

# PRESS & GUIDE

## Big Open House returns May 3, homes for sale to be displayed

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Dearborn Area Board of Realtors (DABOR) CEO Dana Holben Wednesday said setting up this year's Big Open House — the event where prospective homebuyers can view several homes over the course of a Sunday afternoon in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights — is going a little slower than last year, but she expects it to pick up very shortly.

"We're hoping to have an improvement on last year," Holben said. "We had about 110 houses open in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights and we hope to exceed that number."

Holben added seven Michigan counties participated in the 2008 Big Open House. She hopes to improve on that number, as well. As a whole, more than 2,000 houses were featured in the 2008 event, Holben said.

"We're hopeful to have about 3,000 this year," she said.

The event takes place from noon to 5 p.m. May 3 throughout Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

For more information, go to [www.bigopenhouse.com](http://www.bigopenhouse.com). The Web site features home listings and photos of houses that will be featured, Holben said, along with an interactive map of the route prospective buyers will travel during the event.

Signs pointing interested buyers to the homes will be on display beginning April 27 and will be in view through the Big Open House, Holben added.

For more information on DABOR, go to [www.dabor.com](http://www.dabor.com). That site also features information on upcoming open houses in the area. DABOR recently expanded its Web site to include more resources and listings than in the past.

This year's Big Open House is somewhat of a catch-22 for Holben, she said. She would like to have a high number of houses to show, but, in March, sales have gone up for the first time in some time, according to Holben. She said more than 200 homes sold in the area in March.

"People have been snatching up homes," Holben said. "It's a good time to buy and we have a good inventory, so people are getting some good buys."

Holben said participants in this year's Big Open House will receive information on \$8,000 tax credits available to first-time home buyers, as well. Information on each community, including civic organizations and schools, will be available at each house, Holben said.