



News

FALL 2013

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO BUILD

In each of our issues we like to share with you a bit about one of the outstanding valley institutions or organizations that Wright Builders supports. Enjoy!

OUR FEATURED NON-PROFIT THE HITCHCOCK CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Continuing 50 Years of Excellence in Environmental Education

Education is a critical ingredient to developing a community that understands the interconnections among the health of people, ecosystems and economies. The Hitchcock Center's commitment is to help people connect and reconnect with nature, especially young children, and to encourage development of a deeper emotional bond to the natural world that sustains us all. Come join the Hitchcock Center this fall as they empower curiosity in the environment!

Their Educational Approach

The Hitchcock Center programs are designed to use the study of science and nature, its models, systems, processes, and elements, as a means to provide creative inspiration to solve human problems sustainably. Their programs serve to develop a continuum of competencies that begin at the earliest, most formative years and progress through a process of lifelong learning to engender a greater understanding of the interdependence of the environment, economy, and social issues.

Defining Place

Their approach to education uses the environment as classroom and defines place at a variety of scales – the schoolyard, the backyard, the neighborhood, the park,

the farm, the town, the forest, the pond, the mountains, and the watershed. In these settings, the Hitchcock Center helps thousands of children and adults see and understand the impacts of our actions. Through their programs, they make connections to where our food comes from and where our waste goes. They help people understand the intimate relationship with the critical life-sustaining processes that support us.

Systems Thinking

Their programs use systems thinking to teach how the world is comprised of interconnected ecological systems, dependent on each other and in dynamic balance over time.

Valuing Perspective

They draw on our own experiences and those of others to share knowledge, similarities, and differences toward valuing perspectives. In addition to their highly skilled educational staff, they draw from a large community of naturalists, scientists, humanists, artists, and activists as guest educators to enrich their programs.

Promoting Ingenuity

Their programs promote human ingenuity and commitment to long-term well-being for people and the planet, and fuel an emergence of a sense of responsibility as well as hope.



BUILDING FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE: Plans for a New Community Environmental Learning Center

Meeting Their Challenge

The Hitchcock Center is growing! Since 2000 alone, the Center's programs have more than doubled. To meet this rising demand, they are building a new and visionary environmental learning center. Sited at Hampshire College, this new building will strengthen their core programs to educate environmentally literate citizens of all ages and also serve as a resource for the broader community in the Pioneer Valley and beyond. Through this project, the Hitchcock Center aims to ensure the Center's long-term sustainability and further their mission as an educational leader in the 21st century.

Hitchcock Center's Vision

Addressing the Center's need for a functional and versatile building space is a unique opportunity to translate their values into the built environment. Their goal is to design a building that will exceed the highest standards of green building. The Center wants this new building to be a highly visible model of ecological design that will inspire and educate people of all ages through the science of ecology and the practice of sustainability.

The Site

After an extensive search for a site that can accommodate their growth and vision, the Hitchcock Center found an ideal location for its new home on the Hampshire College campus. In November 2012, the site was approved by the Hampshire College Board of Trustees. Located just down Route 116 from our current location, this new site offers wonderful opportunities to collaborate with the Hampshire College community, accessibility to public transportation, and diverse habitats to enrich our programs. Though located on the Hampshire College campus, the Hitchcock Center will retain its full autonomy as an independent nonprofit organization.

Many Ways to Get Involved

There are numerous ways to get involved with the community at the Hitchcock Center. As a parent, you and your family are welcome to join them for one of their children and family programs. The Center offers many educational opportunities for adults and the community. They work with student volunteers and interns as well as relying on a large network of volunteers that help them with all the work in keeping the center and its programs running smoothly. They invite you to be a part of their community in the way that works best for you.



Hitchcock Center for the Environment

WBI Staff:



ROGER BUZZELL Project Manager

Roger Buzzell has been with Wright Builders for 8 years, having previously worked as a private residential builder in Franklin County. As one of our Project Managers he manages all aspects of overseeing the important communications between the client and subcontractors, keeping contracts up to date, and delivering the project on time and on budget. Roger has been the Project Manager for the majority of the LEED Certified and Energy Star homes built at Village Hill Northampton over the last 5 years. Roger says "Hi" to so many of you, his customers.

Roger lives with his family in Bernardston and in his spare time in the winter you'll find him on the mountain competitive skiing, and the rest of the year enjoying his children's active soccer and horseback riding activities.

PROJECTS AND UPDATES



THE GATEHOUSE

Working with Kuhn Riddle Architects and Berkshire Design Group, we designed, developed and built this high performance, healthy and efficient new commercial facility, handsomely turned out in the Greek Revival tradition, with about 16,000 sq ft within. By late fall it should be fully rented! A signature building at Village Hill Northampton, its south facade is marked by the original 1890's brownstone gateposts, in the Eastlake style of the time.

We can help your business grow and thrive, too, with new or expanded facilities, working with accomplished architects. Make your work product, your workplace, your day the best it can be!



PARK HILL ORCHARD Easthampton, MA

When Russell Braen and Alane Hartley bought the Park Hill Orchards farm and orchards 6 years ago, taking a bit of a turn from their dot.com business which is still operating, they saw the potential and the magic of the Easthampton location. This year they are finally getting their first full harvest from 36 varieties of apples and other perennial fruits, and have plans to expand many aspects of the business. They have hosted for the 2nd time, Art in the Orchard, a sculpture trail of over 20 installations, open through October 31.

This summer we helped them convert a metal utility building into the farm store, with facilities for cider making, cider donuts, and lots of treats and hot drinks for the pick-your-own season!

Stop by and say Hi, pick up some fruit, enjoy the breathtaking view, and see what is all abuzz in Easthampton farming!



DEVILLIERS' RESIDENCE

The Devilliers wanted to simplify their own life style by providing more room on the same property as their existing home for them, and maintaining the existing space for their children and grandchildren. Using the detached accessory apartment ordinance in Northampton, Wright Builders created this charming home with a tiny utility requirement, a bit of privacy set back from the street, and family just across the yard. A new and growing twist on the boomerang family!



BEECHWOOD at Village Hill Northampton

The last three home sites at Wright Builder's Beechwood project at Village Hill Northampton are under construction for buyers, who will move in around the holidays and into next spring. Using our Shelburne Farmhouse design for two of the sites, and an entirely new Arts and Crafts bungalow style single story on the corner of Olander Drive, the array of houses has a wonderful variety and uses the site very well. The bungalow provides generous 3 bedrooms living on one floor!

We can design and build similar homes on your lot too!

WRIGHT BUILDERS' HOMES OUT-PERFORM PROJECTIONS

Wright Builders' Senior Estimator Lynne Badgett has put her quantitative and analytical skills to work along with Hampshire College's intern Carl Hourihan to analyze over the course of the last six months, the usage and modeling data for our Village Hill homes. The good news from their analysis of these homes is that they perform better than the Home Energy Rating System (HERS Index), which is quite an accomplishment and great for the homeowners!

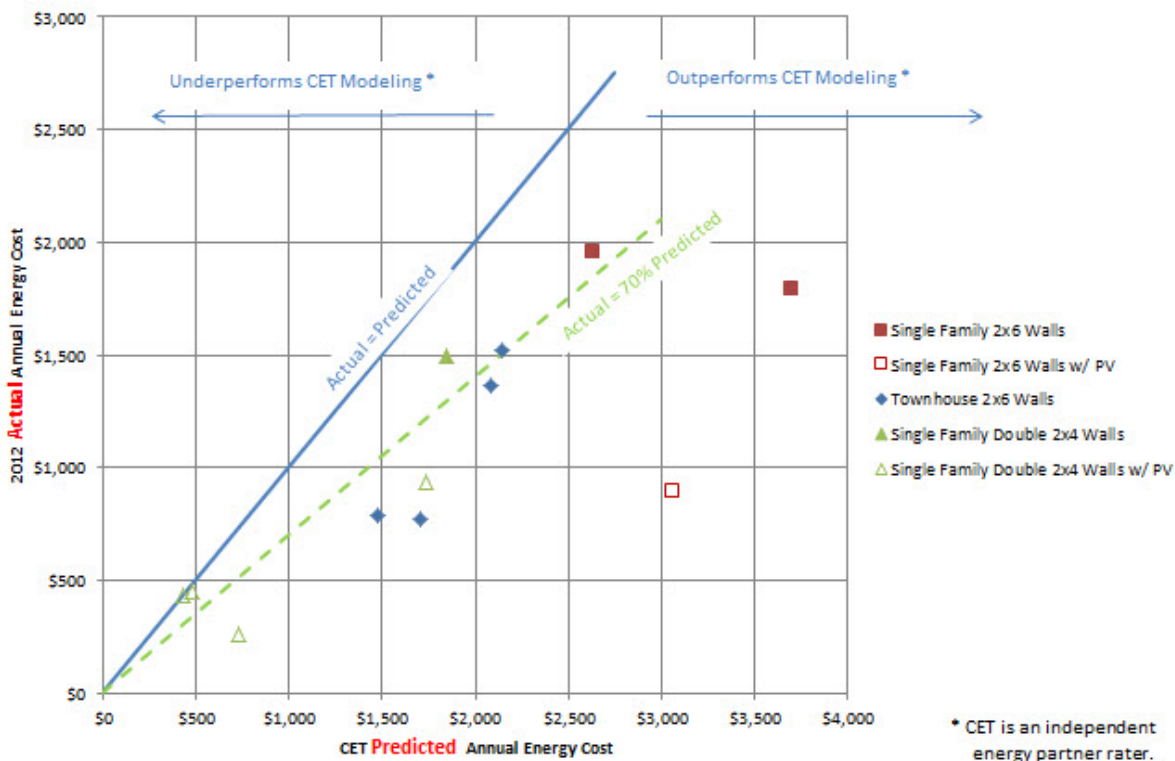
Carl came to us last year looking for exposure to sustainable building knowledge and practices and we have been lucky to have his help on this extensive analysis.

Carl has been concentrating his studies in engineering and sustainability studies, using his engineering courses as a tool to better understand technologies being applied to create more sustainable environments. His interests lie mostly within both improving and creating energy efficient built environments. Carl's professional goal is to be involved in renovation and construction of environmentally and socially conscious buildings.

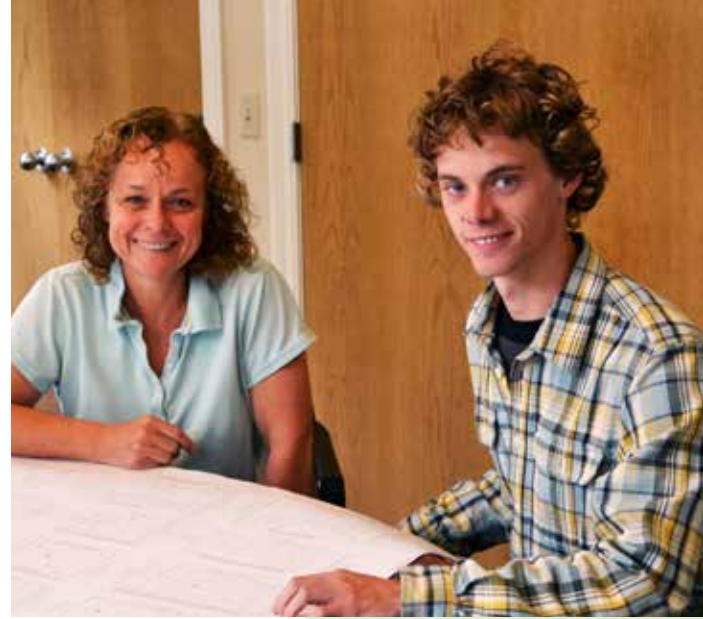
Fun fact: In most homes, laundry accounts for about 8% of the total utility usage. In Wright Builders' high performance homes, laundry accounts for more than 40% of the utility load, which means all those other utilities are inconsequential! Time to seek out the new improved drying technology, or use the clothesline!

Most people have the experience of products under performing against claims. Not so for Wright Builders' Homes! THEY OVER PERFORM!

Village Hill 2012 Actual vs. Predicted Annual Energy Costs



*CET The Center for EcoTechnology has been certifying LEED Homes since the first LEED for Homes pilot began in 2005. As an independent rater, their seasoned and experienced staff rated the homes in this study as well as other homes constructed by Wright Builders.



LEED Certified and Energy Star homes built by Wright Builders have:

- **Greater comfort:** eliminating drafts and uneven heating and cooling
- **Improved durability:** managing moisture in the home to prevent rot, mold, excessive humidity
- **Healthier indoor air quality:** reducing the likelihood of air pollution, residue from pests, radon and chemical pollutants, and unwanted moisture issues
- **Reduced energy bills:** eliminating poor construction techniques or ill-performing equipment that can lead to wasted energy
- **Lower carbon footprint:** reducing the need for energy through smart design means using fewer fossil fuels to heat, cool, and power your home

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF AMHERST

This historic shingle style downtown Amherst building will be renewed to its full glory. After years of planning, and with the detailed assistance of Jonathan Salvon and the Kuhn Riddle Architect's team, this historic building will be doubled in size and fully renovated by mid-winter. There will be new community space, additional classroom space for religious education, full handicap access including elevator to all levels, and extensive energy improvements and systems replacements.

Most visible of all will be the complete restoration of the historic and unique nine-paneled Louis Comfort Tiffany glass located in the street facing wall of the sanctuary. This spectacular Tiffany window is being restored and rebuilt by Cohoes Design Glass Associates, Inc. of Schenectady, NY. While the stained glass may not return for another year, this wall will have an entirely new window and glazing system ready to receive and protect the Tiffany panels when they return. Principals Jonathan Wright and Mark Ledwell have been enjoying donating their skills and time making the new window assembly, which measures about 10 x 14 feet!



RIVER VALLEY MARKET

The new Market outdoor dining deck is ready for you to stop by and enjoy some local farmers' foods outdoors! Community-owned and specializing in fresh, local and organically grown groceries, prepared foods, wine & beer, wellness, and personal care, the Market is open daily 8 am-9 pm.

HARTSBROOK SCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Nestled amid lovely green pastures under the gentle curves of the Holyoke Range, The Hartsbrook School is within close proximity to towns known for the excellence of their academic institutions. The unique and successful program will continue to thrive in their new expansion. Their new classroom building (Phase I) will be ready for occupancy late December 2013.

Kraus Fitch Architects





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THE UPPER RIDGE AT VILLAGE HILL

Wright Builders has received Planning Board approval for 28 units of townhomes and flats infilling the balance of the village core at Village Hill. *The four year plan includes 2, 3, and four bedroom townhomes on the park for sale NOW!* This winter we will unveil the final details of our 3 bedroom flats, six in each building, with full access including elevator to all levels. These Craftsman style homes set a new standard for efficiency and comfort in multifamily dwellings.

The Upper Ridge is designed by Kuhn Riddle Architects and The Berkshire Design Group, and all units are on track for Energy Star 3.0 and LEED Silver Certification. Come enjoy, the views, the park, the neighborhood, and the comfort of a sustainable future.

WRIGHT BUILDERS BREAKS GROUND AT THE END OF OCTOBER ON THE FIRST FOUR NEW TOWNHOMES!

Phase I



Phase III



Phase II



Phases II
and III



Phases IV



VISIT WRIGHT-BUILDERS.COM TO DOWNLOAD OUR COMPLETE UPPER RIDGE INFORMATION PACK



Sawmill Hills, Leeds Property with homes for sale. This country neighborhood on the northwestern side of Northampton is just minutes from I 91 and downtown Northampton. The remaining two lots may be purchased separately for \$89,000 each or both for \$150,000. Interested in a lot and a Wright Builders' home? Call Melissa at 413-586-8287 x104.

For more information about the Upper Ridge or Sawmill Hills properties, please contact Pat Goggins at Goggins Real Estate. 413-586-7000 x102.

Master renovations from the modest to the magnificent. Call us today with your ideas! 413-586-8287 x104