



# News

SPRING 2012

## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO BUILD THE GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is on the verge of accomplishing a long-held dream, just in time for the 100th anniversary of national Girl Scouts Association. Wright Builders has been awarded the contract to construct a new 9300 sq. ft. facility on Kelly Way in Holyoke MA which will consolidate their service centers into one handsome and cost effective building using some of the latest in energy efficient products and methods. Under the direction of Architectural Insights, and with value engineering assistance from the Wright Builders team, the new facility is efficient, handsome and cost effective.



Artist's Rendering – Architectural Insights

## GREEN BUILDER HOME OF THE YEAR.

We are really pleased that *Green Builder Magazine* has selected the Cave Residence in Hadley for its "Home of the Year" award. The home reflects the vision of the homeowners and Architect Bruce Coldham, of Coldham and Hartman, and achieves a milestone minus 33 HERS rating, thereby producing significant surplus electric power of over \$1600 on an annual basis. The Wright Builders team of Mark Ledwell and Jim Saucier put together an unusual, outstanding building, high-lighting the way into the future of sustainable construction practices.



## DRAGONFLY MEDICAL GROUP

Kate Atkinson, MD, a widely-recognized Amherst family practice physician, started to plan for a new family practice facility several years ago. She wanted to reflect her values in a sustainable, solar-powered building that would be filled with natural light, healthy air, and provide an efficient treatment environment for both clients and staff.

Kuhn Riddle Architects came on board to design the facility, fresh from the success just next door with the new facility for New England Environmental. They put together a unique and visionary facility now headed into construction. Wright Builders was brought in during 2011 to provide estimating, value engineering, and now, Construction Management. We are thrilled to be part of this project.



Artist's Rendering – Kuhn Riddle Architects



# BEECHWOOD

at Village Hill

This new cluster of six LEED and Energy Star 3.0 Tier III homes is advancing towards final permits and construction in the late spring. Building on the success of the 11 Morningside homes, this award from Massachusetts Development to Wright Builders allows additional customers to have homes at Village Hill, including those who could not be accommodated at Morningside. We are delighted that Goggins Real Estate is handling the marketing and sales effort once again.

The Beechwood location is spectacular, just to the north of Beech Tree Park, with great views over the community to the Holyoke range, as well as northwesterly views toward Williamsburg.



Two standard house designs are offered, both as three bedroom homes and with a four bedroom option. Screened-in porches are available.

Extensive landscaping is provided, designed by the Berkshire Design Group, and a broad range of exterior color schemes have been developed by Amy Woolf Color Consulting.

The Artisan's Cottage is based on our successful Craftsman Cottage, with a first floor master suite and two or three bedrooms on the second floor. The Montague Farmhouse is a comfortable family home with three or four bedrooms upstairs.

### Artisan's Cottage:

The homes feature double wall construction for full thermal break, triple window glazing, and 97% efficient heating system, fully insulated basements, and Energy Recovery Ventilation as standard equipment. Add this to the handsome local hardwood floors and cabinetry, stone counters and other items familiar from Morningside, these homes offer an outstanding value package, beginning at \$495,000.

At this writing, the first phase of all three homes went under deposit in the first week of offering. Three more homes to come in July!

Artisan's Cottage



Montague Farmhouse



### Montague Farmhouse:

This traditional early 19th century style home has evolved from our earlier Farmhouse models, and includes generous porch stately wide corner boards and a floor plan with rear flexibility. The first floor living space is maximized, with 2nd floor master suite, and two additional bedrooms with bath. The option for expansion to a fourth bedroom with dormers makes this a very flexible plan for family living. Three bedroom, 2 ½ baths, and all the LEED and Energy Star 3.0 and Energy Star Tier III features are standard, with options for materials upgrades and choices.

## BEMENT SCHOOL NEW DORMITORY

Following on the successful completion and commissioning of Jiayi and Blydenburgh Houses 2 years ago, the Bement School has contracted with Wright Builders for the second, companion dorm, which includes double student rooms, faculty apartments, common areas and recreation space. The new dorm will be built to the same standard approaching zero net energy, using a broad range of more sustainable materials. The facility has been designed by Margo Jones Architects of Greenfield, one of the leaders in the field.

By upgrading their residences in this way, Bement has made a bold move to secure state of the art, easily maintained, attractive, healthy and low overhead student residences for the foreseeable future. Wright Builders is honored to be selected for this second facility, and we congratulate the school on their success.



Artist's Rendering – Margo Jones Architects

### Next issue:

Look for the new Wright Builders website. Easier to navigate, greener, much more inviting. Stop by.

The Upper Ridge at Village Hill.

NCCM: We'll update you on the "lyrical" work we've done for our local gem, the Northampton Music Center. We've updated the lower level of the building and made significant improvements to the tone of the overall musical experience: Watch for photos !

# WHAT DOES ENERGY STAR MEAN TO YOU?



Wright Builders has been at the forefront of solar design, energy-efficient construction, and conservation technology for our entire history.

In 2008 we added photovoltaic panels to our own offices, reducing our electric consumption by 40%.

We are proud to be an Energy Star Partner. This means we are approved by **ENERGY STAR**, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy that is helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Every Wright Builders home is built to these standards.

Looking at two seemingly identical houses, one Energy Star, Tier III/LEED Compliant and the other minimally code complaint, you won't notice much on the surface that seems to be different.

The code minimum house will cost a little less, but spending a little more on the energy-efficient home will save you money in the long run because of the differences in the construction. (see list at right)

- 1 Higher standards of insulation installation, leading to a more weather-tight house.
- 2 Prescribed detailing to virtually eliminate wind infiltration.
- 3 Minimal usage of low performance insulation products such as fiberglass.
- 4 Class 1 Cellulose insulation, a locally produced, recycled product that is sustainable.
- 5 More efficient heating systems and sealed duct work to reduce air leakage.
- 6 Floor system air sealing for greater comfort.
- 7 Efficient doors and windows.
- 8 Low E glass.
- 9 Sealing around doors and windows with high performance materials.
- 10 No fuel smell from oil heating equipment.
- 11 Attics and knee walls sealed from living spaces as if they were outdoors (which they are).
- 12 Up to 35% heating cost savings.
- 13 SEER 12 and SEER 14 cooling equipment.
- 14 Indoor comfort at lower temperatures because of reduced drafts.
- 15 High efficiency lighting reduces lighting costs by 75%.
- 16 Higher humidity levels are achievable without damage to house – approximately 40% -- for greater health and comfort indoors.
- 17 Constant/periodic ventilation to refresh interior air.
- 18 Gas stove hoods vent fumes and cooking odors outdoors.



## THUMBS UP

Next time you do interior painting; check out the no VOC paints available for all major manufacturers. The products contain no volatile organic compounds in their chemistry and none in the pigments either. Benjamin Moore Eco-Spec and Natura are two recognized names, but Sherwin Williams and Pittsburgh have their own formulations as well. This is not to suggest that you should mix these products interchangeably with salad dressing! Good ventilation is a must, as the polymer chemistry is sophisticated, albeit VOC free.



## THUMBS DOWN

It's time to nourish your plants and grass and other landscape features, and our world is full of chemical products for this, based on urea technology, which is a petroleum based product. Did you know that the chemical fertilizer industry grew out of the huge stockpiles of chemical weapons supplies after the end of World War II? These products do produce greening leaves, but the residues are potentially harmful, and there is really no need.

There are seaweed emulsion-based fertilizers available through companies like Shumway Lawn Care in Amherst. We asked Steve Prothers, our long time collaborator at Amherst Landscapes, for his advice. He agrees, that although the organic and bio-degradable fertilizer products don't have the

instant effect on plants and lawns, they certainly don't have the potentially harmful long term effects on children, pets, and the environment.

Ornamental plants and lawns have survived quite well with proper watering & minimal organic fertilizer for a long time without the need for chemical intervention. Instead of "stay-off" the lawn while chemically treating, "stay-on" the lawn and play while organically treating!

In addition, there are many drought tolerant plants and grasses that can help you eliminate not only dangerous chemical fertilizers, but also much of the irrigation needed. Check out the following website for further information: <http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/drought-tolerant-plants-landscape>





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## WRIGHT T-SHIRTS

New logo – new T-shirts!  
Come by our office and  
pick one up.



# THE NEW LOOK.....

Perhaps you have seen the green leaf popping out of our logo here and there. It's the handiwork of Margot Zalkind. We remind you that the commitment to environmentally sound design and construction is our mission, and goes back more than 38 years. We hope you like the updated and more whimsical look!



## Staff Features:

### WE WELCOME MATT VAYDA!

"I am pleased to jump on board and be in the midst of so much collective experience here at Wright Builders. Receiving a degree in Architecture from Wentworth Institute of Technology was gratifying, and I am even more excited to begin my journey as an associate estimator with Wright Builders. My goal is for my background to assist me along the way, and to expand my knowledge so that I can contribute to the team!"

