Award-Winning Monthly Magazine of the Rhode Island Builders Association

January 2014

A big change in benefits for 2014...

RIBA invests big in member education

In a dramatic advance for its member benefit program for 2014, the Rhode Island Builders Association has announced that classes and seminars will now be free of tuition charges for members.

By Paul F. Eno Editor

"RIBA is putting all available cash back into member services, and we will be able to do this as long as our members recruit others and help grow the association." That's the word from RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio.

"This education program will allow RIBA members and their employees to obtain free classes in industry-related subjects."

The program will encompass OSHA 10-Hour Certification, lead safety, licensing courses, classes on the codes, marketing, law, Quick-BooksTM, and anything else the association can put together to help members improve their businesses, Mr. Marcantonio indicated.

In certain courses, there may be a charge for books or other materials. The free program does not include professional designations from the National Association of Home Builders, such as Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR), Certified Green Professional (CGR), Graduate Master Remodeler (GMR) and others whose tuition is set nationally.

"In the future, the education members are going to need to be contractors and to maintain

see EDUCATION...page 24

Rhode Island Builders Association

Offering free courses to members is one of the most important and valuable benefits RIBA has ever offered. We will continue to offer it as long as it is financially feasible.

-Executive Direct

-Executive Director John Marcantonio

FEATURED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Centerspread

Flood insurance overflows in R.I.

See the interview with Michelle Burnett, the state's floodplain coordinator, on how the rise in premiums will affect Rhode Islanders.

Page 22

State to review local permit fees

As part of its ongoing mission, the state Office of Regulatory Reform will soon review municipal permit-fee formulae and amounts.

Page 18

BUILD teams forming in R.I.

RIBA's Legislative Committee is forming Builders United for Informed Local Decisionmaking (BUILD) teams around Rhode Island.

Page 17

House for wounded vet nearly done!



As we went to press, this specially adapted house on Sherman Farm Road, Burrillville, was about to be presented to wounded Marine Cpl. Kevin Dubois and his family. The house was built by many volunteers organized by RIBA's charity, Builders Helping Heroes, and Homes For Our Troops. Story on page 6.



Last chance for ad space in RIBA Directory is Jan. 10

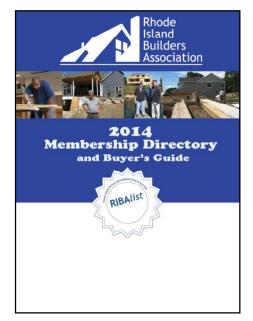
The advertising deadline for the Rhode Island Builders Association's 2014 Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide has been extended from December 30th to January 10th to accommodate advertisers who have asked for more time to prepare their artwork. As a result, the contest deadline has been extended as well: Anyone who purchases their ads before December 30th will be entered in a drawing to win an additional ad – full-color, full-page and free!

The RIBA *Directory* is a crucial advertising venue for any member or non-member company that does business with the public and/or contractors in southeastern New England. It will carry the name of your business throughout 2014, and be placed in the hands of thousands of potential customers before, during and after RIBA's 64th Annual Home Show in April.

Any contractor, supplier, subcontractor, lender, architect, lawyer, landscaper or real estate agency shouldn't miss this opportunity to reach so many potential clients.

"There are plans to echo the *Directory* and *The Rhode Island Builder Report* advertising on the RIBA website and on RIBAlist.com in 2014," comments Paul F. Eno of New River Press, editor of *The Rhode Island Builder Report*. "This will add value for our advertisers."

The low advertising rates remain the



same as last year.

The *Directory* will be printed, and distribution will begin, before the Home Show, and will be an excellent introduction to your business, especially if you're a Home Show exhibitor. The show will take place April 3rd-6th at the Rhode Island Conven-

tion Center, Providence. There, homeowners will seek out contractors and suppliers to begin their spring and summer construction and remodeling projects.

Information about the *Directory* was mailed to members in October, and premium advertising positions have already sold out. RIBA once again offers 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.

Current and potential advertisers are being contacted by Paul or Jonathan Eno from New River Press. Consider what these two unique, targeted publications can do for your business, especially in challenging times, when you need to advertise most. With an improving market, it's even more important to keep the name of your business in the public eye.

Use the advertising information package you received from RIBA. Advertising information also is online at www.newriverpress.com/ribaads, or call Paul or Jonathan at (401) 250-5760, ext. 1.

DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE For the FEBRUARY issue, copy.

To the PEDICOTIC Issue, copy.

ads and photos must be to us by

<u>Friday, Jan. 3</u>

Send material to
The R.I. Builder Report, c/o RIBA.
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or e-mail to

builder@newriverpress.com

Fax: (401) 356-0913

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Housing Network of Rhode Island Innovative Construction Inc. Interior Woodworking Solutions Island Design Homes Inc.

see MEMBERS...page 25

For membership information, visit www.RIBUILDERS.org or call (401) 438-7400



Official publication of the Rhode Island Builders Association since 1951

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Editor......Paul F. Eno

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LOOKING AHEAD!

OJanuary 8-9: OSHA 10-Hour Certification Course - RIBA headquarters, East Providence, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Attendance on both days is required for certification. Course is FREE for members, with \$25 for the book. \$100 charge for non-members, plus \$25 for the book. 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 11.*

OJanuary 14: 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. 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 11*.

OJanuary 15: First Aid CPR/AED class - 5-9 p.m., RIBA headquarters, East Providence. FREE for members, with a \$25 materials and certification charge. \$50 for non-members, with a \$25 materials and certification charge. To register, visit www.RIBUILDERS.org or contact Sheila McCarthy at smccarthy@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 12*.

January 15: R.I. Energy Code Classes - Two sessions sponsored by Conservation Services Group at RIBA head-quarters. Includes a general overview workshop, then a workshop on the envelope and building science in the Rhode Island Residential Energy Code. For more information and to register, call (885) 343-0105.

OJanuary 22: 8-Hour Lead Safe Remodeler Renovator Course - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at RIBA headquarters. This course is required for all contractors working in pre-1978 buildings. Course is FREE for members, with a \$15 materials charge. \$110 charge for non-members, with a \$15 materials charge. To register, logon to RIBUILD-ERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuild-ers.org, or call (401) 438-7400. Details on page 12.

OJanuary 23: Open House at RIBA, sponsored by the Remodelers Committee. Members and non-members are invited to come and network, and to learn more about RIBA. To register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Elizabeth Carpenter, ecarpenter@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Watch for details*.

February 4-6: International Builders Show - Sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev. Visit www.BUILDERSSHOW.com.

OApril 3-6: RIBA Annual Home Show - Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence. Visit www.RIBAHome-Show.com. *Details on page 7.*

OAugust 8: RIBA's Annual Outing & Clambake - Francis Farm, Rehoboth, Mass. Watch for information.

OSeptember 29: RIBA's Annual Golf Classic - Watch for information.

More information, registration and payment for most RIBA events is available at RIBUILDERS.org
Ondicates a RIBA-sponsored event.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Success on all fronts

First, may we all have a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year in 2014! Things have come together for the Rhode Island Builders Association in a powerful way over the past two years, and we will continue to head upward in the new year.

From the story on page 1, you'll see that RIBA is starting 2014 with a "bang" in the form of a revolutionary improvement to your member benefits: Free seminars, classes and workshops for members. This will save you hundreds of dollars on education that you need to fulfill regulatory requirements and to improve your business. And it should give your colleagues who don't belong still another reason to join!

Another step to improve your business and yourself in 2014 is to attend the International Builders Show (IBS), February 4th-6th in Las Vegas. Not only will you experience the world's largest light-construction show, but there will be unique educational and networking opportunities.

RIBA has always had respect and influence on the national level. The more of us who attend the IBS and other NAHB events, the more that respect and influence can deepen.

For RIBA, there were many highlights in 2013, but our improved and expanded Home Show, along with a beneficial year at the State House, truly stand out. Other hallmarks of the year were



Felix A. Carlone

our ongoing membership drive, complemented by expanded member benefit and recruiting-incentive

programs. There also was increased member participation in RI-BA's social and networking activities, and in governance.

Increased participation also was evident on the grassroots level as members heeded our call to contact their state lawmakers on issues of concern to the industry. Our legislative success was the result.

As for the Home Show, it continues to expand and improve. Any member who does business with the home-owning public needs to exhibit at the show. Those who already exhibit will tell you that it is one of their prime lead-generators for the entire sales year.

See the story on page 7 for more information about the Home Show and how to exhibit.

At our Annual Meeting in October, held at the Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown, it was very gratifying for me to lead RIBA in honoring many heroes of success in our association who are seldom or never recognized publically.

So let's keep the RIBA juggernaut rolling in 2014! Keep recruiting and participating, and we'll look forward to more successes in the new year.



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Trinity Excavating • United Builders Supply • Vector Stone Village Paint & Decorating • Vinyl Concepts

Volvo Rents of Southboro

Wood & Wire Fence • Zawadzki Plumbing and Heating

A huge team effort pays off!

The enormous team effort has paid off: The house is almost finished! As we went to press, wounded Marine Cpl. Kevin Dubois and his wife, Kayla, were about to receive the keys to their new home: a specially-adapted house in Burrillville. The 2,500 square-foot home was built by Builders Helping Heroes (BHH), the Rhode Island Builders Association's charity, working with Homes For Our Troops.

The official Key Ceremony was scheduled for December 21st to honor this young Marine, who lost both his legs in combat in Afghanistan during 2011.

In the meantime, generous donors of labor and materials were continuing to go through the punch list and tie up the loose ends. Along with BHH President Robert J. Baldwin, Project Manager David A. Caldwell Jr., Site Supervisor Vincent J. Marcantonio and many other RIBA members, association staffer Elise Geddes is singled out for thanks. Ms. Geddes, RIBA's membership relations coordinator, has been the project "closer," keeping track of

see HEROES...page 25



Taking care of last-minute chores at the Dubois home on November 26th are RIBA staffer Elise Geddes and Site Supervisor Vincent J. Marcantonio.



Home Show's Model Home to feature 'edible front yard'

WHEN: April 3rd-6th.

WHERE: Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence FOR INFORMATION AND TO OBTAIN EXHIBIT SPACE: Call Yoffe Exposition Services at (800) 963-3395 or visit www. RIBAHomeShow.com.

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Updates on the many new attractions we can expect at the Rhode Island Builders Association's 2014 Home Show continue to amaze and excite. How about an "edible front yard" at the show's centerpiece, the Model Home?

"No matter how green, lawns can be a very sterile environment. Food plants in a yard can be attractive, good for the environment, and good for children," commented Catherine Weaver of Tupelo Gardenworks Ltd., who is designing the feature.

"Children seldom see where their food comes from, and growing our own food is a long tradition, and it has often been a necessity. From the 'victory gardens' of World War II to today, there has been a renewed interest in gardening," Ms. Weaver said.

The edible front yard is just one part of a cooperative effort by RIBA and the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA) to help every Home Show visitor see the value of "an integrated approach to a home and its setting," said RINLA Executive Director Shannon Brawley.

"We also plan to design something around water," Ms. Brawley

added, though she could not yet be specific. "We do appreciate the chance to work so closely with RIBA. It's a good fit!"

The edible front yard will join the new "Ultimate Backyard" at the Model Home, a show hit that returns for the third year in a row, thanks to Carol O'Donnell of CRM Modular Homes. The home will be furnished by Raymour & Flanagan, and will once again be decorated by Karen Corinha of Corinha Design.

Also featured will be a new "Energy Expo," sponsored by the State of Rhode Island and National Grid. This exclusive exhibit area will showcase products and services designed to reduce home energy usage, and will be a center for educational and howto information.

The show will once again feature live cooking demonstrations, professional seminars, wine pairings and children's activities.

The hard-working Home Show Committee includes Chairman Ronald J. Smith of Ron Smith Homes LLC, Cheryl Boyd and Louis Cotoia of Arnold Lumber Co., RIBA Operations/Project Manager Elizabeth Carpenter, Ms. O'Donnell, Robert Yoffe of Yoffe Exposition Services, Ms. Corina, along with Cynthia Valenti-Smith and Bethany Palagi of Washington Trust Co., and Mary Cool of California Closets.

There's still time to plan your company's exhibit for the 2014 Home Show, but space is selling quickly as is expected to sell out soon. RIBA members receive an automatic 5 percent discount on exhibit space. Once again, RIBA anticipates that the show space will be sold out, so please call Mr. Yoffe for more information today or visit www.RIBAHomeShow.com.

PWB members network in S. Kingstown

There was no doubt that December was here if you happened to be at The Farmer's Daughter in South Kingstown on December 2nd. That's because you would have encountered the Rhode Island Builders Association's Professional Women in Building Council (PWB) and their guests, all enjoying their annual Holiday Party.

"Everyone had a wonderful time in the beautifully decorated greenhouse, where our festivities took place," commented Cheryl Boyd of Arnold Lumber Co., PWB's president. "With the help of the ladies at the Farmer's Daughter, we each created a beautiful and personalized centerpiece of mixed greens with a taper candle." The group reminisced, welcomed new members and enjoyed wine, crackers, cookies and mulled cider.

PWB invites all women involved with the residential construction industry to join. Men are welcome at PWB events also.

"PWB is always looking for new members to bring their individual and professional talents to the council," Ms. Boyd said.

She pointed out that, along with regular member benefits, joining PWB includes membership in the National Association of Home Builders Professional Women in Building Council. For information about PWB, contact Ms. Boyd at (401) 255-5910 or cboyd@arnoldlumber.com.



Cynthia Valenti-Smith, left, and Carol O'Donnell have fun on December 2nd.



RIKB nabs national honors

R.I. Kitchen & Bath (RIKB), a member firm specializing in kitchen, bath and interior renovations, recently received three Contractor of the Year (CotY) Awards sponsored by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI)

RIKB was honored with a Gold Award in the Residential Bath Over \$60,000 category, a Silver Award in the Residential Kitchen over \$150,000 category, and a Silver Award in the Residential Kitchen \$50,000 to \$100,000. The awards ceremony was held on November 13th at the Clarke Showroom in Milford, Mass.

The winning project in the "Residential Bath Over \$60,000" category involved remodeling an out-of-date, cramped

bathroom to create an attractive, modern space. RIKB expanded the shower, rebuilt the vanity and added all new lighting fixtures, tile and cabinets.

The work that brought the "Residential Kitchen Over \$150,000" honors involved turning a cluttered, uninviting kitchen space into a beautiful, open area where the clients can work, relax and enjoy family gatherings.

RIKB raised the ceiling in the kitchen, opened up the walls, and added all-new storage spaces, windows and appliances. Crews also extended the outdoor deck to wrap around the dining area.

The winning project in the "Residential Kitchen \$50,000 to \$100,000" category

involved restructuring a kitchen to create an open cooking space that takes advantage of the outdoor views, from the walls to windows.

"I am extremely proud of my company and the professional staff here at RIKB," stated company President Steven L. St. Onge.

RIKB was established in 1989 and has won numerous awards. For more information, visit www.RIKB.com or call (401) 463-1550.

Davitt project featured in magazine

It was a place in the sun for Davitt Design Build Inc. recently as *Rhode Island Monthly* magazine released its *2014 Home Design* special publication. The West Kingston-based company was singled out for building a classic Queen Anne shinglestyle house at a site on Sand Hill Cove in Narragansett.

Davitt removed the existing house, and architect John P. Beveridge designed the new house with an upside-down floor plan to maximize views. Andersen A-series windows and doors consistent with the architecture were used. Other features include a ground-floor game room and beach room, built-in dressers in the bedrooms, and a sophisticated sound and HVAC system. A grandfathered deck was replaced and used to create a house-to-beach promenade

It all took five months of permitting and eight months of construction, but the clients were pleased, according to company owner Matthew O. Davitt.

"Clients come to us with difficult sites because we know how to work through coastal regulations to get them what they want," Mr. Davitt was quoted as saying.

For more information, visit http://davittdesignbuild.com.

Kaplan promoted at Washington Trust

Washington Trust Co. announced recently that Kim L. Kaplan of Cranston has been promoted to vice president, secondary market, and is responsible for overseeing pricing of the bank's mortgage loan portfolios, monitoring capital market conditions, and managing the secondary market team.

Ms. Kaplan, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island, joined Washington Trust in 2008 and has held several positions within the Bank's Secondary Market Dept. Earlier this year, she was recognized with the Spirit of Washington Trust Award, which recognizes employees who have distinguished themselves as role models.



Kim L. Kaplan

DiPrete wins excellence award

DiPrete Engineering Associates Inc. is the winner of a *Providence Business News* Business Excellence Award 2013 in the "Excellence at a Small Company" category.

"At our firm, we have a good combination of creative people and analytical people who work very well together," stated company owner Dennis L. DiPrete. He also explained DiPrete Engineering's policies on cost streamlining, using employee talents, teamwork and eliminating waste.

Recent DiPrete Engineering projects have included the East Greenwich campus of New England Institute of Technology and Quonset Business Park.

Find out more at http://www.diprete-eng.com/.





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Member Profile: Christopher Kalil of Chris Electric Ltd.

His snap decision has snapped on the lights for thousands

By Paul F. Eno Editor

When Chris Kalil graduated from high school, he had no idea what he wanted to do.

"What do you want to do?" asked Dad. "I don't know," answered Chris.

"Want to be a plumber like your Uncle George?"

"I don't think so."

"How about a car mechanic?" Dad persisted.

"I doubt it," Chris responded.

"How about an electrician?"

"Hm. I'll try it!"

And with that fateful snap decision, off Chris went to the New England Institute of Technology. That was back in 1974.

"I guess it took," Chris told *The Rhode Island Builder Report* almost 40 years later

On graduating from New England Tech, Chris plunged right into the trade. First, he worked for Newport-based Bestoso and Butterton Electric Co..

then for a few more contractors before founding his own company, Chris Electric Ltd., in 1982.

Today, Chris Electric has 10 employees who range southern Rhode Island doing residential and commercial work.

"We do a lot of fire alarm and generator work too, and we're a service dealer for GeneracTM," the Middletown native explained.

Over the years, with jobs large and small, there have been some pretty illustrious clients. Among these have been Doris Duke, the Newport heiress and philanthropist, for whom Chris Electric did maintenance on 87 properties. Other clients have included the



Christopher Kalil

Carnegie Abbey Club in Portsmouth, the Newport Harbor Corp., Boys Town New England in Portsmouth and, most recently, Newport's Trinity Episcopal Church, one of the nation's oldest landmarks.

"We revamped all the exterior lighting at Trinity Church," Chris noted. "So when you're driving over the Newport Bridge at night and see that beacon, think of me!"

Chris Electric joined the Rhode Island Builders Association in 1983.

"I was attracted by the health insurance, and over the years we have taken advantage of many of the educational and other programs," he said.

Chris is also a major donor to the Dubois home building project in Burrillville, built by RIBA's charity, Builders Helping Heroes, and Homes For Our Troops. He donated labor and materials, installing the electrical service, wiring for the generator and the outside lighting. He co-brokered with J&J Electric Co., which handled the interior work.

It has truly been an interesting 40 years for Chris Kalil!



Owners: Christopher Kalil **RIBA member since:** 1983

Focus: Residential and commercial electrical work

Employees: 10

Serves: Southern Rhode Island

Founded: 1982

Based: Newport, Rhode Island



OSHA 10-Hour course offered Jan. 8-9

WHEN: Jan. 8th and 9th 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. each day

WHERE: RIBA headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy.

#301, East Providence 02914

COST: FREE for members, with \$25 book charge. \$100 for non-members, with \$25 book charge.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: Dec. 28th.

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.

The Rhode Island Builders Association is offering the OSHA 10-Hour Certification Course in January.

This course provides training in compliance with the Dept. of Labor & Training's municipal jobsite rules. The course trains safety directors, foremen and field employees in OSHA standards. It highlights major safety concerns to reduce jobsite accidents, saving time and money. Everyone completing the course will receive a copy of the OSHA Standard 29 CFR Part 1926 (\$25 book charge for those taking the course free) and an OSHA-10 certification card.

Lead licensing refresher to take place Jan. 14

WHEN: Tuesday, Jan. 14th, 1-5 p.m.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pky #301, East Providence 02914 COST: FREE for members, with \$15 materials charge. \$75 for non-members, with \$15 materials charge.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: Jan. 9th, also the cancellation deadline.

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 four-hour class is a refresher course for contractors who have their lead renovator/remodeler licenses and whose licenses are coming up for renewal or have expired within the six months before the class.

A small materials charge may apply.

The class will review lead-hazard controls and update attendees on any changes to regulations since they were issued their licenses. Be sure to keep your lead knowledge up to date by attending this class.



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CPR course slated for Jan. 15

WHEN: Wednesday, January 15th, 5-9 p.m.

WHERE: RIBA headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial

Pkwy., East Providence

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

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: January 9th

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.

The Rhode Island Builders Association offers a basic first aid course that could save a life on your jobsite or in your home. It includes instruction in CPR/AED (cardiopulmonary resuscitation/automated external defibrillation) on adults, children and infants. AEDs are defibrillation machines. The class also will help participants deal with choking in adults, children and infants. It will cover everything from protecting yourself and children to medical and trauma treatment and recognition.

Space is limited. Please register before January 9th.



8 Hour Lead-Safe course set for Jan. 22

WHEN: Wednesday, Jan. 22nd, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

WHERE: Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., East Providence 02914 COST: FREE for members, with a \$15 materials charge. \$110 charge for non-members, with a \$15 materials charge.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: Full payment required by Dec. 17th. Credit cards accepted.

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

The Rhode Island Builders Association will present the 8 Hour Lead-Safe Remodeler/Renovator Course in January. This course is required to obtain or renew a Lead Safe Remodeler/Renovator License, which is necessary for work in all pre-1978 buildings in Rhode Island.

This class covers the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) requirements in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, as well as those of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A written exam is given at the end of the course, and a passing grade allows attendees to apply for licensing in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and through the EPA.

There will be no refunds for cancellations after December 17th. No-shows will not receive refunds or credit toward future classes. Space is limited - please register now!



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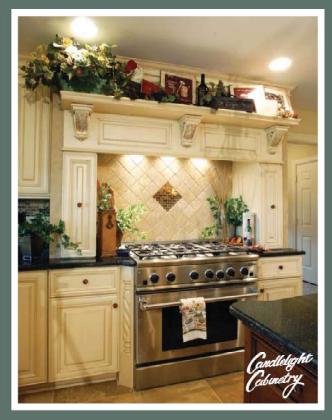
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A Rhode Island Builder Report Special Section











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Let's make 2014 another success!



Steven Carlino

It's a new year and a new session of the Rhode Island General Assembly. Once again, we will call upon our members to help the Rhode Island Builders Association maintain the legislative momentum we developed last year.

One of the best ways you can help is by signing up for RIBA's new action group, Builders United for Informed Local Decision-making (BUILD). This is a town-by-town, city-by-city network of RIBA members who will maintain personal con-

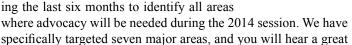
tact with their own state lawmakers, make our business concerns known, and generally educate these legislators about the industry, its importance to the state economy, and the effect that state legislation can have locally. BUILD members also will network with each other and RIBA's Legislative Committee to share ideas and strategies for local advocacy.

Remember that when you participate in BUILD, you are covering several bases at once. You're not only helping our industry and Rhode Island's economy, you're helping your own business in the process. And as you participate, there will be plenty of guidance and support available to you from RIBA headquarters.

BUILD is a team effort that we expect will take us to new levels of advocacy.

Our committee has been working hard during the last six months to identify all areas

deal about these as the legislative session develops.



Remember: Your local lawmakers participate in making the rules by which you must carry on business. If you don't educate see LEGISLATION...page 25



Robert J. Baldwin

RIBA's Legislative Committee

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

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

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ORR to look at local building permit fees

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Local building permit fees will be on the agenda for the state's Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR) in 2014. That's the word from Leslie Taito, who recently moved from the Rhode Island Economic Development Corp. to the Dept. of Administration to head the ORR.

"Most recently we have been working on the permitting from the state building code commissioner and the state fire marshal," Ms. Taito told *The Rhode Island Builder Report*. "We've mapped out their permitting processes and done some streamlining. In the fire marshal's office alone we took out four process steps."

She pointed out that Gov. Lincoln Chafee has appointed a Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), which will deal with local permitting, among other things.

"This consists of community representatives who will see what these state agencies have learned from electronic permitting, then deploy that in municipalities that don't have e-permitting," Ms. Taito said. "Permit fees are one of the issues this panel will work on, and they'll be working with ORR eventually."

MAC and ORR will have their work cut out for them. Single-family building permit fees in Rhode Island are all over the map – literally. From Westerly to Woonsocket, contractors and homeowners face not only varying and sometimes unpredictable fees, but different ways of calculating them.

Most Rhode Island municipalities base their fee calculations on an estimated construction cost or an estimated final value of the structure, which is, in turn, based on square footage. But the value assigned to a square foot can vary widely.

For example, Burrillville calculates \$70 per square foot for the living areas of a new single-family home or addition, with different square-footage values for garages (\$35), uncovered decks and unfinished basements (\$12), finished basements (\$40) and seasonal rooms (\$30). Tiverton, on the other hand, calculates \$110 per square foot for "all new construction."

In Smithfield, the square footage might be valued at \$60, \$70 or \$90, depending on the overall square footage. Other towns calculate permit fees based on different square-footage values for different floors. This includes Richmond, where first floors are valued at \$100 per square foot, and second floors at \$80.

"The trouble is that homes can be valued in many different ways. We could have \$120 per square-foot starter homes to \$200 per square-foot luxury ones. Some could be on sewer and water, or some with expensive septics and wells," said Ronald J. Smith of Ron Smith Homes LLC.

It should be understood that this article concerns base fees for single-family building permits only. It doesn't include development impact fees, plan-review fees, state and local wetlands or septic-system reviews and application fees, sewer and water con-

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	SINGLE-F.	AMILY BUILDING	PERMIT FEES	BA IOMN	T
CITY/TOWN	PERMIT FEE FORMULA - SINGLE FAMILY - NEW CONSTRUCTION*	MINIMUM FEE. FEES RISE FROM HERE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.	CITY/TOWN	PERMIT FEE FORMULA - SINGLE FAMILY - NEW CONSTRUCTION*	MINIMUM FEE. FEE: RISE FROM HERE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
BRISTOL	Based on construction cost or square footage as determined by the building official.	\$35 up to \$5,000 of calculated value of construction	NEWPORT	Based on construction cost in graduated increments.	\$35 up to \$500 of construction cost
BURRILLVILLE	Based on construction cost as determined by the building official.	\$25 up to \$1,000 of construction cost	NEW SHOREHAM	Did not respond to request for permit fee schedule.	
CHARLESTOWN	Based on construction cost in graduated increments.	\$25 up to \$1,000 of construction cost	NORTH KINGSTOWN	Did not respond to request for permit fee schedule.	
COVENTRY	Based on construction cost in graduated increments.	\$50 up to \$4,500 of construction cost	NORTH PROVIDENCE	Based on estimated final value in graduated increments.	\$40 up to \$500 of fin value
CRANSTON	Based on construction cost in graduated increments.	\$35 up to \$499 of construction cost	NORTH SMITHFIELD	Based on square footage.	35¢ per square foo
CUMBERLAND	Based on construction cost as determined by the building official.	\$50 up to \$500 of construction cost	PAWTUCKET	Did not respond to request for permit fee schedule.	
EAST GREENWICH	Based on construction cost as determined by the building official.	\$30 up to \$500 of construction cost	PORTSMOUTH	Based on estimated final value or square footage as determined by the building official.	\$48 up to \$150 of fin value
EAST PROVIDENCE	Based on the cost of construction as determined by the building official.	\$50 up to \$5,000 of construction cost	PROVIDENCE	Based on the cost of construction according to a graduated formula.	\$40 up to \$500 of construction cost
EXETER	Based on a series of construction factor "multipliers" and a "modifier."	\$25 up to \$499 based on these variables	RICHMOND	Based on the estimated cost of work by square footage	\$40 up to \$1,000 or construction cost
FOSTER	Did not respond to request for permit fee schedule.		SCITUATE	Did not respond to request for permit fee schedule.	
GLOCESTER	Did not respond to request for permit fee schedule.		SMITHFIELD	Based on the estimated final value in graduated increments.	\$40 up to \$500 of fin value
HOPKINTON	Based on estimated final value as determined by the building official.	\$15 up to \$500 of final value	SOUTH KINGSTOWN	Based on the estimated final value in graduated increments.	\$25 up to \$500 of fir value
JAMESTOWN	Based on estimated final value, labor and materials.	\$25 up to \$500 of final value, etc.	TIVERTON	Based on estimated final value by square footage.	\$15 up to \$149 of fir value
JOHNSTON	Based on the cost of construction as determined by the building official.	\$60 up to \$1,000 of construction cost	WARREN	Based on square footage.	\$55 per sq. ft.
LINCOLN	Based on the cost of construction as determined by the building official.	\$25 up to \$500 of construction cost	WARWICK	Based on "valuation of current construction cost"	\$30 up to \$500 of construction cost
LITTLE COMPTON	Based on a set fee, plus the cost of construction	\$60 plus \$3 per thousand	WEST GREENWICH	Did not respond to request for permit fee schedule.	
MIDDLETOWN	Based on the cost of construction as determined by the building official.	\$25 plus \$30 for the first \$1,000	WEST WARWICK	Based on the estimated final value by square footage.	\$35 up to \$500 of fir value
NARRAGANSETT	Based on square footage.	40¢ per sq. ft. with a \$40 minimum	WESTERLY	Based on construction cost in graduated increments.	\$25 up to \$1,000 o construction cost
OTICE. ACCURACY OF THIS CI OLL F. ENO AT BUILDER@NEW	CIALS' OFFICES. THIS INFORMATION IS HART IS NOT GUARANTEED. CORRECT RIVERPRESS.COM. *THESE ARE THE E L CONSTRUCTION AND DO NOT INCLI	IONS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO ASE BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR	WOONSOCKET	Did not respond to request for permit fee schedule.	

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nection charges, late filing fees, certificates of occupancy fees, state fees for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and continuing-education fees, radon charges, fire code-related fees,

or other charges.

Watch *The Rhode Island Builder Report* for more information on this matter, or contact RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400 or jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org.



From the Environmental Committee

RIBA, DEM tackle permit issues

By Paul F. Eno Editor

Application processing, mailing delays and other issues that have been thorns in the side for those needing septic-system and wetlands-related permits were on the docket as the Rhode Island Builders Association's Environmental Committee met with officials of the Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) on November 19th.

Topics covered included inconsistency in DEM reviews, mounting and changing regulations, the mailing process for applications, long review times and website login issues. Also discussed were the revised stormwater rules, soil-evaluator concerns, and problems with DEM's coordination with the Dept. of Health.

"We went over several issues that have been troublesome to designers and applicants when it comes to interacting with

DEM," reported Timothy J. Stasiunas of The Stasiunas Companies. co-chairman of the Environmental Committee.

"The meeting appeared to be positive. The staff assured us they would look into the issues we brought up. We further discussed single-

standards legislation and the stakeholders group that is working on that issue," Mr. Stasiunas added.

Single-standards legislation refers to a law enacted by the General Assembly in 2013 that sets up a task force to implement elimination of local wetlands rules and replace them with statewide regulations.

Also attending the meeting were RIBA



Thomas E. D'Angelo and Timothy A. Stasiunas Co-Chairmen, RIBA Environmental Committee

President Felix A, Carlone. Environmental Committee Co-Chairman Thomas E. D'Angelo of Terry Lane Corp./Progressive Realty Group, Legislative Committee Co-Chairman Robert J. Baldwin. RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio, DEM Director

Janet Coit and Terrence Gray, DEM's associate director for Environmental Protec-

"I emphasized to Director Coit that the housing industry is such an integral part of our economy that if we can't rein in antidevelopment sentiment in our state and local regulations, this state will not recover economically," Mr. Stasiunas said.





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A conversation with...

Michell Burnett

Rhode Island State Floodplain Coordinator

Michelle Burnett joined the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) in May 2008. She is involved in all aspects of floodplain management and works directly with communities and residents to help implement their floodplain management regulations. She has over 13 years of experience in environmental issues. She chairs the Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association (RIFMA) and is the Association of State Floodplain Managers' Region 1 director. Ms. Burnett became the seventh certified floodplain manager (CFM) in Rhode Island. Originally from New York, she received her bachelor's degree in marine biology and master's in marine affairs/coastal policy, both from the University of Rhode Island.



press time. Editor)

THE RUIL DER: Is it true that for exist-

(This legislation had not been enacted as of

THE BUILDER: Is it true that, for existing buildings, insurance rates could rise \$10,000 to \$12,000, albeit in increments?

BURNETT: Yes, that's true, depending on different factors. Each structure will be rated differently, depending on age, type of construction, the flood zone it's in, the amount of coverage, and the deductible. These will all make a difference in the premium. But incrementally, between the premium increases policy holders will see every year, and the phase-out of subsidies, there is the potential for the kinds of increases you mention.

THE BUILDER: Aside from the rise in

premiums that many in the media are talking about, Rhode Island Builders Association members have been taken aback by the elimination of grandfathering in the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act. Now, with the new maps based on the law, some people's insurance rates will soar even though their house might have been built only a few months ago. What's the justification for this?

BURNETT: The justification for the changes in the program and what's coming down are based on the attempt to eliminate the subsidized premiums for those with older homes. These would be structures built prior to the first flood zone map that went into effect for that community.

Over the years, owners of these structures have been paying the subsidized rates. So the idea is to start eliminating those rates and base the premiums more on risk, making them more actuarial.

THE BUILDER: In November and December, Congress was considering delaying the worst of this through the Grimm-Waters Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, but wouldn't that just postpone the inevitable?

BURNETT: If it passes, this legislation delays implementation of the rate increases for homes and businesses that would have been grandfathered if they're in an area that was later re-mapped to a higher-risk area. It also directs FEMA to conduct an affordability study within two years.

THE BUILDER: Do you think that many people in waterfront homes who don't have a mortgage will simply forego flood insurance?

BURNETT: For some people, I think that will be the case. If you have a waterfront home, either by a river or on the coast, and you own your home outright, you might forego it. It will be their decision about whether they can afford that premium.

THE BUILDER: If I build under the current code, then the maps change again, what will that do to my flood insurance?

BURNETT: Depending on how the maps change, you could be in two different situations. They might place you in a lower-risk zone, or out of the flood plain entirely, and you would be in good shape. But if you were placed in a higher-risk zone, or even just have a change of elevation based on the same zone, your insurance rating, over time, would change. They're getting rid of grandfathering come late 2014. Your premium will increase.

THE BUILDER: When you say change elevation, what do you mean?

BURNETT: The (basic flood) elevation (BFE) on the map.

THE BUILDER: Will the Biggert-Waters rules apply to inland flood zones too?

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BURNETT: Yes, it's across-the-board. It's inland, it's coastal and it's nationwide.

THE BUILDER: If people build above the BFE, shouldn't their insurance be set and not further decrease with more height?

BURNETT: Based on the way they rate the policies now, the higher you go, the larger the decrease. That's the incentive for building higher. So for every foot of "freeboard" above that BFE, that premium will, in fact, decrease.

THE BUILDER: Is that an indication that federal officials expect that maps will keep increasing the BFE?

BURNETT: I don't believe so. I think it's more that the BFE as stated on the maps is considered the minimum. FEMA encourages cities and towns to go above and beyond. Our state building code reflects that already, with at least one foot of freeboard required. So homeowners are incentivized to go above that, as long as they keep within the local height restrictions.

THE BUILDER: Are you working with communities to help people go "above and beyond" by increasing local height restrictions?

BURNETT: Not to increase the height restrictions. But what cities and towns are starting to look at, Westerly in particular, is zoning amendments that allow up to two feet above the required freeboard. This wouldn't require a variance. So Westerly has been very proactive on that.

THE BUILDER: Why does Rhode Island feel that the FEMA maps aren't good enough, and where's the proof?

BURNETT: All the coastal communities, within the past few months, have received new maps from FEMA with all new data. That doesn't include Bristol County, which will make changes next year. But Kent, Newport, Providence and Washington Counties have the new panels. So the old maps weren't considered good enough because they were based on old data. But the new maps take into consideration 20 years worth of new data. So the maps are now light years ahead of where they were before.

THE BUILDER: What are "panels"?

BURNETT: The flood insurance rate maps are issued on a county-wide basis. So within each county, the communities are mapped out in a grid, in multiple rectangles. Each rectangle is a map panel.

THE BUILDER: Since FEMA issues these maps on a county-wide basis, and Rhode Island has no county governments,

how were the revisions actually adopted?

BURNETT: Each community in that county must adopt a revised flood-plain ordinance that references the new maps. They have to go through the whole public process for adoption. That has been done in all 18 coastal communities (not including Barrington, Bristol and Warren, which will adopt their maps and ordinances in May). The rest have new ordinances and new maps.

The contractor that produced these maps for FEMA either walked or boated along every foot of our coast.

(The contractor is Risk Assessment, Mapping, and Planning Partners, or RAMPP, based in Virginia. Editor)

THE BUILDER: Sandy's damage was caused by sand erosion occurring during a moon tide. Was the main problem erosion in a "perfect storm" scenario rather than flooding?

BURNETT: With Sandy, what we saw in Rhode Island was a little unique. We had a sideswipe, not a direct hit as New Jersey and New York had. It wasn't a "perfect storm" scenario for us. We didn't see the wind damage that we'd normally associate with a hurricane. Our wind damage was minimal.

We did see the storm surge, which moved inland a block or two. Houses two blocks inland were flooded. But four or five blocks from the water, nothing happened. But the immediate coastline was hammered.

The day after the storm, I went down to Westerly. And I was standing on three feet of compacted sand on Atlantic Avenue. The devastation in that area was unprecedented, but isolated.

THE BUILDER: We've spoken with a number of state regulators on this issue before, and they say that the cost of this extra freeboard is minimal. But members of the Rhode Island Builders Association say this isn't true. Are economic considerations part of the regulatory picture?

BURNETT: I think economic considerations are incredibly important. For folks doing newer construction or substantial improvements, the cost to elevate an additional foot or two is a fraction of the overall project cost. But if that homeowner needs a flood-insurance policy, they would recoup that cost in no time (through lower premiums). The little extra spent up-front will save that homeowner significant money over the long term.

THE BUILDER: As of this interview (November 25th), the Grimm-Waters Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act has not passed. If it does, how will it affect what we've discussed?

BURNETT: If the bill does become law, things will change again. People should keep their eyes and ears open on this, to see if things will change in a different direction. This law would require that FEMA do an affordability study, so it would delay implementation of the increases. It could possibly slow down or even stop many of the insurance changes.

EDUCATION...from page 1

that status will be provided to members free by RIBA," Mr. Marcantonio said.

"We plan to be the biggest educational value for our industry in Rhode Island. This education program should more than meet that expectation."

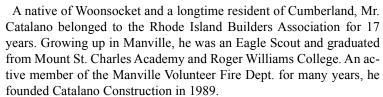
He emphasized that the free tuitions will be available to members and their employees, not subcontractors who are working for members but are not members themselves. Employment with a member will have to be verified. He also stressed that participants should register for the classes early, as this program is expected to be very popular.

"We can offer this program to members because RIBA is putting all possible financial resources back into membership services. But to keep programs like this available, we ask our members to help the association grow by encouraging their colleagues to join," Mr. Marcantonio stated.

For more information, contact Sheila McCarthy at RIBA, (401) 438-7400 or smccarthy@ribuilders.org.

Bernard Catalano, 62

Bernard "Bernie" J. Catalano, a civil engineer and vice president of Catalano Construction Inc., died unexpectedly on November 18th. He was 62.





Bernard Catalano

Mr. Catalano enjoyed attending live concerts and vacationing on the beach with his wife of 35 years, Diane, who worked with him in the family business.

Along with his wife, he is survived by three children, Jason Catalano of Cranston, Lauren (Catalano) Pistorio and her husband Alexander Pistorio of Easton, Mass., and Corinne Catalano of Malden, Mass.

Burial took place in St. James Cemetery, Manville. Contributions in Mr. Catalano's memory may be made to the Providence Animal Rescue League, 34 Elbow Street, Providence, RI 02903, or the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005.

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LEGISLATION...from page 17

them about the residential construction industry – how it works, what it needs, and how vital its health is to the overall economy, -- they'll probably get their information from anti-growth forces or others who can't or won't see "the big picture."

Contact RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio for more information on BUILD and to sign up: (401) 438-7400 or jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org.

In the meantime, stay informed! One of the best ways to do that is by signing up for the new "e-notification" system at your town or city clerks' office. Thanks to legislation supported by RIBA during the 2013 legislative session, you can sign up to receive e-mail notifications of all pending local actions on land-use issues, zoning, planning and municipal council actions that can profoundly affect your and your clients' property rights.

So stay informed and be involved!

HEROES...from page 6

the last-minute details. As the job drew to a close, donors have continued to come forward, including:

G. Perry Paving paved the driveway.

Granites of America donated all the granite in the house, including the countertops.

Cardi Corp. just completed the driveway.

Conservation Services Group worked with Energy Star® Homes to make sure the house is energy-efficient.

Deslandes Construction and Greenwich Bay Homes contributed a great deal of last-minute work, tying up loose ends.

J&J Hardware donated many materials.

J&K Electric and **Granite City** donated many light fixtures.

M&M Disposal and SDS Disposal hauled away the debris.

N.C. Cleaning did at least two house cleanings. Ocean State Radon donated the radon services.

Shelf Improvement did last-minute shalf installation.

Rhode Island Analytical donated well-water testing. Watch for the full wrap-up of the Dubois project in our Febru-

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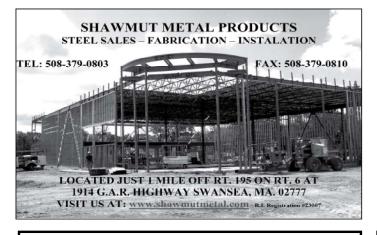
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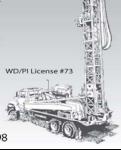


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