

SEPTEMBER 2018

THE WESTERN MASS BUILDER

Volume 4, Issue 7



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- OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING



WBS

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Home Builders & Remodelers Association of
Western Massachusetts
240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA 01104
(413) 733-3126, Fax: (413) 781-8416
www.hbrawm.com

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On the Cover:

It is time again for one of the association's best attended events: The Annual Clambake at High Meadow in Granby, CT. Be sure to join us for this day of fun, networking and tons of delicious food.

Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Western Massachusetts

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Tina Smith - Director, Home Show/Inside Sales/Publications
Sandi Doucette - Education/Special Event Coordinator
Maribel Walton - Administrative Assistant

The Western Mass Builder is the official monthly publication of the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Western Massachusetts, Inc. The subscription is free with membership. For advertising rates and deadlines, please contact the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Western Massachusetts, Inc., 240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA 01104. (413) 733-3126. Western Mass Builder reserves the right to determine the suitability of any advertising and editorial content.





TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018

5:30 p.m.

HBRAWM NETWORKING NIGHT

Come join fellow HBRAWM members for a networking night at the HBRAWM headquarters and learn savings techniques you can apply to your business today!

Seth Tenenbaum of Schooley Mitchell will be discussing how many companies overpay for telecom services and what can be done to mitigate costs and be more efficient with their time. Stop by to obtain a few secrets on how to lower your cell phone bills, internet and even merchant service fees.

Also, Chris Nadeau of Whittlesey, P.C. will be discussing some of the highlights of the new tax law and how the law will specifically affect the construction industry.

This event is free, however, reservations are required in order to plan accordingly for appetizers and beverages. Thank you!

Name of Attendee(s): _____

Company Name: _____



**Who doesn't want
to save money?**

**Don't miss this
great opportunity
to save!**

**This event is free
to members!**

**Appetizers &
beverages will be
served.**



HBRAWM

240 Cadwell Drive, Spfld.,
MA 01104

413-733-3126

www.hbrawm.com

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

5:30 p.m.

A collection of construction and drafting tools including a yellow hard hat, a red pencil, a blue compass, a white pencil, and a rolled-up blueprint, all resting on a rustic wooden surface.

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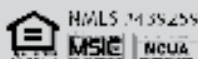
Three people, two women and one man, standing in front of a building with the sign "Polish National Credit Union".

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SUMMER FUN AT HBRA-WM ANNUAL CLAMBAKE

The summer has been rapidly passing, yet everyone knows that the HBRA-WM Clambake is the true end of the summer. This annual event, scheduled for Friday, September 7th at High Meadow in Granby, CT, joins both our association and members from the HBRA of Hartford County for a great day of fun and food.

At the request of many past attendees, this year you have an opportunity to add a 1 1/2 pound lobster to your dinner for an additional price of \$20.00. You must pre-order your lobster dinner prior to the event.

The festivities begin at noon with a delicious lunch consisting of New England Clam Chowder, grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, coleslaw, baked beans and steamed clams. For all the seafood lovers out there, cherrystone clams on the half shell will be available from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. If you do not get enough to eat for lunch, be sure to stay for the elaborate dinner buffet that begins at 5:00 pm and includes carved roast beef, baked chicken, sausage with peppers and onions, BBQ ribs, pasta, corn on the cob, salads and plenty of dessert.

The day is filled with an array of activities to test your athletic skill on individual or team levels. Try your hand at: bocce, horseshoes, ping-pong, shuffleboard, volleyball, plywood tossing, nail driving and one of the most popular events of the day, arm wrestling. If you are interested in swimming or tennis, you will need to bring your own items.

Winners of the events are awarded medals. This event is not recommended for children. Many companies use this event as their company summer outing because all the work is done for them. Please complete the sign up sheet on the next page to register. Ticket prices are \$50 per person with the option of adding a lobster at dinner for an additional \$20. The lobster is to be served at dinner time only and can not be taken off the premises.



HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN MASS ANNUAL CLAMBAKE



**Friday, September 7, 2018
12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
High Meadow, Granby, CT
\$ 50 per person**

There is plenty of fun, food, camaraderie, food, games, food, prizes, oh yes, and did we mention the food? We invite all of our members to use this event as their very own company or client outing. You don't want to miss this great networking event. This year we will once again be joined by the Hartford County Home Builders Association. There is plenty of free parking and at \$50 you can't beat the price. Just like last year, everyone will have an opportunity to add a 1 ½ lb. lobster to their meal **to be served at dinner time only and not to be taken off the premises** for an additional \$20 per person when a regular ticket of \$50 is purchased. Say yes to the best clambake around!

This event is not for children and will be held rain or shine.

****ACTIVITIES INCLUDE****

Bocce – Horseshoes - Ping Pong - Plywood Toss - Nail Driving Contest
Shuffleboard – Volleyball - Arm Wrestling

HBRAWM's Annual Clambake - R.S.V. P. by **Friday, August 31, 2018**

Please send me _____ clambake tickets at \$50 per person and _____ lobster tickets at \$20 per person.

Company Name: _____

Name(s) of Attendee (s): _____

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Please Charge My ____ Visa ____ MC ____ AMEX Card _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV Code _____ Card Holder Name, Street Address & Zip Code (please print) _____

Please make checks payable and mail to: Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Western Massachusetts, 240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA 01104 or email to sdoucette@hbrawm.com. **It is important that you indicate the names of who will be attending. Please use the back if necessary.**

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Email: Stuart@safcofoam.com



SAFCO Foam is New England's #1 source for energy efficient spray foam insulation.

On-Site Member Open Houses have been a great marketing tool for the businesses that have participated. Members who attend the events like the flexibility of coming and going at their leisure, touring the members' place of business and having the opportunity to network with other members throughout the evening without a formal program.

If you are interested in hosting an Open House at your place of business, please contact Andrew Crane at the HBRA-WM at 413-733-3126.

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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT UPDATE

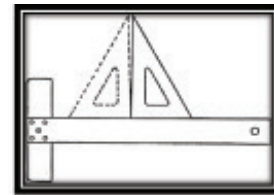
Many of you have seen the pictures of our scholarship winners each year but do you know how these scholarship awards and tool stipends have helped out some of the winners? Recently, HBRA-WM Executive Director Andrew Crane met with one of the trade school students who won a \$750 Tool Stipend at a member building material supplier in the area. Prior to the student's arrival, the manager of the supply house spoke with Mr. Crane about the history of the scholarship program and how the HBRA-WM and the Foundation has helped hundreds of students further their careers in the trade by awarding these tool stipends. The manager was quite impressed with the program.

Once the student arrived, Mr. Crane took the young man around the supplier's store and assisted him as he selected various tools for his career in the plumbing trade. Upon checking out and paying for the tools, Mr. Crane said that the manager gave the student a discount resulting in the student acquiring almost \$1,100 in tools from the \$750 Tool Stipend that was awarded.

It is through the generosity of our membership at various events and through raffles and annual sponsorships that the HBRA-WM can continue to give out thousands of dollars in scholarships and tool stipends. If you would like to make a donation to the Home Builders Foundation, please contact Andrew Crane at 413-733-3126.

Did you or a family member win a Home Builders Foundation Scholarship?

If you would like to give our association an update about a winner of one of our scholarships and what they have done, please send your stories and photos to Tina Smith at:
tsmith@hbrawm.com.



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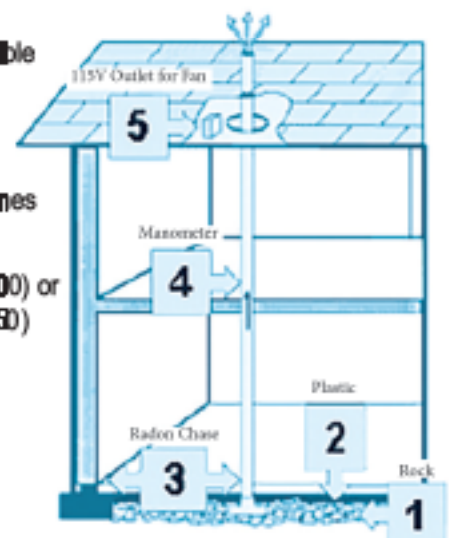
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HBRA of WMass - CSL Preparation Course

Top Notch Instructor - Course instructor Michael McDowell, CBO is the owner of three small companies which are comprised of a construction company, real estate firm and a home inspection company. Michael holds numerous licenses and certifications in the building field and instructs a broad range of educational classes.

Convenient Time & Location - Classes are held for seven Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Home Builders & Remodelers Association Headquarters Building at 240 Cadwell Drive in Springfield. The classes are Sept. 19 & 26 and Oct. 3, 11*, 17 & 24 and Nov. 7 (11* is a Thursday).

The Price is Right - **\$250.00** – Member of the HBA-WM **\$350.00** – Non-member**

- ** A non-member who joins the association within 60 days of completing this program is eligible to receive a \$100.00 credit (course only) towards their first year of membership dues. Member dues are \$385* per year. *Member dues are subject to change.
- There is an additional charge of \$155 (Member) \$165 (Non-Member) for the IRC 2015 Int'l Code Book, \$13 (Member) \$18 (Non-Member) for the MA 1 & 2 Family 9th Ed. Amend., \$155 (Member) \$165 (Non-Member) for the IBC 2015 Int'l Code Book and \$23 (Member) \$28 (Non-Member) for the MA Basic Bldg. 9th Ed. Amend. *Prices on all books are subject to change.
 - Additional reference materials can be purchased such as the Architectural Access Board Rules & Regs. 2006 for \$15 (Member) or \$18 (Non-Member). *Prices on all books are subject to change.
 - Payment can be in the form of cash, check or charge. We accept Visa, MC and Amex.
 - Tuition does not include the \$100.00 examination fee or the \$150.00 licensing fee payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Although there are no requirements to take our class, **the state does require that you be at least 18 years of age or older and be able to document 3 years full time experience in the building and design field to take their exam.**

- * **Our Guarantee** - If you attend all classes and do not pass the exam within one month after the last class, you may repeat the entire course free of charge the next time our class is offered.

Cancellation and Refund Policy - Cancellations received between Sept. 5 and Sept. 11, 2018 will receive a fifty percent refund. Any cancellations on or after Sept. 12, 2018 will not be reimbursed a refund.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____ Company: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Full Address: _____

I am enrolling ____ participant(s) in the Construction Supervisor's License Exam Preparation Course at ____ \$250 Member or ____ \$350 Non-Member. I will also need the following books:

IRC 2015 Int'l Code Book (1&2 Family)	____ \$155 Member	____ \$165 Non-Member
Massachusetts 1 & 2 Family 9 th Ed. Amend.	____ \$ 13 Member	____ \$ 18 Non-Member
IBC 2015 Int'l Bldg. Code Book (Comm.)	____ \$155 Member	____ \$165 Non-Member
Massachusetts Basic Bldg. 9 th Ed. Amend.	____ \$ 23 Member	____ \$ 28 Non-Member

Optional Reference Material:

Architectural Access Board & Rules & Regs. 2006	____ \$15 Member	____ \$18 Non-Member
---	------------------	----------------------

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Western MA.

Credit Card Information

Please charge my ____ VISA ____ MC ____ AMEX Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Card Holder Name, Street Address & Zip Code (please print) _____

Card Holder Signature _____ Amount charged _____

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NINTH EDITION CODE BOOKS ON SALE



Name: _____ Company: _____

Member: _____ Non-Member: _____ TelephoneNo: _____

Book	Member Price	Non-Member Price
9th Edition 1 & 2 Family Code Book	___ @ \$ 13.00 each	___ @ \$ 18.00 each
9th Edition Basic (Commercial)	___ @ \$ 23.00 each	___ @ \$ 28.00 each
2015 IRC 1 & 2 Family	___ @ \$ 155.00 each	___ @ \$ 165.00 each
2015 IBC Basic (Commercial)	___ @ \$ 155.00 each	___ @ \$ 165.00 each

Credit Card Information

Please charge my ___VISA ___MasterCard ___AMEX Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____

Card Holder Name, Street Address & Zip Code (please print): _____

Card Holder Signature: _____ CVV: _____ Amount Charged: _____

All Books Must Be Picked Up at Our Office at 240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA during normal business hours.

Picked Up By: _____ Date: _____

Paid by: _____ Charge _____ Check or _____ Cash

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

From time to time, members of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) issue responses to frequently asked questions to assist with the interpretation and application of building code provisions. Recently, BBRS members have published FAQs relating to:

- **Wind-borne debris protection;**
- **Under floor protection, existing conditions;**
- **Residential additions in flood-prone areas; along with**
- **FEMA Guidance.**

Other News

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) meets on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 1:00 p.m. to discuss topical building code and related issues. Statutorily, BBRS members are required to convene public hearings in the City of Boston during the months of May and November.

In May, among other things, members reviewed proposals to advance towards the 2018 version of the **International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)** as well as **Appendix Q of the International Building Code (IBC)** pertaining to tiny houses. Decisions have not yet been made regarding these proposals.

BBRS Advisory Committees

BBRS members are fortunate to have a host of advisory committee members available to help develop and interpret code language appropriately. Often BBRS members rely on the expertise of advisory membership to untangle complicated code text. For instance, members of the Fire Prevention Fire Protection (FPFP) advisory committee discussed code compliance considerations for fire rated duct products. Concern had been raised several months ago as to the proper application of Type B, fire-resistive rated duct and enclosure assemblies for compliance with symmetry testing and continuity requirements of the International Building Code (IBC).

(continued on next page)

OF BUILDING REGULATIONS & STANDARDS

In consideration of the matter, FPDF member key discussion points determined:

- a.) Fire rating performance is always based upon the criteria of ASTM E119 (or UL 263).
- b.) All fire rated duct products rely on alternative testing to ASTM E119 and therefore are not meeting the prescriptive provision.
- c.) Therefore, the use of such products requires approval by the building official as either:
 - A Modification under 104.10,
 - An Alternate Material, Design and Method of Construction and Equipment under 104.11, or
 - As a Compliance Alternative under 34-101.5.0 (existing buildings).
 - As always, the Appeal process under 112 is available as well.

This FPDF discussion acknowledges that the use of fire rated duct systems, which can demonstrate with documented alternative testing to ASTM E-119 for fire exposure from the interior and the exterior (and considering orientation), could be approved under 104.11. By comparison, fire rated duct systems that are tested from only the interior or the exterior and/or without distinction of orientation would be expected to need additional rational analysis to demonstrate compliance with the code intent for a specific case. As such, the latter is more likely to require approval under code Sections 104.10 or 34-101.5.0 for existing buildings.

These discussions took place over a number of meetings with FPDF membership and BBRS members ultimately concurred with their findings.

It is hoped that this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Robert Anderson

Division of Professional Licensure

Office of Public Safety and Inspections

Chief of Inspections - Building & Engineering

1000 Washington Street

Boston, MA 02118



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In Classroom

Sept 27 & 28 | Oct 18 & 19 | Nov 29 & 30



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(413) 733-3126

As of 1/1/2018, you may only take a maximum of 6 credit hours online. Any additional hours MUST be taken in the classroom. All courses are approved by the BBRS for continuing education credits.

****Specialty License Holders may take all their credits online or take a one day in class program. Restricted or Unrestricted License Holders can earn six hours on line and earn the rest of their credits in the classroom or earn all their credits at a two day program. Dates of our classroom courses are listed above. One day of in class training is six credit hours.***

UPCOMING DATES FOR CEU CLASSES

(Classes Are Scheduled to Accomodate the New CEU Education Requirements That Began on January 1, 2018. A Contractor Can Only Take a Maximum of Six Hours of Classes On-Line and Earn the Rest of Their Credits In a Classroom Program. Contractors May Earn All of Their CEU Credits Strictly Through Classroom Courses. Two Days of Classes Will Fullfill the Restricted or Unrestricted License Requirements.)

(Dates Are Subject to Change)

Thursday & Friday, September 27 & 28
Thursday & Friday, October 18 & 19
Thursday & Friday, November 29 & 30
Thursday & Friday, January 24 & 25, 2019

Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Western Mass

240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA

7:30 a.m. – Check-In & Light Breakfast / 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Classes

Lunch provided at 12:15 p.m.

COST: HBRA Members Non-Members

One Day	\$ 139	\$ 199
Two Days	\$ 199	\$ 259
One Class	\$ 50	\$ 80



Please visit our website: www.hbrawm.com for details of classes being offered each day. If you are not sure which classes you need to take based on your license type, please call our office at 413-733-3126 and we will be glad to assist you.

**Be sure to visit our website:
www.hbrawm.com for the dates
of our CEU educational classes
throughout the year, as well as our
On-Line CEU Education Program.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 6

Membership Committee Meeting
HBRAWM Headquarters
240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA
9:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 6

Home Show Committee Meeting
HBRAWM Headquarters
240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA
4:00 p.m.

Friday, September 7

HBRAWM Annual Clambake
High Meadow, Granby, CT
12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Tuesday, September 11

HBRAWM Executive Board Meeting
HBRAWM Headquarters
240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA
4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 11

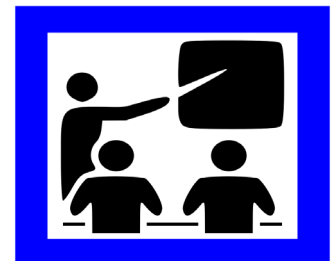
HBRAWM Board Meeting
240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA
6:00 p.m. – Social 6:30 p.m. – Meeting & Dinner

Monday, September 17

State of MA Board Meeting---Westborough, MA

Wednesday, September 19 & 26

CSL Preparation Class
HBRAWM Headquarters
240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



Thurs. & Fri., Sept. 27 & 28

Springfield 6 hr. CEU Classes
HBRAWM Headquarters
240 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA
7:30 a.m. – Check In
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Classes



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MEMBERS TO BE APPROVED

The following companies were presented for membership at the June HBRA-WM Board of Directors Meeting. Since there was not a quorum, they will be presented at the September Board meeting.

BUILDER MEMBER

G. NICOLAS WOHLERS

G. Nicolas Wohlers

388 East State Street

Granby, MA 01033-9506

BUSINESS: Builder

SPONSOR: Andrew Crane

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

ARTCRAFT COMPANY

Frances Richardson

26 Sunnyside Terrace

Wilbraham, MA 01095

BUSINESS: Promotional Sales

SPONSOR: Candace Rutz

B B LANDSCAPING LLC

Robert Nasitka

121 Palmer Road

Monson, MA 01057

BUSINESS: Landscaping

SPONSOR: Steve Mazza

THE BARN YARD ENTERPRISES

Everett Skinner

9 Village Street

Ellington, CT 06029

BUSINESS: Gazebos & Sheds

SPONSOR: Steve Mazza

J. D. RIVERT COMPANY, INC.

Sean Gouvin

P.O. Box 51068

Indian Orchard, MA 01151

BUSINESS: Roofing & Sheet Metal

SPONSOR: Michael McDowell

MEMBERS TO BE APPROVED

The following companies have applied for membership in the HBRA-WM. If you have any comments or concerns, please contact Tina Smith at tsmith@hbrawm.com or at 413-733-3126.

BUILDER MEMBERS

TODD CELLURA
Sovereign Builders, Inc.
135 Southampton Road
Westhampton, MA 01027
BUSINESS: Residential & Commercial Bldg
SPONSOR: Nicholas Riley

ROBERT GREEN
CT Remaissance Inc.
One Waterview Drive
Shelton, CT 06484
BUSINESS: Builder
SPONSOR: Steve Mazza

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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435 Narragansett Park Drive
Pawtucket, RI 02861
BUSINESS: Insulation Company
SPONSOR: Steve Mazza

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12 Beebe Lane
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BUSINESS: Excavation
SPONSOR: Steve Mazza

COMMERCIAL SCALE & BALANCE
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Agawam, MA 01001
BUSINESS: Scales
SPONSOR: Steve Mazza

CT TEMP CONTROLS
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Cromwell, CT 06418
BUSINESS: HVAC/Ltg/Energy Mgt.
SPONSOR: Steve Mazza

ENVISION MARKETING
Dan Buendo
280 North Main Street
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
BUSINESS: Marketing Services
SPONSOR: Andrew Crane

KENTUCKY BLUE LANDSCAPING
Jeff Nielson
124 West Dudley Town Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002
BUSINESS: Landscaping/Lawncare
SPONSOR: Steve Mazza

MEMBERS TO BE APPROVED

(continued from page 21)

The following companies have applied for membership in the HBRA-WM. If you have any comments or concerns, please contact Tina Smith at tsmith@hbrawm.com or at 413-733-3126.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

SHAWMUT EQUIPMENT

Joe Vergoni
20 Tolland Turnpike
Manchester, CT 06042
BUSINESS: Crane Equipment
SPONSOR: Steve Mazza

STANTON EQUIPMENT

Scot Stanton
105 South Main Street
East Windsor, CT 06088
BUSINESS: Lawn & Garden Dealer
SPONSOR: Steve Mazza

SUPERIOR DOOR & MILLWORK

Wesley Dupuis
21 Wilbraham Street
Palmer, MA 01069
BUSINESS: Wholesaler
SPONSOR: Scott Fleury

WHITTLESEY & HARDLEY PC

Christopher Nadeau
14 Bobala Road
Holyoke, MA 01040
BUSINESS: CPA Firm
SPONSOR: Seth Tenenbaum

If you would like the HBRA-WM to send out a Membership Application Packet to a prospective member on your behalf, please call us at 413-733-3126 or email us at info@hbrawm.com.

REMEMBER: THE TASK IS TO ASK!!

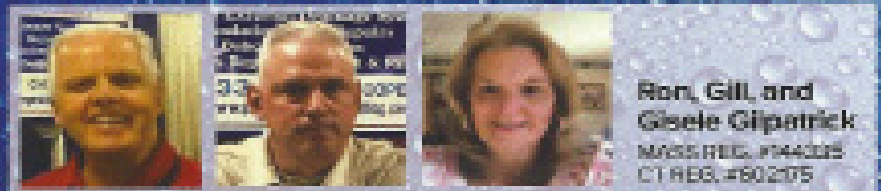
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

CHA Companies
C J Carpentry & Construction
The Gaudreau Group
George's Renovations, LLC
Ironclad Services, Inc.
L & R Sales Inc.
Roger Martineau, General Contractor
Mill River Builders
Dan Roulier & Associates Inc.
Smokestack Lightning, Inc.
Trus Joist

Kelly Killeen
Joseph Mole'
Jules Gaudreau
George Abdow
Matthew Cumutte
Gary Midura
Roger Martineau
Owen Wright
Daniel Roulier
William Simpson
Craig Smith



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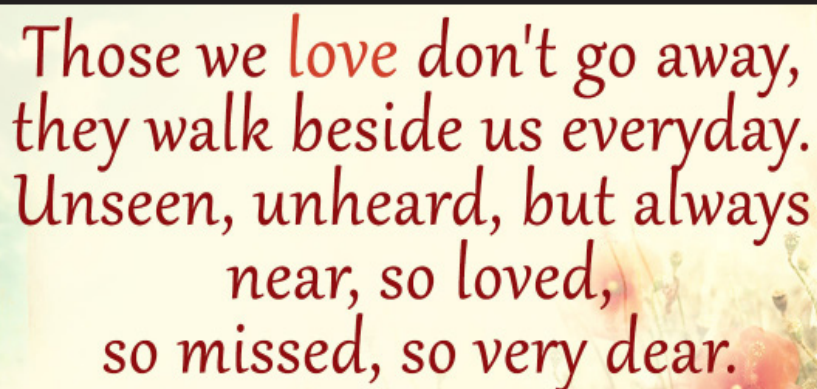


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MEMBERSHIP CLIPBOARD

RECENT PASSINGS

The HBRA of Western Mass offers its condolences to **Julien Drapeau, Jr. of Julien Drapeau Home Improvement** on the recent death of his father, Julien Drapeau, 88, founder of Julien Drapeau Home Improvement. Mr. Drapeau passed away at his home on August 6, 2018. In 1970, he founded Julien Drapeau Home Improvement and retired in 1990 passing his business on to his son, Julien Drapeau, Jr. Memorial donations in Julien's name may be made to Brightside for Families and Children, 1233 Main Street, Holyoke MA 01040.



Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us everyday.
Unseen, unheard, but always
near, so loved,
so missed, so very dear.

— Anonymous

The association honors **Edward Thomas Speight**, 88, who died peacefully on August 3, 2018. He was a lifelong resident of East Longmeadow. A local builder and developer, he owned **Ed Speight and Company** since 1968, building hundreds of homes in East Longmeadow and surrounding communities. He was a member of the HBRA-WM for over 50 year. In 1992, Mr. Speight and his brother William presented the association with a large conference table in honor of their father, Leo. The conference table is still in use in the small conference room downstairs in the Edward R. Pedersent Resource Learning Center, also know as the association headquarters. Mr. Speight leaves behind three sons. Memorial contributions may be made to Dakin Humane Society, PO Box 6307, Springfield, MA 01101-6307 or to St. Vincent de Paul Society, c/o St. Michael's Church, 128 Maple Street, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

We were very sorry to learn of the recent passing of Janice E. Laplante, 74, wife of **M. Paul Laplante**, of **Laplante Construction Company** in East Longmeadow. Ms. Laplante leaves her beloved husband Paul, as well as four children, six stepchildren and thirteen grandchildren. She worked at several restaurants as a waitress including Pizza Pub in Wilbraham and Salvatore's, formerly of Springfield. She was also a travel agent for Liberty Travel and Peter Pan World. Memorial contributions may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215. We send deepest condolences to Paul and the entire Laplante family.

Our hearts are very heavy to learn about the sudden death of Jared W. Kozlik, 20, son of **Kenneth and Cheryl Kozlik of Ken Kozlik Building & Remodeling of Belchertown**. Jared was a graduate of Pathfinder Regional High School. He studied horticulture and was working in the field as a landscaper in Portland, ME. Jared was a boy scout since age 8 and achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. He loved camping, fishing and dirt bike racing, as well as his rescue dog and longtime companion, Macy. Beside his parents, he leaves his older sister Julia Kozlik and her fiance Andre Kopacki of Belchertown, as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. For those wishing to honor his memory, donations can be made to either the Western Mass Council Boy Scouts of America, 1 Arch Road, Westfield, MA 01085, or to the Herrenproject.org, an organization which awarded Jared a scholarship. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Kozlik family on this tremendous loss.



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The Economy Through 2018: Finally Behaving Well!

Elliot Eisenberg, Ph.D. - GraphsandLaughs, LLC

Despite more political uncertainty than usual emanating from Washington, the next 12 months are shaping up well. The odds of a recession remain very low – about 10% -- despite now being in the middle of the second longest economic recovery in US history. Global growth is solid, and while inflation is rising, it's doing so slowly, giving the Fed time to raise rates at a leisurely pace and not upend the fastest economic growth our economy is about to experience since 2005.

Giving the economy a strong boost is a combination of net tax cuts totaling more than \$1 trillion passed in December and spending increases totaling \$400 billion passed in February. Collectively, these stimuli should raise near-term GDP by half a point. As a result, the Fed is likely to raise rates at least two more times this year – each time by one-quarter point – and possibly three times. This will be done to protect the economy from overheating and proactively prevent inflation from rising much higher than 2 percent/year, the Fed's target inflation rate.

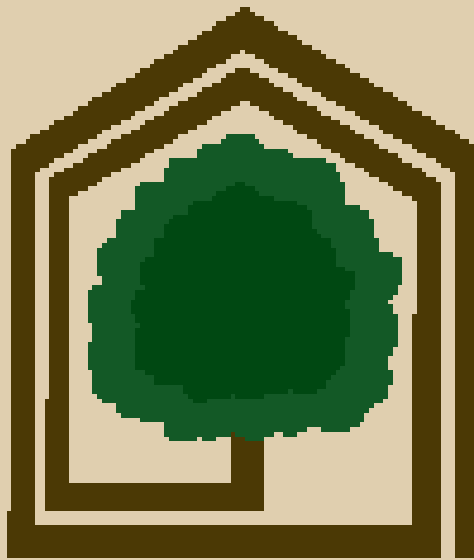
GDP growth during the next 12 months should average 2.8 percent, up from 2.3 percent in Q1 2018. Unemployment will continue to decline from the current rate of 3.9 percent to at least 3.7 percent and perhaps as low as 3.6 percent, rates not seen in more than 50 years. Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, will rise from 2.0 percent now to 2.5 percent by year-end 2018. As for 10-year Treasury rates; by year-end expect them to be at or near 3.2 percent, up from the current 3 percent.

Regrettably, the worker shortage will worsen. Employer surveys show an ever-increasing number of firms in a growing number of industries facing growing difficulties in the recruitment of skilled workers. With unemployment below 4 percent – and with labor force growth weak – the struggle to find workers will get worse before it gets better. More and more firms will be forced to turn away work due to a lack of skilled labor. With both U.S. population growth and immigration slowing, an advantageous solution is for firms to invest in labor-saving technology to boost output. Fortunately, due to the recent tax reform, tax treatment of purchases of plant and equipment is more favorable today than at any time in recent memory.

Because of the ongoing labor shortage, skyrocketing input costs including lumber, aluminum, and rising land costs, single-family housing starts will rise by no more than 5 percent over the next 12 months and multifamily activity should remain where it is. By contrast, remodeling activity looks to grow by a strong 7.5 percent due to a combination of ever-rising home prices boosting home equity, shrinking inventory of existing houses, and limited starts, all of which are causing homeowners to remodel rather than move. As for existing sales activity, it might grow by as much as 1 or 2 percent, but not more; home prices will rise by 6.5 percent over the next year.

Growth during the rest of 2018 looks to be meaningfully better than what we have experienced since the end of the Great Recession. This is due to decent global growth and passage of tax cuts and spending increases here in the US.

A wildcard in all this is trade. A dissolution of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and a trade war with China or Europe would weaken growth – albeit not substantially – at least in the short-run. The knock-on effects such as a possible decline in consumer confidence are of more concern. Lastly, while interest rates will rise in the second half of 2018 (as they have in the first half), the increases will be measured, and the chances of a recession are very low.



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The Annual HBRA-WM Sponsorship Program is Being Revamped

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We are planning to revamp our sponsorship program and are looking for feedback from our sponsors (and potential sponsors) on how we can make our sponsorship program more beneficial to you and your company.

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Both online and classroom components are required for certification. This course has been approved by the Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund, which has funds available for employee training. Please visit the NEHERS website for details about how to apply.

Online Component: (NEW- On-Demand Training Modules will go live in mid-September)
Office Hours: September 17-28, 2018 - (Times TBA)

5-Day Classroom/Field Component:
October 1-5, 2018 - Weekdays 8:30am-5pm - Manchester, NH

Training Fee is \$2595 (Get \$200 off if you register by August 20th!) and includes: the combined online and classroom components; all four RESNET Exam Fees- including the new Practical Simulation Exam (\$550 total value); the Northeast HERS Training and Reference Manual (\$100 value); a one-year Associate Membership in the Alliance (\$50 value); 30 hours of online study (approved for 17.5 hrs of BPI CEUs); 5 days of classroom/field study; a thorough review of basic energy concepts; field experience with blower door testing and duct blasting; two of the five Probationary Ratings overseen by a RESNET certified Candidate Field Assessor required by RESNET; and training on the latest version of rating software.

Both online and classroom components are required for rater certification.
Final registration deadline is September 4, 2018.

For more information contact Betsy Ames at betsy@nehers.org or call/text 978-633-3013 or register online at <http://www.nehers.org/event?EventID=6300>.

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