

## Member Benefit: Education

The Rhode Island Builders Association's new lineup of educational programs will be unveiled early in 2013. If you are interested in being an instructor, this is your last chance to get your resumé in. Contact Elizabeth Carpenter at (401) 438-7400 or [ecarpenter@ribuilders.org](mailto:ecarpenter@ribuilders.org).

## Voters OK \$25m housing bond

Results should be a big boost for the industry.

Page 2

## RIBA reaches out in storm's wake

Through the press and social media, RIBA has reached out to local victims of Hurricane Sandy with a crucial message.

Pages 13, 14

## 2013 Directory in the works

The 2013 *RIBA Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide* is now in preparation. Members should logon to [www.RIBAlist.com](http://www.RIBAlist.com) to be sure that their free listing is correct. Also, advertising sales are now under way.

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## Members make over \$6,700 in Rebate Program!

Members earn cash rebates on products they use daily.

Page 3, 16

# RIBA testimony helps prompt fire code reform

Alarm requirements projected to be less costly.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Prompted by ongoing testimony on behalf of small businesses, especially by the Rhode Island Builders Association, the Rhode Island Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review (FSCB) has decided to ease up on some of the state's more costly fire code regulations, especially when it comes to alarm systems.

According to Eric Wishart of Civil CADD Services Inc., a member of the association's Legislative Committee, RIBA was the only business group to testify at the recent hearings.



Eric Wishart

see FIRE CODE...page 20

## A day in the sun for 'green' building



Rhode Island Builders Association Green Building Committee member David A. Caldwell Jr., at left, is proud of his building project in Narragansett that includes one of the first uses of "solar shingles" in Rhode Island. With him are Stephen Hern and Robert Atkinson of CertainTeed Corp. See the Green Building Committee update on page 15.

# Voters OK \$25 million bond for workforce housing

RIBA hails approval, sees boost to the state's economy, industry and the housing market.

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Rhode Island voters approved Ques-

tion 7, the \$25 million housing bond issue, on November 6<sup>th</sup>, and leaders of the Rhode Island Builders Association hailed the event as a much-needed boost for potential homeowners and the housing market.

"It was a good decision by the voters, and a move that will help the housing market and the economy. It will pay for itself as did

the 2006 housing bond. There's no downside," commented RIBA President Felix Carlone. "It's good for business and good for housing."

The benefits to the market and the industry will take time to manifest, however. The bonds must be issued and sold, and the fine print about developments and contractors has yet to be written.

The \$25 million worth of bonds will be sold to investors and institutions over two years, HousingWorks RI Executive Director Nellie Gorbea recently explained to *The Rhode Island Builder Report*.

"With the money raised, there will be two disbursements of \$12.5 million each through the Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission (HRC). This agency then will issue a request for proposals (RFP), saying 'we have



Nellie Gorbea

this much money for affordable housing projects," Ms. Gorbea said.

"Developers and builders – for profit and not-for-profit -- can then submit proposals for projects that include affordable units, asking for whatever amount they need for the project. Judging by the 2006 housing bond program, this procedure worked really well."

All applications will be reviewed by the HRC in collaboration with Rhode Island Housing. Once reviewed, applications will go to a bond funds distribution committee at HRC, a public/private body that includes a representative from RIBA (currently Albert Valliere of Nation Wide Construction Corp.) The committee then will prioritize the applications, based on a number of factors included in the RFP. HRC has the final vote on each application.

HousingWorks RI has a wealth of information about the state's housing market in its 2012 *HousingWorks Fact Book*, available online at [www.HOUSINGWORKSRI.org](http://www.HOUSINGWORKSRI.org). The 2011 *HousingWorks Fact Book*, available in the news-events section of the same site, has a description of the housing

see *HOUSING BOND...page 24*

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## DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

For the JANUARY issue, all copy, ads and photos must be to us by

## NOVEMBER 30

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450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., Suite 301, East Providence, RI 02914  
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# RIBA welcomes these new members and thanks their sponsors!

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**For membership information: Visit [www.RIBUILDERS.org](http://www.RIBUILDERS.org) or call (401) 438-7400.**



## RIBA Member Rebate Program

[www.HBArebates.com](http://www.HBArebates.com)



**What would you think if you could get a rebate for your loyalty to many of the nation's leading housing industry Manufacturers? Well, now you can regardless of your volume!**

We're happy to introduce the RIBA Member Rebate Program, a free member benefit, aimed at increasing your bottom line. For the minimal effort of informing us about the products you use, and telling us when you close on a home or project, you'll be putting money back in your pocket. When you participate in the RIBA Member Rebate Program, every home you build can earn you rebate checks! Remember, both Builders AND Remodelers qualify for the RIBA Member Rebate Program. **Over 70% of the Builders & Remodelers who participated last year received back in rebates more than they paid in annual dues to the Association!**





## LOOKING AHEAD!

**November 27 & December 4: Continuing Education Unit Course toward Massachusetts Construction Supervisor License Renewal:** Offered by the Builders Association of Greater Boston, this course will be of interest to Rhode Island Builders Association members who work in the Bay State. The course will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day at the Hampton Inn, 10 Plaza Way, Plymouth, Mass. on two consecutive Tuesdays. The course fulfills the requirements for unrestricted license renewal and exceeds the requirements for restricted and specialty license renewal. Cost: \$265 for members (RIBA members receive the member rate), \$295 for non-members. For more information and to register, visit the Calendar of Events at [www.BAGB.org](http://www.BAGB.org), contact (617) 773-1300 or e-mail [information@bagb.org](mailto:information@bagb.org).

**December 5 & 6: "Advanced Green Building: Building Science"** - Offered by the Construction Institute of New Hampshire through the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of New Hampshire, this two-day course instructs builders and remodelers on proper techniques for constructing and remodeling high-performance homes. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Cost: \$300 for members (RIBA members receive the member rate), \$350 for non-members. Location: HBRA of New Hampshire, 119 Airport Rd., Concord, N.H. For more information, visit the Calendar of Events at [www.HBRANH.com](http://www.HBRANH.com) or contact: Denise LaRoche at (603) 228-0351 or [dlarochelle@hbranh.com](mailto:dlarochelle@hbranh.com).

**January 22-24: 2013 International Builders Show and National Association of Home Builders Convention** - The earlier you register, the more you save. Full Registration Package (three days) includes admittance to the 100+ educational sessions, a complimentary one-year subscription with on-demand access to NAHB's Online Library of recorded 2013 IBS education sessions (a \$399 value), and entry to the exhibit floor. For complete information and to register, visit [www.BUILDERSSHOW.com](http://www.BUILDERSSHOW.com).

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

## CONTACTING RIBA

Members are encouraged to contact the Rhode Island Builders Association staff at any time for information about their membership and its many benefits, RIBA events and educational opportunities, chances for leadership or to help with the association's legislative advocacy program, or with industry or business-related questions.

General information is online at [RIBUILDERS.org](http://RIBUILDERS.org).

RIBA's headquarters is located at 450 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Building # 3, East Providence, RI 02914. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone: (401) 438-7400, Fax: (401) 438-7446. Here is a list of staff and their e-mail addresses:

John Marcantonio, Executive Director  
[jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org](mailto:jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org)

Katelyn Lombardi, Events Coordinator/Operations Assistant  
[klombardi@ribuilders.org](mailto:klombardi@ribuilders.org)

Elizabeth Carpenter, Administration  
[ecarpenter@ribuilders.org](mailto:ecarpenter@ribuilders.org)

Sheila McCarthy, Education Coordinator  
[smccarthy@ribuilders.org](mailto:smccarthy@ribuilders.org)

Robin Barlow, Health Insurance  
[rbarlow@ribuilders.org](mailto:rbarlow@ribuilders.org)

Joyce Therrien, Health Insurance  
[jtherrien@builderinsgroup.com](mailto:jtherrien@builderinsgroup.com)

Victor Dosoito, Bookkeeping  
[vdosoito@ribuilders.org](mailto:vdosoito@ribuilders.org)

Elise Geddes, Membership Relations  
[egeddes@ribuilders.org](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Felix A. Carlone**

## Let the future roll!

Election Day is finally behind us. Some voters are ecstatic, others devastated. Some will be ambivalent and others numb. We at the Rhode Island Builders Association will charge on!

As our new RIBA administration finalizes our agenda for the year, you as a member can look forward to many exciting new programs and activities. And as we nail down our 2013 legislative agenda, we urge all members to become actively involved. Ultimately, working for RIBA's agenda by testifying at hearings and talking with your local lawmakers will help you, your business and your family.

If any member has a legislative or regulatory issue that you feel needs to be addressed, contact Executive Director John Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400 or [jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org](mailto:jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org). Once again, helping us work to pass beneficial legislative and to prevent harmful legislation is good for the economy, the industry and your businesses.

### *New opportunities*

Our association's new educational lineup will include classes for new contractors as well as for the seasoned professionals. Look for more complete information in the Janu-

ary *Rhode Island Builder Report*.

This educational program will be a constant "work in progress," so please let the RIBA staff know of new class topics that are of special interest to you.

As you might be aware, the Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board has mandated continuing education for all contractors, though the actual course requirements are just being planned. A major benefit for RIBA members will be a reduced charge for these classes. If you have any subcontractors or other colleagues who are non-members, pass the word on this. The reduction in tuition could offset the cost of their membership, not to mention allowing them to benefit from RIBA's myriad other programs and services.

RIBA is working to grow the membership! As the new year begins, watch for the association's 2013 *Membership Benefit Guide*, with new and updated information on money-saving discounts and rebates, seminars and classes, information and outreach programs such as [RIBAlist.com](http://RIBAlist.com), complete information on insurance programs available

see *PRESIDENT...page 26*

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## From the Board of Directors

# New president welcomes new directors

After a detailed review, 2013 budget passes unanimously.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Welcoming new directors and passing the 2013 budget were among the items facing the Rhode Island Builders Association's Board of Directors as they met on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Board members congratulated Executive Director John Marcantonio for successfully executing the RIBA business plan and for streamlining the association's day-to-day operations.

The proposed budget was reviewed in detail and was approved unanimously.

President Felix A. Carlone, presiding over his first Board of Directors



*The Rhode Island Builders Association's Board of Directors meets on November 7<sup>th</sup>.*

meeting as president, welcomed five new local directors to the board: Frank Bragatin of Ferland Corp.; James

Deslandes of Deslandes Construction Inc.; Thomas Lopatosky of LOPCO  
*see BOARD...page 25*



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## RIBA's 2013 Member Directory, Buyer's Guide is in the works

What will last throughout next year, will have your name in it, and will be in the hands of thousands of potential customers before, during and after the Home Show?

The Rhode Island Builders Association's 2013 *Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide*! So now is the time for RIBA members to start planning their advertising in this attractive, year-long venue. Advertising rates remain the same as last year.

The *Directory* will be distributed to thousands of visitors at the 2013 Home Show, slated for April 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> at the Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence. But the publication will appear earlier than that, making it available to property owners as they seek out contractors and begin planning their spring construction and remodeling projects.

Once again, RIBA will have a drawing to award a free, full-page color ad to a lucky winner. Any advertiser who has purchased their *Directory* ad by December 15<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for the drawing. The final deadline for *Directory* advertising is December 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Directory* advertising has been mailed to members, and premium advertising positions will go quickly, as they always do. RIBA will once again offer advertising "package deals" with the *Directory* and *The Rhode Island Builder Report*. Advertisers who opt for both publications will earn a 5 percent discount on their total advertising cost.

"Remember that contractors, suppliers and the public use the *Directory* all year long. Advertising in the *Directory* and *The Rhode Island Builder Report* will cover all the bases for any advertiser, whether they serve contractors, the pub-

### AD RATES: 2013 DIRECTORY

(Ads sold to RIBA members only)

CENTER SPREAD, FULL COLOR	\$2,200
INSIDE COVER, FRONT, FULL COLOR	\$1,925 <b>SOLD</b>
INSIDE COVER, BACK, FULL COLOR	\$1,925 <b>SOLD</b>
BACK COVER, FULL COLOR	\$2,200 <b>SOLD</b>
FULL PAGE, GLOSSY, FULL COLOR	\$1,650
FULL PAGE, GLOSSY, BLACK + ONE COLOR	\$825
FULL PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$550
HALF PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$385
ONE-THIRD PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$330

lic or both," said Paul F. Eno, editor of the *Builder Report*. "Through the magazine, advertisers can reach their best contractor customers on a monthly basis."

Current and potential advertisers can expect to be contacted about advertising by Paul or Jonathan Eno from New River Press. Consider what these two unique, tar-

see *DIRECTORY...page 26*



## Two new faces on the RIBA staff

### Elise Geddes

#### Membership Relations

Elise Geddes comes to the Rhode Island Builders Association as the new membership relations coordinator. Since her arrival in October, Elise has been calling members to alert them to member benefits they might not be aware of, to see if they have any questions about their membership or issues in which RIBA can help, and to let them know that Executive Director John Marcantonio will be an active advocate for them.

Many members know Elise as the wife of longtime member William J. Geddes of Geddes Builders, based in Cumberland. But there's far more to the story. A graduate of Holy Cross College, Elise has worked in the residential construction industry since 1978. She not only has run the Geddes Builders office, but has drawn construction plans, done estimating, ridden shotgun on projects and dealt with clients.

As Elise's career progressed, she went back to school, studying drafting at the New England Institute of Technology. So be assured that she knows the residential construction industry and is a great resource for members!

Elise will be at the RIBA office most afternoons. Contact her at (401) 438-7400 or [egeddes@ribuilders.org](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org).



Elise Geddes



Robin Barlow

### Robin Barlow

#### Health Insurance

Robin Barlow comes to the Rhode Island Builders Association with an unusual background that combines work in the residential construction and health care fields. She has teamed up with RIBA's longtime health insurance administrator, Joyce Therrien, to assist members who subscribe to the association's Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans.

"If members have specific questions about their health coverage, they can still call Joyce. But if they need to make changes to their plans or have questions about a payment, they can call me," Robin said.

Robin worked for East Providence-based RIBA member the Marshall Building & Remodeling Co. for 20 years, doing sales, purchasing and administration. There followed a foray into the health care industry, which included three years with Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island. Later, Robin started her own business as a massage therapist, dealing with many occupational injuries, especially back issues.

A native of Bristol, Robin has two grown sons and lives with her family in Barrington.

Contact Robin at (401) 438-7400 or [rbarlow@ribuilders.org](mailto:rbarlow@ribuilders.org).

## Last chance: Recruit a regular member and get \$50!

The Rhode Island Builders Association's 2012-2013 membership drive continues, but your opportunity to win a special incentive that goes with it ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

That will be your last chance to nab a \$50 Referral Reward -- in cash -- for sponsoring a new full member!

In another membership improve-

ment, RIBA has adopted a \$20 a year "Affiliate Member" category.

Designed for the employees of full members, Affiliate Membership will enable more industry professionals to reap the rewards of RIBA and National Association of Home Builders membership at a fraction of the cost.

Affiliate members must be current

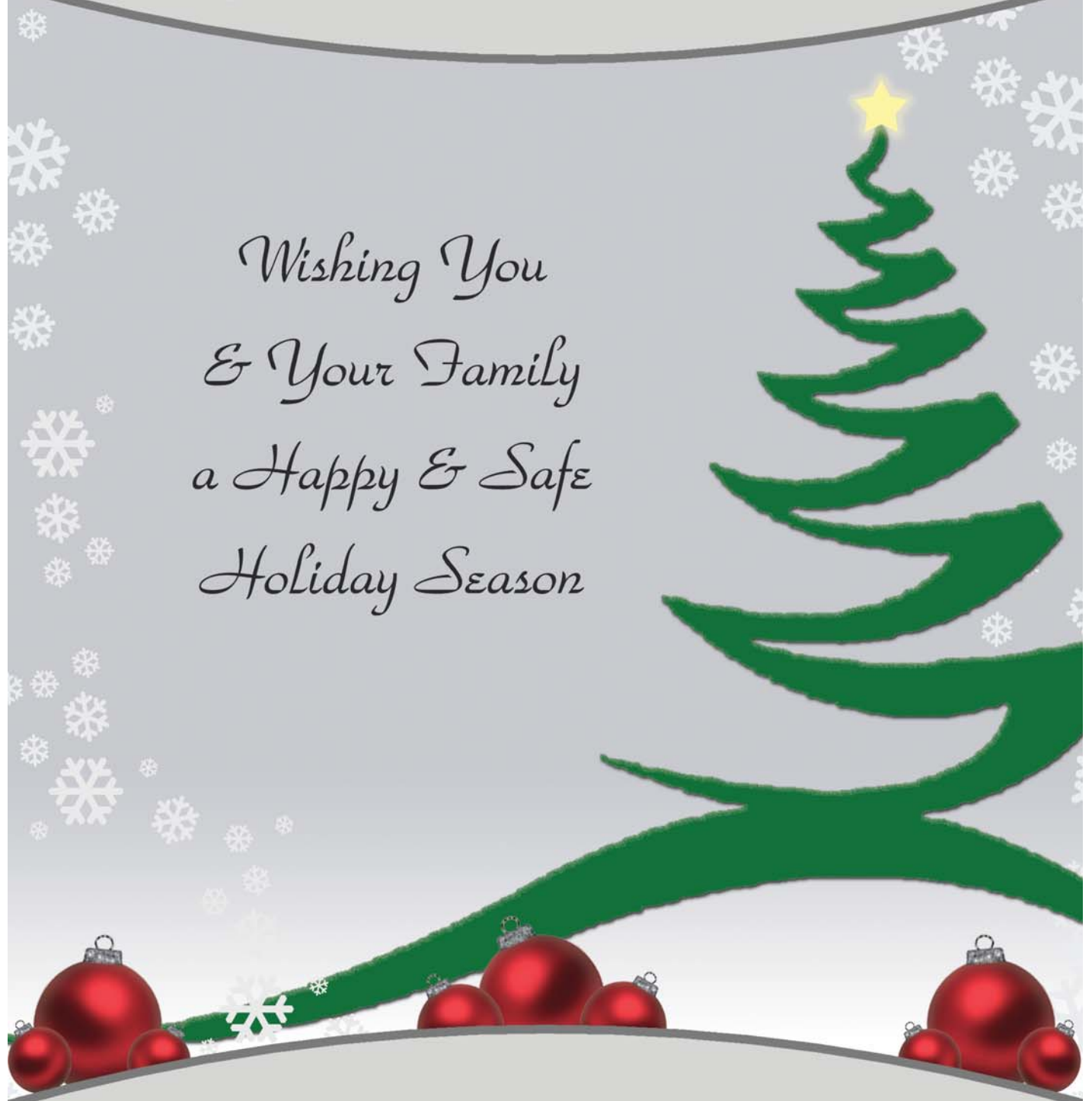
employees or family members of full (Builder/Remodeler, Subcontractor, Supplier, Realty or Professional) members. Sponsoring an affiliate member does not earn a \$50 cash reward.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Carpenter at the RIBA office, [ecarpenter@ribuilders.org](mailto:ecarpenter@ribuilders.org) or (401) 438-7400.



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# Professional Women in Building seeks new members, offers benefits

By Cheryl Boyd PWB President

The Professional Women in Building Council (PWB) is the premier professional organization that provides strategies and solutions for professional women in the building industry. Through our various publications, awards, scholarships, seminars and programs, we provide women in the industry with the professional advantage necessary to succeed and excel.

Locally, PWB recently welcomed its newest members: Carol O'Donnell of CRM Modular Homes and Kimberly Homs of Great in Counters!

### Calling All Women!

Our members consist of women who are members of the Rhode Island Builders Association and the National Association of Home Builders (Builder/Remodeler, Subcontractor, Supplier, Realty or Professional) and women who are employed by or are family members of a RIBA/NAHB member. Our members also receive well deserved recognition for the contributions they make to the home building industry, to home ownership and to the community.

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

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

We are always looking for new members to bring their individual and professional talents to the group. This is a great opportunity to network with other women in various professions within the housing industry. Joining PWB also brings you NAHB membership.

To find out more about PWB and how to become a member, contact Cheryl Boyd at (401) 255-5910 or [cboyd@arnoldlumber.com](mailto:cboyd@arnoldlumber.com).



Cheryl Boyd



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# RIBA in outreach to storm victims

With illegal contractors preying on the unwary, RIBA media releases and social media inform owners of damaged homes how to hire legitimate builders and remodelers.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy and the resulting "superstorm," the Rhode Island Builders Association has been reaching out to both the public and member contractors to assist in the state's recovery, primarily through social media and media releases, advising homeowners to use legitimate contractors.


Complicating the issue are gullible homeowners and the large numbers of unscrupulous contractors who inevitably follow in the wake of such a disaster. Many come to Rhode Island from other states.

George W. Whalen, executive director of the Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB), told *The Rhode Island Builder Report* that his agency has been assisting building officials in affected communities.

Mr. Whalen pointed out that, after the 2010 floods, hundreds of out-of-state contractors, some from as far away as Texas and Oklahoma, descended on Rhode Island. To their credit, many visited the CRLB to register before offering their services here, he added.

"We don't require testing, so the process to get registered is relatively easy. We realize that our own contractors need the work, but at the same time, there are homeowners out there in desperate need," Mr. Whalen said.

It seems clear that recovery from Sandy will take a long time and that there is plenty of work to be done.

RIBA members interested in doing residential disaster recovery work can start with the websites and phone numbers listed on page 14. There's also a related story on this page. 



**In this photo, taken by RIBA member Paul Schurman of P. Schurman Contractors Inc., dazed residents examine what's left of their homes on the Narragansett shore on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, a day after Hurricane Sandy.**

## Finding work

# For R.I. contractors, there's plenty to do

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Rhode Island's recovery from Hurricane Sandy will take weeks, if not months, so there is plenty of work for the state's contractors. Here are some suggestions on how to find work in storm recovery.

- Start with your own neighborhood or a neighborhood where people know you through previous work you have done there. If these areas have sustained storm damage, you can start with calls, mailings or even door-to-door marketing.

Be sure that you have the proper permission or permits from the city or town before doing any on-site marketing. Have your contractors' reg-

istration card and proof of insurance ready, and be prepared to draft the required written contract. Remember: If a customer signs a contract somewhere other than in your office, they have three days to cancel it.

Be sure that you, your crew and your vehicles do not impede first responders, utility companies or public works crews that might be working in a given neighborhood.

Also as you are out and about, be on the lookout for suspicious contractors, especially if their vehicles have out-of-state license plates. Report these contractors at once to the Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board at (401) 222-1268. This

see **FINDING WORK...**page 26

## Where to get information about disaster recovery and work

Here are some prime information sources for homeowners, contractors and businesses affected by Hurricane Sandy in Rhode Island. They also will be helpful for members of the Rhode Island Builders Association who themselves have been affected by the storm.

- **Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA):** Visit [www.RIEMA.ri.gov/](http://www.RIEMA.ri.gov/) or call (401) 946-9996.
- **Rhode Island Economic Development Corp. (RIEDC)** - Gov. Lincoln Chafee has established a \$1 million emergency loan fund for businesses affected by the storm. Visit [www.RIEDC.com](http://www.RIEDC.com) or call (401) 278-9100.
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** Visit [www.FEMA.gov/disaster-survivor-assistance](http://www.FEMA.gov/disaster-survivor-assistance) or call (800) 621-3362.
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA):** Low-interest disaster assistance loans: Visit [www.SBA.gov/category/navigation-structure/starting-managing-business/managing-business/running-business/emergency-preparedness-and-disaster](http://www.SBA.gov/category/navigation-structure/starting-managing-business/managing-business/running-business/emergency-preparedness-and-disaster) or call (800) 659-2955.
- **Craft Emergency Relief Fund:** Assistance to help sustain a craft artist's career when an emergency occurs: Visit <http://CRAFTEMERGENCY.org>.
- **Washington Trust Co.:** This RIBA member is working directly with contractors and homeowners on emergency financing. Visit [www.WASHTRUST.com](http://www.WASHTRUST.com) or call (800) 475-2265.



## Home Building Industry Disaster Relief Fund is available from the NAHB

### National Association of Home Builders

As recovery efforts continue following Hurricane Sandy, members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and affiliated associations are urged to keep in mind the Home Building Industry Disaster Relief Fund (HBIDRF), established in 2005 for the specific purpose of rebuilding communities affected by natural disasters.

HBIDRF is a recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization that focuses on helping people get back into their homes in the months following a natural disaster.

HBIDRF does not provide assistance directly to individuals or to NAHB's affiliated associations, but rather makes funds available for direct contribution to other recognized charities working with affiliated associations or members to rebuild and/or repair housing in the affected area.



*These photos taken in Narragansett after the storm by RIBA member Paul Schurman of P. Schurman Contractors Inc., convey some idea of the work that needs to be done.*

Since this fund was established, the HBIDRF Board of Directors has approved over \$2 million in grants to help rebuild damaged community facilities and housing all over the country, including Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Washington, Wisconsin and Tennessee. We encourage those who are currently engaged in rebuilding efforts – or are planning rebuilding projects because of a natural disaster-- to consider applying for funds from this important resource.

In addition, we hope that members

who may be considering a donation to help with current recovery efforts will keep the relief fund in mind, as it offers an excellent way for our industry to make a visible and positive impact on communities recovering from the effects of such adverse events as those that have taken place since October 28<sup>th</sup> on the East Coast.

Find out more about the HBIDRF at [www.NAHB.org/hbidrf](http://www.NAHB.org/hbidrf), or by contacting Jessica Lynch at [jlynch@nahb.org](mailto:jlynch@nahb.org), (800) 368-5242, ext. 8401; or Melissa Voorhees at [mvoorhees@nahb.org](mailto:mvoorhees@nahb.org), (800) 368-5242, ext. 8251).





## From the Green Building Committee

# Members use one of the newest technologies: solar shingles

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Green continues to be golden, even in the sluggish Rhode Island housing market. That's the news from members of the Rhode Island Builders Association's Green Building Committee, who say that one of the strongest factors in this market is emerging new technologies and the products they create.

"Members of our committee are out there in the real world testing and using these new technologies," stated Daniel G. Paquette of Sterling Construction Management LLC, chairman of the committee. "We all read about these technical advances, but until you actually put them into a building or have a client deal with them, you really don't know how well these products are going to perform."

One of these new technologies appears to be a step beyond traditional, roof-mounted solar panels. They're "solar shingles," and they've just been installed on a waterfront house in Narragansett by Green Building Committee member and RIBA Secretary David A. Caldwell Jr. of Caldwell & Johnson Inc.

"We are always looking for new technologies to use. The solar shingles we found out about through Rob Atkinson, the New England representative of CertainTeed, manufacturers of the product we used," Mr. Caldwell told *The Rhode Island Builder Report*.

"The idea of solar roof shingles has been under development for several years. As for the demand for this, there is strong interest in solar. The question is: Is it cost-effective for a given client? A little research on



**Stephen Hern, left, and Robert Atkinson of CertainTeed display the solar shingles.**

[www.EERE.energy.gov](http://www.EERE.energy.gov), which has a database of state and federal incentives and rebates, and a great deal of general information, will help answer that question for any builder."

Rhode Island is among the states with the poorest incentives, while Massachusetts has some of the best, according to Mr. Caldwell.

"Rhode Island's incentives aren't geared toward what we do. They're meant more to encourage wind turbines and large solar installations on commercial buildings," he added.

The 30 percent federal tax credit for homeowners installing solar energy systems, based on the cost of the system, is a different story. It often makes the difference in cost effectiveness for a client, especially on larger projects,

Mr. Caldwell pointed out.

He chose CertainTeed's Apollo Solar Roofing® for his showcase solar shingle project: A house on Great Island in Narragansett. Not only is the homeowner excited about the product, but the roof installation stood up to the winds of Hurricane Sandy in October with no damage, Mr. Caldwell said.

He obtained the product through RIBA member Coventry Lumber and its sales representative, Robert Carlson. CertainTeed representatives Robert Atkinson and Stephen Hern monitored and consulted on the Narragansett job.

"They're marketing this product specifically to builders rather than homeowners. It's much easier to install than

*see GREEN PROJECT...page 26*

# NAHB offers free registration for National Green Building Standard

## *National Association of Home Builders*

The National Association of Home Builders Research Center (NAHBRC) now offers free registration for its National Green Building Standard (NGBS).

NGBS is now being reviewed for approval by the American National Standards Institute as part of its development by the International Code Council (ICC-700).

Registering now will permit residential builders and developers to identify which rating system they plan to use on their journey toward certification — either the 2008 or the 2012 NGBS. NAHBRC has not previously had such a registration process in place. The 2012 NGBS has been under development for the past two years, and NAHBRC expects it to be available in the first quarter of 2013. NAHBRC will continue to serve as “adopting entity” for the NGBS and provide certification services for both the 2008 and 2012 versions.

Follow the development process for the 2012 version online at [www.NAHBRC.com/ngbs](http://www.NAHBRC.com/ngbs).

Single-family homes, multifamily buildings and residential land developments whose builders/developers wish them to be certified using the 2008 NGBS must register with NAHBRC within three months of the publication date for the 2012 NGBS. Once registered, single-family homes must be completed within 18 months of the 2012 NGBS publication to attain certification based on the 2008 version; multifamily buildings and land developments must be completed within 36 months of 2012 NGBS publication to attain certification based on the 2008 version.

Limited exemptions may be consid-

ered for the completion date, but exemptions will not be considered for the registration date.

Single-family homes, multifamily buildings, and residential land development projects seeking certification under the 2012 NGBS can begin the preliminary design process now using the draft 2012 standard. However, the builder and accredited verifier will need to ensure the building is constructed in compliance with the final published version of the 2012 NGBS, not the draft version.

No rough inspections will be allowed to take place until after the 2012 NGBS is published, and the verifier performing the inspection must be accredited to the 2012 NGBS.

## *To register your project*

All new projects seeking NGBS certification must register with the NAHBRC to start the certification process. There will be no cost to register a

project, but only an accredited verifier can register a project for certification. Builders, developers, or remodelers who wish to have their projects certified should contact an accredited verifier and enter into an agreement for them to start the registration process and provide verification services.

Projects already in process, or in the NAHBRC “pipeline,” will not have to register, but will have a registration number assigned to them by way of the verifier attached to the project.

The NAHBRC has created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document regarding the changes. There is also a summary presentation available that has been presented to both single- and multifamily builders in preparation for the program changes. You can also direct any specific questions on the green certification program to the NAHB Research Center online at [www.NAHBGREEN.org](http://www.NAHBGREEN.org) or (800) 638-8556.



## RIBA members earn over \$6,500 in rebates

Participating members of the Rhode Island Builders Association took in \$6,746 for the quarter ending September 30<sup>th</sup>, thanks to the Member Rebate Program.

The greatest beneficiary was member Hugh Fisher and Deer Brook Development Corp., which received a check for \$1,663 in rebates from manufacturers of products the company used on projects in the third quarter.

For the minimal effort of informing the program about the products you use, and telling them when you complete a home or a remodeling job, you'll be putting money back in your pocket every quarter.

The Rebate Program represents the combined buying power of RIBA's members, along with those of many other state and local associations. As a result, you can qualify for the same manufacturer rebates the nation's largest builders receive. For more information, visit [www.HBAREBATES.com](http://www.HBAREBATES.com) or contact Elise Geddes at RIBA, (401) 438-7400 or [egeddes@ribuilders.org](mailto:egeddes@ribuilders.org).





Member Profile: Michael McDole of National Building Products

# 30 years in the industry and going strong!

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

With 30 years in the industry, many of those spent being active in the Rhode Island Builders Association, Mike McDole of National Building Products is a familiar face to many RIBA members.

"I can remember attending the Clambake as far back as 1985, but I really became involved with RIBA in the early 1990s, attending meetings and working out sponsorships," Mike states.

Mike started his career as a building supply professional in 1982, as soon as he graduated from Roger Williams College. After two years with the 84 Lumber Co. branch in Cranston, Mike moved on to RIBA member JT's Harris Lumber, where he stayed for 17 years.

"I then went to Virginia, where I became a founder of The Building Supply Channel, an online training source for building supply professionals. It still exists," Mike recalls.

He missed Rhode Island, however. That's when he came back and joined RIBA member National Building Products, a family business with quite a story of its own.

The company opened in 1934 as National Lumber & Building Supply Co. in Roxbury, Mass. Founded by Morris Kaitz and still owned by the Kaitz family, it was meant to serve builders in the Boston area. Today, it's the largest-in-volume independent building material supplier in the Northeast, Mike reports.

Morris Kaitz and his sons Harold, Samuel, Louis and John worked hard, mentally and physically, to make the business grow. In those days, lumber was stocked by hand,



**Michael McDole, in front row, second from left, proudly poses with some of his sales representatives at the National Building Products facility in Warwick. From left, back row, are Tom Wickham, Lisa Zompa, Bill Lee, Mike Wahl, Chad Trombley. From left, front row are Evan Kerte, Mike, Dave Sheldon, and Dennis Levesque.**

with none of the work-saving machines that we take for granted today.

With every one of his sons away to serve in World War II, from 1942 to 1946, Morris kept the business going in spite of extreme hardships. After the war, the company found new avenues to success in the tremendous demand for new housing prompted by returning veterans.

And so it went. With the third generation of the Kaitzes in charge, National Building Products now has eight lumber yards: the Warwick location in Rhode Island, six in Massachusetts and one in New Hampshire. Corporate offices, where Mike is based, are at Mansfield, Mass. The facilities there include a 36,000 sq. foot retail building and drive-through warehouse, along with an Engineering Division with two in-house structural engineers.

There is a Pneumatics (PNE) Division that sells, rents and services power tools and heavy equipment. There is a kitchen and cabinetry division known as Kitchen Views.

see MIKE McDOLE...page 25

## **National Building Products**

**Vice President, Sales: Michael McDole**

**RIBA member since: 2002**

**Focus: Building material sales,  
design, woodworking**

**Serves: The Northeast**

**Founded: 1934**

**Based: Mansfield, Massachusetts**

**Employees: 518**



# DiPrete Engineering honored by charity

# Davitt Design Build appoints 3

DiPrete Engineering Associates Inc. was recently honored by the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society for raising more than \$22,000 during the society's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bike MS: Ride the Rhode event, a 150-mile bike marathon held each June.

A longtime participant in the event, DiPrete Engineering assembled a biking team of 15 people this year, under the name of PT Riders. The name honors Pegi Thibaudeau, sister of company president and Rhode Island Builders Association director Dennis DiPrete, who herself has MS.

During the last 10 years, DiPrete Engineering has raised more than \$200,000 for the charity.



*From left are Keith Briggs, Kevin Flynn and Thomas Vignali.*

Davitt Design Build Inc., based in South Kingstown, has announced some new appointments.

Thomas Vignali has been named general manager, and is now respon-

sible for overseeing the operations of the company and its affiliates, developing new clients and maintaining relationships with former clients. Mr.

*see DAVITT...page 25*

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# Our legislative advocacy program needs a new headline



**Steven Carlino**

The 2012 elections are finally over, and we were very happy to see passage of the \$25 million housing bond issue. This promises to be a boon not only to those people who need workforce housing, but also to many of our member contractors. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to craft this bond issue referendum and to get it passed! (*Related story on page 2.*)

Watch coming issues of *The Rhode Island Builder Report* for complete information about how the bond issue will work and how you as a member can benefit.

We were also pleased to see two members of the Rhode Island Builders Association achieve political victories. Sen. Frank Lombardo III was re-elected to the state Senate from

District 25 (Johnston) and Edgar N. Ladouceur of this committee was elected to the Ward 8 seat on the Warwick City Council.

RIBA's Legislative Committee has been busy since July with hearings before the state Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review (FSCB). We have been working hard to get that panel to roll back some of the unnecessarily restrictive alarm regulations that came in the wake of the Station nightclub fire of 2003.

We're happy to report that we have had some success. (*Story on page 1.*)

You can thank our entire committee, especially Ed Ladouceur  
*see LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE....page 24*



**Ed Ladouceur**

## RIBA's Legislative Committee

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

**Edgar N. Ladouceur, Co-Chairman**  
*Stormtite Co., Inc.*

**President Felix A. Carlone, Ex Officio**  
*F.A. Carlone & Sons*

**John Marcantonio**  
*Executive Director, Rhode Island Builders Association*

**John Anderson**  
*Insurance Reconstruction Services/Tech Builders*

**John Bentz**  
*Property Advisory Group Inc.*

**Frank Bragatin**  
*Ferland Corp.*

**David Caldwell**  
*Caldwell & Johnson Inc.*

**Thomas D'Angelo**  
*Terry Lane Corp./Progressive Realty Group*

**Michael DeCesare**  
*DeCesare Building Co., Inc.*

**John Dooley**  
*Home Safe Home*

**Roland Fiore**  
*South County Sand & Gravel Co., Inc.*

**Barbara Gallison**  
*Newport Plate & Mirror Glass*

**Thomas A. Hanley**  
*Law Office of Thomas A. Hanley*

**Dean Martineau**  
*Dean W. Martineau Carpentry & Painting*

**Carol O'Donnell**  
*CRM Modular Homes*

**Stephen Olson**  
*DePasquale Bros. Inc.*

**J. Robert Pesce**  
*Lehigh Realty LLC.*

**John Pesce**  
*Lehigh Realty LLC.*

**Scott Rabideau**  
*Natural Resource Services*

**Timothy Scanlon**  
*Government Strategies Inc.*

**Joseph W. Walsh**  
*Government Strategies Inc.*

**Gayle Wolf**  
*Government Strategies Inc.*

**Eric Wishart**  
*Civil CADD Services Inc.*

# OSHA: Full enforcement of fall rules starts on December 15

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Members of the Rhode Island Builders Association are reminded that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) temporary enforcement measures for fall protection expire on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

As of that date, all residential construction employers must comply with 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(13). They must ensure that employees working six feet or more above lower levels use guardrails, safety nets or personal fall-arrest systems. A personal fall-arrest

system may consist of a full body harness, a deceleration device, a lanyard and an anchor point.

Other fall protection measures may be used for specific types of work as defined in the regulations. For example, 1926.501(b)(10) permits the use of warning lines and safety-monitoring systems during work on low-sloped roofs.

Also, OSHA allows an effective fall-restraint system in lieu of a personal fall-arrest system.

"To be effective, a fall-restraint system must be rigged to prevent a work-

er from reaching a fall hazard and falling over the edge. A fall-restraint system may consist of a full body harness or body belt that is connected to an anchor point at the center of a roof by a lanyard of a length that will not allow a worker to physically reach the edge of the roof," an OSHA statement said.

As an employer, you might get a pass if you can demonstrate to OSHA that using a conventional fall-protection system isn't feasible or creates a greater hazard.

To do this, you must have a qualified person create a written, site-specific fall protection plan in compliance with 29 CFR 1926.502(k). That plan must document the reasons why conventional fall-protection systems are infeasible or why their use would create a greater hazard.

The regulations define residential construction as "construction work that satisfies both of the following elements: The end-use of the structure being built must be as a home, i.e., a dwelling. The structure being built must be constructed using traditional wood frame construction materials and methods."

At the same time, OSHA points out that "the limited use of structural steel in a predominantly wood-framed home, such as a steel I-beam to help support wood framing, does not disqualify a structure from being considered residential construction."

For more information about the fall-protection requirements, visit [www.NAHB.org/fallprotection](http://www.NAHB.org/fallprotection) or contact Robert Matuga (800) 368-5242, ext. 8507, at the National Association of Home Builders.

Information also is available at the OSHA site: [www.OSHA.gov/doc/residential\\_fall\\_protection/residential\\_guidance.html](http://www.OSHA.gov/doc/residential_fall_protection/residential_guidance.html).

## FIRE CODE...from page 1

Convinced that revisions can be made without compromising public safety, the FSCB made these major changes:

- **Increased thresholds for alarm requirements.** This basically involves the square footage in which an alarm system is required. This has risen from 2,500 to 10,000. Thresholds for requiring direct connections of alarm systems to fire stations have also increased.
- Property owners who installed alarm systems under the older, more restrictive requirements will no longer have to maintain them as previously mandated, eliminating the need for frequent inspections.
- Those with municipally connected alarm systems installed under the old rules will be granted relief from the sprinkler requirements.
- The requirement threshold for municipally connected alarm systems in apartments has gone from eight to 12 units.

One change that RIBA hoped for did not happen. The legislature in 2011 passed the 2010 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) code (the "alarm and signaling code"), allowing alarm-wiring systems to be installed without conduit, and allowing third-party alarm-monitoring services. When this came to the fire code board for re-consideration this year, labor interests blocked both provisions.

In 2004, the FSCB reacted to the Station nightclub fire of 2003 by severely tightening restrictions when it came to businesses, especially in the area of alarm systems.

The General Assembly approved these and they took effect, making Rhode Island's fire code one of the toughest in the country. More recently, the General Assembly gave the FSCB the authority to make changes to the code on its own, without legislative approval.

RIBA representatives, notably Executive Director John Marcantonio, along with Legislative Committee co-chair Edgar N. Ladouceur of the Stormtite Co., Mr. Wishart, and committee member Stephen J. Olson of DePasquale Bros. Inc., testified at two separate hearings since July.



## RIBA remodelers are skeptical

# Remodeling back to 2005 levels?

NAHB's Remodeling Market Index paints optimistic picture nationally.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Although indicators in the Northeast are still lagging, the National Asso-

## R.I. housing market still in doldrums

With only 161 new homes built between July 2011 and July 2012, the Rhode Island housing market remains flat, and prices continue to sag, according to recent data from the real estate media firm Hanley-Wood LLC.

Closings on new homes in the market area, which includes all of Rhode Island, plus Bristol County, Massachusetts, topped out at only 15 in July, the same figure as July 2011, the data indicated. Also in July, the average price of a new home sank to \$265,667, a 22.2 percent drop from the previous year.

"Compare this with 5,000-7,000 homes built per year in the 1970s, and 2,500 in the 2000's. Every elected official should be aware of these statistics. Rhode Island is still legging, and we have a long way to go," commented RIBA's immediate past president, Bob Baldwin.

For more information on state-by-state housing statistics, visit [www.BUILDERONLINE.com](http://www.BUILDERONLINE.com).

ciation of Home Builders Remodeling Market Index (RMI) nationally climbed to 50 in the third quarter of 2012, up from 45 in the previous quarter, NAHB announced on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

"The RMI is at its highest point since the third quarter of 2005, tracking the positive trends recently seen in the rest of the housing sector," an NAHB statement said.

The part of the RMI that measures current market conditions rose to 52 from 46 in the previous quarter, while the component measuring future indicators increased to 49 from 44. An RMI above 50 indicates that more remodelers report that 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 activity.

Not so fast, say two members of the Rhode Island Builders Association's Remodelers Committee.

"The RMI is a survey of remodelers that asks 'Is next quarter's gross income going to go up or down?'" points out Sam Brusco of Brusco Design & Renovation, based in Cranston.

"When the RMI is over 50, remodelers are optimistic of increased revenue, but it doesn't measure by how much. When the RMI is under 50, remodelers are thinking that revenues will decrease. When you look at a graph of the RMI since 2001, while keeping in mind what I just said, you'll see that the overall market dollar value has been losing ground since 2005," Mr. Brusco said.

The graph is available online at [www.nahb.org/fileUpload\\_details](http://www.nahb.org/fileUpload_details).



Sam Brusco, left, and Joseph C. Cracco

aspx?contentID=137354

"This RMI above 50 means that the market may no longer be losing ground. In other words, we've hit bottom – maybe," he added.

Mr. Brusco pointed out that Kermit Baker, director of the Remodeling Futures Program at Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, believes that, in early 2013, home improvement spending is going to increase about 13 percent from 2012, but it is difficult to predict.

Also pointing out that things are not as rosy in Rhode Island as the RMI suggests was Joseph C. Cracco of Modern Yankee Builders.

"I'm not seeing this improvement here in Rhode Island. Our state is last in New England and New England is lagging the country, especially when it comes to more construction starts," Mr. Cracco stated.

He did note that the Boston area is an exception.

"Things are fine for me, but levels of activity are a little lower this year, in spite of being up recently," he concluded.

NAHB Remodelers Chairman George Moore Jr., a remodeler from Elm Grove, La., insisted that the national picture is improving.

"The strength of the RMI, especially in owner-occupied properties, shows

see REMODELING...page 25

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**THE RHODE ISLAND BUILDER REPORT**

# Last chance to get in on the IBS: Unique chances for education, networking

WHEN: January 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2013

WHERE: Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev.

COST: Varies, but save by registering early.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: ASAP

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Visit [www.BUILDERSSHOW.com](http://www.BUILDERSSHOW.com)

or contact Elizabeth Thompson at [ethompson@nahb.org](mailto:ethompson@nahb.org) or (202) 266-8495, or Paul Lopez at [plopez@nahb.org](mailto:plopez@nahb.org) or (202) 266-8409.

Online registration is still under way for the 2013 International Builders Show (IBS) and National Association of Home Builders Convention. IBS is the largest annual light construction trade show in the world. The 2013 show features an enhanced education program and attractive deals for members and non-members who register early.

More than 800 exhibitors representing all facets of the building industry will be represented in the expansive exhibit hall. Attendees will be able to network with indus-

try professionals from across the country and abroad, and make business deals with top vendors representing a wide range of product categories.

Additionally, attendees can take advantage of education sessions offered on numerous topics, such as the housing and economic outlook, consumer preferences and trends, "green" building, sales strategies, and much more.

## *Enhanced education program*

For 2013, new features include more advanced-level courses, new daily master sessions that were designed as in-depth, full-day intensive programs to dig deeper into specific industry topics, such as technology touch points in the consumer life cycle, and daily keynote speaker sessions. The overall number of courses has been streamlined to 100 sessions to focus on only the best and most popular topics.

Register by visiting the show's website at [www.BUILDERSSHOW.com](http://www.BUILDERSSHOW.com).



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# Johnston contractor faces \$49K in OSHA fines in electrocution death of employee

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

With the full enforcement of fall protection standards by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) kicking in on December 15<sup>th</sup>, contractors shouldn't neglect other areas of compliance.

In November, OSHA cited Johnston-based AAA Professional Lawn Care Inc. (not a member of the Rhode Island Builders Association) for seven serious violations following an employee electrocution.

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, a worker who was performing tree trimming work at 5 Country View Dr., Johnston, was fatally shocked when the aluminum pruner he was using came into contact with a 7,200-volt overhead power line.

Along with pointing out the need to take extreme care when working around overhead wires, (see "Working Around Overhead Wires? Stay Clear of the Zap Zone" in our June 2012 issue), the incident illustrates OSHA's deep concern about such incidents, especially when they lead to worker deaths.

An investigation by OSHA's Providence Area Office found that the employer failed to have National Grid de-energize or ground the power line before the work was begun, as well as to provide protective shields, barriers or insulating materials to protect workers from shocks, burns or other electrical-related injuries. In addition, OSHA said, the pruner itself was not insulated and was used within 10 feet of the power line, which is in itself a violation of state law.

The agency also contended that the employee lacked both proper training and protective gloves, and that the employer did not institute work practices to reduce the electrical hazard.

A "serious violation" occurs when there is substantial

## HOUSING BOND...from page 2

bond process.

"We've studied the \$50 million housing bond of 2006 and its effects in-depth, and we've proven that its positive effects multiplied through the economy nearly 16 times, generating a total of \$800 million in overall economic activity. It produced 30 percent more homes than originally anticipated. We had originally thought that the \$50 million would allow us to build 1,000 affordable, long-term homes. In fact, it provided over 1,300 homes in 30 communities," Ms. Gorbea reported.

Watch *The Rhode Island Builder Report* for more information as the bond process unfolds.

probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known, according to OSHA.

"This worker's death could have been prevented had AAA Professional Lawn Care ensured that the power line was de-energized or otherwise properly protected," said Patrick Griffin, OSHA's Rhode Island area director. "Further, the company should have ensured the use of proper equipment, training and work practices to minimize this deadly but avoidable hazard."

AAA Professional Lawn Care, which faces \$49,000 in proposed fines, has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and proposed penalties to comply, meet informally with the OSHA area director or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

For information on violations and compliance, call OSHA at (800) 321-OSHA (6742) or the agency's Providence office at (401) 528-4669, or visit [www.OSHA.gov](http://www.OSHA.gov).

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE...from page 19

douceur, Eric Wishart, Steve Olson and Executive Director John Marcantonio for the time they put into this and the testimony they offered to the FSCB.

## 2013 General Assembly Session

It's hard to believe, but the 2013 legislative session is almost here. When state lawmakers convene in January, RIBA will be right there as always, advocating for our industry and your business.

Once again, we will need your help. RIBA's officers, staff, Legislative Committee and lobbyists cannot monitor up to 100 bills or more, testify before committees, educate legislators, and prevent economically destructive legislation on their own. To tell your story and advocate for you, you have to help, especially when it comes to talking with your own senators and representatives!

As the 2012 legislative session gets under way, we will keep you informed and advised as we go. And we will tell you how you can help. Please do so!

## CORRECTION

In the second paragraph of the interview with Monica Neronha in the November issue of *The Rhode Island Builder Report*, the third sentence should read, "There is preventive care coverage **without** cost-sharing (co-pays), and certain other aspects related to coverage."

## REMODELING...from page 21


that home owners are investing in remodels as home prices stabilize," Mr. Moore said. "As owners become more confident that investments in housing will hold their value, they are beginning to undertake projects to improve their comfort that they had been putting off."

As for the RMI nationally, all three indicators of current market conditions improved: maintenance and repairs rose to 56 (from 50), minor additions and alterations to 51 (from 47) and major additions and alterations to 49 (from 42). Current market conditions improved or held steady in all four regions in the third quarter of 2012.

Current remodeling activity was particularly strong in owner-occupied housing; the sub-components of the current conditions index for owner-occupied housing were all well over 50, ranging between 55 and 60.

Future market indicators in every region but the Northeast experienced gains from the previous quarter: Northeast, 38 (down from 41); Midwest, 50 (up from 46); South, 52 (from 46); and West, 52 (from 42). All indicators of future market conditions rose: calls for bids, 48 (from 44); amount of work committed for next three months, 46 (from 43); backlog of remodeling jobs, 50 (from 46); and appointments for proposals, 51 (from 43).

"The improvement in the RMI provides more evidence that the remodeling industry is making the orderly recovery from its low point in 2009, as we've been expecting," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe.

"Although remodeling projects over \$25,000 are now showing some signs of strength, they are still lagging behind smaller property alterations and maintenance and repair jobs. The recovery of the remodeling market in general, and large projects in particular, continues to be constrained by factors such as tight credit and problematic appraisals," Dr. Crowe said. 

## BOARD REPORT...from page 6

Contracting; Dean Martineau of Dean W. Martineau Carpentry, and Carol O'Donnell of CRM Modular Homes, and Nicolas Reuter of Picerne Real Estate Group.


Mr. Marcantonio presented the executive director's monthly update, noting that a revised and extensive RIBA educational program would be unveiled in January.

With the Rhode Island General Assembly to convene for its 2013 session in January, Mr. Marcantonio also outlined the association's basic legislative agenda for the session.

He also mentioned that RIBA officials will soon meet with representatives of the Rhode Island Dept. of Health to discuss possible changes to the state's Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) rules.

RIBA is always looking for members to serve in leadership positions.


For more information about serv-

ing on the Board of Directors or on a committee, contact Mr. Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400 or [jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org](mailto:jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org). 

## DAVITT...from page 18

Vignali holds a B.S. degree in business administration from the University of Rhode Island and is a licensed CPA in the state.

Kevin Flynn and Keith Briggs have been named project managers. Both will oversee the new construction and renovation of high-end residential properties throughout Rhode Island. Mr. Flynn holds a B.B.A. in finance from the University of Michigan and is a registered contractor in Rhode Island.

Mr. Briggs has a B.S. degree in building construction technology from Wentworth Institute of Technology. 

## MIKE McDOLE...from page 17

The Reliable Truss Co. of New Bedford, Mass., joined the growing National Building Products family in 2003. The millwork division expanded into National Millwork in 2006. There is a custom stair workshop.

Companies acquired by National Building Products over the years include Coldwell's and Arborway Kitchens, Berlin, Mass.; Tibo Lumber, Boscawen, N.H.; Pelletier's Building Supply, Gardner, Mass.; and Pro Insulators, which expanded National's involvement with the insulation supply and installation sector in 2009.

Mike McDole is now the senior vice president of sales.

"I spend about 50 percent of my time on the road. There are 32 sales people who report to me. I'm often on the road with the 11 representatives who serve Connecticut, Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. So I'm always meeting contractors, including many RIBA members."


National Building Products joined RIBA in 2002.

"Two of RIBA's services really stand out for us. One is the legislative and industry information, which is very important to us. Mainly through the magazine, RIBA does a very good job of keeping members informed, whether on the contractor side or the supplier side," Mike explains.

"This information might include grassroots trends that we want to pay attention to, or actual bills before the state legislature. Without that information, it would be very difficult for most people to be able to track that data. We don't have time to look into it on our own."

Mike also cites RIBA's educational seminars and courses.

"RIBA has something to offer everyone!"

For more information about Mike McDole and National Building Products, visit [www.NATIONAL-LUMBER.com](http://www.NATIONAL-LUMBER.com). 

## FINDING WORK...from page 13

agency is specifically looking for illegal contractors who are taking advantage of storm victims.

- The offices of local building officials are very busy in times of natural disasters, but they can be prime sources of information on what work needs to be done and where. Be aware that they cannot recommend specific contractors to homeowners, but might be able to point you in the right direction.

- There are a number of neighborhood associations in affected areas of Rhode Island. These can be first-hand sources of information about what the damage is and what needs to be done toward neighborhood recovery. One example: the Point Association of Newport ([www.THEPOINTASSOCIATION.org](http://www.THEPOINTASSOCIATION.org)). Some associations do not have websites but can be found on Facebook. The Governor Francis Neighborhood Association in Warwick is one of those.

- The Restoration Industry Association has an informative "Contractor Orientation to Catastrophic Disaster Work" at [www.RESTORATIONINDUSTRY.org/files/Contractor%20Preparation%20Tips.pdf](http://www.RESTORATIONINDUSTRY.org/files/Contractor%20Preparation%20Tips.pdf).

- Contacting the agencies listed in the information box on page 14 also could provide leads.



## PRESIDENT...from page 5

to members and much more. This handy booklet, which includes a membership application, will be available to members and potential members both at the RIBA office and online.

Speaking of information you can get online, don't forget to periodically check [www.RIBUILDERS.org](http://www.RIBUILDERS.org) and the RIBA Facebook page for helpful information that arrived too late for that month's magazine. Look for the "This just in..." lead-in.

Finally, congratulations to RIBA members Frank Lombardo III, just re-elected to the state Senate, and past President Ed Ladouceur, co-chairman of our Legislative Committee, just elected to the Warwick City Council.

All members are encouraged to run for office or to serve on appointed state and town boards. The more expertise from our industry that is present in the state and local zoning and planning processes, the more the decisions made there will be well informed.

For any information or assistance you need about your membership or in your business, be sure to contact RIBA at (401) 438-7400. That's why we're here!



## GREEN PROJECT...from page 15

regular solar panels, and there's no roof penetration. It also has a lower profile than panels," said Mr. Caldwell.

Apollo and products like it replace the standard shingle with a crystalline photovoltaic system that integrates with regular roofing. The solar shingles are directly wired into the home's electrical system through an inverter.

A second solar shingle project in the state has been carried out at a house in Jamestown by Green Building Committee member Michael F. Smith of M.F. Smith Associates LTD.

"We have some other projects coming up, and there's interest in this for spring," Mr. Caldwell said. "It's not too hard to sell the right customer on solar shingles, especially when they're building or retrofitting a super energy-efficient house. There is the issue of energy savings, and many people just like to know they're doing something for the environment by reducing their 'carbon footprint.'"

For more information, visit [www.EERE.energy.gov](http://www.EERE.energy.gov) or [www.CERTAINTED.com](http://www.CERTAINTED.com).

*Editor's note: The Rhode Island Builders Association does not endorse specific products. While a specific product may be reported on in conjunction with RIBA member activities, this does not constitute an endorsement by the association or by The Rhode Island Builder Report. Several companies manufacture solar shingles and related products, and members are urged to research each one thoroughly before selling or installing them.*

Along with Mr. Paquette, Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Smith, members of the Green Building Committee include Rick Arnold of R. Arnold & Sons Construction Inc., David C. Baud of Baud Builders Inc., Kenneth S. Bouvier of South County Post & Beam Inc., Robert Brierley of Calyx Homes Ltd., Sam Brusco of Brusco Design & Renovation, Michael R. Guertin of Michael R. Guertin Inc., Daniel G. Leonard of Anchor Insulation & Co., Robert Sherwood of National Grid's Conservation Services Group, and RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio.



## DIRECTORY...from page 7

geted publications can do for your business, especially in challenging times, when you need to advertise most. With signs of improvement in the market, it's even more important to keep the name of your business in the public eye.

By the time you read this, you should have received your *Directory* advertising information package from RIBA in the mail. Advertising information also is available online at [www.NEWRIVERPRESS.com/ribaads](http://www.NEWRIVERPRESS.com/ribaads), or call Paul or Jonathan at (401) 250-5760, ext. 1.

***Find out all the benefits of belonging to the R.I. Builders Association!***

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