.com by Friday, June 27, if you would like to attend!

Member Benefits Spotlight

As a member of WABA, you get to take part in [NAHB's Member Savings Program](#). Locally, we are interested in developing and maximizing our own local membership savings program. Please contact tyler@wabahome.com, or susan@wabahome.com, if you would be willing to discuss discounts for your fellow WABA members!

WABA is Now on LinkedIn – Follow Us for Event Updates & Industry News!

The Wichita Area Builders Association now has an official [LinkedIn](#) profile. This will be an important tool to promote our largest events of the year, including the Spring & Fall Parade of Homes and the Wichita Home Show. Please find the profile page in the following link and give WABA a follow!

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/wichita-area-builders-association/>

*Thank you for
being a part of
the WABA
Community!*



Promote Your Business Here

This space is available for advertising and could feature your business. Take advantage of this opportunity to increase your brand's visibility and reach a wider audience.

Contact ASHLEY@WABAHOME.COM for information.

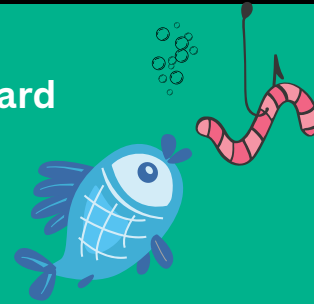
Stay connected with WABA—follow us on social media! Click the icons to the right see what we're building together.





A Message from the Chairman of the Board

Eric Gilbert



Dear WABA Members,

As our annual **Spring New Member Recruiting Drive** will conclude on Monday, I want to personally thank those who have already stepped up — and invite the rest of you to jump in. Right now, we are offering an incentive of \$100 off of membership dues for all new members who sign up by June 30.

Every day, you interact with subcontractors, suppliers, and service providers — many of whom aren't yet part of WABA. These individuals are essential to our industry, and inviting them to join strengthens our collective voice and ensures we're all working toward the same goals.

Membership means access to valuable resources, advocacy, and a powerful network of industry professionals — and the more we grow, the greater our impact at the local, state, and national levels. I also encourage you to prioritize doing business with fellow WABA members to further strengthen our local industry ecosystem.

Support Workforce Development Through Build My Future Wichita

In addition to growing our membership, we're also focused on developing the future of our workforce. WABA's Build My Future is an annual, hands-on event introducing high school students to careers in construction, skilled trades, and related fields — and it's one of the most important initiatives we support.

This event gives students the chance to explore real tools, equipment, and opportunities while engaging directly with industry professionals. It's a powerful way to inspire the next generation and address the ongoing labor shortage in our field.

We're calling on members to help make this year's event a success by sponsoring, hosting a booth, or volunteering. Your participation plays a critical role in shaping the future of our industry — and it's a great way to give back while raising awareness of your company.

If you're interested or have questions, please reach out to Susan at susan@wabahome.com.

Let's grow our association and invest in the future — together.

Thank you for your continued commitment,

Eric Gilbert
Chairman of the Board
Wichita Area Builders Association

Industry News Highlights



Build Your Knowledge with NAHB Education

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) offers a wide range of educational resources designed to help building professionals stay sharp, competitive, and compliant. From on-demand courses and certification programs to in-person training and webinars, NAHB equips members with tools to grow their expertise and advance their careers in the residential construction industry.

Visit www.nahb.org/education-and-events/education for more details.



More than 1,000 Housing Professionals Urge Congress to Act on Key Affordability Issues

More than 1,000 builders, remodelers and associates engaged in all facets of the residential construction industry trekked to Capitol Hill today to urge their lawmakers to support policies that will help builders unleash the housing market by allowing them to increase the production of quality, affordable housing.

“Members of the housing community from across the nation have come to Washington for the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) 2025 Legislative Conference to deliver an urgent message to their lawmakers: The best way to ease the nation’s housing affordability crisis and boost housing production is to break down the barriers that are impeding new home and apartment construction,” said NAHB Chairman Buddy Hughes, a home builder and developer from Lexington, N.C. In more than 250 meetings with their representatives and senators, housing advocates urged lawmakers to act on three key issues that can have an immediate impact on housing affordability:

1. **Energy Codes.** NAHB is urging Congress to pass legislation that would prevent the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from requiring a minimum energy standard that raises housing costs and prices out potential buyers. HUD and the USDA have adopted and will implement the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and ASHRAE 90.1-2019 as the minimum energy-efficiency standards for certain single-family and multifamily housing programs. Compliance with the 2021 IECC can add more than \$22,000 to the price of a new home, but in practice, home builders have estimated increased costs of up to \$31,000.
2. Congress should also pass the Energy Choice Act, legislation pending in the House and Senate that would prevent state and local governments from banning the use of natural energy in new homes. A gas ban would exacerbate the housing affordability crisis by increasing costs on new homes, eliminate consumer choice and further strain America’s already stressed electrical grid.
3. **Workforce Development.** To ease the severe construction labor shortage that is worsening the housing affordability crisis through higher home building costs and construction delays, lawmakers should pass the CONSTRUCTS Act, bipartisan legislation pending in both chambers of Congress that will help prepare adults for rewarding careers in construction and other essential trades. To further strengthen the federal government’s approach to workforce training, Congress should also implement reforms to the Job Corps program.

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More than 1,000 Housing Professionals Urge Congress to Act on Key Affordability Issues

Continued...

4. Tax Policy. As lawmakers consider tax legislation, Congress should pass a tax package that:
- Permanently extends pro-business and pro-housing policies from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act,
 - Provides more resources for affordable rental housing by expanding the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit,
 - Addresses limitations placed on the state and local tax (SALT) deduction cap that burden home owners in high-cost areas, and
 - Preserves long-standing energy tax incentives, especially the Section 45L New Energy Efficient Home Credit, the Section 25D Residential Clean Energy Credit and the Section 48E Clean Electricity Investment Act. Builders and remodelers have made significant business investments to comply with these credits, which offer a voluntary, cost-effective pathway to improving energy efficiency. A sudden termination of these credits would undermine these efforts.

To highlight how housing is essential to the social fabric of the nation and is critical to the health of the economy, four leading members of Congress spoke to NAHB members before they conducted their Hill visits: House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-Minn.); Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), who is championing the CONSTRUCTS Act; Rep. Nick Langworthy (R-N.Y.), the lead sponsor of the Energy Choice Act; and Rep. Mike Flood (R-Neb.), chairman of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance.

For more information and to view images, visit nahb.org/legcon.



2025 NAHB Legislative Conference
June 11, 2025



B & B Lumber Earns National Recognition As Independent ProDealer of the Year



Taken From hbsdealer.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. — B & B Lumber, a family-owned business with nearly five decades of service to builders and homeowners in south-central Kansas, has been named the 2025 Independent ProDealer of the Year by the National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association and HBSDealer magazine.

The honor recognizes B & B's deep commitment to customer service, employee development, and industry leadership—values that have guided the company since its founding in 1976 and continue to shape its future under the second generation of Baalman family leadership.

“We are extremely honored to be recognized as the 2025 Independent ProDealer of the Year,” said Thomas Baalman, CEO of B & B Lumber. “This award reflects the hard work and dedication of our family and team, whose passion for serving our customers and community inspires everything we do.”

With a mission of, “Inspiring customers by offering quality products, personalized service, and design expertise,” B & B Lumber has become a cornerstone for builders, remodelers, and homeowners alike.

B & B Lumber currently employs 42 dedicated team members who are committed to delivering personalized service and knowledgeable advice for a quality customer experience. The company's offerings include full-service lumberyards, a design center and showroom, a prehung door shop, and a curated selection of building materials, all designed to help customers realize their vision from concept to completion of their project.

The award-winning prodealer's second generation of leaders—Thomas Baalman, Kristen Baalman, Mike Baalman and Chris Baalman—inherited the strong family-owned business values of the first generation of owners, brothers Harold and Tom Baalman. That sense of family is reflected by the team in how it executes the agenda each day.

“As we embark this year on the eve of our 50th year of being in business we continually reflect on the lessons our founders taught us over the years and plan for our future through participating in industry sponsored roundtables, engaging in numerous dealer educational events, tradeshow, and mill tours,” Thomas said.

The Kansas company supports and contributes to industry associations including MLA, BLD Connect, NLBMDA, the Wichita Area Builders Association, and the National Association of Home Builders. Ownership actively champions collaboration and professional development within the industry for its team members. Thomas is currently serving as chairman of the MLA Executive Board under the umbrella of BLD Connect and NLBMDA.

The Independent ProDealer of the Year Award is selected by the National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association in partnership with Hardware & Building Supply Dealer. This prestigious national award recognizes high-performance lumberyards with a commitment to values consistent with the lumber and building material industry: excellence in customer stewardship, devotion to employees, and a positive workplace culture.

B & B Lumber will accept the 2025 ProDealer of the Year award during the upcoming ProDealer Industry Summit, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, Oct. 8-10. The event, hosted jointly by NLBMDA and HBSDealer, provides an educational forum designed to promote the growth of lumber and building product dealers, distributors, wholesalers, and manufacturers.

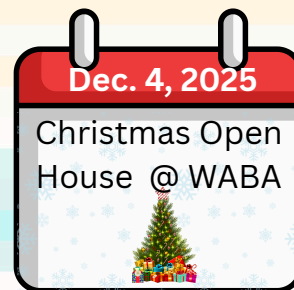
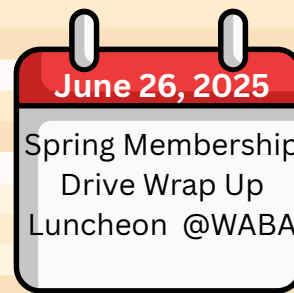
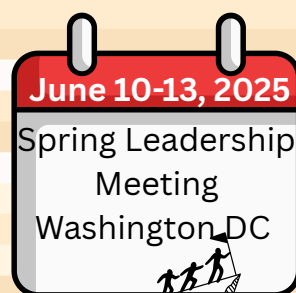
In addition to recognizing B & B Lumber as the Independent ProDealer of the Year, the awards dinner will recognize the multi-unit ProDealer of the Year, Zuern Building Products of Wisconsin.

Past winners of the Independent ProDealer of the Year award include Short & Paulk Supply of Georgia (2024); Minnesota's Hilltop Lumber (2023), Espy Lumber in South Carolina (2022) and Dakota County Lumber Co. in Minnesota (2022).



WABA 2025 Events

Please see the online calendar at wabahome.com for additional event details



WABA's Annual Home Show is Quickly Approaching! There are limited booths left! See the QR code below to get registered today!

If you are interested in becoming a Seminar Speaker for this coming year's show, please reach out to Susan@wabahome.com!



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Welcoming Our New Members



Chad Holdeman – Skyline Builders LLC

Philip Ruffo – Luca Investment Properties

Nayetka Reyes – Master Brother's Painting, LLC

Scott Hanika – Floor and Decor

Vernon Nelson – Nelson Designs LLC

Travis Roberts – Eaton Roofing & Exteriors, Inc.

Connor Lamm – Eaton Roofing & Exteriors, Inc.

Departing Members

Cody Palmer – Vogts Construction Company

Mike Morrison – Morrison Roofing & Solar

Jemmima Wanjau – ABBA Construction

Austin Wiechman – INTEX Construction Co., LLC

Ted Farha – Farha Construction Inc.

Steven M. Brown – Service Plus Electrical Solutions

Samuel Berry – Hearthside, LLC

Liz Nicholson – PPG Paints

Chad Alexander – Circle C Paving and Construction

Alissa Frey – The Floor Project

Andy Jacobs – Safety Tec Services

Cory DeShaw – Huber Engineered Woods, LLC

Kara Weed – Ultra Modern Pool and Patio, Inc.

Kirk Richards – Apex Lawn Irrigation

Jeffrey Richardson – National Land Realty Central Kansas, LLC

Transfer In & Transfer Outs

Steve Clouse transferred in to Cheney Door Company.

Keith Bomholt transferred out from Cheney Door Co., Inc.

Dave McGinley transferred in to Farha Roofing, LLC.

Lorrie Johnson transferred out from Farha Roofing, LLC.

Chris Hockett transferred in to Cheney Door Company.

Kenny Bomholt transferred out from Cheney Door Co., Inc.



2025 Candidate Training School

Hosted by WABA
in partnership
with the Wichita
Regional Chamber
of Commerce,
administered by
NAHB



Dinner with Karl Eckhart (NAHB Vice President for State & Local Affairs), honoring WABA's President Emeritus Wess Galyon



We were delighted to host U.S. Representative Tracey Mann (KS-1) at WABA on June 17th. Our members enjoyed the discussion and we appreciated the opportunity to learn more about Rep. Mann's priorities in Congress for the people of Kansas.

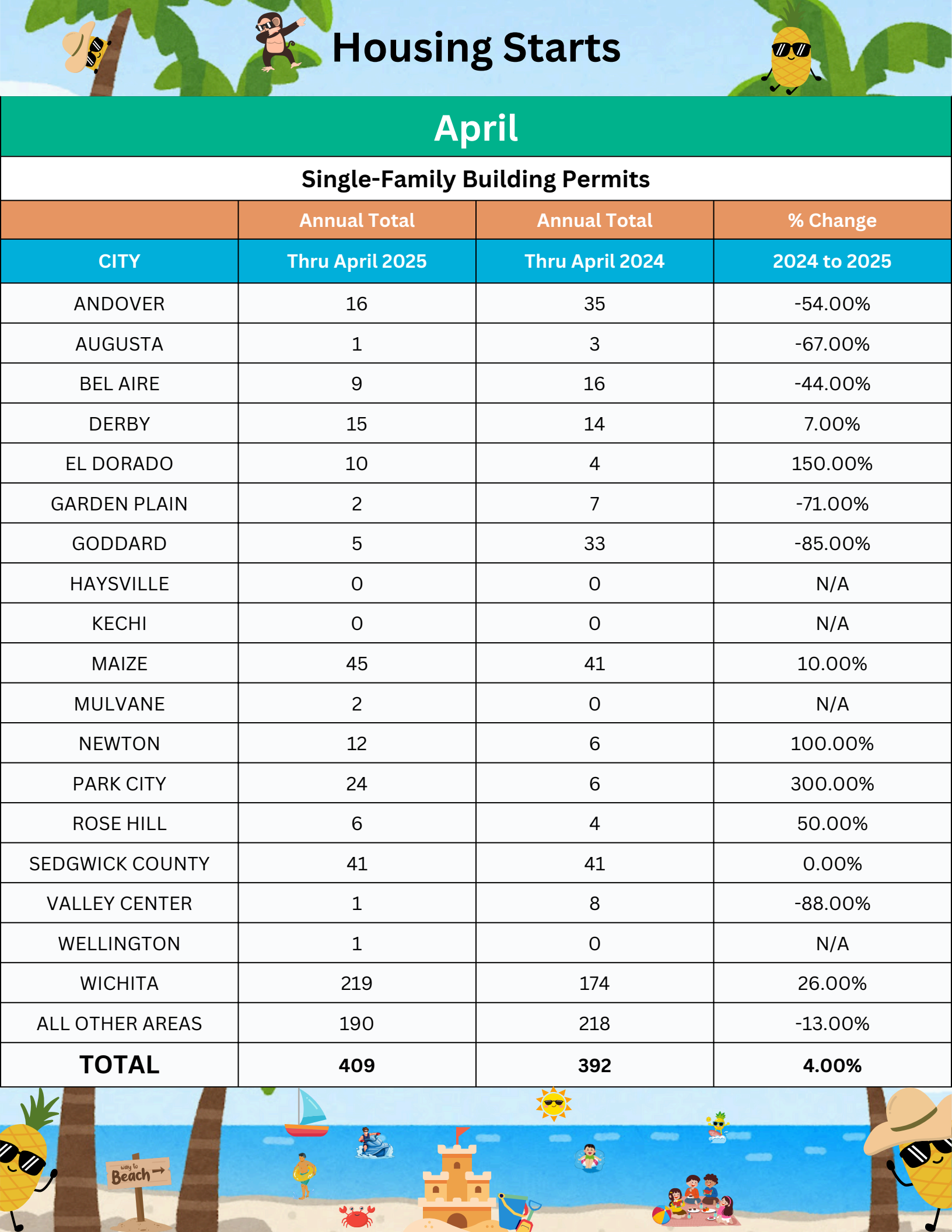


WABA's CEO Tyler York visited Higgins Group, Inc. last week and toured their Cabinet Systems division. He is eager to come meet YOU at your place of business. Please reach out directly at tyler@wabahome.com if you'd like to host Tyler for a tour and a meeting.



Our national delegates had a productive week on Capitol Hill during the National Association of Home Builders Spring Leadership Meeting and Legislative Conference. We had great meetings with Congressman Estes, Senator Moran, Congressman Mann, and Senator Marshall. This is an important annual opportunity for WABA to advocate for housing policies that will help our businesses and our industry.





Housing Starts

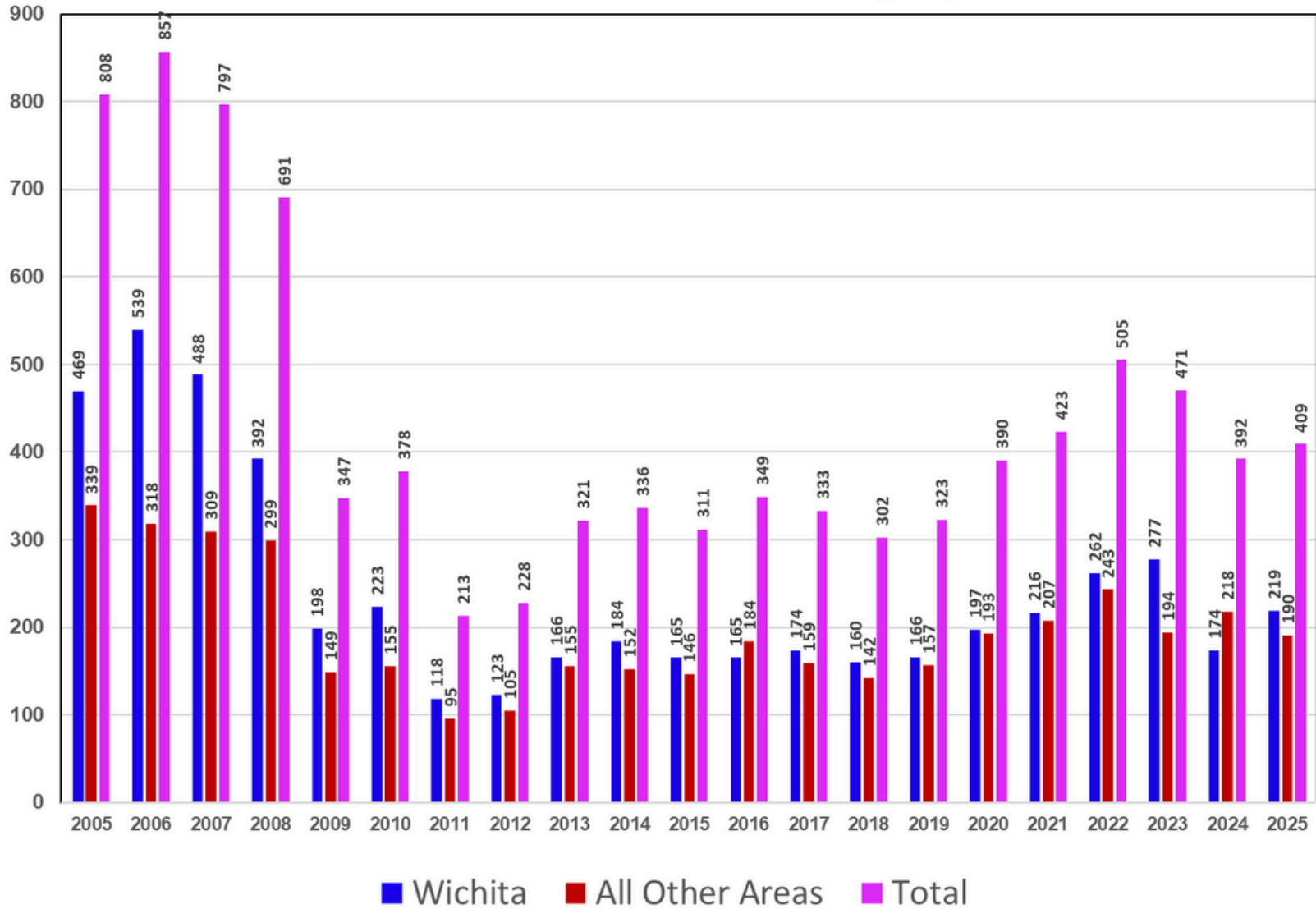
April

Single-Family Building Permits

	Annual Total	Annual Total	% Change
CITY	Thru April 2025	Thru April 2024	2024 to 2025
ANDOVER	16	35	-54.00%
AUGUSTA	1	3	-67.00%
BEL AIRE	9	16	-44.00%
DERBY	15	14	7.00%
EL DORADO	10	4	150.00%
GARDEN PLAIN	2	7	-71.00%
GODDARD	5	33	-85.00%
HAYSVILLE	0	0	N/A
KECHI	0	0	N/A
MAIZE	45	41	10.00%
MULVANE	2	0	N/A
NEWTON	12	6	100.00%
PARK CITY	24	6	300.00%
ROSE HILL	6	4	50.00%
SEDGWICK COUNTY	41	41	0.00%
VALLEY CENTER	1	8	-88.00%
WELLINGTON	1	0	N/A
WICHITA	219	174	26.00%
ALL OTHER AREAS	190	218	-13.00%
TOTAL	409	392	4.00%

Annual Permit Data

Annual Permit Totals Year-to-Date through April 2025



For additional information, visit nahb.org

A close-up photograph of a red squirrel standing on its hind legs on a wooden surface. The squirrel's front paws are raised high in the air, and its head is tilted back, looking upwards. The squirrel has a white belly and a bushy red tail. The background is a blurred green, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees. The text "SUMMER IS FINALLY HERE!" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font with a black outline.

**SUMMER IS
FINALLY HERE!**