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Center Section

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Thanks to the generosity of Pella Windows, RIBA's 3rd Annual Networking Barbecue, set for June 9th, will be FREE for members and non-members.

**RIBA thanks
our Home
Show sponsors
and donors!**

This year's Home Show was the biggest and best in years, thanks to the hard work of many! See the complete list.

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**R.I. must
triple housing
production**

A new report says that Rhode Island needs some 3,400 new housing units a year to keep up with demand over the next 10 years.

Page 2

**RIBA joins
membership
drives**

RIBA will participate in the National Association of Home Builders membership drives in May and September, with benefits for current members who recruit.

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Home Show kickoff



U.S. Sen. Jack Reed cuts the ribbon at the Ultimate Solar Treehouse to open the Rhode Island Builders Association's 2016 Home Show, March 31st at the Rhode Island Convention Center. At left rear is RIBA President Roland J. Fiore. Front, from left, are RIBA Past President Robert J. Baldwin, Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, Sen. Reed, Congressman James R. Langevin, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse and Donald Hamel of Andersen Corp., a prime Home Show sponsor. Story and photos on pages 6-10.

Agrawal is state's new chief planner

New head of Division of Planning comes to Rhode Island from Bridgeport, Connecticut

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Parag Agrawal, planning director for the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut, for the past two years, will be the new head of the Rhode Island Division of Planning, Dept. of Administration (DOA), Director Michael DiBiase has announced.

Mr. Agrawal will replace longtime Associate Direc-



Parag Agrawal

tor for the Division of Planning Kevin Flynn, who retired in December.

Coming to Rhode Island with nearly 15 years of planning experience, Mr. Agrawal has been planning director in Bridgeport since March 2014. Previously he was senior planner for the Planning Department of Montgomery County, Maryland; long-range planner in the Office of Planning and Zoning of Anne Arundel County, Maryland; and assistant historic preservation officer for the City of Columbus,

see *PLANNER*...page 28

Report: R.I. must triple production to meet housing needs by 2025



Rhode Island Housing (RIH) Executive Director Barbara Fields conducts a press briefing on April 5th in advance of the release of the report *Projecting Future Housing Needs*, produced by HousingWorks RI at Roger Williams University. At left is RIH Chairman Nicholas P. Retsinas. Also present are RIH Director of Government Relations and Policy Amy Rainone, HousingWorks RI Interim Director Robert F. Staples Jr. and HousingWorks RI Research and Policy Director Jessica Cigna.

Some 3,400 new affordable units per year needed over the next 10 years.

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Affordable-housing production in Rhode Island must triple between now and 2025 if supply is going to keep up with demand.

That's the gist of the just-released *Projecting Future Housing Needs Report* from HousingWorks RI at Roger Williams University.

"By 2025 the statewide number of households is projected to increase by 12 to 13 percent (an increase of 47,441 to 52,853) and household size is projected to decline.... Accommodating those new households is projected to create a demand for 34,600 new housing units by 2025...." the report states.

"That means we need about 3,400 new housing units per year over the next 10 years," said Rhode Island Housing (RIH) Executive Director Barbara Fields during a press briefing at RIH headquarters in Providence on April 5th.

"We know that output is quite high, but we have achieved that in the past, notably in the 1980s, when we produced up to 6,000 units per year at times," she added.

Building permit figures since 2008 show housing production of 1,000 units or less per year in Rhode Island.

"The Rhode Island housing market was hit hard by the Great Recession. We were the first in and the last out," Ms. Fields said.

"By 2010, one in every 11 loans was seriously delinquent, over a 1,000 percent increase in just five years."

We have "turned a corner," she added.

"The economy has begun to rebound. Today in Rhode Island, the demand for housing is high while the supply is much too low. This imbalance simply makes the cost of housing too expensive for what our residents earn. This report provides critical insight into what the future needs of Rhode Islanders will be, and that information will allow us to develop a plan to address those needs."

The report cites important factors of concern to the residential construction industry, notably the cost of construction in Rhode Island as an impediment to housing production. While it notes high costs in land, labor and materials, the report does recognize the added burden of excessive regulation. It also notes the need for higher densities.

"We have a lack of supply for both sin-

gle-family and multi-family units," Ms. Fields said.

At the press briefing, *The Rhode Island Builder Report* noted that the report does not address the need for upgraded and expanded sewer and water infrastructure to support the new housing units that are called for.

"We did not look at that in the report. But that's the next step in assembling a state housing strategy, when we look at the factors that need to go with the housing," Ms. Fields responded.

In general, the report finds that, under any growth scenario projected by experts, Rhode Island's population will increase between 3 and 5 percent from 2015 to 2025. The report also says that new housing demand will outpace population

see *HOUSING...* page 29

The Rhode Island

RI BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

builder report

Official publication of the
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since 1951

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LOOKING AHEAD!

♦ **May-June TBA - English as a Second Language in Construction** - An English as a second language course is now organizing. If you have Spanish-speaking employees, this course can increase their English vocabulary, help them understand the terms of codes and regulations, and complement their professional training. Contact Latino Outreach Coordinator Betty Bernal, bbernal@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *More information on page 19.*

♦ **May 5th and 20th: 5-Hour CRLB Pre-Registration Course** - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This course is required by the Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board for new contractors before they register. This course is not required if you have been registered within the previous 10 years. Cost: \$250. You must pre-register for this class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 19.*

♦ ***May 5: Mold Awareness for Contractors** - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 4 to 6 p.m. FREE for members, with a \$10 materials charge. \$45 for non-members, with a \$10 materials charge. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 19.*

♦ **May 9th: 4-Hour Lead-Safe Refresher Class** - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. FREE for members and their employees, with a \$40 materials/registration fee. \$75 for non-members, with a \$40 materials/registration fee. You must pre-register for this class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 20.*

May 10th: Fortified Evaluator Training - Become a Certified Fortified™ Home Evaluator. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. URI Narragansett Bay Campus, Coastal Institute Building (#26), Large Conference Room, 215 S. Ferry Rd., Narragansett 02882. \$600 for evaluator candidates, \$550 for others. For information, visit www.DISASTERSAFETY.org/fortified-evaluator-faqs/. To register, visit FORTIFIED.archtest.com.

♦ **May 17th: OSHA 3-Hour Refresher** - 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. This class will inform you about the most recent updates to OSHA regulations. FREE for members, with a \$10 materials charge. \$75 for non-members, with a \$10 materials charge. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 19.*

♦ **May 17th: The Lowdown on Contractors Liability Coverages** - 5-7 p.m., RIBA headquarters, East Providence. This insurance seminar with Chuck Lowe of the Builders Insurance Group is FREE and open to members and non-members. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 19.*

♦ **May 19th: RIBA Breakfast, New Member Orientation, Open House and Networking Event** - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, between 8 and 10 a.m. Participants may stay longer if they wish. This FREE event is held on the third Thursday of each month for new and current members who want to learn more about their member benefits and to meet the RIBA team. RSVPs are requested. To RSVP or if you or your company would like to sponsor a breakfast, please contact Cheryl Boyd at (401) 438-7400 or cboyd@ribuilders.org. *Related story on page 14.*

♦ **May 24th: First Aid CPR/AED class** - 5-9 p.m., RIBA headquarters, East Providence. RIBA members only. Class covers adult, child, infant choking and basic first aid, including protecting yourself and children in trauma treatment and recognition. FREE for members, with a \$30 materials and certification charge. To register, contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400. Class size is limited to 10. *Details on page 20.*

♦ **June 9th: 3rd Annual Networking Barbecue** - 4-7 p.m. at RIBA headquarters. **Sponsored by Pella Windows.** FREE for members and non-members thanks to Pella, but registration is required. For information and to register, contact Elizabeth Carpenter at (401) 438-7400 or ecarpenter@ribuilders.org.

♦ **August 5th: 66th Annual RIBA Clambake** - Noon to dusk at Francis Farm, Rehoboth, Mass. Watch for more information. To become a sponsor, contact Elizabeth Carpenter at (401) 438-7400 or ecarpenter@ribuilders.org. Premier Sponsors will have exhibit space at the Clambake.

♦ **September 12th: 26th Annual RIBA Golf Classic** - Warwick Country Club. Mass. Watch for more information. To become a sponsor, contact Elizabeth Carpenter at (401) 438-7400 or ecarpenter@ribuilders.org. Premier Sponsors will have exhibit space at the event.

**More information, registration and payment for most
RIBA events is available at RIBUILDERS.org.**

♦ Indicates a RIBA-sponsored event.

* Designates a course eligible for Rhode Island state-mandated continuing education credits. Contact RIBA for confirmation.

S Class will be taught in Spanish.

President's Message



Home Show now promotes our future workforce

As you will see from the extensive coverage in this issue of our monthly magazine, the Rhode Island Builders Association has just held what I believe was the most exciting and dynamic Home Show in its history. It was all made possible because of an unprecedented partnership between hundreds of talented and dedicated people, and it was an unmatched example of teamwork and leadership.

Over the past few years the Rhode Island Home Show has grown into a themed experience encompassing housing, the environment and energy.

The show has taken on the responsibility of educating the public on these three main issues, with the goal of illustrating how the future of housing will rely on us being good stewards of the environment and leaders in the efficient use of energy.

Now, going forward, a fourth category will emerge. This will

involve the Home Show as a promotion for, and presentation of, workforce development within the residential construction industry.

The partnerships, talents, teamwork and leadership that I mentioned earlier will all come together to teach not only the public but the next generation of carpenters, electricians and tradespeople about the virtues of our industry and the opportunities within it.

All that said, being a member of RIBA now puts you in the advantageous position of effecting the future of an industry, its youth and the public we serve.

It's an exciting time to be a part of it all!

To learn more about our workforce development efforts or to take part in them, please always feel free to contact RIBA at (401) 438-7400.



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Crowds, excitement, talented students highlight 2016 Home Show

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

It looked like the long-predicted crowds and excitement really did materialize at the Rhode Island Builders Association's 66th annual Home Show from March 31st to April 3rd!

In fact, show exhibit space was sold out for the first time in 10 years, according to RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio.

While final attendance figures weren't available as of this writing, the aisles were mobbed during the Home Show's four-day run at the Providence Convention Center.

Highlighting the week-long preparation for the show's main attractions were participation by some 300 students from 20 of Rhode Island's career and technical education (CTE) programs.

Students were well supervised, working with their instructors under the guidance of Louis Cotoia of Arnold Lumber Co. and Jesse Maynard of Maynard Construction.

"These students put together a masterpiece," Mr. Marcantonio stated, noting that there was extensive media coverage of the show and its highlighting of CTE.

Many students participated in the show itself as guides at attractions such as the Ultimate Solar Treehouse (handicapped-accessible thanks to an elevator from Home Healthsmith); the seven-room Interior Design Showcase; the Solar Showcase, in-



Crowds await the Home Show ribbon cutting on March 31st.

volving the electrical students; and the five-room Home Technology Showcase, sponsored by Cox Communications.

The student presence came from an unprecedented partnership between RIBA, the Real Jobs Rhode Island program, the Residential Construction Workforce Partnership (RCWP) and the CTE programs. At their own facilities, students constructed elements of four of the Home Show's major attractions, which donating suppliers then trucked to the Convention Center.

"I am so proud of these students," commented Michael Haynes

see HOME SHOW...page 25

Langevin praises R.I. construction workforce



Congressman James R. Langevin, left, with RIBA's Robert J. Baldwin at the Home Show on March 31st.

As we went to press, Congressman James. R. Langevin posted this on his blog:

Improving infrastructure is a priority that is directly linked with economic success. Quality infrastructure can make or break a destination when it comes to attracting new businesses or (helping) existing businesses grow. Strong infrastructure requires robust investment, but it also requires a talented workforce.

In Rhode Island, our construction workforce can't be beat. The talent of our design, construction and manufacturing professionals is on full display, year after year, at the Rhode Island Home Show. Hosted by the Rhode Island Builders Association, this year's Home Show did not disappoint. A solar treehouse, seven of Rhode Island's finest interior designers, energy-efficiency resources, and cutting-edge household products from the Rhode Island School of Design were all showcased.... Perhaps most impressively, more than 300 construction students participated in the show. As co-chair of the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, I know that on-the-job training is essential to building a successful career, and I'm thrilled to see so many Rhode Island students and businesses working together on that front.

The 66th Annual RIBA Home Show



Setup for the Home Show took nearly a week at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Here, career and technical education (CTE) students and their instructors assemble components of the Ultimate Solar Treehouse.



Working on Ultimate Solar Treehouse setup on the Monday before the Home Show are students from a number of CTE schools, supervised by their instructors and professional contractors.



Along with setting up the show's other main attractions, students also helped install the landscape and other natural features. Here's the contingent from the Narragansett High School Future Farmers of America chapter.



Sandy Brenner and son Eric Brenner of Smithfield High School welcome Sen. Jack Reed and Dr. Roy M. Seitsinger Jr., Westerly superintendent of schools, to the Ultimate Solar Treehouse.

Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives Nicholas A. Mattiello welcomes visitors to the Home Show. The speaker was one of the many dignitaries participating in the opening ceremonies and ribbon-cutting at the Convention Center on March 31st.



When it came to student involvement, three key players before, during and after the Home Show were Louis Cotoia of Arnold Lumber Co., center, who presents plaques honoring the contributions of Frederick Gill of the New England Institute of Technology, left, and Paul McConnell of the Rhode Island Dept. of Education.



Who won the People's Choice Award?



Ainsley Bonham of Judd Brown Designs, left, and Elise Fagnoli of Paradigm Media Consultants were the winners of the People's Choice Award. Their room at the Home Show's Interior Design Showcase featured Rhode Island-made furniture and decor.

Ainsley Bonham of Judd Brown Designs and Elise Fagnoli of Paradigm Media Consultants, also a Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) faculty member, won the People's Choice Award at the Rhode Island Home Show's Interior Design Showcase.

The women and their team also captured the Lifestyle Achievement Award. Their live-work space featured almost exclusively Rhode Island-created furnishings and décor. They created a room with the art, sculpture and furniture made by RISD artists and artisans.

The winning RISD team included Matt Cavallaro of Nest Homewares, Kevin Cunningham of Spirare Surfboards, Miles Endo of Studio Endo, Abby Martell, Dawn Oliveira, Anelise Schroeder, Leah K.S. Amick and Topher Gent of GENT Design Co.

Overall, seven designers created seven rooms with "coastal living" themes, each designer beginning with an empty white room. Visitors to the Interior Design Showcase cast their votes by dropping a shell into the container of their favorite designer. Other categories were decided by a panel of judges. Also receiving recognition were:

- Deborah DeCristofaro of DeCristo Design for Best Coastal Theme,
- Michelle Lee Parenteau of Michelle Lee Designs for Best Transformation,
- Melonie Monteiro of Cabot House for Best Use of Space and Best Trend Setting Design,
- Ally Maloney of Maloney Interiors for Best Use of Color,
- Janelle Photopoulos of Blakeley Interior Design for Most Creative Design.

-With thanks to Mary Cool and the R.I. School of Design



▲
Don Hamel of Andersen Corp., left, with Bill Hofius of Coventry Lumber.



▲
The Ultimate Solar Treehouse and Interior Design Showcase drew crowds throughout the show.



▲
As a child enjoys exploring the cement-mixer truck on display, here are Lori Santiago and Sue LaSalle of Consolidated Concrete Corp.

The 66th Annual RIBA Home Show



Throughout the show, employers and job seekers stopped by the Residential Construction Live Registration Event in the Convention Center lobby to sign up for the RCWPJOBS.com online Jobs Bank. Here RIBA Membership and Education Director Cheryl Boyd enrolls a potential employee.



Students Sean Vittum and Patrick McMahon helped with traffic control at the Treehouse and Solar Energy Showcase.



Ryan Cullen, a senior at Warwick Area Career and Technical Center, second from left, was helping out with other students at the Energy Expo. Ryan already has a job waiting for him at Sunwatt Solar. With him are Patrick Uth, Peter Hughes and Joseph Rand.



RIBA continues to be committed to career and technical education, and we thank all those who made this promotion possible!

-Executive Director John Marcantonio



Wendie Thibodeau and Mark McLaughlin staffed the Pawtucket Credit Union booth.



The 66th Annual RIBA Home Show

**The Rhode Island Builders Association thanks
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Home Show sells out for first time in 10 years, board told

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

It was a brief but busy agenda as the Rhode Island Builders Association's Board of Directors met on April 5th.

Executive Director John Marcantonio reported on the 66th Annual RIBA Home Show, noting that the event was sold out for the first time in 10 years.

He also thanked Louis Cotoia of Arnold Lumber Co., and Jesse Maynard of Maynard Construction, two RIBA board members, who oversaw setup of the main attractions at the Home Show.

Mr. Marcantonio also stated that Mr. Cotoia was at the Convention Center as he spoke, overseeing removal of the last Home Show elements.

He thanked them, and all those who contributed to the Home Show, for their commitment and dedication to RIBA.

"Without dedicated members like Lou and Jesse, these events could never take place. As for the Home Show, we will have all the statistics, surveys and other data by next month," Mr. Marcantonio noted.

"We do know that attendance was very strong. We know that there is growing attendance from affluent areas such as Bristol County, Massachusetts. Efforts to market the Home Show in the media are working very well," he said.

Offering special thanks to the suppliers, donors, sponsors and supporting trade as-



The Rhode Island Builders Association's Board of Directors listens to updates from Executive Director John Marcantonio at its April 5th meeting.

sociations, Mr. Marcantonio noted that, without their support, especially in transporting elements to and from the show floor, the event would not have been possible.

The executive director also commented on the success of the Home Show as a marketing effort for the state's career and technical education (CTE) programs. During the meeting, Membership and Education Director Cheryl Boyd played a Channel 10 News segment with R.J. Heim, demonstrating the extensive media coverage of the Home Show and the student participation.

"So many people saw this coverage that we had parents and their children walking up at the Home Show and asking to meet

the CTE students," said Mr. Marcantonio.

Education

Ms. Boyd presented a report on the progress of RIBA's education programs. The next major project is offering online courses through a new website: RIBA-EDUCATES.com, she explained.

"These will include approved classes that qualify for the continuing education credits for contractors, now required by the state."

Mr. Marcantonio noted that RIBA soon will apply for Phase 2 of the Real Jobs Rhode Island grant so the Residential Construction Workforce Partnership can continue its work of bringing skilled em-

see BOARD...page 29

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Member Profile: Arthur J. Lettieri

Becoming a success one step at a time!

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Dear old Benjamin Franklin might have been thinking of Arthur Lettieri when he said: "Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

That's because learning by doing, step by step, has been Arthur's hallmark.

"In the early '70s, my uncle bought an old building in Olneyville. He was in the jewelry business, and he wanted to use one part as a job shop and rent out the rest as commercial space."

Arthur was close to his uncle, who suggested that the 14 year-old watch the carpenters, and he might learn something.

"I did, and I found it very interesting," Arthur recalls. "In fact, I started helping them. And carpentry really clicked for me!"

One thing led to another.

"A few years later, my uncle wanted apartments upstairs. With what I'd picked up learning from the carpenters, he suggested that I go and gut the spaces for the apartments," Arthur says.

"If I ran into problems, he'd have someone come in and help me out."

Arthur agreed, and he credits that decision with getting him started as a professional carpenter. And it led to his first job.

"At 16 I had a job lined up with Rhode Island Custom Builders, a firm run by two brothers. I started as a laborer for this company, which did finishing and framing. I learned a lot!"

Then one of that company's foremen joined his own brother in a new company, and they asked Arthur to come with them.

"They got me into remodeling work, and I was able to learn that," Arthur remembers. "I worked for them quite a few years."

Then along came yet another job, where he added roofing and siding to his repertoire. Finally, in 1986, Arthur started off on his own, putting to use everything he'd learned: Finish carpentry, framing, decks, sheds, porches, insulation, wood siding, roofing, windows and doors. Today he generally works alone, but calls in



Arthur Lettieri

help with heavy jobs such as framing.

Arthur generally works in Rhode Island, with occasional jobs in nearby Massachusetts.

One of his biggest customers is the Tri-Town Community Action Agency, based in Johnston. Tri-Town is one of Rhode Island's community action programs (CAPs) which, among other things, helps low-income families through its home weatherization program.

Arthur learned insulation work and soon became a Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified contractor.

"Most of the work I do with CAP agencies is for elderly people. I do well with them because I work alone," Arthur states. "Sometimes the elderly get nervous when a crew of four or five people comes into their home."

Arthur says he has "weathered" the Great Recession's slow times well.

Seeing the need to continue learning through networking and professional education, Arthur joined the Rhode Island Builders Association early on, in 1987.

"The classes are very valuable for me. That and the information I get from RIBA, especially on code changes and legislation, makes my membership very valuable. You should never stop learning!"

Arthur J. Lettieri

President: Arthur J. Lettieri

RIBA member since: 1987

Focus: Residential remodeling

Serves: Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts

Founded: 1986

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Networking breakfasts continue at RIBA each month

WHEN: Thursday, May 19th, 8 to 10 a.m.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters,
450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members and non-members

FOR INFORMATION & TO RSVP: Contact Cheryl Boyd at
(401) 438-7400 or cboyd@ribuilders.org

More and more members are taking advantage of the Rhode Island Builders Association's FREE monthly Breakfast, New Member Orientation, Open House and Networking Event.

Held at RIBA headquarters on the third Thursday of every month, the event is FREE and open to both members and non-members.

The May event will take place on the 19th.

Members of the RIBA team will be on hand to answer questions about the many member benefits and how to use them, and to hear feedback. Participants also are able to meet industry peers, network, and will learn about their fellow members and what they do.

Many members have never visited the RIBA offices, and this Breakfast, New Member Orientation, Open House and Networking Event is a great opportunity to do so and to find out how things work at your trade association. The hot buffet includes eggs, bacon, home fries, fruit, coffee and more.

Non-members are also invited to stop by and learn about membership. Participants may stay past 10 a.m. if they wish, tour the RIBA offices and meet the staff. RSVPs are requested.

To RSVP, or if you or your company would like to sponsor a Breakfast, please contact Cheryl Boyd at (401) 438-7400 or cboyd@ribuilders.org. Sponsors are entitled to a display table at the event.



To Our Members

If any supplier or contractor member is hosting an event for contractors or subcontractors, please be aware that RIBA Membership and Education Director Cheryl Boyd, Membership Services Coordinator Elise Geddes or another member of the RIBA team would love to attend to represent the industry and provide information on RIBA membership and benefits.

**Contact Cheryl or Elise at (401) 438-7400
cboyd@ribuilders.org • egeddes@ribuilders.org**

Members can win big points

RIBA plunges into May, September membership drives

Win points and help your trade association during two national membership drives this year! The Rhode Island Builders Association will participate in May and September.

In membership recruiting, RIBA will compete for prizes with other National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) affiliates in its size category around the nation. The five prizes include \$2,500 for first place, down to \$500 for fifth place. Prizes would be applied to RIBA's member services.

What's in it for you?

As a RIBA member who recruits new members, you can earn double credits in NAHB's Spike member re-

cruiter program. (See NAHB.org for more information on the Spike Club).

Builder and Associate members earn double Spike credits if they recruit during one drive month, triple credits if the recruit during both drives. However, recruiting new affiliate members doesn't count toward RIBA's competition total and are not eligible for the Spike credit bonus.

Winners are determined based upon percentage growth of new builder and associate members during their competition month. For example, RIBA's recruitment result during May will be based on the percentage of new builder and associate members recruited during May when compared with its roster at the end of April.

Why be a Spike?

The real benefits are intangible: You are recognized for your contributions to the association and regarded as an accomplished and connected member. Additionally, Spikes receive:

- A coveted invitation to the biggest party of the year, the Spike Party at the International Builders Show[®],
- Increased visibility, recognition and networking opportunities at industry events,
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For more information, contact RIBA Membership and Education Director Cheryl Boyd at (401) 438-7400 or cboyd@ribuilders.org.



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OSHA Refresher

May 17th

WHEN: Thursday, May 17th, 7:30-10:30 a.m.

WHERE: RIBA headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy. #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members with a \$10 materials charge. \$75 for non-members with a \$10 materials charge.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

This class will get you up to date on the most recent changes to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Stay on top of changes to avoid costly fines.



Contractor Insurance

May 17th

WHEN: Thursday, May 17th, 5-7 p.m.

WHERE: RIBA headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy. #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members and non-members.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

Join Chuck Lowe of the Builders Group to get "The Lowdown on Contractors Liability Coverages." Learn what the small business owner needs to know about commercial insurance and how to avoid the pitfalls and problems that might occur.



New English course planned

Do you have Spanish-speaking employees?

A new English as a Second Language in Construction course is now being organized. Classes will take place in Providence at a location to be determined. Group I will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. Group II will meet Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

Make sure your Spanish-speaking employees are knowledgeable and safe on the jobsite with this and other Rhode Island Builders Association FREE Spanish-language courses to improve their business skills and information. For information on any Spanish-language class and to register, contact Betty Bernal at RIBA, (401) 438-7400 or bbernal@ribuilders.org.



5 Hour Pre-Registration Course

May 5th, May 20th

New contractors only

WHEN: Both dates, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914

COST: \$250

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

The Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB) now requires five hours of education for anyone who plans to register as a new contractor in Rhode Island. The course includes: Introduction to Construction Contracts, Introduction to Construction Codes and Standards, Introduction to Construction Regulations and Regulating Agencies, Introduction to Construction Business Principles and Practices, and Workplace Health and Safety. Pre-registration is required for admittance.

This course is not required if you have been registered within the previous 10 years.



Mold awareness

May 5th

WHEN: Thursday, May 5th, 4-6 p.m.

WHERE: RIBA headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy. #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members with a \$10 materials charge. \$45 for non-members with a \$10 materials charge.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: April 28th

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

Mold can be a prime source of health problems for homeowners or tenants, a prime source of lawsuits, and a real headache for contractors.

In this Mold Awareness Workshop with Lance Comeau of Rhode Island Analytical Labs, get the latest on this important and highly litigious topic. Subjects include: Introduction to mold and indoor air quality, basic health hazards associated with mold, potential locations of mold, monitoring and sampling of mold within buildings and HVAC systems, protecting yourself and others when working with mold, and good work practices when dealing with small-scale mold growth.





Lead licensing refresher

May 9th

WHEN: Monday, May 9th, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members and their employees, with a \$40 materials/registration fee. A \$75 charge for non-members and a \$40 materials/registration fee.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class.

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

This is a four-hour RRP refresher class with Scott Asprey of Risk & Safety Management, for contractors who have their lead renovator/remodeler certification and whose certificate is up for renewal.

Lead-hazard enforcement on residential jobsites is very strict, so keep your knowledge up to date!

The class will review lead-hazard controls and update attendees on any changes to state or federal regulations.

You must pre-register for this class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment.



CPR/First Aid Class

May 24th

WHEN: Tuesday, May 24th, 5-9 p.m.

WHERE: RIBA headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., East Providence

COST: FREE for members, with a \$25 materials and certification charge. \$50 for non-members, with a \$25 materials and certification charge.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: June 2nd

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org or call (401) 438-7400.

The Rhode Island Builders Association in May once again offers a basic first aid course that could save a life on your jobsite or in your home. It includes instruction in CPR/AED (cardiopulmonary resuscitation/automated external defibrillation) on adults, children and infants. AEDs are defibrillation machines.

The class also will help participants deal with choking in adults, children and infants. It will cover everything from protecting yourself and children to medical and trauma treatment and recognition.

Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited, so please register now.



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RIBA targets cost of construction as legislative session continues



Steven Carlino

The cost of construction in Rhode Island continues to be a top target for the Rhode Island Builders Association's legislative advocacy as the General Assembly's 2016 session continues.

We need more affordable housing, and the high cost of construction is preventing that. It's a matter of us, the residential construction professionals, educating our lawmakers and our home buyers, few of whom have experience in construction, about just what needs to be done to make housing af-

fordable.

It's a matter of getting all parties, home buyers, lawmakers and our industry, "on the same page."

Home buyers tend to shop by price in relation to their lifestyle and the neighborhoods they like. They try to balance what they

can afford against the amenities they want. Lawmakers, on the other hand, tend to focus on price alone while using housing to address social agendas. And we home builders have to try and balance it all.

It isn't easy, but the start to solving our state's affordable-housing shortage is for all parties to meet somewhere in the middle. That's what our Legislative Committee is trying to bring about.

Hand-in-hand with expanding the availability of affordable housing is maintaining and expanding the infrastructure that supports it, especially our drinking-water and sewer systems. These systems, especially in urban areas, are often very old – sometimes well in excess of a century. And they depend on outdated and even dangerous com-

see *LEGISLATION...* page 28



Robert J. Baldwin

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Industry groups petition court for review of OSHA silica rule

Eight construction industry organizations on April 4th filed a petition for review of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) controversial "final crystalline silica rule" with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

OSHA released the final rule on respirable crystalline silica on March 24th and the Construction Industry Safety Coalition (CISC) immediately announced that it had concerns.

The rule is meant to prevent workers from inhaling silica particles on the jobsite.

"It appears, upon initial review, that the 1,772-page final rule contains some of the same problematic provisions that the CISC previously identified and shared with the agency. CISC has been a highly engaged participant in the rulemaking process since OSHA put forth the proposed rule two and a half years ago," said a statement from the CISC, which includes the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

"NAHB has long advocated the importance of the rule being both technologically and economically feasible," said Edward Brady, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders

(NAHB), a home builder and developer from Bloomington, Ill.

"While we're still reviewing the final rule, we're concerned that it may not adequately address these issues and take into consideration real-world applications."

CISC maintains that "instead of crafting a new standard that the construction industry can comply with, administration officials have opted to set a new standard that is well beyond the capabilities of current air filtration and dust-removal technologies.... Our concern is that this new rule will do little to improve workplace health and safety...."

CISC is made up of 25 trade associations, representing all sectors of the construction industry.

For more information, contact Liz Thompson at NAHB, (202) 266-8495 or ethompson@nahb.org.

Meanwhile, the petitioning groups in the April 4th action include many state trade associations, and several national groups, including NAHB, plan to join the petition.

"The construction industry has raised numerous concerns about
see RULE...page 28



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R.I. students first in America to receive OSHA lead certifications

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Nine Rhode Island students have become the first in America to receive Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lead certifications.

Cesar Fajardo of the William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School, along with Christian Amparo, Andrew Baillargeon, Evan Bartholomy, Nicholas Beals, Zachary Burt, Damian Darling, Adam Guilbert and Jacob Larriviere of the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center (WACTC) received certificates from their instructor, Charles Myers of WACTC, on March 31st in ceremonies at Woonsocket High School (WHS).

Among the dignitaries present were Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott, director of the Rhode Island Dept. of Health; Woonsocket Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt; Dr. Patrick J. McGee, Woonsocket superintendent of schools; WACTC Director William Webb; WHS Assistant Principal Carnell Henderson, and James M. Bryson of the EPA's New England office.



Eight students from the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center (WACTC) and one from the William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School (Davies) have become the first high school students in the nation to receive certifications under the federal lead renovation, repair and painting (RRP) rule. Front row, from left, are Zachary Burt and Jacob Larriviere of WACTC, Cesar Fajardo of Davies, along with Adam Guilbert, Christian Amparo, Andrew Baillargeon, Nicholas Beals, Damian Darling and Evan Bartholomy of WACTC. Standing are, from left, WACTC Assistant Principal Carnell Henderson, Woonsocket Superintendent of Schools Patrick J. McGee, James M. Bryson of the EPA, Woonsocket Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt, and WACTC instructors Keith Thibeault and Charles Myers.

other officials.

"This is the first time this course has been offered to high school career and technical education (CTE) students anywhere in the nation," Mr. Myers said.

The course was very hands-on because that's what resonates with the younger students, he stated. That meant not only reading the course materials but also dressing in hazmat suits, installing lead-dust barriers and learning to use respirators.

Always enthusiastic to expand on a success, Mr. Myers is again working with DOH and EPA, this time to develop classes for older Woonsocket students to teach their younger counterparts about lead hazards in the home. He hopes to involve CTE students from all over the state.




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**The Rhode Island
Builder Report**

Three nab top honors at SkillsUSA competition

Career and technical education (CTE) students from around Rhode Island competed in the 2016 SkillsUSA competition, held at the Community College of Rhode Island Warwick Campus on March 24th. Several members of the Rhode Island Builders Association were among the judges.

Competition categories included carpentry, cabinet making, electrical construction and wiring, industrial motor controls, plumbing, masonry, teamworks, HVAC and architectural drafting. First place went to Brandon Major of the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center (WACTC), second place to Matthew Silva of the East Providence Career and Technical Center and third place to Derek Penta of WACTC. At right, carpentry students compete.







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HOME SHOW...from page 6

of the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center, one of many CTE instructors on hand to supervise before, during and after the show.

"Students worked hard, learning to work as a team, and they wanted to stay late. When they missed classwork and tests while they at the Convention Center, they made them up on their own time."

Even before visitors entered the Home Show floor, they couldn't miss the Residential Construction Workforce Partnership Live Registration Event for the new RCWP Jobs Bank, in the Convention Center lobby. Also in the lobby, several CTE programs had informational tables for potential students.

So successful was the effort to showcase the students as the residential construction industry's future workforce, that a number of students landed potential jobs after graduation.

The Home Show launched on Thursday, March 31st, with greetings from many dignitaries, including Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, Congressman James Langevin, Rhode Island House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello, Secretary of State Nelligor Gorbea, Office of Energy Resources Commissioner Marion Gold, Providence Mayor Jorge Alorza and Warwick Mayor Scott Avedesian.

The Home Show had many sponsors and partners, including Andersen Corp., Arnold Lumber Co., National Grid, the Rhode

Island Office of Energy Resources, the Rhode Island Nursery & Landscape Association, the American Association of Retired Persons, the American Automobile Association, Ann Clark Architect, Cabot House, Cox Communications, Lighting & Design by J&K Electric, RI Kitchen & Bath, Rhode Island Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association, the Rhode Island School of Design, Sunwatt Solar, Unilock, California Closets, CertaPro Painters, Civil CADD Services, Gil's TV and Appliances, Home Healthsmith, Kitchen & Countertop Center of New England.

RIBA also thanks the talented students and instructors from Central Falls High School, Chariho Area Career and Technical Center, Cranston Area Career and Technical Center, DelSesto Middle School, East Providence Area Career and Technical Center, Mount Hope High School, Narragansett High School, Newport Area Career and Technical Center, Ponagansett High School, Providence Career and Technical Academy, Regional Career and Technical Center at Coventry High School, Smithfield High School, Toll Gate High School, the William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School, Warwick Area Career and Technical Center, the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center, YouthBuild Providence, West Warwick High School and Westerly High School

RIBA also thanks the Residential Construction Workforce Partnership.

See the complete list of Home Show sponsors, donors and friends on page 10.



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Nicholas Mattiello

Speaker of the R.I. House of Representatives

Nicholas A. Mattiello (D-Cranston) was first elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives in November 2006. He was House majority leader from February 2010 until becoming speaker on March 25, 2014. He was re-elected to that post by his House colleagues in January 2015 for a two-year term. Speaker Mattiello is a 1981 graduate of La Salle Academy, a 1985 graduate of Boston College, with a bachelor of science degree in accounting, and a 1988 graduate of Suffolk University School of Law. A member of the Rhode Island Bar Association, he is a self-employed attorney with an office in Cranston.



THE BUILDER: Looking back at two years as speaker, what are your accomplishments when it comes to making Rhode Island more business-friendly?

MATTIELLO: I'm most proud of the several measures we have taken so far to make our tax structure much more competitive with neighboring states, in order to attract new businesses and retain and grow existing companies in Rhode Island.

This includes lowering our corporate tax rate from 9 percent to 7 percent, the lowest rate in the Northeast. We also reduced the corporate minimum tax, paid by about 60,000 businesses, from \$500 to \$450, and we eliminated the sales tax that businesses previously paid on their electric, natural gas and heating fuel bills.

We also raised the estate-tax exemption from \$921,655 to \$1.5 million, eliminating the "cliff" provision so families will pay taxes only on the amount above that threshold.

Finally, we've approved a package for our Commerce Corp. of Rhode Island to administer economic development incentives and real estate tax breaks to attract companies and spur economic growth.

THE BUILDER: What progress in this regard do you see for the 2016 General session?

MATTIELLO: I'm looking very closely at a further reduction to the corporate minimum tax. Lowering it to \$450 was a great start, but I think we need to reduce it further, thereby reducing the cost for our small businesses, which dominate the Rhode Island market.

I'm also looking carefully at a further increase in the estate tax exemption in order to keep people in Rhode Island who might want to retire to other states with higher estate tax credits. There are several other pro-business measures that we will be considering before the budget is enacted in June.

THE BUILDER: How would you characterize your own relationship with the business community?

MATTIELLO: I enjoy an open dialogue and exchange of ideas with the business community. The people working in the trenches often know their particular industries the best, and I value the input they provide.

The Rhode Island Builders Association is one of many organizations I listen to on a regular basis. I meet regularly with the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, the Rhode Island

Business Coalition, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce, to name a few. And I make several site visits to businesses in our state.

THE BUILDER: Please comment on the Real Jobs Rhode Island program in general and the Residential Construction Workforce Partnership in particular.

MATTIELLO: The Real Jobs Rhode Island initiative has been a great example of a working collaboration with industry employers, higher educational institutions, labor, government and several other partners to ensure that Rhode Island companies have the right talent pool trained with the skill sets needed to fill local jobs.

This grant program is funded with both state and federal dollars, and awards are provided when an industry partnership and workforce strategies have been identified in a strategic plan and then carried out.

I'm pleased to see RIBA and industry partners come together and announce the Residential Construction Workforce Partnership (RCWP), to launch a website with information on available jobs for both employers and potential employees (RCWPJOBS.com).

see *INTERVIEW...next page...*

INTERVIEW...from previous page

Recruiting great talent helps the employees and ensures the employer's success in the marketplace.

THE BUILDER: Can you comment on the importance of career and technical education (CTE) for the future of a skilled workforce in Rhode Island?

MATTIELLO: In 2014 I co-sponsored the CTE reform legislation. This law provides an integrated career pathway to respond to the needs of businesses, as well as emerging industries. Students should be able to continue to select trade industries that can provide good-paying jobs here in Rhode Island.

THE BUILDER: What is your pro-business agenda going forward?

MATTIELLO: I will continue to enact a budget that focuses on improving our economy through an improved tax structure and pro-business initiatives. I'm working collaboratively with Gov. Gina Raimondo and the Senate to continue to move our state forward. I believe that the governor included many important themes in the budget that she presented to the General Assembly, such as access to education and workforce training, shoring up our infrastructure, and investing in school construction and renovation.

I certainly will include in the budget the governor's initial proposal to restructure the state's unemployment insurance tax rate, which for years has been among the highest in the country.

THE BUILDER: How do your efforts mesh with regional, especially Rhode Island's place in the Greater Boston economy, and national efforts to improve the business climate?

MATTIELLO: I recognize that many innovation industries in Greater Boston are flourishing. We need to change with the times and attract companies where academics, researchers, businesses people and entrepreneurs can collaborate.

I'm extremely encouraged by many of the exciting growth opportunities that exist on the former I-195 land in downtown Providence. We have some of the finest universities and hospitals in the country and our potential is limitless.

RI
BTA

Green builders invited to participate in Solar Home Design Contest

Do you design and/or build "green" homes?

Then the 2016 Solar Home Design Contest could be for you. If your work involves homes that use solar energy to provide electricity, heat and domestic hot water, and that fit traditional New England architectural designs, you are eligible.

That's the word from Robert W. Chew of R.W. Chew Co., Inc., one of the Rhode Island solar-energy pioneers who will judge the contest this fall.

The Grand Prize winner will receive a \$1,000 in cash. Three other winners will receive \$100 each, and all winners will be recognized in ecoRI News.

The contest, sponsored by Newport Solar, aims to promote public awareness of passive and active solar energy technologies and design concepts used in single-family homes. Another intent is to educate the next generation of architects, designers and home builders about solar home design.

Entrants will have access to tips from solar energy experts on how to incorporate different solar energy technologies into their designs.

In addition to Mr. Chew, Michael F. Smith of M.F. Smith Associates and Gary Graham of GMI Architects will be contest judges. Presenter of the design competition and co-promoter of the event is ecoRI News.

See more information and download a contest application at ecoRI.org/solarcontest. Entries close on September 30th, and winners will be announced by October 15th.

RI
BTA

NAHB backs housing finance reform plan

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) on March 23rd released a statement favoring *A More Promising Road to GSE Reform* a proposed reform of federal housing finance, assembled by a group of private experts.

"The strategy...is a thoughtful, serious proposal that contains a number of elements along the lines of a white paper released by NAHB last year," commented NAHB Chairman Ed Brady.

"We believe that any plan must transition Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into a private-sector-oriented system where the federal government's role is clear, but its exposure limited. Both plans underscore the need for Congress and this administration to stop kicking the can down the road and move soon to pass comprehensive housing finance reform," Mr. Brady stated.

"Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac cannot remain in conservatorship indefinitely. It's time for this government to act now."

-Paul Eno

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LEGISLATION...from page 21

ponents such as lead pipes.

So another thrust for our 2016 advocacy is just this: Finding the considerable funding we need to improve this infrastructure. As well as being crucial for housing, it's a public health necessity.

To learn more about RIBA's legislative advocacy and how you can help, contact Executive Director John Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400 or jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org.



PLANNER...from page 1

Ohio.

He was to assume his new post in Rhode Island on April 18th.

"DOA is fortunate to have a talented and multifaceted planning division," Mr. Agrawal said. "Additionally, I think Rhode Island has a unique collection of assets and potential, and I look forward to working with the Division of Planning and other state agencies to strengthen the state's economy and to further enhance the quality of life for residents through the creation of employment, transportation and housing opportunities."

In a statement, DOA said Mr. Agrawal "has a history of successful collaboration with state and federal agencies on various strategic planning and community revitalization projects."

The statement singled out Bridgeport's waterfront revival.

Under Mr. Agrawal's "leadership, the Bridgeport Planning Dept. launched its first-ever comprehensive waterfront plan to transform the city's 24 miles of coastline into greenways and mixed-use destinations in order to promote more livable, walkable and flood-resilient communities."

Mr. DiBiase called Bridgeport "a national model in sustainability and green planning. We look forward to tapping into Parag's experience as we continue to work on plans for the physical, economic and social development of the state."

Mr. Agrawal holds a certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners, a master's degree in city and regional planning from Ohio State University, and a bachelor's degree in architecture from Aligarh Muslim University in India.

"I also thank former Associate Director Flynn for his service and acting Associate Director Jared Rhodes for all of his hard work in the interim," Mr. DiBiase stated.

Watch *The Rhode Island Builder Report* for an in-depth interview with Mr. Agrawal once he has settled in.



RULE...from page 22

the OSHA proposal, but the agency failed to address many of these issues when promulgating the final rule," an NAHB statement said.

The petitioning groups echo NAHB's concerns about the rule being infeasible.

"This and other final rule provisions display a fundamental misunderstanding of the real world of construction. The construction industry petitioners continue to be active participants in the rule-making process and are dedicated to promoting healthy and safe construction jobsites," a statement said.



HOUSING...from page 2

growth, and anticipates a 12 to 13 percent increase in the number of households. The report predicts that demand also will be driven by a large growth in sub-populations that tend to have lower incomes – namely millennials and seniors.

“Companies looking to expand or relocate consider how well they will be able to retain and attract their workforce, and a key part of doing so is ensuring that employees of all income levels have high-quality housing opportunities,” said state Commerce Secretary Stefan Pryor.

According to the report, the cost of housing has become a mainstream issue over the last 10 years, affecting all income brackets. The report estimates that many Rhode Islanders already pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing, and that more than half the increase from 2000 to 2012 hit households earning more than \$57,700 annually.

“At Roger Williams University (RWU), we have doubled-down on our commitment to working with communities across Rhode Island to address the most pressing needs,” RWU President Donald J. Farish said.

“A cornerstone of the University’s community-engagement efforts is to graduate broadly educated and highly skilled individuals, many of whom we hope will remain in Rhode Island after graduation. To do that, we must be equally invested in ensuring access to affordable housing, and we look forward to our continued partnerships with HousingWorks RI and Rhode Island Hous-

ing to mitigate the housing challenges facing Rhode Islanders now and in the future.”

To learn more, HousingWorks RI’s full report can be found at: <http://bit.ly/1SQ7gJt>



BOARD...from page 12

employees to employers in the industry.

He also reported on the progress of the proposed statewide guidelines for permit fees.

Robert J. Baldwin, co-chairman of RIBA’s Legislative Committee, offered an update on the association’s legislative advocacy for the 2016 General Assembly session.

The board approved the applications of 18 new members, the most approved at one meeting in nearly 10 years, Mr. Marcantonio said. He praised the work of the RIBA membership and the entire staff for their recruiting and retention efforts. He noted that members are realizing the value of RIBA’s advocacy and strength in numbers.

RIBA will participate in the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) national membership drive in May and September. *Related story on page 14.*



**For membership information
contact Cheryl Boyd or Elise Geddes
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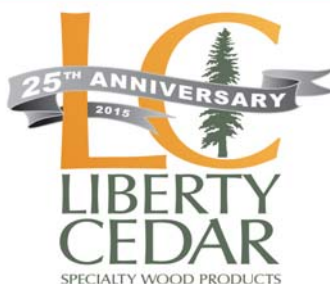
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