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**Free classes for
members in the fall**

Classes offered by RIBA continue to expand, with Excavation, Quickbooks™, OSHA-10, a lead-licensing refresher and more slated for September and October.

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State lawmakers pass bills affecting the industry

Measures include the first major CTE reform in 40 years.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Legislation to transform career and technical education (CTE) in Rhode Island became law in July without Gov. Lincoln Chafee's signature. Bill 8204 Sub A lays the groundwork for a unified statewide CTE system supported in part by liaisons with national, state and local businesses, and with institutions of higher education.

The Rhode Island Builders Association believes this legislation is crucial to establishing and maintaining a skilled workforce in the state.

The law:

- Creates a 15-member Board of Trustees on

Career and Technical Education to "be responsible for ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated career and technical system...." This board will assume all duties of the current Advisory Council on Vocational Education by January 30, 2015.

- Declares that this board will conduct the conversion from the state's nine current CTE programs to a single system by 2016.

- Establishes the Rhode Island Career and Technical Education Trust as a permanent, not-for-profit corporation to help fund the program through partnerships with private and corporate sources. The trust also will create partnerships with employers to create internships, apprenticeship programs, voluntary work relationships and other arrangements to facilitate education.

see LEGISLATION...page 29



Clambake time!

The Rhode Island Builders Association expects over 400 people to attend the 64th Annual Clambake at Francis Farm, Rehoboth, Mass., on Friday, August 8th, with plenty of food, fun and networking. Tickets are cheaper than ever and sponsorships are still available! See page 3 and the back cover of this issue.

DEM working on guidelines for statewide use of TDRs

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Transfers of development rights (TDRs) are coming to Rhode Island. Exeter and North Kingstown already have TDR ordinances, and the Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) is working on statewide TDR guidelines.

That's the word from Scott Millar, chief of DEM's Sustainable Watersheds Division.

"We're working with Nathan Kelly of the Horsley Witten Group, who wrote the Exeter and North Kingstown ordinances, and other national experts," Mr. Millar told *The Rhode Island Builder Report*. "We're looking at what has worked nationwide and how we can successfully customize it for Rhode Island."

TDR programs may be new to Rhode Island, but they've been used for years in more than 20 other states. In essence, a landowner sells the development rights to his or her property so it can be preserved as open space, agricultural land, etc. In return, the developer who buys the rights gets to build in an area and/or with a higher density where this would not normally be allowed. The original landowner's other property rights aren't affected.

There are, of course, variations on how all this is done, depending on the area and the program. If the program works, nobody is any worse off financially than they would have been in the absence of the combined environmental/TDR program. But the new units are built in a less environmentally sensitive location, which

is the government's objective.

Every TDR program involves:

- **A Sending Zone:** This is the environmentally sensitive area where the development rights are sold. The rights are then "sent" to...

- **A Receiving Zone:** This is where the developer will have the right to build, usually more units than are currently permitted under the local zoning ordinance.

"Our current project is to develop guidance for local TDR ordinances statewide," said Mr. Millar. "We're putting final touches on that and will release a draft in the fall."

The ordinances in Exeter and North Kingstown are the first in Rhode Island, and no developer has used them as yet, according to Mr. Millar.

"One lesson we've learned from other parts of the country is that there has to be a demand for (density) bonus development if a TDR program is to work," he explained. "There has to be an incentive to pay for more density in a particular location. If you don't have that, nothing else is going to work. You must have a good receiving area customized to meet the local market conditions."

Mr. Millar expects little TDR activity until the economy improves.

"To be perfectly honest, we have good, customized receiving areas but no strong demand for bonus development right now.



Scott Millar

The market is flat," he said. "We're still working on TDR guidance because, at some point, we will get out of the economic doldrums and this will be a good tool for developers. There have been some tremendous success stories in other parts of the nation."

He emphasized that predictability and speed will be important factors in DEM's final TDR guidance document, and that a payment-in-

lieu option will be present.

"Traditionally, developers have had to negotiate at length with large landowners to buy the development rights and transfer them to another location. But developers like certainty and they want to move quickly. So we've introduced a payment-in-lieu as part of TDR programs," Mr. Millar said.

"The builder can just pay a fee for the amount of bonus density they wish, and it will be a flat fee so there's certainty and speed. The fee can be adjusted based on market conditions. Obviously the developer has to make a profit or this won't work."

The document also will call for "phased" projects if a developer doesn't wish to pay the whole amount up front.

"Developers will be able to buy density in phases," he said.

For more information, visit: www.DEM.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/suswshed/pdfs/tdrrept.pdf.



RIBA will discuss this issue with planners at its September Board of Directors meeting. .

-Executive Director
John Marcantonio

DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

**For the September issue, copy, ads
and photos must be to us by**

Friday, August 1

Send material to The R.I. Builder Report, c/o RIBA,
450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., Suite 301, East Providence, RI 02914
or e-mail to builder@newriverpress.com Fax: (401) 356-0913

There's still time to get in on RIBA's biggest social event of the year

WHEN: Friday, August 8th, noon to 8 p.m.

WHERE: Francis Farm, 27 Francis Farm Rd., Rehoboth, MA 02769

COST: \$35 per person for the first 300, \$70 per person after that

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: August 1st

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Logon to www.RIBuilders.org, click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Elizabeth Carpenter at ecarpenter@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

There's still time to get in on the Rhode Island Builders Association's 64th Annual Clambake! With one of the lowest ticket prices in years, fabulous food and drink, a great venue and new features, we expect well over 400 people to attend. This event, which has taken place every year since 1950, has grown into a major industry happening. So now's the time to reserve your tickets! Each ticket includes all the food you can eat, along with two free beers.

Looking forward to the Plywood Toss

Make 2014 the year your company makes the RIBA Clambake your annual outing, as many companies do. Here's what RIBA heard from one of the newest members, Jesse Maynard of Maynard Construction, who is bringing 10 employees to the Clambake.

"We are gearing up for the real event I have been hearing all about... the Plywood Toss! I have the guys all on a regimen. We will be in *optimal* Plywood Toss shape come August 8th. Can't wait!"

Sponsorships

The low ticket price is possible because every penny from sponsorships goes directly to event costs. The more companies that come forward to sponsor the event, the more members can get the lower ticket price, so please consider a sponsorship.

As a new feature this year, major sponsors will have exhibits set up to showcase their latest products and services. This began last year with only a few booths and has proven very popular with attendees.

See the information on sponsorships at the bottom of page 2, or contact Elizabeth Carpenter at the RIBA office, ecarpenter@ribuilders.org or at (401) 438-7400 for more information about sponsorships for the Clambake or any other RIBA event.

Sponsors will be recognized at the venue and in *The Rhode Island Builder Report's* Clambake Issue in September, and major sponsors will be able to exhibit.

As always, great food will be featured throughout the day. There will be clamcakes and chowder (both red and white), hot dogs, and little necks on the half shell. Later in the day, there will be a traditional clambake, with steamers, barbecued chicken, brown bread, fish and all the fixings, followed by ice cream. Steak and lobster will be available for an extra charge. Soda, beer and assorted drinks will be on hand all day.

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

Once again, consider making this great event your company's annual outing!

Clambake Sponsors as of July 15

Premier - Extended: Andersen Corp.

Premier: Arnold Lumber Co.,

Consolidated Concrete, National Building Products, Pawtucket Credit Union, Riverhead Building Supply

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& Home Center; Harvey Industries;

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Engineering; Lockheed Window Corp.;

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Builders Supply; US Solar; Wolf

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LOOKING AHEAD!

♦ **August 8: RIBA's 64th Annual Clambake** - Noon to 8 p.m., Francis Farm, Rehoboth, Mass. The Rhode Island Builders Association's biggest social event of the year, with great food, contests, networking and fun. Sponsorships are available and will be used entirely to reduce the ticket price. Major sponsors will be provided with exhibit space.

Details on Page 3 and the back cover.

♦ **August 12: Healthcare Reform Meeting** - RIBA headquarters, 4 p.m. Find out how the Affordable Care Act will affect your RIBA health plan in 2015. RIBA members only. For more information and to register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Robin Barlow, rbarlow@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

♦ **August 28: Healthcare Reform Meeting** - RIBA headquarters, 4 p.m. Find out how the Affordable Care Act will affect your RIBA health plan in 2015. RIBA members only. For more information and to register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Robin Barlow, rbarlow@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

♦ **September 10: Trenching, Excavation & Soil Classification Principles** - 5-7 p.m. at RIBA headquarters. This condensed class is designed for excavation, site utility workers and subcontractors working in below-grade situations. *Details on Page 21.*

September 16: High Performance Energy Efficient Residential Construction: Industry Perspectives - Seminar and panel discussions with RIBA members and appraisers. Offered by the Appraisal Institute's Massachusetts and Rhode Island Chapters. All RIBA members are invited. 2 to 5 p.m., Save the Bay Providence Bay Center, 100 Save the Bay Drive, Providence.

Details on Page 27.

♦ **September 18: Blue Cross Open Enrollment Meeting** - RIBA headquarters, 4-5:30 p.m. Find out about RIBA's health insurance plans. RIBA members only. For more information and to register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Robin Barlow, rbarlow@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

♦ **September 23: Beginner Quickbooks™ for Contractors** - RIBA headquarters, 5 p.m. FREE for members with a \$25 materials charge. Non-members \$50 with a \$25 materials charge. For more information and to register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on Page 21.*

♦ **September 25: Blue Cross Open Enrollment Meeting** - RIBA headquarters, 4-5:30 p.m. Find out about RIBA's health insurance plans. RIBA members only. For more information and to register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Robin Barlow, rbarlow@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

September 25: Andersen/Coventry Lumber Trade Expo: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, Grand Ballroom Salons #1-#2-#3, 4-8 p.m. *Details on page 12.*

♦ **September 29: RIBA's Annual Golf Classic** - Quiddnessett Country Club, North Kingstown. *Watch for more information.*

♦ **September 30: Advanced Quickbooks™ for Contractors** - RIBA headquarters, 5-7 p.m. Learning how to get the most out of reports in QuickBooks will be the subject as the Rhode Island Builders Association offers this advanced workshop in the most popular contractor bookkeeping software. FREE for members with a \$25 materials charge. Non-members \$50, with a \$25 materials charge. *Details on page 22.*

♦ **October 8-9 - OSHA 10-Hour Course** - 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at RIBA headquarters. FREE for members and their employees, with \$25 book charge. \$125 for non-members, with \$25 book charge. For more information and to register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

Details on Page 22.

♦ **October 10: 4-Hour Lead Safe Refresher Class** - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 1 to 5 p.m. FREE for members, with a \$15 materials charge. \$75 for non-members, with a \$15 materials charge. You have six months from your expiration date to renew your license. To register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 22.*

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

♦ Indicates a RIBA-sponsored event.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Felix A. Carlone

A great legislative year and new classes add to the value of membership

Once again, the residential construction industry and Rhode Island business in general have had a very hopeful year in the General Assembly. *Story on page 1.*

Thanks to our great Legislative Committee and the Rhode Island Business Coalition, several major bills that will affect our industry have been enacted. Especially exciting is the impending reform in the career and technical education system statewide, which promises -- at last -- a big step in solving our state's chronic shortage of skilled labor.

A skilled workforce will benefit not only our industry but every industry, those already in Rhode Island and those that might wish to come here. On behalf of all our members, I say "well done" to all who worked on these bills!

Free education expands

The Rhode Island Builders Association's free education program for members and their employees will continue to grow this fall. One look at our calendar on page 4 will give you more than

a hint of what's in store to help you improve your knowledge and your business.

Educational offerings through the rest of this year will include not only the essential classes like OSHA-10, Quickbooks™ and a lead-licensing refresher workshop, but also Trenching, Excavation and Soil Classification; how to use social media; and advertising/marketing.

There may be a nominal charge for materials in some courses, but members and their employees pay no tuition, and non-members will still get a bargain when taking advantage of these classes. Additionally, we will continue to offer some courses in multiple locations around the state for your convenience, courtesy of our supplier members.

Finally, you still have time to register for our 64th Annual Clambake at Francis Farm on August 8th. Tickets remain cheap for a whole day of food and fun. So check the information on page 3, and please consider a sponsorship (see the back cover).

See you in Rehoboth!



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Reception honors 2014 Home Show exhibitors



Nearly 60 people turned out at Chelos's in Warwick on June 18th for a thank-you reception for the 2014 Home Show exhibitors. Attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, drinks and networking. And they were able to pass on their comments and suggestions for the 2015 event to the Rhode Island Builders Association's Home Show Committee. Here's Committee Chairman Ron Smith of Ron Smith Homes, with Cynthia Valenti Smith, center, and Bethany Lardaro, both of Washington Trust Company.



Thomas and
Christine Kaine of
Miracle Method



←
Tanya Donahue,
left, and Prudence
Stoddard of RI
Kitchen & Bath.



Cheryl Boyd of Arnold
Lumber Co., left, a
member of the Home
Show Committee, with
Bob and Cheryl Yoffe of
Yoffe Exposition Services,
the show producers.



Louis Cotoia of
Arnold Lumber Co.,
another key member
of the Home Show
Committee, at left,
with Don Hamel of
Andersen Corp. and
Jesse and Taylor
Maynard of Maynard
Construction BRC.



RIBA's Annual Home Show continues to grow and improve, and 2014 was a banner event for exhibitors. Exit surveys indicate that visitors want to see more contractors and local suppliers exhibiting. So make 2015 the year you showcase your products and services at the Home Show. Visit www.RIBAHomeShow.com or call Yoffe Exposition Services at (800) 963-3395 for information.

-Executive Director
John Marcantonio

With R.I. having the nation's 3rd oldest housing stock...

Why is the remodeling market spotty?

By Paul F. Eno Editor

With the third-oldest housing stock in America, Rhode Island's remodeling market is booming, right? Well, yes and no.

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) reports that the remodeling market nationally has returned to 2005 levels and is holding steady. NAHB's Remodeling Market Index (RMI) held at 57 in the fourth quarter of 2013. This is the same level as the third quarter of 2013 and the highest reading since the first quarter of 2004.

An RMI above 50 indicates that more remodelers report market activity is higher (compared with the prior quarter) than report it is lower. The overall RMI averages ratings of current remodeling activity with indicators of future remodeling activity. In the first quarter of this year, however, the market in the Northeast was the lowest, at 44. NAHB does not keep remodeling statistics by state.

Enter Rhode Island, whose stock of housing built before 1978 is exceeded only by that of the District of Columbia and New York.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, immigrants came to Rhode Island and found dream homes in the abundant "three-deckers" and, if they could afford them, single-family homes in the first subdivisions. Today's immigrants come and find the same homes deteriorated, many with asbestos and lead hazards, old wiring, substandard plumbing and more. Any way we look at it, there's a huge need for remodeling, or these homes will soon have to be torn down.

Despite all this, how well your remodeling business is doing seems to depend on your segment of the market and where you work. That's especially true since those with the money, especially in South County, are driving the market.

"We've been busy right through the downturn because people weren't moving as much," Robert Brierley of Calyx Homes Ltd. said.



Dean Martineau, Joseph C. Cracco and Robert Brierley

The way Mr. Brierley explained it, there are three segments of the remodeling market:

- People who pay their mortgages, then save up to do projects and regular maintenance.
- People who didn't intend to stay in their homes but who got stuck in the downturn. "Now they've made friends there, the kids are in the schools, and maybe they like the neighborhood more than they thought they would. So they decide to stay and do some work on the house."
- People who bought good houses at good prices over the last five years, and now have money for remodeling projects.

Calyx Homes is doing all remodeling at this point, according to Mr. Brierley.

"We haven't built a new house in like four years. Business is good, and we're dealing with an old housing stock," he said.

Along with the pre-1978 stock, homes built poorly and on speculation in the 1980s through the early 2000s now need work, he added.

Joseph C. Cracco of Modern Yankee Builders Inc., a high-end remodeler, said that his phone is "ringing off the hook."

"Actually, we're just about hitting the averages when you take into account some really peak years, and some bad years that followed. I see a strengthening market, but I don't know about other remodelers," Mr. Cracco stated.

The fact that he streamlined the business during the lean years has been a factor for good, he said.

"I feel like we're in a great position right now. Things are getting stronger for us, and we have a lot of leads. In fact, I'm telling some people they have to wait until 2015."

This, however, isn't necessarily the case in the middle or low end of the market.

"There are a lot of good things happening with high-end remodeling. Lower-end rehabs and retros are a lot slower," reports Dean W. Martineau of Paolino Properties, who ran his own remodeling business for many years.

"Whenever I go in to buy paint or other supplies, I always ask how sales are. It's not going gangbusters, but so far, this year is better than last year. People are still a little afraid to spend money. And people who have money have already done what they wanted to do," Mr. Martineau added.

"During the boom, people took the equity out of their homes, did additions, decks and kitchens. Then came the foreclosure crisis, where people were buying those homes and renovating them. That's drying up. The economy needs to improve!"

There are some jobs coming from the state's revived Historic Tax Credit, but "it's a trickle compared with what it was."

For more information and a look at the RMI, visit www.NAHB.org/RMI.

Member Profile: Rick Messier of Messier Construction RRM

From 'House & Garden' to the 'little red house,' he aims high!

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Messier Construction once built a house for the editor of *House & Garden* magazine. That would look good on any builder's resumé! While that was a triumph in 2006, things didn't start out quite as brightly for company founder Rick Messier, a third-generation builder.

"My grandfather and father were both builders, and I started working on jobsites when I was 12," Rick recalls. "My dad owned some property and was always busy. It got into my blood!"

Then, at age 43, Rick's father, Andre Messier, died. Rick was only 16. Without his guiding light, future years found him working as a millwright at Chamberlain Corp. in New Bedford, making artillery shells.

"I did that for 11 years, but I always had that itch to be a contractor," says Rick.

So in 1986, at the age of 30, he opened Messier Construction, a Tiverton-based building and remodeling firm. And Rick aimed high: He and his 18-person crew do high-end custom home building, renovations and remodels, additions, custom cabinetry, and kitchen and bath remodeling, for affluent customers.

"We emphasize that we know our stuff when it comes to green building practices and products too."

In the meantime, Rick's brother, Marc, oversees the company's custom cabinetry shop, which opened in 2003. Rick's son, Matt, also works for the company.

"Ninety-nine percent of our work is residential," Rick explains. "And we work closely with several architects."

Most of the projects center in the Tiverton, Little Compton and Westport, Mass., areas. The 18 employees include two product managers.



Rick Messier

"In 2006 we built a house for Dominique Browning, then-editor of *House & Garden* magazine," Rick says, but that hasn't been the only feather in the company's cap.

"Things started to get slow in 2010, and we went from 19 employees to nine. So in 2011 I bought a rundown Victorian house so I could keep my remaining guys in work," Rick declares. "But then we got busy again. We only finished that old house this spring, and my job sign was in front of it for three years!"

This turned into a marketing triumph for Messier Construction.

"The house has always been something of a landmark in Tiverton. It's on a main road and people drive by it all the time," says Rick. "I

started to get e-mails and calls from people: 'How are things going with the little red house?'"

That led not only to a quick sale this year, but to the whole saga, a blog and a virtual tour on the Messier Construction website, www.MessierConstruction.com.

"People loved it that we were keeping our guys busy during the recession."

What recession?

Now the company is going full-steam again, with "what recession?" seeming to be the theme in high-end building and remodeling.

Messier Construction joined the Rhode Island Builders Association in 1996. Rick's favorite member benefits are the health insurance program and the educational seminars and workshops.

"I've also attended the Annual Clambake many times, and brought some of my guys. I've kicked a few butts during the horseshoe contest!" Rick says.

The company also helped RIBA's Builders Helping Heroes program by donating refinishing services at the house built in Burrillville for a wounded Marine last year. And the successes just keep on coming. Messier Construction was recently selected as one of *Remodeling* magazine's "Big50" remodelers for 2014. Awards were presented during a dinner at the Remodeling Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., on May 8th.

"The future looks busy, busy, busy!" Rick says, pointing out that the company did some \$3.3 million in business last year and is looking at \$4 million in 2014.

Go get 'em, Rick!



Messier Construction RRM Inc.

President: Rick Messier

RIBA member since: 1996

Focus: High-end construction and remodeling

Serves: Southeastern New England

Founded: 1986

Based: Tiverton, Rhode Island

Consolidated welcomes students

East Providence Area Career and Technical students visit facility to learn the science behind concrete mixing and delivery.

Eighteen students from Thomas Galligan's freshman level-one construction class at East Providence Career and Technical Center toured the East Providence plant of Consolidated Concrete Corp. on June 12th. Consolidated, a longtime member of the Rhode Island Builders Association, is the area's largest producer of concrete mix, flowable fill, and landscaping and retaining wall blocks.

Students visited the plant's computer center and testing laboratory, where they learned how ingredients are scientifically mixed to specifications for each job, then watched as the batch was dispensed into Consolidated's blue and white mixer trucks.

"When students think of construction, they just think of building houses. They don't look at all the facets of our industry such as heavy-equipment operation, working in the field, driving trucks, and running a business," stated Mr. Galligan. "At Consolidated Concrete, workers perform a variety of duties of great interest to the students and it complements what they're learning in class."

General Manager Ronald DeCosta welcomed students and provided a history of the 57-year-old company, along with an overview of its products and services. Students then observed the concrete-making process and manufacture of one- and two-ton landscaping and retaining-wall blocks.

The tour concluded at the dispatch area.

"The tour was good. I didn't know much about concrete when I went into it. I never realized there was even a difference between concrete and cement, and I learned today that cement is just one ingredient of the concrete mix," said student Isaiah Foley.



Students from East Providence Career and Technical Center visit Consolidated Concrete Corp. on June 12th, touring the East Providence facility.

"We loved having students visit our East Providence plant," commented J. Robert Pesce, owner and president of Consolidated Concrete. "These students are the future of our industry, so not only are events like these wonderful opportunities to showcase who we are as a company and what we do, but they also give us a peek at the talent and perspective of the younger generation."

Founded in 1957 and family-owned, Consolidated Concrete Corp. serves commercial and residential customers throughout Rhode Island and most of Southeastern Massachusetts. For more information, visit www.ConsolidatedConcreteCorp.com.



This section of our magazine is specifically dedicated to your company news and events. If you have news you'd like to share with other members, send it along to Elizabeth Carpenter at ecarpenter@ribuilders.org.

**-Executive Director
John Marcantonio**

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Heather Shen of East Greenwich High School receives a \$500 scholarship check from RI Kitchen & Bath (RIKB) owner and president Steven L. St. Onge, right, at the company's Warwick headquarters. Looking on at left is Rick Deutsch of Academic Advantage, RIKB's partner in the new scholarship program. Ms. Shen plans to study engineering.

RIKB wins 2 honors

Rhode Island Kitchen & Bath Inc. (RIKB) recently won two industry honors at the National Kitchen & Bath Association (New England Chapters) Kitchen Design Awards.

These included the Judge's Choice Award for "Best in Show" as well as the second place award in the "New Construction - Kitchens from 151 SF to 350 SF" category. The awards were announced on May 13th.

In the "Best in Show" project, RIKB transformed a small, outdated kitchen into a room that offered the homeowners ample space to cook and accommodate company. Substantial updates were made, including new appliances, cabinetry, new lighting and flooring. The second-place project involved a kitchen redesign in a circa-1900 federal-style home.

Scholarship partners

RIKB has joined Academic Advantage, a tutoring and enrichment service based in Warwick, to award a \$500 college scholarship to East Greenwich High School senior Heather Shen. Ms. Shen was chosen for exceeding expectations in both academics and community service, and she plans to study engineering at Stanford University, beginning this fall.

RIKB President Steven L. St. Onge and Academic Advantage Executive Director Richard Deutsch presented the scholarship check to Heather at the RIKB showroom on Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick.

Established in 1989, RIKB is an award-winning design-build firm that offers design, production and installation for kitchens, baths and interior renovations throughout southeastern New England.

Find out more at www.RIKB.com.



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MVM joins Riverhead

Riverhead Building Supply announced on June 19th that Michael Verde Millwork (MVM) of Bridgehampton, New York, is a new addition to Riverhead Building Supply Manufacturing. Michael Verde, a well-known craftsman on eastern Long Island, has produced architectural casework, doors and moldings for six years.

"We are excited to add the creativity, design and workmanship of MVM to Riverhead Building Supply's network of stores and showrooms in Rhode Island and New York," a company statement said.

A member of the Rhode Island Builders Association, Riverhead Building Supply is a family-owned and -operated independent retail lumber and building materials dealer. The company operates stores and showrooms in North Kingstown and Middletown. Find out more at www.RBSCorp.com and www.HWPF.com.

Three new associates join Kelly law firm

Three new lawyers have joined the staff at Kelly & Mancini PC, a longtime member of the Rhode Island Builders Association. The firm has announced the addition of Nicole J. Martucci, Patrick Ryan and Allyson M. Quay as associates.

Ms. Martucci's practice encompasses business law, corporate litigation, environmental law and insurance disputes. She also handles the firm's collection matters, obtaining judgments for clients throughout the state. Before joining Kelly & Mancini, she practiced in the areas of family law and collections. She is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and the New England School of Law.

Mr. Ryan practices business, real estate and construction law. A graduate of Suffolk University Law School, he previously

worked for a general practice law firm in Boston, where he focused on employment and municipal law. Most recently, he was a graduate clerk for the Hon. David H. Hennessy, Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Ms. Quay focuses on complex legal research and writing, and contributes in all areas of Kelly & Mancini's practice, including business and corporate law, business litigation, real estate law, environmental law, land-use law and construction law.

She is a graduate of Rhode Island College and the Roger Williams University School of Law J.D. Honors Program.

Find out more at www.KellyMancini.com.

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Andersen, Coventry Lumber slate Trade Expo in September

WHEN: Thursday, September 25th, 4-8 p.m.

WHERE: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 801 Greenwich Ave.,
Warwick 02886

COST: Free

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: September 19th

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Contact
Dave Kosky, DKosky@CoventryLumber.Com, (401) 562-
0172.

All contractors are invited to attend the Andersen Trade Expo, sponsored by Coventry Lumber, on September 25th. Meet Andersen product experts and learn about products and services, along with marketing and architectural tools to support your business. Cocktails, dinner, prizes and networking will be included.

Those who attend will qualify for 5 percent product savings on any Andersen 400 Series® order of \$5,000 or more.

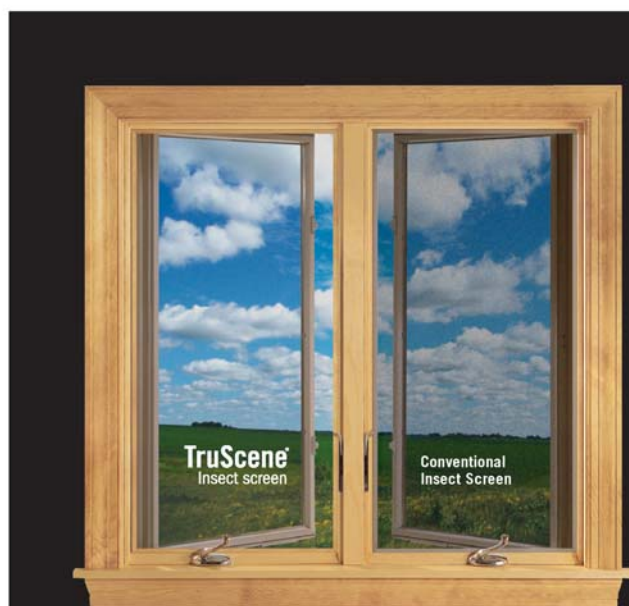
General Motors expands cash benefit for NAHB members

General Motors (GM) has expanded its \$500 benefit for members of the National Association of Home Builders to \$1,000. In a statement, GM explained its “private offer” toward the purchase or lease of most new GM vehicles.

“NAHB members who are business owners can now qualify for up to \$1,000 and also add-on incentives from the National Fleet Purchase Program and Business Choice.... Visit your local dealer, choose an eligible GM vehicle, and present your NAHB proof of membership form.”

How it works

Get your NAHB proof of membership form at www.NAHB.org/GM. Bring it to your GM dealer and mention the private offer. At time of purchase or lease, present the form. The private offer amount varies by model. For full details, visit the website above or contact RIBA Membership Services Coordinator Elise Geddes at (401) 438-7400 or egeddes@ribuilders.org.



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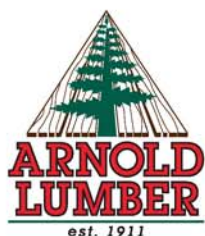
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arnoldlumber.com **Page 2**

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Use the drop-down navigation on our website to find more information about products and services provided by the National Lumber in-house divisions and other members of the National Lumber Family of Companies.



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national-lumber.com **Page 6**

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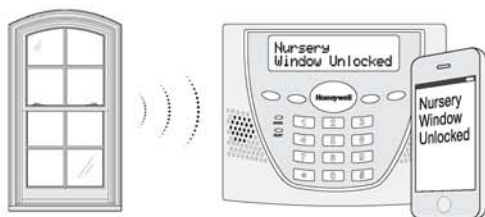


VeriLock™ Sensors: Security Like Never Before

Andersen has teamed up with Honeywell, a leading residential security system provider, to create a revolutionary product in home security: VeriLock™ integrated security sensors. When paired with a Honeywell® security system, these innovative sensors can detect whether windows and doors are locked or unlocked* — a feature no other sensors can provide. With VeriLock sensors, all it takes is a quick glance at the security system keypad* to know if your home is secured, day or night.

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Honeywell



With VeriLock sensors you can check your windows and doors from your Honeywell® security system. You can even check them on the go from your smartphone or tablet with optional Honeywell® Total Connect™ remote services.*

PEACE OF MIND AT A GLANCE

VeriLock integrated security sensors are a cutting-edge technology that integrates wireless security sensors into most E-Series/Eagle® windows and doors. With these exclusive sensors, you'll always know if your windows or doors are open, closed, locked or unlocked.* This first-of-its-kind technology provides homeowners with a new level of convenience, beauty and peace of mind.

*When properly configured and maintained with a professionally installed Honeywell® security system.
*Honeywell® and "Total Connect" are trademarks of Honeywell International, Inc.

Security and Beauty. Together at Last.

NO VISIBLE WIRES OR SENSORS

VeriLock™ sensors are built directly into the design of E-Series/Eagle® windows and doors, eliminating the need for unsightly wires or visible sensors. With VeriLock sensors, there's nothing to detract from the beauty of your new E-Series/Eagle windows and doors.

PRESERVE YOUR WARRANTY

The installation of wires and sensors can actually void most window and door warranties. VeriLock sensors are built into windows and doors at the factory, so the limited warranty* remains intact.

MAXIMIZE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Air escapes through windows and doors that are left opened or even just unlocked. With VeriLock sensors, you can easily verify that your windows and doors are locked and providing maximum energy efficiency.

KEEPS MAINTENANCE TO A MINIMUM

VeriLock sensors are powered by commonly available lithium coin cell batteries and are designed to provide years of battery life.** Battery replacement is simple and can be done either as a DIY project or by a Honeywell® security system dealer.

THE PROTECTION OF HONEYWELL

A trusted name in home security, more homes in the United States and Canada are protected with Honeywell® security systems than any other manufacturer.



*See the VeriLock sensors limited warranty for more details. **Battery life refers to new, brand-name batteries and is dependent on frequency of use. The limited warranty for VeriLock integrated security sensors does not include batteries. "Honeywell" is a registered trademark of Honeywell International, Inc. "Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation and its subsidiary. ©2012 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. 05/12 Part #9067468

See your local dealer or Honeywell security system dealer for details.

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September 10

WHEN: Wednesday, September 10th, 5-7 p.m. at Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members and their employees, with \$10 book charge. \$45 for non-members, with \$10 book charge. Credit cards accepted. Lunch is included.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: September 4th

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Logon to www.RIBUILDERS.org, click on any of these events under the "Events Calendar," or contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

This condensed class is designed for excavation, site utility workers and subcontractors working in below-grade situations. It will focus on soil conditions, inspections, classifications and hands-on mechanical inspections as well as local and neighboring states' variances.

An OSHA Emphasis Program has remained in effect for excavations since 1998.

The class will be two hours and is presented by Risk & Safety Management. FREE for members and their employees.

Beginner Quickbooks for Contractors

September 23

WHEN: Tuesday, September 23rd, 5 p.m.

WHERE: RIBA headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy. #301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members with a \$25 materials charge. \$50 for non-members with a \$25 materials charge.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: September 19th

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

Join instructor Jeanne George for a journey into "Beginner QuickBooks™ for Contractors." The class covers the basics of setting up and using QuickBooks and is geared toward beginners or those who feel they don't have a good foundation for using QuickBooks. Topics covered will include setting up QuickBooks, working with lists, working with bank accounts, creating invoices, receiving payments and making deposits, and entering and paying bills. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops to the workshop. Class size is limited. Light refreshments will be served at 4:30 p.m.

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Advanced Quickbooks for Contractors September 30

WHEN: Tuesday, September 30th, 5-7 p.m.

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

COST: FREE for members, with a \$25 materials charge. A \$50 charge for non-members and a \$25 materials charge.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: Full payment required by September 22nd. Credit cards accepted. Must provide proof of employment with member company upon registration for class to be free.

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Logon to RIBUILDERS.org, click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400.

Learning how to invoice from an estimate in QuickBooks® will be the subject as the Rhode Island Builders Association offers this advanced workshop in the most popular contractor book-keeping software.



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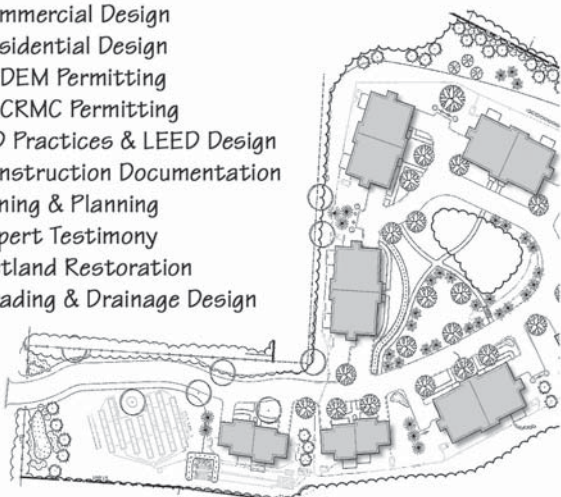
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960 Boston Neck Road, Narragansett, RI 401-783-3500

OSHA-10 Course October 8-9

WHEN: Wednesday & Thursday, October 8th and 9th, 11:30 to 5 p.m. each day at Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members and their employees, with \$25 book charge. \$125 for non-members, with \$25 book charge. Credit cards accepted. Lunch is included.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: October 1st

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Logon to www.RIBUILDERS.org, click on any of these events under the "Events Calendar," or contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

The Rhode Island Builders Association once again offers the OSHA 10-Hour Certification Course in October. The course is free for RIBA members and their employees. Proof of identity will be required. Lunch will be served.

This course provides training in compliance with the Dept. of Labor & Training's municipal jobsite rules. It trains safety directors, foremen and field employees in OSHA standards and highlights major safety concerns to be aware of so that jobsite accidents can be reduced.

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



Lead licensing refresher October 10

WHEN: Friday, October 10th, 1-5 p.m.

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

COST: FREE for members, with a \$15 materials charge. A \$75 charge for non-members and a \$15 materials charge.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: October 6th.

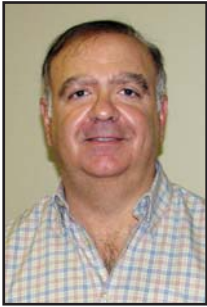
FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Logon to www.RIBUILDERS.org, click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Elizabeth Carpenter at ecarpenter@ribuilders.org or Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400.

This is a four-hour refresher class for contractors who have their lead renovator/remodeler license and whose license is up for renewal or has expired within the prior six months.

The class will review lead-hazard controls and update attendees on any changes to regulations since they were issued their licenses.



Lawmakers pass CTE reform



Steven Carlino

After a great deal of hard work by many people, we're very pleased to report the most successful legislative session in years for the residential construction industry's future workforce. This is largely on account of unprecedented cooperation among the business community through the Rhode Island Business Coalition, in which the Rhode Island Builders Association is a key participant.

Among the legislation enacted in the 2014 session of the General Assembly is vital and long-awaited reform in Rhode Island's career and technical education (CTE) system, the first in 40 years. This passed both houses by massive margins in the final hour of the session. RIBA's Bob Baldwin was present in the House Chamber as final passage came at 4 a.m. on June 21st.

Based on the amazing success of Worcester Technical High

School, which we visited on February 28th along with a delegation from state government, this law creates the opportunity for nine separate CTE systems in Rhode Island to eventually become one, with far-reaching connections to, and support from, local, state and national companies.

This will pay major dividends for Rhode Island's economy in the future, helping remedy one of our worst economic problems: an unskilled workforce. *See page 1 for our main legislative report.*



Robert J. Baldwin

A stronger voice for business

From the results of this legislative session, it's clear that the Rhode Island Business Coalition is already having a major impact on our state's economy, and RIBA will work hard to make

see LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE...page 28

RIBA's Legislative Committee

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

Robert J. Baldwin, Co-Chairman
R.B. Homes Inc.

President Felix A. Carlone, Ex Officio
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Joseph W. Walsh
Government Strategies Inc.

Eric Wishart
Civil CADD Services Inc.

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A conversation on economic and labor issues in Rhode Island

Rep. K. Joseph Shekarchi

Chairman, House Committee on Labor

K. Joseph Shekarchi is state representative from District 23 (Warwick) and has a wide-ranging law practice based there, which includes zoning and land use, along with residential and commercial real estate law. Elected in November 2012, Rep. Shekarchi chairs the House Labor Committee and serves on the House Judiciary Committee. A graduate of Mount St. Charles Academy and Suffolk University, he earned his law degree from Suffolk in 1990. He has been the legal counsel to the Warwick Housing Authority for 16 years and is a former city solicitor. He is a former chairman of the Rhode Island Auto Dealers Hearing Board and has served on the Rhode Island Judicial Tenure and Discipline Board, and the Coastal Resources Management Council. He is a lifelong Warwick resident.



THE BUILDER: What do you feel Rhode Island must do to move forward economically?

SHEKARCHI: We must reduce taxes and regulations on business because the private sector is the only place that will create sustainable jobs. And if they have sustainable jobs, people will spend money. When the economy is good, the real estate market goes up. It's a ripple effect that helps a lot of people.

THE BUILDER: Is there really a new focus in the General Assembly on making the state more business-friendly?

SHEKARCHI: Absolutely. You can see that with the lowering of the corporate tax (in Gov. Lincoln Chafee's 2014 budget, which kicked in on July 1st) and with a series of bills introduced by Speaker (Nicholas) Mattiello and also, to his credit, the governor, which were then passed by the General Assembly. These weren't huge, headline-grabbing bills, but they are small steps along the way.

For example, we reduced some taxes for businesses buying distressed or bankrupt entities. We didn't raise income taxes, and we didn't increase social spending. We increased the exemption on the inheritance tax. We increased the money for education as well. These are all things that will benefit Rhode Island in the

long haul.

THE BUILDER: Rhode Island is at the bottom of the barrel in the national economic statistics. How long will all these steps take to really make a difference?

SHEKARCHI: I'd say three years to have any significant impact. We went so far down that, per capita, it's a big hole to climb out of.

THE BUILDER: As the new chairman of the House Labor Committee, what do you see as the most pressing issues on training and workforce development?

SHEKARCHI: How much space do you have in the magazine? We need to do a number of things. I introduced bills to rebrand and refocus our workforce programs. We need to educate people and offer training and retraining in areas where jobs already exist. We already have companies here in Rhode Island that can't find trained workers.

Based on that very prominent and very successful school in Worcester (Worcester Technical High School), we're trying to change the curriculum at our own schools to partner with business. Let's sit down with Electric Boat and design a program for someone to get work there. We can take a half dozen companies that need skilled people and match a curriculum.

Then we can tell a student, "Come to CCRI and this program, and there's a job waiting for you at this or that company." Once we find out what Rhode Island's current employers need and match a curriculum, we'll keep more skilled workers here in the state.

As another step, we passed a bill that requires the Dept. of Labor and Training (DLT) to report to the governor in December on seasonal workers and unemployment abuses.

THE BUILDER: What's your take on regulatory reform?

SHEKARCHI: I wish we could have more of it. We have an Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR) that was headed by a very talented individual, Leslie Taito. Unfortunately, she left for a job



in the private sector, and that office seems to be stalled. Unfortunately, I don't think you'll see any kind of regulatory reform until a new governor takes office. Sad.

THE BUILDER: One of the biggest problems in the construction industry is permitting, particularly on the local level, with high fees and slow processing. Do you support moving to more of a statewide standard for both?

SHEKARCHI: I think the best way to achieve faster permitting and better efficiency is limiting the amount of time a community has to deem it complete, then give them a certain number of days to act on it. Then there would be a certain appeal period. But you're never going to see uniformity statewide.

As an attorney who helps developers get permits, I think we can hope for a uniformly expedited process. I should add that another bill we passed, sponsored by Majority Leader (John J.) DeSimone, requires cities and towns to publish zoning decisions within a certain number of days.

Some towns get it. Johnston certainly does. They want development and they get it done. Other communities, especially in rural Rhode Island, don't like development. They don't want business, they don't want the tax revenue from it. So their processes can be deliberately slow, and that's not fair.

Let every community have its own review process, but let's have some uniformity in the length of time involved.

Another issue that I find hopeful for builders and developers would be preventing cities and towns from exceeding state requirements. Some communities have overlay zones that are even more restrictive. Consequently (in the case of a wetland), they don't have the expertise to deal with these situations. They don't have the biologists or engineers on staff. The Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) might have a 200-foot setback, but in some towns it might be 400 feet. That's not right.

The local community standard should never exceed the state standard. Based on legislation from 2013, a statewide commission is working on ways to implement this.

THE BUILDER: RIBA feels that, for the state to move forward, more investment is needed for local water and sewer projects. What say you?

SHEKARCHI: Treasurer (Gina) Raimondo started the Municipal Road and Bridge Revolving Fund, and we funded it again this year. We started with \$7 million and it was an overwhelming success. Some \$15 million was applied for by different communities, and this year we added that. As that fund grows, it hopefully will become self-sufficient, and communities will have access to plenty of loans for municipal projects and road and bridge improvements.

We have put over \$14 million into that fund in the course of two years. As the pot grows, there will be more work for people and more benefits to cities and towns, as well as for the construction industry.

THE BUILDER: A big issue facing the construction industry

is the misclassification of workers, and the General Assembly has passed some new initiatives that should enforce the IRS rules on that. Can you discuss the new task force that's been created and how it will work?

SHEKARCHI: It's in the budget this year. The worker classification system will be monitored using the IRS guidelines, and both business and labor will want to see what comes out of the task force's review. Sometimes it's easier to act in haste, but it's better to see first how that review goes.

THE BUILDER: Many in the industry have been deeply concerned about apprenticeship rules on public works projects. What happened with legislation on that?

SHEKARCHI: Apprenticeship is another big issue for many people. Unfortunately, we couldn't get that done this year. But the part of the construction industry that supported the apprenticeship bill did make strong movement toward some common ground.

We did form a study commission on the issue and, come February, we hope that some good will come from that.*

THE BUILDER: Anything else you'd like to share with the building community?

SHEKARCHI: I've only had half a term, but we were able to move some bills through. I look forward to the future as I'm unopposed in November. And we'll continue to work hard – just because we're not in session doesn't mean we're not working.

I will say that the Rhode Island Builders Association has good representation at the State House. But it never hurts for the members to contact their state senators and representatives. It never hurts for them to talk about the issues on either the local or state levels, one-on-one in the community or at the State House. If they want their voices to be heard, they have to speak, and they have to speak to the right people.

For people reading this interview: You need to come up to the State House and be heard. You need to e-mail, write and have personal interaction. The more involved you get, the more results you will see.

**House bill 7623 created a seven-member legislative commission to study the requirements and feasibility of implementing apprenticeship prerequisites for public works contracts, then make recommendations. The commission is supposed to report to the House by February 3, 2015, and expires on May 3, 2015.*

Find out about the great benefits you can get as a member of the Rhode Island Builders Association. It could be the best investment you make in your business this year!
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A summary of the latest news from RIBA's Environmental Committee

Joint OWTS/Wetlands Permit now active

The Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) has developed a streamlined application and permit for single-family residential lots that need both a wastewater and a freshwater-wetlands permit. A public hearing to establish joint permitting took place on June 23rd, and the program took effect on July 16th.

"The proposed amendments are part of a continuing effort by DEM to improve customer service and make its operations more efficient," a DEM statement said. "The new Joint OWTS/Wetlands application and permit would allow owners of single-family residential property to submit one application for both types of permits and receive a joint OWTS/Wetlands permit. This will benefit applicants by creating a faster, simpler, and more predictable permitting process."

The joint permitting program is available for OWTS single family/new building construction projects that don't require a variance and for wetlands preliminary determinations that don't propose significant alterations. If they wish, applicants may still submit separate permit applications to the OWTS and Wetlands programs.

The proposed amendments were developed in conjunction with a stakeholder group that included the Rhode Island Builders Association.

The rules can be viewed on the DEM website at www.DEM.ri.gov and at the DEM Offices at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, by contacting Lisa McGreavy at Lisa.McGreavy@dem.ri.gov or 222-4700 Ext. 7611.

E-permitting

In preparation for a statewide e-permitting system, Commerce RI, successor to the Rhode Island Economic Development Corp., had its last vendor demonstration in late June. A spokesman re-

ported that a contract with a vendor was expected by sometime in August. He said that "Phase 1" will consist of e-permitting for the state Fire Marshal's Office and Building Commissioner's Office, along with two municipalities before a statewide rollout.

New England General Permit

As previously reported, the New England District, Army Corps of Engineers, is developing a regional general permit for New England (NE GP) to replace the six state GPs, including the Rhode Island General Permit. We believe this will help bring consistency, streamlining the regulatory process, and facilitating review of projects by other agencies and interstate groups. A final decision on the NE GP should be made in December.

News from the beach

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, Rhode Island will receive an additional \$7.5 million in federal aid to make the state and its coastline "more resilient" to severe weather, Sen. Jack Reed announced on June 17th. The money will fund several projects selected through a competitive matching-grant process, including restoration of coastal habitats and state-led efforts to develop long-term plans for managing the shoreline.

The funds are part of \$102.7 million that the U.S. Dept. of the Interior will distribute in matching grants for East Coast resiliency projects.

The largest Rhode Island grant will go toward the \$3.25-million restoration of a 30-acre marsh at Ninigret Pond in Charlestown. The state will put up \$423,650 in matching funds for the project, to be overseen by the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC).

For more information on any of these issues, call RIBA at (401) 438-7400.



NAHB: EPA in overreach with proposed rule

National Association of Home Builders

A proposed rule recently released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to expand the reach of the Clean Water Act could increase the cost of new homes without a corresponding benefit to America's lakes, rivers and other water bodies, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) told Congress in testimony on June 11th.

"Unfortunately, the proposed rule falls well short of providing the clarity and

certainty the construction industry seeks," NAHB Chairman Kevin Kelly, a home builder and developer from Wilmington, Del., said during a hearing before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment.

"The rule will increase federal regulatory power over private property and will lead to increased litigation, permit requirements and lengthy delays for any business trying to comply," added Mr. Kelly.

"Equally important, these changes will not significantly improve water quality

because much of the rule improperly encompasses water features that are already regulated at the state level."

Expanding federal authority under the Clean Water Act would greatly increase the number of construction sites required to obtain appropriate permits, which would also delay, impede and raise the cost of construction projects. Moreover, this would add to the backlog of permits, which currently range from 15,000 to 20,000, according to NAHB.

"The rule would exacerbate the current

see EPA...page 28

Appraisal Institute sets Sept. program for builders on 'green' issues

WHEN: September 16th, 2 to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Save the Bay Providence Bay Center, 100 Save the Bay Drive, Providence.

FOR INFORMATION AND TO

REGISTER: Visit www.MASSRIAppraisalInstitute.org or

contact Lianne Andreucci at (781) 397-8922 or office@massri-appraisal institute.org.

Further information TBA.

Builders and developers will get an in-depth look at the energy-efficiency issues in appraisals at a seminar offered by the Appraisal Institute's (AI's) Massachusetts

and Rhode Island Chapter.

"High Performance Energy Efficient Residential Construction: Industry Perspectives," will take place along with an AI business meeting, and members of the Rhode Island Builders Association are invited to attend.

Panel discussions will include RIBA Legislative Committee Co-Chairman Robert J. Baldwin and green building expert David A. Caldwell Jr.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and there will be a chance for networking.

"We see a real need for appraisers to stay up-to-date regarding high-performance, energy-efficient residential building issues," said AI's Brad Hevenor.

"In addition, we'd like more input and communication on this topic across real estate industries. As we see it, the panel should provide an excellent interdisciplinary opportunity to bring various stakeholders together to share knowledge and insight, and ultimately better understand the role of the real estate appraisal and the appraisal profession in the marketplace for energy-efficient residential construction."

The September 16th program will provide timely, real estate-related market information to attendees. There will be four presentations:

- "Trends in Residential Building Science – Case Study in Passive House Certification";
- A "Green" Builder Case Study;
- A second green building topic, to be determined;
- and "The Market for High Performance Homes in Rhode Island, a Broker's Perspective."

AI plans more seminars on the valuation of sustainable buildings, including a two-day program, "Residential & Commercial Valuation of Solar," to be offered on October 27th and 28th in Dedham, Mass.

Watch for more information in the September *Rhode Island Builder Report*.

Have employees who need apprenticeship training?

RICTA classes begin in Sept.

The Rhode Island Construction Training Academy (RICTA) provides the classroom work required by the state in a number of apprenticeship trades, including electric, pipefitter, HVAC, sprinklerfitter and sheet metal. Additional trades are added as the need arises.

RICTA is preparing to start its fifth year at its Pawtucket location, and members of the Rhode Island Builders Association can come themselves or send employees to RICTA for the same special price as Associated Builders and Contractors (ABCRI) members can. Having apprentices can help you bid on state contracts.

The training programs begin the week of September 14th and run through April. Classes are held two nights a week, from 6 to 9 p.m. with a total of 156 hours per year of study. After each year of completion, a certificate is issued. Upon completion of the program, credits can be transferred to the Community College of Rhode Island and applied toward an associate's degree.

The RICTA curriculum has been devel-

oped under guidelines of the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) and approved by the Rhode Island Dept. of Labor and Training. All RICTA instructors are active in the fields they teach. In addition to classroom lectures and discussions, teaching includes hands-on work, field trips and guest speakers.

RICTA has been in operation since 1992. Many who attend are registered apprentices, but that isn't required.

Beginning this year, RICTA is also a Massachusetts-approved training facility in HVAC, pipefitting and sprinkler fitting. Massachusetts also accepts electrical training hours from RICTA.

RICTA has two- or four-year programs designed to prepare students for careers in the construction industry. RICTA is affiliated with ABCRI and is often known as the "ABC School."

For more information, visit www.RICTA.org or contact Kristen Brescia at (401) 305-3510 or kristen@ricta.org.

Report: R.I. foreclosure actions up 20%

Rhode Island suffered a 19.9 percent increase in residential foreclosures in the first quarter of 2014, according to the quarterly foreclosure report from HousingWorks RI, released on June 27th.

The report notes that 451 residential foreclosure deeds were filed in Rhode Island during the first quarter, compared with 376 during the same period last year.

That makes the state's foreclosure rate second in New England after Connecticut (according to the National Association of Realtors). The full report is available at: www.HousingWorksRI.org.

regulatory confusion by adding new, undefined terms such as 'floodplain' and 'riparian area' to give regulators automatic federal jurisdiction over properties that contain isolated wetlands, ephemeral streams or any land features covered under the expansive definition of 'tributary,'" an NAHB statement said.

"The proposed rulemaking also threatens to discourage the use of low-impact or green development practices like rain gardens, swales and even sediment ponds as the EPA's language about whether developers would have to get a federal permit before installing these systems is still unclear."

In his testimony, Mr. Kelly told lawmakers that the proposal is inconsistent with prior U.S. Supreme Court rulings that limited federal jurisdiction over isolated wetlands and ephemeral streams. The proposed rule to clarify protection under the Clean Water Act for streams and wetlands fails to appropriately recognize the states' authority to regulate what have historically been deemed "state waters," he noted.

At the request of NAHB and other stakeholders, the EPA on June 10th announced a 91-day extension to the proposed rule's public comment period from July 21 until Oct. 20, 2014.

For more information, contact Thomas Ward at (800) 368-5242 ext. 8230 or tward@NAHB.org.

June 9

Marcia Jones, mother of Kenneth Jones

Marcia B. Jones, mother of longtime Rhode Island Builders Association member Kenneth Jones of Ken Jones Construction Inc., died June 9th at Brentwood Nursing Home, Warwick.

Born in Providence, Mrs. Jones was the wife of the late David O. Jones. She was the secretary at St. Mathias Episcopal Church in Coventry for many years and was active in the Ladies Auxiliary of the Lake Mishnock Fire Dept.

Along with Mr. Jones, she is survived by another son and a daughter, a sister, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Parkinson Center at Kent Hospital and sent to the Kent Hospital Foundation, 455 Toll Gate Road, Warwick, RI 02886. There is a guestbook at www.CarpenterJenks.com.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE...from page 23

that impact grow.

Other successful legislation supported by the Business Coalition included establishment of a task force to come up with ways to enforce the federal definition of independent contractors. This derailed attempts to establish separate state definitions.

This is a massive issue for our industry because it makes no sense to redefine IRS criteria unless you can enforce them. Gov. Lincoln Chafee listened to business and put this task force in his budget, and lawmakers enacted it. We thank the governor for his insight.


Other bills

Thanks to other successful legislation, communities can now employ a "fee-in-lieu" of the affordable housing provision in inclusionary zoning ordinances.

The only major disappointment in the session was Gov. Chafee's veto of the "Spec and Rehab Bill" for the third year in a row, even though the bill passed both houses by massive margins. Although we worked hard on this issue, clarifying language and adding a "sunset" provision, the governor continues to have concerns and sided with the League of Cities and Towns in objecting to the bill. Be assured that we're already working on this issue for the 2015 session and hope to work with the next governor to make it law.

In addition, lawmakers lowered corporate taxes, set a higher estate-tax exemption, and more. However, they took no action on the unreasonable taxes now levied on work trucks.

In the meantime, we thank the bill sponsors, along with the many RIBA members who worked on this legislation. RIBA members will receive a full report on the association's legislative activities by mail.



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LEGISLATION...from page 1

This legislation was inspired by the success of Worcester Technical High School in Massachusetts, and was supported by the Rhode Island Business Coalition, which includes RIBA. The sponsors were Rep. Joseph M. McNamara (D-Warwick, Cranston), Speaker Nicholas A. Mattiello (D-Cranston), John J. DeSimone (D-Providence), Karen L. MacBeth (D-Cumberland) and Patricia A. Serpa (D-West Warwick, Coventry, Warwick).

"This is the first major CTE reform in Rhode Island in 40 years, and we feel it will have a major positive impact on our economic future," stated Robert J. Baldwin, co-chairman of RIBA's Legislative Committee. Mr. Baldwin, along with Executive Director John Marcantonio, represent RIBA in the Business Coalition.

Other new laws of importance to the industry include:

- **Independent Contractor Legislation** - Provisions in Gov. Lincoln Chafee's budget as enacted create a task force to study ways to best enforce the current IRS definitions of independent contractors. This will help eliminate misclassification of workers, RIBA believes. The association and the Business Coalition successfully opposed legislative attempts to redefine independent contractors.

- **Apprenticeship issues** – Lawmakers established a study commission to deal with all matters in the long-running debate over apprenticeship ratios on state projects. High ratios of apprentices to journeymen in the trades would prevent many RIBA members and other small contractors from bidding on state projects. RIBA hopes that the study commission will suggest workable solutions.

- **Inclusionary Zoning** – "Fee-in-lieu" of affordable housing is now an option for builders and developers in Rhode Island. The legislation allows inclusionary zoning ordinances to provide that affordable housing be built on-site, off-site or by paying a fee-in-lieu to the municipality. The cost difference of these affordable units must be given to the developer as a subsidy by the town. These were bills S-2086 and H-7632.

Sponsors included Sens. David E. Bates (R-Barrington, Bristol, East Providence), Dawson T. Hodgson (R-East Greenwich, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Narragansett), Stephen R. Archambault (D-Smithfield, North Providence, Johnston), Catherine Cool Rumsey (D-Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, Richmond, West Greenwich) and V. Susan Sosnowski (D-District 37, New Shoreham, South Kingstown).

- **Regulatory fairness** – Thanks to new legislation, the state's Office of Regulatory Reform is now able to evaluate construction and development regulations as part of its mission to streamline business regulation. Previously, these regulations had been exempt from the process. This was bill H-7520. Sponsors were: Sens. Erin P. Lynch (D-Warwick, Cranston), Walter S. Felag Jr. (D-Bristol, Tiverton, Warren), David E. Bates (R-Barrington, Bristol, East Providence), William J. Conley Jr. (D-East Providence, Pawtucket) and Joshua Miller (D-Cranston, Warwick).

- **Municipal Fees** - Legislation was enacted to prohibit municipal building officials from assessing a fee for the first re-inspection of work that failed the initial inspection. The sponsors were Sens. Frank S. Lombardo III (D-Johnston), Frank S. Lombardi

(D-Cranston), Marc A. Cote (D-North Smithfield, Woonsocket). The bill was S-2280. As of this writing, it still awaited action by the governor.

- **Taxes** – Lawmakers eliminated the Estate Tax "cliff," raising the exemption to \$1.5 million. They also lowered the corporate tax from 9 to 7 percent.

- **Renewable Energy** – Two bills related to installation of solar-energy systems became law. Among their provisions: Any registered contractor who obtains a Renewable Energy Certificate may install photovoltaic shingle systems.

Unsuccessful bills

For the third year running, Gov. Chafee vetoed the "Spec and Rehab Bill," which would have eliminated any local inventory tax on new residential construction, and would have prevented a tax on improvements to foreclosed properties.

Sponsors were Reps. John G. Edwards (D-Portsmouth, Tiverton), Anastasia Williams (D-Providence), Kenneth A. Marshall (D-Bristol, Warren), Jared R. Nunes (D-Coventry, West Warwick) and Linda D. Finn (D-Middletown, Portsmouth).

Efforts to reduce the taxes on work trucks were unsuccessful.

The much-publicized "Resilient Rhode Island" climate-change bill morphed into a permanent advisory committee to the governor on all climate-change matters.

For more information, contact Mr. Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400 or jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org. RIBA members can expect a full legislative report by mail.



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**Contact Elizabeth Carpenter at the RIBA office,
ecarpenter@ribuilders.org or at (401) 438-7400.**