

Home Show shines: 43% more visitors than in '13



The Rhode Island Builders Association's 64th Annual Home Show opens at the Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, on April 3rd, with Providence Mayor Angel Tavares about to cut the ribbon at the 2,000 square-foot Model Home. With him, from left, are three other candidates for governor: State Treasurer Gina Raimondo, RIBA member John Bentz of the Property Advisory Group (not a gubernatorial candidate), Ken Block and Cranston Mayor Allen Fung. At right is RIBA President Felix A. Carlone. Crowds were already lined up to tour the Model Home.

Survey respondents say they want to see more contractors exhibiting.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

In a dramatic record for recent years, attendance at the Rhode Island Builders Association's 64th Annual Home Show was up 43 percent over 2013.

That was the news from RIBA as we went to press. The association hosted the 2014 event

April 3rd-6th at the Rhode Island Convention Center.

In an interesting twist, many survey respondents said they had come to the Home Show to look for builders and remodelers and would like to see more contractors exhibiting.

A gorgeous Model Home, crowded aisles and smiling exhibitors were hallmarks of the show throughout its four-day run.

"Pleasantly busy" and "steady" was how Steve Bator of Stormtite Home Improvement, one of

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FEATURED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR MAY

Centerspread

See more pictures
from the 2014
Home Show

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RIBA members confer with legislators

Sen. Jack Reed and Congressman Jim Langevin visited Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters on March 20th to talk industry issues with members.

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Bryant report: Construction a must for recovery

A just-finalized report from Bryant University, assembled by economist Dr. Edinaldo Tebaldi and commissioned by the industry, puts construction at the center of any economic recovery in Rhode Island.

Page 22

Free courses for members

RIBA offers free tuition for members and their employees in its many valuable and industry-related courses and seminars.

Pages 4, 11

RIBA members discuss the issues with R.I.'s federal delegation

As part of the annual spring lobbying effort by the National Association of Home Builders, RIBA members meet in small groups with Sen. Jack Reed and Rep. Jim Langevin on March 20th.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Replacing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, EPA regulations, appraisals, preservation of the home mortgage deduction and much more were on the list of topics at Rhode Island Builders Association headquarters as members met with two of Rhode Island's federal representatives on March 20th.

In separate sessions with members, Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Rep. Jim Langevin (D-2nd District) both updated attendees on the status of several industry issues from the federal perspective, then responded to questions.

What will replace the unsound quasi-government mortgage finance agencies, the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. (Freddie Mac), was a prime topic. Several members noted that some kind of federal backing for 30-year mortgages is essential.

"I'm with you on that," stated Rep. Langevin. "But the current system needs substantial reform."

Including energy-efficiency factors in residential appraisals was another prime topic of interest for members, along with concerns about the Waters of the United States Act, which would establish federal wetlands permitting in areas now involving only state permits. The latter is ironic and alarming, members noted, because RIBA is working with regulators and other industry representatives to simplify wetlands regulations in Rhode Island.

Members also stressed that it's vital for

see CONFERENCE...page 29



Members meet with Sen. Jack Reed (above, center) and Congressman Jim Langevin (below) on March 20th at RIBA headquarters as part of the National Association of Home Builders Annual Legislative Conference.



RIBA welcomes our new members and thanks their sponsors!

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RIBA also thanks these members who renewed December-March

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since 1951

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DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

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

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Send material to
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LOOKING AHEAD!

May 9: Infield Training: Blower Door and Duct Blaster Seminar - 8:30 to 10 a.m. at The Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living, Center for Sustainable Living, 451 Hammet Road, Coventry, RI 02816. Sponsored by National Grid and presented by RIBA member Conservation Services Group. Seminar is free. Register online. *Details on page 11.*

♦ **May 14: 8-Hour Lead Safe Remodeler Renovator Course** - 7:30 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 \$25 materials charge. \$110 charge for non-members, with a \$25 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.*

♦ **May 20: Beginner Quickbooks for Contractors** - RIBA headquarters, 5-7 p.m. FREE for members with a \$25 materials charge. Non-members \$50 with a \$25 materials charge. For more information and to register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on Page 11.*

May 21: Rhode Island Residential Energy Code Seminar - RIBA headquarters, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sponsored by National Grid and presented by RIBA member Conservation Services Group. Seminar is free. Call (508) 330-1850 for information, but participants must register online. Logon to RIBUILDERS.org and click on this event under the "Events Calendar."

♦ **May 27: Advanced Quickbooks for Contractors** - RIBA headquarters, 5-7 p.m. Learning how to invoice from an estimate in QuickBooks® will be the subject as the Rhode Island Builders Association offers this advanced workshop in the most popular contractor bookkeeping software. FREE for members with a \$25 materials charge. Non-members \$50, with a \$25 materials charge. For more information and to register, logon to RIBUILDERS.org, and click on this event under the "Events Calendar," or contact Sheila McCarthy, smccarthy@ribuilders.org, or call (401) 438-7400. *Details on Page 11.*

♦ **June 5: Barbecue/Networking Night** - 5 to 8 p.m., RIBA headquarters, rain or shine. Sponsored by Boston Cedar. FREE for members and non-members, but we request reservations. There will be beer, wine and food. *Watch for more information.*

♦ **August 8: RIBA's Annual Outing & Clambake** - RIBA's biggest social event of the year, with great food, contests, networking and fun. Sponsorships will be available and will be used entirely to reduce the ticket price. Francis Farm, Rehoboth, Mass. *Watch for information.*

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

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

♦ Indicates a RIBA-sponsored event.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Felix A. Carlone

The greatest Home Show I've ever seen!

If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I might have thought people were exaggerating. I'm talking about the Rhode Island Builders Association's 2014 Home Show, which took place April 3rd-6th. I spent a great deal of time at the Rhode Island Convention Center over those days, and from the RIBA booth at the show entrance I watched a steady stream of visitors from the beginning of the show to the end. In fact, we had a 43 percent increase in attendance over last year!

It never let up. Even Thursday afternoon was busy. And I don't think I've ever seen so many happy exhibitors. Every exhibitor I spoke with was very pleased – if not overwhelmed -- with the traffic and the quality of the leads they generated.

I don't know where to begin with the "well dones" and "thank yous."

Certainly our Home Show Committee, whose members put in countless hours of brainstorming and planning, starting right after the 2013 show, deserve tremendous kudos. Chairman Ron Smith, Cheryl Boyd, Lou Cotoia, RIBA's Elizabeth Carpenter, Carol O'Donnell, Bob Yoffe, Karen Corina, Cynthia Valenti-

Smith, Bethany Palagi and Mary Cool of California Closets did a fantastic job!

Carol, of CRM Modular Homes, outdid herself by providing the gorgeous, 2,000 square-foot Model Home that was the centerpiece of the show. Karen, of Corinha Designs, decorated the house so beautifully that you could literally hear "oos" and "ahs" from the steady stream of visitors.

Arnold Lumber Co., and President Bruce Charleson, also went amazingly above and beyond in many capacities in their active logistical support for the Home Show. We especially recognize Lou Cotoia of Arnold Lumber, who was on-site coordinator for the Model Home building and dismantling.

So many of our member companies contributed to the Model Home and/or supported the Home Show as sponsors! (*See the complete list on page 20.*) And the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA) certainly caught the public eye with their stunning "Edible Front Yard" and landscaping at the Model Home.

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The Rhode Island Builders Association's Annual Home Show took place at the Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, April 3rd-6th. After the ribbon-cutting at the Model Home, here are, from left in the Edible Front Yard, Marc Petrowicz, Catherine Weaver and Shannon Brawley of the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA), Cranston Mayor Allen Fung, RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio, RIBA Home Show Committee Chairman Ronald J. Smith, State Treasurer Gina Raimondo, Cheryl Boyd of Arnold Lumber Co., Edgar N. Ladouceur of Stormite Home Improvement, RIBA President Felix A. Carlone, and John Bentz of the Property Advisory Group.



Carol O'Donnell of CRM Modular Homes, right, who provided the Model Home, presents a pamphlet about the structure to RIBA General Counsel Christine Engustian.



Arnold Lumber Co. went above and beyond in supporting the show. Ready for the crowds to arrive on opening day are, from left, Mike Acton, President Bruce Charleson, Kevin Kenndy, Rick Fredericks and Ted Venechanos.



Visitors tour the Model Home.



David and Laurie Baud visit the Model Home.



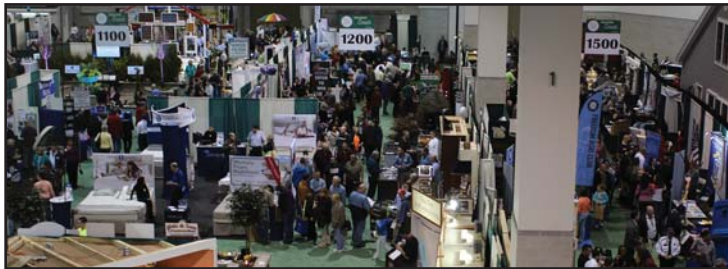
Things were crowded all over the show floor, and the mini-seminars offered by RI Kitchen & Bath were very popular.



→
At the Energy Expo on Saturday morning, Dr. Marion Gold, commissioner of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, presents RIBA member David A. Caldwell and Johnson Inc., with an award for sustainable home building. President Carlone looks on.



←
Ken Lantini keeps up with the crowds at the Lighting & Design by J&K Electric booth.



→
Steve Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald Building & Remodeling chats with some potential customers.



↑
During the busiest part of the Home Show's final day, Allison Kowal, left, and Sue Andrade work on some leads for Meridian Design/Build.



←
Rick Nardella, right, showcases his company's masterpieces at the Custom Builders booth.



←
Tom Lopatosky of Lopco Contracting talks with some prospects.



→
Tanya Donahue of RI Kitchen & Bath provides a visitor with some information.

→
Lori Santiago, left, and Sue LaSalle kept everything flowing smoothly at the Consolidated Concrete booth.

The team from National Grid and the Energy Expo pose with the Red Sox World Series Trophies, which visited the show on Thursday.



It was a busy Home Show for supplier members. Here are Jay Pires of Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Center, left, with Don Hamel of Andersen Windows.



Bob Pesce of Consolidated Concrete visits the show with Vin and Maureen Marcantonio, and Ray and Barbara Gallison.



←
Mike Pezza of Pezza Garage Doors meets a lead.





The Home Show is designed to showcase our industry to the public and to help our members get work. Based on the results of over 1,000 comprehensive surveys of Home Show visitors, the public overwhelmingly wants to see more builders, remodelers and suppliers. If you didn't exhibit at the show, you need to do so in 2015! The Home Show isn't designed to take your money. Instead, this show is designed to make you money, and RIBA will make it as easy as possible for you to exhibit. Please call the office at (401) 438-7400 for assistance.

*-Executive Director
John Marcantonio*

HOME SHOW...from page 1

some 225 exhibitors, described the Home Show flow. "And the visitors seem very serious about work, and qualified," he added.

The show opened promptly at 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 3rd, following a ribbon cutting at the show's heart, the 2,000 square-foot-plus Model Home, by Providence Mayor Angel Tavares. He was joined by three other 2014 gubernatorial candidates, State Treasurer Gino Raimondo, Ken Block and Cranston Mayor Allen Fung. Also present were officials of RIBA, along with Carol O'Donnell of CRM Modular Homes and interior designer Karen Corinha. There too were officials of the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA) whose members designed the landscaping, including the "Edible Front Yard" for the Model Home.

Lined up to tour the Model Home as the show opened was the first of many crowds that were to characterize the show for four days.

RIBA Executive Director John Marcantonio reported that the show attendance total passed the 2013 Home Show figure on Saturday. Crowds on Sunday were undiminished, indicating an attendance record for recent years.

Along with the aisles, exhibits and the Model Home, the show's special attractions were generally standing-room-only. That included the Energy Expo, sponsored by National Grid and the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources; professional seminars, cooking demonstrations and other events. Crowds lined up on Thursday evening to have their pictures taken with the three Boston Red Sox World Se-

"This has been the busiest Home Show in 10 years. Lots of qualified people and lots of leads."

-Jay Pires of Douglas Lumber, Kitchens and Home Center.

ries Trophies, at the show courtesy of National Grid. On Sunday, one of the New England Patriots cheerleaders appeared at the Verizon booth to sign autographs.

Many visitors entered drawings to win iPads® (won by Brandy Bacon, Maryellen Crowley and Michael Hendojr), a \$5,000 Home Energy Makeover (won by Kelly Rodgers of Chepachet) and a seven-night cruise to Bermuda (won by George Brimmer of East Providence).

The exhibitors, of course, are the people who really tell the story of a Home Show's success.

"This has been the busiest Home Show in 10 years," declared Jay Pires of Douglas Lumber, Kitchens and Home Center. "Lots of qualified people and lots of leads."

"It's crazy busy!" added Tim Johnson of Propane Plus. "Lots of qualified people and good leads."

Allison Kowal of Meridian Custom Homes Inc. agreed. "We've been very happy with the show. We got some great leads."

Cheryl Boyd of Arnold Lumber Co. summed it up: "There were lots of people

who knew what they wanted. They were looking for contractors and looking for products."

Visitors like Joe and Pat Alexander of Burrillville were impressed with the show. "There's a huge array of products, just about anything you need," said Joe.

There was a great deal of praise for RIBA's hard-working Home Show Committee, which 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 (who provided the Model Home), 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.

RIBA officials singled out CRM Modular Homes for providing the Model Home, and Mr. Cotoia for supervising the home's assembly and dismantling.

It's never too early to plan your company's exhibit at the 2015 Home Show. Contact Yoffe Exposition Services at (800) 963-3395 or visit www.RIBAHomeShow.com.

"There were lots of people who knew what they wanted. They were looking for contractors and looking for products."

-Cheryl Boyd of Arnold Lumber Co.

From the Board of Directors

Legislative issues, housing report highlight April session



The Rhode Island Builders Association's Board of Directors meets on April 1st.

Report by Bryant University economist finds that construction is a linchpin of the state's recovery.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

Updates on legislation, a crucial housing report, the Home Show and other matters highlighted a busy April 1st meeting of the Rhode Island Builders Association's Board of Directors.

Considered critical to State House efforts

by RIBA and the Rhode Island Construction Industry Coalition is the just-finalized report by Dr. Edinaldo Tebaldi, associate professor of economics at Bryant University.

The report, *The Economic Impact of the Construction Industry on the Economy of Rhode Island in 2013*, points out many reasons why the industry must be strengthened. One point is that if the construction industry was still where it was in 2001, the state's unemployment rate today would be 7.3 percent, not 9.2 percent, even if no

other economic factors were different. *Related story on page 22.*

Lawsuits settled

In other matters, Executive Director John Marcantonio reported that RIBA has signed final settlements in lawsuits with Cranston, Lincoln and Warwick over permit fees. Some refunds will be issued and a judge will oversee committees in each community that will work out lower fee schedules.

Legislative initiatives

Mr. Marcantonio also reported on the status of RIBA's legislative advocacy in the middle of the 2014 General Assembly Session.

With a changed leadership at the State House, the association continues to work against unfair apprenticeship rules and in favor of reform in career and technical education.

RIBA also is working for passage of the "Spec and Rehab Housing Bill," for improvement in inclusionary zoning laws, and for reducing the truck tax. Cesspool phase-outs and mushrooming environmental initiatives also are on RIBA's scope. *Related story on page 21.*

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If it was easy you wouldn't need us.

8 Hour Lead-Safe course set for May 14

WHEN: Wednesday, May 14th, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

COST: FREE for members, with a \$25 materials charge. \$110 charge for non-members, with a \$25 materials charge.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: Full payment required by May 8th. Cancellation deadline is May 9th. Credit cards accepted. Must provide proof of employment with member company upon registration for class to be free.

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

The Rhode Island Builders Association will present the 8 Hour Lead-Safe Remodeler/Renovator Course in May. 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 May 9th. No-shows will not receive refunds or credit toward future classes. Space is limited - please register now!

Advanced QuickBooks® is May 27 topic

WHEN: Tuesday, May 27th, 5-7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Beginner QuickBooks® is May 20 subject at RIBA

WHEN: Tuesday, May 20th, 5-7 p.m.

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

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

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: May 15th

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

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

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

Learn blower-door tests

WHEN: Friday, May 9th, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

WHERE: The Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living, Center for Sustainable Living, 451 Hammet Road, Coventry, RI 02816

COST: Free for members and non-members.

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Visit www.eventbrite.com/o/conservation-services-group-on-behalf-of-national-grid-4691466985

"Infield Training: Blower Door and Duct Blaster" will be the subject as Conservation Services Group, a member of the Rhode Island Builders Association, conducts another in its series of classes on the Rhode Island Residential Energy Code on behalf of National Grid.

The event is free and is expected to be well attended, so please register as soon as possible.

Member Profile: Joe Casali of Joe Casali Engineering Inc.

A child's drafting set led to a great career

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

As with most any young boy, Joe Casali loved playing with construction toys in his sandbox, and he loved drawing. But the Johnston native really got started toward a career in designing and building after his sister and brother-in-law gave him his first drafting set.

"Later, at Johnston High School, I loved the drafting classes!" Joe recalls.

Then it was on to the University of Rhode Island, where he earned an engineering degree and, later, an MBA. It's been a long journey from that little sandbox to where he is today, but the work those happy days led to is close to Joe Casali's heart.

Joe Casali Engineering Inc. (JCE) open its doors on January 1, 2003, when Joe was 29. Based in Warwick, the 12-member company handles everything from septic systems and drainage layouts to traffic engineering and site planning for multi-million dollar buildings. JCE develops and consults at all stages of planning, design, construction and operations.

JCE works almost exclusively in Rhode Island, but there are exceptions.

"Lately we've been working as far west as Jackson, Mississippi. We caught a client out of New York who puts up commercial retail pad sites all over the country," Joe explains.

"We did a BJ's for them in Seekonk, and we really hit it off. They like our approach. You could argue that we create plans, but I think we're more in the service industry, and that's how we treat our customers. Service is everything."

Working in other parts of the country as he has been, Joe says it's interesting to compare Rhode Island's regulatory climate with those in other states.

"The Dept. of Environmental Management here gets a tough



rap, but they're pretty good. Still, the process in other states at the local level seems a lot quicker. Rhode Island is very highly regulated. We all know that, and that sometimes hurts business," Joe says.

One reason he joined the Rhode Island Builders Association early last year was its "in the trenches" advocacy with state lawmakers and regulators.

"I met with (Executive Director) John Marcantonio, and I asked myself, 'How come I'm not more involved with these guys?' I love RIBA because it's a collection of small-business owners just like me. We're the little guys who are out there just trying to make a week's pay."

As an employer, Joe stresses that it isn't easy in a tough business climate like Rhode Island's. The staff includes his wife, Jackie, as marketing director, and his sister-in-law, Dawn, as office manager.

"We're a small company with just 12 people, including me. It's hard. Eleven employees means 11 families. Without RIBA working for us, it would be a lot harder!"



Joe Casali Engineering Inc.

President: Joseph A. Casali

RIBA member since: 2013

Focus: Site planning of all kinds

Serves: Rhode Island and nationally

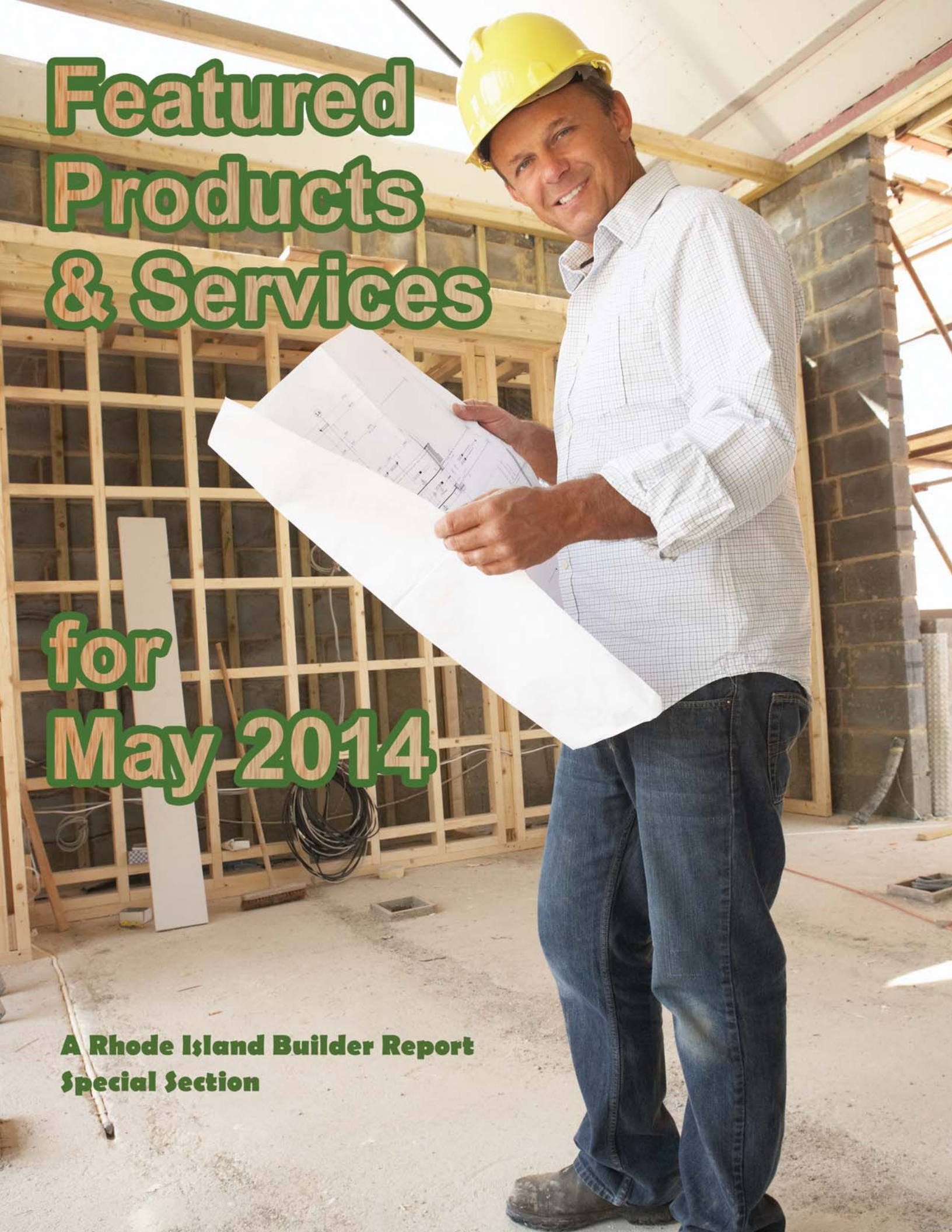
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Stasiunas lends a hand in Haiti

The Rhode Island Builders Association always encourages members to serve others. But Timothy A. Stasiunas of The Stasiunas Companies has taken this ideal to an entirely new level.

"We travel to Haiti with our church, Perryville Bible Church, which supports an orphanage in the Village of Turbe. We also work closely with an organization that supports missionary efforts, Partners with Haiti, based right here in Barrington," Mr. Stasiunas tells *The Rhode Island Builder Report*.

Partners with Haiti has provided education, medical and other needs to the people of Haiti for well over 40 years. Relief work stepped up in the wake of the 2010 earthquake.

Mr. Stasiunas, who serves on RIBA's Board of Directors and co-chairs the Environmental Committee, has been to Haiti five times to do charitable work. In January, he visited the Freedom House Orphanage in Port au Prince, which also has a school and church on the property.

"It's operated by Rev. Martinez Jovin, who has had a life-long commitment to the Haitian people. He takes in school children regardless of their ability to pay. While I was there, I identified 20 children who need sponsors for their education. I have pictures of the children and would be grateful to anyone who can make a commitment to save a child through education," Mr. Stasiunas says.



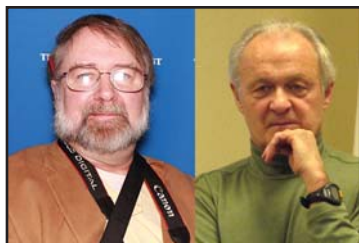
RIBA's Timothy A. Stasiunas, at right, helps out in Haiti.

The cost of educating a child is \$30 a month.

"I can tell you that sponsorship through Partners with Haiti by means of the Bethany Project has a profound and measurable result," he adds.

For information, please visit www.partnerswithhaiti.org.

Two members feature in book on Woonsocket



Paul Eno and Albert Valliere

are both featured. As its title suggests, the book highlights men who are prominent in Woonsocket area industry, professions, media and the arts.

Mr. Valliere is a Woonsocket native and longtime leader in the construction industry. He is active in civic affairs and in RIBA.

Mr. Eno, an award-winning 35-year journalist, and editor of *The Rhode Island Builder Report* for 23 years, is a Connecticut native who moved from Cumberland to Woonsocket in 1996. The author of seven books and a local radio personality, he is active in RIBA and serves on the Board of Directors of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council.

The book may be obtained from Potter Photography at <http://www.potterphotography.com>.

Two members of the Rhode Island Builders Association have been included in a new book, *Men: Working in Woonsocket* by Judith Potter.

Albert Valliere of Nation Wide Construction Corp. and Paul F. Eno of New River Press/Barking Cat Books

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Coventry Lumber wins double honors

Coventry Lumber Co. has been the recipient of double honors recently.

At the Northeastern Retail Lumber Association (NRLA) show in Boston in February, Coventry Lumber was honored as the newest member of the "Million Foot Club." This prestigious award was presented to Coventry Lumber by BB&S Treated Lumber of New England and Osmose Inc. for sales of over 1 million feet of pressure-treated lumber in 2013.

The Crystal Arrowhead Award was presented to Coventry Lumber President William Finnegan and Sales Manager Brian Vadal.

Coventry Lumber also received the New England Dealer of the Year Award from Versatex® Trimboard.



With their Dealer of the Year Award from Versatex are, from left, Bernie Nugent of Warren Trask Co., Coventry Lumber Sales Manager Brian Vadal, Coventry Lumber President Bill Finnegan, and Bill Naumann of Versatex.

The Rhode Island Builders Association thanks these generous companies that contributed so much to the success of our 64th Annual Home Show!

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A call for thinking it through



Steven Carlino

Along with measures the Rhode Island Builders Association supports or opposes in the General Assembly this year, and about which you've been reading in these pages for months, there are several significant legislative and regulatory developments members need to follow closely.

One of these is being reported extensively in the media, and it centers on the "Resilient Rhode Island Act." According to its supporters, this proposed legislation "calls for the recognition of climate change in policy decisions, enacts emission reductions, and braces the state and businesses of Rhode Island to withstand the detrimental effects of climate change."

We would never advocate being unprepared for any possible danger to our state. But actions on climate change, sea-level rise and related policy issues need to take into account effects on the

economy and the overall business environment, along with financial issues that might affect the public. Recent gyrations regarding flood insurance rates are a perfect example of that. (*Related story on page 22.*)

Additionally, building codes are already being affected, sometimes drastically, by concerns about climate change. We are already seeing higher costs in the residential construction industry because of this, especially along our coast.

We simply ask lawmakers and regulators to be objective, and to weigh all the variables before making major policy and regulatory decisions that affect the economy. Being prepared is important, and regulation plays a role. But let's keep in mind that the Station nightclub tragedy of 2003 caused what some say was an overreaction in fire-code changes. So when it

see **LEGISLATION...page 29**



Robert J. Baldwin

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Bryant report marks construction as economic linchpin for R.I.

By Paul F. Eno *Editor*

In 2013, the construction industry in Rhode Island supported 29,916 jobs, added \$3.9 billion to the state's gross domestic product (GDP) and created \$1.5 billion in income for Rhode Island households.

These are only a few of the eye-opening statistics in a new report commissioned by the Rhode Island Construction Industry Coalition and compiled by Dr. Edinaldo Tebaldi, associate professor of economics at Bryant University's Center for Global and Regional Economic Studies.

Lest anyone doubt the industry's importance, *The Economic Impact of the Construction Industry on the Economy of Rhode Island in 2013* also points out that construction activities generated \$29 million in personal income tax revenues for the state and \$156.6 million in other state and local taxes, including property taxes.

"The Rhode Island economy lost a significant share of its GDP because of difficulties in the construction industry," the report states. It suggests that, if the industry were operating at 2001 levels, Rhode Island's January 2014 unemployment rate would have been 7.3 percent instead of 9.2 percent. This would have dropped Rhode Island's joblessness level from first in the nation to 14th.

"The direct contribution of the construction industry to the state's GDP fell from 6 percent in 1998 to 5.7 percent in 2001, and to 3.9 percent in 2012," the report says.

The document also profiles the current state of the industry and recommends policy changes to bring back construction. These include:

- Review and implement reforms in the construction permitting process.
- Identify issues that delay development and increase construction costs in Rhode

Island.

- Assess opportunities to build and remodel public and private properties across cities and towns.

Rhode Island "has to align its cost structure, improve its productivity and seize all opportunities to expand construction activities as a strategy for fostering job and income creation...." the report concludes.

Along with RIBA, the Coalition includes the Associated Builders & Contractors, the Associated General Contractors, the Construction Industries of Rhode Island and Build Rhode Island.

The report will be available online. Watch for information.



Dr. Edinaldo Tebaldi

Comment sought on revised R.I. soil erosion/sediment handbook

Members are reminded that Tuesday, May 6th, is the final day to submit comments on proposed revisions to the Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (SESC) Handbook. Draft revisions can be found online, in the 390-page document at www.dem.ri.gov/soilerosiondraft3.pdf.

The document was last revised in 1989. Comments and questions should be directed to Beverly Migliore, Supervising Environmental Scientist, Office of Customer and Technical Assistance, R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908. Phone: (401) 222-4700, ext. 7503. E-mail: Beverly.migliore@dem.ri.gov.

Industry applauds Senate for flood-insurance relief bill

National Association of Home Builders

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has applauded the U.S. Senate for approving flood-insurance legislation that will provide much needed certainty to homeowners and financial stability for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act was approved by the House in early April and is expected to be signed into law shortly by President Obama.

"By providing a more affordable rate structure for policyholders and repealing point-of-sale rate increases, the bill is a boon for homeowners and homebuyers," said NAHB Chairman Kevin Kelly.

"Further, it gives an important boost to home building and remodeling."

The bill addresses costly and unintended consequences of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act, including huge premium spikes and impacts on the sale, construction and remodeling of homes. It provides a more affordable rate structure for policy holders; repeals the requirement that flood-insurance premiums increase immediately to full actuarial rates for homes that are sold; and restores "grandfathering" for properties that were paying premiums applicable to their initial flood risk rating, allowing owners to pay premiums based on the original risk zone rather than updated zones.

It also requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency's remapping process to take into account local flood-control structures and provides reimbursement for successful consumer map appeals.

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EPA nixes plans for post-construction stormwater rules

National Association of Home Builders

In a major win for the home-building industry, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will jettison plans for national post-construction stormwater rule-making.

The rule would have required all builders to retain a certain volume of stormwater onsite by using low-impact development techniques such as rain gardens, pervious pavements and other methods that often add costs, especially on sites with soil types that don't easily infiltrate.

"It's been a five-year bureaucratic battle, but we won. That's a victory for our buyers as well," said Kevin Kelly, NAHB chairman and a home builder and developer from Wilmington, Del.

Since EPA first announced its plans in

December 2009, NAHB staff and members have submitted comments and letters, testified at hearings, served on small-business panels and met with appointed and elected officials to explain why EPA's proposal was an incursion into land-use regulations and wouldn't work.

Some of the technologies EPA was con-

sidering would be almost impossible in many urban areas, making smart-growth and redevelopment projects less likely to succeed. Builders who employ these practices have estimated they add at least 10 to 15 percent to the cost of a developed lot, depending on the lot's location and soil type.



Providence revamps zoning rules

In its first major zoning overhaul in 20 years, the City of Providence proposes to regulate nightclubs, food trucks, farmers markets and even bicycle parking. As Bonnie Nickerson, the city's director of long-range planning, puts it, the sweeping legislation will fix a patchwork of zoning complexities and contradictions created by "Band-Aids and gum" solutions added to the zoning code since the last major revision in 1994.

Plans also include neighborhood-related suggestions by the Providence Tomorrow group and are intended to bring the zoning ordinance more into line with the city's Comprehensive Plan. For example, regulations would bar subdividing large lots on Blackstone Boulevard. Visit www.ProvidenceRI.com for more information.



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Power of Place Summit slated for May in Providence

WHEN: Friday, May 23rd

WHERE: Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence

COST: Early bird registration fees range from \$50 (students) to \$75 (government and non-profit) to \$100 (regular rate).

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Visit www.GrowSmartRI.org

Join 500 state, local and federal officials, business and civic leaders, real estate professionals, investors, architects, developers, builders, farmers and community stakeholders from across Rhode Island and New England for Grow Smart's 5th biennial Power of Place Summit.

The theme of this year's Summit is "The Power of Place: Positioning Rhode Island for an Economic Renaissance." This will drive the keynote address and the more than 15 workshops at the day-long forum.

"Expect to hear the latest about Rhode Island's new emerging economic-development strategy as well as programs and poli-

cies that leverage our state's many strengths," said a statement from Grow Smart Rhode Island, one of the event organizers.

"We'll cover the future of the State Historic Tax Credit, urban revitalization initiatives, transportation and infrastructure funding, mass transit, housing, agricultural viability and farmland protection," the statement continued.

"We'll also hear from those advancing, game-changer community development projects such as the I-195 Development District (The Link), the Warwick Station Development District (Warwick City Centre) and the East Providence Waterfront Development Project, among many others."

Since this is a gubernatorial election year, Grow Smart has invited the candidates to a panel discussion for their views on the governor's role in shaping economic and community development. *Providence Business News* Editor Mark Murphy is scheduled to moderate.



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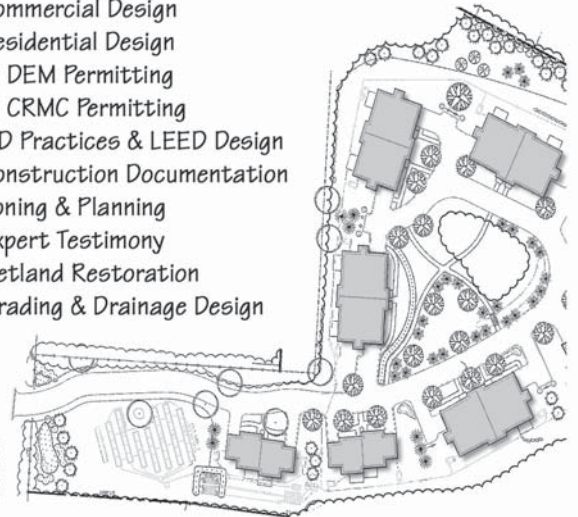
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K. Sean Keating	Computer Support Inc.	Alfred Almeida	Home Glow Enterprises	Michael Charpentier	Northeast Flooring Inc.
Ronald J. Goldsmith	Contemporary Landscaping Inc.	Tim Llewellyn	Humphrey's Building Supply Center	Tara Capuano	Northern Realty LLC
Michael F. O'Connell	Contractors Network Inc.	Steven E. Beveridge	inControl Inc.	Lionel Loranger	One Stop Building Supply Ctr. Inc.
John F. Cuzzzone III	County Road Realty Corp.	Gerard Allard	J&A Electric Inc.	Scott Grace	Overhead Door Garage Headquarters
R. James Ferland	Craig Management Co., Inc.	Jeffrey A. Seyboth	J&L Landscaping Co., Inc.	Paul A. Schurman	P. Schurman Contractors Inc.
Ray Snider	CRS Management LLC	Joseph Madonna	J. Madonna & Sons Inc.	Philip Theroux	P.T. Woodworking Inc.
John J. Perrotti	Cupboard Kitchen & Bath Design Center	Joseph DiGiovanni Jr.	J.D. Construction Co.	Gary Mariorenzi	PaintWorks Inc.
Peter G. Dauksis	Dauksis Construction Co.	Robert McNamara	J.J. McNamara & Son Inc.	William Ward	Pegasus Home Improvement of R.I. LLC
Matthew O. Davitt	Davitt Design Build Inc.	Jason Ledsworth	J.L. Electric	Aydin A. Mustafayev	Power Equipment Co.
Kevin J. Dennis	Dennis Brothers LLC	Jean Paul Olivier	J.P. Remodeling	Dana A. Hagopian	Precision Development Inc.
Peter T. Derbyshire	Derbyshire Woodworking Co., Inc.	Paul Flynn	Jack Flynn & Sons Inc.	Nicholas Castelli	Quality Homes Inc.
Joseph W. Dionne	Dionne Builders Inc.	John H. Brittain	Jack's Electric Inc.	Ray Keough	R-Keough Construction Inc.
John A. Domingoes	Domingoes Construction Co.	James Doepler	Jaimar Building Co.	Ronald McCullough	R.A. McCullough Inc.
Steven R. Carlino	Douglas Lumber, Kitchens & Home Ctr.	James I. Goldman	James Ian Goldman CPA	Raymond J. Carreiro	R.J. Carreiro Builders Inc.
William D. Dowdell	Dowdell Engineering Inc.	Richard J. Rudis	Jesmac Inc.	Ronald Rainone	Rainone Landscaping Co., Inc.
Stephen E. Hopkins	E&E Realty	Jose M. Marciano	JM Painting LLC	Richard P. Zompa	Re/Max Preferred
Edward A. Heon Jr.	E. Heon & Sons Home Improvement LLC	John C. Carter	John C. Carter & Co.	Brian S. Reid	Reid's Remodeling Inc.
Eric T. Nunes	E. Nunes Plumbing & Installations	John G. Foster Jr.	John G. Foster Jr. Inc.	Anthony J. Aurgemma	RI Home Improvement Inc.
Edward Wojcik	Ed Wojcik Architect Ltd.	Joseph A. D'Angelo	Joseph A. D'Angelo	Richard J. Cardarelli	Richard J. Cardarelli AIA
Bruce E. Eddy	Eddy Building Co., Inc.	Frank King	K.R.A. Inc.	Andrew N. Thomson	Risk & Safety Management
Edward Ferland	EFC Construction Management Inc.	Craig Donatelli	KCEE Building Services LLC	Douglas G. Vaughan	Riverview Quarry LLC
Eric Johnson	Eric Johnson Homes	Kenneth M. Kossak	Kenko Builders Inc.	Rocco Sammartino	Rocco Sammartino Builders
Ernest J. Fagnant	Ernest & Dolores Fagnant	Kenneth G. Kazarian	Kenwood Construction Co., Inc.	Rui Pereira	RUI Construction Inc.
David Esau	Esau Home Improvements	Alfred J. Guertin	Kingstown Associates	Steven Desmarais	S. Desmarais Plumbing & Heating
Eugenio Messore	Eugene Messore Masonry	Timothy Lanphear	Lanphear & Son Inc.	D. Scott Heinz	S. Heinz Construction & Design Inc.
Frank C. DiMauro	F.C. DiMauro & Associates Inc.	Michael A. Kelly Esq.	Law Offices of Michael A. Kelly, PC	Steven B. Carbone	S.B. Carbone Plumbing/Heating & GC
J. Michael Hill, CGP	F.M. Properties Inc.	Mary Lou Mancieri	Lawton Valley Investments Inc.	Mike Saccoccia	Saccoccia's Construction & Landscaping
William Thornley	Ferland Corp.	Eric Constantino	Legacy Custom Remodeling LLC	Joseph Ferreira	Sakonnet Design Builders
Mike Feuti	Feuti's Construction	Kenneth M. Lantini	Lighting & Design by J&K Electric	Thurston Ponte	Sam Ponte Heating & Air Conditioning
Kenneth Hall	Fineberg Management Inc.	David Perry	Lisco Irrigation	Wolfgang Knoess	Samoset Builders Inc.
Stephen Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald Building and Remodeling	Jay Litman	Litman Architecture	David W. Satti	Satti Construction Inc.
Frank Lombardo	Frank Lombardo & Sons Inc.	Michael S. Kosiver	Lockheed Window Corp.	William P. Sgambato	Sgambato Brothers Construction
Frank P. Simonelli	Frank Simonelli Construction Inc.	Joseph Lombardi	Lombardi Construction Co., Inc.	Ronald R. Taglianetti	Sha-Ron Home Builders
Joseph C. Casimiro	Freedom Building Co.	Joseph Almeida	Lonsdale Concrete Floor Co., Inc.	Joseph Catelli	Shoreline Properties Inc.
Thomas Furey	Furey Roofing & Construction	Michael S. Ivie	Map Installed Building Products	Americo Colaluca	Smithfield Plumbing & Heating Supply
Scott Gallo	Gallo Construction LLC	Vincent J. Marcantonio	Marcantonio Design Builders	Richard A. Solomon	Solomon Management LLC
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Peter G. Rogers	Gerard Building Co., Inc.	Linda McGovern	McGovern Construction Co., Inc.	Ronald J. Caniglia	Stand Corp.
Steven Gianlorenzo Sr.	Gianlorenzo & Sons Construction Corp.	Roger Menard	Menard's Electric Inc.	Charles Standish	Standish Brothers HVAC LLC
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Burton Goldstein	Goldstein Electric	Michael West	Michael West Builders Inc.	Stephen Sullivan Sr.	Stephen Sullivan Inc.
Joao E. Gonsalves	Gonsalves Realty	Peter E. Costantino	Midland Manor Apartments	Mark E. Crook	Stiller Distributors
Anthony J. Calise	Grace Emporia LLC	Michael D. Fournier	Mike's Home Improvement Inc.	Michael Hanna CPA	Sullivan & Co. CPAs, Div. of BlumShapiro
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Anthony J. Gargaro Jr.	Greenville Seamless Gutters Inc.	Joseph C. Cracco	Modern Yankee Builders Inc.	Timothy A. Gardiner	T.A. Gardiner Plumbing/Heating Inc.
		Joseph F. Garlick Jr.	Neighborworks Blackstone River Valley	Robert D. Murray	Taft & McSally LLP
				Nancy Taylor	Taylor Interior Design



PRESIDENT...from page 5

The Home Show's overwhelming success also means that the residential construction market has finally turned around. Exhibitors I spoke with couldn't stop talking about the qualified visitors they met and the great leads they generated. Especially after such a tough winter, this is an excellent sign of things to come for all of us during the rest of 2014.

So thanks again to everyone who helped make the 64th Annual Home Show such a

hit!

What say we do it again next year, and that you join us an exhibitor if you haven't already?

RIBA's extensive visitor surveys during the show make it clear that people want to interact with builders and remodelers there. So the Home Show has become the best venue in a long time for you as a contractor to find work.

It's the year's best opportunity for you as a member to shine in the public eye!

As the Home Show's momentum con-

tinues to build, you need to be part of it! So don't wait: Contact Yoffe Exposition Services at (800) 963-3395 or visit www.RIBAHomeShow.com now to find out how you can join this momentum at the 2015 Home Show.



MEMBERS...from previous page

Thomas E. D'Angelo	Terry Lane Corp./ Progressive Realty Group
Michael J. Shea	Towne Glass & Aluminum Inc.
Ralph Boudreau	Uncle's Sound Systems Inc.
A. Michael Slosberg	United Builders Supply Co., Inc.
Bob Wilcox	United Builders Supply Co., Inc.
Frank Verzillo	V&M Construction Inc.
Vern Rainville	Vern Rainville Carpentry Inc.
Wayne A. Gablinske	Wayne Electric Inc.
Jay Goldrick	Wells Fargo Home Mortgage NMLSR# 408627
Louis A. Cozzolino	Westerly Cabinet Co., Inc.
Dan R. King	Wickford Home Services
William N. Harris Jr.	William N. Harris Inc.
J. Paul Clough	Windor Inc.

CONFERENCE...from page 2

Congress to preserve the mortgage interest and property tax deductions. Tax credits and the dearth of acquisition, development and construction (ADC) loans also were discussed.

Both lawmakers stressed that they want to hear about industry issues, urging members to keep them informed.

"If you think an issue is important, it is. Call us," Sen. Reed stated.

Reach Sen. Reed at (401) 943-3100 and e-mailed through his website, www.Reed.senate.gov. Reach Rep. Langevin at (401) 732-9400 or e-mail him through www.Langevin.house.gov.

LEGISLATION...from page 21

comes to climate change, let's be sure to think things through when making decisions that can affect our fragile economy.

Another significant development is the report recently released by Dr. Edinaldo Tebaldi, associate professor of economics at Bryant University's Center for Global and Regional Economic Studies. *The Economic Impact of the Construction Industry on the Economy of Rhode Island in 2013* is a stunning showcase of how important our industry is in the state's overall economic health. (Related story on page 22.)

So keep watching these pages, and stay in touch with your own state lawmakers on the issues of concern! For more information and details on how you can help protect our industry and your business, contact Executive Director John Marcantonio at (401) 438-7400 or jmarcantonio@ribuilders.org.

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