



Builders Helping Heroes



Dignitaries break ground at homesite for wounded Marine

RIBA charity draws generous contributions of labor and materials from members and non-members alike.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Over 100 people turned out on May 18th for the official groundbreaking at the future home of wounded Marine veteran Kevin Dubois and his wife, Kayla, in Burrillville. Representatives from the Rhode Island Builders Association and Homes for Our Troops (HFOT) were joined by state and local political leaders, police, firefighters, volunteers, students, local well-wishers and an honor guard from the Marine Corps League.

Also attending was Marine Lt. Col. Richard Paddock, the commanding officer of Cpl. Dubois' battalion while he served in Afghanistan.

"I happen to be studying



The official groundbreaking at the Burrillville homesite for Marine Cpl. Kevin Dubois and his wife, Kayla (center) took place on May 18th. From left are Builders Helping Heroes President Robert J. Baldwin, Homes For Our Troops Executive Director Dawn M. Teixeira, Rhode Island Builders Association President Felix A. Carlone, wounded Marine Sgt. Joshua Bouchard, and Marine Lt. Col. Richard Paddock.

at the Naval War College in Newport, and I heard about this event. I couldn't not be here!" Lt. Col. Paddock commented.

Another Marine Corps veteran, Capt. David A.

Caldwell Jr., RIBA's secretary and the project supervisor for the Dubois home-building effort, helped welcome the crowd to the jobsite. Now vice president
see HEROES...page 6

SEE OUR NEW PRODUCTS SPECIAL SECTION!

In this issue, *The Rhode Island Builder Report* introduces a new special section to highlight the latest products and services that manufacturers and suppliers are offering to builders and remodelers.

Centerspread

Check the latest code changes

Blower door testing is now a requirement for new homes in Rhode Island. See the latest changes to the building code in this issue.

Page 3

Clambake ticket prices lower

The Rhode Island Builders Association's 63rd Annual Outing & Clambake is slated for Friday, August 9th, and ticket prices are as low as ever. Make it your annual company outing!

Page 12 and Back Cover

RIBA launches recruiting awards

Earn many different rewards for recruiting new members in 2013 and beyond.

Page 11

RIBA prepares to be one-stop source for state-mandated education credits

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

While the timeline is still uncertain, Rhode Island's contractors can expect state-mandated continuing-education requirements to take effect within the next six to nine months, and the Rhode Island Builders Association will be a one-stop provider for the necessary classes.

"The Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB) continues to work on revising rules and regulations, which will include the continuing education requirements," reports George W. Whalen, the CRLB executive director.

In the meantime, RIBA has been preparing not only to provide the classes, but to let members know what classes will be required as far in advance as possible, says Executive Director John Marcantonio.

"Members will know what's coming and when it's coming. Available to them will be the best, most comprehensive, least expensive and most valuable education program to meet the new state requirements," Mr. Marcantonio said.



Classes and seminars offered by the Rhode Island Builders Association often take place in the spacious meeting room at RIBA's East Providence headquarters.

"Members will have no need to worry about this. RIBA will walk them through it when the time comes. In fact, it's an excellent reason to get your peers to join RIBA, for those who have not yet done so."

Along with the continuing-education requirements, there will be a mandatory pre-registration course for new contractors, Mr. Marcantonio points out.

"There will be more and more classes offered by RIBA, and the prices will keep coming down. This will be of tre-

mendous value to members."

RIBA Education Coordinator Sheila McCarthy is already working to line up instructors and scheduling so that no time will be lost when the CRLB requirements take effect, he adds.

Online services in sight

In another development at the CRLB, photo IDs and online registration are among the goals this year.

There are no firm dates as yet, but with the help of new CAVU software,

see EDUCATION...page 29



The Rhode Island Builders Association, long a vital education resource for contractors, plans to be the best value for classes to be required under the state's continuing-education rules, which are expected to be in place soon. Watch for further information on what you will need.

**-Executive Director
John Marcantonio**

DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

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

FRIDAY, JULY 5

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RIBA welcomes our new members and thanks their sponsors!

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For membership
information, visit www.RIBUILDERS.org or call
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2013 R.I. code changes include blower door tests

Changes take effect on July 1st, but there will be a three-month grace period for builders to get up to speed.

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

Blower door testing is required on all new Rhode Island housing units as of July 1st, but the purpose will be to learn how to build more efficiently rather than passing or failing new homes.

That's the word from Robert E. DeBlois Jr. of DeBlois Building Co., a member of the state Building Code Standards Committee (BCSC), which recently adopted changes to Rhode Island's One- and Two-Family Building Code based on the 2012 international codes as approved by the International Code Council.

"Our 2013 code is stricter on energy requirements, such as the thermal envelopes, caulking around windows and that sort of thing," Mr. DeBlois explained. "The ultimate test of how well a builder has done all that is to subject the house to a blower door test by a third party. A certain number of air changes an hour are allowable."

Mr. DeBlois was quick to add that contractors will have a three-month grace period from, July 1st until October 1st, to adapt to this and other code changes.

When considering the blower-door requirement (see **N1102.4.1.2 Testing** in the code book), Mr. DeBlois also said that he had one major concern.

"A blower door test can't be carried out until a house is virtually complete. At that stage, how does a builder go back and fix any issues that might arise from the test?" he asked.

With this in mind, the BCSC decided that the test results will be a learning experience for the builder rather than a pass/fail situation.

"If one house isn't up to snuff energy-wise, the builder can learn what to do better in the next house and so on, to ease it out over time," said Mr. DeBlois. "So the purposes of the test are information-gathering and education."

A blower door test uses a machine to measure the airtightness of small to medium buildings. It can also measure airflow between building zones, test ductwork airtightness and help locate air leaks in a building envelope.

The machine consists of a calibrated, variable-speed fan capable of pressurizing or depressurizing the building, a pressure-measurement instrument, called a manometer, and a system to mount the fan in a building opening, such as a

see **CODE...page 29**

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LOOKING AHEAD!

♦ **August 9: 63rd Annual RIBA Summer Outing and Clambake** - Noon to 7 p.m., Francis Farm, Rehoboth, Mass. Sponsors and prize donors are being sought. To register, contact Elizabeth Carpenter at RIBA, ecarpenter@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400. *Details on page 12 and Back Cover.*

♦ **September 4-5: 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. To register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact contact Elizabeth Carpenter, ecarpenter@ribuilders.org, or Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org or call (401) 438-7400. *Watch for more details.*

♦ **September 12: BBQ/Networking Night/Membership Drive** - 4 to 7 p.m. at RIBA headquarters. Stop by and enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken and all the fixings! Then find out about all the new incentives for you to recruit new members. *Details on page 11.*

♦ **September 23: 22nd Annual RIBA Golf Classic** - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wannamoisett Country Club, Rumford. Sponsors and prize donors are being sought. All proceeds will benefit Builders Helping Heroes. To register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact contact Elizabeth Carpenter at RIBA, ecarpenter@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400. *Watch for more details.*

♦ **October 8: 8-Hour Lead Safe Remodeler Renovator Course** - 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at RIBA headquarters. This course is required for all contractors working in pre-1978 buildings. Cost: Members \$150, non-members \$195. To register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact contact Elizabeth Carpenter, ecarpenter@ribuilders.org, or Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org or call (401) 438-7400. *Watch for more details.*

October 9-12: National Association of Home Builders Fall Board Meeting - Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Visit www.NAHB.org for more details.

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

♦ Indicates a RIBA-sponsored event.

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. 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:

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Felix A. Carlone

It was a proud moment...

It was a very proud moment when I stood at the Burrillville site where our charity, Builders Helping Heroes (BHH), is building a house for a Marine who lost both his legs in Afghanistan. It was May 18th, and I was there with other representatives of the Rhode Island Builders Association, BHH, Homes For Our Troops (HFOT), members of the Marine Corps League, public officials, and many local residents for the official groundbreaking.

It was particularly inspiring to see the variety of people who attended. There were many young people, many veterans, local police and firefighters and even Brad Campbell from our neighboring trade association to the west, the Home Builders Association of Western Massachusetts.

There was Josh Bouchard, another young Marine wounded in the Afghan War and another who has benefited from the fine work of HFOT.

It was most inspiring of all to meet the Marine who will live here, Cpl. Kevin Dubois, and his wife, Kayla. They are a beautiful young couple and now, after all they have given for our country, will have a new, specially adapted home where they can start their family.

Many members and non-members alike have rallied to support this project with donations of labor and materi-

als, along with cash donations.

See the complete list on page 6.

If you can see your way clear to do so, please join them. It will be one of the best things you ever do. To find out more about donating time or materials, please visit www.BUILDERSHELPINGHEROES.org, contact Bob Baldwin at bob@rbhomesinc.com or (401) 255-6546, or Dave Caldwell at dave.caldwell@caldwellandjohnson.com or (401) 885-1770.

Cash donations can be made by visiting www.HOMES-FOROURTROOPS.org/dubois.

Legislative program

Many thanks to those who have worked so hard to advance RIBA's legislative advocacy during the General Assembly's 2013 session. But as I write this, the session isn't over yet! Remember that the bills RIBA supports directly benefit you and your business. It's not too late to help! See page 22.

Recruitment rewards

There are thousands of good, legal contractors in Rhode

see *PRESIDENT...* page 29

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Builders Helping Heroes



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Tartaglia Trucking Inc.
Trinity Excavating Inc.
Volva Rents of Southboro
Wood & Wire Fence Co., Inc.

HEROES...from page 1

of North Kingstown-based Caldwell and Johnson Inc., Capt. Caldwell is an active participant in RIBA's charity, Builders Helping Heroes (BHH), which is doing the actual construction work.

"I spent my first wedding anniversary (in 2002) deployed with my Marine unit in Afghanistan. I made it back in time for the birth of my first daughter, and I've since rejoined my business here in Rhode Island," Capt. Caldwell stated.

"I was lucky. Not all the people in my command made it back, and not all made it back in one piece. So when the chance arose to get involved with Homes For Our Troops and Builders Helping Heroes, and to build a home from the ground up for this great Marine, I jumped at the chance."

He singled out the donors and volunteers who are making the project possible.

"Homes For Our Troops has been great lining up national sponsors, but the men and women who will actually get this house built are members of the community."

As of the first week of June, local companies that had worked on the project included:

Mousseau Land Clearing. Gary Mousseau donated the land-clearing services.

Smithfield Peat Co. Jackson Despres donated site services, including removing and trucking away stumps and rocks, stripping the loam, excavating the foundation, and donating and placing the crushed stone under the foundation.

Cullion Concrete Corp. Mark Cullion and Nicholas Squeo donated materials and the use of a payloader. The company also donated the use of trucks and services to haul materials to the site.

R.P. Iannuccillo and Sons Construction. Brian Iannuccillo donated the crusher for use on roughly 2,500 yards of material at the site.

DiGregorio Inc. Enrico DeGregorio donated all the concrete for the foundation and the slab.

A.B.C. Concrete Form Co. Domenico Picozzi and Robert Zarella contributed the footing and foundation forms, and the setup in a difficult site situation.

Tartaglia Trucking Inc. Jesse Tartaglia donated the use of trucks and services to haul materials to the site.

Macera & Martini Transportation. Wayne Martini donated the use of trucks and services to haul materials to the site.

Trinity Excavating Inc. Robert J. Baldwin donated the use of trucks and services to haul materials to the site. Individual employees donated time to operate the machines and backfill the foundation. These included Gary Carberry,

see BHH...page 28



Builders Helping Heroes



←
The groundbreaking ceremony at the future home of wounded Marine Kevin Dubois and wife, Kayla (at left), took place on Sherman Farm Road in Burrillville on May 18th. Welcoming the couple to the site are, from left, Homes For Our Troops Executive Director Dawn M. Teixeira, Builders Helping Heroes (BHH) Project Supervisor David A. Caldwell Jr., BHH President Robert J. Baldwin and Rhode Island Builders Association President Felix A. Carlone.



↑
Capt. Caldwell, himself a Marine veteran of the Afghan War, addresses those assembled for the ceremony and thanks those who have donated to the project.



←
A color guard of veterans from the Marine Corps League renders honors during the national anthem.



→
Mr. Carlone and RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio chat with Brad Campbell of the Builders Association of Western Mass.

22ND ANNUAL RIBA GOLF CLASSIC

All Proceeds to Benefit Builders Helping Heroes

Monday, Sept. 23rd, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wannamoisett Country Club, Rumford
Sponsors and prize donors are being sought.

To register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact contact Elizabeth Carpenter at RIBA, ecarpenter@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400.

From the Board of Directors

Board discusses wide variety of issues before its summer recess

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

A legislative review, recruiting new members with the help of a vastly expanded education and rewards program, and upcoming revisions to the state's stormwater regulations were among the topics at a wide-ranging meeting of the Rhode Island Builders Association's Board of Directors on June 4th. It was the final meeting of the board until September 3rd.

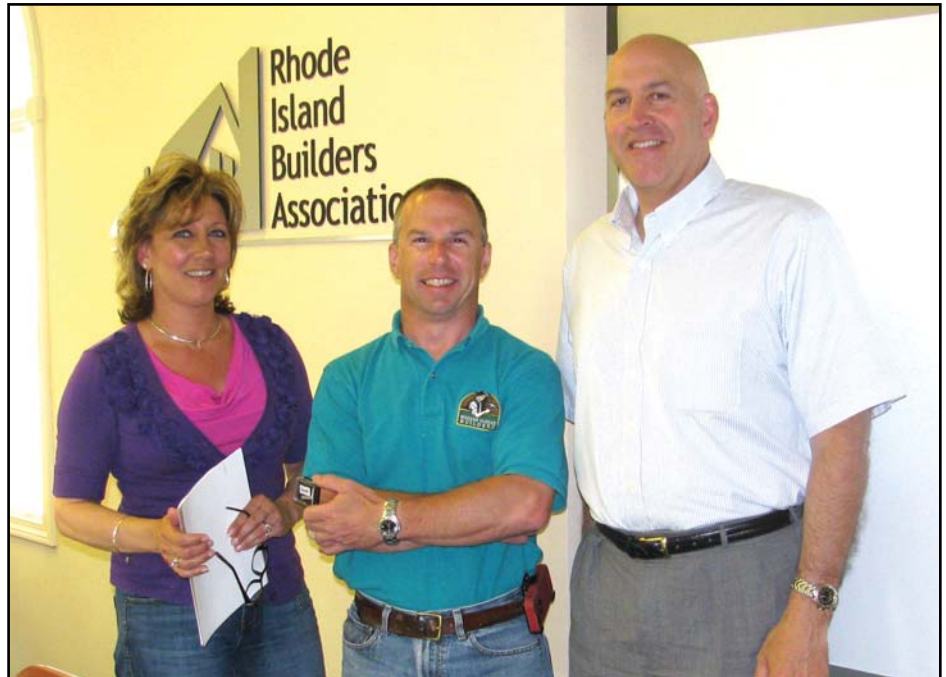
Executive Director John Marcantonio took members through the primary legislation RIBA is working for (see page 22) and updated the status of each measure. He also reviewed some local issues related to the practice of "inclusionary zoning," or requiring a developer to include a certain number of "affordable" units in developments whether or not they are appropriate for the development.

There was a brief discussion of pending changes in the state's One- and Two-Family Building Code (see page 3). The suggestion was made that e-mail "blasts" be used to keep members updated on code matters. It was decided that the current 73-page code, with updates, be posted at www.RI-BUILDERS.org.

Mr. Marcantonio also outlined ongoing efforts to expand RIBA's educational offerings to meet state requirements for continuing education for contractors. RIBA plans to offer all necessary classes, he said, and all contractors will be welcome to participate (see page 2).

Board members Thomas E. D'Angelo and Timothy J. Stasiunas, co-chairs of RIBA's Environmental Committee, reported on possible revisions to the Rhode Island Storm Water Design and

see BOARD...page 29



Accompanied by RIBA Membership Chairwoman Cheryl Boyd and Vice President Roland J. Fiore, Joseph C. Cracco of Modern Yankee Builders Inc., center, receives his Spike Award at the RIBA Board of Directors meeting on June 4th. Mr. Cracco recently recruited six new members.



With Ms. Boyd, RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio and Vice President Fiore looking on, William J. Geddes of Geddes Builders receives an NAHB award for recruiting 75 new members in his time as a RIBA member.

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Member Profile: Brian Lombardi of J. & J. Hardware and Appliances

He has the construction trades covered from both ends

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

He's been on both sides of the desk – the building inspector's desk, that is. And don't let the name of his business fool you: Brian Lombardi of J&J Hardware and Appliances is a third-generation home builder who has known his way around the jobsite since childhood.

"I was always involved in the family construction business, as were my grandfather, my father and my uncle," recalls Brian, a Cranston native.

The family business was Realty Enterprises, founded by Brian's grandfather and granduncle. The company built a number of homes in the Garden City area, and also did some light commercial work. Brian himself studied at La Salle Academy, the Community College of Rhode Island and the University of Rhode Island, then headed straight back to construction.

"In the late 1990s, an opportunity came my way, and I became a part-time building inspector in Smithfield. Then, when I got married, we bought a home in Gloucester, where I became building inspector in 1992. I spent the next 15 years in that post," Brian says.

He remembers becoming disillusioned with the bureaucracy and politics on the local and state levels, however, so he decided to get back into construction.

"I wasn't getting any younger, so I found a partner, Bob Allaire. We got back into residential construction and remodeling under the name of Diversified Building Co., then we bought J&J Hardware & Appliances in 2010."

J&J, founded in 1946, was already a member of the Rhode Island Builders Association. Finding a balance between construction and supply wasn't difficult.

"The supply end dovetails with our construction work,



Brian Lombardi, left, and partner Bob Allaire

and we'd like to do that for other builders too. We'd like to get J&J back to its origins," Brian says.

In the field, Brian and Bob handle residential construction and remodeling, and some light commercial remodeling, mostly in central to northern Rhode Island.

"I don't like to get tied up in one area or one job for too long," Brian states.

As with other RIBA members, Brian has had to adapt to the tough economic scene.

"We've broadened the aspects of what we do. We take jobs we wouldn't have been interested in during better times, and we keep a sharp watch on the numbers," he says.

Brian is a vocal supporter of both contractor licensing and for getting illegal contractors off the street.

"We run legitimate businesses, with proper insurance, registration and the rest, but we're up against so many people in this state who are unregulated or do this part-time," says Brian, echoing the opinion of other RIBA members. "In my family, we learned our skills over the years, not part-time or summers as do many of these illegal contractors."

One reason Brian became active in RIBA was to have more of a voice and to get more action in the arenas of licensing and enforcement.

"We try to pinch pennies during these times, but we're up against these people. And there's no official measure of

J. & J Hardware and Appliances

Owners: Brian Lombardi and Robert Allaire

RIBA member since: 2010

Focus: Building supplies, residential construction and remodeling, light commercial remodeling

Serves: Primarily central and northern Rhode Island

Founded: 1946

Based: Cranston, Rhode Island

see LOMBARDI...page 28

Win cash prizes for recruiting new members!

RIBA enhances recruiting drive with new rewards and incentives

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Because the Rhode Island Builders Association appreciates the many members who recruit their industry colleagues, the association has established a special rewards program to recognize them.

That's the word from Executive Director John Marcantonio, who added that the new program will be retroactive for any new full members recruited since October 2012 and will be ongoing from year to year.

Rewards include entry in an annual \$500 cash drawing for recruiting six or more new full members. And there's more:

- Recruit one new full member and get a special RIBA hat.
- Reach three new full members and receive a fleece vest.
- Reach six or more new full members and receive the hat, the vest, plus a Spike Award from the National Association of Home Builders, a limited-edition RIBA fleece jacket, and a chance to win \$500 in an annual drawing.

"We very much appreciate those who bring in new members, and we want to recognize and reward them," Mr. Marcantonio commented. "This will be an ongoing and progressive program for 2013 and beyond, updated regularly with new incentives. The more recruits members accumulate, the better the rewards. It won't expire."

The cash drawing will take place at the RIBA Annual Meeting each October and will include those who have recruited six or more new full members since the previous October. Other rewards will be made on an ongoing basis at different RIBA events. Recruiters also will be recognized in *The Rhode Island Builder Report*.

"This is the time to grow our association. We have new benefits, new services and are structured to assist the industry in many new ways. RIBA needs your help to get the word out, and we want to reward your efforts."

Potential members must be approved by the RIBA Board of Directors for the recruiter to be eligible for the awards, which do not apply to recruiting affiliate members.

Membership Relations Coordinator Elise Geddes can fully explain the rewards program and the member benefit program. She also will be happy to assist any member in recruiting efforts. Contact her at egeddes@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400.

Attend the membership drive BBQ!

To learn more about this new program, stop by the RIBA

office from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 12th for the BBQ/Networking Night/Membership Drive event. Enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers and grilled chicken with all the fixings, and find out about the rewards you can earn.

In the meantime, member company employees can get in on all the member benefits through RIBA's "affiliate member" category.

Affiliate members are entitled to all benefits of membership as outlined in RIBA's *Membership Benefit Guide*. Member dues for employees are just \$20 a year per employee. Affiliate members must be employees of full RIBA member companies. For more information on any of these membership topics, contact Ms. Geddes.



Elise Geddes

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63rd Annual Outing and Clambake: Ticket price is lowest in years!

WHEN: Friday, August 9th, noon to 7 p.m.
WHERE: Francis Farm, Rehoboth, MA 02769
COST: \$38 each for the first 200 people, \$65 or less thereafter, depending on sponsorships.
DEADLINE TO REGISTER: August 2nd
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.

With the ticket prices as low as they've been in years, members are gearing up for the Rhode Island Builders Association's 63rd Annual Summer Outing and Clambake. With beautiful Francis Farm as the backdrop, this biggest of RIBA's annual networking and social events will feature food, fun, games and unique contests.

The low ticket price will include all that and two free beers. Make 2013 the year that your company makes the RIBA Outing your annual outing, as many companies do!

Sponsorships

Every penny from sponsorships goes to lowering the ticket price. The more companies that come forward to sponsor the event, the lower the ticket price will get, so please consider a sponsorship. Contact Elizabeth Carpenter at the RIBA office, ecarpenter@ribuilders.org or at (401) 438-7400

for more information about sponsorships for the Outing or any other RIBA event.

Sponsors will be recognized at the Outing venue and in *The Rhode Island Builder Report's* Outing Issue in September. See the box below for sponsorship levels.

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

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

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



Every penny from sponsorships of the Outing and Clambake goes toward lowering the ticket cost. See the box below for information on becoming a sponsor.

**-Executive Director
John Marcantonio**

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Patron: Includes a banner at dinner, mention in *The Rhode Island Builder Report*, and a website link.

Friend: Includes mention in *The Rhode Island Builder Report* and a website link.

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



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"I must admit I was skeptical about pre-cut rafters, but after the pre-engineered flooring system came together so nicely, you earned my confidence. Our reputation depends on building custom homes to exact standards. The coordination between the field and your shop was flawless, and the final product was installed quickly and without issues...."

"We are thrilled using this roof system. We will never cut another roof. I was amazed at how perfectly everything fit together...."

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National Building Products, Warwick, R.I.

401-921-0400 • national-bp.com Page 5



Zuri™ Premium Decking

Royal Building Products has recently launched Zuri™ Decking in New England. This high-end product provides exquisitely detailed planks evocative of "beautifully crafted fine furniture." The decking is made of cellular PVC that combines a realistic grain texture that replicates the look of exotic woods, with durability designed to provide years of low maintenance and beauty.

This product represents a revolutionary advance in PVC technology. As with any beautifully crafted piece

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"No other vinyl or wood composite product comes close to capturing the authentic colors and natural grain textures of exotic timber that Zuri offers," said John Dybsky, director of marketing for Royal's Moulding, Trim and Decking products.

Arnold Lumber Co., West Kingston, Wakefield, Bristol, R.I.

401-783-2266 • arnoldlumber.com Page 6

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**United Builders Supply, Westerly, Richmond, R.I.
800-438-2832 • unitedbuilderssupply.com Page 2**



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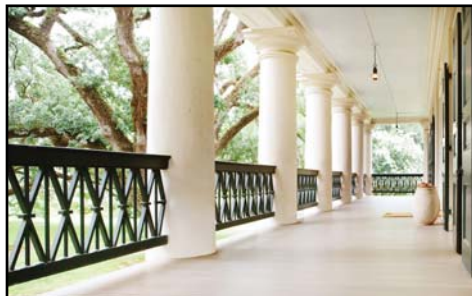
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This Special New Products Section will be a regular feature in future editions of The Rhode Island Builder Report, the award-winning monthly magazine of the Rhode Island Builders Association. To find out more and to advertise, contact the editor, Paul Eno, at builder@newriverpress.com or call 800-273-1941, Ext. 1.

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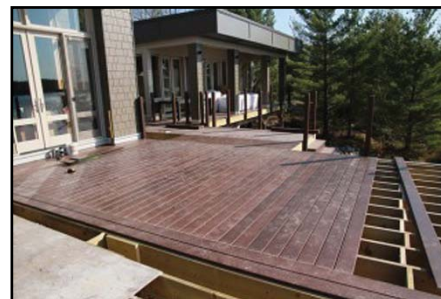
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All information provided on this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I have read the Code of Ethics on the reverse side and agree to abide by its provisions.

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A review of RIBA's legislative agenda



Steven Carlino

Here is an update on the status of major bills of concern to the Rhode Island Builders Association as of press time.

1) The Single Standards Bill: Sponsored by the state's business community, this bill empowers the Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) to be the central agency for approving environmental regulations related to land development.

The bill would create a task force headed by Kevin Flynn, associate director of the Rhode Island Division of Planning, to develop statewide standards for onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) and setbacks related to wetlands. This panel would have until January 1, 2015, to submit implementation rules to the General Assembly for consideration.

The House of Representatives and the Senate have both

passed the bill.

2) The Notice Bill: This would require cities and towns to establish and maintain an opt-in e-mail notice registry in order to notify those on the registry about any proposed changes to local subdivision regulations or zoning ordinances.

This bill has passed the House of Representatives and awaits action in the Senate.

3) The "Tolling" or Permit Extension

Bill: This would extend the expiration dates for current permits and approvals until 2015.

The House and Senate have both passed the bill.

4) The Slope Bill: This would prevent the slope of land from being deducted from a land calculation. The House

see *LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE....page 25*



Ed Ladouceur

RIBA's Legislative Committee

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Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center

Edgar N. Ladouceur, Co-Chairman
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see *INTERVIEW...next page*



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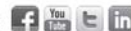
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State sting nets outlaw contractors

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

When it comes to illegal contractors operating in Rhode Island, those watching Channel 12 Eyewitness News on May 22nd got an earful and an eyeful.

The report unveiled a recent sting operation by the Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board (CRLB) in which investigator Richard Case nailed unregistered contractors while posing as a homeowner soliciting estimates.

Channel 12 consumer reporter Susan Hogan presented the story, which included interviews with the five contractors caught in the sting. Most of them claimed ignorance of the state's contractors' registration law or said they were just trying to make a living. At least one had come in from Connecticut.

Ms. Hogan also pointed out that un-

registered and uninsured contractors can sue homeowners if they are injured on the jobsite, and that homeowner insurance policies do not cover such contingencies.

"We know that there are still many unregistered contractors out there, but in that sting we were five for five!" George W. Whalen, CRLB executive director, told *The Rhode Island Builder Report*.

Members of the Rhode Island Builders Association are urged to report suspicious residential contractor activity to the CRLB at (401) 222-1268.

"Illegal contractors compete unfairly with legitimate ones, and they endanger homeowners. We need all the help we can get to remove them from the streets," Mr. Whalen said.



George W. Whalen

NAHB unveils mobile app to track legislative issues

The National Association of Home Builders launched its first mobile application, or "app," on May 31st, just in time for the 2013 NAHB Spring Board of Directors Meeting and Legislative Conference in Washington June 4th-8th, also known as LegCon 2013.

"Over the next few months, the app will be expanded and updated regularly to include news, legislative alerts and more," said James W. Tobin III, NAHB's senior vice president for government affairs.

The NAHB Advocacy App is available free through the Apple App Store and Google Play. Search for "NAHB Advocacy" to download it.

For more details or if you have questions, contact Nicholas Gentile at ngentile@nahb.org or Rin-rin Yu at ryu@nahb.org.



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A selection of news briefs from around the state related to housing and land use

BARRINGTON

Neighbors object to workforce housing

More than 60 residents turned up at a May 15th public hearing to object to Palmer Pointe, a proposal by the East Bay Community Development Corp. that would include 48 workforce rental units on 9.15 acres off Sowams Road. A spokesman for the developer assured residents that the units would be high in quality and minimal in visual impact.

"This is not the lowest common denominator that we're rolling out here," Donald Powers of Union Studio Architects was quoted as saying.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE...from page 22

and Senate have both passed the bill.

5) The Property Tax Bill: This would eliminate any local inventory tax on new residential construction until the property is either occupied or sold, for up to two years. This bill is before committees in both the House and the Senate.

Legislation concerning the definition of independent contractors, which RIBA opposes, and a measure to restore the Historic Tax Credit are still before committees in both houses, as are many other bills that RIBA is tracking.

Joe Walsh, our chief lobbyist, explained to us that just because bills have passed in both the House and Senate does not mean they will become law. The respective bills then go to the other house for action. This can result in language changes and other delays.

The two versions of all the bills mentioned above have the same language, however, so no delays are expected, Joe explained.

A full report on legislative measures that RIBA has tracked, which passed and which didn't, will feature in our August issue. For more information on these issues in the meantime, contact RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio at jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org or (401) 438-7400.

NORTH KINGSTOWN

Mixed-use project debated

The North Kingstown Planning Commission continues to debate the proposed Commons at Frenchtown Road, a mixed-use development to include residential and commercial units. Certain zoning and Comprehensive Plan changes are necessary for the project to move forward. The developer is Frenchtown Road Partners, LLC.

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Producers scramble to meet plywood demand as prices soar

Framing lumber prices, however, are the lowest since last October.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

While the price of framing lumber has been falling, American lumber producers are scrambling to increase their plywood output after drastically reducing it during the housing depression of the last few years. That's because demand is up. But with plywood supplies so low, costs for contractors are up too, to the tune of a 45 percent increase in plywood prices over last year.

Thus says the *Wall Street Journal* and so writes technology/economy guru William McBride on his Calculated Risk Finance and Economics blog. As Mr. McBride predicted in March, Georgia-Pacific, the largest U.S. producer of plywood, recently announced a nearly \$400 million investment in its lumber operations to help boost output by at least 20 percent.

"As the United States eagerly awaits more solid economic recovery, positive signs in the market feel like a cooling rain after a five-year drought. At Georgia-Pacific, we believe there are emerging signs in the housing market that are whetting the appetite for more building products," a company statement said.

The composite price for structural panels, including plywood, jumped to \$511 per thousand square feet on March 15th this year, up 45 percent from \$351 in mid-March a year ago, according to Random Lengths, a Eugene, Ore., wood-products market reporting service.

Meanwhile, with fewer supply problems than plywood has, the price of framing lumber is just over \$300 per 1,000 board feet, down more than 20

percent since the beginning of April, the lowest price since October 2012.

"We think the price of lumber is going to be volatile until you get a sustainable pick-up in housing volume," said Jeffrey Saut of Raymond James Financial.

He added that the scarcity of new homes is helping to drive housing prices.

"We think when the volume picks up next spring, we'll go back up on the price of (framing) lumber."

To find out more, visit www.CALCULATEDRISK.BLOG.com. Also, the National Association of Home Builders maintains an online framing lumber price chart at www.NAHB.org/generic.aspx?genericContentID=527. For more about this issue, watch *The Rhode Island Builder Report* or contact Stephen Melman at NAHB, (800) 368-5242 x8245 or smelman@nahb.org.

Members are advised that information on lumber prices can change frequently.

PWB meets at ABCLeads.Com



Members of the Professional Women in Building Council meeting at ABCLeads.Com on May 22nd included, from left, Joelle Sylvia of the Law Offices of Michael A. Kelly P.C., Michelle Hughes of Farmer & First PC, Nancy Zarrella of EMCOR - New England Mechanical Services, Joyce Therrien of Builders Insurance Group, Kimberly Homs of Great In Counters, Cynthia LaFarier of Harbour Lighting Boutique, Sophia Karvunis of Closets etc., Tracey Spates of RTS Consulting, Carol O'Donnell of CRM Modular Homes, and Tracey Boyajian of ABCLeads.Com. Taking the picture was PWB President Cheryl Boyd of Arnold Lumber Co.

Gourmet appetizers, fine wines and, most of all, networking were the business of the evening as the Rhode Island Builders Association's Professional Women in Building Council (PWB) gathered at ABCLeads.Com in East Greenwich on May 22nd.

The meeting was hosted by PWB Vice President Tracey Boyajian, CFO of ABCLeads.Com, and took place at the company's offices in the "historically modern" Greenwich Mills on Ladd Street.

Everyone present mingled with other members and guests, and distributed business cards. Ms. Boyajian gave the group an inside view of the amazing

see PWB...page 28



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BHH...from page 6

Justin Baldwin and Chris Baiocchi.

Material Sand and Stone Corp. Robert Pezza donated the use of trucks and services to haul materials to the site.

Volvo Rents donated the use of an excavator and a bulldozer to backfill the site.

Pro Equipment Rental donated the use of a compactor.

Wood & Wire Fence Co., Inc. Tim Martins donated use of a container for the duration of the job.

Scituate Companies of R.I. has contributed the Port-A-John™ units for use at the site.

Preferred Plumbing & Heating Inc. Richard Salloy donated all the under-slab plumbing and saw to all plumbing permits and inspections.

Contractors Supply Inc. As we went to press, it was learned that David Murphy had donated 4,200 feet of wire mesh for the slab work.

All the site work was coordinated by Robert J. Baldwin of R.B. Homes Inc. and Trinity Excavating Inc., president of BHH.

"This was a very rocky and difficult site, tucked around a sizable ledge outcropping. It was a real bear!" Mr. Baldwin said. "These companies went way above and beyond in preparing this site for free. Smithfield Peat did a great job!"

Capt. Caldwell echoed this in his address to those assembled on May 18th.

"There has been a huge outpouring of support for this project, and these are the local businesses and volunteers that didn't ask for a plug, didn't ask to be recognized. Without them, we would have nothing here. I look forward to seeing you back here later this year to celebrate again once, when the house is ready for Kevin and Kayla to move in," he said.

Mr. Baldwin, Capt. Caldwell and Vincent J. Marcantonio of Marcantonio Design Builders all are donating their services to supervise work at the site, located on Sherman Farm Road.

Also present at the May 18th ceremonies were Sen. Paul W. Fogarty (D-Burrillville, Glocester, North Smithfield), Rep. Raymond E. Gallison Jr. (D-Bristol, Portsmouth), and Rep. Cale P. Keable (D-Burrillville, Glocester). Rep. Gallison is chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

"We thank every veteran here for their service to our

country. For Cpl. Dubois, building him a new home here in Burrillville is the very least we can do. Kayla has been just as courageous," Rep. Gallison said.

All three state lawmakers presented citations to HFOT Executive Director Dawn M. Teixeira and, to honor BHH, to RIBA President Felix A. Carlone and Mr. Baldwin.

Cpl. Dubois, a native of Lincoln, lost both legs at the hip in 2011 while on his second deployment in Afghanistan. Until recently, he has been in San Diego, Calif., undergoing rehabilitation.

As of May 18th, the site had been cleared and the foundation poured. The slab was poured on June 6th.

With project costs expected to exceed \$400,000, Capt. Caldwell said that donations of time, materials and money are still needed.

"Our fundraising goal is \$100,000, and we have received commitments from RIBA members and vendors for roughly \$300,000 worth of labor and materials," he stated. Along with the tax deduction, anyone donating to the project will be entitled to use the 'Proud sponsor, Builders Helping Heroes' logo," he said.

Members may follow the progress of the project through monthly updates in *The Rhode Island Builder Report* and online at www.BUILDERSHELPINGHEROES.org.

To find out more about donating time or materials, please visit www.BUILDERSHELPINGHEROES.org, contact Mr. Baldwin at bob@rbhomesinc.com or (401) 255-6546, or Capt. Caldwell at dave.caldwell@caldwellandjohnson.com or (401) 885-1770.

Cash donations can be made by visiting www.HOMES-FOROURTROOPS.org/dubois.

LOMBARDI...from page 10

competence." Brian himself joined RIBA in 2010.

"I really enjoy the networking events, and my wife is getting involved with the Professional Women in Building Council. This was my second year exhibiting at the Table-Top Networking Night at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet."

Brian also likes *The Rhode Island Builder Report*.

"There's a lot of solid information, and that's hard to keep up with when you're out in the field all day."

Find out more about Brian Lombardi and J&J Hardware and Appliances at www.JANDJRI.com/.

PWB...from page 26

world of online lead generation, along with some interesting information on website design.

"We thank Tracey and ABCLeads.Com for a fun and very productive evening," commented PWB President Cheryl Boyd of Arnold Lumber Co., Inc.

PWB is the premier professional organization for women in the building industry. For information, contact Ms. Boyd at (401) 255-5910 or cboyd@arnoldlumber.com.

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- Joe Cracco, President, Modern Yankee Builders, RIBA Member, CGR, CAPS, CGP

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CODE...from page 3

door or window. Blower door tests cost about \$150.

Other changes

Other changes in the 2013 Rhode Island version of the code include:

R312.2 - Window Fall Protection: Any operable window less than 24 inches above the finished floor and located more than 72 inches above the exterior finished grade or surface below must now have devices that restrict the opening of the window to no more than 4 inches prior to someone manually overriding the device.

R316.4 - Thermal Protection of Foam Plastic: All foam plastic must now be separated from the interior of the building by an approved thermal barrier of a minimum ½ inch gypsum wallboard or its equivalent. This includes the use of foam in basements and other unfinished areas.

R316.5.13 - Floors: The walking surface of a floor with foam installed below will require ½ inch gypsum applied to the underside of the floor system and a minimum ½ inch wood structural panel applied to the walking surface.

Table R404.1.2.2 - Minimum Horizontal Reinforcement of Concrete Basement Walls: The requirement for a minimum of two No. 4 reinforcing bars in all foundation walls less than 8 inches high has been eliminated. The required reinforcing in concrete basement walls greater than 8 inches high remains in place.

R501.3 - Fire Protection of Floors: All floor assemblies using less than the equivalent of 2x8 inch nominal-dimension lumber must now be provided with a minimum ½ inch gypsum or ⅝ inch wood structural panel on the underside. There are a few exceptions to this requirement, but if the floor system is built with 2x8s or larger, there is no need to protect the floor.

For those using floor trusses or TGI-type composite joists, they must verify that the burning characteristics are at least equivalent to a 2x8 or they must protect the floor from below or take other action to get the floor system to comply.

R507.3 - Wood Plastic Components on Decks: All wood plastic components used on decks, including flooring and railing systems, must have a label indicating they are suitable for the intended use. These items must be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions, and these should be on-site at the time of inspection.

R905.2.7.2 - Attachment of Underlayment and High Winds: Roof underlayment paper in the 120 mph wind zone must now be secured in a grid pattern of 12 inches between side laps and 6 inches at the side laps. It also must be installed with metal or plastic cap nails.

R905.2.8.5 Drip Edge - Drip edge must now be installed at all eaves and gables of shingled roofs in accordance with this section.

Code books

As of this writing, the office of Building Code Commissioner John P. Leyden was working with a publisher, and code books incorporating the above changes were expected to be available sometime in July. Watch your e-mail and www.RIBUILDERS.org for updates.

The books will be on sale at Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., East Providence.

The Rhode Island One- and Two-Family Code as revised can be seen at www.RIBUILDERS.org. For more information on the state building codes, visit www.RIBCC.ri.gov or call (401) 222-1129.

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EDUCATION...from page 2

CRLB hopes to offer online registration renewals and other online services, according to Mr. Whalen. The software also is expected to help streamline the work of CRLB staff.

CAVU is an acronym for "clear air, visibility unlimited."

The software is designed to help regulatory agencies become more efficient and to improve citizen services through an array integrated licensing and regulatory applications.

"It looks like the new software may be operational by summer's end!" Mr. Whalen says.

BOARD...from page 8

Installation Standards Manual. The two planned to attend a meeting on this matter on July 19th.

Two board members were honored at the meeting with National Association of Home Builders awards for recruiting. Receiving a certificate and Spike pin, respectively, were William J. Geddes of Geddes Builders, who has recruited 75 members during his own RIBA membership, and Joseph C. Cracco of Modern Yankee Builders Inc., who has recruited six members.

Before adjourning for its summer recess, the board voted to give the Executive Committee authority to act for directors during July and August.

PRESIDENT...from page 5

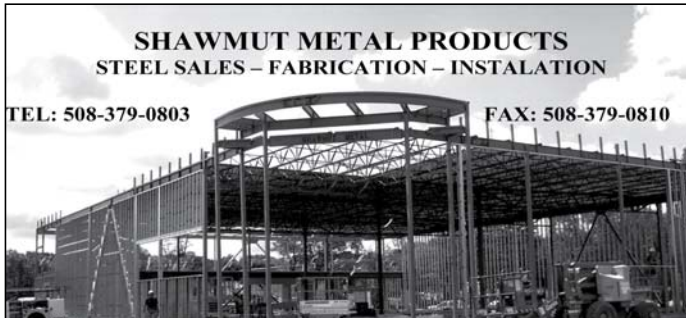
Island, and we want every one of them to be a RIBA member.

So our membership drive continues, and you as a member can earn rewards, including entry in a yearly cash drawing for \$500, for bringing in new members. Talk to your contractor colleagues, your subcontractors and your suppliers and tell them that, if they don't belong to RIBA, they should. It's one of the best bargains their business can get all year! See page 11.

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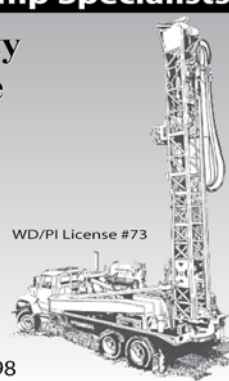
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