

This is an August month, named for Augusta Georgia, home of The Master's golf tournament. You are shaking your head, no. That's not right? Well, ok, then it has to be named for August Busch, the son of Anheuser. No, again? Wow, this is embarrassing. Ok, ok, I got it, it was named for Augustus Gloop from Willy Wonka, you know, the chubby kid (I know, I can't say chubby or kid anymore, it will upset someone, even though Chubby Checker would give me a thumbs up! And he had several kids to boot), who fell in the chocolate river. No, again! My public education is showing here, and even I am not immune to purveying fake news. If I keep it up, I could be an "unnamed source" for CNN. Well, I tried, maybe I will figure it out later, but for now let us get to the Local Greater Ft. Smith Association Homebuilder's news for the month. As students return to class around the area, our maiden class for the RCAP will commence as well. In case you've been in a summer daze. That is our "Residential Construction Apprenticeship Program" that is co-sponsored by Armstrong Bank. We are getting great cooperation and assistance from the Ft. Smith Adult Education System and the Ft. Smith Public School System. We are very appreciative of the help and very excited about the opportunity that we have as an association to better the lives of some local folks by offering them the chance to better their career aspirations through our industry of home building. It looks like we have ten students in our first class which is a nice number. Classes begin on August the 16th. Our 2018 Show Case Home brought to you by our friends at AOG being built by Carrington Creek Homes in Stone Brook at Chaffee Crossing is going along quite nicely. It is a terrific house that is very appealing and efficient. Look for our grand opening at our general membership meeting in October that will kick off our annual Fall Parade of Homes. I will remind you that there is still a small window of opportunity to participate in the construction of the house if you would like to display your abilities and products contact Cary Smallwood or our own EO Stephanie Stipins today! Oh, and a word on last month, our annual Lego contest was huge! We had over 200 Lego builders show up for 80 spots. This event keeps getting bigger every year, we may have to expand to a night shift next year which would be great. It was indeed a lot of fun, many thanks to the volunteers that helped with this event, you adapted and conquered! And much appreciation to the Ft. Smith Board of Realtors for their awesome help and sponsorship and also, to Central Mall for hosting us as a venue and providing so much support, thanks again! We are also glad Stephanie made it back from her jungle adventure to Central America, no it wasn't a mission for the CIA (well, it could have been), but one for the Lord, as she participated in a mission trip. We laud you for such an endeavor and we are glad she is back at the helm of the local HBA safe and sound. I think that covers it for this month except for the heat and humidity, so stay cool and careful out there. Remember, Exxon Mobil reminds you that every year, tens of people spontaneously combust, if this happens to you, stay away from Exxon Mobil. I hope to see you all at our next general membership meeting on September 14th at the glass pavilion downtown Ft Smith at noon for a great lunch from 21 West End, great sponsor, great speaker, and great comradery. Ok, I'll stop sounding like Tony the Tiger. Oh, wait, now it is coming back to me, the month of August was named for Augustus Caesar, the first full Roman Emperor. We named the month for him when he conquered and established his new palace in his western capital that he named Las Vegas. See I know my calendar and my history, right Caesar? Hail Yes!

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