

**FEATURED  
PRODUCTS AND  
SERVICES  
FOR NOVEMBER**

*Middle Section*

**RIBA MEMBER  
BENEFIT GUIDE**  
*Pull-Out Section at Center*

**2020 RIBA  
Directory now in  
preparation**

Advertising in the  
Directory is still available.

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**Networking  
Night slated for  
November 14**

The next monthly RIBA  
Networking Night,  
sponsored by new  
member SiteScapes, takes  
place on November 14<sup>th</sup>!

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**Licensing rules  
drafted for  
seven trades**

New licensing  
requirements for trades  
are now in the pipeline in  
Rhode Island. Also, RIBA  
has released its response  
to proposed revisions  
to freshwater wetlands  
regulations.

*Page 2*

**Holland Electric  
triumphs at RIBA  
Golf Classic**

With a score of 60, the  
Hollands become the  
low-scoring team at the  
annual event to benefit  
Builders Helping Heroes.

*Page 8*

## Stasiunas team to lead RIBA in 2019-2020



President  
Timothy A. Stasiunas

Vice President  
Carol A. O'Donnell

Treasurer  
Jason M. DaPonte

Secretary  
James Deslandes Sr.

*Story on page 6*

## RIBA to help tackle opioid crisis in construction industry

Association plans to help employers, employees  
find resources to deal with the problem.

**By Paul F. Eno** *Editor*

Between 2016 and 2018, 140 workers in the Rhode  
Island construction industry died from opioid over-  
doses – 20 percent of total opioid-related deaths in  
the state – and the Rhode Island Builders Association

means to do something about it.

The fatality statistics come from Gov. Gina Rai-  
mondo's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task  
Force. The pledge to take action comes from RIBA  
Executive Officer John Marcantonio.

"RIBA will work with members and the industry to  
create awareness and to bring resources for the industry  
to fight this problem and to help those who need it,"  
Mr. Marcantonio said.

*see OPIOIDS...page 33*

## RIBA to open job training center in Central Falls

Thanks in part to a grant from Centreville Bank  
Charitable Foundation, RIBA project will open  
for classes soon.

**By Paul F. Eno** *Editor*

The Rhode Island Builders Association will soon  
open a new job-training facility in Central Falls, thanks  
to support from the city and Mayor James Diossa, Gov.

**Centreville Bank.**  
Charitable Foundation

Gina Raimondo's Real Jobs Rhode Island program, and  
the Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation.

Volunteers from among the RIBA membership  
are currently rehabilitating a building off Higginson  
Avenue near the Lincoln town line.

*see JOB TRAINING...page 31*

## Licensing regulations drafted for seven trades

Licensing regulations for seven trades are now in the pipeline for approval, the state's Division of Building, Design & Fire Professionals announced on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The regulations will affect:

- Home Inspectors
- Associate Home Inspectors
- Commercial Roofers
- Well-Drilling Contractors
- Pump Installers
- Residential Water Filtration/Treatment-System Contractors
- Residential Water Filtration/Treatment Installers

In addition, amendments to existing Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB) regulations have been approved by the Office of the Rhode Island Secretary of State and have been up for review, according to Julietta T. Georgakis,

deputy director of the Dept. of Business Regulation and chief of the Division of Building, Design & Fire Professionals.

The public comment period ran from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>. To view the rules

and comments, visit <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/promulgations/organization/440>

For more information, contact John Dean: [john.dean@dbf.ri.gov](mailto:john.dean@dbf.ri.gov) with any questions or comments.



## Wetlands regulations: RIBA responds

*Reprinted in full, here is the Rhode Island Builders Association's response to proposed statewide freshwater wetlands regulation revisions, as sent to Janet Coit, director of the Dept. of Environment Management (RIDEM).*

Dear Ms. Coit:

As always, thank you for the opportunity to allow our response representing the building industry in general and the Rhode Island Builders Association (RIBA) in particular. As you know, RIBA has been involved in the wetlands working group process from its inception and has included a working group of environmental professional engineering consultants. We have commented several times on the proposals brought forward by RIDEM staff. The first of which was a letter drafted on August 1, 2016, by our Executive Director and submitted to the Assistant Director, Ms. Good. This letter outlined a wide array of issues we gleaned from the draft June 2016 proposed revisions. Those comments highlighted many concerns we had with the draft as presented.

A second letter was drafted and sent on October 26, 2016, to the Office of Regulatory Reform and was copied to Director Coit, and Assistant Director Good, in an effort to keep everyone apprised of the issues of concern. This letter also included our proposed buffer setback matrix which we believe addresses concerns of environmental impacts while maintaining good sound economic housing policy. Very few of our concerns appeared to be addressed.

A third letter which was drafted and sent on March 27, 2019, to the Assistant Director in response to the Proposed Statewide Freshwater Wetlands Regulation Revisions presentation on March 6, 2019. The correspondence continued to outline our concerns, most of which have been from the outset of this entire process.

It is for this reason we are commenting on the latest version that is being presented. From the onset, when we agreed that additional jurisdiction would be helpful, we always believed and understood that increased jurisdiction to wetland resources would be related to a specific wetland or water body of concern by any one of the state's cities and towns. We believed that protection of the wetland resource would be best accomplished with a specific resource review of setback buffers, storm water management, and habitat protection.

By increasing upland setbacks to freshwater wetlands, in most cases up to the jurisdictional authority, the proposed regulations have gone beyond the original intent of that authority. Much has been discussed about habitat in the most recent meetings. In Rhode Island, we have to balance that with the need for human habitat as well. Large portions of the state are already forested or forested wetlands that are already protected along with state, local and privately held conservation lands.

As proposed, the increased buffers would be in conflict with public housing policy without great protection of the wetland resource.

In order to create a comprehensive wetland policy we have to consider much more than just increasing setbacks. The current setback proposals would also affect the

see *WETLANDS...* page 33

[www.ribuilders.org](http://www.ribuilders.org)

### The Rhode Island Builder

Official publication of the  
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since 1951

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Vice President..... Carol O'Donnell  
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#### The Rhode Island Builder Report

Publisher..... John Marcantonio  
Editor ..... Paul F. Eno

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**RIBA welcomes  
these new members  
and thanks  
their sponsors!**

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Mark Reo

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## LOOKING AHEAD!

♦ **November 5<sup>th</sup>: 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](mailto:ecarpenter@ribuilders.org), or call (401) 438-7400.

♦ **November 14<sup>th</sup>: Networking Night** - 4:30 to 7 p.m, sponsored by SiteScapes. Rhode Island Builders Association Headquarters, East Providence. FREE for members and their guests. *Details on page 14.*

**November 13<sup>th</sup>: New R.I. Energy Code Update & Building Science** - FREE workshop sponsored by National Grid. 9 am to 12:30 p.m. at Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center, 125 Douglas Pike, Smithfield. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-event-new-ri-energy-code-update-building-science-at-douglas-lumber-tickets-75153180185>, or call (855) 343-0105 for information and to register.

**November 15<sup>th</sup>: Zero Energy Forum** - Sponsored by National Grid. All are welcome to attend. Call (888) 887-8841 for further details.

 ♦ **November 19<sup>th</sup>: State-Mandated Continuing Education for Contractors - 5 Credit Hours** - Topics are Asbestos Awareness, Mold Awareness. *Details on page 24.*

♦ **December 5<sup>th</sup>: Annual RIBA Christmas Party** - Squantum Association, East Providence. Enjoy networking, music, dinner and dancing. *Watch your mail for details.*

♦ **December 13<sup>th</sup>: Professional Women in Building Holiday Dinner** - 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., combined holiday dinner with the National Association of Women in Construction, Providence Biltmore Hotel. *See page 11.*

♦ **January 16<sup>th</sup>: Networking Night** - 4:30 to 7 p.m, sponsored by Aflac. Rhode Island Builders Association Headquarters, East Providence. FREE for members and their guests. *Related story on page 14.*

**January 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>: International Builders Show 14<sup>th</sup>** - Las Vegas, Nevada. Sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders.

♦ **February 13<sup>th</sup>: Networking Night** - 4:30 to 7 p.m, sponsored by Versatex. Rhode Island Builders Association Headquarters, East Providence. FREE for members and their guests. *Related story on page 14.*

♦ **March 19<sup>th</sup>: 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. *Related story on page 14.*

♦ **April 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Rhode Island Home Show, Featuring the Rhode Island Flower & Garden Show and The Energy Expo** - Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence. Call (401) 438-7400 or e-mail [homeshow@ribuilders.org](mailto:homeshow@ribuilders.org) for more information. Exhibit space is now available.

*More information, registration and payment for most RIBA events is available at [RIBUILDERS.org](http://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.

## Take RIBA classes online at [RIBAEducates.com](http://RIBAEducates.com)

*Visit [RIBAEducates.com](http://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? CALL RIBA AT (401) 438-7400. Non-members: \$12 per credit hour. For information about online or on-site courses: Contact Elise Geddes, [egeddes@ribuilders.org](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org), or call (401) 438-7400.*



Timothy A. Stasiunas

# President's Message

## It's time to be thankful for the 'little things'

This is the time of year when we celebrate Thanksgiving, but just what is it we're celebrating?

The most prominent historic Thanksgiving event in American popular culture is the 1621 celebration at the Plymouth Plantation, where the settlers held a harvest feast after a successful growing season. Autumn or early winter feasts continued sporadically in later years, first as an impromptu religious observance and later as a civil tradition.

Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, with a proclamation by President George Washington after a request by Congress. Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe the holiday, and its celebration was intermittent until the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, when Thanksgiving became a federal holiday in 1863, during the American Civil War.

On a personal level, it's being thankful for being part of

the greatest experiment in human history, beginning when the Founding Fathers had hammered out the U.S. Constitution in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. That was the start of the great American Republic.

For all that we've got wrong in our history, America has been a beacon of hope around the world and here at home, we are "a shining city on a hill." As a first-generation immigrant, it grieves me when people belittle and bash our country. When I talk to others, all agree there is no other place on Earth we would have been able to grow, to prosper and to succeed other than in these United States of America!

This is also a time for us to be thankful for what some may call the "little things." Take time this season to connect with family and friends, reach out to a neighbor or, better yet, a stranger in need. Most of all, be THANKFUL for all you have, all you can do and all the people in your life.

Happy Thanksgiving!



*Ref. Wikipedia, Heritage Foundation*



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# Re-elected Stasiunas team aims high

By Paul F. Eno Editor

“Over the past year, we have continued to achieve our goals and to make the situation better for our members.”

With those words, the Rhode Island Builders Association’s 37<sup>th</sup> president, Timothy A. Stasiunas of The Stasiunas Companies, took up the reins for a second term on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The occasion was RIBA’s 2019 Annual Meeting, held at Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown, where the gavel was taken up by Mr. Stasiunas once again, in the presence of nearly 100 members and guests.

Also re-elected were Vice President Carol O’Donnell of CRM Modular Homes, Treasurer Jason DaPonte of Restivo Monacelli LLC and Secretary James Deslandes of Deslandes Construction Inc.

Elected and sworn in as local directors, with terms expiring in 2022, were: Michael Artesani Jr. of W. Artesani & Sons Inc., Kenneth Coury of Riverhead Building Supply, Matthew Davitt of Davitt Design Build Inc., Larry Desormier Jr. of Desormier Construction LLC, Tanya Donahue of R.I. Kitchen & Bath Inc., Scott Grace of Overhead Door Garage Headquarters, Vincent Marcantonio Jr. of ProProducts Web Design, Nicholas Reuter of Picerne Real Estate Group and Noel Sanchez of Casa Buena Builders Inc.

Nominated for re-election as national directors are: John Bentz of The Property Advisory Group, David A. Caldwell Jr. of Caldwell and Johnson Inc., Felix A. Carlone of F.A. Carlone & Sons, Thomas E. D’Angelo of Terry Lane Co./Progressive Realty Group, Roland J. Fiore of South County Sand & Gravel Co., Donald Hamel of Andersen Corp., Carol O’Donnell of CRM Modular Homes, Jacqueline Pagel of Pella Windows & Doors, and Timothy A. Stasiunas of The Stasiunas Companies.

Nominated as alternate national directors are: Frank Bragantin of Ferland Corp., William Dawson of Pawtucket Credit Union, Dean Martineau of Dean W. Martineau Carpentry & Painting, Kevin Moran of Moran Home Improvements, John Pagliaro of J.P. Construction Inc., Marc Petrowicz of Unilock, Janelle



**RIBA’s 2019-2020 officers and directors, along with President Timothy A. Stasiunas, at right, are sworn in on October 1<sup>st</sup> by Immediate Past President David A. Caldwell Jr. Officers and directors include, from left, Vice President Carol O’Donnell, Treasurer Jason DaPonte, Local Directors Michael Artesani Jr., Tanya Donahue, Vincent J. Marcantonio, Kenneth Coury, Larry Desormier Jr., Scott Grace and Noel Sanchez.**

Photopoulos of Blakeley Interior Design, Patricia Placencia of Webster Bank and Noel Sanchez of Casa Buena Builders Inc.

Nominated for re-election as National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) state representative is Robert J. Baldwin of R.B. Homes Inc., with James Deslandes of Deslandes Construction Inc. nominated as alternate state representative.

Nominated as state director is John Bentz of the Property Advisory Group Inc., with Thomas E. McNulty of E.A. McNulty Real Estate nominated as alternate state director.

Anyone nominated for national office at the Annual Meeting will be elected and installed at the International Builders Show and National Association of Home Builders convention, January 21st-23rd in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Past presidents present included Robert J. Baldwin, George Calcagni, Felix A. Carlone, David A. Caldwell Jr., Roland J. Fiore, Steven Gianlorenzo, Edgar N. Ladouceur.

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

## Members Recognized

RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio recognized members who have done special service to the association in one way or another during the past year.

These are “the folks who make RIBA possible,” Mr. Marcantonio said.

For hard work in the legislative arena: David A. Caldwell Jr., Thomas E. D’Angelo,

Eric Wishart, Joelle Rocha, Joseph Walsh, William Walsh, Gayle Wolf, Steven Carlino Sr. and John Bentz.

On the workforce development front: Ronald J. Caniglia, Robert J. Baldwin, James Deslandes, Alexander Mitchell, Jhonny Leyva and Louis Cotoia Jr.

For Build PAC fundraising: Roland J. Fiore.

General recognition went to: Christine Engustian, general counsel; Scott Asprey, RIBA safety officer; and Paul F. Eno, Rhode Island Builder editor.

Also recognized were active members with over 40 years longevity: George A. Calcagni (1960), George Pesce (1962), Vincent J. Marcantonio (1971), David A. Caldwell Sr. (1975).

Regular event sponsors and magazine advertisers were honored as well, including Steven Carlino Jr. of Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center; Matthew Semonik of Arnold Lumber Co; Michael McDole of National Building Products; William, Sean, Ryan and Evan Finnegan of Coventry Lumber Co.; Kenneth Coury of Riverhead Building Supply; Donald Hamel of Andersen Corp.; Jacqueline Pagel of Pella Windows; and William Dawson of Pawtucket Credit Union.

Mr. Marcantonio praised RIBA staff members as well: Elizabeth Carpenter, Elise Geddes, Cheryl Boyd, Tara DeMelo, Betty Bernal and Robin Barlow

Also recognized were the staff of RIBA’s subsidiary, the Builders Insurance Group: Joyce Therrien, Charles Lowe and Michelle Soares.

## Welcome new directors!

**William "Bill" Dawson** is vice president for mortgage origination at Pawtucket Credit Union. He has been a member of the Rhode Island Builders Association, and a great supporter of RIBA activities, for many years. He will serve as an alternate national director, term expiring in 2020.



**Larry Desormier Jr.** owns Chepachet-based Desormier Construction LLC. Active in the Gloucester Lions Club, Mr. Desormier has also served as a building official in Woonsocket and Cumberland. He will serve as a local director, term expiring in 2022.



**Tanya Donahue** is owner and president of Warwick-based RI Kitchen & Bath Design + Build. Active in RIBA for many years, she has also served on the Professional Women in Building Council. She will serve as a local director, term expiring in 2022.



Based in Warwick, **Marc Petrowicz** is senior territory manager for Unilock. Previously, Mr. Petrowicz was a senior coatings representative for the Sherwin-Williams Co. He will serve as an alternate national director, term expiring in 2020.



**Janelle Photopoulos** is owner & principal designer, at Blakely Interior Design, based in Saunderstown. Especially active in supporting the Rhode Island Home Show, Ms. Photopoulos will serve as an alternate national director, term expiring in 2020.



**Patricia Placencia** is a senior vice president for home lending and the Rhode Island Regional Manager at Webster Bank. She also serves on several other boards. For RIBA, Ms. Placencia will serve as an alternate national director, term expiring in 2020.



With 18 years in construction and a strong background as a carpenter, **Noel Sanchez** is owner of Providence-based Casa Buena Builders. He will serve both as a local director, term expiring in 2022, and as an alternate national director, term expiring in 2020.



*Among those honored for special service to RIBA and the residential construction industry were, from left, first row: David A. Caldwell Jr., William Walsh, Steven Carlino Sr.; second row: John Bentz, Alexander Mitchell, Jhonny Leyva; third row: Robert J. Baldwin, Christine Engustian, Roland J. Fiore; fourth row: George A. Calcagni, Vincent J. Marcantonio Sr., David A. Caldwell Sr.; fifth row: George Pesce, Steven Carlino Jr., Matthew Semonik; sixth row: Michael McDole; William, Ryan, Evan and Sean Finnegan (shown with RIBA Operations Manager Elizabeth Carpenter); seventh row: Kenneth Coury, Donald Hamel, Jacqueline Pagel; eighth row: William Dawson, and the staff of RIBA's subsidiary, the Builders Insurance Group, including Joyce Therrien, Michelle Soares and Charles Lowe.*



## Holland Electric triumphs with a score of 60

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Some 90 golfers hit the links on September 16<sup>th</sup> in support of RIBA's charity for wounded veterans and their families: Builders Helping Heroes! It was the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Rhode Island Builders Association Golf Classic, and the venue was the renowned Wannamoisett Country Club in Rumford on an especially gorgeous day.

In a nail-biter at the end of play, there was a tie for first place between the fearsome foursome from Holland Electric (Rick, Bill, Steve and Kevin Holland) and the classy quartet from Pella Windows (Steve Bonas, Normand Fontaine, Cosmo D'Elia and Mike Cabral). Both achieved a score of 60.

In a cutting of the cards with the golf pro, however, the Hollands triumphed.

That placed the Pella team second, with the foursome from Pawtucket Credit Union (Bill Dawson, Richard Bianco, Richard

Simms and Greg Marderosian) placing third, with a score of 62.

Other winners included:

- Closest to the hole #8 – Dan Lovejoy (4'8")
- Closest to hole #15 – Rick Holland of Holland Electric (8'6")
- Longest drive #1 (380 yards) Andy Cotton of Restivo Monicelli.

When all was said, done, driven, chipped and puttied, participants gathered at the elegant Wannamoisett club house for a delectable buffet dinner. And there were plenty of other door-prize and raffle winners, thanks to the generous donors.

*See the complete list of sponsors and donors on this page.*

Builders Helping Heroes (BHH) was the real winner for the day. RIBA's charity brings volunteer builders, remodelers and subcontractors together with the families of military personnel killed or wounded in combat since 9/11, to help meet their



**The Hollands (Rick, Bill, Steve and Kevin) were the top tee-ers on September 16<sup>th</sup>.**

housing needs.

RIBA thanks all the golfers who participated, their companies, and the many sponsors who made the event possible, including Premier Sponsors Arnold Lumber; Coventry Lumber Douglas Lumber, Kitchens and Home Center; National Building Products; and Riverhead Building Supply.

Watch for news of the 2020 RIBA Golf Classic, and mark your calendar!

**The Rhode Island Builders Association  
thanks the generous sponsors and donors who helped make  
our 2019 Golf Classic such a success!**

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# RIBA Happenings: 29th Annual Golf Classic



William J. Canning Management Co. was well represented at the Golf Classic. Here are Dave and Bill Canning, with Ed & Brenden McNaught.



From Pawtucket Credit Union came Greg Marderosian, Richard Simms, Bill Dawson and Richard Bianco.



Mike McDole and Tim Collins of National Building Products are wondering: "Should we pancake the roving photographer?"



The combined team from Dean W. Martineau Carpentry and Painting and Canning Management included Dean Martineau, Mike Guastini, Karen Fagundes and Carolyn Izzi. They ended up the high-scoring foursome!

Craig Richards of Verizon nabs the hot raffle prize of the day: a 43" smart TV!



Participants enjoy a sumptuous buffet dinner at the Wannamoisett club house.

## Home building leaders from all over New England talk issues at RIBA



*Above, leaders of home builders associations from all over New England gather for a group portrait behind Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters in East Providence on September 27<sup>th</sup>. At right, state and national leaders joined the discussion: from left are Area 1 Chairman Ken Boynton, National Association of Home Builders Chairman Gregory F. Ugalde, RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio, John Bentz of RIBA's Education and Workforce Development Committee, Rhode Island Lt. Gov. Daniel McKee, Past RIBA President Robert J. Baldwin and NAHB CEO Gerald M. Howard.*

**By Paul F. Eno** *Editor*

Workforce training to fill 371,000 job openings in the residential construction industry, code issues, the opioid crisis, housing affordability, regulatory reform and Washington politics all figured into the day-long discussions as the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Area 1 Caucus met at Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio acted as host.

Area 1 encompasses New England, and representatives from state and local builders associations from all six states were present. Also attending were NAHB Chairman Gregory F. Ugalde (a Connecticut home builder) and NAHB CEO Gerald Howard. Also addressing the group was Rhode Island Lt. Gov. Daniel McKee, who explained the “1 percent growth” strategy he employed as mayor of Cumberland.

In his own remarks, Mr. Ugalde praised RIBA for its many activities to further the residential construction industry, especially



when it comes to workforce development.

“Rhode Island has been super successful in leading the way on workforce development, not only for members but in supporting career and technical education in the schools,” said Mr. Ugalde.

In fact, the NAHB chairman said, the national association is working to get the Home Builders Institute (HBI) instructional curriculum into high schools nationwide.

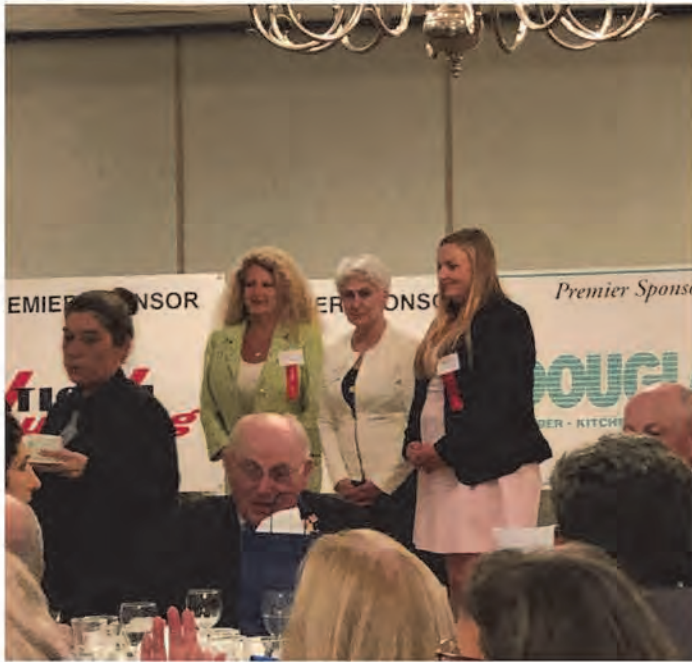
He also stressed that the high cost and low supply in the housing market is an NAHB priority.

“Housing affordability is our manta,” he said. “And, for the first time, it will be an issue in the 2020 national election.”

*see AREA 1...page 33*

[www.ribuilders.org](http://www.ribuilders.org)

## *Professional Women in Building : PWB NEWS*



*On October 1, 2019, the Professional Women in Building Council officers were sworn in for a second term at the Rhode Island Builders Association Annual Meeting. From left to right, Carol O'Donnell of CRM Modular Homes, Sophia Karvunis of Closests Etc, Jacqueline Pagel of Pella Windows and Doors, and Linda Bohmbach of Home Healthsmith (not shown) .*

***Save the Date***

***NAWIC Annual Holiday Brunch***

***The Graduate Hotel (formerly The Biltmore)***

***In the Grand Ballroom***

***December 13, 2019 11:30am-3pm***

### ***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 events and news at <http://ribuilders.org/professional-women-in-building>



## RIBA Happenings: Build PAC Fall Fundraiser



◀ The Rhode Island Builders Association held its fall Build PAC fundraiser at the Coast Guard House in Narragansett on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Stopping by to network and talk about legislative priorities are, from left, RIBA President Timothy A. Stasiunas, Thomas Furey of Furey Roofing & Construction, RIBA Vice President Carol O'Donnell and RIBA Government Affairs Advocate Joseph W. Walsh.

▶ Here are Peter DiStefano and Rebecca Downing of DiStefano Brothers Construction Inc., at left, with RIBA President Roland J. Fiore.



▶ The Finnegan Boys, at left, from Coventry Lumber (Evan, Sean and Ryan) meet up with Don Hamel of Andersen Corp. and Matt Semonik of Arnold Lumber Co.

▶ Here's Nick Reuter of Picerne Real Estate Group with Bob DeBlois of DeBlois Building Co.



▶ It's Dave and Rebecca Baud from Baud Builders Inc.  
For more information about the Rhode Island Builders Association Build PAC, contact RIBA Executive Officer John Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400 or [jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org](mailto:jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org).

For RIBA  
membership information  
contact Elise Geddes  
401-438-7400  
or [egeddes@ribuilders.org](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org)



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Dealers Association**



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Douglas Lumber • Humphrey's Building Supply  
L. Sweet Lumber • Liberty Cedar • National Building Products  
Riverhead Building Supply • Scituate Lumber**

*[www.RILBMDA.org](http://www.RILBMDA.org)*



# RIBA's next Networking Night slated for November 14

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org), or call (401) 438-7400.

SiteScapes, a new member of the Rhode Island Builders Association, is excited about sponsoring November's networking event and meeting as many RIBA members as possible.

For those of you who haven't attended one of our monthly networking events, why not stop by? You never know whom you'll meet!

Ask them! You might be surprised how many of your fellow members will tell you that they met their best subcontractor or a colleague who helped them grow their business.

Your next chance to do this will be at RIBA's next Networking Night, set for Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at RIBA headquarters! Stop by the Networking Night to see what SiteScapes is all about



*Among those enjoying the September Networking Night are Joyce Therrien, Maureen and Vin Marcantonio, and Ken Jones.*

and might be able to do for you.

The evening is FREE for members and guests. Stop by anytime between 4:30 and 7 p.m. to relax and network with your fellow RIBA members, and the RIBA staff. 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](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org).



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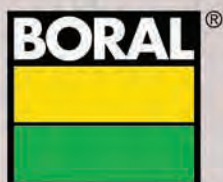
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**A Rhode Island Builder Magazine Special Section**



# Featured Products and Services for November 2019

# TRIM



## Boral TruExterior™ Trim

### Superior Workability

Boral TruExterior® Trim is creating an entirely new category of reliable exterior trim that offers phenomenal performance, remarkable workability, and a lasting look without the limitations that plague other exterior trim products. Plus it can be installed using proven woodworking tools and methods.

- Easy to install
- Long-lasting, withstanding nature's elements
- Competitively priced compared to other products in the marketplace

### Applications

Designed to be used in non-structural applications, Boral TruExterior® Trim is suited for ground contact, which makes it ideal for exterior trim applications such as:

Corners, soffits, fascia, batten strips, frieze boards, rake boards, garage door casings, window surrounds, door trim and other non-structural exterior trim applications

Boral TruExterior™ Siding's sustainable properties are a result of the use of recycled polymers and highly refined recovered coal combustion products, which are endorsed by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) in the production of construction materials.

**Coventry Lumber**  
2030 Noosneck Hill Rd  
Coventry, RI 02816  
(401)821-2800  
[www.coventrylumber.com](http://www.coventrylumber.com)



**Waterford Building Supply**  
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Waterford, CT 06385  
(860)443-1167  
[www.waterfordbuildingsupply.com](http://www.waterfordbuildingsupply.com)

**E.L. Morse Lumber**  
2502 Cranberry Hwy.  
Wareham, MA 02571  
(508)295-1170  
[www.elmorselumber.com](http://www.elmorselumber.com)

**West Haven Lumber**  
741 Washington Ave.  
West Haven, CT 06516  
(203)933-1641  
[www.whlumber.com](http://www.whlumber.com)

### Quick Facts

- Can be painted any color with exterior grade latex paint
- Easy to cut, rout, drill and fasten
- Can be installed using wood-working tools and methods
- Exceptional durability
- Resistant to rotting, cracking, splitting, and is virtually free from termites
- Maintains a high level of dimensional stability during periods of moisture and temperature change
- Suitable for ground contact



### PRO PLUG® SYSTEM for Boral TruExterior Trim



- No Cam-Out Mechanism to prevent stripped screws
- Available in both Epoxy Coated Carbon steel and Stainless Steel
- Plugs are made from Boral TruExterior Trim so the color and grain match perfectly.

Rhode Island Builders Association

# Member Benefit Guide

## 2019-2020



**Member Solution Services**

• **Tuition-free Education for Members and their Employees**

• **Vital Information Resources**

• **Powerful Advocacy at the State House**

• **Award-Winning Monthly Magazine**

• **Unique Marketing Opportunities, including the R.I. Home Show and RIBAlist.com**

• **Member-to-Member Reference Services**

• **Complimentary Customized Job Training**

• **Full-Service, in-house Insurance Agency**

• **Medical & Dental Plans**

• **Complimentary Jobsite Safety Service**

• **Discounts and Rebates**

• **Monthly Networking Events**

# RIBA Offers an Unprecedented



## 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, 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

Our complimentary workforce-development program 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.



## 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!

# Joining is easy! Call (401) 4

# ted Member Benefit Package!

## 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.



# 438-7400 • RIBuilders.org

# 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!

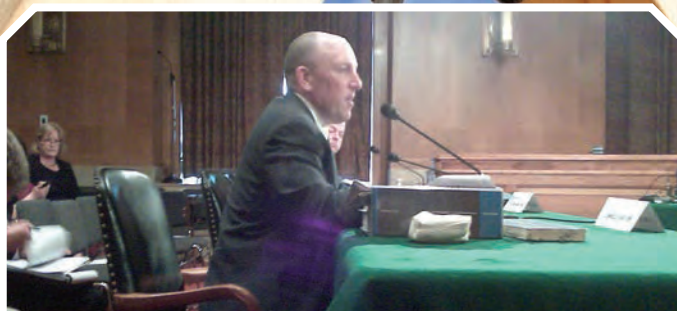
I also need your help with a larger cause. Please share this

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.



## Save Money Every Day

With your dual membership in RIBA and NAHB, enjoy over 20 different programs that give discounts and rebates on products you use every day. The Member Rebate Program pays thousands of dollars a year to members for products they already buy. The Member Advantage program offers discounts on major national products and services that can save you a bundle.

Money-saving discounts that benefit you, your business and your family [nahb.org/Savings](http://nahb.org/Savings)

**SAVINGS**

LONG LIVE HAPPY HOMES

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**For details, call (401) 438-7400**

**or e-mail Elise at [egeddes@ribuilders.org](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org)**



Time to consider these fine products for your customers' winter and spring projects.

## At FINETCO®: The Open Joist TRIFORCE® System!

The Open Joist TRIFORCE® system brings you the strength of triangulation, the accuracy of multiple joints, and it optimizes the use of wood. It brings you the only floor open joist that's adjustable, made entirely of wood and assembled without a metal connector.



Fabrication of the Open Joist TRIFORCE is entirely robotic, ensuring great precision, rigidity and incomparable appearance, and at a highly competitive price.

This revolutionary structural flooring product offers maximum performance, and it's a complete re-engineering of the wooden floor joist.

For more than 25 years, the OPEN JOIST 2000® brand has shown its performance and durability everywhere in North America. Now, the Open Joist TRIFORCE surpasses the industry's standards and establishes new performances in engineering system flooring. Find out more at FINETCO's convenient locations in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Remember: At FINETCO, "one simple call does it all!"

**Coventry Lumber, Coventry, RI • 401-821-2800**  
**E.L. Morse Lumber, Wareham, MA • 508-295-1170**  
**Waterford Building Supply, Waterford, CT • 860-443-1167**  
**West Haven Lumber, West Haven, CT • 203-933-1641**  
**www.finetco.net • Page 16**

## At Fagan Door: The best garage door styles!

When helping your customers purchase a new garage door, there are many styles, and various aesthetic features, to consider. It's important to look at functionality, design and more than just price to ensure optimal performance over the life of the door.



It's important not to pay too much, but it's just as important not to pay too little. A low-price guarantee usually means that you will sacrifice something, such as quality, level of service, or professionalism of installation.

Steel doors provide the best overall value. Most major manufacturers offer a limited lifetime warranty on steel doors for rust-through and delamination, but not for surface rust.

The Fagan Door team can help guide you through the design process because, ultimately, you want a door that is pleasing to look at and that complements the style of the home.

Visit <https://www.fagandoor.com/door-design-center/> to use our online door visualizer. In addition, we'll help you work through issues like exposure to sun, water and moisture.

So, if you need advice in choosing a garage door that is right for your client's home and budget, give us a call at to speak with a member of the Fagan Door team.

**Fagan Door Corp., Coventry, R.I. • 401-262-4352**  
**fagandoor.com • Page 22**

This special section consists of paid advertising. The Rhode Island Builders Association does not endorse specific products and is not responsible for claims or representations made in advertisements.



## Project of the Month

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N & D Builders  
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 **FAGAN DOOR**

## Premium positions still available

# 2020 Membership Directory in preparation, advertising campaign under way

Want to reach virtually everybody – contractors, subs and the public alike, with your product or service?

The Rhode Island Builders Association's 2020 *Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide* is being prepared and, first and foremost, all members should understand that what goes into the *Directory* about you and your company comes directly from the information you provide to RIBA.

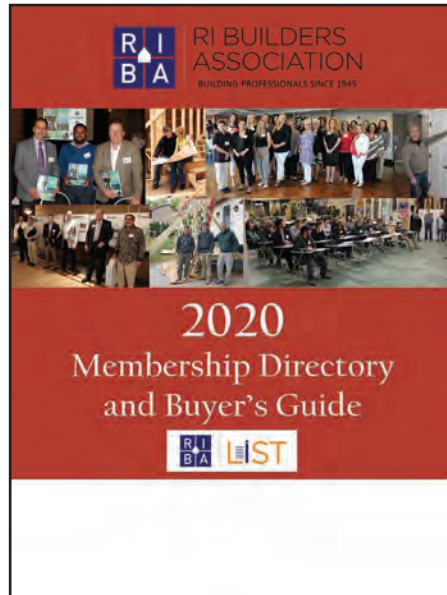
"Members have had until October 30<sup>th</sup> to logon to their account at RIBuilders.org to update their information," says RIBA Director of Operations Elizabeth Carpenter.

The information carries over to the association's online directory, RIBalist.com, as well, Ms. Carpenter emphasized.

For more information, or if you don't have a username and password to access your information at RIBuilders.org, contact Ms. Carpenter at (401) 438-7400 or [ecarpenter@ribuilders.org](mailto:ecarpenter@ribuilders.org).

### **Advertising campaign begins**

The RIBA *Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide* remains popular with contractors and the public alike, and it's a fixture at annual Rhode Island Home Show.



There's no better venue to showcase your business to that "everybody" audience.

Members should have received full information by mail about *Directory* advertising. The low advertising rates remain the same as in previous years.

The *Directory* will be printed, and distribution will begin, before the ever-expanding Rhode Island Home Show, now

including the Garden and Flower Show, and will be an excellent introduction to your business, especially if you are a show exhibitor at the 2020 event.

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

Once again, RIBA will have a drawing for one advertiser to win an additional ad: free, full-page and full-color.

Any advertiser who purchased their *Directory* ad by October 31<sup>st</sup> will be eligible for the drawing.

The final deadline for *Directory* advertising is November 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discounts available**

RIBA once again offers advertising "package deals" with the *Directory* and the award-winning *Rhode Island Builder* monthly magazine.

Advertisers who opt for both publications will earn a 5 percent discount on their total advertising cost.

Use the advertising information package you received from RIBA. Advertising information also is online at [NewRiverPress.com/ribaads](http://NewRiverPress.com/ribaads), or call Paul or Jonathan Eno at (401) 250-5760, ext. 1.



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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: Asbestos, Mold Awareness November 19<sup>th</sup>

**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

**COST:** FREE for members and their employees, with a \$15 materials/registration fee. 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 Elise Geddes at [egeddes@ribuilders.org](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org), or call (401) 438-7400.

This course will cover asbestos awareness and mold awareness.

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.

# Consumers

## PROPANE

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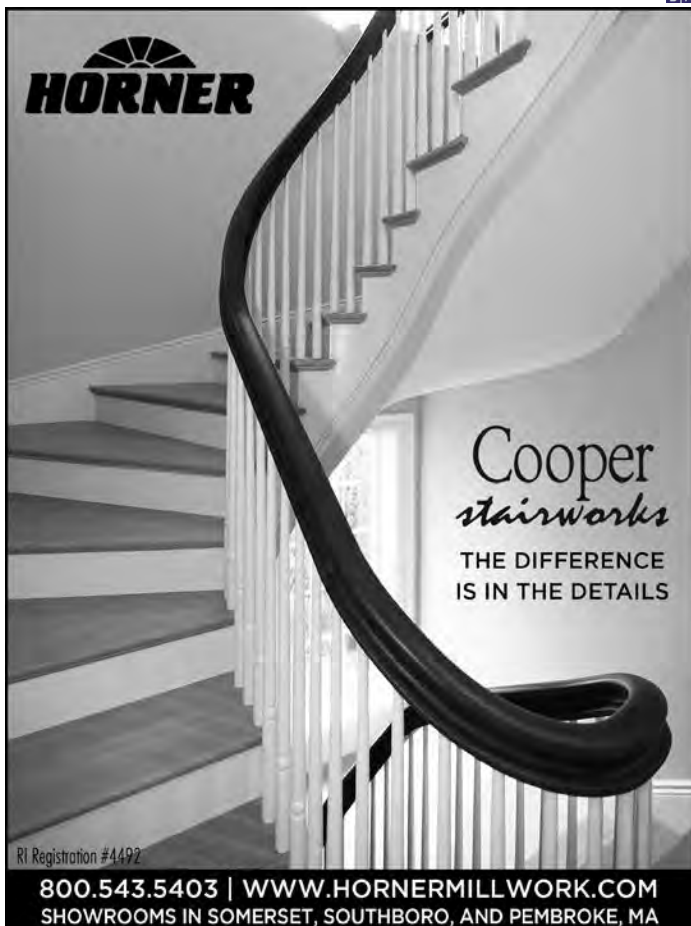
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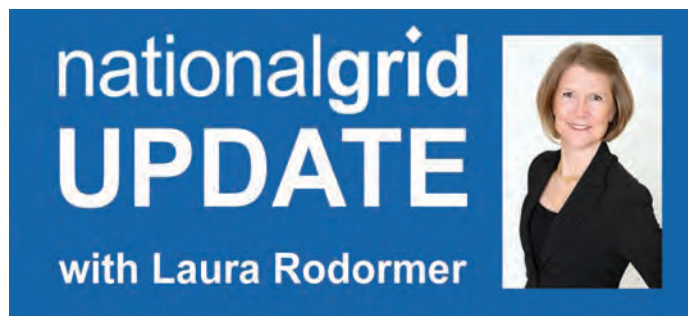


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# Here are some highlights from the New Construction Program

Once the Louttit Laundry, 95 Cranston Street, Providence, was home to the largest laundry facility in Rhode Island in the early 1900's. But the building has sat empty since 2008. Today it's a brownfield site that required extensive environmental remediation, but it's being transformed into a vibrant, mixed-use development.



The project consists of 30 energy-efficient affordable-housing units and 8,000 sq. ft. of retail grocery space. Ushering in a breath of new life, the newly built Urban Greens Co-op Market will help address the lack of fresh food alternatives in the neighborhood.

To build awareness of this mixed-use, brownfield project with ambitious energy-efficiency goals, the project team has welcomed

*see NATIONAL GRID...page 32*

**Former RNC Field Manager Rob Sherwood, center, is with his students from Providence Career and Technical Academy.**

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Member Profile: Ken Bousquet & Jeremy Caouette of Consumers Propane

# Going strong after 100 years!

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

“You’re cooking with gas” is another way of saying: “Whoa! You’re doing great!” And if the gas is propane, you must be talking about Consumers Propane in 2019, its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Starting out as a coal dealership in April 1919, Consumers is now owned and operated by the third and fourth generation of the Bousquet Family, namely René and his son, Ken, who is now president.

The coal, which came in by rail and was enthusiastically purchased in buckets for use by Woonsocket businesses and three-decker houses, is long gone. Since then, Consumers has expanded into a wide selection of fuels: heating oil, gasoline, diesel, kerosene and, of course, propane. There’s a complete range of HVAC installation and service as well.

Consumers headquarters is still in its original location, 139 Hamlet Avenue in Woonsocket, complete with a gas station, and there are loyal customers whose ancestors were customers too.

Jeremy Caouette started pumping gas at Consumers in 2004, when he was 14 years old. Today, he’s general manager.

“I worked for René after school, but I eventually learned to fix tanks,” recalls Jeremy, whose dad is in the oil business. “After high school, René asked if I would stay, go to school for him, then work as an on-the-road service man. That’s how I started working my way up in the company.”

Jeremy oversees a sales and distribution territory that includes the entire state of Rhode Island, along with southeastern Massachusetts. But there have been customers as far away as Amesbury, Mass.

“René’s always had a policy that if you’re going to supply fuel for equipment, at some point that equipment will break, and you need to know how to fix it,” Jeremy comments. “We send our people for training all over the country.”

Consumers currently employs some 48 people. And the company just opened a new terminal in Burrillville, with plans for a third at another Rhode Island location. The company has 120,000 gallons of fuel in storage.

## **Consumers Propane**

**Co-Owner:** Kenneth Bousquet

**General Manager:** Jeremy Caouette

**RIBA member since:** 2004

**Focus:** HVAC, fuel oil, propane sales, service

**Founded:** 1919

**Based:** Woonsocket, Rhode Island



**From left are Consumers Propane General Manager Jeremy Caouette, René Bousquet and Ken Bousquet.**

Ken Bousquet started working for his dad in 1982, at the age of 17, then went for his bachelor’s degree in business management at what was then Bryant College.

“At first I wasn’t sure I wanted to work here,” Ken remembers. “I went for a few job interviews. But one morning I looked in the mirror and asked, ‘What the heck am I doing? I have a great family company right here!’”

The Woonsocket community appreciates the company. As a way to give back, and honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Consumers offered gasoline for \$1 a gallon on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cars stretched to both ends of Hamlet Avenue, and the police had to direct traffic.

Consumers joined the Rhode Island Builders Association in 2013.

“We started to do different events, and we were interested in the Rhode Island Home Show and in the networking RIBA offers,” said Ken. “Elise Geddes, RIBA’s membership director, has been a huge help, and she’s another reason we joined.”

Consumers has become a presence at RIBA events, including the Annual Clambake.

“We’ve also taken advantage of the new Safety Service,” Jeremy pointed out. “Scott Asprey came in and did a great job, getting the message about jobsite safety across to our people so they won’t forget it.”

Ken and Jeremy both credited René for the company’s longevity and success. René has worked for the company all his life. He’s going to be 80 this year, and he’s still working,” Ken said. “He’s our inspiration.”

To learn more, visit <https://www.consumerspropane.com>.

# John Marcantonio

Executive Officer, Rhode Island Builders Association

*John Marcantonio grew up in the construction industry and in the Rhode Island Builders Association. From a young age, he worked for his father in the family business, North Smithfield-based Marcantonio Design Builders, eventually becoming a carpenter. Earning both undergraduate (1990) and graduate degrees (1996) in marketing at Bryant University, Mr. Marcantonio built a political resume as well, serving as vice chairman of the North Smithfield Budget Committee from 1993-1995 and as a member of the Town Council, of which he was vice president from 1995-1999 and again from 2001-2004. Mr. Marcantonio also spent 13 years in marketing and strategic planning, while director of marketing at Fall River-based Yomega Corp.. He assumed his current post on July 11, 2011.*



Mr. Marcantonio  
at the 2019 RIBA Clambake.

**THE BUILDER:** Can you give us an overview of how the Rhode Island Builders Association works?

**MARCANTONIO:** RIBA is a very comprehensive trade association. We offer members everything from information they can't get elsewhere, such as this award-winning monthly magazine, to legislative advocacy, which is the political representation for the residential construction industry and our members. That representation reaches from Town Hall to State House to Washington.

Our new workforce development programs and job training initiatives are making a huge difference for folks entering the industry and for the employers who need them. Our new Safety Service is helping keep members' jobsites safe and saving them on insurance costs in the long run.

Our comprehensive education programs are free of tuition charges for members and their employees. We offer all the necessary courses for contractors to fulfill their state-mandated continuing-education requirements. We also offer a variety of courses to make members better at business, and to help them and their employees keep up with the skills and knowledge to succeed in this very competitive industry.

We present valuable monthly networking opportunities, member directories and public initiatives both printed and online, and huge customer-outreach events such as the Rhode Island Home Show. And we have our own, in-house insurance agency, the Builders Insurance Group.

Currently, we're expanding our training for existing contractors. This is in response to the fact that so many experienced members of the industry are retiring, and the fact that many new contractors don't have a family background in which they learned skills from an older family member in the industry. We need to pass those skills on.

I can firmly say that RIBA does more for its members than any

other home builders association in the country.

**THE BUILDER:** So a non-member might ask: "I already benefit from much of what RIBA does for the industry, especially legislative advocacy. Why should I join?"

**MARCANTONIO:** That's probably the biggest misconception out there! Yes, RIBA represents the industry, whether you're a member or not. But the more members we have, the more effective we will be. People need to join because the strength is in the numbers.

I can't tell you how many times folks have rejoined the association when a specific issue that affects them comes up. But the time to belong is before the problem starts because, again, our ability to protect you in the industry only comes from our numbers.

The biggest thing you can do for yourself is to join the association. The biggest thing you can do for the industry is get others to join the association!

Not everything RIBA does every day or every year directly affects you, but overall, the association's activities do affect you, and our ability to represent you is critical.

**THE BUILDER:** Speaking of RIBA's advocacy, what is the Rhode Island legislative outlook for 2020?

**MARCANTONIO:** A few bills have been stuck since the end of the 2019 session, specifically bills on quorums for zoning and planning boards. Those will be a priority again in 2020.

Any and all things surrounding the permitting process and inspection process will have our attention as well. They're always a priority, and we get that based on the information from our membership. So we need members to give us their feedback, and to tell us what they need.

The wetlands issue and setbacks from wetlands aren't a legislative issue, but they're important from a regulatory standpoint. And RIBA will follow those and voice our concerns as the Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) and other agencies promote new regulations or revise existing ones.

*Related story on page 2.*

We'll also support any legislative move to upgrade and expand drinking-water and sewer infrastructure, which is critical to growth.

**THE BUILDER:** Twenty years ago, the home-building industry and the environmental community were, essentially, enemies. Today, there's a great deal of cooperation and even common interest. What happened?

**MARCANTONIO:** I can't speak to the past, but I'm not surprised that there was friction. But there's been a great deal of

see *INTERVIEW...next page*

## INTERVIEW...from previous page

discussion since then, and people have come to know and respect one another. Very often, when you sit down with people you are expected to disagree with, you can get past the surface and discover common ground.

Folks in the environmental movement realize that people, including themselves, need decent places to live. And builders realize that the environment must be reasonably protected, that people want clean and healthy places to live, and that the population has become much more interested in “green” living overall.

In summary, we really aren’t as far apart as we used to be.

That doesn’t mean there aren’t disagreements. But, in the end, reasonable people recognize that we need more housing, and that we can provide it in a way that protects the environment while helping the economy.

Now, we work well with the environmental community to find common solutions.

**THE BUILDER:** When it comes to impediments to building and housing affordability, what would you see as the biggest problem right now?

**MARCANTONIO:** The biggest problem in Rhode Island is that most local communities don’t want more people. That means the state won’t add more people.

In my opinion, this comes down to the way the state finances

education, and the misconception that the towns have, by using the wrong math, that adding population has a detrimental cost to their communities. If that was true, then states that are growing in population would be financially destroyed. And states like ours, where the population is stagnant or decreasing, would be financially strong.

That’s not how the economics play out. But local communities’ belief in this plays out in the form of local regulation that restricts growth. A town’s reaction to not wanting people is to do everything they can to prevent growth, which means making everything from zoning to regulation to the approval process difficult.

**THE BUILDER:** Because of the severe affordable-housing shortage, do you foresee at any point that Rhode Island will follow what states like Minnesota and Oregon have done to increase densities and generally restrict roadblocks to local growth?

**MARCANTONIO:** Those states have more or less mandated local zoning densities. Since Rhode Island takes a lot of pride in local control, and we’ve been set up that way for a long time, I think there would be much resistance to that. I’ve served on a town council, and I understand the pride associated with local control.

However, I think now the state and the municipalities recognize that this isn’t just a building industry issue anymore. The issue

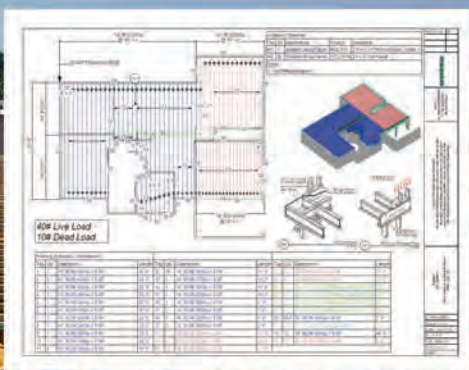
see MARCANTONIO...page 31

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# Commonwealth posts advice for home improvement contractors

## Massachusetts Consumer Affairs Blog

When it comes to residential contracting, home improvement contractors and homeowners go hand in hand. You may know about Home Improvement Contractor (HIC) registration, but there's always more to learn!

In the last blog of our five-part, "HIC-Easy as 1-2-3" blog series, we explore HIC law from a contractor's perspective. (See all postings at [Blog.mass.gov/consumer/](http://Blog.mass.gov/consumer/)).

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://MassHousing.com).



## Who is considered a home improvement contractor?

A home improvement contractor is someone who does work on a 1-4 unit residential property in Massachusetts that is also the homeowner's primary dwelling. Under the HIC law, subcontractors also classify as home improvement contractors.

Remember that obtaining a HIC registration is different from obtaining a construction license. Generally, most contractors should be licensed, but may need to register with HIC. Use our website to check if your work requires an HIC registration ([https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/01/08/HIC-CSL%20Table%20Revised%20August%208%2021%202018\\_0.pdf](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/01/08/HIC-CSL%20Table%20Revised%20August%208%2021%202018_0.pdf)).

## How do I register?

You can register as: an individual, proprietorship, or corporation online or in-person. When registering as a corporation, you must submit documentation showing that your business is registered with the Secretary of State's Office. If you're registering a proprietorship or Doing Business As (DBA), you must provide a current copy of the business certificate filed with the city or town clerk where your business is located. In addition, there is a \$150 registration fee and a mandatory contribution to the Guaranty Fund (<http://blog.mass.gov/consumer/massconsumer/hic-easy-as-1-2-3-part-3-guaranty-fund/>).

You must renew your HIC registration every two years. Failure to renew within 30 days after each two-year mark will result in the need for you to re-pay the initial HIC registration and Guaranty Fund fee.

## How can I protect myself

### when working with a homeowner?

You and the homeowner should both agree on and sign a detailed written contract. Necessary contract items include, but are not limited to, legal names of involved parties, start and completion dates, total project cost, materials, and payment schedule.

A list of contract items and a sample contract can be found on our website. You may also be eligible to file for arbitration if there is a clause in the written contract that permits it.

Posted by the Mass. Consumer Affairs Blog on September 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Used by permission.

# RIBA

offers great networking opportunities!

Check them out at [RIBuilders.org](http://RIBuilders.org)

or call (401) 438-7400

**JOB TRAINING**...from page 1

It's September 12<sup>th</sup>, and RIBA members and volunteers are ready to start rehabilitation of the Central Falls building that will house the Central Falls Vocational Training Facility, off Higginson Avenue near the Lincoln town line. A Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) class is expected to be the first to use the facility once completed. For information, call Betty Bernal at (401) 500-9146.

Classes are expected to begin soon, and an opening ceremony is planned.

A Vocational English as a Second Language-Basic Carpentry class is expected to be the first class offered at the new job training center, followed by a new session of the Carpentry Career Training Program (CCTP). This would make the facility the fifth location in the state to offer the CCTP. Other locations are in Woonsocket, Chariho, Warwick and East Providence. *Related information on this page.*

Members working with project manager Robert J. Baldwin of R.B. Homes include Alexander Mitchell of Meridian Custom Homes Inc., Jhonny Leyva of Heroica Construction, James Deslandes of Deslandes Construction Inc., Betty Bernal of the RIBA staff, Thomas Furey of Furey Roofing & Construction, Terry Regan of Regan Heating & Air Conditioning.

In particular, Mr. Leyva is handling demolition, framing, dry-wall and painting.

RIBA members and guests will be invited to tour the facility, to meet students, and to recruit new, skilled employees once classes have begun.



Paola N. Fernandez

"Grant funds from the Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation will equip the classroom at the newly created Central Falls facility, to support the construction trade workforce development program. Thank you for all the amazing work you do to help improve people's lives in our state," said Paola N. Fernandez, vice president for community development at Centreville Bank.

The Foundation helps support community-based organizations to help meet the needs of Rhode Island's under-served population.

For more information on the Central Falls facility and VESL, contact Ms. Bernal at (401) 500-9146 or [bbernal@ribuilders.org](mailto:bbernal@ribuilders.org). For information on RIBA educational and job training programs in general, contact Elise Geddes at (401) 438-7400 or [egeddes@ribuilders.org](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org).



## New CCTP sessions begin



Louis Cotoia Jr. of RIBA's Education and Workforce Development Committee, at right, welcomes students to the beginning of the 2019-2020 session of the Carpentry Career Training Program (CCTP) at the Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Looking on are instructors Charles Myers and Josh North. This is one of four, soon to be five, locations where the CCTP is offered. Other locations include the Chariho Regional Career and Technical Center, the East Providence Career and Technical Center, and the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center. For information, on the CCTP and other job training programs, contact Elise Geddes at RIBA: (401) 438-7400 or [egeddes@ribuilders.org](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org).

**MARCANTONIO**...from page 29

now, after 20 or 30 years of anti-housing policy, is that we have demographics that show our population as stagnant and aging. We are actually closing schools.

I think many state policy makers are realizing that the towns have caused a growth problem, and that they're the only ones who can ultimately create the solution.

So I wouldn't be surprised if towns start to come up with plans that work, but I also wouldn't be surprised if the state doesn't have to get more involved in pushing for or controlling some local zoning decisions.

**THE BUILDER: Where is RIBA going in the next 10 years?**

**MARCANTONIO:** RIBA will always be a comprehensive organization. I think in the next couple of years, though, its education may expand more toward contractor development than just straight contractor education.

We need to rebuild the contractor base of this state. With this new model, you may see RIBA's membership soar as people search for an entity that can provide resources for business development. And we're committed to that. Ultimately, though, RIBA's Board of Directors sets those policies, and they do a very good job of steering the ship here.



For RIBA  
membership information  
contact Elise Geddes

401-438-7400 • or [egeddes@ribuilders.org](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org)

## **NATIONAL GRID...from page 26**

tours, on-site trainings and public events. In March, for example, a Zero Energy Homes and Residential Envelope & Building Science workshop featured presentations covering strategies for cost-effective, high-performance building assemblies – from foundation through roof.

At that event, Peter Gill Case, owner of Truth Box Inc., an architect and member of the project development team, provided an overview of the double stud wall construction and high-performance heat-pump systems, features that will increase energy efficiency and decrease tenant operating costs over the long term. Following the presentations, guests were given a tour of the residential building to see the building design elements under construction.

In September, the project team welcomed the National Grid Residential New Construction Program to host a blower-door training, an exciting opportunity to teach participants about testing energy efficiency in a large building. Participants learned:

- How to set up blower door equipment in a large building;
- How to prepare a large building for blower-door testing;
- Individual unit standard construction testing;
- Individual unit testing with AeroBarrier® system technique in-place;
- Compartmentalization testing and building diagnostics.

Attendees included architects, energy specialists, students from YouthBuild and HVAC students from Providence Career and Technical Academy, who had been following this project as it underwent construction across the street from their school.

In another highlight, a solar array was recently installed on the Urban Greens Co-op Market that will help offset a portion of the market's energy needs. The residential units are close to being complete and are expected to be available for occupancy later this year.

For information about residential new construction technical support and energy efficiency incentives, call (888) 887-8841



## **Charity project helps Hope Valley homeowner**

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) group of Charlestown has helped elderly Hope Valley homeowner George Gardiner have a new roof over his head after the original was damaged by a falling tree.

Mr. Gardiner couldn't afford a new roof, and he had no insurance, so NHN stepped in. The not-for-profit group helps low-income homeowners complete repairs so they can stay in their homes.

Most work by NHN is done by volunteers, but Mr. Gardiner's roof was a big job that required the services of a pro, and DiRoma Roofing of Westerly answered the call.

Assisting was J. Tefft Logging & Firewood owner Jason Tefft, who volunteered to remove seven remaining spruce trees that were threatening to fall on Mr. Gardiner's home.

Find out more at <https://neighborshelpingneighborsri.org>.



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## **OPIOIDS...from page 1**

"Among other tasks, we plan to help employers obtain information and resources on helping employees and how to manage the problem," he explained.

### ***A national issue***

The opioid crisis in the construction industry is nationwide, and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has also committed to help.

"We have developed resources to help our members across the country deal with this problem," said NAHB Chairman Gregory F. Ugalde while visiting RIBA on September 27<sup>th</sup>. *Related story on page 10.*

"NAHB is taking an innovative approach to address opioid use and misuse, viewing the problem holistically and creating solutions and educational resources that address intervention points across the spectrum of prevention, treatment, recovery and return-to-work," a statement from the association said.

The statement made clear that construction workers don't necessarily take opioids to "get high" initially, but become dependent on the drugs after they're prescribed for pain control following jobsite injuries.

NAHB materials available to members and non-members alike include:

- An executive training package, including a webinar and related downloadable materials, that explains why action is needed in the home building industry;
- A supervisor training package on interventions in the workplace that includes a podcast and comprehensive written guidance;
- A supervisor training package on preventing opioid misuse in residential construction industry;
- Resources on pain-management alternatives to opioids;
- Fact sheets that explain the risks associated with taking opioids, identifying non-medical opioids like heroin, and identifying medical opioids;
- A comprehensive, state-by-state guide of resources available locally.

"NAHB plans to continue this initiative and update and add to these resources as they are finalized. These tools will complement similar efforts by federal, state and local governments and healthcare organi-

zations."

Employers can begin tying into these resources online, at <https://www.nahb.org/nahb-priorities/opioid-resources.aspx>.

Here in Rhode Island, officials with the Overdose Prevention and Intervention

Task Force (OPITF) aren't sure why certain workers are more prone to fatal opioid overdoses. But these workers include carpenters, general construction workers and electricians.

Watch for more information.



## **AREA 1...from page 10**

NAHB will do seven town hall meetings in seven swing states, according to Mr. Ugalde.

"We believe these states will decide the election. We'll talk with swing voters about the economy, along with housing and affordability. These meetings will be made available on social media."

In his own comments, Mr. Howard stressed that these sessions can be "geo-targeted" for state and local elections too.

"The same issues are everywhere," Mr. Howard said. "In fact, since World War II

in our country, the average American could afford 80 percent of the housing units to buy or rent. In the last 10 years, that's dropped to just above 50 percent, with no sign of it turning around."

RIBA itself was well represented at the caucus, with President Timothy A. Stasiunas, Vice President Carol O'Donnell, Robert J. Baldwin of R.B. Homes, John Bentz of Property Advisory Group, Alexander Mitchell of Meridian Custom Homes, Thomas E. D'Angelo of the Terry Lane Co., and Ken Alger of K. Alger Woodworking, to name a few.



## **WETLANDS...from page 2**

OWTS setback regulations, something that has been identified as sufficiently protective as promulgated. The inability not to enter into those setback areas with OWTS causes additional land area requirements. No consideration was given to our recommendations that if the use of alternative I/A OWTS and specialized storm water management BMP's are used, setback distances should be reduced as outlined in our matrix. In Today's development initiatives we are Engineering Environmental Quality as well as arresting pollutants at the source. Further, legislative action passed to count slopes, buffers etc. of the total development parcel are now in jeopardy.

In the broader view it is imperative that we consider such things as wetlands banking, restoration and compensatory mitigation. Other neighboring states have been able to adequately address environmental concern while still maintaining a vibrant economy, in Rhode Island it seems we are falling behind, not growing in population or more importantly in economic viability. We reference our neighbor Massachusetts, where strict environmental protection is achieved while providing for economic growth and affordable housing.

At this point in time our housing units are some 12,500 behind a study that noted we need to provide 35,000 by the year 2025. Quite simply the state must create a land management plan that addresses all these issues included. Otherwise continued restrictive regulations will lead to less usable/buildable land and increased land values that put reasonable and affordable housing development out of reach.

RIBA respectfully asks your consideration of a comprehensive approach to evaluate alternative regulations along with alternative technologies and Engineering that achieve a higher level of environmental protection as similarly achieved by RI's northerly neighbor as well as many other states Nationwide, while allowing for economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Timothy A. Stasiunas  
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Rhode Island Builders Association

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