

Cornerstone

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ADVISORY BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Rick Derrer, BORA Chairman

A born and bred Miami native, Rick Derrer longed for the chance to give back to the community that had raised him. When the Board of Rules and Appeals (BORA) announced an open position for a General Contractor, he knew he had found the opportunity he was waiting for to contribute.

“By working directly with the Building Officials of the various municipalities of Miami-Dade County on appeal items, I have been able to expand my knowledge as a General Contractor and add my years of expertise to important building decisions,” says Derrer.

Derrer was appointed to BORA by District 4 Commissioner Sally Heyman and has served for seven years, working three of those years as the Chairman of the Board.

Derrer currently works as the President and CEO of James A. Cummings, Inc., a company of General Contractors that focuses on large-scale government and institutional projects throughout the state of Florida. “Some of our company’s most notable projects include the tennis center at Key Biscayne (formerly Lipton Tennis Stadium); three Metrorail stations; numerous concourses, as well as the Sky Ride, at Miami International Airport; and



Rick Derrer

the rental car center and parking garage at the Ft Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport,” says Derrer.

When asked about his opinion on the most significant recent change in the South Florida construction industry, Derrer cites the current downturn of the economy. “The recession we are going through has cost the industry a substantial number of construction projects and count-

less jobs.” Derrer contends that, “we are currently experiencing unemployment in excess of 20%.” In his estimation, these are trying times that only the best positioned companies in the industry will be able to survive.

According to Derrer, one of the most exciting things about serving on the BORA board is having the ability to uphold, overturn or affect a compromise on decisions made by the Building Officials throughout the County. “By listening carefully to the arguments of both sides,” indicates Derrer, “the Board members are able to make a ruling on the case before us.”

Overall, Derrer describes the BORA process as a very interesting one that addresses appeals in the most professional, complete and balanced manner by all members of the Board.

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OCTOBER 2-5, 2010

2010 NECA SHOW AT BOSTON CONVENTION & EXPOSITION CENTER

415 SUMMER STREET BOSTON, MA

The 2010 NECA Convention and Trade Show features opportunities to discover new products and services, learn about best practices, network with your peers, boost your company's productivity, explore new markets, and enjoy the best of Boston. www.necaconvention.org



CAN RETROFITS HELP WEAN US FROM OIL?

BY LANE BURT

Remember the summer of 2008? There was a gas price spike that made some question our lack of coherent national energy policy but caused others to double down and chant "Drill Baby Drill"? About that time, we took a look at all the oil said to be under the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in comparison to the amount of oil that could remain unburned in the surprising number of homes across the country that use some form of oil as a primary heating source (over 14 million!) in a fact sheet. The conclusions were what you might expect – efficiency is faster and cheaper and doesn't needlessly risk the economy of the gulf coast states.

The Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) has updated that analysis and we have jointly re-released the fact sheet "Reducing the Need for U.S. Drilling Through Energy Efficiency" and the re-crunched numbers still tell the same story: drilling is at best an idiotic distraction from our current economic situation. There is no rational basis for pursuing dangerous drilling while so much of the energy we use in our homes continues to literally leak out with no benefit. If you are after jobs, energy security, consumer savings, or more domestic manufacturing, then you want retrofits not a continuation of the policies that brought us record oil company profits. A few highlights from the fact sheet,

- Retrofitting just American homes that use some form of oil as a primary heat source over the same period would save oil at the rate of **two Deepwater Horizon spills every month.**
- BP's total cleanup costs in the Gulf are likely to exceed \$20 billion, according to estimates issued this summer. If that money was used to retrofit existing homes, we could **slash the energy bills of every single home in the Gulf states of Louisiana and Mississippi by at least 25 percent.**
- The amount of money that BP has already spent to respond to the oil spill could have been used to retrofit 650,000 homes. That's nearly **\$4 billion that could have been spent on U.S. made insulation, air conditioners, furnaces, water heaters, and other products and the labor to install them.**

Energy Savvy also came to the same conclusion in June, and produced a diagram that is certainly worth 1,000 words. The comparison is relevant today, as the Senate considers the most recent version of the oil "Spill Bill" which contains the bi-partisan Home Star retrofit program that NRDC and our fellow members of the Home Star Coalition have worked so hard to move this far. It's certainly not the comprehensive legislation we need to deal with our carbon and inefficiency problem, but baby steps are better than quitting the race and running away in tears. There is no excuse for not doing this.



Top 5 Sites for Do-It-Yourself Projects

BY BLYTHE COPELAND

Get handy with instructions that let you DIY anything from pet toys to patios.

You can find just about anything you can imagine (and some things you never have) on the internet—which makes it that much harder to figure out where to go when you need to retile the bathroom, change your oil, or find a perfect birthday present. So it's only natural that you'd pay someone else to do those things for you—but no more. These five DIY websites can show you how to repair, knit, sew, reuse, redecorate, or renovate anything; in the process, you'll save a bundle of money and countless resources while preventing needless waste.

1. INSTRUCTABLES (www.instructables.com)

Instructables users upload step-by-step instructions for everything from solving a Rubik's cube (without moving the stickers) to packing a suitcase—but it's the reuse of unwanted items and the make-your-own-anything instructions that keep the eco-minded occupied.

2. DIY NETWORK (www.diynetwork.com)

DIY Network's detailed videos and instructions make home repair a cinch by making it easy to tackle wallpaper application, drywall hanging, or kitchen remodeling. Easier projects—like hanging holiday decorations or learning to knit—get the same treatment.

3. 5MIN (www.5min.com)

The staff at 5min started with a simple idea: that anything can be explained via video in five minutes. Polish your kitchen skills with the food videos, hula hoop your way to fitness, or save money on heating your home. All of these—and many of the other videos—help you save time, money, and resources.

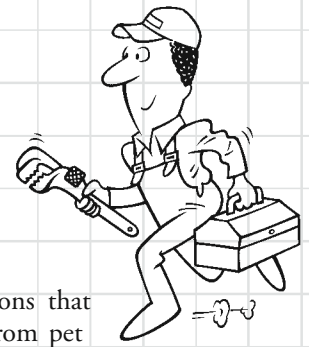
4. LIFEHACKER (www.lifehacker.com)

Lifehacker is all about "getting things done"—and if you like getting things done with your own two hands, check out the site's list of projects that include links to how-tos on making your own butter (hello, eating local), creating a postage scale with office supplies and spare change, and turning spare materials into electronics cases.

5. GIZMODO (www.gizmodo.com)

Lifehacker's more technologically-oriented brother, Gizmodo scratches the DIY itch for the geeks in your life, with instructions for building your own PC or making an iPhone charger out of a classic rotary phone. Bonus: having obsolete electronics do double-duty cuts down on waste (and on buying new).

Source: www.planetgreen.discovery.com



CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF COLUMBUS DAY

Miami-Dade County, including the Building Code Compliance Office, will be closed on **Monday, October 11th** for Columbus Day.

