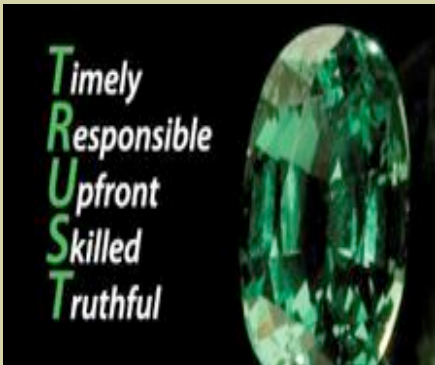




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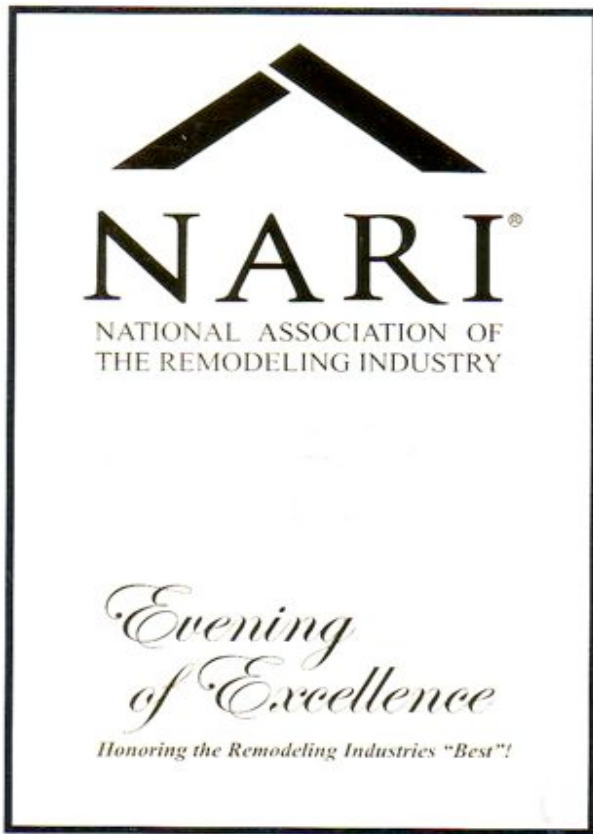
Emerald Times
Edition 39

A NOTE FROM:

We are very late with this edition of our newsletter and for that, I apologize. We've been blessed with the good fortune of being productive, busy, creative & profitable this year. Once again, that creativity garnered recognition at the Evening of Excellence hosted by the Tampa Bay Area Chapter of the National Association of Remodeling Industry (NARI). See feature article inside. This competition features the best remodeling talent in the state. Winning is an example of the synergy between our trade partners, our clients and us. I want to personally thank our clients for whom our success depends upon.

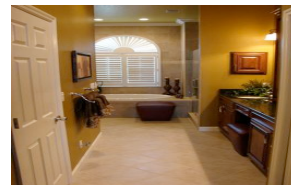
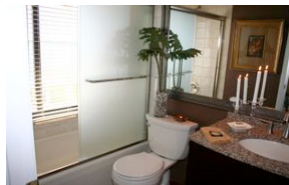
Once again, I will be venturing to Mississippi to work with my daughter and her church youth group helping Katrina victims. Although grueling, the trip always leaves a sense of fulfillment and appreciation of the fortunes that are bestowed upon me every day. Who knows, when I'm at the "pearly gates" and they're checking my "passport" it might be one the things that weighs in my favor (laugh).

Meanwhile, have a wonderful summer and I hope to talk to many of you soon!



The Tampa Bay Area Chapter of NARI held its 15th Annual Awards Gala at the Belleair Country Club on February 20th. 42 remodeling awards were awarded. Emerald entered three remodeling projects this year—2 bathroom remodels and a kitchen remodel. We were honored to have 2 of our clients join us; Dr. James and Lia Barnhill, Carol and Don Strittmatter and their designer Carol Morgan along with her husband Ben. Our third client, Rick and Debbie Beardsley weren't able to be there. Emerald earned 3 awards. One Second Place for the Strittmatter bath, one Second Place for the Beardsley bath and an Honorable Mention for the Barnhill's kitchen. As always, it was a wonderful evening of fun, good food and awards! Give us a call for your remodel and next year's winner may be yours!

You can view further information about this event and pictures of the winning projects at <http://www.nari-tampabay.com/index.cfm>



Call us for your next project or fill out our remodeling profile on our website.
www.emeraldcontractors.com



Home Remodeling Trends for 2009

In spite of the daily bad news report about the economy and the housing industry, here are some trends for remodeling in 2009. After all, not everyone is going to use all the doom-and-gloom reports as an excuse to crawl under a rock until the media tells us things are going to get better. Right? RIGHT!

Siding replacement and window replacement
Energy efficiency and all things green
Deck additions
Cosmetics
The pizzazz factor
Kitchen remodel
Bathroom remodel
Teaching old rooms new tricks

"One of the best antidotes for depression/recession is optimism/expansion – in however small a way, these affirming behaviors just plain feel good."



DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT

We take pride in the long-term relationships we have with our trade partners. We feel the stability of these relationships is a leading reason for the stability and quality of service to our clients. One of the longest relationships we've had is with **Vince Falini of Falini Design—Residential Designer & Consultant**. We've relied on Vince's talents for over 18 years. Vince, as a former builder, has the knowledge to come up with solutions to remodeling challenges, which most architects and engineers without that practical knowledge, are just not equipped to handle. If you want a designer who knows practical solutions to those challenges, which invariably always come up in the design of a building project, Vince is a good person to have on your team.

Thanks Vince for your contribution to our success!

Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency



Home Improvements

Tax credits are now available for home improvements:

- must be "placed in service" from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010
- must be for taxpayer's principal residence, EXCEPT for geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, solar panels, and small wind energy systems (where second homes and rentals qualify)
- \$1,500 is the maximum total amount that can be claimed for all products placed in service in 2009 & 2010 for most home improvements EXCEPT for geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, solar panels, fuel cells, and small wind energy systems which are not subject to this cap, and are in effect through 2016
- must have a Manufacturer Certification Statement* to qualify
- for record keeping, save your receipts and the Manufacturer Certification Statement
- improvements made in 2009 will be claimed on your 2009 taxes (filed by April 15, 2010) — use IRS Tax Form 5695 (2009 version) — it will be available late 2009 or early 2010
- If you are building a new home, you can qualify for the tax credit for geothermal heat pumps, photovoltaics, solar water heaters, small wind energy systems and fuel cells, **but not the tax credits for windows, doors, insulation, roofs, HVAC, or non-solar water heaters.**

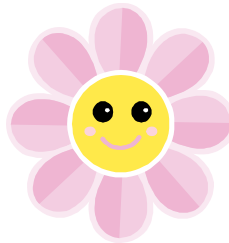
*A Manufacturer Certification Statement is a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit. The IRS encourages manufacturers to provide these Certifications on their website to facilitate identification of qualified products. Taxpayers must keep a copy of the certification statement for their records, but do not have to submit a copy with their tax return.

For more information and a full chart showing credits, visit:
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits



Helpful Homeowner Hints

- Check the condition of putty, caulking, and exterior paint. Replace or paint as needed. (Check for evidence of termites).
- Check cords and plugs of all electrical appliances for wear. If necessary have them repaired or replaced.
- Check gutters and downspouts to be sure they are not clogged.
- Test Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) circuit breaker.
- Replace the backup battery and test smoke detectors.
- Clean lint from your clothes dryer exhaust pipe.
- Check driveway pavers and apply joint sand as necessary.
- Check door hardware and tighten if necessary.
- Locate the sheet with storm panel layout and keep in safe place where you can find it easily.
- Check the batteries in your garage door remote control units.
- Check the terminals in the units for signs of corrosion at the same time.
- Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home?

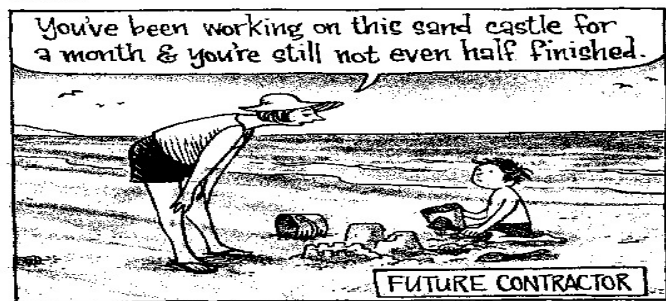


JUNE GARDENING!!
 Check for Monthly Gardening
 Tips for South Florida Gardeners
<http://www.a-garden-diary.com>

www.emeraldcontractors.com

Check it out — our new and improved website!!
 The new look works hand in hand with all our new marketing materials. Thanks to Jeff and Mary Story at **CMSA Advertising** in Palm Harbor for all their ideas, input, creativity and hard work.

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*Once again, I'd like to say **THANKS** to all the people who referred us for construction services...*



Jeff Michael
 Kathy Rodriguez
 Scott Ramella
 Dave Blanchard
 Bill and Diane Muehling
 Tim Shoenberger
 Vince Falini
 Cathy Svercl
 Tampa Bay Magazine
 Better Business Bureau

Kimmins Construction
 Florida Best Homes Realty
 Eurbin Disaster Restoration, Inc.
 Dave Blanchard Custom Homes
 Emerald Contractors
 Palm Builders
 Falini Design
 Design Freedom Architects

TBBA, NARI, NAHB — thanks for all the referrals and support you continually send our way.



The highest compliment I can receive is an introduction to your friends, family & business associates. It would be an honor if you passed on our name & phone number as referrals are the backbone of our business. Thank you for your trust & ongoing confidence in us!