Award-Winning Monthly Magazine of The Rhode Island Builders Association

CRLB to require online registration renewal

RIBA is working with CRLB to help ease the process for contractors.

By Paul F. Eno Editor

The

Rhode

Island

By September 1st, all contractor registration renewals will be done online.

"You won't have to take a couple hours out of work to renew your contractor's registration with the CRLB this year," said Julietta Georgakis, deputy director of the Dept. of Business Regulation, who oversees the Division of Building, Design, and Fire Professionals, which now includes the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB)

"We're using the same Viewpointcloud[®] software contractors already use to pull permits in nearly 30 communities, so chances are they're already familiar with it," said Ms. Georgakis. "That's the software we'll *see REGISTRATION...page 33*

To benefit RIBA's charity Builders Helping Heroes

Golf Classic slated for September 16

WHEN: Monday, September 16th, registration and lunch 11 a.m. to 11:45. Shotgun start will be at noon. Dinner will be a 5 p.m.

WHERE: Wannamoisett Country Club, Rumford Country Club, 96 Hoyt Ave., Rumford, RI 02916 COST: \$195 per person

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: September 6th **FOR INFORMATION, TO REGISTER AND FOR SPONSORSHIPS:** Contact Robin Barlow at (401) 438-7400 or rbarlow@ribuilders.org.

It's the Rhode Island Builders Association's 29th Annual Golf Classic, to benefit the association's charity, Builders Helping Heroes!

Enjoy a day of great golf, fine food and valuable



networking at one of Rhode Island's most beautiful Donald Ross-designed courses.

At the same time, support RIBA's not-for-profit charity that helps wounded veterans and their families, and *see GOLF CLASSIC...page 31*

Be a Golf Classic Sponsor!

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 Contact Robin Barlow at (401) 438-7400 or rbarlow@ribuilders.org.

FEATURED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR AUGUST Middle Section RIBA MEMBER BENEFIT GUIDE Pull-Out Section at Center

August 2019

Lawmakers pass bills important to the industry

Several bills of importance to the residential construction industry, including inspection reforms, have become law.

Page 2

RIBA Clambake: There still are a few tickets left!

The 69th Annual RIBA Clambake boils over at Francis Farm in Rehoboth on August 9th! Get your last-minute tickets and sponsorships!

Page 6

Register now for fall job training

Six new preapprenticeship courses begin in September in

different areas of the state. Register now!

Page 28

Education a top member benefit

Classes, many of them required for contractors by Rhode Island and Massachusetts, are tuition-free for RIBA members and their employees.

68 Years of Informing Rhode Island's Residential Construction Industry

Spotlight: The 2019 Legislative Session

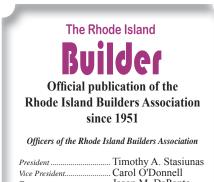
Several new laws expected to boost construction industry

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Several bills important to the residential construction industry were passed in the final weeks before the Rhode Island General assembly wrapped up its 2019 session on June 28th.

Local zoning

Passed by the Senate, and by the House in concurrence, was S-691, which expands the definition of "family member" for purposes of residential occupancy, notably for accessory dwelling units. Children, parents, spouses, in-laws, domestic partners, grandparents, grandchildren, siblings and "care recipients" are all included.



Jason M. DaPonte James Deslandes Sr.
le Island Builder Report
John Marcantonio

Editor Paul F. Eno

The Rhode Island Builder Report is published monthly by the R.I. Builders Association, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy. #301, East Providence, RI 02914, tel. (401) 438-7400, fax (401) 438-7446, e-mail INFO@RIBUILDERS.ORG Advertising information is available on the Internet at www.RIBUILDERS.org or from New River Press at (838) 273-1941 (ext. 1). Claims and representations made in advertising are the sole responsibility of the advertiser. The Rhode Island Builder Report and the R.I. Builders Association neither endorse nor guarantee advertiser claims. Readers may submit articles and photographs of interest to the residential building and remodeling industries in Rhode Island, but the publishing director and editor may reject any submitsion or advertisement. While designed to provide accurate and authoritative information on the subjects covered, The Rhode Island Builder Report and the Rhode Island Builders Association are not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional or technical advice or product support. Accordingly, RIBA cannot warrant the accuracy of all legal or technical information contained herein and disclaims any and all liability which may result from publication or reliance on the information provided. Unless otherwise noted, articles may not be reprinted without the written permission of the publishing director. The Rhode Island Builder Report is edited, designed and produced by New River Press, 645 Fairmount St., Woonsocket, RI 02895, tel. (401) 250 (260 (ext. 1), fax (401) 355-0013, e-mail builder "Report Press, 645 Fairmount St., Woonsocket, RI 02895, tel. (401) 250



Sponsors included Sens. Frank S. Lombardi (D-Cranston) and Michael J. McCaffrey (D-Warwick). The companion bill in the House (H-6219) was sponsored by Evan P. Shanley (D-Warwick), Julie A. Casimiro (D-Exeter, North Kingstown) and Karen Alzate (D-Pawtucket).

Inspection process reforms

Lawmakers passed a measure important to streamlining the inspection process, namely allowing a contractor or builder to hire a qualified, third-party inspector or a state inspector if a local building official fails to perform an inspection within 48 hours after notification. Weekends and holidays are not included in the 48-hour period.

To exercise this right, the contractor or builder must notify the local building official via e-mail of the intent to hire a third-party inspector or state inspector at least 24 hours before hiring. The measure was passed by the Senate on May 5th and by the House of Representatives in concurrence. Gov. Gina Raimondo signed it on June 28th.

Sponsors of the bill (S-687) included Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio (D-Providence, North Providence), along with Sens. Lombardi and McCaffrey (D-Warwick), Maryellen Goodwin (D-Providence) and Ryan W. Pearson (D-Cumberland, Lincoln).

The companion House bill was H-5989 Sub A, sponsored by Reps. Stephen R. Ucci (D-Cranston, Johnston) and Arthur J. Corvese (D-North Providence).

A related measure, awaiting the governor's signature as of this writing, was S-688, passed by the Senate on May 2nd, and by the House in concurrence, authorizes building inspectors to sign permits for work they inspect. This is expected to bring greater accountability to the inspection process.

These are the first major changes to the inspection process since the 1970s.

Along with Sens. Lombardo, Goodwin and Pearson, sponsors included Sen. Hanna M. Gallo (D-Cranston, West Warwick). The companion House bill was H-6215, sponsored by Reps. James B. Jackson (D-West Warwick, Coventry, Warwick), Joseph M. McNamara (D-Cranston, Warwick), Gregory J. Costantino (D-Johnston, Linsee LEGISLATION...page 30

DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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In the News RIA

Trump signs executive order on housing affordability

Sets up panel to 'fight multitude of overly burdensome regulatory barriers that artificially raise the cost of housing development.'

Paul F. Eno Editor

In a key victory for the residential construction industry, President Donald Trump signed an executive order on July 1st that cites the need to cut costly regulations that are hampering the production of more affordable housing in America.

The order establishes the White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing, to be chaired by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson.

"It shall be the policy of my Administration to work with Federal, State, local, tribal, and private sector leaders to address, reduce, and remove the multitude of overly burdensome regulatory barriers that artificially raise the cost of housing development and help to cause the lack of housing supply," the order states.

"Increasing the supply of housing by removing overly burdensome regulatory barriers will reduce housing costs, boost economic growth, and provide more Americans with opportunities for economic mobility. In addition, it will strengthen American communities and the quality of services offered in them by allowing hardworking Americans to live in or near the communities they serve."

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) hailed the move.

"The president today put housing at the forefront of the national debate," said NAHB Chairman Greg Ugalde, who attended the White House signing ceremony.

"NAHB applauds President Trump for making housing a top national priority. With housing affordability near a 10-year low, the president's executive order on this critical issue underscores that the White House is ready to take a leading role to help resolve the nation's affordability crisis," Mr. Ugalde stated.

"NAHB analysis has found that regulations account for nearly 25 percent of the price of building a single-family home, and more than 30 percent of the cost of a typical multifamily development. We are pleased that the president's executive order calls for the formation of a White House Council chaired by Dr. Carson that will seek to reduce regulatory barriers that are making housing more costly."

On June 5th, nearly 700 builders went to Capitol Hill and held 300 individual meetings with their representatives and senators as part of NAHB's 2019 Legislative Conference. Builders stressed the urgency of the affordability crisis.

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RIBA Calendar of Events

LOOKING AHEAD!

OAugust 9th: 69th Annual RIBA Outing and Clambake - Noon to 8 p.m. 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. *Details on page 1.*

OAugust 13th: **Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL)** - In cooperation with the City of Central Falls and Dorcas International and Segue Institute for Learning, 18-week program to improve English, gain carpentry and math skills, and earn OSHA-10 certification. Another class begins in Providence in September. For details and to resgister, contact Betty Bernal at (401) 500-9146 (cell) or bbernal@ribuilders. org, or in person at Dorcas International, 220 Elmwood Ave., Providence.

OAugust 14th: Free Rhode Island New Residential Energy Code Update - 9 to 11 a.m. Presented by CLEAResult on behalf of National Grid. Learn about important changes to the Energy Code that affect both residential and commercial new construction, renovations and repairs. Event is free but registration is required. To register, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-ri-new-residential-energy-code-update-at-riba-tickets-64535539536. For more information, contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

OAugust 20th: State-Mandated Continuing Education for Contractors - 5 Credit Hours - Topics are CRLB Law, Regulations and Contracts Review. Details on page 13.

OSeptember 3rd: **RIBA Monthly Board of Directors Meeting** - 4 p.m. networking, 4:30 p.m. business meeting, RIBA headquarters, East Providence. RIBA members are invited to attend for informational purposes. For more information and to register, contact Elizabeth Carpenter, ecarpenter@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

OSeptember 11th and 12th: OSHA 10-Hour Course - 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day at RIBA headquarters. Course is FREE for members and their employees with a \$40 materials/registration fee, \$155 for non-members with a \$40 materials/registration fee. For more information and to register, contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 13.*

OSeptember 16th: 29th Annual RIBA Golf Classic - Wannamoisett Country Club, East Providence. Watch for more information. To become a sponsor, contact Robin Barlow at (401) 438-7400 or rbarlow@ribuilders.org. *Details on page 6.*

OSeptember 10th: Seminar on Changes to the 1&2 Family Dwelling Code - Presented by Warren Ducharme of the Dept. of Business Regulation, 4:30 to 6 p.m., RIBA Headquarters, East Providence. FREE for members and non-members but pre-registration is required. Contact Sheila McCarthy at (401) 438-7400 or smccarthy@ribuilders.org.

OSeptember 19th: Networking Night - 4:30 to 7 p.m., sponsored by Andersen Corp. Rhode Island Builders Association Headquarters, East Providence. FREE for members and their guests. *Details on page 9.*

October 10th: Networking Night - 4:30 to 7 p.m., sponsored by PMC Media Group. Rhode Island Builders Association Headquarters, East Providence. FREE for members and their guests.

ONOvember 14th: Networking Night - 4:30 to 7 p.m, sponsored by SiteScapes. Rhode Island Builders Association Headquarters, East Providence. FREE for members and their guests.

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 and/or Massachusetts 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 onsite courses, online courses are FREE of tuition charges for members and their employees. Just use your code at the online checkout. NEED A CODE?

<u>CALL RIBA AT (401) 438-7400.</u> Non-members: \$12 per credit hour. For information about online or on-site courses: Contact Sheila McCarthy smccarthy@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400.



President's Message

Workforce development is key to economic success

Timothy A. Stasiunas

for the individual job trainees as well.

The Rhode Island Builders Association has long desired to have a real, substantive and successful workforce-development program. That's been a dream for years, and it appears to finally be coming to fruition.

Workforce development

is the key to long-term eco-

nomic success. This is true

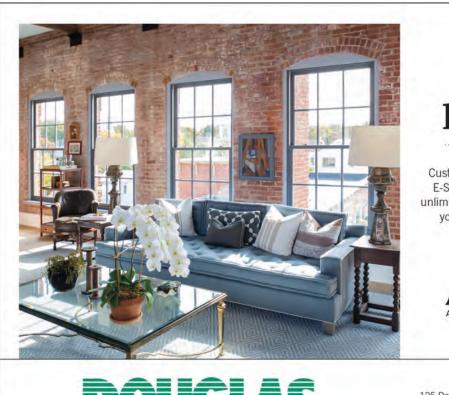
not just for Rhode Island but

In June, I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony for RIBA's first two Carpentry Career Training Program (CCTP) official graduating classes. One group trained at the Chariho Regional Career and Technical Center, and the other at the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center. Both groups started the 26-week CCTP course last November. Ceremonies took place at RIBA headquarters. *Related story on page 28.*

It was certainly inspiring as the students expressed their gratitude for the experience they received. Equally inspiring was the instructors' testimony to the students' involvement and commitment to the program. None of this would have been possible without an unwavering commitment from a multitude of people, from staff and volunteers at RIBA to dedicated teachers and communities as well as the involvement of the State of Rhode Island. There are far too many to list, but each person involved deserves our deepest appreciation.

For too long as a society we have bemoaned that the only way you can be successful is to go to college. In fact, we have lost a generation or more to this theory, and it's been devastating to our country. We don't make anything anymore; we can't do anything for ourselves.

I'm not saying college has no value! I'm just saying it's not see PRESIDENT...page 31



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125 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917 (401) 231-6800 www.douglaslumber.com There are a few tickets left!

IT'S CLAMBAKE TIME!

WHEN: Friday, Aug. 9th, 12 to 8 p.m. WHERE: Francis Farm, Rehoboth, MA 02769

COST: \$40 for the first 300 members and their employees, \$86 after that and for non-members. All tickets must be paid when making reservations. RIBA reserves the right to limit the total number of discounted tickets allotted to each member company. **FOR SPONSORSHIPS AND TO REGISTER:** Contact Elizabeth Carpenter at (401) 438-7400.



Nearly 600 members and guests enjoy RIBA's 2018 Clambake at Francis Farm.

It's time for the Rhode Island Builders

Association's 69th Annual Clambake, a RIBA tradition since 1950, and tickets are still available!

The price includes a full and fabulous day of fun, contests, events, prizes, food and drink. Each ticket includes two free beers. With over 600 people expected to attend, this is RIBA's premier annula social event, and it just keeps growing!

Please consider two things, because it still might not be too late: Making the Clambake your annual company outing, and becoming a sponsor (see information below). Many companies are already well represented at the event, and some have been from time out of mind. As for a sponsorship, this helps keep ticket prices low. The higher your sponsorship, the more perks you'll receive.

As always, great food will be featured throughout the day. Beginning at noon, there will be clam cakes and chowder, hot dogs, and little necks on the half shell.

The traditional clambake at 5:30 will include steamers, barbecued chicken, brown bread, fish and all the fixings. Soda, beer and assorted drinks will be available all day. Soda and water are free, and there will be a cash bar.

Enjoy volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, the football toss, the insulation toss, the RIBA-invented sport of plywood throwing, and more! At the end of the day, enjoy awards and many door prizes.

The cost of a whole day of fun, food, drink, contests, games and networking is just \$40 per person for the first 300 people! Over 600 people are expected to attend, so the earlier you register, the better. And each ticket includes two free beers.

Sponsorships!

RIBA can offer these bargain tickets because of our generous event sponsors, so please consider being one. There are three sponsorship levels, with more perks the higher you go. The more sponsors who sign on, the more people will be able to enjoy a fabulous day of fun, contests, events, prizes, food and drink.

Once again, consider making this event, a RIBA tradition since 1950, your company's outing, and please consider a Clambake sponsorship!



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PWB EVENTS FROM 2018-19



Join us for our **Fall Networking Event – East Greenwich Yacht Club September 2019, Date TBA 6-8pm**

PWB Officers

Carol O'Donnell-President Linda Bohmbach- Vice President

Want to learn more about the PWB?

Please visit our site for contact info, up-coming events anc

RIBA's next Networking Night slated for September 19

WHEN: Thursday, September 19th, 4:30 to 7 p.m.
WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy. #301, East Providence 02914
COST: FREE for members and their guests
FOR INFORMATION & TO REGISTER: Contact Elise Geddes at egeddes@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

Mark your calendars for the Rhode Island Builders Association's next networking event of 2019, set for Thursday, September 19th, at RIBA headquarters! Andersen Corp., makers of fine windows, doors and accessories, has generously offered to sponsor the evening.

Stop by the Networking Night to see some samples and demonstrations, pick up some literature, or just say hello and meet Andersen's Don Hamel, a familiar face to members and a great supporter of RIBA.

The evening is FREE for members and guests. Stop by anytime between 4:30 and 7 p.m. to relax and network with Don and your fellow RIBA members, and the RIBA staff.



Attendees hobnob at a typical Networking Night at Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters.

There will be a variety of tasty refreshments, along with beer, wine and soft drinks.

The Networking Night is a perfect opportunity to introduce a non-member to the benefits of RIBA membership. If you plan on attending, or if you have questions, please call Elise at (401) 438-7400 or e-mail egeddes@ribuilders.org.

-Elise Geddes

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B A Member News

Member Profile: Steve Gianlorenzo of Gianlorenzo & Sons

He's 'Mr. RIBA'!

By Paul F. Eno Editor

His friends know him as "Stevie G.," and he's been called "Mr. RIBA" for his decades of advocacy for the Rhode Island Builders Association. A third-generation home builder, he was the association's first president of the 21st century, has recruited well over 500 members and, in 2019, will attend the RIBA Clambake for the 50th year in a row.

Who else could he be but Steve Gianlorenzo of Gianlorenzo & Sons?

"Basically, I started in residential construction when I was 10 years old, working with my dad and grandfather" In a RIBA Clambake tradition, Steve Gianlorenzo rings the dinner bell to call everyone to the table.

in our family business, building houses in the East Bay area," Steve recalls.

And granddad was a formidable man: He came to Rhode Island from Italy in 1920, fathered 13 children, built up a home building business from scratch, and became a charter member of RIBA. He died in 1969 when he was almost 90 years old, and he was still building.

"My dad's three brothers all became builders. Between my father, my uncles, my grandfather and myself, we've built over a thousand houses in the East Bay area – one at a time," Steve says.

"We were involved with RIBA, and when I was 10 years old I attended my first Annual Clambake. That was in 1969. Ironically, this was at Francis Farm in Rehoboth, the same place the Clambake is held today."

Meanwhile, Steve had saved pretty much every dime he earned, including money made from delivering papers, cutting grass, shoveling snow and working for his dad. In 1977, he got the chance to go into business for himself.

"I was still working for my dad, and was a student at East Providence Career and Tech Center. My dad was offered a house in Rumford where there had been a fire," Steve remembers. "So, I asked if I could buy it. And I did."

As it turned out, the broker was none other than Burton P. Batty, who had served as RIBA's fourth president (1954-1955). The clos-

Gianlorenzo & Sons Construction Corp. Founder: Steven Gianlorenzo RIBA member since: 1977 Focus: Custom Homes Serves: Rhode Island, mostly the East Bay area Original Company Founded: 1977 Based: East Providence, Rhode Island ing from 1955 to 1997.

"At one of the Clambakes, I had a nice talk with Ross," Steve says. "He told me I had leadership potential, and he asked if I'd consider serving on the Board of Directors."

So, in October 1988, there was Steve at the RIBA Annual Meeting, sworn in for his first term as a local director. From there, Steve ascended the leadership ladder as secretary from 1995-1998, then as vice president from 1998-2000. He was elected president in 2000, serving until 2002. After that, Steve was treasurer from 2006 to 2016.

He even found time to serve as part-time building inspector in Smithfield in 2011 and 2012.

After 2016, Steve decided to pass the torch so he could spend more time with his grandchildren and his two sons, Steven Jr. and Andrew, who are following in his footsteps. But he says he will always be involved with RIBA.

"I'm now chairman of the Events Committee, and it's a job I love," he says.

Not only have events like the Clambake grown in recent years, but Steve has brought back some events that had gone dormant, like the Annual Christmas Party, which now attracts upwards of 150 people each December.

"In RIBA, you meet members who build one or two houses a year, you meet members who build many houses a year, and all kinds of people who serve and support our industry," Steve says.

"You're always able to learn different things from this crosssection of the industry."

Steve and his whole family love the products and services offered by the Builders Insurance Group. He also loves the networking events and the voice RIBA's advocacy has at the State House.

"It's great to see younger members joining the board and stepping up to the plate. There is strength in numbers. And there's a lot of benefit to every member."



that Steve had the chance to turn 18 on June 11th, so he could legally own the property, which he bought on his birthday for \$7,500 cash.

ing was delayed for three months so

"All my friends went to college. I bought a house. In 1981, they all graduated in debt. And I had a successful business with money in the bank."

After founding his business in 1977, Steve joined RIBA immediately. A few years later, in 1984, when he was 25, Steve was featured as a young home builder on page one of the *Providence Sunday Journal*. This did not go unnoticed by Ross Dagata, RIBA's first executive director, serv-

Member News

R.I. Energy Code changes in August: What should you expect?

Rhode Island is adopting the 2019 State Energy Conservation Code, which not only requires that all residential new construction units be tested and verified for their air leakage, but that they meet the following air leakage rates:

> In 2019: 8 ACH50 In 2020: 7 ACH50 In 2021: 6 ACH50 In 2022: 5 ACH50

This requirement applies to all new residential dwelling units permitted after Nov. 1, 2019. The test results must be recorded as Air Changes per Hour (ACH) at 50 Pascals of pressure (ACH50) and reported to the local building official. (Reference - SBC-2 N1102.4.1.2 and SBC-8 R402.4.1.2)

What is a blower door test?

The building or residential unit is placed in safe winter condi-

tions and a large fan is placed in a door or window (Fig. 1). This fan depressurizes the building or dwelling unit. A pressure gauge records the pressure and cubic-feet-perminute (CFM) flow rate of the fan to achieve a pressure difference of 50 Pascals (0.2 inches w.g.). The CFM is then converted to ACH50 using the volume of the house with the following calculation: ACH50 =(CFM50 x 60)/ Volume (Cubic Feet).

Who performs the blower door testing?

The code states that "testing shall be conducted by an approved third party where required by the building official."

The state Building Code Commission is currently reviewing regulations that will approve statewide credentials. Currently there is no standard in place. The certifications

under consideration for performing blower door and duct leakage testing are BPI, HERS and ACCA 12. Before the test is conducted, the testing agent's qualifications should be reviewed by the building official. Builders are not allowed to perform the test for code compliance on their own buildings. (Reference - SBC-2 N1102.4.1.2 and SBC-8 R402.4.1.2)

How can the required ACH50 be met?

nationalgrid

with Laura Rodormer

If all mandatory requirements of the current code are met, the building or dwelling unit should test below 4 ACH50.

Air leakage testing was adopted in the 2013 code but with no pass/fail requirement. This was intended to give contractors an opportunity to see what it takes to perform the test, what leakage rates they were achieving, and to allow time to adjust to meeting

> a maximum rate. Neighboring states currently need to meet 3 ACH50, as required by IECC 2012, 2015 and 2018.

> Partnering with an energy consultant such as a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater early in the design and construction process can be helpful in avoiding potential problems, especially if they can perform inspections and testing during the rough stage of construction. If a home fails at final testing, it can be difficult and costly to resolve.

> National Grid recently supported training and certification of Rhode Island-based HERS Raters who can assist project teams with meeting the new code requirements. Free on-site contractor training is also available.

> Blower door testing is commonly performed by HERS Raters or individuals with BPI certification. More information is available at: NEhers. org or BPI.org.

For information and assistance with meeting the Energy Code, call National Grid's Energy Code Technical Support at (855) 343-0105.

-With Rachael Pinnons

(See the July issue of The Rhode Island Builder for an detailed description of a blower door test. -Editor)



A typical setup for a blower door test.



One of RIBA's biggest member benefits:

All the classes you need for your CEUs and business development



John Pesce of Titan Lead Testing teaches a lead class at RIBA headquarters.

By Paul F. Eno Editor

An educated contractor is the most likely to be a successful contractor.

That's the idea behind one of the Rhode Island Builders Association's most visible and cost-saving membership benefits: A large and expanding education program, offered both on-site and online at RIBAeducates.com. And it's tuition-free for RIBA members and their employees.

"As far as we know, no other home builders association (HBA) in the country offers tuition-free education to members and their employees as we do," said RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio. "What you save on education through RIBA will more than pay your annual membership dues."

For the business owner/contractor

If you're a Rhode Island-based contractor, RIBA offers all the classes that provide the continuing-education units (CEUs) you need for renewals with the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB).

RIBA also offers all the professional-development classes you need to understand the latest codes, regulations, estimating trends, materials, technologies, and more, to gain the knowledge you need as a professional contractor.

For your employees

RIBA's education programs extend to your company's employees. So, whether it's QuickbooksTM, code classes, safety instruction or other employee-based education, we're here to help your company achieve a better-educated workforce.

"Even when I was a carpenter working for my father's company, I would be sent to RIBA to take, for example, a code class. He knew that made me a better carpenter," recalled Mr. Marcantonio. "We've brought back those kinds of extended education services for member employers. It certainly worked for me some 30 years ago!"

For those who work in Massachusetts

If you're a Rhode Island contractor who works in Massachusetts, or a RIBA member from the Bay State, RIBA is expanding into CEUs for Massachusetts. We have offered classes to fulfill all Massachusetts requirements and will continue to do so.

In coming months, RIBA will expand these offerings so they are more frequent and easier to take advantage of. Included could be a 12-hour, two-day, comprehensive course, or a simple two-hour or four-hour, on-site class to meet the commonwealth's in-person requirements.

RIBA's education program is designed to help you meet the regulatory mandates in both states, to grow your knowledge base as a professional, and to give you the most competent, capable employees you can develop.

Mr. Marcantonio cited an old saying: "What if we train them and they leave our company? But what if we don't train them and they stay?"

"The unprecedented value offered by RIBA's education program helps every aspect of your business," he stated. "The companies that take advantage of this program know this, and they use it to help themselves thrive."

If your company hasn't taken advantage of RIBA's education program, you are urged to see how it can work for you.

Classes applicable to Rhode Island registration renewals only are offered on a regular basis.

These include:

• Confined Spaces, Asbestos Awareness and Mold Awareness;

· Blower Door and Air Leakage Testing, Advanced Framing,

Less Material Labor, Frost Protected Shallow Foundations;

• Working with Building Officials and Understanding the Oneand Two-Family Building Code;

- The Design/Build Process;
- Deck Codes

• Waterproofing Walls, Shingle, Shingle Design and Common Construction Regulations;

• Laws and Regulations related to the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB);

- OSHA Safety Review;
- and more.

Other courses offered include everything you need for OSHA compliance and a safe jobsite, along with lead and RRP classes required for certification. There's also the OSHA 10-Hour Certification Course and much more.

Watch *The Rhode Island Builder*, RIBuilders.org and RIBA-educates.com for details and scheduling.

see EDUCATION...page 14

www.ribuilders.org

12/August 2019

Continuing Education for Contractors

<u>Courses headlined in **RED** on the Education Pages qualify for state-man</u>dated continuing education requirements. EVERY RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTOR registered to work in Rhode Island must take five hours of continuing education before his or her next renewal date, and must provide class certificates as evidence of completion.

Five Credit Hours: CRB Law, Regulations and Contracts Review August 20th

WHEN: Tuesday, August 20th, 7:45 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. \$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 review some critical items for all contractors who work in Rhode Island:

• The Rhode Island Contractors' Registration Law

• Rules and Regulations adopted as of January of 2019, and those pending.

• Introduction to Construction Contracts

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.

OSHA-10 Course September 11th-12th

WHEN: Wednesday and Thursday, September 11th and 12th, 7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day.

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

COST: FREE for members and their employees with a \$40 materials/registration fee, \$155 for non-members with 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 10-hour class, held over two days.

The course is geared to train safety directors, job foremen and field employees in OSHA construction standards. It highlights the areas of major safety concerns, with the intent to reduce accidents on the job site, saving time and money.

Each person completing the course will receive a copy of the OSHA Standard 29 CFR Part 1926 and an OSHA-10 certification card.

Every person working on a municipal or state construction project with a total project cost of \$100,000 or more must have card certifying their completion of an OSHA 10-Hour training program on their person at all times while work is being performed.

According to the requirement, the rule applies to "any private person or entity bound by a contractual agreement to provide goods or services to a contractor/developer who must physically enter the place where work is being performed or business is being conducted."

This does not apply to sales representatives, vendors, or to those delivering building materials and supplies/products to a construction site. (Fines can range from \$250 to \$950 per offense, on each day in which a violation occurs.)

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. Classes might run over because of breaks and lunch. R I B A

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

BA Legislative/Regulatory News

Major changes loom for CRLB

Along with online renewals (see page 1), CRLB will soon begin licensing more professions.

By Paul F. Eno Editor

New rules and regulations for the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board's (CRLB) law have been approved by the General Assembly, and they took effect on July 1st.

Restructuring

Along with a significant restructuring and the creation of a State Building Office (story on page 24), here are the main changes, authorized in Gov. Gina Raimondo's FY 2020 budget, as approved by the General Assembly on June 26th:

• A written affidavit will no longer be required for a new or renewed registration. Instead, a signed statement will suffice. This change is meant to reduce the burden on contractors, according to the governor's office.

• The budget amends language to reflect last year's transfer of the CRLB from the Dept. of Administration to the Dept. of Business Regulation (DBR).

• Under DBR, the CRLB will soon begin licensing home inspec-



tors, associate home inspectors, well-drilling contractors, pump installers, water-filtration/treatment-system contractors, waterfiltration/treatment-system installers and commercial roofers.

Underground utility contractors are already licensed.

There are several changes to the requirements for commercial roofing contractors.

• There is no longer a state requirement that they complete the OSHA 10-Hour course. While this might seem to be a reduction in important safety training, it isn't, according to DBR Deputy Director Julietta Georgakis, because federal regulations require roofing contractors to take the same course.

• Continuing education is now required every two years instead of every year for commercial roofing contractors.

• Bonding requirements, which required commercial roofing contractors to be insured against failure to complete work, are eliminated. This was previously set at \$100,000. The change aligns Rhode Island requirements with those of neighboring states, which do not have bond requirements.

• Insurance requirements for commercial roofing contractors rise to \$2 million from the current \$1.5 million.

• Penalties for failure to comply with licensing regulations are amended.

Licensing

The rules and regulations for each profession have been adopted by the board, and licensing as noted above will begin as soon as the regulations are vetted by the Office of Regulatory Reform and the Office of the Secretary of State.

Once approved, the regulations will be made available for public comment. The whole process will take several more months, but licensing will be a reality for these professionals, after years of waiting, by the end of the year.

"The idea is to have all the rules direct back to a consistent 'umbrella' regulation," Ms. Georgakis said.

For more information and full details, please call the CRLB at (401) 921-1590.

<u>EDUCATION</u>...from page 12

We want to hear from you

RIBA wants direct feedback from members on the education program, especially when it comes to ideas on additional classes you would like us to offer. What would help you, your company and your employees grow? RIBA wants to know! Feedback turns into classes.

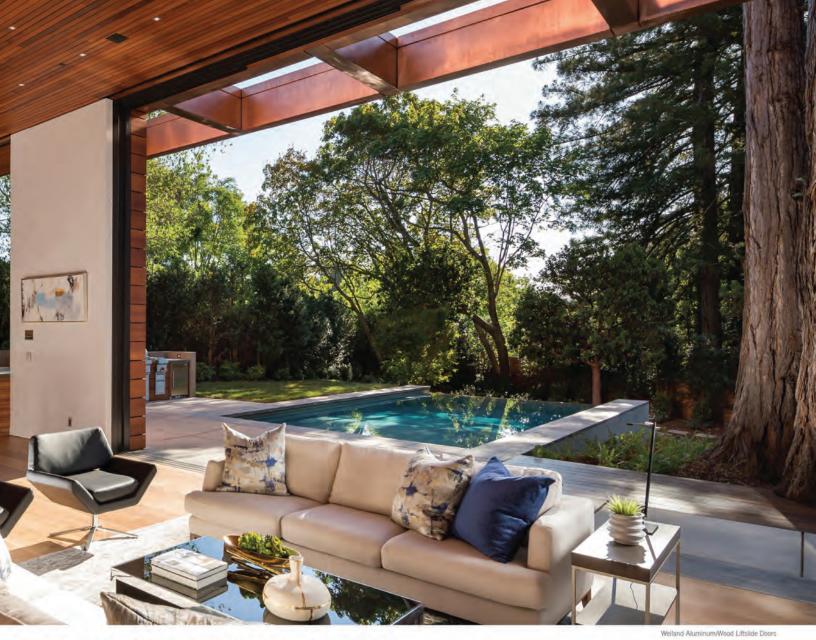
For information on all courses, contact Elise Geddes at egeddes@ribuilders.org, or Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders. org. Or call during normal business hours: (401) 438-7400.

Mr. Marcantonio stresses that members should feel free to reach out to him directly at (401) 438-7400 or jmarcantonio@ ribuilders.org.

Featured Products & Services for August 2019



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Rhode Island Builders Association Member Benefit Guide 2019-2020



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Our complimentary workforce-development program is includes custom training initiatives for your company and/ or a 26-week comprehensive pre-apprenticeship program where you can send current or prospective employees for carpentry, electrical or plumbing training. Spanish programs are also available.

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RIBA has a complimentary Safety Service that includes jobsite visits to guide members toward proper workforce-safety procedures, OSHA compliance and lower insurance rates. This is a totally confidential service, and it can save you thousands of dollars!

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Vital Information Resources

Members stay in the know with information they can only find through RIBA, including the award-winning, monthly *Rhode Island Builder* magazine; update e-mails from Executive Officer John Marcantonio, national updates from the National Association of Home Builders, and so much more! This is a true advantage in the marketplace!

Solution Services

Industry-based professionals are available to find answers for you and to help you with your most troubling issues – from permitting, to new-regulations compliance, to financing resources, the solutions staff at RIBA gives you peace of mind and lets you know that you're not alone out there!

Insurance & Bonding

RIBA has its own full-service, in-house insurance agency – The Builders Insurance Group (BIG). Members will find a rewarding service experience, trusted advice on insurance products, and the knowledge that the resources of this RIBA subsidiary go toward helping the industry.

Medical & Dental Plans for You and Your Employees

Speaking of insurance, RIBA offers complete health and dental plans for you and your employees. The dental plans, in particular, are the best available when it comes to cost. RIBA has its own pool and its own rate.



BG

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From RIBA's Executive Officer

Dear Members of the Rhode Island Builders Association:

Please take the time to pull this special Member Benefit Guide out of the magazine. It's yours to keep, and its designed to be a resource for you to quickly reference and recognize everything you have available to you at RIBA.

From the complimentary educational services for you and your employees, the new Safety Service, customized workforce training, networking, business referrals, legislative advocacy and member solution-services, your trade assocaition is structured to help you with every aspect of your business.

We are making it easier than ever to understand what's included in your membership. And when you have a chance, give us a call so we can get you connected to the services we have that can help protect you, make you money, improve your knowledge, keep you safe, and help your business thrive! I also need your help with a larger cause. Please share this message with your industry colleagues and ask them to join! Our services, advocacy and industry-leading resources depend on membership. With so much to offer, our goal is to reach out and serve. Helping someone join is easy, just have them call the office at (401) 438-7400 and we will take it from there!

So thanks again for being a member, for being a part of this thriving, almost 70 year old resource, and for allowing us

to serve your needs. Please always feel free to call us with any issue, as we are always here for you!

All my best, John Marcantonio *Executive Officer*



Joining the Rhode Island Builders Association is easy! For details, call (401) 438-7400 or e-mail Elise at egeddes@ribuilders.org





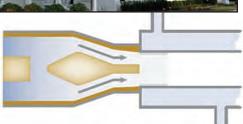
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who know your business and your community. Your Outside Sales Representative is available for on-site visits, and collaborates with a dedicated Inside Sales Representative who is up to date on what stage your project is at, and can be reached easily by phone or e-mail.

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22/August 2019

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Get ready to welcome the State Building Office

Now that they are all with DBR, agencies relevant to construction will all work under the same umbrella.

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Get ready to welcome the Rhode Island State Building Office (RISBO)!

In the wake of last year's move of the Building Code Commission (BCC), the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB), the Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review (SCBAR), and the state Fire Marshal's Office to the Dept. of Business Regulation (DBR), structural changes are in the works to reduce redundancy and increase efficiency.

"All these agencies are now under DBR's Division of Building, Design, and Fire Professionals (BDFP)," said DBR Deputy Director Julietta Georgakis.

"Code and inspection functions are the same, so the goal is to have them all work seamlessly. This will speed the processes for economic development."

Also, under BDFP, are the design professional boards, namely architects, professional engineers, landscape architects, professional land surveyors and accountants.

Within the Office of the State Fire Marshal are four additional groups: inspectors, plan reviewers, the bomb squad, and the investigators.

The entire apparatus will constitute the State Building Office, to be headed by current Building Commissioner John P. Leyden.

"We aim for more efficiency," Ms. Georgakis stressed.

"The number of employees in the whole division will go down, but we will ultimately have employees more aligned with the division's mission," she added.



Julietta Georgakis

"We plan on reducing the number of employees who provide administrative support, and instead hire more inspectors, which is what the industry needs. All employees will be expected to work across the board."

The restructuring goes hand-in-hand with implementation of changes to CRLB's regulations enabling statute authorized in Gov. Gina Raimondo's

budget as passed by the General Assembly on June 26^{th} .

Related stories on pages 1 and 14.

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

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A Conversation on Energy Policy, with...



Carol Grant Commissioner, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

Carol Grant joined the Office of Energy Resources (OER) in May 2016 with more than 30 years of experience in operations, human resources, policy, law and communications. She had most recently served in leadership roles at two renewable energy companies. In her current role, Ms. Grant leads policy and planning for Rhode Island's nationallyrecognized energy-efficiency programs. She is leading the effort to expand local and regional renewable energy to meet Gov. Gina Raimondo's clean-energy goal of 1000 megawatts by 2020. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri and a juris doctor from the University of Michigan.

THE BUILDER: Can you sum up

Rhode Island's general energy policy and goals, and tell us where they stand when it comes to implementation?

TRIETCH: The mission of the Office of Energy Resources (OER) is to lead Rhode Island to a reliable, affordable and clean energy future. OER works closely with private and public stakeholders to increase the reliability and security of our energy supply, reduce energy costs and mitigate price volatility, and improve environmental quality.

In March 2017, Gov. Gina Raimondo announced a strategic goal to increase the state's clean energy ten-fold by the end of 2020 – achieving a total of 1,000 megawatts of clean energy projects. As of the end of the first quarter of 2019, the state has counted approximately 371 megawatts of clean energy generation capacity.

Of that, 371 megawatts total, 151 megawatts is solar, 144 megawatts is onshore wind, 35 megawatts is landfill gas/anaerobic digestion, 30 megawatts is offshore wind, and 11 megawatts is small hydroelectric power. You may track our progress, announced each quarter, at Energy.ri.gov/renewable-energy/governor-clean-energy-goal.php.

This spring, the Public Utilities Commission approved the Revolution Wind project, an offshore wind farm that will power about 200,000 Rhode Island homes, bringing \$250 million in local investments, including \$40 million in infrastructure improvements to our ports and \$4.5 million in education. This offshore wind project will deliver \$91 million in energy cost savings and be the environmental equivalent of taking 100,000 cars off the road each year.

Lead by Example is another initiative established by executive order. This directs our office to oversee and coordinate efforts at state agencies to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.



I'm pleased to report that we've met our first goal to reduce the state's emissions 10 percent below 2014 levels, and several state buildings now have solar power on their roofs, with more being built this year.

A clean energy future isn't only about adding renewables to our system, but also about making smart investments that reduce the amount of energy we consume. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy has ranked Rhode Island third in the country for our leading energy efficiency programs.

Your readers can find out about what we've accomplished at Energy.ri.gov/ newsroom.

THE BUILDER: The major change in the 2019 state building code is that

the blower-door testing requirement will now have requirements, namely 8 ACH50 in 2019, gradually decreasing to 5 in 2022. Does blower-door testing really reflect a home's true energy efficiency?

TRIETCH: Blower door tests help to determine the airtightness of a home. This is an important measure of a home's comfort and energy efficiency because a building with appropriate airtightness will use less energy to heat and cool its interior and will avoid moisture-condensation issues.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Energy, an average U.S. home has as much air leakage as a two-foot square hole. That's similar to leaving a window open year-round. For this reason, the federal ENERGY STAR[®] Certified Homes program (a voluntary program that provides recognition to high-efficiency homes) requires a modeled infiltration rate of 3 ACH50 in Rhode Island's climate zone.

Although a blower door test can't give a full picture of a home's energy use, it's an extremely important datapoint, and it accurately conveys the air exchange rates of a home.

THE BUILDER: Solar siting legislation has been controversial. What is OER's position on requiring solar farm siting in areas other than those that could be used for housing mixed with open space (such as rooftops, parking lots and landfills)?

TRIETCH: OER has been working extensively on the solar siting subject over the past two years with a broad set of stakeholders, including the Rhode Island Builders Association.

In coordination with the Division of Statewide Planning, we worked on educational solar siting ordinances information for municipalities to have access to between the May 2018 and February

see INTERVIEW...next page
August 2019/25



'The Office of Energy Resources will be rolling out a new solar carport incentive program in the fall of 2019.'

INTERVIEW...from previous page

2019. These included OER and Planning staff traveling to different municipalities across the state to present and gather public feedback as the model ordinance information was developed.

OER has also made itself available to all municipalities needing technical assistance on their respective ordinances for both roof- and ground-mounted solar systems.

We most recently worked with the Town of Westerly for the first-time comprehensive solar siting ordinances that addressed roof- and ground-mounted systems.

While OER has provided guidance on solar systems, including the different scales of project size, suggested permitting application process and decommission information for municipalities to have access to, the matter of land-use determination, whether it be housing development, renewable energy development and/or other forms of economic/commerce business development, is a matter that will be determined by each of the 39 municipalities.

Beyond the development of solar siting information, OER is actively promoting solar development on landfills, gravel pits and other disturbed sites, in addition to developed and undeveloped commercial and industrial properties. OER has also increased program capacity to promote more roof-mounted solar installations over the past year.

OER will be rolling out a new solar carport incentive program in the fall of 2019.

THE BUILDER: What percentage of Rhode Island homes now have solar panels?

TRIETCH: OER doesn't track residential vs. commercial solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. However, we do know what sized solar systems have been installed across the state.

The average interconnected, small PV system in Rhode Island, the majority of which are on residential properties, is approximately 7.2 kilowatts. There are approximately 6,225 PV systems installed and interconnected on National Grid's distribution system, 15 kilowatts or smaller.

THE BUILDER: What's the specific policy on onshore wind farms? How are municipalities responding to people who want to install private wind turbines?

TRIETCH: Siting wind-energy projects involves a careful consideration of both the available wind resource and the potential impacts a project may pose to the surrounding area.

A number of public-private partnerships and state initiatives have evaluated siting considerations associated with offshore and onshore wind in Rhode Island.

To help communities that are considering land-based wind projects, OER issued wind-siting guidelines in 2017, which may be reviewed at ur website at Energy.ri.gov/renewable-energy/wind/

wind-siting.php.

OER believes that the siting of renewable energy projects is a matter best handled by the local communities, but we continue to make ourselves available to any municipality that wishes to receive technical assistance on creating their siting ordinances.

THE BUILDER: Where can builders get more training in renewable-energy technologies?

TRIETCH: For solar PV, the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) is the gold standard of certifications. They have several options, including PV Installation Professional, PV Technical Sales and Solar Heating Installer. Your readers can find out more at Nabcep.org.

For Small Wind, NABCEB also has a certification. For larger onshore wind, offshore wind and other renewable technologies and sustainability, the best resource for Southern New England is the MassCEC Clean Energy Careers Training and Education Directory found at https://cleanenergyeducation.org/directory.

Some other workforce websites focused specifically in New England are the Association of Energy Engineers in New England – a network of energy practitioners with demonstrated competencies over a range of energy issues. (https://aeenewengland.org/index.php).

There's also the Institute for Energy and Sustainability. They help with green business development assistance and green jobs listings in Central New England (Energyandsustainability.com).

Another good resource is the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA). For more than 35 years, NESEA has supported and inspired a growing network of sustainable-energy and sustainable-building professionals committed to responsible energy use (Energyandsustainability.com).

THE BUILDER: How can it help RIBA members get work? TRIETCH: The clean-energy market in Rhode Island is growing, and it faces a shortage of qualified professionals to fill all job vacancies to keep up with demand.

We invite all job seekers to review our recently-released Clean Energy Industry Report (Energy.ri.gov/cleanjobs/) to learn about where the opportunities are and what training is required for those careers.





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BA Our Future Workforce

Apply now for fall pre-apprenticeship programs

Applications are being accepted through August 1st for six pre-apprentice training programs to begin in September.

Four sessions of the Carpentry Career Training Program (CCTP), one each at the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center, CHARIHOTech, the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center, and the East Providence Career and Technical Center.

Electrical pre-apprenticeship training will take place at the Warwick Area Career and Techncial Center, and plumbing pre-apprenticeship training will be held at the Providence Career and Technical Academy.

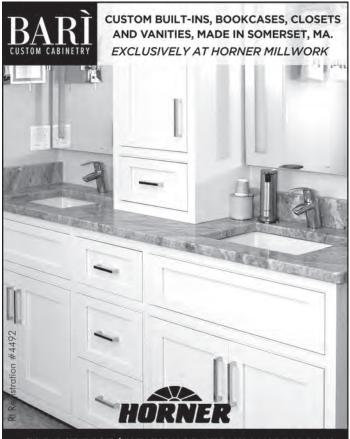
These courses, offered by the Rhode Island Builders Association and its industry partners, are free to students and employers. Most students are adults, some of whom already work in the residential construction industry and have been sent to be trained or upskilled by their employers, or as new hires.

"You recruit, we train, you hire," is the message RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio conveys to employers.

For details and to register, contact Elise Geddes at RIBA, (401) 438-7400 or egeddes@ribuilders.org.

First CCTP class graduates

Meanwhile, proud graduates from the first two CCTP pre-



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Members of the first Carpentry Career Training Program (CCTP) courses gather at RIBA headquarters on June 25th to receive their graduation certificates. Applications are being accepted through August 1st for six more pre-apprentice training programs.

apprenticeship courses gathered at RIBA headquarters in East Providence on June 25th to receive their certificates following the intensive, 26-week, 200-hour programs.

Classes run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays.

CCTP classes began in November at CHARIHOTech and the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center.

The courses include OSHA 10 Certification and 8 Hour Lead-Safe RRP training; 148 hours of Home Builders Institute Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT); basic first aid; 7.5 hours of coaching on soft skills, team-building, professionalism and success in the workplace; 7.5 hours of jobsite visits; 5 hours on building codes; and 13 hours of manufacturer visits for expert installation training, techniques and tips.

There are special visits by manufacturers' representatives to provide demonstrations and hands-on training. For example, Pedro Esteves and Charles Coombs of Boise-Cascade presented to the WACTC class on roof trusses, floor trusses and I joists on June 11th (see below).

Each CCTP student receives a set of basic carpentry tools to use during training and to keep upon successful completion of the course.

Programs are funded through Real Jobs Rhode Island.

Boise Cascade pitches in



Here are participants in the CCTP class at Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center on June 11th. Presenting on roof trusses, floor trusses and I joists that evening were Charles Coombs and Pedro Esteves of Boise Cascade Wood Products, at left.

BA

Massachusetts News

MassHousing on track for record lending

With several days remaining in Fiscal Year 2019, MassHousing announced on June 25th that its HomeOwnership first mortgage lending already ranks as the second highest total in the agency's history.

In FY2019, which ran from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, MassHousing closed 3,042 first mortgage loans for \$769.4 million, according to an agency statement.

"Lending is being driven largely by MassHousing's Down Payment Assistance Program, which has benefited 1,347 homebuyers," the agency said.

The lending totals mark a 41 percent increase over FY2018 in terms of number of loans, and a 44 percent increase in terms of financing amount.

"Massachusetts homebuyers continue to seek out MassHousing's simple, straightforward and affordable mortgage loans," said Mounzer Aylouche, the agency's vice president of HomeOwnership Programs.

"New programs like Down Payment Assistance—along with such longstanding features as affordable fixed rates, MI Plus mortgage payment protection and in-house loan servicing—make MassHousing loans some of the most attractive options available."

Of those loans, 883 were made to minority homebuyers (up 80

Aid to innovative firms seen as boost for housing

Housing and innovative new companies go hand in hand.

That's the opinion of the Baker-Polito Administration, which awarded \$3.3 million to 19 innovative, early-stage, high-growth companies in Massachusetts on June 27th.

"Made possible by a collaboration between the MassVentures START program and the MassCEC, these awards will help grow employment opportunities, promote manufacturing and commercialization, and stimulate innovation across the Commonwealth. Funding will support companies located throughout Massachusetts across the technology sector, ranging from the maritime industry to biotech and defense," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.

"Supporting early-stage Massachusetts companies helps drive job creation and economic activity statewide," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "Our administration is committed to supporting Massachusetts' high tech industry, especially as these entrepreneurs and innovators make the leap from concept to commercialization."

Now in its eighth year, with this year's event, the START program has awarded nearly \$21.1 million to 85 Massachusetts Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II projects and helped winning companies raise additional capital of more than \$1.1 billion. START awardees since 2015 now employ more than 2,300 people in communities throughout Massachusetts, supporting housing growth throughout the state.

percent from FY2018), 1,315 to lower-income borrowers (up 45 percent), and 1,943 to buyers in the Commonwealth's 26 Gateway Cities (up 114 percent). Thirty-six loans were made to members of the National Guard and Reserve, active-duty military, veterans and Gold Star Families through MassHousing's Operation Welcome Home loan program.

In addition, MassHousing reported providing \$3.2 million in second mortgage financing to help 127 homeowners remove hazardous lead paint, replace a failing septic system or make general improvements to their properties.

For more information, visit MassHousing.com.

-Paul Eno

Resources for RIBA members who work in Massachusetts

The Rhode Island Builder covers Massachusetts news relevant to members of the Rhode Island Builders Association who work in our neighbor to the north and east.

Here are some sources of regulatory information and forms for contractors who work in the Bay State, or who plan to. For education purposes, RIBA will shortly expand its education programs to include courses required for work in Massachusetts.

Building Permits: Massachusetts has a statewide formula for building permits. Application forms may vary a little by municipality, but standard forms and information may be found at the Office of Consumer Affairs & Business Regulation (OCABR) website: Mass.gov/ocabr.

Contractor Registration and Licensing: Massachusetts has licensing for construction supervisors and registration for home improvement contractors. Find the details at Mass. gov/topics/building-trades.

Also find information about trade licensing at this site.

MassHousing: Similar to Rhode Island Housing, Mass-Housing is an independent, quasi-public agency that provides financing for affordable housing in Massachusetts.

Created in 1966, MassHousing raises capital by selling bonds, and lends the proceeds to low- and moderate-income homebuyers and homeowners, and to developers who build or preserve affordable and/or mixed-income rental housing. Since its inception, MassHousing has provided more than \$20 billion for affordable housing. Find out more at MassHousing.com.





LEGISLATION...from page 2

coln, Smithfield), Charlene Lima (D-Cranston, Providence), and James N. McLaughlin (D-Central Falls, Cumberland).

"RIBA will always advocate for continuing improvements to the inspection process," said Executive Officer John Marcantonio. "We're grateful to the General Assembly for taking up the issue."

Height restrictions

Bill S-689 Sub A was passed as well. It revises the definition of building height according to Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) maps in special flood-hazard zones.

Sponsors include Sens. Dawn Euer (D-Newport, Jamestown) and McCaffrey.

The companion House bill was H-5484 Sub A, sponsored by Reps. Carol Hagan McEntee (D-Narragansett, South Kingstown), K. Joseph Shekarchi (D-Warwick), Kathleen A. Fogarty (D-South Kingstown), Blake A. Filippi (R- Charlestown, New Shoreham, South Kingstown, Westerly), Robert E. Craven Sr. (D-North Kingstown).

Regarding building officials

Bill S-690, which would prohibit requiring building officials from performing duties not set out in the building code, and which would limit the number of municipalities that can combine to appoint a building official, passed the Senate on May 2nd. RIBA will continue to advocate for this legislation. Sponsors included Sens. Elizabeth A. Crowley (D-Central Falls, Pawtucket) and McCaffrey.

Quorum reforms

Bills intended to reform the quorum practices of local planning and zoning boards (S-752, S-751, H-5696 and 5697) are still in process. The measures would recognize a vote by a majority of board members present as valid, as opposed to the current practice of all members of the board, present or not.

Senate sponsor is Sen. McCaffrey. House sponsors include Reps. Shekarchi, Michael A. Morin (D-Woonsocket), Ucci, Robert D. Phillips (D-Woonsocket, Cumberland), Stephen M. Casey (D-Woonsocket), Joseph J. Solomon Jr. (D-Warwick) and Lima.

Should the General Assembly reconvene later this year, the measures could be on the agenda, or they will be taken up again in January for the 2020 session. In any case, RIBA will continue to advocate for this legislation.

The Budget

Gov. Raimondo's budget passed with modifications, but changes to the contractor registration and licensing regulations were retained in the final version. *Related story on page 14*.

"The Rhode Island Builders Association will continue to advocate on many bills and policies that effect your business," said RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio.

For more information, contact Mr. Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400 or jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org.

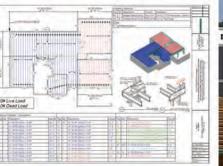
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GOLF CLASSIC ... from page 1

the families of those killed in action since 9/11.

There will be a "scramble" format. Cart, greens fees, lunch, dinner and a raffle ticket are included in the full registration fee.

There will be prizes for first, second, third and last-place teams, along with awards for longest drive and closest-to-the-pin on numerous holes.

If you can't devote the day to golf, then you're welcome to just join us for dinner.

Please consider becoming a sponsor of the RIBA Golf Classic! Information on page 1. In doing so, you will generate great exposure for your company with tee signs, and you will be mentioned on a special page in The Rhode Island Builder. Top sponsorships offer you complimentary registrations at the event.

Builders Helping Heroes helps turn our wounded heroes' homes back into places of comfort. R I

<u>PRESIDENT</u>...from page 5

for everyone. Many people are more suited to work with their hands, and those are just the people we need in the residential construction industry today. Historically, the industry has led the way to economic growth after recessions, and this last time has been no different.

The only shortfall was not enough skilled workers to take up the slack as the momentum of economic activity accelerated. The same can be said for any industry that produces goods or services. We need to effectively train our workforce to be economically viable as a state and a nation as well.

All that said, we need to keep up the pressure on the industry, the state and all others involved to continue on the path of workforce development, which provides good-paying jobs for our state and makes it participants financially successful. R I

See at the 69th Annual RIBA Clambake on August 9th!



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From the Dept. of Business Regulation Official Guidelines for Online Renewals

The Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (DBR) is excited to partner with Viewpointcloud[®] to begin online registration renewal for all contractors registered with the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB).

When the possibility of offering online renewal was first discussed, the Rhode Island Builders Association stressed how important it is for contractors to keep their existing registration numbers. And that makes perfect sense-your registration number is part of your professional identity. With that in mind, we worked with Viewpointcloud to make it possible for you to keep your existing registration number.

Unfortunately, the online registration renewal process is a little complicated, but only when renewing the very first time. That said, if you follow the step-by-step guide below, you'll manage just fine! Of course, if you need assistance, CRLB staff is ready to walk you through the process. Just call: 401-921-1590 or stop by the office: 560 Jefferson Blvd. in Warwick. Suite 200. We are open Mon-Fri, 8:30 am-4:00 pm.

Let's begin!

Gather Required Documents: Before you sit down at a computer to start the renewal process, it is useful to have all required documents readily available. Here is a list of the documents you will need depending on the type of registration/license you hold:

• Identification (Driver's License, Passport, State ID)

• Proof of liability Insurance with CRLB as holder (min. \$500k contractors, \$1 million underground utility, \$1.5 million commercial roofer)

• Worker's Compensation Insurance (If you have employees)

• Proof of five hours Continuing Education (for residential contractors)

• Bond with CRLB as holder (underground utility – \$20,000)

• Exam results (underground utility)

• Agent of service (for all out-of-state contractors)

• Corporation documents from the Rhode Island Secretary of State's Office (if you are registering as a corporation)

• \$200 registration fee (Check can be mailed to the office – no fee, if paying by credit card or e-check – fees apply)

Visit: https://ri-crlb.viewpointcloud.com/

• If you already have a Viewpointcloud account, that you created when pulling permits in municipalities, please click "Login" in the top right corner.

OR

• If you do not have a Viewpointcloud account, click "Sign Up" in the top right corner, and then click "Register Now."

• Log In (if you have an account) or Sign Up (all new users) with your e-mail address and password:

• Scroll to the bottom of the page and click: Claim a Record

• Type the claim code you received in your renewal packet. Please note: Your CLAIM CODE is case sensitive and MUST be typed exactly as it appears.

• Click "Submit".

• Click on "Your Name" and then "My Account" in the top right corner.

• Click "Renew your Contractor's Registration Application," and then click "Yes, begin Renewal."

• Confirm your contact information and click "Next."

• Follow all steps to complete the application. Anything with an "Asterisk (*)" is a required field and must be answered to move forward with the application.

• Upload all required attachments. Click "Next." Review the application and click "Submit".

• Once submitted, your application will be reviewed by CRLB staff and payment will become due. Payment is accepted in the form of a check, credit card (fees apply) or E-check (fees apply). Please note that we do not accept cash. Once those steps are completed, an employee will approve the registration and your registration certificate and pocket card will be issued for you to print.

Congratulations, your registration is now renewed with the CRLB!

Please note: Once an application is submitted, you will not be able to edit it. You can, however, message the reviewer, make a payment or upload new documents. You will receive an e-mail from staff if any tasks require your attention.

Example: You mistakenly uploaded a picture of your cat, instead of proof of liability insurance.

It is your responsibility to upload a current insurance policy to your record as one becomes available. A video guide to this process will be uploaded to the CRLB's website: CRB.ri.gov.

REGISTRATION...from page 1

be using for all new registrations and renewals."

Full information on the change to online registration will have been included in renewal packages sent to contractors beginning in August, and so on for those with renewal dates over the next two years. We also reprint it on the previous page.

The transition is expected to have some challenges the first time contractors use it to renew their registrations, according to Ms. Georgakis, who emphasized that contractors will be able to keep their current registration number permanently.

"Viewpointcloud is a permitting system used in a number of states," she said. "But we have had them tweak the software so contractors in Rhode Island can keep their current registration numbers."

Renewal packages will include a unique code that will have to be used for the first renewal only. When a contractor renews with Viewpointcloud for the first time, and uses this code, the existing registration number, and all historical data on the contractor, will be tied to the new account.

"However, the process should be much easier if a contractor already has a Viewpointcloud account by having used it to pull permits through e-permitting. In that case, the online renewal process should take no more than 10 minutes," Ms. Georgakis stated.

Registration renewal payments can be made with a credit or debit card, or registrants can send a check to the CRLB office or bring it in person. Paying by check will carry no fee.

"I have to emphasize that renewals will no longer be accepted by mail," Ms. Georgakis said.

Plenty of help

What about contractors who aren't computer-savvy? Not to worry, Ms. Georgakis stated.

"A renewal can be completed from any device with an Internet connection, including a smart phone. But contractors are welcome to come to the CRLB office, where we will have four dedicated computers available for filing online registrations and renewals,"

she said. "Staff members will be on hand to walk registrants through the process."

CRLB has an instructional video about the online renewal process, at CRB.ri.gov. The CRLB office is at 560 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 200, Warwick. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 to 4 p.m.

The Rhode Island Builders Association will work with CRLB to help people renew their registrations online, Executive Officer John Marcantonio pledged.

"We will have several computers available for any contractor, member or non-member, to come in and use for online renewals, and staff will be available to assist," Mr. Marcantonio said.

"We are here to help anyone in the residential construction industry who needs to renew their registration."

RIBA's website, RIBAeducates.com, will have an instructional page about the new system, with a link to the CRLB site.

Ms. Georgakis made a few more points.

• Viewpointcloud is permitting software. So, registrants shouldn't be confused when the screen they see after completing their registration or renewal says "issue record" rather than "issuing a registration."

"Viewpointcloud couldn't change this just for us because it's a nationwide system, and it would change the wording in every other state that uses it," she said. "At this point, Rhode Island is the only state that uses it for registrations as well as permitting."

· Registrants must have an e-mail address to use the online system. If a registrant doesn't have an e-mail address, CRLB can use a cell-phone number because each phone has an e-mail address associated with it, even if the owner is not aware of this.

"Call or visit CRLB, and staffers can put this e-mail address into the system for you," Ms. Georgakis said. "We will work with you."

"The first two-year renewal is the tough part. Once you've done it and are in the system, subsequent renewals will just be a matter of a 'click.""

All requests for information, and calls for assistance, regarding online registration and renewal should be directed to CRLB at (401) 921-1590. R I

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