

**FEATURED
PRODUCTS AND
SERVICES
FOR SEPTEMBER**

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BENEFIT GUIDE**

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OF THE 69th
ANNUAL RIBA
CLAMBAKE**

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is September 19**

Meet valuable contacts at the Rhode Island Builders Association's first Networking Night of the fall season.

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promotes
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top benefit**

RIBA's complimentary jobsite Safety Service is a huge potential money-saver for members.

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**Workforce
development
ongoing at RIBA**

Training for your current and potential employees is ongoing. Contact Elise Geddes at RIBA for details: (401) 438-7400

Related Story Page 23

Member Benefit of the Month

RIBA's complimentary Safety Service could save your business

An 'ounce of prevention' can be worth tens of thousands in OSHA fines.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

"The bottom line is: Contractors need to be very aware that the OSHA fines aren't getting any cheaper, and the issues aren't getting any simpler."

That's the message from Scott Asprey, the Rhode Island Builders Association's safety officer and "the tip of the spear" in the association's new and complimentary Safety Service.

"OSHA inspectors look at everything. They're around, they're hiring new people, and they're not messing around," Mr. Asprey added.

"Contractors need to be aware of what the inspec-

see SAFETY...page 33

To benefit RIBA's charity Builders Helping Heroes

The RIBA Golf Classic is here!

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

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

COST: \$195 per person

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:

September 6th

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



charity, Builders Helping Heroes!

Enjoy a day of great golf, fine food and valuable networking at one of Rhode Island's most beautiful Donald Ross-designed courses. Cart, greens fee, lunch, dinner and a raffle ticket are all included in the full registration fee. Dinner only is \$60 per person.

see GOLF CLASSIC...page 32

It's here: The Rhode Island Builders Association's 29th Annual Golf Classic, to benefit the association's

Be a Golf Classic Sponsor!

PRESENTING: Includes two complimentary players, five tee signs, dominant signage at lunch and dinner, hat giveaway and thank-you in *The Rhode Island Builder* **\$2,000** • **PREMIER:** Includes two complimentary players, three tee signs, signs at lunch and dinner and thank-you in *The Rhode Island Builder* **\$1,500**

SUPPORTER: Includes one complimentary player, one tee sign, thank-you in *The Rhode Island Builder* **\$500** • **PATRON:** Includes one tee sign and thank-you in *The Rhode Island Builder* **\$300** • **FRIEND:** Thank-you in *The Rhode Island Builder* **\$100**

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

PBLF: A chance for contractors to benefit

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Whether it's doing construction, remodeling or restoration for a loan recipient, or whether you obtain financing for new vehicles, job training or needed equipment in your own residential construction business, contractors based in the capital city can benefit from the Providence Business Loan Fund (PBLF), say city officials.

The PBLF "seeks to help businesses of all types and sizes to succeed by providing loans and assistance," said a statement from the Office of Mayor Jorge Elorza.

Another purpose of PBLF is to create jobs.

"There must be one full-time employee job created per \$35,000 loaned, and applicants must meet the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant national objectives," the statement continued.

In its 25-plus-year existence, PBLF has



Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza, center, cuts the ribbon at Yoleni's flagship U.S. store on Westminster St. on Aug. 18, 2018, after the company took advantage of the Providence Business Loan Fund. A huge remodeling project was involved.

issued millions in business loans, including nearly \$3.5 million in loans over the last four years, according to Mayor Elorza's office.

"We already have a number of success stories," said Benjamin N. Smith, the mayor's deputy director of communications. "Loans usually range from \$100,000 to \$500,000. One loan is allowing Farm Fresh Rhode Island to move its kitchen and harvest facilities to Providence from Pawtucket."

All loans have flexible terms and must be adequately collateralized, according to

Mr. Smith.

The PBLF is funded largely with federal dollars, from HUD and the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

"Even if contractors don't receive loans themselves, they can benefit," Mr. Smith added. "Farm Fresh will need to construct new facilities, and another recipient, Yoleni's, needed significant remodeling to open its first U.S. store, located on Westminster Street, last year."

The PBLB is intended to help existing businesses, with tax records going back at

see **LOAN FUND...page 33**

The Rhode Island Builder

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DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE

All copy, ads and photos must be to us by

Friday, August 30

E-mail material to

builder@newriverpress.com or fax: (401) 356-0913

Oregon enacts statewide ban on single-family zoning

Higher densities, multifamily housing now allowed on virtually all residential lots.

By Paul F. Eno Editor

In what appears to be the most aggressive move so far by any North American jurisdiction to restore “missing middle” housing, Oregon has enacted legislation that effectively bans single-family zoning in urban areas statewide.

The measure requires cities of over 10,000, or those within the state’s “metro” zones, to allow duplexes on virtually every residential lot. In cities of more than 25,000, and within the Portland metro area, the law now allows triplexes, fourplexes, attached townhomes, and some “cottage clusters.” It leaves few towns in Oregon where single-family zoning is still legal.

This was one of three pro-housing measures signed by Gov. Kate Brown in June. Oregon thus joins the Minneapolis, Minnesota, area, which took aggressive action against single-family zoning earlier this year in its “Minneapolis 2040” plan. (See the June 2019 *Rhode Island Builder*.)

The law is Oregon’s answer to a national problem, according to officials.

“We all have an affordable housing crisis in our areas,” Rep. Jack Zika (R-Redmond, Ore.), was quoted as saying. “This is not a silver bullet, but will address some of the things that all our constituents need.... We have an opportunity now for first-time homebuyers.”

Everyone from President Donald Trump to local housing advocates around the country have blamed local over-regulation, especially restrictive land-use policies and low-density requirements, as a major contributor to the shortage of affordable housing.

Gov. Brown signed three other pieces of housing legislation into law, including one that boosts the Oregon Housing and Community Services Dept. Another measure amounts to a rent-control law. And still another requires state agencies to perform a regional housing needs analysis no later than Sept. 1, 2020, as a way to understand area income levels, affordability, stock and housing needs.

“This session, we committed to significant investments that will help every Oregon family have a warm, safe, and dry place to call home,” a statement from Gov. Brown’s office said. “No one single solution will address our housing crisis, and this legislation tackles the whole spectrum of issues, from homelessness, to stable rental housing, to increasing home ownership.”



Oregon Gov. Kate Brown

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LOOKING AHEAD!

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

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

Details on page 26.

✍ ♦ **September 13th: State-Mandated Continuing Education for Contractors - 5 Credit Hours** - [Topic is Deck Codes](#).

Details on page 26.

♦ **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. *Details on page 1.*

♦ **September 16th: Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL)** - In cooperation with the City of Central Falls and Dorcas International and Segue Institute for Learning, 18-week program to improve English, gain carpentry and math skills, and earn OSHA-10 certification. Another class begins in Providence in September. For details and to register, contact Betty Bernal at (401) 500-9146 (cell) or bbernal@ribuilders.org, or in person at Dorcas International, 220 Elmwood Ave., Providence.

♦ **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. *Details on page 12.*

♦ **September 25th: 4 Hour Lead-Safe Refresher Class** - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 7:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. FREE for members and their employees, with a \$40 materials/registration fee. \$125 for non-members, with a \$40 materials/registration fee. You must pre-register for this class. No admittance without pre-registration and payment. To register, Contact Elise Geddes, egeddes@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 27.*

♦ **October 1st: RIBA Annual Meeting and Election of Officers** - Watch your mail 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.

♦ **October 17th: 8 Hour Lead-Safe Remodeler/Renovator Course** - 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., RIBA Headquarters, East Providence. Course is FREE for members with a \$40 materials/registration fee, \$135 for non-members with a \$40 materials/registration fee.

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

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

♦ Indicates a RIBA-sponsored event.



Designates a course eligible for Rhode Island and/or Massachusetts state-mandated continuing education credits. Contact RIBA for confirmation.

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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, or call (401) 438-7400.



Timothy A. Stasiunas

President's Message

The affordable housing shortage must end!

In the past, you've heard me jawboning about affordable housing, and I thought that maybe we would make some progress on that front relatively soon. We all know how crucial an issue it is, and how we are woefully short of housing, not only in this state but nationwide.

How could we not get this right? It's not like every time you opened the newspaper or turned on the TV over the past year you haven't heard the media highlight the severity of the problem. It's even been called a "housing crisis." That surely sounds ominous to me. And every time I pick up the paper, turn on the TV, read a trade publication or surf the web, I see it, right there in front of me.

Will the housing shortage ever end?

After imploding in 2008, the U.S. housing market has had a slow, decade-long recovery, with both home ownership and hous-

ing construction going up. But a new Harvard University study, just released, shows that "persistently weak" production of new houses and apartments is barely meeting demand, driving up prices beyond the reach of many Americans.

There's a huge gap between what home buyers want and what's for sale. In fact, America's housing market is a mirror of us: Competitive, unequal and often just getting by. And this news is just from the headlines in the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) publications. On the state and local levels, it gets worse: From continued and growing pressure on the regulatory front, to the municipalities that continue to explore ways to stop development.

One community is looking to repeal the residential compound ordinance because it's "creating more houses."

What? Did I just say that? Is it possible? You can't make this stuff up!

see *PRESIDENT...* page 32



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RIBA CLAMBAKE = A PERFECT DAY!

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

A gorgeous day greeted nearly 600 members and guests (a new 21st century record) on August 9th as they descended on Francis Farm, Rehoboth, Mass., for the Rhode Island Builders Association's 69th Annual Clambake.

The weather was warm and bright, but not humid, which encouraged the athletic types to get up and go - to the golf chipping, the football toss, volleyball, horseshoes, nail driving and, of course, the famous, RIBA-invented sport of plywood throwing.

There was something new this year: Beanbag-toss stations, sponsored by various RIBA supplier members.

Special guests this year included, Greg Ugalde, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders, and his party, who breezed in from nearby Connecticut, where he is a custom home builder.

As always, there was plenty of good, Francis Farm food, from clam cakes, chowder, raw bar and hot dogs in the afternoon, to the fabulous feast at 5. That included fish, chicken, sausage, and the optional lobster with all the fixings.

Many attendees commented that the food has improved since new owners took charge at Francis Farm.

A number of RIBA member companies were very well represented, including Premier Sponsors Coast Realty, Consolidated Concrete Corp., and Pawtucket Credit Union. Between them, these great RIBA supporters provided many attendees. Also there in force were Calyx Builds, W.H. Holland Electric; TradeSource; Jutras Woodworking; U.S. Solar; Arnold Lumber Co.; Finetco; Riverhead Building Supply; ProProducts; Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center; National Building Products, Dynasty Electric, and many more.

RIBA thanks the generous sponsors, who made the Clambake possible, and the low ticket prices available. See the complete list of sponsors on page 12.



Part of the crew from Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center are ready for the feast at the 69th Annual RIBA Clambake.



RIBA Events Committee Chairman and Past President Steve Gianlorenzo, at left, attends the RIBA Clambake for the 50th year in a row. He started attending with his dad in 1969 at the age of 10. With Steve is his extended family: from left, Bonnie Saleeba, son Andrew Gianlorenzo, grandson Andrew Gianlorenzo Jr., Jen Santiago, and son Steve Gianlorenzo Jr.



▲ One of the largest groups at the clambake came from Calyx Builds.



▲ A distinguished guest at the clambake was Greg Ugalde, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (third from left). Welcoming him are, from left, past RIBA President Bob Baldwin, Home Show Committee Chairman Lou Cotoia, Director of Workforce Programs Cheryl Boyd, Executive Officer John Marcantonio, Local Director Joe Cracco and Events Committee Chairman Steve Gianlorenzo.



▶ The football toss was another popular pastime.



▲ The Consumers Propane boys came from Woonsocket.

Premier Sponsors

Consolidated Concrete & Coast Realty



There's probably no family more supportive of the Rhode Island Builders Association than the Pesces, and the same goes for the folks who work for their companies, Consolidated Concrete Corp. and Coast Realty.

In fact, the Pesce family's involvement goes back to RIBA's origins in the 1940s. The late J. Robert "Bob" Pesce served as RIBA treasurer for 15 years.

"We've always loved RIBA," says George Pesce, president of Consolidated. "The networking is very valuable to us, and we never miss the Home Show and many of the social events like the Annual Clambake."

RIBA thanks the Pesces for their continuing support!

Visit Consolidated Concrete at Flofill.com and Coast Realty at Coastrealtyassociates.com.

◀ Thanks to supplier members who provided game materials, bean-bagging was popular all day.



▲ Jeremy Nails of Greenville Insulation tries his hand at plywood throwing.

Premier Sponsor

Andersen Corp.



▲ It's Chase Presley and Jackie Pagel from Premier Sponsor Pella Windows!

Premier Sponsor

Pawtucket Credit Union



"It's a perfect fit: Pawtucket Credit Union and the Rhode Island Builders Association."

So says Paul Cappello, PCU's executive vice president and chief lending officer.

Bill Dawson, PCU's vice president for mortgage lending, agreed.

"We're in the lending business. We lend on real estate, one of the most valuable assets, and RIBA members build that asset," Bill states.

"I make a lot of presentations to real estate professions, and my message is that PCU is totally committed to real estate," he adds.

PCU is the largest credit union in Rhode Island, with more than \$2 billion in assets. Visit PCU.org.



▲ Here's RIBA's Diversity Outreach and Education Coordinator Betty Bernal, center, with Paola Fernandez of Centreville Bank and Jason Hernandez of Pawtucket Credit Union, members of the association's Latino Advisory Board.

Among those representing Premier Sponsor National Building Products were Mike McDole and Mary Jane Robillard.





▲ Always supporting RIBA activities are Premier Sponsors Riverhead Building Supply (right down to donating something to toss during the Playwood Throw) and Andersen Corp. From left are Riverhead's Customer Service Manager Ken Coury, Andersen's Territory Sales Representative Don Hamel, along with Rob Michaud and Mike Saccoccia of Riverhead.



▲ Don Hamel of Premier Sponsor Andersen Corp. (in white shirt) stops by the Douglas Lumber exhibit at the Clambake. With him, from left, are Jocelyn Davis, Jeff St. George, Steven Carlino Jr., and Steve Rendine.



Premier Sponsor

Beacon Mutual Insurance



Premier Sponsor Beacon Mutual's Business Development Underwriter Todd Dalessio meets up with Michelle Soares of Supporting Sponsor the Builders Insurance Group.

Thanks to Beacon and our many other sponsors, the price of Clambake tickets remained low, and many more people were able to attend the 69th Annual Clambake.

"Beacon believes the trades community is important to our economic success, and we are proud to be their partner," a Beacon spokesperson told us. "When the trades are working, it's good for our state. And when they're working safely, it's good for everyone."

"We are proud to support the trades through our sponsorship of associations like the Rhode Island Builders Association," she added.



▲ There was a large contingent from Premier Sponsor ProProducts Web Development.

◀ Longtime RIBA member Bob Brierly of Calyx Builds tries his experienced hand at nail driving, not always as easy as it looks when you're used to a nail gun!



RIBA Happenings: 69th Annual Clambake

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For the Finnegan brothers, Sean, Ryan and Evan, the leadership of their dad, Bill Finnegan, has shown them not only how to help run the family company, FINETCO®, as they take more responsibility for it in its second half-century.

It has also shown them how important it is to support their trade association, and that support for RIBA has taken many forms. These include sponsorship not only of the Clambake but of all major RIBA events, serving on the Board of Directors, and being faithful advertisers in *The Rhode Island Builder*.

"Our support for RIBA and the mutual benefits it provides are things we always value," Sean Finnegan says.

To find out more, visit Coventrylumber.com.



▲ Ringing the traditional dinner bell before the big feast is Steve Gianlorenzo of Gianlorenzo & Sons Construction Corp., attending the Clambake for the 50th year in a row.



▶ Starting in on the bake is the crew from the Builders Insurance Group, Supporting Sponsors.



▲ At the end of the day, Ben Tibbetts of Holland Electric walked away from the raffle with double prizes! That included a Patriots Super Bowl shirt! That's dad smiling in the background at right.



▲ Mike and Debbie Gorman of Mike Gorman Roofing brought their two great-granddaughters AND won two Adirondack chairs!

Dean Martineau of Dean W. Martineau Carpentry & Painting, left, forces the man behind the camera out from behind the camera. That's Paul Eno, editor of *The Rhode Island Builder*.



**The Rhode Island Builders Association
thanks the generous sponsors who helped make
our 2019 Clambake such a success!**

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Member News: September Networking Night

RIBA's next Networking Night slated for September 19

WHEN: Thursday, September 19th, 4:30 to 7 p.m.

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

COST: FREE for members and their guests

FOR INFORMATION & TO REGISTER: Contact Elise Geddes at egeddes@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.



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

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

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

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

fellow RIBA members, and the RIBA staff.

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

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

-Elise Geddes

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Location:

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| Limited Wind Warranty ¹ (Cambridge IR) | 130 mph (210 km/h) |
| Limited High Wind Warranty | |
| Upgrade ^{1,2} (Cambridge) | 130 mph (210 km/h) |
| Blue-green algae resistant ¹ | Yes |

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STANDARDS⁴

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¹ See limited warranty at IKO.com for complete terms, conditions, restrictions, and application requirements. Shingles must be applied in accordance with application instructions and local building code requirements. ² High wind Application is required. ³ All values shown are approximate. ⁴ Products developed with reference to these Standards. ⁵ This impact rating is solely for the purpose of enabling residential property owners to obtain a reduction in their residential insurance premium, if available. It is not to be construed as any type of express or implied warranty or guarantee of the impact performance of this shingle by the manufacturer, supplier or installer. For further detail concerning the FM4473 standards, see (https://www.iko.com/na/publication/specification-test-standard-impact-resistance/wppa_open)

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)

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.



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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!

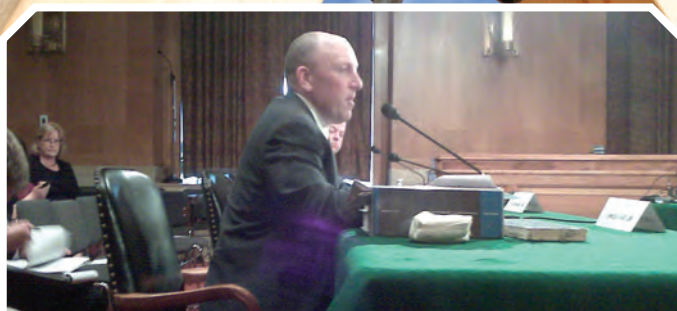
I also need your help with a larger cause. Please share this

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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SAVINGS



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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.

Joining the Rhode Island Builders Association is easy!

For details, call (401) 438-7400

or e-mail Elise at egeddes@ribuilders.org



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Member Profile: Paul Norbury of Norbury Construction

He loves to think 'I built that'!

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

If you have any doubts about the effectiveness of career and technical education, just take a look at Paul Norbury. No family background in construction. No contractor uncle urging him on. No sweeping the shop floor for his dad at the age of 5. Just a natural desire to work with his hands.

"At the end of the day, you can stand back and say, 'I built that!' I went to Rogers Vocational High School (in Newport), and I liked the whole idea of working with my hands," Paul recalls.

One of his inspirations as a student was actually going out and renovating and building houses.

"In our junior year, our class from Rogers went out and we renovated a house. In our senior year, we actually built a house. That was the best way to gain experience. We'd go out on a bus every day with all 12 students and work for three to four periods of the school day. It was good, hands-on stuff.

"I graduated in 1976 and pretty much just started doing small projects, working with another student. At Rogers, during the junior and senior years, we were doing projects for teachers. When I got out, I just kind of rolled into the residential construction industry."

Having lost his dad at the age of 11, Paul had plenty of drive to work hard and get somewhere.

"I had to get out there and make it. We didn't have much money, so you had to work if you wanted anything," Paul says.

Off he went into the world of home building, additions and restoration, and he never looked back.

"In all those years, I've never worked for anyone else but myself. You might say I've never held a job," Paul quips.

He founded Norbury Construction Co., Inc., in 1976. And here we are, 43 years later, and Norbury is one of the best known names in the business on Aquidneck Island and in South County.

"About 90 percent of what we do is residential: new construction, renovation and remodeling," Paul states. "Probably 10 percent is commercial, mostly storefronts, doctors' offices and restaurants."

The work pretty much keeps Paul and his crew of six on the Island, but they'll range as far as Jamestown, Bristol, Kingston and other towns. There have been some interesting high-end jobs, especially in Newport, Paul says.

"Some of these people just have enormous budgets to do these projects. That makes it fun! And I like the triangle cooperation



Paul Norbury

between homeowner, architect and builder to accomplish a great project."

Paul joined the Rhode Island Builders Association in April 1981. His company was growing, and he liked the networking, the information resources and the health insurance. In the years that followed, Paul and his employees have enjoyed the Home Show and the tuition-free education as well, especially with the continuing-education units now required by the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB).

In 43 years and more, Paul has seen some big changes in the industry.

"The number and quality of building materials has exploded 10-fold," he notes. "If someone told me 25 years ago that I'd be putting composites, siding and plastic trim on a house, I wouldn't have believed it. But today it's the norm."

The products have come leaps and bounds, Paul says.

As with many RIBA members, a real challenge today is finding good, skilled employees.

"Not enough young people are into this kind of work today. For summer jobs in my area, they usually choose to work in restaurants or other areas of the tourism industry," he points out.

"Finding help can be an enormous hurdle. So, I appreciate what RIBA is doing in job training and workforce development."

Having just entered his '60s, does Paul have any retirement plans?

"I love what I do, and I really enjoy going to work. I have no plans on retiring: I'm going to just keep going!" he replies.

Norbury Construction Co., Inc.**Founder:** Paul A. Norbury**RIBA member since:** 1981**Focus:** New Construction, Renovation**Serves:** Aquidneck Island and South County**Original Company Founded:** 1976**Based:** Portsmouth, Rhode Island

Home Energy Rating System Raters expanding in Rhode Island

The goal of National Grid's Rhode Island Residential New Construction (RNC) Program and Pathway to Zero Energy Pilot is to have all new construction and major renovation projects in the state be ultra-high-performing, contributing to our energy efficiency and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals.

To achieve this, the RNC Program is working to increase the number of Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Certified Raters to assess and certify the energy use of these homes.

Benefits of increasing the HERS Rater market include:

- Expanding business opportunities for local companies;
- Creating a larger local network of certified energy-efficiency professionals to perform HERS ratings to achieve energy efficiency, zero energy and GHG goals;
- Ensuring availability of technical support to assist with an increasing stringent energy code;
- Increasing the number of certified HERS raters to help achieve the state's goal of increasing the number of Zero Energy and high efficiency homes in Rhode Island.

In 2018 a no-cost RESNET (Residential Energy Services Network) Accredited HERS Rater training was provided by the RNC's lead vendor, CLEAResult, a certified RESNET HERS Rater trainer and a member of the Rhode Island Builders Association.

The five-day course involved both classroom and in-field training, and culminated in a final written exam on the sixth day. Participants also received technical guidance and mentorship to help complete the final steps toward their official certification, which included several online exams, performing the five required supervised HERS ratings, and offering access to RESNET-certified providership.

As a result, the following two companies, both RIBA members, have fully-certified HERS Raters on staff who can assist builders, designers and contractors with meeting their energy-efficiency goals.

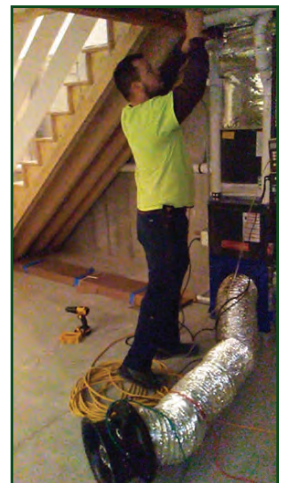
- Energy Geeks (Energygeeksinc.com)

"At Energy Geeks, we believe that living and working in an environmentally sustainable manner is both practical and rewarding," a company statement said.

"As old resources and methods become impractical and new technologies emerge, society will naturally turn to greater efficiency and renewable energy. Helping in this process are great programs such as EnergyWise, through which thousands of homeowners and businesses are shrinking their carbon footprint



Pictured, top, along with the CLEAResult team are Rob Maloney and Ken Twitchell from Ocean State Energy Audits (third and fourth from left) and Ed Beauchemin from Energy Geeks (fifth from left). At right is Dave DiResto, Energy Geeks rating field inspector (RFI).



each year. The Staff at Energy Geeks do their part by providing installed products and services that support this worthy goal," the statement continued.

"Recently, two of our employees successfully completed HERS rater training provided by CLEAResult in Rhode Island through a National Grid-sponsored program. We now have as part of our staff one HERS field rater and one HERS rater. The training process was an excellent experience and will greatly enhance our business. As energy efficiency continues to gain ground in Rhode Island HERS raters will play an important role as a valuable resource for builders and developers."

- Ocean State Energy Audits oceanstateenergyaudits.com

"Ocean State Energy Audits is excited to add HERS ratings to its list of offerings," a company statement declared.

"We were recently certified through training offered by National Grid and can now offer this service to nearby communities where

see HERS RATERS...page 32



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:

Deck Construction Codes

September 13th

WHEN: Friday, September 13th, 7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

COST: FREE for members and their employees, with a \$15 materials/registration fee. \$150 for non-members, with a \$15 materials/registration fee.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Elise Geddes at egeddes@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

This course will cover: "Deck Construction Codes: Sorting Out Codes and Solutions."

Included will be a review of jobsite safety rules, fall protection, ladders and scaffolding, and confined spaces.

Decks are an important part of an increasing number of homes. So it's important to know about the codes.

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

Lunch is included.



OSHA-10 Course

September 11th-12th

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

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

COST: FREE for members and their employees with a \$40 materials/registration fee, \$155 for non-members with a \$40 materials/registration fee.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: One week before class

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact Elise Geddes at egeddes@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

This is a 10-hour class, held over two days.

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

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

Every person working on a municipal or state construction project with a total project cost of \$100,000 or more must have card certifying their completion of an OSHA 10-Hour training

program on their person at all times while work is being performed.

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

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

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

Lunch is included. Classes might run over because of breaks and lunch.



**If there is a class you would like
to see offered,
Contact Elise Geddes,
egeddes@ribuilders.org,
or call (401) 438-7400.**

4 hour lead certification refresher course

September 25th

WHEN: Wednesday, September 25th, 7:45 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

COST: FREE for members and their employees, with a \$40 materials/registration fee. A \$125 charge for non-members and a \$40 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, or call (401) 438-7400.

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

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

Pre-registration and a photo are required for your certificate.

Please send a head shot only, similar to a passport photo. E-mail it to smccarthy@ribuilders.org at least five days before the class,

to allow for processing. There will be no admittance to the class without pre-registration, photo and payment.

Participants must provide proof of employment with member company upon registration for class to be free.



RIBA reserves the right to limit the number of attendees from a single company at courses taught on-site. For all courses, employees must provide proof of employment with a member company upon registration for class to be free of tuition charges. For information, contact Elise Geddes, egeddes@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

As an added benefit to RIBA's Education Program, our instructors are happy to speak with class attendees by phone, after class, if they have additional questions or issues to discuss. For information, contact Elise Geddes, egeddes@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.



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Rep. John G. Edwards

Rhode Island House Majority Whip

Representative John G. “Jay” Edwards (D - Portsmouth and Tiverton) serves on the House Committee on Finance, along with the Committee on Labor; the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Oversight. He was first elected in November 2008. In March 2014 he was chosen by his party colleagues to serve as the House majority whip – the third highest position on the House leadership team.

Among many other legislative accomplishments, Rep. Edwards sponsored legislation that creates a tax exemption for incomplete or unoccupied dwellings, a move that was strongly supported by the Rhode Island Builders Association. The law encourages construction and development.

Rep. Edwards served on the Tiverton Town Council from 2006 to 2008 and the Tiverton Zoning Board from 1996 to 2006. He served as vice chairman of the town’s Elementary School Building Committee from 2004 to 2008 and as chairman of Tiverton’s Landfill Sub-Committee from 2006 to 2008.

A 1983 graduate of Northeastern University, he works as project manager for Carlin Construction Co. of New London, Connecticut. He was the director of Caritas RI, a former member of RIBA and the former chair of the Rhode Island branch of Associated Builders and Contractors.

THE BUILDER: Many people might not realize what the majority whip does. Can you explain?

EDWARDS: Sure! I had a group of fourth graders come up to the State House from Tiverton, and I set them to a little contest. I had them write a few paragraphs on what the whip actually does, and what the whole role of the whip is, and the teachers chose the best answers. But it was kind of funny. They had no idea!

The right answer: My job is to make sure our (Democrat) caucus is well informed. I also make sure that our caucus members know when important votes will be scheduled. And I make sure that anything good that comes to the floor has the votes to pass.

THE BUILDER: What do you see as the central economic issue in Rhode Island, if there is a central issue?

EDWARDS: I don’t think there is a central economic issue. It’s much more like a shotgun blast. In fact, there are a number of issues affecting the economy.

As I’ve always said, and will continue to say, construction has been and will always be “the canary in the coal mine.” It’s the leading indicator of when things are good.

Unfortunately, it’s also the leading indicator of when things are about to go bad.

I think it’s extremely important to the overall economy. It’s certainly my own indicator for how things are going.



THE BUILDER: Rhode Island has statewide policies on energy, the environment and more. Why not a statewide housing policy?

EDWARDS: I would certainly favor that. I don’t think there’s enough housing, especially affordable housing. I don’t think the state has done anywhere near a good enough job to help create a pool of affordable housing for the middle class, which includes firefighters, police officers, teachers and people in other vital professions.

They can’t afford to live in many of our communities, even in the ones they serve. They should be able to afford to live in the communities where they work. It doesn’t mean they have to live on Ocean Drive, but there should be homes affordable for them in the community. I’m including

the people who work for construction companies. They’re hard-working people but they’re not rich. They deserve to be able to live in communities close to their work.

THE BUILDER: How would you see a statewide housing policy being formulated and implemented when there’s so much local control in the municipalities, and still some anti-growth feeling?

EDWARDS: I believe in local control, but I think that very often it can be arbitrary. There needs to be more consistency among the 39 cities and towns as far as what gets approved, how it gets approved, and the timeliness of those approvals. I think the state can lend some guidance to that.

I’m not saying the state should take it over, but I think the processes should be more uniform and the policies more predictable. Predictability is what businesses, and everyone, need to operate on. And there needs to be transparency as well. Right now, there is little of either.

Decisions on development must not be arbitrary or subjective.

I was on the Zoning Board in Tiverton for over 10 years, and I always tried to be very consistent in my decisions, as did my colleagues. That’s how it should be, because cities and towns should be predictable.

THE BUILDER: How do housing affordability, and related issues like education, job training and jobs, fit into an economic vision you would have for the state?

EDWARDS: Well, I think all of them are related. If you don’t have people who have a good education or job training, and they don’t have a stable place to live, they’re not going to feel like part of our system. On the other hand, good education and job training, along with available, affordable housing, will lead to a stable, reliable workforce.

see *INTERVIEW...next page*

INTERVIEW...from previous page

I've been working with the building trades to bring more people into the construction industry. As part of that, we're in desperate need of bringing in women and minorities to the industry.

If we begin with women as a starting point, there's a pipeline many people don't think of. There are women in prison who will need a new start. Sometimes they have addiction issues. If we can get them cleaned up, we can give them something to do when they're released.

If they have stable, proper housing and a job or job training, it will give them purpose. The rate of recidivism is going to be dramatically reduced.

THE BUILDER: This leads us right back to the affordable-housing shortage. If they have nowhere to live, what's to stop them from taking their job training and leaving Rhode Island?

EDWARDS: Yes, that's why job training and affordable housing go hand-in-hand. Otherwise, the job training doesn't help us at all.

THE BUILDER: So, where do we stand on this vision right now?

EDWARDS: I think we have a long way to go. But groups like RIBA are doing well (especially when it comes to providing job training). I think other areas of the building trades are working to

that end as well. It's a collaborative and cooperative effort from all parts of the industry.

As I said, we have a long way to go on this. Just look at the average age of construction workers. Many are going gray, like me! We need to bring more young people into the industry.

THE BUILDER: How do you move this whole vision forward? Is there a timeline?

EDWARDS: To get this going, I'd say we have to get an overall plan and housing policy in place within the next five years. One message is that not everyone needs to go to college. Sure, it's great to go to college, but I've seen a lot of young men and women come out of high school, go into the trades, and they're making good money.

THE BUILDER: Some people have pointed out that there are college-based paths into the construction industry as well, such as engineering, architecture, design, etc.

EDWARDS: Oh, yes! There are also important positions in project management and more. I'm just saying that college doesn't have to be the ultimate path for everyone.

People can do four years of college or a four-year apprenticeship as a carpenter, plumber, electrician or pipe-fitter, or they can do both. The point is that if they enter the trades, they can make a decent wage and they can support a family.

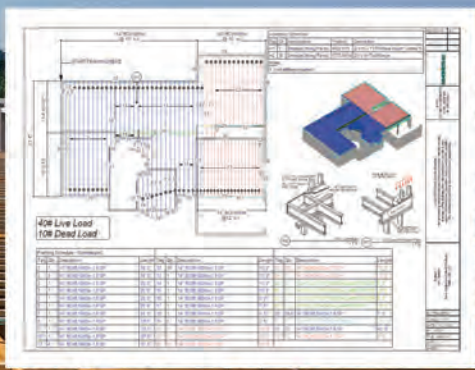


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Clement: R.I. needs a housing policy

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

The shortage of affordable housing, widely recognized as a housing crisis, draws local and national headlines daily. Is progress being made in Rhode Island?

For an update on the issue, *The Rhode Island Builder* asked Brenda Clement, director of HousingWorks RI at Roger Williams University, who has her finger on the pulse of the housing problem full-time.

"I'm sorry to say that we haven't made a huge amount of progress," Ms. Clement said. "We've obviously produced some units in Rhode Island, but the number is still woefully below what we need to produce to keep up with demand."

In addition, housing costs remain stubbornly high.

"Housing prices remain high. Rental prices remain high. Vacancy rates remain low, and all this just adds to the problem," Ms. Clement commented. "It's basic economics: supply and demand. If demand exceeds supply, prices go up. And that's exactly what's happening."

She echoed the call by the Rhode Island Builders Association and other housing-advocacy groups for a statewide housing policy that goes far beyond the anemic progress made under the Low and Moderate Income Housing Act of 1991. "Should we have a statewide housing policy? I would ask, how can we not?" Ms. Clement declared.

"It's very clear that housing is connected to economic growth. It's connected to good health outcomes, and it's connected to good educational outcomes. And if we want these outcomes, we must address underlying structural issues like housing," she added.



Brenda Clement

"We know from numerous studies that your ZIP code determines a great deal about you and your ability to succeed in life. So, making sure that everybody has a safe and decent place to get up every morning is critical for success in the long term."

Ms. Clement believes that building a coalition for a statewide housing policy is possible.

"There are many ways that local and state governments, along with stakeholders, can collaborate to develop housing where it makes sense to build. There are a huge number of opportunities we can look at as a state and with local communities."

She mentioned several studies that already have been completed with this goal in mind. This includes a study on good sites for transportation-oriented development (TOD), conducted by HousingWorks RI and Grow Smart Rhode Island.

Retail space is an opportunity

"The changing face of retail is also an opportunity for us in housing and community development. We can work with cities and towns to repurpose or restructure vacant retail spaces so they can stay on the tax rolls and provide housing, and in a productive way for that community."

This will require everyone to "be at the table."

"Everybody needs to do their part. I think we just have to figure out ways to work together," she said. "We can look for those local opportunities to invest, and work with our private partners, like members of RIBA, to find those places and start to rebuild."

For more information, visit HousingWorks at <https://www.housingworksri.org>.

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Housing advocates: Mass. 2020 budget a 'step in the right direction'

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

While it doesn't provide all the boosts for affordable housing that Massachusetts advocates would have liked, the Commonwealth's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget is considered a step in the right direction.

"(The budget) includes a significant increase in support for Massachusetts residents who need housing or shelter, including

\$179 million in emergency assistance funding to provide shelter to homeless families, \$110 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher (MRVP) program, \$72 million for Local Housing Authorities (LHAs) and \$4 million to increase the number of ADA-accessible units within the homeless shelter system," a statement from the office of Gov. Charlie Baker said.

Overall, the 2020 budget is a \$43.321 billion package that includes the highest level of state funding for public schools in Massachusetts history. The \$5.2 billion for Chapter 70 aid to education is intended to provide resources to fund the FY20 costs of an anticipated multi-year overhaul of the school finance formula, while implementing recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

For housing, specific budget provisions include:

- \$179 million in emergency assistance to provide shelter to homeless families,
- \$110 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher (MRVP) program,
- \$72 million for local housing authorities (LHAs),
- \$53 million for homeless shelters serving individuals,
- \$4 million in new funding to expand ADA-accessible units within the homeless shelter system.

"A strong economy and prudent fiscal management have allowed our administration to work with the legislature to continue building the Commonwealth's Stabilization Fund and invest in key areas like housing," said Gov. Baker, who signed the budget on July 31st.

"Massachusetts, of course, has been experiencing some of the highest housing costs in the nation," Rep. Kevin Honan, co-chairman the Joint Committee on Housing, was quoted as saying.

"Many of our constituents are struggling to find affordable places to call home. This budget reaffirms the legislature's commitment to housing."

Housing advocates warned, however, that more investment is needed.

Left out of the budget were several amendments that the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) and other organizations had fought for: A larger increase in the MRVP and funding to resurrect the state's rental and mortgage arrears program.

Nevertheless, CHAPA's Director of Public Policy Eric Shupin has described the budget as enacted as "a step in the right direction."

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.



RIBA

offers great networking opportunities!

Check them out at RIBuilders.org

or call (401) 438-7400

RIBA, GHHI team up to provide Healthy Homes Training for Latino Contractors

WHEN: Friday and Saturday, October 4th and 5th

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

COST: Free

FOR INFORMATION & TO REGISTER: Contact Margarita Robledo Guedes at (401) 400-8425 or mrobledo@ghhi.org

The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) has partnered with the Rhode Island Builder's Association's Latino Advisory Board to provide free, two-day, bilingual workforce-development trainings for registered Latino contractors. The trainings target healthy-homes assessments and asthma-specific housing interventions in Rhode Island.

"This partnership aims to increase healthy housing workforce capacity for Latino construction business owners to start their pathway as healthy homes environmental assessors and contractors," said Betty Bernal, RIBA's Latino outreach coordinator.

"The training will provide education on building science, healthy homes principles, hazards assessment and prioritization, scope of work writing, remediation techniques and safe work practices (worker and occupant protections), quality control protocols and any additional skills necessary for improving contractors economic opportunities," Ms. Bernal added.

"The training also seeks to assist in achieving more cost-effective, healthy homes, asthma-specific interventions."

A certificate of completion will be issued to contractors completing the training, and they will qualify for work opportunities with GHHI, according to Ms. Bernal.

RIBA's Latino Advisory Board seeks to decrease the barriers that exist for Latino contractors by helping them become successful business owners through RIBA membership and training. 

Another VESL graduation!



Seen here with their instructors in a recent ceremony at RIBA headquarters are the latest graduates of the Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) program.

GOLF CLASSIC...from page 1

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.


Play will begin at noon with a "scram-

ble" format. 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.

Be a sponsor

Please consider becoming a sponsor of the RIBA Golf Classic! As a sponsor, you will generate increased exposure for your company, ranging from tee signs to a prominent mention in The Rhode Island Builder magazine. Your generosity enables RIBA to offer our tournament at an exceptional venue for a reasonable cost; and you provide direct financial support of our Builders Helping Heroes' charity. Top sponsorships offer you complimentary registrations at the event.

Sponsorship information is on page 1.

Builders Helping Heroes helps meet the housing needs of our wounded heroes and their families. 


HERS RATERS...from page 25

ratings are required and right here in Rhode Island where ratings are optional but offered free through National Grid's RNC Program.

"As always, we can perform testing to satisfy the requirements for energy code compliance. Now with Rhode Island enforcing a passing blower-door test, we are looking to come alongside builders and offer consultation services to ensure passing blower-door tests every time.

"Contact us with questions or to start the discussion about energy efficiency in your project."


If you have a Rhode Island-based company, or are a Rhode Island resident, interested in becoming a HERS Rater, please call National Grid's Residential New Construction Program at (888) 887-8841.

The next training is scheduled for the week of October 21st. 

With thanks to Rachel Pinnows.

PRESIDENT...from page 5

Not only are builders, property owners and citizens challenged with a shortage of housing and affordability, there are actually elected officials, state and municipal employees working against the housing shortage. Even the Obama Administration declared that the biggest detriment to affordable housing is local over-regulation.

So, to sum this issue up, we have (collectively) to demand from our elected officials that they take charge and solve this problem. We can no longer stick our heads in the sand, the American Dream is slipping away, and we may never get it back. 

SAFETY...from page 1

tors are aware of: Construction jobsites still have higher rates of accidents, injuries and deaths, more so at this point in time than was the case at this time last year."

The Safety Service gives members a leg-up when it comes to prevailing in this scenario by offering a free jobsite visit once a year, conducted by Mr. Asprey, a risk manager and compliance instructor with decades of experience.

The Service is meant to catch and eliminate jobsite hazards (including employee work habits) before they can cause an accident, and before an OSHA inspection can lead to issues for the contractor, including enormous fines that could cripple or bankrupt a business.

As far as RIBA officials know, a benefit equivalent to the Safety Service is not available from any other home builders association in America.

In the long run, the Service can help you achieve a safer work environment and, in the long run, lower workers' compensation premiums, not to mention avoiding OSHA fines.

"There's a lot happening on jobsites that's being overlooked," Mr. Asprey points out.

Complicating matters is the fact that the general contractor is legally responsible for the safety of everyone on the jobsite, not just his or her own employees.

"The GC is in control of the jobsite, and that include subcontractors, their employees – everyone," Mr. Asprey said.

"I recently ran into that at a jobsite. A contractor hired a subcontractor, and they weren't following proper protocol. When I called the contractor on it, he tried to say, 'He doesn't work for us.' Well, he does work for you. You hired him, and you are overseeing the job! That means you are responsible for their safety as much as you're responsible for your employees' safety.

"Follow the rules, and RIBA's Safety



RIBA Safety Officer Scott Asprey, right, talks with Consumers Propane General Manager Jeremy Caouette about a Safety Service jobsite evaluation.

Service will help you do that," he continued.

One of many RIBA member companies that has taken advantage of the Safety Service is Woonsocket-based Consumers Propane.


"I'm impressed by Scott's experience and knowledge, and I'm also impressed that he spoke to my employees and really got his points across," said Consumers General Manager Jeremy Caouette.

Another member impressed with Mr. Asprey and the Safety Service is Peter

DiStefano of DiStefano Brothers Construction Inc.

"It's just as important that employees understand how vital it is to be safe on the jobsite as it is for the business owners," Mr. DiStefano noted.

"All I can say is that Scott has a powerful way of getting his message across to employees. I think he actually scares them, and that's very effective," he added.

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

LOAN FUND...from page 2

least three years, Mr. Smith emphasized.

"Anyone trying to build their business can apply for these funds."

PBLF Executive Director Thomas Hoagland echoed this.

"We have authority to lend to all types of businesses, even non-profits. There are very few limitations," Mr. Hoagland said, adding that PBLF works with a number of local banks and does not compete with them.

For more information, contact Mr. Hoagland or his staff at (401) 680-8412 or thoagland@providenceri.gov.

Also visit the PBLB website at Providencebusinessloanfund.com. 

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