

| **McKean County Association of Realtors**  
**30 Fraley Street**  
**Kane, PA 16735**

**April 3, 2017**

## **April Marks Fair Housing Month**

**MCKEAN COUNTY** - Homeownership is becoming more reflective of the growing diverse populations within Pennsylvania. The Fair Housing Act, which is recognized in April, works to protect both multicultural clients as well as Realtors® who serve this expanding market.

“The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or disability,” said McKean County President Mary Brzenski. “The National Association of Realtors®’ Code of Ethics also supports equal opportunity on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.”

As homebuyers look for information about a neighborhood they’re interested in, they may think their Realtor® should discuss information such as school districts, crime statistics, or the ethnic make-up of a neighborhood.

“I know many times a client may ask for details regarding a school near the house they’re looking at,” Brzenski said. “The federal Fair Housing Act and the state fair housing laws prohibit Realtors® from discussing this type of information to avoid the potential of steering to or away from a specific neighborhood. Consumers should look for online resources regarding school district attributes or the safety of an area to help them decide which neighborhood best meets their needs.”

“Ultimately, buying and selling a home are some of the most significant events in a person’s lifetime,” she added. “Research shows that owning a home impacts the economic future of homeowners. And, as Realtors®, we believe people have a right to live wherever they can afford to live.”

If consumers believe they have experienced a fair housing issue, they should contact the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission at [phrc.pa.gov](http://phrc.pa.gov).

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*The McKean County Association of Realtors is the voice for real estate in McKean County.*