



Celebrating 35 years of business in the New River Valley

Building something that lasts takes time. It starts with the desire to do something different. It's nurtured over time by honesty, communication and teamwork. When something lasts, it's a sign that it is strong, trustworthy and durable. And to create something that lasts for generations takes dedication and hard work.

We've felt this way about every project over the past 35 years of business. But this also describes the story - and history - of Blue Ridge Home Improvement.

It's hard to believe it was 1979 when Tim Lawrence returned to Blacksburg and began pursuing home repair work. At the time, Tim's dad gave him some good advice. "Do what you say you're going to do. Be honest. Do good work, and you'll always have plenty to do."

Those words rang true, because 35 years later we are honored to be the New River Valley's leading team of custom design and remodeling professionals.

As we began thinking about this anniversary year, it occurred to us that BRHI was now "old enough" to have artifacts. Squirreled away in boxes are old newspaper articles, job ledgers from three decades ago, company t-shirts and industry awards. We reminisced over photos of past projects

and client testimonials, remembering friends along the way.

Tucked away in the workshop are old tools, some of which are still in use today. In fact, Joyce Lawrence pointed out they still have Tim's first office desk. Originally purchased used from Taylor Office Supply, this desk used to sit in the corner of the Lawrence bedroom where Tim would create designs and construction plans.

There are also familiar faces that have stuck around over the years, from employees to clients, subcontractors to vendors. The majority of our employees have been with the company for over 10 years. Joined by new faces, the BRHI team is as strong as ever.

But none of this would have been possible without the support of our clients. One of the best parts of our job is seeing how a family's home grows and changes with time. You've invited us into your homes during different parts of your lives. With your help, we've been able to weather the changes in our world and industry to prove we are indeed "One That Lasts."

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

- A Look at a Screened Porch Design

Page 3

- Employee Spotlight
- 2014 Home Expo
- After Snow Tips

Page 4

- Problem/Solution: Deteriorating Portico



A DESIGN SOLUTION *for a small problem*



What started out as a need for a place to hang wind chimes, turned into a beautiful year-round screened porch.

One of our clients called us with an interesting dilemma. She needed a place to hang the wind chimes her husband had given to her as a Christmas present. The couple had a standard open-air deck, but no real place to showcase the gift. But what this really told us was that the clients weren't enjoying the outdoor space as much as they could.

The design-build solution was a screened porch that can be used year-round, yet was easy to maintain. This design starts with the SCREENEZE® screen, which is stronger and more durable than ordinary screen systems. It has a very minimal design, which doesn't obstruct the view. We also incorporated aluminum spindles with a black finish as an upscale alternative to the traditional wooden pickets. This gave the wood railing a unique look that dresses up the design nicely. And rather than regular treated lumber, we used an upgraded decking material with less knots and higher quality.

One of the main focal points of the design is the outdoor fireplace, which turns this porch into a year-round space. While researching materials, we came across Versetta Stone®, a panelized stone veneer. The beauty of this product is that it is more cost-effective than stone because there is no grout or masonry installation. While it is easy to install, it looks more realistic than other stone alternatives.

Because the porch is high enough underneath, we designed an additional storage space. The concrete floor and sliding barn door allow for bikes and the lawn mower to be easily and safely stored from the elements.

Our client's husband jokes that this project turned out to be the most expensive Christmas present he's ever bought. But it does go to show that no matter what gets the ball rolling, we can meet your needs and then some. What started as a simple place to hang wind chimes is now an outdoor space they can enjoy year-round with family and friends.



➔ **Stay tuned for more pictures of the interior of this screen porch!**

employee SPOTLIGHT



Sometimes you just have to be in the right place at the right time. This was the case for Jeff Brown, who began working with BRHI as a carpenter's assistant last year.



"I was working with a local masonry company, and we happened to be doing a project for Blue Ridge," Jeff said. "We were doing some flagstone work on a front entry, and they liked our work and asked us to do some more for them."

Eventually, the Blacksburg native found himself working with BRHI. He's worked in construction since he was 18-years-old, mostly in barn building with Bowers Custom Barns.

"I really loved being on farms, working with big structures and fixing existing buildings," he said. "In a lot of ways, I get to continue that in the remodeling field. I like the idea of improving what you have, rather than building a whole new house."

As a carpenter's assistant, Jeff gets to experience a variety of types of projects.

"I'm getting the chance to learn from each of carpenters," he said. "I've already learned a lot about remodeling and how to do it the right way."

In his spare time, Jeff works with his brother building small boats and sailboats. Their dad is a naval architect, and as a family they've spent a lot of time around boats. He also enjoys spending time with his son.

questions to
ask after
snow storms

WHAT DOES THE ROOF LOOK LIKE? #1

No need to climb up there yourself; with binoculars and a keen eye, you can spot trouble. Any cracked or missing shingles? Any nail-pops or edges of shingles lifted up or loose?

HOW DO THE WALLS LOOK? #2

Whether you have siding, stucco or brick, look for trouble spots under eaves and near gutter downspouts. Water stains indicate your gutters may not adequately contain roof runoff. If you have wood siding, check for damaged areas or knots that have popped out, making way for critters.

WHAT ABOUT THE FOUNDATION? #3

When inspecting the exterior of your home, be sure to examine the foundation from top to bottom for masonry cracks. Routine caulking by homeowners won't do the job. Hire an expert who can fix any cracks and ensure there is no damage to the basement or crawl space.

NEED HELP WITH THESE QUESTIONS?

WE CAN HELP. CALL US TODAY FOR A CONSULTATION.

JOIN US FOR THE

2014

New River Valley
Home Builders Association



HOME EXPO

MARCH 7, 8 & 9

CHRISTIANSBURG REC CENTER

TICKETS: \$5, KIDS UNDER 18 FREE

VISIT THE WEB FOR \$2 OFF
ADMISSION:
WWW.NRVHBA.COM/HOME_EXPO.HTM

Visit
Booth #101
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P.O. BOX 903
BLACKSBURG, VA 24063
540.951.3505
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Project Files

Deteriorating Portico Only 10 Years Old

problem

Though their home was built in 2002, the homeowners were unhappy with the appearance of their portico. Upon investigation, we found the entry had deteriorated quickly because durable materials were not used in the original construction.

solution

We rebuilt the portico using durable materials that won't rot over time. The homeowners are now proud of the exterior, and confident that the rebuilt entry will last longer than ten years. However, this is a problem many homeowners in the same neighborhood will experience as their homes were built at the same time with the same materials.

