

## New Member Profile

I am Richard Weigold, owner/operator of Northern Improvement Company, LLC. I've been in the construction and flooring business for over 35 years. Joining the Connecticut Home Builders Association was an easy decision for me. What better way to align ourselves with the best in the industry within our state and local communities?

Along with every other contractor during this pandemic, we strive to work safely for both our employees and our clients. This aspect of the business has been challenging. Finding the materials needed for a job, along with skilled labor has proven to be difficult. Our office staff spends a fair amount of time sourcing materials for our projects, something that has become increasingly problematic due to the high housing demand.

In our area of Connecticut, the Northwest Corner, we have seen great interest from homeowners looking to turn their home into a haven, whether it's one particular room or several within the home. Another component to our business has been our ability to bring in a team of workers to renovate a home in order to list in the real estate market. We are seeing high inquiries for renovations to homes in the less populated towns of Litchfield County from those looking to leave the crowded cities.



Our clients are looking to work with one company to complete an entire project, as opposed to working with several contractors. Our partnership with our sister company, Weigold Floor Covering, has brought many opportunities to serve our clients better and utilize their showroom with displays of cabinets, vanities and countertops. With this alliance, our business has become more turnkey for those looking for kitchen and bath remodels including cabinets, countertops, flooring, and paint. This has become a significant part of our business model and we continue to grow with this.

Challenging times like these call for thinking outside the box. □

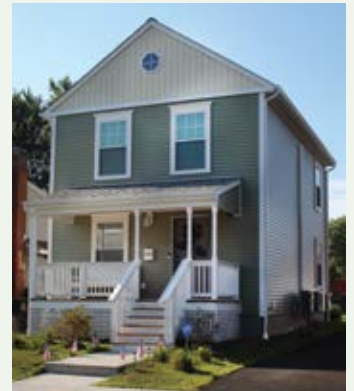


## Hartford Habitat for Humanity Wins Grand Prize in DOH Housing Innovation Competition

Community partnerships assist non-profit in zero energy building design

The U.S. Dept. of Energy selected Hartford Habitat for Humanity as its 2020 Housing Innovation Grand Prize winner in the Affordable Housing – Single-Family Detached category. It was Hartford Habitat's 1st Zero Energy Ready Home.

Hartford Habitat Completed in May 2019, the 1,280 sq. ft., three-bedroom home, which is located on Roosevelt Street in Hartford, and features airtight construction, high-performance HVAC equipment, ENERGY STAR®-certified appliances, low-flow fixtures, a heat pump hot water heater, and solar panels. With a HERS index of -7, the Roosevelt home is approximately 40 to 50 percent more energy efficient than a typical new home, saving the homeowners \$4,000 in annual energy costs.



In addition to expertise, incentives and rebates, Eversource donated LED light bulbs, and employees volunteered their time to support the home's construction. Additionally, Eversource-approved contractor Home Energy Technologies, Peter Harding and David Hiscocks, helped educate and guide Habitat staff through the Zero Energy Ready Home requirements.

For more information about Hartford Habitat and future Zero Energy Ready Home projects, please visit [www.hartfordhabitat.org](http://www.hartfordhabitat.org). □