



# Spring Home Show 2017

Indiana-Armstrong  
Builder's Association



## IABA President ROD GRECZEK...

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special supplement to  
The Indiana Gazette

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OPENS  
FRIDAY,  
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# Greczek first non-builder president

By **MARGARET WEAVER**  
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**ROD GRECZEK**

With decades of experience in the building industry, Rod Greczek, manager of Lezzer Lumber in White Township, is the newest president of the Indiana-Armstrong Builders Association.

A 15-year employee at Lezzer Lumber, he's been in the home improvement business since 1979 after getting his start with Sears, Roebuck & Co. and has been at Lezzer since 2002.

Greczek, of Center Township, manages the location on Wayne Avenue, where there are 20 to 25 employees depending on the season.

The business offers building materials for retailers and business professionals for flooring, kitchen and bath, decks, entryways, windows, roofing and more.

After an economic downturn over the last 10 years, Lezzer Lumber has survived and overcome as a company, Greczek said. They have a strong market in remodeling,

and he hopes the business sector of new home construction will keep increasing.

It was a "very solid" year in Indiana in 2016, he said, despite some factors that could have affected business more, such as the countywide tax reassessment.

And though the months of December through February are usually slow, the unseasonable weather this year has helped keep things busier than normal, he said.

Lezzer has been in business

since 1927 and is celebrating its 90th anniversary, Greczek said.

There are 11 retail stores across Pennsylvania, as well as three commercial door facilities and a truss manufacturing plant.

The third generation of the Lezzer family is now running the company.

As manager, Greczek said he strives to meet customers' needs day in and day out by providing the right product mix by a team of professionals.

His experienced workforce helps make that possible, he said. At the Wayne Avenue location, the 16 full-time employees there have a combined 300 years of experience, all with Lezzer Lumber.

"We hope that every customer has that 'wow' experience shopping at Lezzer Lumber," he said.

Greczek has been an associate member of the Indiana-Armstrong Builders Association for 14 years.

There are two categories of members: builder members and associate members. A few

years ago, the association changed the bylaws to allow associate members to hold offices, he said.

He is the first associate member to be elected president and started his term in January.

He said his goals for the association are to increase membership, attract new partners and maintain current ones, and to encourage students to be involved with the trade industry.

There are 155 members in the association, he said. Of those, 55 are builders, and 100 are associate members.

Membership in the association "has a lot of value," he said.

It offers an affordable health care plan to all members, and monthly meetings provide the opportunity to hear speakers and presentations on various topics.

Membership also offers the opportunity to network your own business, work with other builders and find support and guidance from others in the industry, he said.

## Savvy builders save energy, money

By **MIKE ARBLASTER**

Homebuilders in Indiana County now have an additional incentive to build energy-efficient homes. The Pennsylvania Energy Efficient New Homes Program, offered by FirstEnergy's Pennsylvania utili-

ties, provides financial incentives to builders of new homes that are more efficient than code.

For each newly built home served by Penelec that achieves 15 percent energy savings over code, the builder is eligible for a rebate of 0.30 cents for each kilowatt-

hour saved annually over a reference home built to the standard 2009 International Energy Conservation Code. Homes that meet Energy Star V3.0 certification and achieve a minimum 15 percent energy savings are eligible for greater incen-

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# Central vac systems gain popularity

By SEAN YODER

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You might be surprised how flexible central vacuum systems are.

Be it in an 800-square-foot cabin or a 9,000-square-foot house, Evan Strittmatter of Indiana Vac can make it work.

He's done homes in both of those sizes, as well as upgraded a central vac system in an 18,000-square foot house.

Indiana Vac, and its subcorporation, Pittsburgh Central Vacuum, have also installed the units in businesses that need constant cleaning.

A dentist's office, for exam-

ple, tends to need quiet during the day but also needs to stay clean. Central vacs are a good option for that.

At Mancini's Bakery in McKees Rocks, a Pittsburgh suburb, Strittmatter said they needed a central vac to remove the flour from their hopper periodically as demanded by the health code.

"They were going through shop-vacs all the time," Strittmatter said. "So they have a central vacuum system and they can empty it out in just a few minutes."

His storefront along Philadelphia Street in Indiana is still lined with traditional

(and some not-so-traditional-looking) upright vacuum cleaners. But one end of the store is dedicated to showing off the 8- and 12-gallon MD and Vacuflo units and their accessories.

The setup works like this: A large drum-like unit is installed in a basement, garage or some other out-of-the-way place. Plastic pipes running through the walls from the main unit connect to inlets that allow a person to attach a hose and accessories to the inlets. No matter where a person attaches their hose, it all flows to the same place.

Because the motor is at the

bottom of the main unit, it acts like a compactor, condensing the dirt as much as possible. Strittmatter only has to empty his personal 12-gallon unit every seven months even though he has three Shetland sheep dogs at home.

Though the majority of his installations are on homes that are in the process of being built, Strittmatter said he can usually retrofit a house with a central vacuum in less than a day.

"Most of it's new construction, but we do a lot of retrofits because it's actually a lot easier than people think," he said.

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## Savvy builders save energy, money

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tives, with a rebate of 0.35 cents for each kWh saved annually.

Additional incentives are available for builders of new low-income homes and for manufacturers of Energy Star-certified homes built to the Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards.

For a home to qualify for the program, it must be located within the service area of FirstEnergy's Pennsylvania utilities (Met-Ed, Penelec, Penn Power or West Penn Power). All new-construction homes must be inspected and verified by a certified home energy rater, accredited by the Residential Energy Services Network, to qualify for program incentives.

Improvements to a home's building envelope and installed equipment that can result in energy savings include effective insulation systems, tightly sealed con-

struction, efficient HVAC equipment, high-performance windows and efficient lighting and appliances. Through an industry-certified, third-party inspection of each participating home, a Home Energy Rating System Index score is provided to the homeowner. A lower score means less wasted energy.

There are many reasons why anyone building a home should get involved with the Pennsylvania Energy Efficient New Homes Program. Energy-efficient homes, and Energy Star-certified homes in particular, have shown to sell faster and for more money than comparable non-certified homes (based on average sales price and time on the market). Participants in the program also receive free technical training and recognition on the program's website.

In today's housing market, homebuyers

look at many houses and weigh countless options before they ultimately choose the house that they will call home. Partner with the Pennsylvania Energy Efficient New Homes Program to build an energy-efficient home that stands out from the rest, creating a more comfortable, durable and efficient place to live.

For more information, go to [energysavepa-newhomes.com](http://energysavepa-newhomes.com) or contact Mike Arblaster, program manager for the Pennsylvania Energy Efficient New Homes Program, at (814) 282-3689 or [marblaster@psdconsulting.com](mailto:marblaster@psdconsulting.com).

The costs of energy efficiency programs are recovered through customer rates in accordance with Pennsylvania Act 129 of 2008. For a complete list of commercial, industrial, residential and low income energy efficiency programs, visit [www.energysavepa.com](http://www.energysavepa.com).

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