

## ADVANCED BUILDING CONCEPTS

*A tradition of quality and craftsmanship*

1077 Aquidneck Avenue  
Suite A  
Middletown, RI 02842  
Phone: 401-849-6658  
Fax: 401-849-8910  
Estimating Fax: 401-324-4098

**Employee Feed Back**  
thecrew@advancedbuilding  
concepts.com

We're on the web !!

[www.AdvancedBuildingConcepts.com](http://www.AdvancedBuildingConcepts.com)

## ABC MISSION STATEMENT

### *Relationships Built On Ethics, Integrity And Trust*

*Advanced Building Concepts is a full service family of quality-committed employees, contractors and suppliers dedicated to providing the finest construction services to a select group of residential, industrial and commercial clients in our service area. We are committed to providing and maintaining our personalized style of hands-on management on every construction project to produce satisfaction and profit for all. As a result of our determination to pursue continuing education, we create a safe working environment for our loyal family of employees to benefit from. We prove our excellence one repeat customer at a time and our reputation is maintained one project at a time.*

*John Brooks, President*

## FUTURE PROJECTS BY JOHN BROOKS

### FUTURE PROJECTS

ABC continues to pursue construction projects in these troubled times. The number of projects coming through the office has decreased over the past couple of months, and the percentage of projects that end up being awarded to ABC has also declined. With that being said, we all need to be patient as we continue to ride out this economic downturn. ABC's most recent loss is the Newport Hotel Project. We started out as one of several contractors being considered for the project, and in the end we came out in second place. We have been awarded the carpentry portion of a new pool building for Stanmar, similar to what we did for them at St George's School. We will be mobilizing on this project in a couple of months.

**PROGRESS AT NEWPORT HEIGHTS**—Shown below—Top left—Building #12 Rental Unit—Porch, Top right Bldg. 12 Deck—Bottom left - Kitchen area of Bldg. 19 Owner Unit—Bottom right 2nd Floor view of Building #19.



## WORK IN PROGRESS BY JAY EDWARDS

### PORTSMOUTH ABBEY CHURCH

The last of the exterior wood was finally planed, milled, primed and installed at the three remaining clerestory bays. ABC crews installed the associated trim which was followed by the stained glass. The work on the Crucifix and the associated array continues in the altar area that ABC has turned over to the Owner's subcontractor.

Interior painting/staining continues as ABC prepares to have the staging removed in the center core of the church. The storm panels have been installed on the choir windows and the remaining storms are in production.

### NEWPORT HEIGHTS

Work continues on the interior finishes on both the Rental and Owner sides of the project. Sev-

eral units have been punched out and are now substantially complete on the Owner's side. ABC field crews continue to install decks, rails and, where applicable, steps on the exterior of the Rental units. The trades continue to complete the interiors from rough along the north side to finish along the southern side.

## THIS MONTH IN SAFETY

BY ANDREW BROOKS

### WORKING IN COLD WEATHER

This month in safety we are going to discuss how to work in the cold weather. Cold weather can have a chilling effect on the senses, such as seeing, smelling, and feeling. It is also usually more difficult to be productive when you are cold. Therefore, it is important to dress for the weather conditions found on the jobsite.

When coming to work in the cold weather you always want to dress in layers so that you can take them off as the day warms so that you do not sweat. Being outside in the cold and sweating is the one of the worst thing that you can do. Your inner layers become damp, and then you can not warm up again. You also always want to try and keep your hands covered, and your feet well protected. These are always the first areas to get cold and are the toughest to warm back up.

Finally, one of the most important things to remember is to keep your head covered, because over half of our body's heat loss comes from our heads. Everyone bundle up because it is going to be cold for at least another month or so. Keep up the good work. Stay Safe!!!

## ABC HAPPENINGS

BY PAMELA DOUGLAS

So – how do YOU like all of this ice and snow? Personally, I've had enough – I'm ready for spring to come, although - what will the groundhog see when he pops his head out? Shadow or no shadow? The Groundhog Day (February 2<sup>nd</sup>) Rule, supposedly, goes like this ...if the groundhog sees his shadow, we have 6 more weeks of winter, if not, winter will end soon. I'm ready!!!

As we go into the second month of a new year, we now have a new President of the United States. Jay was in Washington for the Inauguration, courtesy of U.S. Representative Patrick Kennedy. No matter who you may have voted for, you have to agree that that must have been quite an experience.

It has been a year this month since we published the first copy of Advanced Monthly, and I have certainly enjoyed working on this each month. Although the deadline can sometimes be a little hairy, it is very interesting to hear about the details of the progress being made on the jobs, as well as the anticipation of upcoming work. We have submitted our application for the 2009 Step Award for Safety, in the hope of receiving another award this year for all of our safety efforts. If anyone has any "news" like births, engagements, or other things of interest, please let me know so we can publish them.

The Activities Committee will be meeting later on this month – more on this in "What's New" with more details.

Don't forget about Stop and Shop's free antibiotics – this offer goes on until March 21, 2009. There are so many germs around and so much illness at this time of the year – take advantage of this if you can.

## ... TO YOUR BENEFIT

BY RAY DAUPLAISE

### YEAR-END TAX TIPS

Here are two things to think about before you complete your 2008 tax returns:

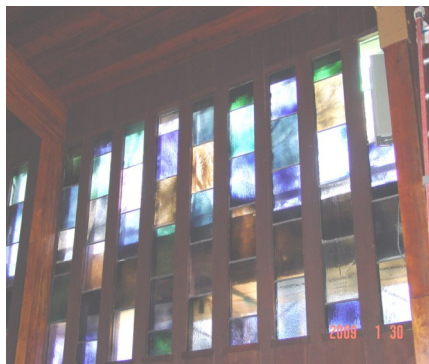
If you earned less than \$41,646 in 2008, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This **refundable**<sup>1</sup> credit can be as much as \$4,824 depending on the number of children you have. Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to have any children to be eligible for the EITC, but the income threshold and credit are both very low in that case. To get the credit you must claim it on your tax return; it is not automatic. To learn more, visit [www.IRS.gov/Individuals](http://www.IRS.gov/Individuals) and look for information about EITC, or see me.

Secondly, the IRS has announced that is waiving the regular fees to file your tax return electronically. This service generally costs in the range or \$15 to \$20. Is there any benefit to filing electronically? With direct deposit, you can get your refund in about 10 days! Visit [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov) and click

on "Free File". Don't forget that if you use a tax professional to complete your tax returns, you can ask to have your return filed electronically and get the same speedy refund.

Once your return is done, will you be getting a big refund, or worse, having to write a large check to the IRS? Did you have any life changes (for example: marriage, divorce, change in the number of dependents or purchase of a home) that could change your tax situation for 2009? You may need to change your tax withholding for 2009; now would be a good time to do it. All you need to do is submit a new W-4. See Pam or me to get a new W-4. Feel free to see me if you have any questions regarding the items above.

<sup>1</sup> Most tax credits are limited to the amount of tax due. A refundable credit is one that can not only reduce your tax liability to zero but can create a refund, even if no tax was withheld from your pay.



**Newman of Newmans Ltd. In Newport were hired to restore this sculpture. The picture below shows the framing has been completed, the stain glass has been replaced and the Clerestory work is complete. Before the Clerestory work could begin, the 2,960 pieces of**



**CHURCH OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT: Shown on the left—the storm panels have been installed on the choir windows. Pictured below is Richard Lippold's sculpture "The Trinity" being reinstalled over the altar. When Richard Lippold created this sculpture in 1961 he used about four miles of gold-plated wire. Howard and Mary**



**stained glass had to be labeled, cataloged, removed and cleaned, to be reassembled later when the framing was complete. When the stain glass was**