

Benchmark Builders celebrates a banner year and 25th Anniversary



Benchmark Builders, a locally owned and operated homebuilder headquartered in Newport, Delaware, recently celebrated two milestones: the company's 25th Anniversary and surpassingly strong sales volume for 2013. "It was a great year for Benchmark Builders. Not only did we surpassed our stretched sales goal by a significant margin, we did so almost to the day of our silver anniversary," said the company's president, Steve Bomberger, during a corporate gathering at Café Gelato in Newark. Most of the company's 35 employees and many family members were on hand for the gala event.

A brief biographical sketch

Benchmark Builders was founded in 1988 when the company began building commercial buildings at First State Industrial Park in Newport, Delaware. Three years later the company embarked on its first residential project, the 368-home community of

Frenchtown Woods near Glasgow, Delaware. In 1993, the company became one of the first builders in Delaware to begin marketing the concept of an age-restricted, 55-and-over community. To that end, the 192-home community of the Village of Hershey Run became part of the company's portfolio, one of the first 55-plus communities in Delaware. Since then, its catalog of communities built has reached 22 for a total of 1,855 total homes constructed and sold. Today, Benchmark Builders is marketing eight communities in Kent and New Castle Counties and more are on the way for 2014.

Helping the industry

On the industry side, Benchmark Builders has played a leadership role in the Home Builders Association of Delaware (HBADE). For 25 years, every year of the company's history, Benchmark Builders has been front and center. As part of that leadership role, there have been three Benchmark Builders' employees who have led the organization as president for a total of five years: Francis R.

Julian, Vice President of Benchmark Builders, 2003 to 2005; Steve Bomberger, 2007 to 2009; and Fred Fortunato, Vice President of Project Management at Benchmark Builders, is the immediate past-president of HBADE. "The Home Builders Association knows it can count on its members, but Benchmark Builders has always gone the extra mile, whether it involves chairing a committee, serving on the Board of Directors, or taking a leadership role in the Home Builders Association on a national level," says Howard Fortunato, Executive Director of Home Builders Association of Delaware. "We appreciate the vision that Benchmark Builders has brought to HBA-DE."

Giving back to the community

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The National Association of Home Builders Senior Housing Council named Village of Rocky Run National Community of the Year in 2004.



Little Falls Village was named Townhome Community of the Year in 2002; Active-adult Community of the Year in 2003.



Stonefield was one of Benchmark Builder's fastest-selling communities. In 2003, the company celebrated the sale of its 1000th home there.



Milltown Village received Regal Awards for Community of the Year in 2008; Best Single-family Home in 2009.

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that Benchmark Builders has brought to HBA-DE." **Awards**

The company's laurels are many and varied, local and national, with over 50 awards, including HBA-DE Builder of the Year (Steve Bomberger, 1999 and 2007), the National Community of the Year Award (2004, Village of Rocky Run), Better Business Bureau's Torch Award, Residential Warranty Corporation's Keystone Award, News-Journal's Best Place to Work Award, as well as 45 Regal Awards for home and community design, merchandising and marketing. Some of the company's most notable communities include Little Falls Village, Milltown Village, Stonefield, Academy Hill,

Barrington and Bancroft Square.

When referring to the success of Benchmark Builders, Steve Bomberger commented, "As a local builder, we are able to respond to the needs of our customers quickly and effectively. It's that simple." With a consistent Better Business Bureau rating of A+ since 2003, the concept works.

"We are proud of the commitment we make to our customers, our community and our industry," toasted Bomberger, "and we look forward to more of the same."

For more information and the company's complete portfolio of homes, go to BenchmarkBuilders.com.