The old adage "If you don't like the weather in Eastern North Carolina wait a few minutes and it will change" has never been truer than this year. Mother Nature has really thrown us a curve this year with temperatures in the 80's in February then dropping to more seasonal temperatures in the 20's and 30's in early March. That being said, I can hardly wait for Spring to officially arrive and remove the fear of frost and freezing temperatures.

This Spring the Home Builders Association of Wayne County in conjunction with corporate sponsor Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is hosting its fourth annual Home and Garden Expo. The Home and Garden Expo is being held again this year at the Wayne County Fairgrounds March 25-26, 2017. Expo 2017 has the potential to be our best show yet as the HBA team of professionals has worked hard to assemble a variety of vendors to help turn your dreams into reality.

This year's Expo offers vendors such as building contractors for those who are looking to build new homes or additions. Realtors will be on hand to help you with your real estate needs. Maybe your home needs a facelift. There will be remodelers and home improvement specialist of all sorts to assist you with any room you choose to upgrade whether it be an unsightly, outdated kitchen, bath, living or bedroom area as well as someone to help you pick those just right colors and to provide the supplies to get the job done. You might want to add a sunroom addition so you can sit back, relax and enjoy the Carolina weather while you entertain and cook in your new outdoor kitchen as your guest enjoy the ambience of the flames dancing in your new brick fire pit. Once you complete your new kitchens you know those old pots and pans have got to go. There will be vendors at the show that can supply you with new kitchen utensils and equipment.

Energy bills gotten out of hand? Come out and discuss ways to improve the energy efficiency of your home with specialist who can replace those old inefficient windows, doors or that HVAC system that no longer performs as it should. There will even be someone that can provide you with a whole house backup generator to help you be prepared for a power outage should one occur. You might be tired of having to paint your home every few years, vendors can help you with advanced siding and trim products to enhance your homes curb appeal. Once all your construction needs are met you may consult with the participating pool and landscape contractors who can advise you on what is needed to get the immaculate yard you have always wanted. For the do it yourselfers there will be lawn equipment dealers as well as rental equipment suppliers. Do you need financing for your projects, don't worry, lenders will be on site as well.

The Wayne County Animal Shelter will be back again this year with animals available for adoption as well as the area beekeepers with locally produced honey for your honey. A local High Schools Ag Dept. will be on hand selling plants and the Master Gardeners will be there to offer instructions for planting and proper care of the plants once you get them home. Do you have the urge to help with some community service projects, there will be representatives on site from Habitat for Humanity. The Home and Garden Expo hopes to provide a service to meet the needs of residents of Wayne County and surrounding areas that would not otherwise be available.

The HBA of Wayne County is a local nonprofit organization that works for the betterment of the home building industry in conjunction with the NCHBA and the NAHB by providing support and educational resources to its members and associates. The Association would like to thank the sponsors for this years Expo. The sponsors include; Goldsboro Builders Supply, Carolina Comfort Air Inc., Carolina Living Real Estate, Eastern Building Supply, Malpass Builders Inc., Texas Roadhouse, Curtis Media Group and our corporate sponsor; Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.