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STRENGTHEN YOUR ASSOCIATION TO STRENGTHEN YOUR HOME VALUE *Take Charge of the Direction in Which Your Association is Heading*

ST. LOUIS, MO (September 26, 2011) – A condominium or townhome association wields great power over unit owners. Collectively, the group has the right to decide the fate of the units' exteriors, as well as the surrounding property.

"A strong association protects the value of your property and quality of the neighborhood," said Jim Dohr, president of Coldwell Banker Gundaker. "Assessments paid by homeowners to the association cover expenses to maintain the property, including everything from fresh paint in common areas to a leak-free roof."

To protect your investment, check out these tips for maintaining a strong condo association:

- **Know the rules prior to purchase.** Make sure you know and agree with the laws before purchasing the property. After all, you are investing your money in the association through the fees. You would not purchase a material object unless you were satisfied with it; membership in an organization is no different.
- **Streamline communications.** These days, the vast majority of people are incredibly busy, therefore, it is important for homeowners to have consistent and effective communication with each other. Try issuing a monthly newsletter or starting an e-mail chain for emergency communications.
- **Play your part.** The best way to ensure your association remains strong is to get involved. Run for the board, join a committee, or volunteer to lead a project.

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