

*This article appeared in the following media:*

*Collinsville Herald  
Granite City Press-Record  
Monroe County Clarion  
December 16, 2009*

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch New Home Folio  
St. Charles Journal  
Wentzville Journal  
December 13, 2009*

**BUILDING YOUR NEXT HOME**

**CHOOSING HOME  
OWNERSHIP IS THE  
RIGHT  
DECISION:**

*Shop Soon for Best Deals*



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Eastern Missouri

**WITH SO MANY HEADLINES  
ABOUT RECORD**

**FORECLOSURES** and recent house price declines, some are wondering if homeownership is the right choice for them.

Studies suggest that the decision to buy a home is often made in part by looking at the recent trend in house prices and extrapolating into the future. Just as this led many to buy near the top, it could discourage some from buying close to the bottom of home prices in their area. This would be unfortunate.

Many observers suggest that home prices are at or near the end of their price declines. In areas where house prices have fallen a great deal and are showing signs of stabilizing or moving up, now is a good time to buy. This could mean getting in at or near the bottom in many markets.

In addition, interest rates are at historic lows and, through the spring buying season of 2010, a tax credit is available to first-time buyers as well as repeat buyers who have been in their homes for at least five years.

For those wanting to build a new home, it is a good idea to get shopping soon! A new home can take a few months to build and it is a good idea to sign a contract in early 2010 to get closed by the deadline. You can visit [www.stlhba.com](http://www.stlhba.com) and click on the yellow box that says "search for new homes now!"

Helping families think through how to make choices about homeownership is important and involves recognizing both the potential rewards and risks of owning. Given careful consideration, families can make decisions likely to benefit them, and policy makers can work towards viable solutions even during challenging economic times.

The combination of high housing affordability, low interest rates and affordable pricing make now the best time to buy a new home. Visit [www.stlhba.com](http://www.stlhba.com) and click on the yellow box that says "search for new homes now" to find your dream home today!