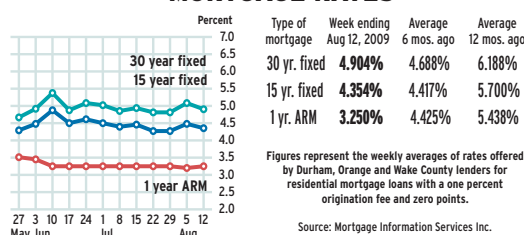


## MORTGAGE RATES



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## Local builder celebrates 50 years

CONTRIBUTED REPORT  
BY REBECCA R. NEWSOME, MIRM

Very few would argue with the statement that 50 years in business is a true accomplishment. Add to the statement that a family business has prospered for 50 years, and a standing ovation is in order.

"It all actually started more than 80 years ago," says Dante Berini, president of Joe F. Berini Construction Company.

"My grandfather was a stone mason in Pittsburgh who was lured to Durham in the late 1920s to utilize his skills in construction projects at Duke University. All five of his sons became involved in the building industry, including my father, John Berini. My grandmother persuaded my Uncle Joe to enroll in Duke University's Engineering School. Uncle Joe made her very proud when he graduated from Duke in 1939 and entered the field of commercial construction."

As the story goes, Joe was acknowledged for his abilities in the commercial field, but it didn't give him the total satisfaction he desired. He debated his options, and decided to blaze his own trail. In 1959 Joe opened the doors to a residential building and development company, Joe F. Berini Construction Co. Inc.

In the late '50s, few residential builders and even fewer developers existed in Durham; Joe was a pioneer. He began development of his first neighborhood, West Hills, located in West Durham in 1961. Joe was in the right place at the right time — West Hills included 41 homes and was completed in 1966. Joe found his niche.

During these early years of the company, Joe realized he needed help, and was pleased he didn't have to look far. Joe's nephew, Dante, was eager to learn and seemed to have a knack for the business. He began working with Joe in 1963 while earning his business degree at East Carolina College (now East Carolina University).

Upon graduation, Dante began work with Joe on a full-time basis. Dante's high standards, eye for detail and strong work ethic meshed perfectly with Joe's direction for the company.

Together they developed Westwood Es-



Above, Joe, Dante and Donny Berini continue the family business started by Dante's uncle, Joe Bernini, in 1959. A spacious kitchen with center island and granite countertops, below, is the center of a Berini-built home in River's Edge, off Rose of Sharon Road in Durham.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



tates, a neighborhood of 243 homes; then other neighborhoods such as Sun Pointe, Oak Daile and Rocky Ridge. Located in North Durham off Sparger Road, Rocky Ridge is still in progress, with lots available for custom homes.

More recently, Dante has been a partner in the neighborhood development of River's Edge, located off Rose of Sharon Road in Durham. The Berinis do not, however, need to develop a neighborhood in order to build in it. Croasdaile Farm, Fox Hill Farm, Hardscrabble and Treyburn are a few of the communities where Joe F. Berini Construction Co. has built custom homes.

Dante acknowledges, "Along the way, I had the best mentors for aspects of the construction and real estate industries: My father, John, my Uncle Joe, and Bill Totten, our company's longtime real estate agent and friend."

The company joined the Home Builders Association of Durham and Chapel Hill (now Durham, Orange, and Chatham Counties) in 1985, where Dante was an executive board member for a number of years and president in the year 2000. Joe F. Berini Construction Co. has been recognized with Gold, Silver and Bronze Parade of Homes Awards, honoring the company for its high quality work. On two separate occasions, first in 1995 and then again in 2000, Dante was recognized with the Builder of the Year award from the HBA.

Two more key employees joined the company with the addition of Dante's sons, Joe and Donny Berini. Joe began working for the company on a part-time basis when he was 14 years old; after studying business and construction management at East Carolina University, he began to work for the company full time in 1992. Like Joe, Donny worked for the company on a part-time basis throughout his youth. Upon graduation from East Carolina University with a degree in construction management, he went on to pursue the field of commercial construction. In 2002, Donny joined the family business. Like Dante, Donny has been active in the HBA, where he has served on the board of directors for several years. Donny is serves on the executive com-

mittee in the position of second vice president and will serve as HBA president in 2011. With the principles of their father, grandfather, great-uncle and great-grandfather guiding them, Joe and Donny's quest for excellence in the construction industry runs deep.

"I can't begin to express the rewards I've experienced in being surrounded by my family at work," says Dante. "I know that our type of business wouldn't work for many families, but for us, it's been a blessing. Uncle Joe passed away in 2000 ... We strive to honor him and keep his vision alive in our work every day. There is no doubt in my mind that he would be very proud of Joe and Donny and the way they handle themselves in today's demanding marketplace, as well as the way the public perceives them."

Today, Joe F. Berini Construction Co. Inc. offers new home construction, residential remodeling and additions and commercial construction projects, all primarily in the Durham County area. Each home they build or renovate, regardless of its size or price, is custom crafted to meet client needs, utilizing quality materials and skillful expertise.

Remodeling and addition projects by Joe F. Berini Construction Co. include homes less than 10 years old to homes over 100 years old. The Berinis can enlarge, update or reconfigure existing homes to meet their clients' changing needs.

The commercial construction work of the company focuses on private businesses. Whether a design-build project, negotiated project or competitive bid project, the Berinis walk clients through each building phase, understanding what is expected of them to make each job successful.

To have survived 50 years in business, it's evident that superior building is a way of life for the Berini family. Their goal is to insure that their clients enjoy the building process and benefit from the more than 80 years' combined experience of their team. The guiding Berini principles have been to build each structure as if they were building it for themselves, and to stand behind their workmanship. These principles have served them and their clients well.