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## UPSCALE REAL ESTATE IN ARKANSAS

Most expensive homes of 2021 in Pulaski,  
Benton & Washington counties [P8-15]

The state's top real estate agencies,  
agents and sales teams [P16-22]



# Pulaski County's Most Expensive Home Sales of 2021

By Mark Friedman  
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Sales of luxury homes in Pulaski County shattered records in 2021, resulting in *Arkansas Business* changing the way it tracks million-dollar home sales.

*Arkansas Business* increased the floor price of the homes it follows from \$1 million to \$1.25 million because 67 homes sold for \$1 million or more in 2021. In 2020, 47 homes sold for \$1 million or more, up from 34 homes that sold for seven figures in 2019.

In 2012, the low point in our survey, just 13 million-dollar homes sold.

"We are in a historic market that began to surge during the pandemic," Jon Underhill, who sells upscale homes through his own agency in Little Rock, said via email to *Arkansas Business*. "Homes valued at \$1 million, or more, are a lot more common. Due to rising incomes and historically low borrowing cost, the number of people who can afford a million-dollar home has increased."

Last year, 32 homes sold for \$1.25 million or more.

Underhill projects the "red-hot" housing market will continue this year. Homes have sold within hours of being listed and "frequently for well over the asking price," he said.

In this market, homebuyers have no qualms about going above the listing price. "High demand and low inventory create a very competitive market where buyers sometimes find themselves in a bidding war," Underhill said. "A higher offer may be the only way to stand out and secure the home."

Another factor that could be driving the housing market is that people from out of state are moving to Arkansas, said Sarah Bailey, owner and principal broker of Pixel Properties Realty of Little Rock, a real estate agency. "We have had quite a few out-of-state clients," she said. (Bailey also bought a house that appears on this year's list of most expensive homes purchased in Pulaski County.)

Underhill said that some of the key

features that people are asking for in an upscale home are location, followed by a floor plan that works for their family.

"Amenities that high-end buyers are seeking include high-end kitchens, spa bathrooms, pool and outdoor kitchens with entertainment areas," he said.

Energy-efficient homes have been a bonus for some buyers, but that emphasis hasn't been a deciding factor for Underhill's higher-end clients.

Luxury homes are selling quickly. Last year, the average number of days that a seven-figure home was on the market was 42.

Underhill said that last week there were 23 homes listed for sale at or above \$1 million in Pulaski County. "However, I always have a list of higher-end homes that sellers are not quite ready to actually list, but are willing to sell," he said.

For this list, *Arkansas Business* used interviews, public real estate records and other documents to briefly describe the 10 most expensive Pulaski County homes sold in 2021 and their buyers. ■



## Pulaski County Home Sales of \$1.25 Million or More in 2021

Ranked by price (in millions)

Price	Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Neighborhood*	SF	Date Sold	Year Built
\$2.8	Curtis and Regina Howse	Blast 5 LLC, led by Larry Middleton	Chenal Circle	10,203	Sept. 3	2003
\$2.3	Matthew & Suzanne McClendon Joint Revocable Trust	Lynn and Frances Mayhan	Edgehill	4,415	Nov. 15	1949
\$2.1	Cedar Point Revocable Trust, led by David and Lauren Huckabee	Charlotte Leigh Caroom Revocable Trust	Longwood Road**	8,966	March 15	2003
\$2	Andrew and Jenny Faulkner	Brown Unified Credit Trust, led by Mary Patricia Brown	Near the Country Club of Little Rock	5,920	July 19	1940
\$1.9	Albert and Traci Braunfisch	The estate of Mary Barzda	Edgehill	6,814	Sept. 20	1942
\$1.75	Antoine and Jessica Lucas	David Nagy	Valley Falls Estates	7,382	Sept. 15	2004
\$1.7	Scott Hogan and Joshua Campbell-Hogan	Christopher Leigh John Trust and the Laurel Annie John Trust	The Estates	7,186	Oct. 1	1994
\$1.7	Edward and Sarah Bailey	Jeff Fuller Homes LLC	Cliffewood	5,510	Dec. 30	2021
\$1.675	HCB LLLP, led by Henry Browne	Traci and Albert Braunfisch	Edgehill	5,750	Dec. 28	1975
\$1.615	Bierbaum Family Trust, led by William and Diane Bierbaum	Allen Engstrom	River Ridge	5,368	Dec. 23	1984
\$1.612	Brent Medders	Kristen Fredrich	Near Ferndale**	6,900	Jan. 29	2009
\$1.55	Harvey Beech	Scott Hogan	Riverview Point	4,675	Sept. 29	1984
\$1.525	Aziz and Akbar Pabani	James Hagans III and his wife, Lisa	Chenal Downs	9,263	Sept. 23	2000
\$1.525	Laventana Personal Residence Trust, led by Scott and Janet Korenblat	Rodney E. and Casey C. Rockwell	Forest Heights Place	5,130	Dec. 2	2020
\$1.5	Dominic and Bruna Maggio	Timothy and Cori McGrath	Valley Falls Estates	7,886	May 26	2004
\$1.5	Ahmed Ali and Noha Mohammed	Deena L. Burnett Revocable Trust	Near Two Rivers Park	7,217	April 16	2004
\$1.45	Kyle and Megan Ludwig	Elizabeth and Raymond Nolan	Near the Country Club of Little Rock	6,196	Oct. 19	1940
\$1.44	JDD Revocable Trust, led by John Day	Louis Gladfelter Revocable Trust	West Pulaski County	5,266	Nov. 26	1995
\$1.42	Raymond and Elizabeth Nolan	Mehrabi Joint Revocable Trust, led by Amir and Lisa Mehrabi	Little Rock's East Palisades	4,156	Oct. 19	1984
\$1.4	Joel Walker and Carmen McClennon	Michael and Mary Cole	Falcon Ridge Estates	4,523	Sept. 22	2017
\$1.4	David and Tracy Rhodes	Brad & Kathy Workman Joint Revocable Trust	River Market Tower	3,217	July 2	2009
\$1.4	William and Kathy Meriwether	Christopher and Jennifer Ligon	Hickory Creek	6,746	Jan. 15	2001
\$1.4	Derek and Shannon Turner	Peter and Ruth Han	Chenal Downs	7,834	Nov. 18	2001
\$1.35	Ahmed Abuabdou and Hebatalla Alhaddad	Joey and Leslie Wiggins	Sologne Circle	5,296	Dec. 1	2003
\$1.35	Crain Family Holdings LLC, led by Larry Crain Jr.	Ryan and Caris Fitzgerald	Hallen Court	5,727	Dec. 8	2016
\$1.33	Ashley and Bob Hokams Jr.	Matthew & Suzanne McClendon Joint Revocable Trust	Mills Mountain Estates	5,541	Sept. 30	2013
\$1.32	Nola Gamewell	Diane Tracy	Hallen Court	5,110	May 24	2018
\$1.3	18 River Circle Trust	Carol F. Mendel	River Ridge	5,235	March 18	1984
\$1.26	Gaurav Dhar and Beenu Kaw	Michael Nargi Living Trust	Maumelle's Osage Terrace	6,817	May 27	2013
\$1.25	Jack and Whitney Bower	Thomas Judson & Barbara Jean Tolson Living Revocable Trust	West Pulaski County	5,834	Oct. 29	1995
\$1.25	Charles and Deanna Gaba	Steve and Sandra Landers	Hickory Creek	6,848	Aug. 24	2000
\$1.25	Timothy and Cori McGrath	William Davis	Germa Court	5,462	June 1	2008

\*In Little Rock unless otherwise noted. \*\*West Pulaski County

Source: Public real estate records

Researched by Mark Friedman



PHOTO BY JASON BURT

## 1) \$2.8 Million

**Buyers:** Curtis and Regina Howse  
**Seller:** Blast 5 LLC, led by Larry Middleton  
**Neighborhood:** Chenal Circle  
**Date Sold:** Sept. 3  
**Year Built:** 2003  
**SF:** 10,203

This \$2.8 million home sits on the 17th and 18th holes of the Fronting Founders Course at Chenal Country Club, according to the real estate website Zillow. Built by renowned Little Rock homebuilder Jack Hartsell, the house features an 80,000-gallon pool and a “distinctive free standing 3-story elliptical foyer staircase,” Zillow said. Curtis Howse is an executive vice president of Synchrony Financial and CEO of its home and auto division. Synchrony, of Stamford, Connecticut, is a consumer financial services company. He previously led Synchrony’s direct to consumer division for Synchrony Bank, an online banking platform with more than \$63 billion in deposits, according to a company news release. ■



PHOTO BY JASON BURT

## 2) \$2.3 Million

**Buyer:** Matthew & Suzanne McClendon Joint Revocable Trust  
**Sellers:** Lynn and Frances Mayhan  
**Neighborhood:** Edgehill  
**Date Sold:** Nov. 15  
**Year Built:** 1949  
**SF:** 4,415

The Matthew & Suzanne McClendon Joint Revocable Trust bought this \$2.3 million house that offers views of downtown Little Rock and the Arkansas River. The house features “beautiful iconic craftsmanship combined with the ultimate location, [and] gorgeous entry flanked by formal living and banquet dining,” Zillow said. The main level has a master bedroom, a study and home office. The second floor has two guest rooms. Matt McClendon is the CEO of DSG Consulting of Little Rock. The company said on its website that it “helps B2B companies implement their ‘Big Ideas’ for driving growth through playbooks, training, and reinforcement.” ■



# ELECTRONICS RECYCLING UNPLUGGED

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it off and we'll recycle it for **FREE!**

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Do recycling right by dropping off the right stuff.  
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& Waste Reduction  
District**

*Electronics Recycling Unplugged is only for residents, businesses, non-profits,  
churches, governments, and schools living and working in Pulaski County.  
For more information go to [RecyclingUnplugged.com](https://RecyclingUnplugged.com).*





3)

\$2.1 Million

**Buyer:** Cedar Point Revocable Trust, led by David and Lauren Huckabee  
**Seller:** Charlotte Leigh Caroom Revocable Trust  
**Neighborhood:** Longwood Road neighborhood of west Pulaski County  
**Date Sold:** March 15  
**Year Built:** 2003  
**SF:** 8,966

This \$2.1 million home was built by Jack Hartsell, the renowned Little Rock homebuilder, and sits on 5 acres in west Pulaski County, according to Zillow. The house includes formal and informal entertaining spaces and family areas, a chef’s kitchen and game room. David Huckabee’s father is Mike Huckabee, the Republican former governor who ran twice for president. David Huckabee’s sister is Sarah Huckabee Sanders, a former Trump White House press secretary who is running for governor. David Huckabee’s LinkedIn profile shows he’s co-owner of KOA Distribution LLC of Little Rock. KOA Distribution specializes in growing automotive dealerships’ revenue and profit, according to its website. ■



4)

\$2 Million

**Buyers:** Andrew and Jenny Faulkner  
**Seller:** Brown Unified Credit Trust, led by Mary Patricia Brown  
**Neighborhood:** Near the Country Club of Little Rock  
**Date Sold:** July 19  
**Year Built:** 1940  
**SF:** 5,920

Andrew and Jenny Faulkner bought this \$2 million house, which sits on a large corner lot near the Country Club of Little Rock. The home has a “spacious kitchen and large den” and five bedrooms, according to Zillow. Andrew Faulkner is the owner and CEO of Staley Technologies in Little Rock, which provides technology products and services to the banking, hospitality, retail, manufacturing and health care industries. Staley Technologies operates across North America and has more than 200 employees. Faulkner earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and law degree from the Bowen School of Law in Little Rock. ■



5)

\$1.9 Million

**Buyers:** Albert and Traci Braunfisch  
**Seller:** Estate of Mary Barzda  
**Neighborhood:** Edgehill  
**Date Sold:** Sept. 20  
**Year Built:** 1942  
**SF:** 6,814

Albert and Traci Braunfisch bought this two-story, \$1.9 million house in September. The house sold before it was listed, according to Zillow. In 1990, Albert Braunfisch, his brother, Peter, and father, Hans Braunfisch, founded Image Checks Inc. of Little Rock, building it into one of the largest consumer check printers in the country. Albert Braunfisch was listed as its president until 1997, according to his LinkedIn profile. He also is a partner in Lost Forty Brewing, a production craft microbrewery in Little Rock. Braunfisch also is the chairman of Majority Strategies of Jacksonville, Florida, a full-service data, digital and print firm. He has been the past chair of the board of Hendrix College of Conway. He is a board member of CARTI of Little Rock. ■



6)

\$1.75 Million

**Buyers:** Antoine and Jessica Lucas  
**Seller:** David Nagy  
**Neighborhood:** Valley Falls Estates  
**Date Sold:** Sept. 15  
**Year Built:** 2004  
**SF:** 7,382

Antoine and Jessica Lucas bought this custom-built home in the gated Valley Falls Estates. It features a four-car garage and a pool. It also has an “amazing” foyer with a custom floating staircase, Zillow said. Antoine Lucas is the vice president of engineering at Southwest Power Pool of Little Rock. The nonprofit SPP manages the electric grid across 17 central and Western states. He was a 2017 Arkansas Business 40 Under 40 honoree. After a childhood in Lake Providence, Louisiana, Lucas earned an engineering degree at Louisiana Tech in Ruston. A summer internship with Entergy changed his path, and he worked for six years with Entergy in Pine Bluff before shifting to SPP. ■





PHOTO BY JASON BURT

## 7) \$1.7 Million

**Buyers:** Scott Hogan and Joshua Campbell-Hogan  
**Sellers:** Christopher Leigh John Trust and the Laurel Annie John Trust  
**Neighborhood:** The Estates  
**Date Sold:** Oct. 1  
**Year Built:** 1994  
**SF:** 7,186

Dr. Scott Hogan wasn't planning on moving from his house of 16 years, but he and his husband, Josh Campbell-Hogan, needed more space for their growing family. "All of a sudden, we had three kids and needed more, and a house that was more child-friendly," he said. Scott Hogan said that both he and Josh fell in love with the house in the Estates neighborhood. "It's just paradise," he said of landscaping that includes a pool and water features. And it had enough bedrooms for the children to each have their own, as well as a theater room. "We couldn't be happier with it," said Scott Hogan, whose specialty is psychiatry. He is the medical director at Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle. ■



PHOTO BY JASON BURT

## 7) \$1.7 Million

**Buyers:** Edward and Sarah Bailey  
**Seller:** Jeff Fuller Homes LLC  
**Neighborhood:** Cliffewood  
**Date Sold:** Dec. 30  
**Year Built:** 2021  
**SF:** 5,510

Edward and Sarah Bailey had the \$1.7 million house in the Cliffewood neighborhood custom built. The two-story home has five bedrooms, with each room having its own bathroom. "It's a very open floor plan with 20-foot ceilings," said Sarah Bailey, owner and principal broker of Pixel Properties Realty of Little Rock. The couple also liked the area. Eddie Bailey is a co-founder and partner at Blue Whale Development of Little Rock, a real estate development company. He graduated from the University of Arkansas Walton College of Business with a degree in finance. He was an Arkansas Business 20 in Their 20s honoree in 2013. ■



PHOTO BY JASON BURT

## 9) \$1.675 Million

**Buyer:** HCB LLLP, led by Henry Browne  
**Sellers:** Traci and Albert Braunfisch  
**Neighborhood:** Edgehill  
**Date Sold:** Dec. 28  
**Year Built:** 1975  
**SF:** 5,750

HCB LLLP, led by Henry Browne, who goes by "Hank," bought this \$1.675 million home in December. The 5,750-SF residence is "the ultimate setting for family living and entertaining," according to Zillow. The house features a large breakfast area that flows into a "fabulous gourmet kitchen with center island." It also has a game room and "extraordinary grounds," Zillow said. In 1975, Browne founded Hank's Furniture Inc. of North Little Rock. Hank's Fine Furniture has grown to 17 stores in four states and is one of America's top 100 independent furniture retailers, according to the company's website. "As a family-owned business, Hank's Fine Furniture has thrived because of our dedication to service after the sale," the website said. ■



PHOTO BY JASON BURT

## 10) \$1.615 Million

**Buyer:** Bierbaum Family Trust, led by William Cole and Diane Bierbaum  
**Seller:** Allen Engstrom  
**Neighborhood:** River Ridge  
**Date Sold:** Dec. 23  
**Year Built:** 1984  
**SF:** 5,368

The Bierbaum Family Trust, led by William Cole and Diane Bierbaum, purchased this \$1.615 million home. The house offers "absolutely beautiful panoramic river views," according to Zillow, and features a "spectacular living room with high ceilings and a wall of glass." It also has a pool that was renovated in 2007 and "fabulous outdoor terrace and grounds." Cole Bierbaum is a veterinarian and last year became an owner of Boulevard Veterinary Clinic in Maumelle, according to the company's website. He graduated from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and has been practicing for nearly 25 years. "His favorite part of veterinary medicine is performing preventative surgeries at shelters and low-cost clinics," the website said. ■



# Largest Residential Real Estate Agencies

Ranked by 2021 sales volume

	Agency Address Phone, Website	2021 Sales Volume Total Units	No. of Licensed Agents/Brokers \$2 mil.+ Producers	Branch Offices	Service Area	Primary Broker(s) or Company Head(s)
1	<b>Crye-Leike Realtors</b> 11600 Kanis Road, Little Rock 72211 (501) 954-9100, crye-leike.com	<b>\$4.28 bil.</b> 5,763	486 155	Hot Springs, Maumelle, Conway, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Bryant, Benton, Cabot, Jonesboro, West Memphis, Bentonville, Gentry, Springdale, Fayetteville, Rogers, Lowell, Bella Vista	Central, east and northwest Arkansas	<b>Harold Edward Crye</b>
2	<b>Keller Williams Market Pro Realty</b> 3801 Johnson Mill Blvd., Fayetteville 72704 (479) 718-2800, livenwa.com	<b>\$1.04 bil.</b> 3,662	300 106	Bentonville, Eureka Springs	Northwest Arkansas	<b>Jody Hendrix</b>
3	<b>Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney &amp; Faucette</b> 3593 N. College Ave., Fayetteville 72703 (479) 521-6106, cbhmf.com	<b>\$968.52 mil.</b> 3,245	309 128	Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers	Northwest Arkansas, southwest Missouri, northeast Oklahoma	<b>Pat Harris</b>
4	<b>Weichert Realtors-The Griffin Co.</b> 5100 S. Thompson St., Springdale 72764 (479) 756-1003, weichertgriffin.com	<b>\$755.16 mil.</b> 2,977	210 93	Bentonville, Fayetteville, Fort Smith	Northwest Arkansas, Arkansas River Valley, southwest Missouri, northeast Oklahoma	<b>Gary G. Griffin</b>
5	<b>Lindsey &amp; Associates</b> 1200 E. Joyce Blvd., Fayetteville 72703 (479) 521-6611, lindsey.com	<b>\$651.23 mil.</b> 1,796	241 77	Rogers, Bentonville	Northwest Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma	<b>John David Lindsey</b>
6	<b>Re/Max Elite</b> 11324 Arcade Drive, Suite 23, Little Rock 72212 (501) 291-3841, selling-arkansas.com	<b>\$649.67 mil.</b> 2,972	210 92	Benton, Conway, North Little Rock	Central Arkansas	<b>Keith Pike</b>
7	<b>Coldwell Banker RPM Group</b> 1501 N. University Ave., Suite 800, Little Rock 72207 (501) 664-1775, cbrpmgroup.com	<b>\$593.78 mil.</b> 2,429	248 83	Cabot, Conway, Hot Springs, Maumelle, North Little Rock, Saline County, west Little Rock	Central Arkansas	<b>Robin Miller</b>
8	<b>Keller Williams Realty</b> 12814 Cantrell Road, Little Rock 72223 (501) 907-5959, kwlittlerock.com	<b>\$500.83 mil.</b> 2,100	265 53	Conway, Mena	Central Arkansas	<b>Kerry Ellison</b>
9	<b>Collier &amp; Associates</b> 2558 E. Mission Blvd., Suite 102, Fayetteville 72703 (479) 274-0662, collierhomesnwa.com	<b>\$496.76 mil.</b> 1,746	175 68	Bentonville, Farmington and Rogers	Northwest Arkansas	<b>Stuart Collier</b>
10	<b>iRealty Arkansas</b> 11621 Rainwood Road, Suite 4, Little Rock 72212 (501) 224-3900, irealtyarkansas.com	<b>\$444.88 mil.</b> 2,071	218 65	Benton, Cabot, Sherwood, Hot Springs, Sheridan, Conway, NLR	Central Arkansas	<b>Sara Lynn Kristen Kennon</b>
11	<b>eXp Realty</b> 400 W. Capitol Ste. 1743, Little Rock 72201 866-720-5056, exprealty.com	<b>\$421.17 mil.</b> 1,876	330 66	Rogers, Centerton, Bentonville	Northwest and central Arkansas	<b>Lorraine Barnwell</b>
12	<b>Trademark Real Estate</b> 4262 Central Ave., Suite D, Hot Springs 71913 (501) 318-3200, trademarkrealestate.com	<b>\$384.11 mil.</b> 1,514	68 53	Hot Springs Village	Bismarck, Hot Springs, Hot Springs Village, Malvern	<b>Lorna Nobles</b>
13	<b>The Janet Jones Co.</b> 7915 Cantrell Road, Little Rock 72227 (501) 224-3201, janetjones.com	<b>\$338.75 mil.</b> 758	37 30		Little Rock, Maumelle, North Little Rock	<b>Janet Jones</b>
14	<b>Re/Max Real Estate Results</b> 3103 SE Moberly Lane, Bentonville 72712 (479) 271-9595, wearenwa.com	<b>\$324.51 mil.</b> 965	48 35		Northwest Arkansas	<b>Kim Minor</b>
15	<b>Limbird Real Estate Group</b> 5247 W. Metro Park Crossing, Rogers 72758 (855) 755-7653, limbirdteam.com	<b>\$276.91 mil.</b> 1,322	32 26		Benton and Washington counties	<b>Tara Limbird</b>
16	<b>ERA Doty Real Estate/ERA Team Real Estate</b> 2209 A Grant Ave., Jonesboro 72401 (870) 932-0731, eradotyrealstate.com	<b>\$273.95 mil.</b> 1,368	119 39	Conway, Flippin, Hot Springs, Paragould	48 counties across northern Arkansas	<b>J. Stephen Doty Telicia Perry Kristen Grimes Christine Durham Kelli Small</b>
17	<b>Keller Williams Platinum Realty</b> 7301 Phoenix Ave., Fort Smith 72903 (479) 434-3000, kwfortsmith.com	<b>\$273.47 mil.</b> 1,477	122 34		Fort Smith	<b>Larry Robison Barbie Johnson</b>
18	<b>PorchLight Realty</b> 203 Dakota Drive, Suite A, Cabot 72023 (501) 286-6025, porchlightar.com	<b>\$271.99 mil.</b> 1,315	40 23	North Little Rock	Austin, Beebe, Cabot, Jacksonville, Little Rock, Maumelle, North Little Rock, Sherwood, Ward	<b>James Knaack Jr. Mandy Knaack</b>
19	<b>Baxley-Penfield-Moudy Realtors</b> 3525 Hwy. 5 N., Bryant 72019 (501) 847-5000, bpmrealtors.com	<b>\$230.32 mil.</b> 939	44 29		Benton, Bryant, Saline County, Central Arkansas	<b>Tom Baxley</b>
20	<b>Moore &amp; Co. Realtors</b> 103 W. Parkway, Suite 2A, Russellville 72801 (479) 968-3300, tmoorerealtors.com	<b>\$201.18 mil.</b> 1,054	41 23	Clarksville, Morrilton, Ozark, Conway	Clarksville, Morrilton, Russellville and surrounding areas	<b>Tony Moore</b>
21	<b>Coldwell Banker Village Communities</b> 2704 S. Culberhouse St., Suite A, Jonesboro 72401 (870) 935-7800, neahomesearch.com	<b>\$199.53 mil.</b> 778	66 29	Jonesboro	Craighead County	<b>Kevin Kercheval</b>
22	<b>Michele Phillips &amp; Co. Realtors</b> 8700 Hwy. 107, Suite A, Sherwood 72120 (501) 834-3433, michelephillipsrealtor.com	<b>\$180.52 mil.</b> 852	50 27	Cabot, Searcy	Central Arkansas	<b>Michele Phillips</b>
23	<b>Bassett Mix &amp; Associates</b> 3263 N. College Ave., Fayetteville 72703 (479) 521-5600, bassettmix.com	<b>\$172.20 mil.</b> 360	41 20		Northwest Arkansas	<b>Mary Bassett David Mix Brandy Carr</b>
24	<b>The Charlotte John Co.</b> 5813 Kavanaugh Blvd., Little Rock 72207 (501) 664-5646, charlottejohn.com	<b>\$167.61 mil.</b> 576	43 25	Conway	Central Arkansas	<b>Charlotte John</b>



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25	<b>Re/Max of Hot Springs Village</b> 1400 DeSoto Blvd., Hot Springs Village 71909 (888) 828-9478, hotspringsvillagehouses.com	\$163.84 mil. 793	30 17		Fountain Lake, Hot Springs Village, Jessieville and surrounding communities	<b>Clara Nicolosi</b>
26	<b>Jon Underhill Real Estate</b> 2200 Hidden Valley Drive, Suite 100, Little Rock 72212 (501) 868-3444, jonunderhill.com	\$160.22 mil. 333	17 10		Central Arkansas	<b>Jon Underhill Susan Meador Brandy Harp</b>
27	<b>Re/Max Advantage Realtors</b> 200 W. Mulberry Ave., Searcy 72143 (501) 268-1115, searcyremax.com	\$156.65 mil. 899	38 21		Searcy and White counties	<b>Robert Joyner</b>
28	<b>Edge Realty</b> 2241 Bill Foster Memorial Hwy., Cabot 72023 (501) 843-4663, edgerealtyar.com	\$152.68 mil. 804	58 22	Jacksonville	Central Arkansas	<b>Corbin Kidd Gregg Kidd</b>
29	<b>River Valley Realty</b> 800 E. Main St., Russellville 72801 (479) 968-6260, rivervalleyrealty.com	\$150.91 mil. 783	41 19		Arkansas River Valley	<b>Chris R. Abington</b>
30	<b>McMullen Realty Group</b> 1800 S. 52nd St., Suite 405, Rogers 72758 (479) 544-9575, mcmullenrealtynwa.com	\$149.69 mil. 496	42 13		Northwest Arkansas	<b>Misty McMullen Teresa Benningfield Kai Weiner Amanda Gainey Eduardo Sierra</b>
31	<b>Peglar Real Estate Group</b> 1326 Hwy. 62 E, Mountain Home 72653 (870) 425-4300, peglarrealestate.com	\$143.77 mil. 756	22 14		North-central Arkansas	<b>Joey Peglar</b>
32	<b>McKimmey Associates Realtors</b> 5317 JFK Blvd., North Little Rock 72116 (501) 812-3500, mckimmey.com	\$138.99 mil. 819	95 24	Cabot, Little Rock	Central and northwest Arkansas	<b>Byron McKimmey</b>
33	<b>Image Realty of Northeast Arkansas</b> 8 Southpointe Drive, Paragould 72450 (870) 236-2121, myimagerealty.com	\$130.34 mil. 803	27 12	Jonesboro and Corning	Greene, Craighead, Mississippi and Clay counties	<b>Brooksie Felty Hartness</b>
34	<b>Re/Max Associates</b> 4102 N. Mall Ave., Suite 201, Fayetteville 72703 (479) 684-5757, www.sellingnwa.com	\$126.42 mil. 376	20 8		Northwest Arkansas	<b>Janet Braden</b>
35	<b>Truman Ball Real Estate</b> 608 W. Commerce Drive, Suite 1, Bryant 72022 (501) 847-4900, trumanball.com	\$124.63 mil. 596	46 13		Central Arkansas	<b>Jason James</b>

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	Agency Address Phone, Website	2021 Sales Volume Total Units	No. of Licensed Agents/Brokers \$2 mil.+ Producers	Branch Offices	Service Area	Primary Broker(s) or Company Head(s)
36	<b>Aspire Realty Group</b> 2821 Kavanaugh Blvd., Suite 2F, Little Rock 72205 (501) 379-8480, aspirerealtylr.com	\$116.44 mil. 477	30 13		Central Arkansas	<b>Austin Franks</b>
37	<b>Bradford &amp; Udouj Realtors</b> 2605 Market Trace, Fort Smith 72908 (479) 646-5539, bradfordudouj.com	\$113.68 mil. 485	29 18		Crawford and Sebastian counties; Le Flore and Sequoyah counties, Oklahoma	<b>Rachel Cannava-Brown</b>
38	<b>Hot Springs 1st Choice Realty</b> 135-B Mall Drive, Hot Springs 71913 (501) 525-1600, hotspringsfirstchoice.com	\$109.55 mil. 377	19 16	Hot Springs	Hot Springs	<b>Jim Kellstrom</b>
39	<b>Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Solutions Real Estate</b> 2905 S. Walton Blvd., Suite 29, Bentonville 72712 (479) 271-2424, bhhssolutionsre.com	\$107.00 mil. 423	32 14		Northwest Arkansas	<b>Scott Waymire</b>
40	<b>Rich Realty</b> 3001 Harrison St., Batesville 72501 (870) 793-4444, richrealtyl.com	\$100.16 mil. 388	10 6	Batesville	Batesville, Cave City, Melbourne and Mountain View	<b>Joey Markowski</b>
41	<b>Re/Max Properties</b> 8201 Cantrell Road, Suite 225, Little Rock 72227 (501) 224-4111, valhansen.com	\$100.09 mil. 476	6 1		Cabot and Conway, Pulaski and Saline counties	<b>Valentine Hansen</b>
42	<b>Gilbert Realty Co.</b> 1357 Hwy. 62 S.W., Mountain Home 72653 (870) 425-6282, gilbertrealty.com	\$99.80 mil. 581	24 14		Twin Lakes area of north-central Arkansas	<b>Joan Gilbert</b>
43	<b>Century 21 United</b> 215 N. Washington Ave., El Dorado 71730 (870) 863-4011, c21united.com	\$89.03 mil. 680	51 15	Little Rock, Pine Bluff, White Hall; Shreveport and Monroe, LA	Central and south Arkansas, north Louisiana	<b>Jason Reed</b>
44	<b>Re/Max Real Estate Connection</b> 913 W. Main St., Suite D, Cabot 72023 (501) 843-3067, cabotrealestate.com	\$87.40 mil. 429	14 9	Cabot	Austin, Ward, Jacksonville, Lonoke, Beebe	<b>Jody Huffmaster Karen LeMay Andy Huffmaster</b>
45	<b>McKenzie Realty Group</b> 400 W. Main St., Heber Springs 72543 (501) 362-7500, mckenzierealty.com	\$83.42 mil. 345	16 10		Eden Isle, Greers Ferry Lake, Heber Springs, Little Red River, Clebune County	<b>Mark McKenzie</b>

Sources: the agencies. Other agencies believed to have volume large enough for this list did not respond to repeated surveys. Researched by Gwen Moritz

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# Top Real Estate Agents

Ranked by 2021 individual sales volume

	Agent Agency	2021 Sales		Agent Agency	2021 Sales
1	Casey Jones The Janet Jones Co., Little Rock	\$56.78 mil.	17	Lain Rodgers Trademark Real Estate, Hot Springs	\$31.52 mil.
2	Debbie Teague The Janet Jones Co., Little Rock	\$54.82 mil.	18	Marcus Necessary Weichert Realtors-The Griffin Co., Bentonville	\$31.10 mil.
3	Misty McMullen McMullen Realty Group, Rogers	\$49.19 mil.	19	Mandy Knaack PorchLight Realty, Cabot	\$30.99 mil.
4	Lance Penfield Baxley-Penfield-Moudy Realtors, Bryant	\$45.90 mil.	20	Chase White Collier & Associates, Bentonville	\$29.96 mil.
5	Brandy Harp Jon Underhill Real Estate, Little Rock	\$44.33 mil.	21	Nedra Plumlee Crye-Leike Realtors , Hot Springs	\$28.68 mil.
6	Conley Golden The Janet Jones Co., Little Rock	\$42.96 mil.	22	Jane Hollansworth Re/Max of Hot Springs Village	\$28.55 mil.
7	Jon Underhill Jon Underhill Real Estate, Little Rock	\$37.64 mil.	23	Amanda Elrod Coldwell Banker RPM Group, Saline County	\$28.26 mil.
8	Meza Harris Lindsey & Associates, Rogers	\$37.13 mil.	24	John Carpenter Lindsey & Associates, Fayetteville	\$27.90 mil.
9	Diana Dominguez Aspire Realty Group, Little Rock	\$36.51 mil.	25	Toni Knowles Crye-Leike Realtors , Bryant	\$27.40 mil.
10	Doug Gibson Crye-Leike Realtors , Rogers	\$34.60 mil.	26	Michael Hodges Keller Williams Market Pro Realty, Bentonville	\$27.29 mil.
11	Brooksie Felty Hartness Image Realty of Northeast Arkansas, Paragould	\$34.13 mil.	27	Melanie Gabel Lindsey & Associates, Fayetteville	\$26.80 mil.
12	Kodi Griffin Coldwell Banker Village Communities, Jonesboro	\$33.15 mil.	28	Somer Adams Lindsey & Associates, Rogers	\$26.68 mil.
13	Tami Davis PorchLight Realty, Cabot	\$32.96 mil.	29	Evelyn Dean Re/Max Elite, Conway	\$26.52 mil.
14	Kendall Riggins Lindsey & Associates, Fayetteville	\$32.94 mil.	30	Lawson Maddox Arkansas Land & Realty, Little Rock	\$26.04 mil.
15	Joey Peglar Peglar Real Estate Group, Mountain Home	\$32.63 mil.	31	Mark McKenzie McKenzie Realty Group, Heber Springs	\$25.90 mil.
16	Martha Haguewood Lindsey & Associates, Fayetteville	\$31.58 mil.	32	Lisa Attwood Lunsford & Associates Realty Co., White Hall	\$25.26 mil.



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# Top Real Estate Agents

Ranked by 2021 individual sales volume

	Agent Agency	2021 Sales
<b>33</b>	<b>Michael Sims</b> Bassett Mix & Associates, Fayetteville	\$25.18 mil.
<b>34</b>	<b>Shelly McDonald</b> Hot Springs 1st Choice Realty, Hot Springs	\$25.14 mil.
<b>35</b>	<b>Matthew Dickhut</b> Collier & Associates, Fayetteville	\$25.09 mil.
<b>36</b>	<b>Mary Bassett</b> Bassett Mix & Associates, Fayetteville	\$24.89 mil.
<b>37</b>	<b>Heather Campbell</b> Weichert Realtors-The Griffin Co., Bentonville	\$24.31 mil.
<b>38</b>	<b>Tim Walker</b> Peglar Real Estate Group, Mountain Home	\$24.24 mil.
<b>39</b>	<b>Patricia Bollier</b> Re/Max of Hot Springs Village	\$24.22 mil.
<b>40</b>	<b>Ryan Blackstone</b> Keller Williams Market Pro Realty, Fayetteville	\$23.91 mil.
<b>41</b>	<b>Jody Huffmaster</b> Re/Max Real Estate Connection, Cabot	\$23.80 mil.
<b>42</b>	<b>Tracy Tidwell</b> ERA Doty Real Estate/ERA Team Real Estate, Conway	\$23.48 mil.
<b>43</b>	<b>Laura Davis</b> Re/Max Elite, Conway	\$23.48 mil.
<b>44</b>	<b>Kevin Kercheval</b> Coldwell Banker Village Communities, Jonesboro	\$23.35 mil.
<b>45</b>	<b>Roger A. Turner</b> Roger Turner Realty Inc., Harrison	\$22.87 mil.
<b>46</b>	<b>Tammy Browning</b> Trademark Real Estate, Hot Springs	\$22.65 mil.
<b>47</b>	<b>Amber White</b> Trademark Real Estate, Hot Springs	\$22.44 mil.
<b>48</b>	<b>Steve Burges</b> Gilbert Realty Co., Mountain Home	\$22.22 mil.

	Agent Agency	2021 Sales
<b>49</b>	<b>Sean T. Morris</b> Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette, Fayetteville	\$22.08 mil.
<b>50</b>	<b>Scott Deaton</b> Deaton Group Realty, North Little Rock	\$22.00 mil.
<b>51</b>	<b>Michele Phillips</b> Michele Phillips & Co. Realtors, Sherwood	\$21.74 mil.
<b>52</b>	<b>Will Henley</b> ERA Doty Real Estate/ERA Team Real Estate, Conway	\$21.43 mil.
<b>53</b>	<b>Denise Hipskind</b> iRealty Arkansas, Benton	\$21.15 mil.
<b>54</b>	<b>Brooke Wells</b> Coldwell Banker Village Communities, Jonesboro	\$21.14 mil.
<b>55</b>	<b>Susie Burns</b> Re/Max of Hot Springs Village	\$21.11 mil.
<b>56</b>	<b>Scott Waymire</b> Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Solutions Real Estate, Bentonville	\$20.39 mil.
<b>57</b>	<b>Layne Penfield</b> Baxley-Penfield-Moudy Realtors, Bryant	\$20.06 mil.
<b>58</b>	<b>Kelly Tedder</b> PorchLight Realty, Cabot	\$19.95 mil.
<b>59</b>	<b>Kevin Watson</b> Re/Max Elite, Conway	\$19.95 mil.
<b>60</b>	<b>Linda O'Brien</b> Re/Max Real Estate Connection, Cabot	\$19.92 mil.
<b>61</b>	<b>Velda Lueders</b> Coldwell Banker RPM Group, Conway	\$19.85 mil.
<b>62</b>	<b>Jennifer Castro</b> Keller Williams Market Pro Realty, Bentonville	\$19.85 mil.
<b>63</b>	<b>Hayley Wreyford</b> Lunsford & Associates Realty Co., White Hall	\$19.58 mil.
<b>64</b>	<b>Jim Brandon</b> Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Solutions Real Estate, Bentonville	\$19.15 mil.

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# Top Real Estate Agents

Ranked by 2021 individual sales volume

	Agent Agency	2021 Sales
65	<b>Lisa Holloway-Sugg</b> Crye-Leike Realtors , Maumelle	\$19.11 mil.
66	<b>Dauna Powell</b> Peglar Real Estate Group, Mountain Home	\$18.83 mil.
67	<b>Liz Howell</b> Dalrymple Real Estate, Searcy	\$18.77 mil.
68	<b>Susan Reynolds</b> The Janet Jones Co., Little Rock	\$18.70 mil.
69	<b>Patsy Simmons</b> Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette, Rogers	\$18.45 mil.
70	<b>Brad Miles</b> Crye-Leike Realtors , North Little Rock	\$18.01 mil.
71	<b>Jamie Hoffman</b> River Rock Realty Co., Little Rock	\$17.98 mil.
72	<b>Susan Neaville</b> Re/Max Advantage Realtors, Searcy	\$17.48 mil.
73	<b>Yuliya Colvin</b> Weichert Realtors-The Griffin Co., Springdale	\$17.30 mil.
74	<b>Shelli Stine</b> Epic Real Estate, Little Rock	\$17.06 mil.
75	<b>Sue Ann Strait</b> River Valley Realty, Russellville	\$16.99 mil.
76	<b>Terry Quinn</b> Jon Underhill Real Estate, Little Rock	\$16.59 mil.
77	<b>Stacy Hamilton</b> Capital Sotheby's International Realty, Little Rock	\$16.45 mil.
78	<b>Sherry Hardie</b> Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette, Rogers	\$16.41 mil.
79	<b>Carroll Caldwell</b> Coldwell Banker Village Communities, Jonesboro	\$16.29 mil.
80	<b>Beckie Seba</b> Weichert Realtors-The Griffin Co., Bentonville	\$16.26 mil.
81	<b>Christy Ward</b> PorchLight Realty, Cabot	\$16.23 mil.
82	<b>Amanda Hood</b> Image Realty of Northeast Arkansas, Paragould	\$16.06 mil.
83	<b>Jonathan Stone</b> Arkansas Land & Realty, Little Rock	\$16.04 mil.
84	<b>Marcy Chavez</b> Weichert Realtors-The Griffin Co., Springdale	\$16.02 mil.
85	<b>Amanda Gainey</b> McMullen Realty Group, Rogers	\$15.87 mil.
86	<b>Terri Summers</b> Crye-Leike Realtors , Bryant	\$15.87 mil.
87	<b>Jean Lance</b> Crye-Leike Realtors , Bentonville	\$15.76 mil.
88	<b>Donna Carlson</b> Jon Underhill Real Estate, Little Rock	\$15.68 mil.
89	<b>Karen Thornton</b> Michele Phillips & Co. Realtors, Sherwood	\$15.64 mil.
90	<b>Lisa Elmore</b> Weichert Realtors-The Griffin Co., Fort Smith	\$15.64 mil.
91	<b>John Selva</b> Engel & Völkers Little Rock	\$15.52 mil.
92	<b>Mike McNabb</b> ERA Doty Real Estate/ERA Team Real Estate, Jonesboro	\$15.50 mil.
93	<b>Linda Williams</b> Re/Max Real Estate Today, Marion	\$15.43 mil.
94	<b>Adam Steenken</b> Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette, Fayetteville	\$15.25 mil.
95	<b>Jennifer Huffaker</b> Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette, Bentonville	\$15.25 mil.
96	<b>Michelle Brock</b> Collier & Associates, Rogers	\$15.18 mil.
97	<b>Alicia Averitt Haley</b> PorchLight Realty, North Little Rock	\$15.12 mil.

	Agent Agency	2021 Sales
98	<b>Sheryl Carman</b> Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette, Bentonville	\$15.08 mil.
99	<b>Charlotte Hitchens</b> Re/Max of Hot Springs Village	\$15.05 mil.
100	<b>Carol Slattery</b> Crye-Leike Realtors , North Little Rock	\$15.02 mil.
101	<b>Ashley Cook</b> Gateway Properties, Batesville	\$14.87 mil.
102	<b>Bob Bushmiaer</b> The Janet Jones Co., Little Rock	\$14.81 mil.
103	<b>Lindsey Clark</b> Collier & Associates, Fayetteville	\$14.75 mil.
104	<b>Emily Young</b> The Charlotte John Co., Little Rock	\$14.74 mil.
105	<b>Tiffany Cox</b> Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette, Bentonville	\$14.67 mil.
106	<b>Tish Pace</b> Re/Max Advantage Realtors, Searcy	\$14.58 mil.
107	<b>Staci Medlock</b> Re/Max Elite, North Little Rock	\$14.56 mil.
108	<b>Casey Moser</b> PorchLight Realty, Cabot	\$14.54 mil.
109	<b>Whitney Morgan</b> Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette, Fayetteville	\$14.54 mil.
110	<b>Becky Finney</b> Keller Williams Realty, Little Rock	\$14.43 mil.
111	<b>Daniel Gray</b> Re/Max Homefinders Realty, Jacksonville	\$14.36 mil.
112	<b>Ashley Cifreo</b> Michele Phillips & Co. Realtors, Sherwood	\$14.12 mil.
113	<b>Jose L. Colunga</b> Dalrymple Real Estate, Searcy	\$14.04 mil.
114	<b>Valerie Moran</b> Crye-Leike Realtors , Little Rock	\$14.02 mil.
115	<b>Martha Tolson</b> Coldwell Banker Village Communities, Jonesboro	\$13.99 mil.
116	<b>Christina Gervasi</b> Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette, Rogers	\$13.94 mil.
117	<b>Earnest James Hardgrave</b> Moore & Co. Realtors, Clarksville	\$13.85 mil.
118	<b>Lynn Pangburn</b> Coldwell Banker RPM Group, Little Rock	\$13.82 mil.
119	<b>Darohnn Pender</b> Re/Max Real Estate Results, Bentonville	\$13.72 mil.
120	<b>Jennifer Skoff</b> Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette, Fayetteville	\$13.67 mil.
121	<b>Brenda Parker</b> Re/Max Real Estate Results, Bentonville	\$13.65 mil.
122	<b>Becky Lynch</b> Bassett Mix & Associates, Fayetteville	\$13.49 mil.
123	<b>David Mix</b> Bassett Mix & Associates, Fayetteville	\$13.48 mil.
124	<b>TJ Mohler</b> Collier & Associates, Fayetteville	\$13.47 mil.
125	<b>Katherine Hudson</b> Keller Williams Market Pro Realty, Fayetteville	\$13.46 mil.
126	<b>Matt Hershberger</b> Peglar Real Estate Group, Mountain Home	\$13.46 mil.
127	<b>Jay Calhoun</b> Aspire Realty Group, Little Rock	\$13.44 mil.
128	<b>Chad Beebe</b> Weichert Realtors-The Griffin Co., Fayetteville	\$13.30 mil.
129	<b>George Dooley</b> Trademark Real Estate, Hot Springs	\$13.26 mil.
130	<b>Rhonda Balmer</b> Bassett Mix & Associates, Fayetteville	\$13.22 mil.

Agents with identical sales figures are given the same rank. Due to rounding, some agents may appear to have identical sales but are ranked by actual sales.

Sources: the agents or their agencies

Researched by Gwen Moritz



# Build Houses, Build Wealth

## EDITORIAL

**A**rkansas Business' annual issue on the most expensive homes sold in central and northwest Arkansas in the previous year is perennially popular. This year it contains real news: Sales of \$1 million-plus homes have been so numerous that we've had to raise our floor to be placed on the list to \$1.25 million, the first time since we began publishing the list, which at the time focused only on central Arkansas, in 2005.

Jon Underhill, who sells upscale homes through his Little Rock agency, calls it "a historic market" boosted by rising incomes and historically low borrowing costs.

In northwest Arkansas, the market has also been assisted by the region's solid employer base and quality of life. As Kristen Boozman, owner of Portfolio Sotheby's International Realty in Rogers, noted, homebuyers coming from expensive housing markets elsewhere in the U.S. see Arkansas housing as cheap.

But there's a sour note in this symphony of residential splendor, at least for northwest Arkansas: Housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable for low-

## Arkansas Business Views

Arkansas Business' Opinion Page

and middle-income families.

Regional leaders realize there is a problem. In September, the Walton Family Foundation recommended measures to address the area's housing crunch. Among them: zoning ordinance changes that would allow more efficient review of developmental plans, lower administrative costs and more diverse planning, including greater housing density.

For middle-income families, home ownership remains a way to build generational wealth, the kind that allows children to benefit from their parents' hard work and good decisions and build even better lives for themselves. Spending by middle-income families enables the enormous success of the region's businesses. Their work as teachers, nurses, police officers, firefighters and more is essential to the area's well-being.

For northwest Arkansas' prosperity to be sustainable, affordable housing must be a priority. ■

## Standard Lithium Bets Big on State

**A**rkansas Business, led by energy reporter Kyle Massey, has been following the story of Arkansas lithium since 2018, when a Vancouver company few had heard of began optioning brine lands and detailing extraction plans in south Arkansas.

The company, Standard Lithium Ltd., aims to source lithium from the underground brine that other companies are already mining for bromine near Magnolia and El Dorado. Lithium is a key ingredient in batteries powering the devices at the center of our personal and professional lives: cellphones, computers, airplanes and, increasingly, electric vehicles. As Massey pointed out in an early story, lithium carbonate is also a common treatment for bipolar disorder and other illnesses.

Phase one of Standard's plan was to prove that its novel method of lithium extraction — one that would be faster and less wasteful than current methods — could work. The next phase was to build a test extraction facility at the Lanxess Corp. bromine plant in El Dorado. Lanxess has partnered with Standard Lithium nearly from the beginning, and now has a significant equity stake in the startup, a key vote of confidence in its prospects.

Another vote of confidence came from a well-known global investor: the Koch Strategic Platforms arm of Koch Investments Group, a subsidiary of Charles Koch's Koch Industries of Wichita, Kansas. And it wasn't until last week that we got a better understanding of Koch's interest in the Arkansas project.

As Massey reported in November, Koch Strategic Platforms made a \$100 million direct investment in Standard, and signaled possible collaborations with other Koch companies, including Koch Engineered Solutions and Koch Minerals & Trading.

David Park, Koch Strategic Platforms' CEO, said at the time that his firm "is focusing on investing in companies with strong tailwinds that are disrupting the market as we know it," and that he expects the investment to "help accelerate the production of lithium resources right here at home." The company listed half a dozen ways the investment could complement existing operations at other Koch companies.

A few months later, Koch's overall strategy is coming into focus. As *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Tuesday, the Standard Lithium stake is one of several investments Koch is making in the U.S. battery supply chain and electric vehicles. Yes, the conglomerate whose CEO has, as the *Journal* notes, "long opposed environmental regulation and funded groups that questioned



## Editor's Note Lance Turner

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climate change" is now a major backer of electric vehicle batteries. In fact, the *Journal*, examining company filings, news releases and other data, cites analysts who say Koch's battery investments "are among the biggest from outside the auto industry."

According to the *Journal*, Koch is investing in companies that aim to:

► Make better batteries (Solid Power Inc. of Louisville, Colorado, and Aspen Aerogels of Northborough, Massachusetts).

► Make cheaper, more sustainable batteries (Freyr Battery SA of Norway, with which Koch has a manufacturing joint venture in the U.S.).

► Provide raw materials for batteries (Li-Cycle Holdings Corp. of Mississauga, Canada, and Standard Lithium).

So that's the big picture. A global conglomerate born from the oil industry is, like other big companies, investing more money domestically in greener, more sustainable forms of energy. But zooming in on Arkansas, the exciting story is that a big company has put \$100 million into a plan that adds a potentially lucrative new dimension to a 60-year-old bromine industry that few of us think much about.

Standard and its investors have a long way to go and, as Massey reported earlier this month, some are questioning the company's production claims. But there's also at least one other company, Galvanic Energy LLC of Oklahoma City, with designs on starting its own lithium operation in south Arkansas, another vote of confidence in Standard's strategy.

\*\*\*

I'm happy to see more investment in domestic control of key technologies like electric vehicle batteries. The pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have highlighted the degree to which we rely on other countries for all kinds of critical goods and services. It's well worth considering the things we can do domestically to strengthen our hand, especially when it comes to the technologies of tomorrow, given the global unknowns we face. ■

Lance Turner is editor of Arkansas Business. Contact him at ltturner@abpg.com or on Twitter at @LT.

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