

**FEATURED
PRODUCTS AND
SERVICES
FOR JUNE**

Center Section

**New codes take
effect in August**

Tighter rules for blower-door testing are the primary change in the 2019 code books, building commissioner says.

Page 2

**RIBA's Annual
Networking BBQ
set for June 6**

Come enjoy the Rhode Island Builders Association's 6th Annual Networking Barbecue, generously sponsored by Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center!

Page 10

**Senate President
sits down with
RIBA Board**

State Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio expresses support for more housing as he confers with RIBA leadership on May 6th.

Page 6

**RIBA Safety
Officer has some
pointers before
you book a visit**

RIBA Safety Officer Scott Asprey advises members to prepare for their complementary jobsite visit by keep the site safe at all times anyway.

Page 11

Senate President Ruggerio addresses RIBA Board

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

The state budget, the importance of job training and workforce development, impediments to residential construction, the inspection process and times, solar siting, and support for small business all featured in the discussion as Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio addressed the Rhode Island Builders Association's Board of Directors on May 6th.

"We certainly support RIBA in its work to expand and improve workforce development and apprenticeships in the state," Sen. Ruggerio said. "We want to get to young people early with the message that careers in construction could be for them."

At the same time, he pointed out that Rhode Island needs about \$2 billion to fully upgrade school facilities over the long term.

Proposed legislation on solar siting, a matter of concern to RIBA because solar

see RUGGERIO...page 8



Senate President
Dominick J. Ruggerio

Special Member Benefit Guide Issue

Get the full scoop: RIBA offers benefits and services no other HBA does

Pull out and keep the 2019-2020 Member Benefit Guide in the center of this issue.

"No other home builders association in the country provides the services you have here at the Rhode Island Builders Association. We want our members to be more aware of the offerings, and to spread the word to their industry peers."

That's the message from John Marcantonio, executive officer of the Rhode Island Builders Association, as he enthusiastically outlines the many unusual member benefits RIBA offers, some of them new. We showcase these services in this Special Member Benefit Guide Issue of *The Rhode Island Builder*.

"If you're in residential construction, RIBA is your best value and best option, with services specialized for this industry," Mr. Marcantonio added. "When you are

see MEMBERSHIP...page 32



New R.I. codes take effect Aug. 1

Major change for builders is a blower-door testing requirement with teeth.

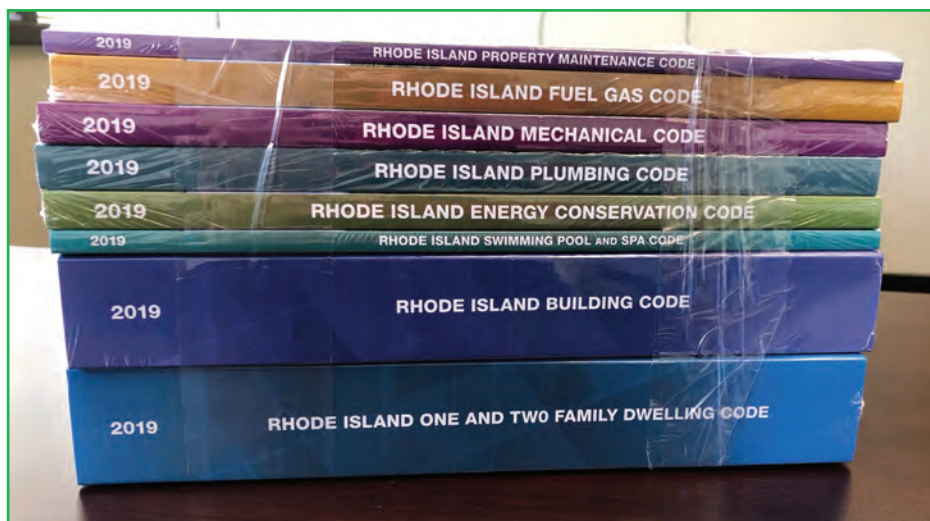
By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

The 2019 Rhode Island code books are finally available, and blower-door testing is the biggest change contractors need to be aware of, according to state Building Commissioner John Leyden.

"I would think the biggest change that we have in the Residential Code for your readers would be the testing requirement," Mr. Leyden said.

Details from the One and Two Family Dwelling Code read:

N1102.4.1.2 (R402.4.1.2) Testing. The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and testing shall be conducted with a blower door at a pressure of 0.2 inches w.g. (50 Pascals). Maximum air change rates per



hour in 2019 = 8, 2020 = 7, 2021 = 6, and 2022 and subsequent years = 5. Testing shall be conducted by an approved third party, where required by the building official. A written report of the results of the test shall be signed by the third party conducting the test and provided to the building official. Testing shall be performed at any time after creation of all penetrations of the building thermal envelope.

During testing:

- 1. Exterior windows and doors, fireplace and stove doors shall be closed, but not sealed, beyond the intended weatherstripping or other infiltration control measures;*
- 2. Dampers including exhaust, intake, makeup air, backdraft and flue dampers shall be closed, but not sealed beyond intended infiltration control measures;*
- 3. Interior doors, if installed at the time of the test, shall be open.*
- 4. Exterior doors for continuous ventila-*


tion systems and heat recovery ventilators shall be closed and sealed....

The blower-door test requirement was not unexpected, having been promised by state code officials since at least 2015. Since then, the test has been required and the minimum results gradually increased.

A 90-day grace period begins on August 1st, to give contractors time to get used to the new codes, Mr. Leyden told *The Rhode Island Builder*.

Among the suggestions by energy experts for those conducting blower-door tests:

- Don't stand in front of the fan because even that can throw off the readings.
- Be aware that fireplaces, molding and even electrical outlets can be major points of air leakage.

For more details, contact the Building Code Commission at (401) 889-5550. 

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DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE

All copy, ads and photos must be to us by

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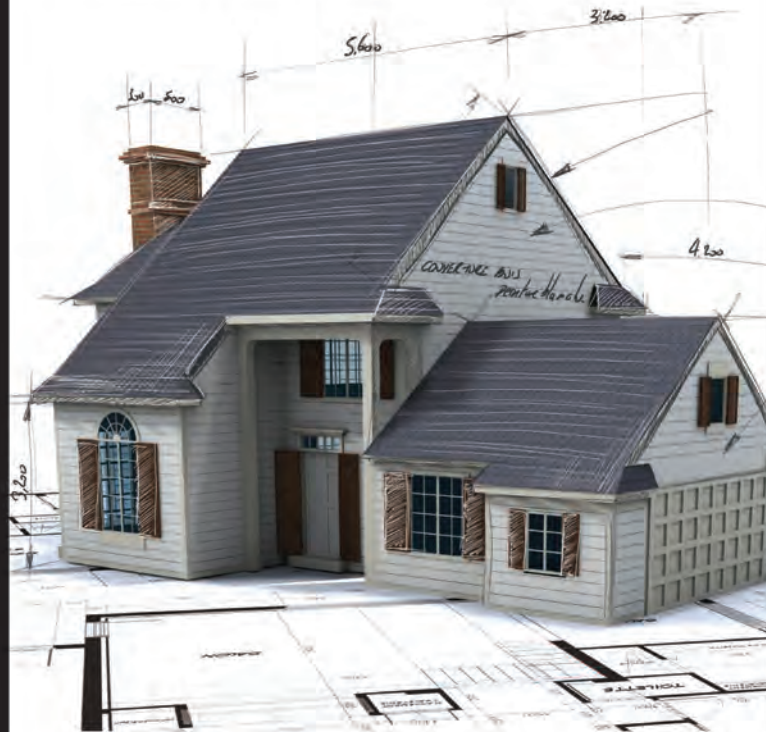
see MEMBERS...page 33

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LOOKING AHEAD!

♦ **June 6th: Sixth Annual Networking Barbecue** - 4-7 p.m. at RIBA headquarters. Sponsored by Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center. FREE for members and non-members thanks to Douglas, but registration is required. A brief meeting of the RIBA Board of Directors will take place at 4 p.m. Members may attend for informational purposes. For information and to register, contact Elizabeth Carpenter at (401) 438-7400 or ecarpenter@ribuilders.org.
Details on page 10.

☞ ♦ **June 12th: State-Mandated Continuing Education for Contractors - 5 Credit Hours** - Topics are Confined Spaces, Asbestos Awareness, Mold Awareness. *Details on page 14.*

♦ **July 8th: Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) for Construction** - 18-week course begins at Central Falls High School. Contact Betty Bernal at (401) 438-7400 or bbernal@ribuilders.org. *Details on page 30.*

♦ **August 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.

♦ **September 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.

♦ **September 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.
More information on page 11.

♦ **September 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.

♦ **October 1st: RIBA Annual Meeting and Election/Installation of Officers** - *Watch for more information.*

♦ **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.

♦ **December 5th: Annual Christmas Party** - Squantum Association, East Providence. *Watch for more information.*

***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 coupon at the online checkout. NEED A COUPON CODE? CALL RIBA AT (401) 438-7400. Non-members: \$12 per credit hour. For information about online or on-site courses: Contact Sheila McCarthy smccarthy@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400.



Timothy A. Stasiunas

President's Message

Sometimes 'dreaming small' works better

“Dream Small”

When I was young, I was always encouraged to “Dream Big.” I think prob-

ably that most of us were.

I can remember my first mission trip to Haiti just after the earthquake in 2010. A group of 20 of us went down to rebuild the roof structure of a church that collapsed. When I arrived in the capital city of Port-au-Prince and saw the devastation, my “dreaming big” answer would have been to bulldoze it, then rebuild. Little did I know that it’s just not that easy!

There’s always a back story or and differences in opinions and ideas. In Haiti’s case, it was culture and ingrained resistance to change as well as political will. They didn’t want outsiders coming in and taking over. They certainly needed the financial assistance, but they are very capable people.

As all members of the Rhode Island Builders Association know, we have been talking about affordable housing in this state for years now. As I was thinking about our state’s housing issue, I realized that we’re not that different here than in Haiti, or anywhere else for that matter. Even though our state faces a severe shortage of housing, we can’t seem to just get it done, and really for the same types of reasons.

We don’t want anyone coming in and telling us what to do in our communities! We have our “NIMBYS” (not in my back yard-ers). And we have an ingrained resistance to change. The term “afford-

able” has received a bad rap over the years. It probably should have been billed as “workforce housing” or something along those lines. In fact, “affordable” scares the daylights out of people for some reason or other, and it has been politicized as well.

Unfortunately, I don’t think many Rhode Islanders, or even many of our leaders, really understand the detrimental impact a lack of housing creates, not only for the present but for the future of our state. As it is, we as a state sometimes lack the political will to get things done!

All this leads me to the conclusion that we may be forced to work around the edges of the housing crisis, then take satisfaction in the little victories we as RIBA can achieve, not only to benefit of our members but our state as well.

So, starting today, let’s at the very least “Dream Small”!

Who knows? Someday the results might turn out to be something “BIG”!

RIBA

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Professional Women in Building: PWB News



The Professional Women in Building Council (PWB) is the premier professional organization that provides strategies and solutions for professional women in the building industry. Through our various publications, awards, scholarships, seminars and programs, we provide women in the building industry the professional advantage necessary to excel and succeed. Our members consist of women who are RIBA/NAHB members (builders, associates, affiliates) and women who are affiliated with an RIBA/NAHB member (including employees, spouses and extended family). Our members also receive well deserved recognition for their contribution made to the homebuilding industry and homeownership.

We provide direct service to the general membership through education and training programs that focus on professional and leadership development, networking opportunities and industry related information.

The PWB recognizes its role in supporting the overall building industry by mobilizing its membership to assist efforts spearheaded by local, state and national builders associations.

Watch the next magazine for a lineup of PWB events!

PWB Officers

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

Want to learn more about the PWB?
Please visit our site for contact info, up-coming
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Ribuilders.org/professional-women-in-building



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Monthly Networking Nights begin

With demand high, the Rhode Island Builders Association has launched monthly Networking Nights fall-through spring.

This is a change from previous years, when these events took place roughly every three months.

"I constantly hear from members about the great connections they make at these gatherings," RIBA Member Relations Coordinator Elise Geddes said.

In June, the Annual Barbecue will be the networking event. *See page 10.*

Networking events are one of the many benefits of membership in your trade association. We invite you to bring a non-member to show them what a great resource RIBA is. These events are FREE for members and guests.

For more information and to sponsor an event, contact Ms. Geddes at (401) 438-7400.



Mike McDole of National Building Products, at right, introduces attendees to two of his fellow sponsors, Brad Taylor of United Window and Door, and Kris Fornuto of Versatex® Trimboard during the May 2nd Networking Night at RIBA headquarters. Photos on page 9.

RUGGERIO...from page 1

farms are gobbling up large amounts of open land that could be used for green space and housing, probably will be referred to a study commission this year because "it's a very complex issue," Sen. Ruggerio said.

He encouraged RIBA members to contact their own state legislators on matters of concern to the industry.

In other matters....

RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio updated the board on the progress of key legislation being monitored in the General Assembly. *Related stories on page 27.*

Thomas E. D'Angelo of RIBA's Environmental and Land Use Committee reported on the progress of statewide freshwater wetlands regulations, which have gone through several versions. The Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) was still considering stakeholder feedback as of this writing, Mr. D'Angelo indicated.

Mr. Marcantonio reviewed the RIBA education program's continuing expansion, now attracting residential contractors from a wider area.

Exhibit space at the 2019 Rhode Island Home Show sold out for the first time in 10 years, reported Mr. Marcantonio, who thanked all members who helped in any way, he singled out supplier members who helped transport materials and exhibit components built by the many career and

technical students who participated.

These included about 300 students over each of the three days of Home Show setup, supervised by their instructors and RIBA members. Activities were coordinated by Louis Cotoia Jr. of RIBA's Education and Workforce Development Committee and Director of Workforce Programs Cheryl Boyd.

Several board members discussed in detail how the level of student participation at the Home Show has been improving, along with the quality of their work and their ease of working with the contractors who participate.

Mr. Marcantonio pointed out that a staffer from the National Association of Home Builders flew up from Washington to see the level of student participation.

In addition, the show gained a 94 percent approval rating from visitors, and the Flower Show component won a national award.

"The home technology portion of the show was a big hit, and it will grow again in 2020," Mr. Marcantonio said.

Local Director Peter DeStefano of DiStefano Brothers Construction was a first-time exhibitor at this year's Home Show.

"The show was great for us. I was surprised at the amount of traffic," Mr. DiStefano said.

On the workforce-development front, the proposed RIBA carpentry and VESL (Vocational English as a Second Language) program for Central Falls has been approved by the Dept. of Labor and Training and will begin in September, Mr. Marcantonio said. *Related story on page 30.*

RIBA's workforce training programs will continue to expand, especially given a new alliance with the Rhode Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, he stated, thanking local directors Jose Marcano and Jhonny Leyva for their help in that process.

RIBA is planning a new academic study of the importance of children and families to the state's economy, the executive officer said.

RIBA members are invited to attend the public portion of the monthly Board of Directors meetings, which usually take place on the first Tuesday of each month at RIBA's East Providence headquarters.

Please contact Elizabeth Carpenter at (401) 438-7400 or ecarpenter@ribuilders.org for more information and so that adequate refreshments can be provided.



RIBA Happenings: Networking Nights



Monthly Networking Nights have begun at RIBA! Here, members enjoy the event on April 10th, sponsored by Innovative Visuals at RIBA headquarters



At center, April Networking Night sponsors Laura Vaillancourt and Doug Fingliss of Innovative Visuals field questions from fascinated attendees.



The contingent from Bay Coast Bank mixes it up with Art Dwyer from Wood's Hearing Service (second from right).

At the May 2nd Networking Night, attendees listen to a presentation by sponsor National Building Products and its affiliates. At right is Kris Fornuto of Versatex.



Michael McNulty of Millwork One makes a point as Rhode Island Builders Association Executive Officer John Marcantonio and Kimberly Homs of Great In Counters listen in.



Brad Taylor of United Windows talks about some of the products' unique features, such as built-in blinds.



For RIBA
membership information
contact Elise Geddes

401-438-7400 • or egeddes@ribuilders.org



Networking BBQ slated for June 6

WHEN: Thursday, June 6th, 4 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 Elizabeth Carpenter at ecarpenter@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.



Lots of familiar faces enjoy RIBA's Annual Networking Barbecue, which always spills onto the lawn at RIBA headquarters.

It's the Rhode Island Builders Association's 6th Annual Networking Barbecue, generously sponsored by Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center!

Come by the office and meet with RIBA members, staff and representatives from Douglas Lumber. Relax with fellow members and guests while you enjoy a summer barbecue with hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken and all the fixings.

So we can plan for refreshments, or if you have questions, we ask that you contact Elise Geddes with your attendance plans.

"Not only do members come to enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs,

barbeque chicken and a nice cold beer; but there are so many people to network with that we have to expand our space out the back door!" says Elise.

As always, this networking event is FREE for RIBA members and their guests. Bring a non-member colleague so they can find out about the many benefits of membership. Mark your calendars and watch your mail for further details.



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RIBA Safety Service Update

Some pointers before you book your jobsite visit

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

The new, complementary Safety Service for members of the Rhode Island Builders Association continues to gain in popularity since its launch in March.

The Service offers an annual jobsite inspection and advice by RIBA Safety Officer Scott Asprey, which can help avoid not only accidents but also huge fines in the event of a surprise inspection by OSHA officers.

Asked how members can prepare for his visit, once it's arranged through the RIBA office, Mr. Asprey replied that members shouldn't prepare.

"It's best that I find the jobsite just as an OSHA inspector would," he said. "In fact, contractors should always be ready for an inspection, with their site safe and with proper procedures in place. There shouldn't be anything they don't want me to see the way it is."

One of the more recent beneficiaries of the Safety Service was Providence-based L. Sweet Lumber Co, where Vice President Ray Angell was impressed.



Scott Asprey

"I met with Scott on Wednesday morning (May 8th), and had a productive overview of our safety manuals and procedures," Mr. Angell said.

"We also did a site inspection to identify any potential hazards and ways to make our

facility even more safe. We felt comfortable talking with Scott, and found him to be very knowledgeable on OSHA regulations and how to be proactive in avoiding potential citations, fines and, more importantly, potential injuries," he added.

"The meeting resulted in a couple of helpful takeaways for improving the overall safety here at L. Sweet Lumber. It was well worth the time!"


Mr. Asprey has two pointers for those in charge of jobsites he visits.

First, don't tell your crew that he's coming.

"If word gets out that the RIBA safety person is coming today, you don't want people scrambling to clean up, unbeknownst to the owner of the company," Mr. Asprey says.

Second, sign the release forms.

"I can't do anything until whoever is in charge signs the release forms they receive from Elise Geddes at the RIBA office."

For more information on RIBA's new Safety Service, contact Ms. Geddes at (401) 438-7400 or egeddes@ribuilders.org. 

Golf Classic slated for September 16

WHEN: Monday, September 16th. Registration, lunch, start times and dinner TBD.

WHERE: Wannamoisett Country Club, Rumford Country Club, 96 Hoyt Ave., Rumford, RI 02916

COST: TBD

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 the state's most beautiful Donald Ross-designed courses.

www.ribuilders.org

At the same time, support RIBA's not-for-profit charity that helps wounded veterans and their families, and 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, just join us for dinner.

Please consider a sponsorship. 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. (Details in our next issue.)

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

Member Profile: Steve DeMetrick of DeMetrick Housewrights

From Georgetown University to green building without losing a beat

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

"I was always building things growing up. I was always hands-on. I built a tool box when I was six!"

That's Steve DeMetrick's recollection when asked about how he got started in the home-building business.

"My dad was hands-on too," Steve says. "He always had a workshop in the basement. Even though he wasn't a builder, he acted as the general contractor for the first two houses I lived in, not an easy thing to do."

Unlike many members of the Rhode Island Builders Association, Steve didn't start out sweeping the shop floor or running errands at jobsites. He studied foreign languages, international finance and education at Georgetown University, graduating in 1995 with a teaching degree.

From the Jesuit priests who ran the university, Steve picked up a desire to give back to the community.

"After Georgetown, I joined Americorps and worked with Habitat for Humanity in inner city Washington, D.C., for two years. Habitat was really the stimulus for my love of the residential construction industry."

Steve dates the origins of DeMetrick Housewrights from that point. He moved back to Rhode Island in 1998, bringing an unusual "giving-back" business model with him.

"This involves a triple-bottom-line approach: people, planet and profit, in that order," Steve says.

What helped make this a success was Steve's involvement in the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NSEA), which cre-



Steve DeMetrick

ated business peer groups so that companies that were environmentally and socially conscious could also be profitable.

"With what I learned through NSEA, I decided to incorporate, make my subcontractors employees, and I really learned how to estimate and run a real business," Steve recalls.

Today, he not only puts his customers' interests first, but also those of his employees.

"I take great pride in paying a living wage, of-

fering paid vacations, sick days, paternity leave, tool allowances, and profit sharing," Steve says.

He also emphasizes success by mainstreaming "green" building.

"Our approach has developed into a desire to create sustainable, energy-efficient homes. Many people think of that as something you add to a 'normal' house that costs more money," Steve adds.

"We're proving with every project that we're actually integrating these concepts, and they become part of our process. We're making it carpenter-friendly and business-as-usual kind of friendly," he states.

In 2017, DeMetrick Housewrights won National Grid's first Zero Energy Challenge, with an award presented at the Rhode Island Home Show that year. Built in Wakefield, it was the first Passive House Institute of the United States (PHIUS) certified house in Rhode Island.

DeMetrick Housewrights builds 100 percent of its projects to energy-efficient standards, according to Steve. And that includes all the standards: the EPA WaterSense Program, Indoor Air Plus, Energy Star, you name it.

DeMetrick Housewrights works almost entirely in South County, and 90 percent of its work is custom homes in that sustainable-energy model, with some high-end remodeling. Steve has built houses in Exeter, South Kingstown, Jamestown, Charlestown and other towns within 20 miles of Wakefield.

Steve joined RIBA in 2000.

"Today, I'd have to say that the member benefit I like the most is the tuition-free education for members and their employees. That's a real value for us," he says.

Find out more at Demetrickhousewrights.com.

DeMetrick Housewrights

Principal: Stephen C. DeMetrick

RIBA member since: 2000

Focus: Custom Homes, Green Building

Serves: South County

Founded: 1995

Based: Wakefield, Rhode Island

Check out the R.I. Stretch Code, a rewarding 'compliance pathway'

What's a Stretch Code?

It's a building code or compliance pathway that's more aggressive than base code. Its main purpose is to help buildings achieve higher energy savings and implement advanced building practices.

Rhode Island's Stretch Codes are used on a voluntary basis to guide the construction and/or renovation of buildings that use less energy, have less negative impact on the environment, and achieve greater occupant health and comfort. There are many benefits! Using Stretch Codes can:

- Reduce energy costs for building owners or occupants;
- Maximize your project's incentives from Rhode Island's energy-efficiency programs;
- Win you recognition by the state for building beyond base code;
- Get you used to building standards likely to be considered for future base code requirements;
- Improve building occupant comfort and health;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Reduce building water use;



- Support state-wide health, sustainability, resilience, and environmental goals.

For public buildings, Stretch Code compliance guarantees compliance with Rhode Island's Green Buildings Act requirements (RIGL § 37-24)

What is the Residential Stretch Code?

Prescriptive (menu-driven) and performance-based compliance

see ENERGY...page 31



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Continuing Education for Contractors

*Courses headlined in **RED** on the Education Pages qualify for state-mandated 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: Confined Spaces, Asbestos, Mold *June 12th*

WHEN: Wednesday, June 12th, 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. A \$150 charge for non-members and a \$15 materials/registration fee.

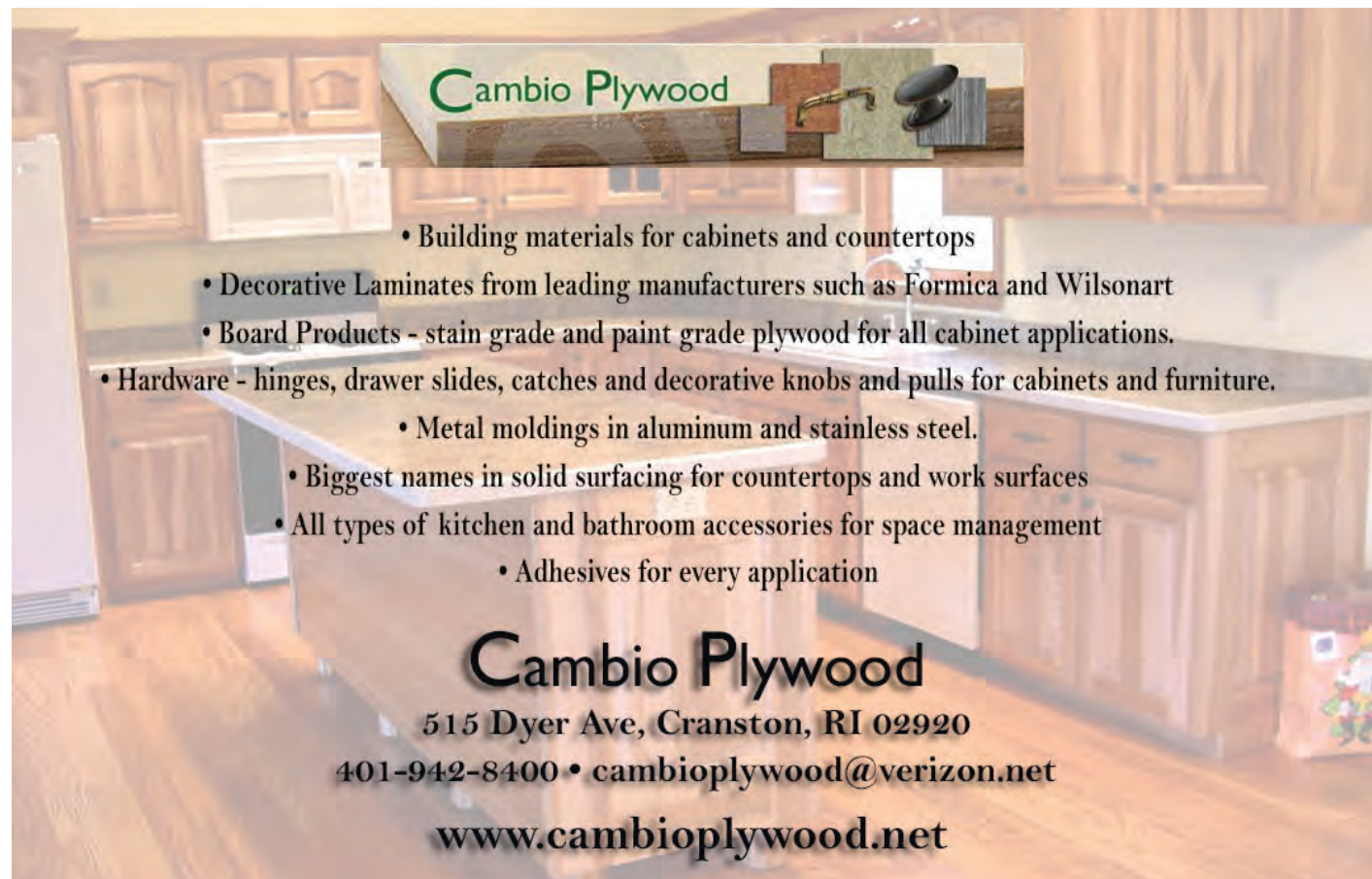
DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment.

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

This course will cover: confined spaces, asbestos awareness and mold awareness.

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Rhode Island Builders Association

Member Benefit Guide

2019-2020



- Find Work
and Hire Members**
- Education Benefit...
It's Tuition-Free**
- RIBA Helps You
Hire and Train**
- Safety Services**
- Vital Information
Resources**
- Solution Services**
- Insurance and Bonding**
- Legislative Advocacy**
- Socialize, Network, Enjoy!**
- Medical & Dental Plans**
- Save Money Every Day!**

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Services include member-to-member referrals, the new and improved RIBAlist.com consumer website, the huge, consumer-based Rhode Island Home Show, held every year since 1948, and the annual *Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide*.



The Education Benefit... It's Tuition-Free!

Online or in person, take Massachusetts and Rhode Island continuing-education courses, with professional-development classes and seminars for owners and all employees within your firm. Subject matter includes codes, safety, estimating and so much more!



RIBA Helps You Hire & Train

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Complimentary Safety Services

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.



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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 association 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!

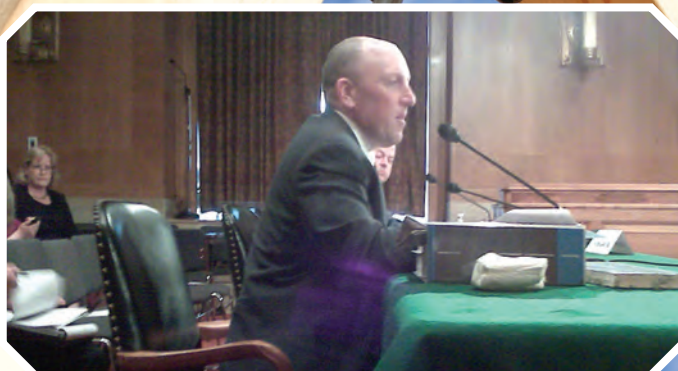
I also need your help with a larger cause. Please share this

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*



Powerful Legislative Advocacy

RIBA represents you locally, at the State House and on the federal level with all things regulatory, and with very effective political lobbying. We track every bill that affects you, and we put in legislation to help the state's housing needs. Feel free to join our committees, get updates on bills, and advocate with the executive officer on key legislation.

Socialize, Network & Enjoy!

RIBA has events! Take advantage of big, fun events like our Annual Clambake, Golf Classic, monthly network events, Christmas parties, cookouts, annual meeting.... And if you like to socialize, and make this your focus, just let us know.



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 **FAGAN DOOR**

Heather Worthington

Director, Long-Range Planning, City of Minneapolis

Heather Worthington has spent her professional life in Minnesota, and has held her current post since September 2017. Previously, she was deputy county manager of Ramsey County, beginning in October 2010, and has taught in the Masters in Public Administration Program for Administrative Law at Hamline University in Saint Paul. She has served as assistant city manager of Edina and city administrator of Falcon Heights. Ms. Worthington holds an MA in public administration from Hamline University, and did graduate work at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, where she studied with East Providence Planning Director Jeanne Boyle. Ms. Worthington also holds an undergraduate degree in history and historic preservation from Michigan State University.



progressive agenda.

For the first time in about 50 years, this metropolitan region is growing again. In about 2010, we began seeing an increase in our residential population here in Minneapolis, the first time that had happened since 1950. This plan is also an effort by the City Council to get ahead of that demographic pressure we knew was coming in terms of housing and jobs.

THE BUILDER: How was Minneapolis 2040 actually designed? Was there citizen participation and input from other stakeholders?

WORTHINGTON: Yes. We started by updating what we call “systems statements.” For example, the metropolitan region has an interconnected sewer system, shared by the 190 cities in this region. We have regional treatment

THE BUILDER: Can you explain the main points of the Minneapolis 2040 plan?

WORTHINGTON: Many cities do comprehensive planning, but they might do it every 30 years. We’re required by Minnesota state law, specifically the Metropolitan Land Use Planning Act, to do it every 10 years, when we either update or rewrite our comprehensive plans. We’re one of 190 cities in this metropolitan area (Minneapolis – Saint Paul, the “Twin Cities”) that do that.

Minneapolis 2040 has 14 goal statements that have to do with everything from sewer and water resources, to housing, transportation and transit. Racial equity is a major new feature of this comprehensive plan. In Minnesota, and Minneapolis in particular, we have the deepest racial disparities in the nation. That’s in terms of economic outcome, academic attainment and housing. At the same time, real wages for people of color have been going down, and rents have been going up, in the Twin Cities. So, the economic conditions are unsustainable, and the comprehensive plan seeks to address some of those issues through land-use planning and zoning.

THE BUILDER: Who was the force behind adoption of Minneapolis 2040?

WORTHINGTON: We had a turnover in the City Council seven years ago and again at the last cycle. In that time, the council has become extremely progressive politically. They started to bring forward a progressive agenda that included things like a minimum wage, municipal ID cards, police reform, and a wide variety of other things they were working on. This comprehensive plan was on that list, as a document that could be more strategic in their

plants and a regional government (the Metropolitan Council) that oversees this system. So, things like our water plan, treatment plan, transportation and transit plan are all called systems statements.

We updated all those with fresh data, then we took that to an internal research group of 150 members of our (municipal) staff. They made up research committees that did the actual work of drafting different sections of the Minneapolis 2040 plan. We used that to create a draft plan, led by our planning staff of 14. The only outside consultants we hired were for community-engagement purposes.

We conducted in the neighbourhood of 250 community meetings over the course of two and a half years. We reached thousands of residents and received 18,000 comments on two different drafts we presented, and reported on all the comments via our website (<https://minneapolis2040.com>).

It was a very transparent process in terms of data collection and extrapolation, then sharing. We had a community-engagement plan the City Council adopted, and we followed that to the letter. The council also adopted the goals they wanted to achieve in the planning process and a set of values for that process.

We started the process in early 2016, and the City Council adopted the plan in December 2018, so it took about two and half years.

THE BUILDER: The Twin Cities region (6,463 square miles) is well over five times the size of Rhode Island (1,212). So, it sounds like Minneapolis 2040 had to be a truly regional effort.

WORTHINGTON: Yes, it can be confusing, especially for

see *INTERVIEW...next page*

'Under Minneapolis 2040, we will now allow up to three units on each city lot. So, there's no longer any single-family zoning in the city.'

INTERVIEW...from previous page

people from New England, where local government is much simpler! People from other parts of the country ask me, "You have how many cities?"

We have seven counties in the region with municipal standing, plus the cities. In Minnesota, counties handle all the social programming, financial assistance and public health. Cities do land-use planning and zoning. So, there's a pretty clear line between what cities and counties do. The other layer is the Metropolitan Council, our regional land-use planning organization. Every 10 years, we all do our comprehensive plans over again, and they have to agree with each other from a regional standpoint.

For example, if Minneapolis has an increase in stormwater rates, we have to coordinate so that with our surrounding communities don't overwhelm their stormwater, or worse yet, their sewer systems, because they're all interconnected. That's why we plan on a regional level.

In the 1960s, we were very close to an environmental crisis here because all these cities had their own septic systems. The prime reason for creating the Metropolitan Council was to clean up wastewater treatment and centrally locate treatment plans in the region.

With that lesson learned, the Metropolitan Council oversees the comprehensive planning process, and all the cities have to read each other's plans to make sure everything is copasetic. Minneapolis 2040 only applies to Minneapolis, but it has been coordinated with cities regionally.

THE BUILDER: One of the most interesting provisions of Minneapolis 2040 is its allowance for new multi-family housing in areas currently zoned for single-family housing.

WORTHINGTON: Yes. Seventy-five percent of the city is zoned residential, and about 50 percent of that is single-family. Like most cities, Minneapolis has different levels of residential zoning. There's the classic R1, one single-family house per lot, then R4, with a smattering of multi-family homes.

Much of that is carried over from the 1910s, when development patterns here were very much a broad mixture of housing types. In the 1950s, we started tightening up on that, restricting certain parts of the city to single-family zoning.

Under Minneapolis 2040, we will now allow up to three units on each city lot. So, there's no longer any single-family zoning in the city. You can still build a single-family home, but you have the option for two more units. That would include an ADU (accessory dwelling unit) or a duplex. You have a variety of choices about how you can add housing in those areas.

THE BUILDER: Is this a big break for the "Tiny House" movement?

WORTHINGTON: Right now, we generally don't see 'tiny houses' being built in Minneapolis. You certainly could, and treat them as accessory dwelling units. Under the plan, you can add on to your house, put an ADU over your garage, use stand-alone tiny houses – there are many possibilities.

THE BUILDER: Isn't there a major move toward inclusionary zoning in Minneapolis 2014?

WORTHINGTON: More affordable housing will help attract new jobs, but that has to be the case in every development. That's why the City Council instructed the planners to bring forward an inclusionary zoning ordinance.

People sometimes mischaracterize that by saying that density leads to affordability. It doesn't without inclusionary zoning.

From an economic development and labor standpoint, what we're seeing right now is that we have a "sweet spot" in the Twin Cities for single-family homes that are \$350,000 to \$375,000. We can't really build those close-in because of land prices. So, we're thinking that one way to get around the land-price issue is to take a 40-foot lot, put a triplex on it, and you would divide the land cost by three, then you could build some of those units in that price range. That would be affordable for people making a living wage, which is about \$20 an hour in the Twin Cities.

THE BUILDER: In this plan there are goals it would seem to be hard to quantify. How do you measure things like racial and income equity as you go?

WORTHINGTON: An important question. Right now, my staff is working on a set of metrics to help us measure how we're doing, not just on affordable housing construction, but on things like equity outcomes.

We're working steadily on what we call a "dashboard" that will be a way to maintain accountability with our residents about these big policy changes. We want to track what these changes mean for people and how we know if we're being successful.

For our partners, like the State of Minnesota and our counties, who help fund affordable housing, this will be an important question when it comes to prioritizing funding for new developments. So, we will have to be able to show how these policies are working together to effect change long-term.

THE BUILDER: Where is the plan in the implementation timeline?

WORTHINGTON: We're just starting implementation, and we'll be working on that over the next three years or so. We certainly have to take time to update our zoning code in a pretty significant way. We really haven't worked on the zoning code in any significant fashion since the late 1990s.

The other part of the implementation right now will be the

see *PLAN 2040...next page*

RIBA monitors legislation on inspections, infrastructure, more

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

As the 2019 legislative session continues in high gear, the Rhode Island Builders Association is monitoring hundreds of bills of interest to the residential construction industry. In addition, RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio has begun sending monthly e-mails to members to inform them about the issues in detail.

Among the most significant matters this year:

- Reforms to the inspection process,
- Siting of solar farms and residential density protection,
- Reforms to the hearing and approval process,

PLAN 2040...from previous page

inclusionary zoning ordinance, so a lot of policy work needs to be done, in addition to the regulatory work.

THE BUILDER: What percentage will be used in the inclusionary zoning ordinance?

WORTHINGTON: We don't have a hard number yet. We're working with a draft interim ordinance right now, and we'll have a final ordinance by the end of the year. At this point, we have a sliding scale in terms of incentive or no incentive (for developers), so I think it will depend on what the City Council is comfortable with.

It won't surprise your readers that the development community has some significant concerns about inclusionary zoning, not least because the city has never used it before. There's a concern that projects need to be cost-effective for the developer, especially larger housing developments, which can be incredibly expensive in the Twin Cities because of labor costs.

Developers have been very involved in the discussion and determination on the issue. So, there's still a lot of work to be done. I'd say the building community has responded enthusiastically to Minneapolis 2040, except for the inclusionary zoning part.

Despite any objections, the fact is that if we don't solve these housing-affordability and social problems, we run the risk of becoming a cold San Francisco, an area where we can't attract business because of housing costs. We need to avoid that.

THE BUILDER: Do you feel that it, or a plan like it, could work here in the East?

WORTHINGTON: I don't think, from a policy standpoint, there's a lot of difference between the Midwest and the East, or the West Coast, for that matter. No matter where we are, cities are wrestling with issues like affordability and labor retention.

A plan like Minneapolis 2040, which really gets clear on matters of equity and access, can be effective anywhere. The real game-changer is having a city council or other governing body willing to make this kind of change.



- Funding of the Rhode Island Infrastructure Grant Program,
- and Exemption of construction contractors from the sales tax.

"RIBA has been well respected for many years in the political arena," said Joseph W. Walsh, RIBA's chief government affairs advocate. "But we need the support of every RIBA member in order to be most effective."

He urged members to build relationships with their own lawmakers so that an understanding of residential construction issues can be developed.

"When you have a dialogue with your senator and representative, let us know how we can help, and what information you need. The more members active in our legislative advocacy, the better."

For more information about Build-Pac and RIBA's legislative advocacy program, contact Executive Officer John Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400 or jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org.



How to talk to your legislators

The 2019 session of the Rhode Island General Assembly is reaching its most active period, and it's more important than ever that members of the Rhode Island Builders Association get involved on all levels to get across the residential construction industry's point of view.

These are some suggestions on how to talk with your state senators and representatives.

Before speaking with lawmakers, check in with RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio to discuss your concerns and receive advice.

Remember that, whether they know you personally or not, lawmakers may know little or nothing about the residential construction industry except from the point of view of anti-growth forces. Even when it comes to the nitty-gritty of business, municipal planning and environmental regulation, a given legislator may know little. You might make the difference between a balanced view and a warped one.

Through his or her lack of knowledge, a lawmaker may have formed no opinions at all and may have taken no position on bills of concern to you.

When expressing your position on a bill, do so in terms of personal experience. Tell the lawmaker about the contribution your company makes to the local economy and talk about the effect the proposal will have in terms of local jobs, quality of life, the current housing crisis, and the community. That helps illustrate the human side of the effect on your business.

see **LEGISLATORS...**page 31

Your HIC expired? Here's how to renew

Massachusetts allows a 31-day grace period for renewing your HIC (home improvement contractor registration) once it has expired. If that happens, here's what happens:

- An HIC cannot be renewed once it has been expired for 30 days. A reapplication must be submitted.
- Reapplications require a contractor to pay all associated registration and Home Improvement Contractor Guaranty Fund fees.
- There is a reapplication fee of \$150.
- The Guaranty Fund fee is based on how many employees you have: 0 to 3 employees: \$100; 4 to 10 employees: \$200; 11 to 30 employees: \$300; More than 30 employees: \$500.

Start your reapplication process online at <https://www.mass.gov/home-improvement-contractor-registration-and-renewal>.

[gov/home-improvement-contractor-registration-and-renewal](https://www.mass.gov/home-improvement-contractor-registration-and-renewal).

About the Guaranty Fund

The Home Improvement Contractor Guaranty Fund was created as a fund of last resort for consumers who have an unpaid final judgment against a contractor. The Guaranty Fund is funded by a one-time fee that contractors are required to pay at the time of registration, as listed above.

After a consumer is paid from the Guaranty Fund, the responsible registered contractor is obligated to reimburse the Fund with interest within 30 days. Failure to repay the Fund may result in administrative fines, revocation of the contractor's registration, and in extreme cases, criminal prosecution.

-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, MassHousing 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.



Officials promote zoning reform, new housing

An Act to Promote Housing Choices, state legislation aimed at zoning reform to advance new housing production in Massachusetts, and to support the goal to produce 135,000 new housing units by 2025, was the theme in Salem on April 26th.

Dignitaries, including Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, and Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy joined Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll, Beverly Mayor Michael Cahill, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) CEO Rachel Heller, and other local leaders to highlight the legislation, filed by Gov. Baker in February.

Officials praised zoning reform already taking place in Beverly and Salem, as both cities work to expand their housing stocks.

"(In March), efforts to re-zone vacant properties for housing in downtown Salem were defeated despite garnering majority support from the City Council, denying units necessary to support local families and empower regional growth," a statement from the governor's office said.

"If enacted, the Housing Choice legislation will ensure that communities can deliver on projects important to their residents, preventing future debacles like that seen in Salem by reducing the threshold for zoning reform to a simple majority," the statement added.

"This Housing Choice legislation will help the Commonwealth reach our goal of 135,000 new units by 2025."

Local organizations including Citizens' Housing and Planning Association joined both mayors in endorsing the legislation.

The legislative proposal will enable cities and towns to adopt certain zoning best practices related to housing production by a simple majority vote, rather than the current two-thirds supermajority.

It will not mandate cities and towns to make any of these zoning changes.

NAHB: Housing unaffordability holding back the entire economy

Despite job growth and a roaring economy, people still can't afford homes.

By Robert Dietz

Housing has generally underperformed thus far in 2019, despite recent declines in mortgage interest rates. This is all the more concerning given that GDP growth for the first quarter (3.2 percent) exceeded analysts' forecasts, including those of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

Lagging housing construction is clearly connected to housing affordability declines stemming from the combination of interest rate effects and years of home-price growth outpacing income growth.

That said, the Federal Reserve's decision to continue holding the federal funds rate steady at a top rate of 2.5 percent helps reduce upward pressure on interest rates. The decision is based on the fact that inflation remains anchored below the Fed's target rate of 2 percent.

Mirroring the GDP data, April labor market data showed an

economy with notable positive momentum. For the economy as a whole, 263,000 jobs were added, and the unemployment rate approached a 50-year low at 3.6 percent.

However, because of slow housing construction expansion, builders and remodelers added only 600 jobs in April, with the six-month moving average of residential construction job growth falling back to 5,250.

Nonetheless, home builders and remodelers have added 92,800 jobs over the last year. And March data indicate the job openings rate continues to rise, with more than 300,000 unfilled positions in the construction industry.

The strong job numbers and ongoing economic expansion would usually point to additional growth in single-family construction. However, as the end of 2018 illustrated, home buyers are reluctant to purchase homes at today's prices given current income levels. Until affordability conditions improve, housing will continue to hamper overall economic growth.

For more information on this and other national housing topics, visit Eyeonhousing.org.

Dr. Robert Dietz is NAHB's chief economist.

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RIBA pre-apprenticeship classes resume in September, VESL classes ongoing

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

The first sessions of the Rhode Island Builders Association's highly successful, 26-week Carpentry Career Training Program (CCTP) for adults will wind down by mid-June at the Chariho Career and Technical Center (CCTC) in Richmond and at the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center (WACTC).

New adult pre-apprenticeship training sessions will begin on September 3rd, with new career paths and new locations joining the lineup. These will include:

- New CCTP sessions at Woonsocket and Chariho,
- CCTP sessions at the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center and the East Providence Career and Technical Center,
- An electrical program at the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center,
- A plumbing program at the Providence Career and Technical Academy.



A recent Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) class graduates at Providence City Hall. Front and center is RIBA Latino Education Coordinator Betty Bernal.

Application deadline is August 1st. Apply online at: <https://ribuilders.org/PA-application>.

In addition, a VESL (Vocational English as a Second Language for construction program) was recently completed at the Providence Career and Technical Academy, and another began in mid-May.

And, thanks to a collaboration with the City of Central Falls and the Central Falls School District, an 18-week VESL for construction class will start on July 8th at Central Falls High School, for participants with intermediate level English knowledge. Along with construction terminology, the course also provides an OSHA 10 certification, job-safety and basic carpentry training. Applications are open.

The pre-apprenticeship classes meet from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and are designed for employers who wish to upskill current employees or hire new ones.

Each student who successfully completes the 200-hour CCTP course earns a nationally recognized HBI Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate, along with his or her Lead Safe RRP Certificate and OSHA-10 certification.

All the pre-apprenticeship and VESL courses are administered by RIBA and funded by state grants. There is no cost to employers or students.

All classes fill rapidly, so please bear in mind the August 1st registration deadline.

Job seekers may take the training courses on their own if they demonstrate a commitment to start a career in residential construction and actively seek employment through RCWPJobs.com or through other employment resources within the industry.

Potential students, along with employers wishing to place potential students, should contact Elise Geddes at RIBA, (401) 438-7400 or egeddes@ribuilders.org. Also contact her for general information about the workforce-development classes or to arrange to visit a class. For information about VESL classes, contact Betty Bernal at RIBA, (401) 438-7400 or bbernal@ribuilders.org.

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ENERGY...from page 13

paths are available. Here are some highlights.

A building will be zero-net energy ready if:

- A solar or other renewable energy system is added to the building in the future, and it will produce as much energy as the building consumes over the course of an entire year. Solar and EV-readiness are required.

- EPA's WaterSense program is used to reduce overall water use.
- Limits are set on VOC content in finishes and paints.
- Comprehensive Operations and Maintenance manuals must be presented to the building owner.

What is the Commercial Stretch Code?

Highlights include:

- Achieves 10-15 percent better energy savings than the current Energy Code requires.

- Achieves a zEPI score of 46 (0 is a zero-net energy building).
- Contains transportation-access requirements including EV considerations.

- Includes energy-efficient lighting, HVAC, insulation and plug-load requirements.

- Meets system-commissioning requirements.

- Meets renewable-energy requirements

Stretch Code requirements are located here: Energy.ri.gov/policies-programs/lead-by-example/rhode-island-stretch-codes.php.

National Grid offers free technical support for projects seeking to use the Stretch Code - call (855) 343-0105 or e-mail rienergycodesupport@clearesult.com.



LEGISLATORS...from page 27

Don't monopolize the conversation. Ask the legislator what can be done, and allow him or her to talk.

Don't overstate. Don't say things like, "This bill will drive me out of business!" You'll lose your credibility.

Don't challenge or threaten the legislator; discuss the bill, not the person. Most legislators enjoy the independence of their office and may vote against your position to prove it.

Invite the legislator to social affairs such as local opening celebrations, ground-breakings or other events that you may be involved with. They will appreciate the opportunity to meet constituents, learn about your company and its plans and meet local reporters.

During elections, provide financial support. Walk the district with the candidate, provide sign material and locations or provide election-day volunteers, etc.

Support RIBA's Build PAC, which supports pro-housing politicians of both parties. Watch for news of the Build PAC fundraisers, held several times a year.

Legislative advocacy is cumulative, and it takes patience and persistence. Our effectiveness cannot be maintained by RIBA's government affairs advocates and Legislative Committee alone. To be effective, RIBA needs each member to be an active government-relations representative every day!

For more information and pointers about dealing with your legislators, contact Mr. Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400.

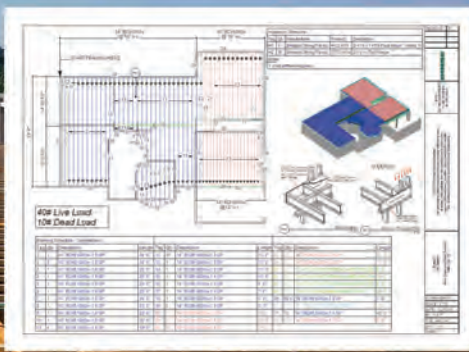
-Paul Eno

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What RIBA members say about membership

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

In this issue of *The Rhode Island Builder*, we've spelled out the numberless benefits of membership in the Rhode Island Builders Association. But what do the members themselves have to say about it?

"RIBA is the only trade association you will ever find that will put money in your pocket from the moment you join," stated longtime member Robert J. Baldwin of RB Homes Inc., based in Lincoln.

"The savings from the tuition-free education alone will more than pay your annual dues. Add the new Safety Service, which can help you avoid OSHA fines and help lower your workers' compensation costs, and you can quadruple your return on your dues," Mr. Baldwin added.

David A. Caldwell Jr. of North Kingstown-based Caldwell and Johnson Inc. said that RIBA helped make his company what it is today.

"Our company has been a member of RIBA for over 40 years. It has been instrumental in helping to grow our family business, started by my father in his basement, into a successful and sustainable enterprise. The more time you contribute to RIBA involvement, the better your business will become," Mr. Caldwell said.

RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio literally grew up in RIBA, and his father, Vincent J. Marcantonio of Marcantonio Design Build, is still a member.

"When you join, you give us resources to work on your behalf in all kinds of ways," Mr. Marcantonio said.

"No other home builders association provides adult training for companies to the degree we do. We will train new employees or upskill current employees to make them a better fit for your company. We also work with the state's career and tech schools to fill the pipeline with new, skilled employees for our industry."

RIBA member benefits save members thousands of dollars a year, he stressed.

"So, join us and stay with us, get active. Tell your industry colleagues about the benefits, and encourage them to join. That helps RIBA grow, and it helps you, your business and our state's economy. For the modest dues, members get back thousands in services and resources. People who take advantage of membership have a huge advantage in the marketplace."

Mr. Marcantonio said that even more member benefits are on the way.

"In coming months, members will see a more interactive service structure at RIBA. Members will have a specific contact person on our staff assigned to them. Your relationship with your trade association is vital, and this arrangement will make it easier and more efficient for you."

For additional information, contact Elise Geddes at RIBA, (401) 438-7400 or egeddes@ribuilders.org.

MEMBERSHIP...from page 1

a part of RIBA, you're part of something very special, and you will find unprecedented value."

Find Work/Hire Members

Services include member-to-member referrals, the new and improved RIBAlist.com consumer website, the huge, consumer-based Rhode Island Home Show and the annual *Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide*.

The Education Benefit – It's Tuition-Free!

Online or in person, take Massachusetts and Rhode Island continuing-education courses, with professional-development classes and seminars for owners and all employees within your firm.

Comprehensive construction-industry subject matter includes codes, safety, estimating and so much more!

RIBA Helps You Hire and Train

This is our complimentary workforce-development program, and it's really cutting-edge. It includes custom training initiatives for your company and/or a 26-week, 200-hour comprehensive pre-apprenticeship training program where you can send current or prospective employees to regional training centers for carpentry, electrical or HVAC training. Spanish programs are also available.

Safety Services

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!

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 (NAHB), and so much more!

If it affects your business, you'll know about it. This alone 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 and 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.

see ***BENEFITS...next page***

BENEFITS...from previous page**Medical & Dental Plans**

Speaking of insurance, there are 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.

Legislative Advocacy

RIBA represents you locally, at the State House and on the federal level with all things regulatory, and with very effective political lobbying. We track every bill that affects you, and we put in legislation to help the state's housing needs. Feel free to join our committees, get updates on bills, and advocate with the executive officer on key legislation.

Socialize, Network and Enjoy!

RIBA has events! Take advantage of big, fun events like our Annual Clambake, Golf Classic, monthly network events, Christmas parties, cookouts, annual meeting.... And if you like to socialize, and make this your focus, just let us know.

Save Money Every Day

As a member of RIBA, you also belong to NAHB, and can enjoy over 20 different programs that give members-only discounts and rebates on products you use every day.

The Member Rebate Program in particular has been paying thousands of dollars a year to members based on products they already buy. And through the Member Advantage program, there are discounts on major national products and services that can save you a bundle.

At the center of this issue, take a look at the 2019-2020 Member Benefit Guide, which you can pull out and keep for reference. You'll see all that RIBA has to offer you and your business!

Joining is easy! Just call (401) 438-7400 for details.

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