Award-Winning Monthly Magazine of The Rhode Island Builders Association

# Hurricanes a perfect storm for lumber prices

Storms, tariffs and a trucker shortage add up to bad numbers for housing costs.

The

Rhode

Island

Builders and remodelers are advised to brace for a rougher ride when it comes to already-increasing lumber prices.

Even before Hurricanes Harvey and Irma devastated parts of Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) was urging the Trump Administration to reduce or eliminate tariffs on imported lumber as one way to reduce construction costs.

The hurricanes' storm surges have now reached the lumber industry. As of early October, *Timber Processing* magazine was reporting an uptick of 10 to 15 percent in plywood and lumber products. And that number could continue to rise.

"It's not just about the tariffs, it's about the natural disee LUMBER ...page 29

## Will lead RIBA into 2018

## Caldwell team re-elected



President David A. Caldwell Jr.

By Paul F. Eno Editor



Vice President Timothy A. Stasiunas

"I'm happy to tell you that the state of our associa-

With that brief statement, David A. Caldwell Jr. of

tion is very strong, we have a firm commitment to our

industry and our state, and we should all be very proud."

Caldwell and Johnson Inc. began his second term as

president of the Rhode Island Builders Association.



Treasurer Carol A. O'Donnell

Secretary Louis Cotoia Jr.

Looking on were over 150 members and guests. It was October 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Rhode Island Builders Association was holding its 2017 Annual Meeting at the Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown.

Consolidated Concrete Corp. and Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center generously sponsored an open bar.

see ANNUAL MEETING ... page 6

November 2017

FEATURED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER Center Section

#### RIBA online courses fully operational

Online courses, all of which fulfill statemandated continuingeducation requirements, are now available at RIBAeducates.com.

Pages 4, 18 and 19

#### Committee tackles housing roadblacks

RIBA's president is serving on a special legislative committee on affordable housing.

Page 2

#### Blower-door testing gets real

Blower-door testing for new homes has been required in Rhode Island for some time, but the results didn't count. Soon they will.

Page 23

#### RIBA Board looks toward

#### new prograns

The RIBA Board of Directors is contemplating new services, including a possible safety program with its own inspectors, and its own training school for members' employees.

Page 12

66 Years of Informing Rhode Island's Residential Construction Industry

## Spotlight: Solving the Housing Crisis

# Legislative panel reviews roadblocks to affordable housing

Cost of construction in Rhode Island is on the panel's agenda.

#### By Paul F. Eno Editor

While the issue of construction costs in Rhode Island hasn't been dealt with yet, the Special Legislative Commission to Study the Low and Moderate Income Housing Act will tackle the matter.

That's the word from Rep. Shelby Maldonado (D-Central Falls), who chairs the commission.

"The commission hasn't focused on that question yet, but one of our goals is to look at the whole process – everything that's standing in the way of affordable housing,"

# The Rhode Island

#### Official publication of the Rhode Island Builders Association since 1951

Officers of the Rhode Island Builders Association

	David A. Caldwell Jr. Timothy A. Stasiunas			
Treasurer				
Secretary	Louis Cotoia Jr.			
The Rhode Island Builder Report				
Publishing Director	. John Marcantonio			
Editor	. Paul F. Eno			

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David A. Caldwell Jr., president of the Rhode Island Builders Association, belongs to the 14-member commission.

"We've done a brief overview of the costs associated with construction, but we will go into more depth," Rep. Maldonado added.

In the meantime, the commission has been looking at Rhode Island's aging housing stock, along with which municipalities have actually reached the 10 percent affordable-housing benchmark, as set by the state's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act over 20 years ago.

"The problem of aging housing stock is acute, especially in the urban areas of Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls and Woonsocket," Rep. Maldonado stated. "As for municipalities that have reached the 10 percent mandate, I was shocked to see that only five of them have."

Those communities are Woonsocket, Central Falls, New Shoreham, Pawtucket and Newport. As for the others, the commission is looking at ways to help them achieve that 10 percent goal.

"Communities are seeing cost issues with the populations that need this housing. The communities receive no assistance for the people they are taking in, many of whom have social and financial challenges. We are looking at all possible answers."

A first step, according to Rep. Maldonado, has been to get the smaller communities involved with the commission, so their input can be heard first-hand.

"I decided to have two commission



Rep. Shelby Maldonado

members from towns that have fewer than 35,000 people, and have both political parties represented. Together, we have a way to go when it comes to addressing the state's housing issues."

The Special Legislative Commission to Study the Low and Moderate Income Housing Act was created by a House resolution, introduced by Rep. Maldonado in 2016. Other lawmakers who serve on the commission are Blake A. Filippi (R-New Shoreham) and Michael A. Morin (D-Woonsocket). Woonsocket Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt also belongs to the panel.

The commission has its work cut out, Rep. Maldonado stresses.

"Nationally, if I had to use a letter grade, Rhode Island would receive an 'F' when it comes to housing affordability."



## In the News

# Furey named CRLB chairman

Thomas E. Furey of Furey Roofing & Construction Co., Inc., has been named chairman of the Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB), Executive Director George W. Whalen has announced.

Mr. Furey's appointment comes after the retirement of Edgar N. Ladouceur of the Stormtite Co., a past president of the Rhode Island Builders Association, who served as CRLB chairman for almost 24 years.



Mr. Furey holds a bachelor's degree in business

Thomas E. Furey

from Rhode Island College, and has operated Furey Roofing & Construction Co. since 1988. He holds the NRCA Facilitator title from the National Roofing Contractors Association, is a Registered Roof Consultant (RRC), a Registered Roof Observer (RRO), and a Certified Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA).

Assuming the post of CRLB vice chairman is Eric J. Wishart of Civil CADD Services Inc., based in Lincoln. Mr. Wishart earned his civil engineering degree from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in 1990.

#### Ladouceur's long service

Mr. Ladouceur, president of RIBA from 2004-2006 and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, was first appointed to the then-named Contractors' Registration Board when it was established in 1991. He assumed the chairmanship in 1993.

While he will continue to follow the CRLB's activities, Mr. Ladouceur cited his own increased responsibilities, no-tably as a member of the Warwick City Council, for his retirement.

He heads the Warwick-based Stormtite Co., and remains a consistently active member of RIBA.



The CRLB, which now has 17 members, regulates contractors in Rhode Island, and handles claims against contractors by property owners who wish to settle matters out of court. Most recently, it mandated continuing education for contractors (see page 18), and

is studying the possibilities for contractor licensing. For more information, visit CRB.ri.gov.

# Construction Loans



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## **RIBA** Calendar of Events

## LOOKING AHEAD!

**ONOvember 2<sup>nd</sup>: 8 Hour Lead-Safe Remodeler/Renovator Course** - 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., RIBA Headquarters, East Providence. Course is FREE for members with a \$40 materials/registration fee, \$110 for non-members with a \$40 materials/registration fee. This course is required to obtain or renew a Lead Safe Remodeler/Renovator Certification, which is necessary for work in all pre-1978 buildings in Rhode Island. No admittance without pre-registration and payment. To register, contact Sheila Mc-Carthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 19.* 

♦ November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Deadline for advertising in the Rhode Island Builders Association's 2018 Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide: Details on page 10.

**ONOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>: State-Mandated Continuing Education for Contractors - 5 Credit Hours - Topic is Deck Codes.** Details on page 18.

**November 16<sup>th</sup>: Rhode Island Mortgage Bankers Association, Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers:** RIBA members are invited. Guest speaker is mortgage market expert Barry Habib. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick. Cocktails 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. \$95 per person. For information and to register, contact Carolyn Dion-Motta at (401) 421-2338, info@rimba.org, or visit Rimba.org.

**S November 18<sup>th</sup>: 8 Hour Lead-Safe Remodeler/Renovator Course in Spanish** - Sponsored by Real Jobs Rhode Island. To be held at RIBA Headquarters, East Providence. Course is FREE. This course is required to obtain or renew a Lead Safe Remodeler/Renovator Certification, which is necessary for work in all pre-1978 buildings in Rhode Island. For more information, times and to register, contact Betty Bernal, bbernal@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 837-7437.

ONovember 30<sup>th</sup>: State-Mandated Continuing Education for Contractors - 5 Credit Hours - Topic is OSHA Safety Review. Details on Page 18.

**S December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>: OSHA 10-Hour Course in Spanish** - Sponsored by Real Jobs Rhode Island. To be held at RIBA headquarters, East Providence. Course is FREE. The course is geared to train employees in OSHA construction standards. It highlights the areas of major safety concerns, with the intent to reduce accidents on the job site. Each person completing the course will receive a copy of the OSHA Standard 29 CFR Part 1926 and an OSHA-10 certification card. For more information, times and to register, contact Betty Bernal, bbernal@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 837-7437.

Opecember 12th: Annual RIBA Christmas Party - Squantum Club, East Providence. Begins 5:30 p.m. Details on page 17.

January 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>: International Builders Show and National Association of Home Builders Convention - Orlando, Florida. Visit Buildersshow.com. Details on page 17.

April 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: Rhode Island Home Show, with the Garden & Flower Show - Sponsored by the Rhode Island Builders Association. Exhibit space and annual RIBA *Directory* advertising on sale now. *Details on page 10*.

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.

## Take RIBA classes online at RIBAeducates.com

Visit RIBAEducates.com for access to 24-7 continuing education!

Online courses include Scaffold Safety, Workplace Safety, Confined Spaces, Ladder Safety and more, each worth one credit hour of state-mandated continuing education. Just as with RIBA's on-site courses (see pages 21 and 22), online courses are FREE of tuition charges for members and their employees. <u>Just use your coupon at the online checkout.</u> <u>NEED A COUPON CODE? CALL RIBA AT (401) 438-7400.</u> Non-members: \$12 per course. For information about online or on-site courses: Contact Sheila McCarthy smccarthy@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400.



# **President's Message**

# RIBA is dynamic because of our members

David A. Caldwell Jr.

It was gratifying to see a large turnout of our membership at the Rhode Island Builders Association's Annual Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I'm happy to report that the state of your association is strong, and that all measurable indications support the premise that RIBA is continuing to gain strength.

The Annual Meeting is required by our by-laws as the yearly event to formally conduct certain business, such as the election of new Board of Director members and the swearing in of officers.

It is also a time to recognize member contributions on behalf of the association. These include our lumberyards and prime suppliers, who readily sponsor our events and support the efforts of the association without fail and at every opportunity. Their financial support and resource commitments are invaluable. We also recognize many individual RIBA members for their contributions on behalf of the association.

It's truly amazing, and more than a little humbling, to see how many people dedicate their time, and often a lot of it, to our association, across a very wide spectrum of activities. No matter what the request, with a phone call, there is invariably a RIBA member who has the capacity to support it.

There are too many to name in this message, and in the attempt to do so, I would invariably forget someone. I refer you to the main Annual Meeting story, beginning on page 6. But there is one story that I would like to tell this month about a specific individual and his contributions to RIBA.

#### Insurance inroads

Insurance has always been problematic to our industry. Several years ago, the idea was floated that RIBA should establish its own insurance brokerage for the benefit of its members. At the time, it was assumed to be a difficult undertaking - but no one knew how hard it would truly be, and how entrenched the insurance industry was in our state.

Nevertheless, Ken Jones and Bob Baldwin undertook the challenge, while Bob was RIBA's president. Given that Bob was, is, and always will be doing about a hundred other things on behalf of RIBA (we will return to Bob's unmatched contributions in a later message, and in honor of Bob, it will be a long message), it fell to Ken to be the subject-matter expert on insurance.

Ken had been active and involved in RIBA for many years. When asked to spearhead the formation of the insurance subsidiary, Ken said "yes," and quietly went about the business of doing what had to be done - which was basically navigating a minefield of regulatory agencies and insurance bureaucracies that move at a glacial pace when they are moving quickly.

Ken went about the business carefully, prudently, and always with RIBA's best interests as a guide, even if at times it felt like he was wading ashore in the first wave at Iwo Jima (but we remember how that one ended). What is not widely known is that Ken was the leading candidate to be RIBA secretary at the time. He declined to pursue the



Ken Jones

position, choosing the very difficult mission of spearheading the formation of the insurance company. Had he chosen differently, he would have been elected secretary, and he would be your RIBA president this very day.

I tell this story for a couple of important reasons. First, a phrase often heard among our members, and is now being heard more, is "I will do whatever is best for RIBA." From my days in the Marine Corps, this is what we referred to as commitment to the mission first. The success of the unit is far more important than that of the individual. It's why Bill Belichick and Tom Brady are so successful - the unrelenting focus is on the team first. It is the primary reason why RIBA is where we are today.

Second, it's the concept of paying it forward - thinking longterm. Another Marine Corps concept: Take care of the next person down the line, even if you don't even know them. Members from previous generations of RIBA, many long passed, left this association strong, and left it better than they found it. We are carrying on that tradition.

The Builders Insurance Group will have a generational impact on our industry, and continue to support RIBA, our members, and our industry for generations into the future long, after we are gone. And it's the volunteer commitment of our members that gets this done.

Finally, all these things become what we called in the Marine Corps, a "force multiplier." The best analogy in sports would be the concept of "momentum." RIBA has it, and it's gaining steam.

To wrap up this message, I would like to reiterate that our association is strong and morale is high. We are in a good place. We can remain there, or we can marshal all of this energy and all of our resources, and continue to grow our advocacy on behalf of consumers, housing, the industry, and the needs of our state.

The opportunity is there, and the need is there. It's my nature to pursue the latter course, and there's much to discuss in the year ahead.



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## RIBA Happenings

ANNUAL MEETING....from page 1



*Immediate Past President Roland J. Fiore, right, installs President David A. Caldwell Jr. for his second term.* 

Special guests included Dean Harrington of the Rhode Island Mortgage Bankers Association, and Brenda L. Marchwicki of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors<sup>®</sup>, both RIBA legislative advocacy partners.

Also re-elected at the meeting were Vice President Timothy A. Stasiunas of The Stasiunas Companies, Treasurer Carol A. O'Donnell of CRM Modular Homes, and Secretary Louis Cotoia Jr. of P.S.I. Property Maintenance/Arnold Lumber Co.

Elected as local directors, with terms expiring in 2020, were: David C. Baud of Baud Builders Inc., Caroline Calcagni of Calcagni & Sons Inc./Calson Corp., Joseph A. Casali of Joe Casali Engineering Inc., Robert E. DeBlois Jr. of DeBlois Building Co., Michael L. DeCesare of DeCesare Building Co., Sean Finnegan of Coventry Lumber Co., Thomas Kelly of Ecologic Spray Foam Insulation Inc., and Alexander A. Mitchell of Meridian Custom Homes Inc.

Elected to the board for the first time, as a local director, was Jhonny Leyva of Heroica Construction.

Approved for nomination as national directors were: John Bentz of The Property Advisory Group, David A. Caldwell Jr. of Caldwell and Johnson Inc., Felix A. Carlone of F.A. Carlone & Sons, Louis Cotoia Jr. of P.S.I. Property Management/Arnold Lumber Co., Thomas E. D'Angelo of Terry Lane Co./Progressive Realty Group, Roland J. Fiore of South County Sand & Gravel Co., Stephen Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald Building & Remodeling, Carol O'Donnell of CRM Modular Homes, and Timothy A. Stasiunas of The Stasiunas Companies.

Approved for nomination as alternate national directors were: Jason DaPonte of Sansiveri, Kimball & Co., David Whitney of Arnold Lumber Co., Eric Wishart of Civil CADD Services Inc., James P. Tavares of James P. Tavares Construction Inc., Jesse Maynard of Maynard Construction BRC Inc., Jose Marcano of JM Painting LLC., and Kenneth Jones of Ken Jones Construction Inc.

Re-elected as National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) state representative was Robert J. Baldwin of R.B. Homes Inc., with James Deslandes of Deslandes Construction Inc. elected as *To next page...* 

## RIBA Happenings: 2017 Annual Meeting



Immediate Past President Roland J. Fiore installs new and re-elected officers and members of the Board of Directors. From left are Local Director Jhonny Leyva, Treasurer Carol O'Donnell, Secretary Louis Cotoia Jr., with Local Directors Thomas Kelly, Robert E. DeBlois, Sean Finnegan, Alexander A. Mitchell and Michael L. DeCesare.



President Caldwell briefly addresses the well-attended meeting, held at Quidnessett Country Club, North Kingstown.



Past President Steven Gianlorenzo swears in officers of RIBA's Professional Women in Building Council: President Carol O'Donnell, right, and Secretary Jackie Pagel.

alternate state representative.

Elected as state director was John Bentz of the Property Advisory Group Inc., with Thomas E. McNulty of E.A. McNulty Real Estate elected as alternate state director. Anyone approved for nomination for national office at the Annual Meeting will be elected and installed at the International Builders Show and National Association of Home Builders Convention, January 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> in Orlando, Florida.

Also installed at the meeting were officers of RIBA's Professional Women in Building Council: President Carol O'Donnell, of CRM Modular Homes; and Secretary Jackie Pagel of Pella Windows. Both were sworn in by Past President Steven Gianlorenzo.

Immediate Past President Roland J. Fiore swore in President Caldwell and the other officers.

Also during the business portion of the meeting, members approved some minor bylaw changes to accommodate the Builders Insurance Group as a RIBA subsidiary.

#### Many thanks

After dinner, Executive Director John Marcantonio thanked RIBA's financial supporters, along with sponsors of RIBA events during the year, especially those who supported the Annual Clambake, the Golf Classic, the Annual Meeting and the Home Show. Included were Andersen Corp., represented by Donald Hamel; Riverhead Building Supply, represented by Kenneth Coury; Arnold Lumber Co., represented by David Whitney; Coventry Lumber, represented by William and Sean Finnegan; National Building Products; Pawtucket Credit Union, represented by William Dawson; Coast Realty; Consolidated Concrete, represented by George Pesce; and Steven Carlino of Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center.



Recognized for their companies' support for RIBA are, from left, Kenneth Coury of Riverhead Building Supply, Donald Hamel of Andersen Corp., David Whitney of Arnold Lumber Co., Sean Finnegan of Coventry Lumber Co., William Dawson of Pawtucket Credit Union and George Pesce of Consolidated Concrete Corp.

Also recognized were members who volunteered time for RIBA activities during the year, including Home Show Committee members Alley Maloney and Mary B. Cool of California Closets; John Bentz of Property Advisory Group, a key member of RIBA's Education and Workforce Development Committee; Eric Wishart of Civil CADD Services, who represents RIBA on several state boards and commissions; Thomas E. D'Angelo of the Terry Lane Co. and Timothy A. Stasiunas of the Stasiunas Companies, who are RIBA's point men on environmental issues; Joelle Rocha of

see RECOGNIZED...page 28
November 2017/7

#### www.ribuilders.org

RIBA Happenings: 2017 Annual Meeting

## The Rhode Island Builders Association thanks the generous sponsors who helped make our 2017 Annual Meeting such a success!

**Premier Plus** 

Consolidated Concrete Corp. • Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center Inc.

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## RIBA Happenings: Professional Women in Building

## **Professional Women in Building: PWB News** Congratulations to our incoming 2017-18 officers!



Treasurer Sophia Karvunis, Vice President Linda Bohmbach, Secretary Jacqueline Pagel, President Carol O'Donnell



In September we visited the Home Healthsmith Showroom to learn all about home accessibility and to network with other members. Thank you, Linda Bohmbach and Home Healthsmith for hosting! (Shown left) Carol O'Donnell of CRM Modular Homes experiencing the elevator demo, Sophia Karvunis (shown right) of Closests etc. going for a ride on the multi-level stair lift.



PAST EVENTS







## BA Member News

## Now including the Rhode Island Flower and Garden Show

## Home Show is on the horizon!

WHEN: Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> WHERE: Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence FOR INFORMATION & EXHIBIT SPACE: Contact Bob Yoffe at (800) 963-3395.

Everyone in the Rhode Island Builders Association knows it: The Rhode Island Home Show, now including the Rhode Island Flower and Garden Show, is a one-of-a-kind annual opportunity to market your business to thousands of new customers, and the show continues to grow for 2018!

Since 1948, RIBA has presented this landmark regional event, attended by thousands of your potential customers from all over southern New England, all interested in building or buying a new home, or in remodeling or decorating their existing homes.

Hundreds of companies have exhibited their products and services, and have met thousands of new clients, at the Home Show. RIBA members who exhibit receive a 5 percent discount on booth rates!

In 2018, along with incorporating the Flower and Garden Show, there will be many other new and exciting attractions to draw more and more visitors, many of whom need your products or services.

Attractions in recent years have included The Home Technology Experience; the 12-room Designers Show House, Landscape Solution Centers, a solar-powered greenhouse, a Kitchen and Bath Showcase, and the Energy Expo. There are myriad demonstrations and seminars, from cooking to art and furniture, to interest visitors.

There are new attractions every year. RIBA offers help with exhibit design, and there's a special section for members who would like to just "get their feet wet" and exhibit for a day or two rather than for all four days.

As an added bonus, you can meet and greet your future employees. Under the eyes of their instructors and trade professionals, hundreds of career and technical education (CTE) students of all trades engage with the show. *Related story on page 20*.

Now an integral part of the Home Show, CTE students not only build many of the primary attractions, but they also obtain work-based learning alongside consumers and industry representatives.

Find out more at Visit RIBAhomeshow.com, or contact Bob Yoffe at Yoffe Exposition Services, (800) 963-3395 or bob@ yoffeexpo.com.

## Your best year-long ad venue: RIBA's 2018 Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide

The Rhode Island Builders Association's 2018 Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide is being prepared, and all members have received a survey form by mail to confirm the accuracy of their information for RIBA's use in the printed Directory and the online directory at RIBAlist.com.

If you have not received a form, please contact Elizabeth Carpenter at (401) 438-7400.

#### Advertising campaign wrapping up

Members also have received full information about advertising in the 2018 Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide. There's no better venue to showcase your business to an enormous audience, including contractors and the general public.

The low advertising rates remain the same as last year.

The *Directory* will be printed, and distribution will begin, before the ever-expanding Rhode Island Home Show, now including the Garden and Flower Show, and will be an excellent introduction to your business, especially if you are a show exhibitor at the 2018 event.

It will be distributed to thousands of show visitors as well.

AD RATES: 2018 DIRECTORY		
CENTER SPREAD, FULL COLOR	\$2,200	
INSIDE COVER, FRONT, FULL COLOR	\$1,925 SOLD	
INSIDE COVER, BACK, FULL COLOR	\$1,925 SOLD	
BACK COVER, FULL COLOR	\$2,200 SOLD	
FULL PAGE, GLOSSY, FULL COLOR	\$1,650	
FULL PAGE, GLOSSY, BLACK + ONE COLOR	\$825	
FULL PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$550	
HALF PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$385	
ONE-THIRD PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$330	

Once again, RIBA will have a drawing for one advertiser to win an additional ad: free, full-page and full-color. Any advertiser who purchased their *Directory* ad by October 27<sup>th</sup>

see DIRECTORY...page 27



Member Profile: John Gardner III of Custom Built Window and Door Systems

## The family business: A window of opportunity for generations

By Paul F. Eno Editor

When John E. Gardiner Jr. asked John E. Gardiner III what he wanted to do with his life, the son told the father: "I might want to get into law enforcement...maybe become a lawver."

The father asked the son: "How about working in the family business?"

"Well," says John E. Gardiner III today, "Forty years later, I'm glad I answered 'yes' to that question. I'm happy with my chosen path!"

Founded by the father in 1961, the family business was and is Custom Built Window and Door Systems Inc., based in Warwick. John Jr. bought a small, failing aluminum storm-window manufacturer, Custom Built Aluminium Manufacturing Co., and built it into a thriving and respected custom window and door maker.

It wasn't long after the new management

took over before Custom Built successfully launched its first line of storm doors and porch enclosures. John Jr. soon noticed that those 1960s homeowners wanted to replace their old wooden windows with aluminum replacement windows with custom designs.

Had we walked into that busy shop in those early days, we might have encountered a youthful John Gardiner III, wielding a broom or doing other odd jobs to earn pocket money.

By the 1980s, energy-efficiency had entered the picture, and the company kept expanding its products lines, introducing vinyl. Under the guiding hand of John Jr., Custom Built became a onestop shop, and that's when the company's modern name, Custom Built Window and Door Systems, debuted, to better reflect the larger scope of products and services, now including porch and bath products.

Custom Built Window/Door Systems Inc. Co-owner: John Gardner III **RIBA member since:** 2002 Focus: Custom windows, doors and enclosures Serves: New England **Founded:** 1961 Based: Warwick, Rhode Island



John Gardner IV, right, and David Gardner

and PVC shapes," John III explains.

"We have many very interesting clients, and we've done many interesting specialty projects, including buildings of historical significance, like the John Brown House in Providence. That's because our products fit the requirements."

It's not only the clients who are interesting. Out of Custom Built's staff of more than 40 people, one is 92 years old and still going strong as a salesman. "He's an interesting fellow!" John quips.

Today, Custom Built ranges all over New England. Ninety percent of the jobs are residential, according to John.

Custom Built joined the Rhode Island Builders Association in 2002.

"The free education services RIBA offers are fantastic. We especially appreciate the lead and OSHA classes," John says. "We take what we learn at RIBA and use it in our own facility. And we try to inform our customers about what products are best for them when it comes to lead. Any supplier should be educated about what their customers have to deal with "

Folks from Custom Built can be found at RIBA networking events, and the Annual Meeting.

"We especially like the annual RIBA Golf Classic that benefits Builders Helping Heroes," John declares. R I B A

Find out more at Custombuiltri.com.

John III now heads the company, working with two of his sons: David Gardiner and none other than John E. Gardiner IV.

"The third generation has now come into the business," John III says proudly. "And I have hopes for my grandson, John E. Gardiner VI"

John III has never regretted his decision to join Custom Built.

"I found from the start that I really enjoyed working here. I liked working with the customers and forming relationships. And I enjoyed watching a product built from conception to final destination," he declares.

So, the generations and the expansion roll on at Custom Built, which today even has its own retail store in Massachusetts, new this year.

"As we did at the beginning of the company, we make a long line of heavy-duty storm products, replacement and specialty windows for new construction. We bend our own vinyl

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## RIBA Board contemplates ambitious new services for members Feedback from members sought

#### By Paul F. Eno Editor

With increasing resources at its disposal, the Rhode Island Builders Association's leaders are thinking about new ways to serve members. Among the ideas are two ambitious new programs, discussed at a recent meeting of the board.

One is a safety program that would include RIBA's own inspectors. Such a program could involve voluntary jobsite inspections, employee instruction, and help with OSHA compliance.

Also discussed was a possible RIBAoperated training school for workforce development. Members' current and potential employees would be able to attend for training in core skills or certain skill sets.

"We want to hear input from members on these potential programs," said RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio. RIBA's safety program from the 1990s was very popular, and longtime members still mention it. The program now being considered could be even more comprehensive.

"RIBA already offers the best industry educational benefits in the country," Mr. Marcantonio added. "If we establish a workforce-development facility of our own, it would take our educational program to a new level."

RIBA wants to hear from members about these two potential programs, said Mr. Marcantonio. Contact Member Relations Coordinator Elise Geddes at (401) 438-7400 or egeddes@ribuilders.org.

### New members invited to offer ideas

A New Member Committee, to meet quarterly and to be chaired by veteran member Dean Martineau of Dean W. Martineau Carpentry & Painting, will give new members a chance to be heard on topics ranging from events and legislative advocacy to educational offerings, and any other member benefit RIBA offers or can offer.

Members with less than two years in the association are welcome to participate on the new committee. Watch for an announcement of the first New Member Committee meeting. Any new member interested in serving on the committee, or who simply wishes to contribute an idea or opinion, should contact Member Relations Coordinator Elise Geddes at (401) 438-7400 or egeddes@ribuilders.org.



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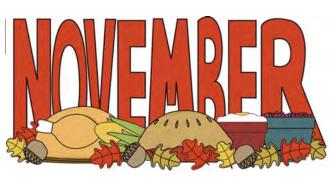
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#### Join us on December 12th!

# **RIBA Christmas Party** slated for the Squantum Club

WHEN: Tuesday, December 12th, 5:30 p.m. to whenever

WHERE: Squantum Association, 947 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., Riverside, RI 02915 COST: \$35 for the first 100 members, their employees and spouses, \$50 per person thereafter. Registration and pre-payment required.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER AND PRE-PAY:** December 1st

FOR INFORMATION & TO REGISTER: Contact Elizabeth Carpenter at (401) 438-7400 or ecarpenter@ribuilders.org.

Join your fellow members for a fun evening of dining, dancing and networking as the Rhode Island Builders Association welcomes you to a very special social event: The Annual Christmas Party.

Menu choices are Chicken Marsala or Filet Mignon. A DJ will provide dance music.

The venue this year is the beautiful and historic Squantum Association Clubhouse, overlooking Narragansett Bay in East Providence.



During a Christmas Season Past, RIBA members and guests enjoy a gathering at the historic and picturesque Sqauntum Association Clubhouse, overlooking Narragansett Bay in Riverside, venue for the 2017 RIBA Christmas Party.

Meeting with your RIBA colleagues at this or any other association event is a prime opportunity for networking, and for simply having fun. Bring your significant other, and your employees too. The Christmas Party will run from 6:30 p.m. on into the evening!

RIA

## Get the IBS experience in January in beautiful Orlando!

WHEN: Tuesday-Thursday, January 9th - 11th WHERE: Orange County Convention Center (OCCC), 9800 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819 COST: Varies, Visit Buildersshow.com. FOR INFORMATION & TO REGISTER: Visit Buildersshow.com.

The 2018 NAHB International Builders' Show<sup>®</sup> (IBS) plans are well underway. Members of the Rhode Island Builders Association are urged to attend and have the IBS experience! Be prepared to learn, connect and grow with these amazing educational offerings:

Over 105 Building Knowledge sessions have been finalized, with more expected to be added as emerging issues and topics develop. The eight education tracks include:

• 55+ Housing

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see IBS ...page 27 November 2017/17

## **Continuing Education for Contractors**

<u>Courses headlined in **RED** on the Education Pages qualify for state-mandated continuing education requirements.</u> See the chart below to find out when you must fulfill your continuing education requirements.

#### WHEN DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE YOUR CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS?

Your most recent contractor registration	<u>Credit hours</u> required	Date required by
New contractor - registered in July 2015	5	All 2017 and future renewals
Registered before July 2015	5	2019 renewal
April 2016 through December 2016	5	2018 renewal
*January 2016 - March 2016	5	2020 renewal

\*Education credits won't meet the requirements if they are obtained more than 30 months prior to your registration renewal.

## Five Credit Hours: Deck Codes <u>November 9<sup>th</sup></u>

WHEN: Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:45 a.m. to 1 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 \$15 materials/registration fee. \$150 for non-members, with a \$15 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 course will cover: "Deck Construction Codes: Sorting Out Codes and Solutions."

With more and more homeowners loving their backyards and looking for outdoor living solutions, decks are becoming an important part of an increasing number of homes.

So it's more important than ever for contractors to know about the codes relating to deck construction.

You must pre-register for this course. There will be no admittance without pre-registration. Payment is due upon registration. Participants must provide proof of employment with a member company for the class to be free.

Lunch is included.

R I B A

## Five Credit Hours: OSHA Safety Review <u>November 30</u>th

WHEN: Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. to 1:30 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 \$15 materials/registration fee. A \$150 charge for nonmembers and a \$15 materials/registration fee.
DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment.
FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401)

438-7400.

Join instructor Scott Asprey for an "OSHA Safety Review" to improve your knowledge and compliance, and avoid accidents and costly fines. Subjects will include a review of jobsite safety rules, fall protection, ladders and scaffolding, and confined spaces. You must pre-register for this course. There will be no admittance without pre-registration. Payment is due upon registration. Participants must provide proof of employment with a member company for the class to be free. Lunch is included.

## 8 Hour Lead-Safe Remodeler-Renovator Course <u>November 2<sup>nd</sup></u>

WHEN: Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914 COST: FREE for members and their employees, with \$40 materials/registration fee. \$110 for non-members, with \$40 materials/registration fee. Lunch is included. DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment. FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

This course is required to obtain or renew a Lead Safe Remodelers/Renovator certification, necessary for work in all pre-1978 buildings. This course covers the EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) requirements in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

A written exam is given at the end of the course. A passing grade allows attendees to apply for licensing through the Rhode Island

#### Dept. of Health and the EPA.

Pre-registration and a photo are required for your certificate. This must be a head shot only. E-mail it to smccarthy@ribuilders. org at least five days before the class.

No admittance without pre-registration and the photo. Payment is due upon registration. Participants must provide proof of employment with a member company for the class to be free.

If there is a class you would like to see offered, contact Sheila McCarthy at (401) 438-7400 or smccarthy@ribuilders.org

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# Douglas Lumber cites need for skilled workers for suppliers, trades

#### By Paul F. Eno Editor

"We can use many more job candidates than our available sources are providing."

That was the news from Steve Rendine, general manager of Douglas Lumber, Kitchens and Home Center, as he outlined why his company is wholeheartedly behind career and technical education (CTE) and the Residential Construction Workforce Partnership (RCWP).

"I realize it will take time for the Rhode Island Builders Association and the state to build up these programs to the point where they can fulfill the needs of the building industry," Mr. Rendine added.

"I wish there were more candidates available, and that's a problem for all of us, suppliers and contractors. There are just *see DOUGLAS...page 27* 



Career and technical education (CTE) students ready materials for the Designer Showcase at the 2017 RIBA Home Show, held at the Rhode Island Covention Center, Providence. Douglas Lumber and other Andersen Excellence dealers were there to transport materials and student-built exhibit elements.

The Rhode Island Builders Association thanks these Andersen<sup>®</sup> Excellence Dealers for being prime sponsors of our support for career and technical education in Rhode Island in 2017. Watch The Rhode Island Builder for continuing coverage of what these fine suppliers are doing to support and train the residential construction industry's workforce.



20/November 2017

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# As housing goes, so goes Rhode Island's economy



It's hard to believe for most of us, but 2017 is almost gone. Where did the year go? The real question, however, is where will 2018 take us?

As the new legislative session approaches, the Rhode Island Builders Association's advocacy will continue to be about lowering housing costs and the costs of doing business, increasing planned densities, upgrading and expanding our drinking water and sewer infrastructure, training the next generation of residential contractors,

Steven Carlino

promoting energy efficiency, developing sound environmental policies, protecting consumers, and promoting careers in the trades.

RIBA believes that, as housing goes, so goes our economy. We know that, by working together with our motivated business and housing-advocacy partners, and having our membership engaged in the political process, we can find better solutions to Rhode Island's housing needs.

For the good of our state, with the next generation of Rhode Islanders in mind, and with the vital feedback and participation

of RIBA members, we will enter the 2018 legislative session ready to help our state.

President David A. Caldwell Jr. isn't the only one impressed with the dynamism and focus of the members of our association (see page 5). We are, too. So, combined with the legislative goals we've stated, this dynamism should take us to some good places in 2018.

Before anything else, we need to hear from our members about the needs you see. What regulatory issues do you see holding



Roland J. Fiore

back the housing market? What could the legislature do to help create more affordable housing? What do you feel could be done in general to make for a better housing environment?

We have a great government affairs team, from RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio, advocates Joe and Billy Walsh and Gayle Wolf, to this committee. But we need you to complete the picture! Contact John with your concerns, (401) 438-7400 or jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org. He acts as liaison with our Legislative Committee and will advise you on how to help. RIA

#### **RIBA's Legislative Committee**

Steven Carlino, Co-Chairman Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center

President David A. Caldwell Jr., Ex Officio Caldwell and Johnson Inc.

Roland J. Fiore, Co-Chairman South County Sand & Gravel Co., Inc.

Robert J. Baldwin, Chairman Emeritus R.B. Homes Inc.

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**Eric Wishart** Civil CADD Services Inc.

Gayle Wolf Government Strategies Inc.

# OSHA's controversial Silica Rule is now in effect

OSHA's controversial Silica Rule is now in full effect.

As previously reported in *The Rhode Island Builder* and by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), OSHA delayed enforcement of the rule until September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The rule itself is meant to prevent employees from inhaling airborne crystalline silica, which can eventually cause lung cancer, silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and kidney disease.

The rule has two standards, one for the construction trades and one for general industry and the maritime trades.

An Obama-era regulation, the Silica Rule has been tweaked by the Trump Administration to make compliance easier, according to OSHA, which offers compliance assistance to employers who make "good faith efforts" to comply during the first 30 days.

In addition, NAHB offers a "Silica in Construction Toolkit," which can be found online at NAHB.org/silica. It provides background on crystalline silica as well as resources for helping home builders and remodelers comply with the rule.

Silica is a component of soil, sand and granite, and occurs in many commonly used building products such as mortar, concrete, bricks, blocks, rocks and stones. It can be disturbed by construc-



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1080 Main St. Pawtucket, RI 02860 • p: 401-272-1400 • f: 401-272-1403 www.shslawfirm.com tion activities ranging from cutting concrete and brick to moving soil around the jobsite.

"The crystalline silica rule issued in March 2016 is the most far-reaching regulatory initiative ever finalized for construction with an industry-estimated cost of \$5 billion per year — roughly \$4 billion per year more than OSHA estimates," a statement from NAHB said.

"NAHB and the Construction Industry Safety Coalition have requested that OSHA withdraw the rule and talk frankly with the construction industry about a more feasible and economical approach to dealing with the silica hazards."

NAHB's legal challenge to the Silica Rule is still pending. The case was argued before the federal court on September 26th, and a ruling was not expected for several months.

Find additional information is at www.OSHA.gov/silica or by contacting Rob Matuga at NAHB, rmatuga@nahb.org or (800) 368-5242, ext. 8507.

-Paul Eno



hat RIBA Marketing Director Cheryl Boy 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 at (401) 438-7400 or cboyd@ribuilders.org

# Blower door tests: Now they're going to count

#### By Paul F. Eno Editor

As 2017 winds up, it's getting down to the nitty-gritty when it comes to the blowerdoor testing requirement.

That's the word from Robert E. DeBlois, chairman of the state's Building Code Standards Committee (BCSC).

"So far, builders in Rhode Island have had to do blower-door tests in order to get a certificate of occupancy (CO). But the result didn't matter," Mr. DeBlois explained. "In the next energy-code cycle, it will."

BCSC's Single-Family Subcommittee, as well as the Energy Subcommittee, have recommended that, for 2017 (from the time these changes are approved), the test result would have to be a maximum of 8.0. For 2018, the maximum result would be 7.0, falling to 6.0 in 2019. From 2020 onward, the result would be a maximum of 5.0.

Mr. DeBlois stressed that this all depends on approval of the code changes



Robert E. DeBlois

also be used to measure airflow between building zones, to test ductwork airtightness and to help physically locate air leakage in building envelopes.

When a new house is structurally complete, a third-party tester calibrates the blower-door equipment and sets it for the right pressure to determine an ACH50 rating. ACH refers to "air changes per hour."

Once a pressure is set, the diagnostic measuring equipment is able to measure the volume of air being pushed through the fan

by the BCSC, at the de which had not takes ab yet taken place set up, ar as of the end of ally \$15 September. Acco

A blower door is a machine used to measure the air-tightness of buildings. It can at the desired pressure. The actual test only takes about 15 minutes once everything is set up, and the cost to the contractor is usually \$150 to \$200.

According to the Pennsylvania Housing Research Center, these are basic guidelines for the ACH50 results: ACH50 less than 5.0 indicates a "tight house," an ACH50 between 5.0 and 10.0 indicates a "moderate house," and above 10.0 tells of a "leaky house."

"We're starting with a high threshold, 8.0, so builders who get those higher numbers can review their construction practices, make some changes, test the next house, and educate themselves as time goes on because the goal is 5.0," Mr. DeBlois said.

"The national standard, and what the International Energy Code is calling for, is a 3.0," he added. "So, Rhode Island is being considerably more liberal."

Mr. DeBlois wasn't certain when the BCSC would approve the changes.

## Changes announced to excavator licensing

#### By Paul F. Eno Editor

A new operator trainee license for excavators is now in effect.

That's the news from David Rodrigues, chief hoisting engineer at the Rhode Island Dept. of Labor and Training (DLT).

"The license, established in Rule 14 of the regulations, allows the trainee to work under direct, line-of-sight supervision by an operator already licensed in Rhode Island. The operator trainee license is only for excavation equipment, not hoisting equipment," Mr. Rodrigues explained.

The Board of Examiners for Hoisting Engineers has been considering the operator trainee license since 2009, but was concerned about possible abuses, Mr. Rodrigues said.

"Hence the requirement for the direct, line-of-sight to the trainee at all times. www.ribuilders.org The trainer cannot operate another piece of equipment at the same time. A violation could result," he stated. "So far, we haven't encountered that."

To apply for the trainee license, applicants must complete the appropriate application, available from DLT. It's available online at DLT.ri.gov/profregs/ applicationforms.htm.

In addition to the application, DLT requires a signed and notarized letter from the licensed trainer assigned to the trainee. Also needed is a signed and notarized letter from the employer, authorizing use of the equipment by the trainee, along with a photo ID for the applicant.

"These requirements are now in effect," Mr. Rodrigues said.

As of this writing, there were 25 active operator trainee licenses. Twenty-seven trainees have moved on and obtained their



hoisting operator licenses, according to Mr. Rodrigues.

"The operator trainee license is issued for a maximum of two years. Trainees can test for their permanent licenses any time within that two-year period, when the trainer and the employer feel that the individual is proficient enough to do so," Mr. Rodrigues stated.

For more information, visit DLT.ri.gov or call (401) 462-8580.

## $\mathbf{A}$ A Conversation on the housing crisis with...

# **Brenda Clement**

Executive Director HousingWorks RI at Roger Williams University

Before assuming her current post in 2016, Brenda Clement was executive director of the Boston-based Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) since 2012. She has over 20 years of experience in the housing and communitydevelopment fields. She previously served as executive director of the Housing Action Coalition of Rhode Island and as executive director of the Housing Network. Ms. Clement also is a founding member of the New England Housing Network, and served on the Board of the National Low Income Housing Coalition for nine years, recently completing her term as chairperson. She holds a bachelor of arts in political science/economics from Providence College and a juris doctor from Washington College of Law at American University.

#### THE BUILDER: What are the main

findings of the most recent Housing Fact Book, which was to be released on October 11<sup>th</sup>?

**CLEMENT:** We continue a fairly slow recovery from the Great Recession through 2016. We've seen a small rise in building permits, about 23 percent, including multi-family permits issued in three rural communities for the first time in a long while.

The median value of a single-family house has increased a bit more than 5 percent. And unemployment is down in the last quarter to 4.9 percent, returning us to pre-recession levels. So those are all good signs of more activity in the market.

We also see increased prices and rents, though, and the downside is that there are fewer municipalities where buyers and renters with annual incomes of \$50,000 or less can afford homes. In fact, only Central Falls and Providence offer homes that fit that kind of budget.

So we still have a housing-shortage crisis in Rhode Island. And as demand increases, as more people are back to work and able to afford a home purchase or higher rents, that puts pressure on an already tight market. Very low vacancy rates push prices higher as well.

#### THE BUILDER: What are the towns where this multifamily activity is picking up?

**CLEMENT:** I'm afraid folks will just have to wait for the Housing Fact Book to be released! (There will be full coverage in the December Rhode Island Builder.)



THE BUILDER: Does Rhode Island still need 3,500 new units a year through 2025-2027?

**CLEMENT:** We're tracking that through the Rhode Island Housing's *Projecting Future Housing Needs Report*, which they asked us to work with them on last year.

This first year, projections have been a bit on the low side. But we know that, over the next 10-year cycle, population will definitely increase, though here in New England and Rhode Island it will probably be a smaller percentage than the national projection.

Our household size in Rhode Island, however, continues to go down. So more housing units will be needed because, in the future, there will be fewer people in each household.

THE BUILDER: How are state agencies and housing advocates like HousingWorks addressing that need for more units?

**CLEMENT:** The (\$50 million) housing bond voters passed in November is a good first step. Agencies like Rhode Island Housing, the Housing Resources Commission and others are working hard to get the regulations (for the housing bond) completed and, more importantly, our solicitations for projects, so we can get shovels in the ground with this bond funding.

Housing advocacy groups want to take the momentum based on the housing bond and get the message across that it's only a down-payment on the amount of funding needed to meet that 3,500-units-per-year goal over the next 10 years. We need to find ways to increase state resources, and look for a dedicated funding stream to support affordable-housing production overall.

#### THE BUILDER: How many communities haven't yet met their 10 percent affordable-housing goal, mandated by the state over 20 years ago?

**CLEMENT:** According to the 2016 numbers, only five communities have met their goal: Central Falls, Newport, New Shoreham, Providence and Woonsocket.

That's not a good score, since that goal has been in place for well over 20 years, and communities just have to work harder. There are plenty of people in these communities already who are trying to meet the affordability challenge.

To next page...

#### 24/November 2017



That's the other big takeaway from the Housing Fact Book: Increasing housing costs are pricing more and more people out of the market. Even for home buyers with annual incomes of \$70,000, the number of communities where they can afford a median-priced house dwindled from 16 in 2015 to 12 in 2016.

As prices continue to rise, more and more communities become less affordable.

Another challenge, as we know from the *Projecting Future Housing Needs Report*, is that the growth in our population is going to be largely millennials and people who are aging. Those folks will be at the lower end of the income spectrum. That's another indication that we need not only more housing units, but more affordable ones.

So, the 10 percent goal for each community isn't a ceiling, it's an aspiration! The fact is that, in many communities, that affordable-housing stock will have to be well above 10 percent in order to meet that need.

#### THE BUILDER: It's interesting that all these collegeeducated millennials are projected to be at the lower end of the earning scale.

**CLEMENT:** Well, a starting teacher doesn't get the high end of the pay scale. In any profession they adopt, it takes time to build up seniority. The likelihood that they'll have higher incomes 10 years from now is good, but at this point, they're starting at the lower end. So we need those starter homes and apartments for them to find housing and be successful.

## THE BUILDER: For those communities that haven't met the goal, how are they addressing that?

**CLEMENT:** That depends on the community, but they all need to work and plan harder. That's especially true if the transit centers the Division of Statewide Planning envisions are to fully come about. Housing production in those areas, especially, needs to be higher.

The municipalities are critical partners in affordable-housing production. We simply have to do it. We work closely with them, and I think that local officials are seeing the changing needs in their own communities. They especially realize the need for more housing around existing transit infrastructure, such as railroad stations, to serve people with jobs who need to get back and forth to those jobs.

We're talking particularly about Wickford, Warwick, Providence and Pawtucket. And there's a proposed commuter rail stop in Woonsocket. There are active plans for development in these areas, and the regional hubs that the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority is talking about are an exciting part of the picture.

We should think now about what effects these will have on housing needs.

The irony here is that, in New England, we always used to "get it" when it came to the connection between housing, jobs and transportation. You only have to look at the old mill villages to see that. We just have to take existing transit infrastructure and revitalize that old connection.

THE BUILDER: How accepting are Rhode Island com-

munities when it comes to alternative housing stock – "tiny houses" on smaller lots, higher densities – all the elements that were unwelcome under the 1950s planning models that still hold sway in many communities?

**CLEMENT:** Various communities have been thinking about this, but you've put your finger on the underlying problem, and that's our zoning laws. They were cast in a different era, and they're not helpful tools, given our current needs. So we need to look at zoning, along with planning and land-use policies, to see how we can encourage, say, the tiny house movement in areas where that makes sense.

We also need to implement the accessory dwelling-unit legislation (the "In-Law Bill," enacted in 2016), on which the Rhode Island Builders Association worked closely with the Rhode Island Association of Realtors<sup>®</sup> and others. We haven't yet seen largescale implementation of that.

That can be a huge tool to help people age in place. Even then, we still have a lot of restrictions under the old zoning laws: parking requirements and all those other factors need to be thought through a little more.

We understand that communities need things to be appropriate, to fit and to look good, but these issues needed to be addressed yesterday, because we're already way behind.

## THE BUILDER: What communities have done the most to further new workforce-housing development?

**CLEMENT:** Everyone seems to be working on it in different ways. You can see from Block Island achieving their housing goal, that they understand that connection. They have a working population largely based on a retail and tourism economy. In order to get and keep workers, they realized there had to be housing for those workers.

There are other communities, including Jamestown, that are starting to realize that connection and are willing to put developments in place so workers will have a place to lay their heads at night.

#### THE BUILDER: Builders point to the cost of construction as a major roadblock to affordable housing production. How can that be reduced?

**CLEMENT:** There are models to be looked at around manufactured housing and other alternatives. Prosperity Now, which was to hold its annual I'm Home Conference in Providence in October, is looking at manufactured homes, along with building techniques and models we don't usually use here in Rhode Island, and that could reduce costs.

The reality is that we have some of the country's oldest housing stock, and largely built-out cities. So, it's going to cost money to fix and rehab those.

We can do things from a regulatory standpoint to reduce development times. Even if you're a non-profit developer, time is money. If you're trying to get a house finished and occupied, reducing regulatory delays while not reducing necessary oversight is the tricky balance we need to achieve.

The underlying issues around zoning and land use are part of that conversation as well.

### Need skilled employees?

# RCWP, Jobs Bank bring personal attention to your employee search

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Whether you need skilled workers now or in the future, you can benefit from the Residential Construction Workforce Partnership (RCWP) Jobs Bank at RCWPjobs.com right now.

"The best way for you to tell us what you need is to open a free account at RCWPjobs.com, then post your job openings there," said Cheryl Boyd, the Rhode Island Builders Association's marketing director, who manages RCWPjobs.com.

"When your company posts a job opening, it will be personally managed. That's because, as soon as it's posted, I receive an immediate e-mail," Ms. Boyd added. "I know who you are and what you're looking for."

It's the same process when a job candidate posts a resume.

"I'm alerted. So, behind the scenes, there's a lot of matchmaking going on that folks probably aren't aware of. We also have an internship-matching program now. Any interested employer should contact me," she said. "All RIBA members are part of this partnership with businesses, and with career and technical schools with construction programs, and adult training programs, throughout the state.

## Coventry Lumber packs them in at Katz Roadshow



Over 170 builders and remodelers attend a one-day Finish Carpentry Clinic with nationally renowned carpentry guru Gary Katz, standing at right. The event took place on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the West Greenwich Elks Lodge. Subjects included "Managing Moisture," "Waterproofing Windows and Architectural Trim," Problem-Free Prefit Doors," and "Installing Crown and Baseboard." A number of vendors displayed products at the event as well. Mr. Katz publishes the online magazine THISisCarpentry.com.



"They should take advantage of that!"

RCWP, with RIBA as its hub, is a partnership of organizations, educators and businesses whose goal is to help the industry solve its own labor shortage through recruiting, training and matching employers with the workers they need.

"Since the Jobs Bank began, we can account for 50 candidates placed into residential construction jobs," Ms. Boyd stated.

"However, there are placements that might not have been reported to us. Candidates might find out about job openings through RCWPjobs.com, but reach out to employers separately. It's very important for employers tell us if and when our efforts have helped them find candidates, or candidates find them."

Please report such hires to Ms. Boyd at (401) 255-5910, cboyd@ ribuilders.org, or online at Ribuilders.org/rcwpjobs-placements.

So what's the current score at RCWPjobs.com?

As of October 9<sup>th</sup> at RCWPJobs.com, there were 290 job candidates, compared with 287 in September, 274 in August, 267 in

July, 265 in June, 249 in May, 235 in April and 217 in March). There were 579 employers registered at the site, as opposed to 578 in September, 571 in August, 559 in July, 554 in June, 548 in May, 545 in April and 537 in March.

There with 52 job opening posted, compared with 45 in September, 53 in August, 56 in July, 54 in June, 55 in May, 59 in April and 58 in March.

There were 72 job-seekers' resumes posted as of this writing.

Once again, for more information, contact Ms. Boyd directly at (401) 255-5910 or cboyd@ribuilders. org.



## Industry News

#### DOUGLAS...from page 20

aren't enough job candidates."

As it is, Douglas has hired several part-time employees from CTE schools, and hopes to expand that hiring once more qualified candidates become available, according to Mr. Rendine.

"In the meantime, we have an open dialogue with RIBA (on developing more qualified job candidates), and we support hands-on student projects like the Ultimate Solar Treehouse from the 2016 Home Show, and anything the CTE schools need as far as materials or movement of projects for the Home Show. We always make ourselves available for that."



Steve Rendine

Douglas has special relationships with three CTE schools in Rhode Island, including William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School in Lincoln, the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center, and the New England Institute of Technology.

"There's enormous opportunity for people in CTE programs to

#### <u>IBS</u>...from page 17

• Sales Marketing & Customer Focus

Five master sessions will be offered. Topics include developing company culture, design innovations that sell more homes, marketing essentials to build a brand, addressing home performance errors before and after construction, and advanced web lead capture and conversion.

Tech Bytes will be back, with 25 sessions that offer a one-of-akind opportunity to discover the latest products, applications and tech platforms through hands-on experiences.

There will be new voices: Nearly 40 percent of our speakers have never presented at IBS before. A wide variety of speakers will represent over 130 different companies.

Experience the best-in-industry education, networking and exhibitions that will take your business to the next level at IBS 2018 in Orlando!

#### DIRECTORY ... from page 10

will be eligible for the drawing. The final deadline for *Directory* advertising is November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Discounts available

RIBA once again offers advertising "package deals" with the *Directory* and the award-winning *Rhode Island Builder* monthly magazine. Advertisers who opt for both publications will earn a 5 percent discount on their total advertising cost.

Use the advertising information package you received from RIBA. Advertising information also is online at www.NewRiverPress.com/ribaads, or call Paul or Jonathan Eno at (401) 250-5760, ext. 1. find jobs in this industry, but the opportunities are exponentially greater than the number of people who have availed themselves," Mr. Rendine said.

"I hope that changes soon, because the need in this industry, both on the supplier side and the contractor side, for good employees is dire."

The RCWP, with RIBA as its hub, is a coalition of industry members and educators who work together to find and match skilled employees with the employers who need them. For more information, contact Cheryl Boyd at RIBA, (401) 255-5910 or cboyd@ribuilders.org.



Award-Winning Monthly Mag

November 2017/27



#### <u>**RECOGNIZED</u></u>...from page 7**</u>



Steven Carlino of Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center shows off the RIBA jacket he received as a small "thank you" for his large support. Just to the right is George Pesce of Consolidated Concrete Corp., another great RIBA supporter. Both companies sponsored the open bar during the cocktail hour before dinner.



Recognized for service to RIBA during the year were, from left, Mary B. Cool of California Closets; Eric Wishart of Civil CADD Services; Joelle Rocha of Kelly & Mancini PC; William Walsh of Government Strategies Inc.; Dean Martineau of Dean W. Martineau Carpentry & Painting; John Bentz of Property Advisory Group; Vincent J. Marcantonio of Marcantonio Design Builders; Joseph W. Walsh and Gayle Wolf of Government Strategies Inc.; Jason DaPonte of Sansiveri, Kimball & Co.; Louis Cotoia Jr. of P.S.I. Property Maintenance/Arnold Lumber Co.; Robert J. Baldwin of R.B. Homes; and Kenneth Jones of the Builders Insurance Group.

Kelly & Mancini PC, who represents RIBA in key land-use cases and on legislative issues; Dean Martineau of Dean W. Martineau Carpentry & Painting, who volunteered a great deal of time at the Home Show; Vincent J. Marcantonio of Marcantonio Design Builders, who has served on the Board of Directors for 40 years;



President Caldwell, left, welcomes newcomer to the Board of Directors, Jhonny Leyva of Heroica Construction.



Among those having a grand old time at the Annual Meeting were, from left, Ronald J. Smith of Ron Smith Homes, with Cynthia Valenti Smith and Bethany A. Lardaro of Washington Trust Co.

Joseph and William Walsh, and Gayle Wolf, of Government Strategies Inc., who spearhead RIBA's government-affairs efforts; and Paul F. Eno, editor of *The Rhode Island Builder* for 27 years; Jason DaPonte of Sansiveri, Kimball & Co., a special accountant for the Board of Directors; Louis Cotoia Jr. of P.S.I. Property Maintenance/Arnold Lumber Co., who goes "above and beyond" to work directly the school districts and students to support career and technical education; Robert J. Baldwin of R.B. Homes, who continuously advocates for RIBA; Kenneth Jones, president of the Builders Insurance Group (BIG), who had the vision and drive to make BIG real; Robert E. DeBlois of DeBlois Builders, who has represented RIBA on code issues for many years; Steven Carlino of Douglas Lumber, Kitchens and Home Center, who is a tireless advocate for RIBA's legislative agenda from year to year.

Mr. Marcantonio also recognized RIBA General Counsel Christine Engustian, who deals with all RIBA's legal affairs, and RIBA Director of Operations Elizabeth Carpenter, along with Membership Relations Coordinator Elise Geddes, Education Coordinator *To next page...* 



Sheila McCarthy, Bookkeeper Tara DeMelo, Marketing Director Cheryl Boyd, Health Insurance Administrator Robin Barlow, Latino Outreach Coordinator Betty Bernal, and staffer Sarah Carpenter. Also recognized were the BIG team: Joyce Therrien, Charles Lowe and Michele Soares.

Attending the meeting were six past presidents: George A. Calcagni (1976-1978), Steven Gianlorenzo (2000-2002), Edgar N. Ladouceur (2004-2006), Robert J. Baldwin (2010-2012), Felix A. Carlone (2012-2014) and Roland J. Fiore (2014-2016).

RIBA thanks the generous sponsors of the event, especially Premier Sponsors Arnold Lumber Co.; Consolidated Concrete Corp.; Coventry Lumber, Inc., Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center; National Building Products, Pawtucket Credit Union, Riverhead Building Supply, Yoffe Exposition Services. As mentioned, Consolidated Concrete and Douglas Lumber generously sponsored the cocktail hour. *See the full list of sponsors on page 8.* 

For information on the many benefits of RIBA membership and how to join, details about serving on a committee or in a leadership position, call (401) 438-7400 or visit RIBUILDERS.org.

For RIBA membership information contact Elise Geddes 401-438-7400 or egeddes@ribuilders.org

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#### LUMBER...from page 1

sasters: Hurricanes Harvey and Irma," commented Steve Rendine, general manager of Douglas Lumber, Kitchens and Home Center.

"Young independent truckers are leaving the industry, and most of the lumber mills use independent truckers. What truckers there are have been delivering relief supplies down South, because that's where the money is," Mr. Rendine added.

"So even if you are able to buy material at a reasonable price, you can't get it from the mill to the store. That just increases the upward pressure on pricing."

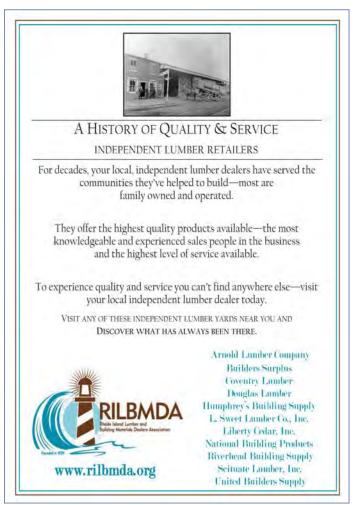
Then there are seasonal issues, according to Rhode Island native Thomas Blackmon, a longtime leader in the trucking and warehousing industry in Charleston, South Carolina.

"Believe it or not, many independent truckers make more money this time of year when they move pumpkins from South to North in September and October," Mr. Blackmon said.

"Right after that comes the Christmas season, so the truckers are tied up moving merchandise."

While that combination of events takes place every year, the transport problem simply adds to the pressure on supply and prices in the wake of 2017's other factors.

The lumber situation is expected to be clearer by early November, so look for a full report in the December *Rhode Island Builder*. -Paul Eno





## The Market Place



30/November 2017

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