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On the cover

On October 8, 2020, Governor Jim Justice announced that West Virginia had beaten more than 20 other locations to serve as the future home of the Virgin Hyperloop Certification Center. The \$500 million project, planned for an 800-acre tract of land in Grant and Tucker counties, is expected to bring thousands of construction jobs and millions of dollars in economic impact to the Mountain State. This edition of *West Virginia Construction News* explores the state's construction economic outlook and how projects like this will spur future development. Cover photo provided by Virgin Hyperloop.

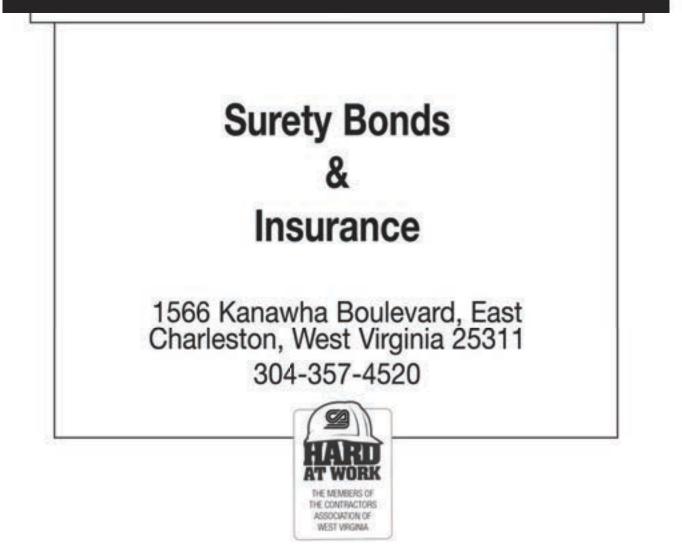
The Contractors Association of West Virginia is a nonprofit trade organization representing the building, highway, heavy and utility contracting industries in West Virginia. Its services include establishment of a close working liaison with state and federal agencies; worthwhile educational and informational programs; the regular dissemination of pertinent information to its members; strong legislative and media relations; as well as all other activities deemed necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the construction industry. The CAWV is a certified chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association.

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WEST VIRGINIA CONSTRUCTION SECTOR PERFORMANCE AND OUTLOOK

BY BRIAN LEGO RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY BUREAU OF BUSINESS & ECONOMIC RESEARCH



The construction sector experienced a major transition in activity during 2019. After struggling throughout much of the period lasting between 2012 and 2016, the sector received a major shot in the arm during 2017 as a massive influx of natural gas pipeline development began. By the time pipeline construction activity peaked in mid- to late-2018, it had added nearly 12,000 jobs to sector's total and boosted total wages from nearly \$1.8 billion to \$3.4 billion on an annualized basis. Upon completion of two projects of the Rover II and Mountaineer Xpress pipeline projects, and the shutdown of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) and Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) projects due to legal challenges, the sector saw payroll levels reach what was observed in late-2017 by the fourth guarter of 2019. Unfortunately, pipeline construction remained a weak point for the sector throughout 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic response did lead to some layoffs for large-scale projects during the first half of 2020. However, most of the sector's activities were classified by the Justice Administration as essential activities. As a result, many job losses occurred at worksites affected by viral outbreaks that prompted isolation and quarantine protocols for affected workers, while some projects instituted social distancing protocols to minimize viral spread.

While pipeline construction activity has been the leading contributor to the sector's growth in recent years, other segments have posted gains as well. Residential construction payrolls reached their highest level in a decade thanks to a moderate pick-up in homebuilding activity across a few regions. Highway construction associated with the Roads to Prosperity program as well as catchup maintenance and repair work buoyed the sector as well. Finally, nonresidential construction activity fell slightly in 2019 as major projects such as the P&G facility in Berkeley County and Hino Motors assembly plant worked toward completion during the year. Residential construction activity continued to post gains in 2020, while nonresidential development fell as large-scale projects wound down (or ended).

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

According to data from McGraw-Hill, approximately 2,600 single-family homes were started during 2019 in West Virginia. This marked the state's highest level of homebuilding activity since 2008 and a double-digit rate of improvement from 2018. The COVID-19

pandemic did weigh on new home construction somewhat during March and April, but the bulk of evidence points to the homebuilding sector rebounding quickly soon thereafter. Indeed, historically low mortgage rates along with a series of federal government pandemic relief packages that supported-and, in fact, boosted (for some)-income and savings for households. Given that household balance sheets were generally in good shape prior to the pandemic, the backstop provided by low rates and federal government relief left many households in an even stronger position to purchase new homes. Rapid increases in lumber prices and a continued shortage of labor did hamstring the sector to some extent over the course of 2020, but these effects were not enough to prevent single-family starts from reaching their highest seasonally adjusted annualized rate since the beginning of 2008.

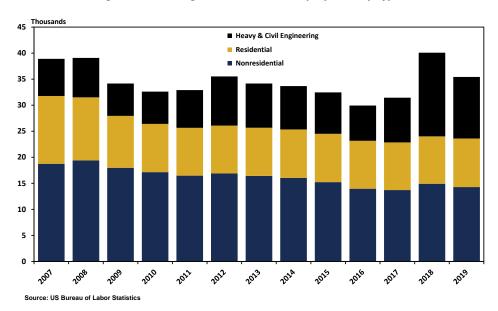


Figure 1: West Virginia Construction Employment by Type

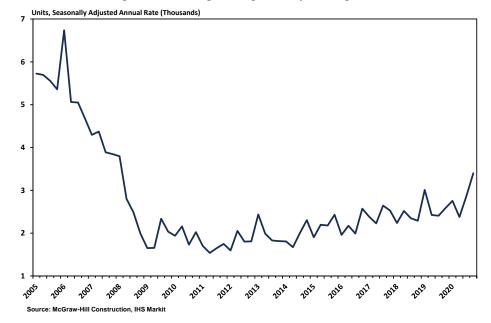
PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

Nonbuilding construction projects accounted for most of the growth in construction sector activity between mid-2017 and early-2019, thanks almost entirely to the build-out of natural gas pipeline takeaway capacity for the Appalachian Shale Basin. Growth in overall takeaway capacity was relatively modest during the initial phases of the natural gas boom earlier this decade; however, the massive growth in utility and industrial demand for natural gas throughout the US strained the existing pipeline infrastructure essentially created a bottleneck for the tri-state area's shale gas supplies, which led to a market glut in 2015 and 2016.

Natural gas pipeline capacity in the state has increased by 11 Bcf/day since 2014 (more than 92 percent), but the largest increased over 2017 to 2019 time period with the addition of the laterals to the Rover II, Mountaineer Xpress and several smaller scale reversal, capacity expansion projects and condensate lines throughout the state. The cancellation of the repeatedly delayed and increasingly expensive Atlantic Coast Pipeline by Dominion and Duke Energy does hurt prospects for future pipeline development in the region, including completion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline. (For a more extensive discussion of pipeline construction infrastructure projects, see Chapter 3 from the West Virginia Economic Outlook 2021-2025 report at https://business.wvu.edu/ research-outreach/bureau-of-business-and-economic-research.)

HOUSE PRICES

West Virginia's housing market tends to be much less volatile over most business cycles, compared to the nation. Indeed, while the state did see house prices deflate in response to the bursting housing bubble, house price declines were more muted compared to most US states. The overall peak-to-trough decline in home prices in the state was 7 percent compared to an 18 percent decline for the US. Just as the declines were smaller, house price appreciation has also been noticeably weaker over the past several years. Prices for existing single-family homes in West Virginia Figure 2: West Virginia Single-Family Housing Starts



have increased nearly 16 percent, compared to a 49 percent gain for the nation since mid-2012.

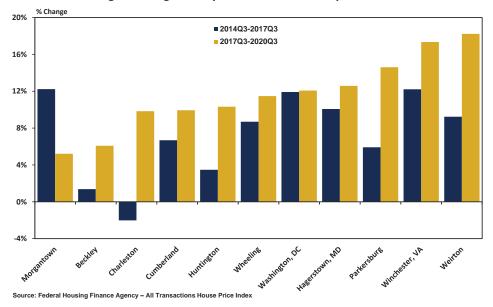
Of course, changes in house prices have varied quite dramatically in recent years for the state's different regions, reflecting local supply conditions and underlying demand for homes. After experiencing a dramatic run-up in prices during the bubble years, West Virginia counties that were part of the Hagerstown (Berkeley and Morgan counties), Winchester (Hampshire County) and Washington, DC (which includes Jefferson County) metro areas saw prices plunge by as much as 36 percent. The rate of price declines registered in the state's other counties that lie within metro areas was significantly smaller in the aftermath of the housing market, ranging from a 2 percent drop in Morgantown (Monongalia and Preston) to a 10 percent loss in Weirton-Steubenville (Brooke and Hancock counties).

Similarly, house price appreciation for the state's major housing markets has followed different tracks over the past several years. According to data from the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), the Charleston metro area experienced an outright decline in house prices between mid-2014 and mid-2017—the only major market in the state with that designation during this time period. Since then, it has enjoyed nearly double-digit house price growth over the three-year period that ended in the third quarter of 2020. Overall, house price growth has generally been the strongest in the state's housing markets with economic attachments to healthier economies in neighboring states, particularly the Eastern and Northern Panhandle regions. Morgantown has seen price growth slow in recent years, though the region has remained one of the state's steadiest markets in terms of construction activity and price appreciation for nearly a decade.

SECTOR OUTLOOK

The forecast calls for the construction sector to see job growth average 2 percent per year through the end of 2025. Payrolls are expected to bounce back in 2020 reflecting a return to more normal activity following the pandemic-related closures earlier in the year and a healthy upturn in single-family homebuilding. Extending beyond 2021, however, the outlook is somewhat mixed. Energy infrastructure development took a hit with the cancellation of the ACP project and the state's remaining major pipeline project, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, remains at risk. The coal industry will provide a boost to energy-related construction activity during 2021 and 2022 thanks to the addition of two new longwall coal mines in North Central West Virginia.

Continued growth in the tri-state area's natural gas industry should advance and produce additional opportunities Figure 3: Single-Family House Price Growth by Metro Area



for new commercial and industrial activity, particularly as the Shell ethane cracker moves closer to completion. The proposed cracker facility in Belmont County, Ohio, has faced setbacks in recent months with the loss of the project's South Korean partner company as well as some shifting global market conditions for NGLs on both the demand and supply side. Nonetheless, we still expect growth in the tri-state area's emerging downstream natural gas industries to continue going forward as global use of plastics continues to expand over the long term.

Public infrastructure investment will buoy the sector over the next few years. Recent weakness in severance tax collections, the disappearing windfall of revenue created by pipeline construction activity and sizeable increases in baseline spending on some areas will hamper the state's fiscal situation over the next couple of years, particularly if the COVID-19 pandemic does not dissipate within the next year or so. The addition of more than \$1 billion in road bond funds will provide support for numerous major infrastructure projects in the state over the next several years, including crucial portions of Corridor H, I-70 bridge repair in the Northern Panhandle and highway capacity in North Central West Virginia.

The extent to which infrastructure boosts overall construction activity is subject to some downside risks. Potential constraints to the industry include future progress in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, additional global trade disputes on steel and other commodities, the possibility for rapid growth in labor and materials costs in large capital projects. Finally, the Biden Administration is expected to advance a substantive infrastructure spending bill at some point in 2021; however, its structure and overall price tag are un-



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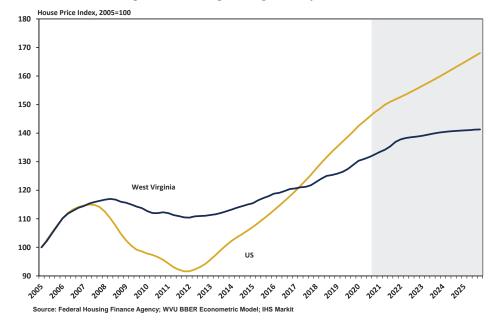


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Figure 4: West Virginia Single-Family House Prices



known at present and, despite general bipartisan support for higher infrastructure spending, the slim Democratic majority in both chambers of Congress could lead to a reduced level of expenditures as Republicans have expressed growing concern over federal spending growth. The Eastern Panhandle is also expected to be a key area for construction over the longer term, as the P&G facility will likely help to facilitate the development of the region's manufacturing and distribution supply chain. Furthermore, the Eastern Panhandle Expansion pipeline project should improve the area's attractiveness as it opens access to natural gas supplies for industrial and commercial customers. Finally, the Eastern Panhandle will also remain the state's fastest-growing area in terms of population and overall economic growth over the next five years, which should foster increases in residential construction (both single- and multifamily) as well as retail and other commercial projects.

In terms of residential construction activity statewide, the forecast calls for single family housing starts are expected to increase at an average annual rate of more than 2 percent for the state as whole between 2021 and 2023. These gains will be centered in the state's strongest economic regions, such as the Eastern Panhandle and North-Central WV, and this underlying demand for housing created by rising income levels and consistent in-migration of new residents will bolster house prices by a rate of nearly 2 percent annually during the outlook period.

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hyperloop Comes to the **Mountain** State



Virgin Hyperloop announced October 8, 2020 its plan to build the \$500 million Hyperloop Certification Center (HCC) to advance its vision of the future of high-speed transportation. West Virginia will serve as a focus for testing, developing, and validating the technology that underpins the still theoretical hyperloop system.

Reasons given for choosing West Virginia over 16 other states include the availability of land, low cost of living and high quality of life. State officials are also quick to tout a ready workforce, business-friendly government, and proximity to the engineering and business students and faculty at West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown.

Hyperloop is a transportation system originally proposed by Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk. The idea was to create a high-speed transportation system to send a capsule levitating along a rail inside a low-pressure tube at speeds of more than 600 miles per hour without creating pollution. The HCC will be the first U.S. regulatory proving ground for a hyperloop system.

The proposal sparked a wave of companies and innovators working to make this technology a reality, with Virgin Hyperloop being one of the biggest investors. A fully functional hyperloop system is still a long way from coming to fruition, but this certification center will help Virgin move closer to realizing that dream.

"The Hyperloop Certification Cen-

ter is the start of the hyperloop journey for West Virginia, for the United States, and for the world," said Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Group, which acquired Hyperloop One in 2017. "We're one step closer to making hyperloop travel a reality for people everywhere," he said in October.

With this development, the HCC will pave the way for an entirely new eco-



Jay Walder, CEO of Virgin Hyperloop (left), and Governor Jim Justice at the Hyperloop Certification Center unveil event in October 2020.

system, creating thousands of new jobs across construction, manufacturing, operations, and high-tech sectors—many of which Virgin Hyperloop plans to source locally.

"For years, I have been saying that West Virginia is the best kept secret on the East Coast, and it's true. Just look at this announcement and all it will bring to our state – investment, jobs, and tremendous growth," said Governor Jim Justice. "It's a true honor and privilege to be selected as the site for the Hyperloop Certification Center and lead the nation in this next step forward for transportation."

WVU's Bureau of Business and Economic Research predicts the total economic impact of the center's ongoing operation on the West Virginia economy to be \$48 million annually.

The project is expected to create 7,300 construction and manufacturing jobs over the next five years and 6,000 permanent jobs, including 150 to 200 engineers.

WVU and Marshall University, located in Morgantown and Huntington,



The Hyperloop Certification Center will be located on the site of a former coal mine in Tucker and Grant counties. The land, owned by Western Pocahontas Properties, is being donated to the WVU Foundation in partnership with Virgin Hyperloop.

respectively, are serving as two major partners on the project that Virgin Hyperloop will "leverage intellectual capital and resources."

"West Virginia is well-positioned to provide a fully-integrated solution that advances the nationwide opportunity for hyperloop," said Jay Walder, CEO of Virgin Hyperloop, in a statement. "The engineering and scientific talent, combined with the skilled workforce and collaborative spirit we know is critical to this project, is all right here." Work on the HCC is expected to begin in 2021 with a planned Welcome Center, Certification Track and Operations Center, Pod Final Assembly Facility, Production Development Test Center, and Operations, Maintenance and Safety Training Center.

It will be located on the site of a former coal mine in Tucker and Grant counties. Safety certification is expected by 2025 and commercial operations by 2030. Federal regulators will use the center, and accompanying sixmile test track, to establish regulatory

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and safety standards, while Virgin will test its product and infrastructure.

The land, owned by Western Pocahontas Properties, is being donated to the WVU Foundation in partnership with Virgin Hyperloop.

The CEO recently released a newsletter that provided new updates on the project. Information included key team members, FAQs, and what is next. Here is some of the items released.

WHAT'S NEW:

On November 8, 2020, Josh Giegel, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer, and Sara Luchian, Director of Passenger Experience made history becoming the first people in the world to ride hyperloop.

On the heels of this passenger testing, they felt it was important to show how a two-passenger transport could evolve into a commercial system. Virgin has recently revealed a brandnew passenger experience video, taking watchers through everything from arriving at the station (portal) to boarding the hyperloop vehicle (pod).

Visit virginhyperloop.com for more information on the first passenger test.

MEET THE TEAM:

Hundreds of engineers will work to bring hyperloop technology to fruition, but Virgin recently introduced a few key team members who are solely dedicated to the project in West Virginia.



Michael Schneider, vice president of Project Development, leads all aspects of the Hyperloop Certification Center program for Virgin Hyperloop. He brings extensive expe-

Schneider

rience around the world in developing and delivering large-scale infrastructure projects, including urban and intercity rail, highways, aviation and ports, together with a strong focus on the inclusion of advanced transportation technologies.



Kristen Hammer, business development manager, works closely with local transport agencies, business partners, members of Congress, and federal regulators to move hy-

Hammer

perloop projects forward in the United States. Leveraging her background in engineering, Hammer bridges the business and engineering sides of the house to advance hyperloop certification and project development – with a key focus on the HCC project.



Ryan Chan is the project director for the Project Management Office at Virgin Hyperloop. He is responsible for delivering the Hyperloop Certification Center for the entire

project life cycle, including oversight for project controls. Chan has a track-record of delivering infrastructure projects, including new transit stations, rail corridor expansions, and signaling enhancement projects.



Kelsey Kirby joined the Virgin Hyperloop Project Development team last year, after working with the West Virginia team that attracted the HCC partnership. Kirby is the go-to contact

Kirby

on the ground and, as a native West Virginian, focuses on making this partnership a success for all stakeholders.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

When will construction start in West Virginia? What is the timeline?

This year, the HCC will focus on design, planning and feasibility of the facilities. They will begin building facilities next year, which will continue in phases through 2025.

What is being built? A testing facility? A tube?

A number of facilities, including a test

track, are being built to facilitate testing and certification efforts at this site, but also to serve as training and development efforts for the hyperloop ecosystem. They are excited to work with state and local leaders, as well as the technical colleges and universities in West Virginia, to collaborate on this training effort and build a resource not just for the industry, but for this entire region.

Where will the site be located?

Specifics for a site plan are still being discussed, but the site will be near Mt. Storm, crossing both Grant and Tucker counties.

How can CAWV members get involved?

HCC will be hosting a series of virtual Supply Chain Expo events this year. They will contact those who have reached out and partner with local organizations to advertise the process of applying once it is in place.

What kind of hiring will be happening for the HCC? Is this local or are they bringing in talent?

There's a reason West Virginia picked hyperloop and hyperloop picked West Virginia, HCC states. The goal is to leverage the talent already in the region which is full of expert technicians with transferable skills. When they are beginning to hire, they will publish the opportunities widely, so everyone is kept in the loop. In addition, they will create education and job training programs and research and development opportunities.

HCC will have 150-200 permanent positions split between technicians and engineers on top of thousands of construction jobs across the course of the project. Construction and manufacturing jobs include civil engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, production engineers, electricians, technicians, welders, machinists, carpenters, and production operators.

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Infrastructure is a big concern locally. How is Virgin Hyperloop going to help address this?

The company is committed to being a value-add member of the nearby community. They are working closely with local leadership to develop plans that support the infrastructure and planning already underway. Beyond direct construction, they are hopeful that they can help catalyze focus to the critical needs and promising initiatives in the area.

How is this being paid for?

The Hyperloop Certification Center is a long-term, multi-county project, and they are still working through the exact funding structure. They anticipate the HCC being funded by a combination of private capital and federal, state, and local programs as it develops.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Last October, following nearly a year of work, state officials announced West



Construction on the HCC is expected to begin in 2022 with a planned Welcome Center, Certification Track and Operations Center, Pod Final Assembly Facility, Production Development Test Center, and Operations, Maintenance and Safety Training Center.

Virginia had beaten out more than 20 other locations to serve as the future home of the Virgin Hyperloop Certification Center.

The project has received attention from national and global media outlets, including Business Facilities magazine, which recently awarded the West Virginia Development Office an Honorable Mention Award in 2020 Deal of the Year recognitions. "We are focused on building the facilities necessary for certification at the HCC and in parallel will continue our conversations with partners around the country about building commercial routes," said Walder. "Momentum is building around the world for the advancement of hyperloop and before you know it, you'll be able to get a ticket and ride."

For more information on the HCC, visit virginhyperloop.com/project/hcc.



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Contractors Association of West Virginia

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

HARD AT WORK KEEPING WEST VIRGINIA MOVING FORWARD

Contractors Association of West Virginia members continue to do their part to protect workers and the public amid the coronavirus that introduced unprecedented challenges in everyday work and personal lives. Our members have created comprehensive new safety plans to change the way construction operates in order to maintain a commitment to safety. We are working safe so we can expand health care facilities, build schools and maintain critical infrastructure such as highways and airports.

From the President.



The front cover of this annual report reflects that 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. The good news is that we – the CAWV and our members – rose to the challenge and kept construction moving forward. With our great partners at

the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) and their remarkable work, we kept our members' projects operating safely by making available COVID-19 safety tool kits, conducting safety stand downs and providing accurate and timely information on various issues. These include the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), new family and medical leave requirements, and contract language modifications to reflect changing conditions or possible project delays.

West Virginia's construction industry has been fortunate in that Governor Jim Justice, in his March 23, 2020 Executive Order on Stay at Home, declared construction an essential business. There were projects that were delayed but the designation spared the industry from a partial or complete shutdown as experienced in surrounding states. The Governor's decision has kept thousands of construction workers on the job, in turn, earning income, buying goods and services, and generating taxes that help the rest of the state's economy.

Just as construction is an essential business, the Contractors Association of West Virginia is essential to making sure our members' concerns are addressed. The CAWV has been moving forward with information and services to members as we navigate through this new business environment. Most state and federal employees are working under the Governor's stay at home order to minimize exposure for agency and private sector employees, and for residents of the communities where they live and work. Yet, the CAWV has continued to meet with our contracting agency partners, through conference calls and Zoom meetings, to discuss project information, specifications, bidding opportunities and other industry related issues.

The CAWV Strategic Planning Committee met in October 2019 to chart the association's goals and objectives over the next three years. One of our action plans was to utilize Zoom or some other video conferencing to communicate with members. Nowhere in the discussion was pandemic mentioned but, rather, to maximize the effectiveness of our communication efforts, as well as, to engage more members in meetings and training. A number of committees and subcommittees, as well the CAWV Board of Directors and Executive Committee, are meeting via Zoom. This is just one example of how the CAWV continues to grow and adapt to meet the needs of an ever-changing construction industry.

We were fortunate that we were still able to have our Annual Meeting in person in July and a regional meeting in Weirton in September. The CAWV State Meeting, the 2021 Midyear Meeting in Palm Desert, California, and a number of educational programs were canceled due to the pandemic. We were not able to personally meet the finalists for a CAWV Scholarship Foundation scholarship award, but every finalist this year received a monetary award. We were able to recognize winners of the prestigious CAWV safety awards at the Annual Meeting.

The West Virginia Construction and Design Exposition (WV EXPO) was canceled two weeks before opening its doors to over 5,000 registered attendees and exhibitors March 25 and 26. While it was disappointing not to see members at the state's premier show for the construction and design industry, we are cautiously optimistic that EXPO will be back up and running in March 2021. If not, the WV EXPO board will provide an exciting virtual event that will allow us to deliver content and engage members in a professional manner.

All of us are looking forward to a new year that will have significant but different challenges. There are some signs of the start of a return to normalcy, albeit a new normal. Governor Justice has made a number of recent announcements about new companies planning to locate their operations in West Virginia. These include the \$500 million Virgin Hyperloop project in Tucker and Grant counties, a \$350 million methanol plant in Pleasants County, a \$30 million Gruppo Fanti metal manufacturing facility in Weirton and a multi-million dollar project at Mitsubishi Heavy Industry's facility at the North Central West Virginia Airport in Bridgeport.

The CAWV will make sure the construction industry plays a key role in rebuilding West Virginia's economy. We will push for investment in infrastructure that will create economic vitality for our state and jobs for thousands of West Virginia construction workers. This will be a key component of our 2021 legislative program when legislators come to Charleston in February.

I thank all members who worked this year to promote the CAWV's mission by being engaged in online committee and task force meetings, programs and seminars. While we adjust to this new normal, I hope all CAWV members will stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Michael Jim

Michael Gianni President

CAWV ADVOCACY EFFORTS PROTECT IN-DUSTRY'S INTERESTS

CAWV continues its policy to play a lead role on behalf of our members in state government affairs by professionally and effectively representing the concerns of contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and construction-related interests. There were a number of issues in the 2020 legislative session that could have negatively affected CAWV members and their employees, and a few that provided new investment in infrastructure. H.B. 4001 creates the West Virginia Impact Fund designed to help attract outside capital to West Virginia that can be used to open new large-scale business projects and create jobs. Legislators passed H.B. 4051, which updates broadband enhancement and expansion policies in the state. This bill has become especially important as people are moving to West Virginia from populated areas to work remotely. H.B. 2646 provides a safe harbor for employers to correct underpayment of wages and benefits due to separated employees. Under previous law, employers were open to double damages and legal fees for being late in paying separated employees. Bills of importance to CAWV members during the session include updating policies and procedures related to School Building Authority of West Virginia construction projects, rules relating to the State Building Code, creating the State Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund to invest in state parks and recreational facilities, and S.B. 551 and S.B. 589 which provide additional funding measures for water and sewer projects. The CAWV worked to defeat legislation that would reduce funding for the State Road Fund and a bill mandating contractors verify the employment eligibility of

HUB/PAC BACKS CONSTRUCTION INDUS-**TRY SUPPORTERS**

HUB/PAC, the association's political action committee, supports candidates for the West Virginia Senate and House of Delegates who will give the CAWV a fair hearing on those issues affecting the contracting industry. This year's historical election saw Republicans gain a super majority in both houses of the West Virginia Legislature, the first time since 1920. Candidates endorsed by HUB/PAC were mostly successful in their primary and general election races. In Senate races, 100 percent of the candidates supported by the CAWV won their elections. In the House, 94 percent of those supported won. The HUB/PAC Board of Trustees set an ambitious fundraising goal this year in order to financi Ily back candidates who professed a business and construction philosophy. The CAWV will be meeting with new senators and delegates to acquaint them with our members' concerns and legislative priorities.

AGC KEPT AMERICA BUILDING

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America made sure members had access to the resources, information, and even, at times, the equipment needed, to make sure the construction industry could protect workers, and the public, from the coronavirus. Within days of the start of the outbreak, AGC organized a recurring series of webinars led by experts that provided members up-to-date guidance on how to react to the virus. The organization also distributed regular updates that provided the latest developments on issues from safety requirements to the latest economic conditions.

AGC helped shape the federal Paycheck Protection Program to make sure construction firms could qualify for loans, and then worked to improve the program to protect as many jobs as possible. AGC is now working to oppose an IRS ruling declaring that expenses funded through a PPP loan are not deductible for this year.

For 2021, AGC has created two campaigns to educate key Congressional leaders on the need to pass new infrastructure investments. One campaign is the Transportation Construction Coalition - co-chaired with ART-BA - and AGC's own Americans for Better Infrastructure campaign.

ARTBA PROMOTES HIGHWAY REAUTHORI-ZATION BILL

The American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) provided videos for highway contractors on how workers can stay safe when working in close proximity when pouring concrete or laying asphalt. The association continues its work on passage of a longterm federal highway bill and increased funding for road and bridge construction projects.

The American Society of Association Executives, as part of its centennial celebration, honored ARTBA and 99 other associations for their contributions to community and business success. ARTBA was recognized in the safety category.

CAWV VIRTUAL MEETINGS KEY IN KEEP-ING MEMBERS UP TO DATE AND COMMIT-**TEES ACTIVE**

The CAWV upgraded its technology pre-pandemic to provide for virtual meetings. Post pandemic, Zoom became the primary method to conduct committee and task force meetings, seminars and training. The CAWV was able to partner with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to offer a virtual meeting on how to fill out the proper paperwork for stormwater permitting and with the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Division to learn about issues on AML and bond forfeiture projects. Several CAWV committees were able to continue their work by meeting virtually throughout the year instead of meeting in person. This year's CAWV Annual Meeting at the Greenbrier featured both General James Hoyer of the West Virginia National Guard and Jimmy Wriston, WVDOT Deputy Secretary/WVDOH Deputy Commissioner. Members not attending the meeting could listen via Zoom. The CAWV is continuing to upgrade its technology to ensure the committees stay active and continue their important work during and after the pandemic.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS \$17,500 IN 2020

The CAWV Scholarship Board of Trustees was unable to proceed with the interview process to determine a firstplace winner for the CAWV Scholarship for 2020. To make sure that scholarship dollars were awarded and utilized by applicants, scholarship trustees voted to recognize seven finalists for their achievements and awarded each of them \$2,500. The students receiving scholarships were from West Virginia University, Fairmont State University and Marshall University.

Scholarship trustees were also able to raise money this year with two separate CAWV scholarship golf outings. Because of the pandemic, a fall outing was added to go along with the regularly scheduled June scholarship golf outing to allow everyone a chance to play while still practicing social distancing and following CDC guidelines.

SAFETY COMMITTEE EDUCATES AND **RECOGNIZES MEMBERS FOR WORKING** SAFER

Helping members work safer is a top priority of the CAWV, whether it is how to navigate OSHA Standards or educating members on the latest workplace safety issues regarding COVID-19.

The CAWV partnership with Encova Insurance provides significant savings on members' workers' compensation insurance costs. The program provides a discount on premiums to contractor members with a three-year loss ratio of 65% or less. The program is also a great resource for safety training programs. In 2020, CAWV members had access to work zone safety training that was presented by the American Road and Transportation Builders of America (ARTBA). The training, which was held at Encova's Charleston office, contained a full day of education from ARTBA, OSHA and Encova Insurance professionals on work zone safety issues.

CAWV members, along with hundreds of construction firms across the country, stopped work April 9 to participate in a nationwide safety stand-down focusing on ways to protect construction workers and the public from the spread of coronavirus. The safety stand-down, organized by AGC of America, was designed to make sure firms and workers are taking measures outlined by public health and safety officials to protect workers on active construction sites and the public.

The CAWV also offers several online tools for safety education through a partnership with ClickSafety Online Training. ClickSafety has an extensive list of safety training videos and seminars, including OSHA 10 and 30-hour courses that members can purchase at a 10% discount.

EXPO CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19 CON-CERNS

The 41st annual West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO, scheduled for March 25 and 26 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center, was canceled due to growing concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. The EXPO Board of Directors was very excited about this year's show. Highlights of the 2020 EXPO were: Completely sold out exhibit space; expanded demonstration stage; outdoor area for equipment demonstrations; and a reverse job fair featuring 300 students from area votech schools seeking a career in the construction industry. EXPO features nearly 300 exhibitors, nearly 5,000 registered attendees and over 75 seminars, most offering free continuing education credits, making it an invaluable networking opportunity. The 2021 EXPO is sched-

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uled for March 24 and 25. The board is meeting regularly to discuss exciting virtual options if an in-person EXPO is not feasible.

2020-2021 CAWV MEMBERSHIP DIRECTO-RY PUBLISHED

The 2020-2021 CAWV Membership Directory and Buyers Guide has been published and mailed to members. In addition, the directory is sent to manufacturing, oil and gas, coal and other construction owners, county boards of education, city maintenance departments, and government agencies in West Virginia. The publication is an indexed guide of all members and the services and products they provide. The publication contains a definitive listing of "Who's Who" in West Virginia's construction, engineering and design industries.

YOUNG CONTRACTORS FORUM HOSTS A NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL EVENTS

The focus of the Young Contractors Forum (YCF) is to better fulfill the need to cultivate the next generation of leaders in the construction industry, as well as the association. The group hosted several functions, including the YCF annual Toys for Tots Golf Outing in October. The event was a huge success with dozens of toys being donated. The Toys for Tots program rolled into December with many members helping to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children in need this holiday season. The YCF is also hosting a community build project at the Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association in Charleston. The project consists of building and installing a 16'x8' open shelter at the facility's outdoor dog play area to shelter volunteers from poor weather conditions. The YCF will continue to add programs and President Michael Gianni would like to encourage all member companies to send future leaders of their organizations to YCF functions.

TASK FORCE CONTINUES TO CREATE FU-TURE CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE

The Workforce Development Task Force continues its efforts to enhance career and technical training programs to create a future workforce for CAWV members. The task force worked closely with General James Hoyer and Colonel David Shafer, West Virginia National Guard, on the Governor's Jobs and Hope of West Virginia equipment operator training courses, and continued discussion on implementing the guard's Building Construction Training course in 2021. The task force invited CAWV members on several visits to Camp Dawson to meet the graduates of the equipment operator training course and to offer input on the training and how to make sure graduates are ready to be employed by CAWV members. The guard continues to find good quality candidates and graduated its largest class to date in October.

The task force, with assistance from the Public Relations and Education committees, has developed a program called BuildWV. This program is based on a website that will act as a "go to" online destination for information on construction careers. The site includes information on training, education, and career opportunities for students, adults and military veterans. Build-WV anticipates partnering with several other organizations including educators, government officials and West Virginia's construction industry. This program was originally scheduled to launch in 2020 but has been put on hold until task force members can meet face to face with teachers, counselors and students in the various high schools around the state to ensure the launch is a success.

HIGHWAYS AND COVID-19

The WVDOH and highway contractors responded to the pandemic utilizing technology, innovation, flexibility and cooperation. Dozens of committees and task forces continued their mission via online meetings where they developed a new aggregate Alkali Silica Reaction (ASR) program impacting concrete mix designs; adoption of the WVDEP Best Practices Guide, replacing the WVDOH E&S manual; a requirement for accredited labs for quality control testing of concrete cylinders for compressive strength; new caisson provisions; pavement markings and traffic control; pavement smoothness, pipe and backfill; and dozens of other specification, publication and material changes

Innovative contractors and WVDOH personnel also developed many ways to minimize or eliminate handling of material tickets and a new 2021 specification opens the door for E-Ticketing. The WVDOH also renewed the use of DocuSign, utilizing electronic signatures for many purposes, including contract documents and bonds. A specification change also eliminates the need for in-state agent signatures on bonds beginning next year.

Contractors were also given the opportunity to request a two month extension on prequalification renewals when preparation of needed financials were impacted by COVID. Contract time extensions were also up for consideration when COVID impacted labor, subcontractors, materials or schedules. Groundwork was also laid this year for the phase out of Marshal Mix Designs and the move to a single mix design system utilizing Balanced Mix Design (BMD). Project stormwater permits were another challenge worked on by industry, CAWV and WVDEP, as a lack of permits held up many projects. COVID also contributed to ongoing cash flow issues at the WVDOH, impacting project payments and significantly diminishing the planned 2020 construction program.

Contractors and WVDOH continue to focus on expediting project finals, a priority that lead to the formation of a joint finalization task force. The task force released training videos recently on their YouTube channel aimed at aiding project personnel at all levels with their role in the finals process. The Specifications Committee passed a package of Section 100 changes promoted by the WVDOH that changes the definition of "Complete", "Substantially Complete", "Final Acceptance", "Punch List" and introduces withholding of estimate payments on any and all contractor projects. Another proposal this year called for elimination of winter shut down but it was withdrawn by the WVDOH.

Joint task forces also worked on significant changes to purchase order (PO) programs for aggregates, asphalt and concrete pavement repairs.

AROUND THE CAWV

The CAWV's headquarters in Charleston's East End Historic District was renovated this year. The Strategic Planning Committee, prior to COVID-19, decided to engage more members in meetings and training programs by upgrading the association's video conferencing capabilities. Many committee meetings this year have been held via Zoom. Other upgrades to the headquarters include updating bath and kitchen areas, new carpet, flooring, lighting fixtures paint, and lobby signage.

With so many construction firms relying extensively on telecommuting and remote access, prioritizing cybersecurity and system resilience may be more important than ever. The CAWV was selected to participate in a test program through AGC of America's Cyber Security Pilot Program to help members from becoming vulnerable to the many forms of cyberattacks, including social engineering, ransomware attacks, wire fraud, and hacking.

Pat McDonald, CAWV assistant executive director, was elected president of the West Virginia Society of Association Executives. WVSAE fosters education and professionalism within West Virginia's association community.

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Tax Credits Help Repurpose Historic Atlas Building

In 2017, the West Virginia Legislature passed a bill changing the state's Historic Tax Rehabilitation Credit from 10 percent to 25 percent, making West Virginia's tax credit consistent with credits in Ohio and Virginia. The purpose of the bill is to give a greater incentive for developers to acquire and redevelop buildings in towns and cities statewide. The historic tax credit increase was critical in repurposing the Atlas Building, an iconic building in downtown Charleston. Other projects in Charleston have utilized credits, and the State Historic Preservation Office lists nearly 130 structures in the downtown area that are potentially eligible for historic tax credits.





The Atlas Building was featured in numerous articles in *The Charleston Gazette* when it opened in 1941 and was noted as the most up-to-date office structure of its kind.

The Atlas Building, located on Quarrier Street in Charleston, is an iconic piece of the capital city's history. Built in 1941 at a cost of \$550,000, the eight-story structure was earmarked as unique with its art deco design. At the time of completion, it was viewed as the most elaborate and up-to-date public building in the city of Charleston.

Designed by Charleston-based Tucker and Silling, now Silling Architects, the building was known as one of the most modern architectural and structural designs of its period with an overall design focus on sustainability. The innovative techniques used at the time improved building performance, flexibility and occupant comfort with elements such as air-conditioning and fireproofing throughout the building.

The building incorporated a reinforced concrete floor system that is supported on a structural steel frame which rests on concrete pile foundations driven 50 feet below the sidewalk. The walls were constructed with a feature that was new to Charleston at the time – brick with hollow tile backup and copper "Thru-Wall" flashing – that prevented leakage through the walls.

Over the years various developers have attempted to refurbish the building, however, none of their plans came to fruition until June 2019. It was then the Kanawha County Commission approved a \$9 million plan to renovate and revitalize the historic building by converting approximately 56,000 square feet into over 50 residential housing units. About 8,000 square feet would be used by retail, office and restaurant tenants.

Persinger & Associates, Inc., Charleston, was selected as the general contractor on the \$5.3 million contract. Contractors worked from top to bottom to convert seven floors to 52 rentable apartments with sizes ranging from efficiencies to one and two-bedroom units and converting the first floor into mixed-use business space.

Although the building has come a long way from its previous state, there are classic features that have endured. As part of the Downtown Charleston Historic District, the building qualified for state and federal historic preservation grants to help protect its unique historic features. Project leaders worked with the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office to preserve important historical features of the building.

Brian Wishneff & Associates, based in Roanoke, Virginia, assisted in getting the funds to get the project off the ground. The firm is a boutique tax credit financing, syndication and consulting firm that specializes in helping facilitate projects that are seeking to utilize tax credits and a variety of other funding sources. The firm used state and federal historic tax credits to keep its charm and character.

Several tax incentives were available to assist in getting the project running. The West Virginia Legislature upped the historic structure tax credit recently from 10 to 25 percent. There is also a 25 percent federal tax credit for renovation of a historic structure. Kanawha County also added in tax breaks and developers were able to get assistance from the Charleston Urban Renewal Authority with nearby parking for the project.

The building's original curved art deco entry features a multicolor terrazzo floor that culminates in the center of the lobby with an encircled "A" in front of the deco-style elevators. The lobby also retains the original snack bar and two storefronts. The first story is covered with polished granite while the upper stories display brick with decorative, deco-style fleur-de-lis.

"The renovation effort was a sizable undertaking," said Courtney Persinger, president of Persinger & Associates. "Work involved demolishing each floor to the columns, with the exception of preserving the terrazzo flooring and existing corridor walls."

Another original feature that was maintained were the aluminum casement windows. Contractors installed additional storm windows for added protection and longevity.

Persinger's team then constructed each of the new apartments. All new plumbing, HVAC, electrical, and fire protection infrastructure was installed throughout the building from the roof to the basement. Sutter Roofing & Metal Company, Clarks-



As part of the Downtown Charleston Historic District, the building qualified for state and federal historic preservation grants to help protect its unique historic features such as the lobby's art deco features.

burg, and Brewer & Company of West Virginia, Charleston, were subcontractors on the project.

Each unit has its own HVAC unit which were installed on the roof. According to Persinger, it took 100 crane lifts to hoist the units in place.

"The modern finishes and fixtures were selected to both complement the existing art deco feel of the building and keep with current trends," he said.



Persinger & Associates, Inc., Charleston, was selected as the general contractor on the \$5.3 million contract. Contractors worked from top to bottom to convert seven floors to 52 rentable apartments with sizes ranging from efficiencies to one and two-bedroom units and converting the first floor into mixed-use business space.



One original feature that was maintained using the historic tax credit were the aluminum casement windows. Contractors installed additional storm windows for added protection and longevity. All new plumbing, HVAC, electrical, and fire protection infrastructure was installed throughout the building from the roof to the basement. Sutter Roofing & Metal Company, Clarksburg, and Brewer & Company of West Virginia, Charleston, were subcontractors on the project. Modern aspects of the apartment units feature stainless steel appliances, walk-in closets, and remote-controlled fans.

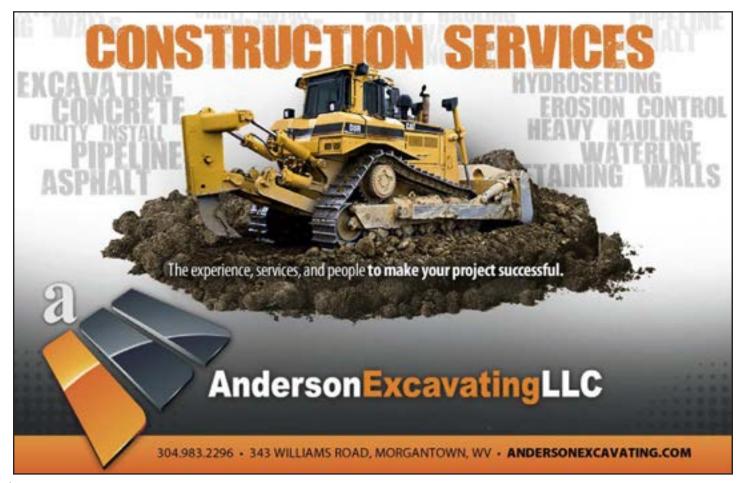
When asked what the most challenging aspect of the project was Persinger affirmed, "The unknowns."

"When you start tearing into an older building such as the Atlas Building, you never know what you are going to run into," he said. "We did run into some asbestos along the way, so remediation took time."

Coronavirus also played a challenging role in the project according to Persinger Vice President and Project Manager Amanda Gianola.

"When the pandemic hit, we were not sure how that would impact our project," Gianola said. "We were fortunate enough to keep working throughout the year, with minimal impacts from construction team members coming in contact with the virus.

"I would not want to start this job to-





Courtney Persinger and Amanda Gianola work on the final details of one of the apartment units. Interest in downtown residency is high and the newly renovated Atlas Building was already leased at 90 percent in December, according to the Alliance.

day," she remarked. "The bid was based on pre-COVID prices. If the project was started two months later, we would have had problems."

She noted they did have some hurdles to face with availability of supplies, particularly refrigerators, but vendors were able to get what was needed to complete the project on time. Persinger, who serves on Charleston City Council, says this project is a benefit to the city. It is providing housing to people wanting to live downtown.

The focus on downtown housing has strengthened since the Charleston Area Alliance released in September 2020 a market-rate housing needs assessment for Charleston. The assessment found that 400 more apartments downtown were needed. The interest in new downtown residences is high. In fact, the newly renovated Atlas Building was already leased at 90 percent in December, according to the Alliance.

The Atlas Building makeover is predicted to have a \$22 million economic impact on Charleston and Kanawha County.

"The Atlas Building provides quality living accommodations to those that want to live in Charleston's downtown," said Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin. "This project brings vibrancy and a great economic boost to the area."

"Bringing the first large-scale apartment building to downtown Charleston is very exciting," said Persinger. "All eyes have been on the project from day one.

"It has been a challenging project from several angles, but one that we are proud to have been a part of," he concluded.

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Attorney Robert "Bo" Sweeney (licensed in WV) has a practice based in civil litigation, with a concentration in the defense of mesothelioma and asbestos claims, construction disputes and defending employers in deliberate intent suits.

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Introducing the Newest CAWV Members

The CAWV Strategic Planning Committee developed a plan that is a vision of the association's future and the steps required to achieve the desired objectives. One of the goals in the 2020 – 2022 Strategic Plan is to increase membership to keep the association strong in order to vigorously advocate for West Virginia's construction industry.

In this issue of *West Virginia Construction News*, a few of the newest members of the Contractors Association of West Virginia have been featured. Members are encouraged to call upon these new firms and use them when bidding projects.

Additional members will appear in future issues.

If you are a new member and would like to be featured, contact Cassidy Webb at cwebb@cawv. org, or call (304) 342-1166.



Davis Athletics, LLC ATHLETIC & PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT Parkersburg, West Virginia

Davis Athletics is a full-service provider of quality athletic equipment with personalized service. It has been a family-owned business in Parkersburg for nearly 20 years. Whether renovating a locker room, planning a playground project, upgrading gymnasiums, or building new stadium seating, Davis Athletics assists with all aspects of facility improvements.

Working directly and exclusively with manufacturers throughout the United States and Canada, Davis Athletics is able to provide some of the finest equipment in the industry.

Davis Athletics sells and installs lockers, playgrounds, indoor and outdoor seating, and a variety of gymnasium products to schools, municipalities, parks, churches, and contractors with facility improvements.

They provide service throughout West Virginia, as well as Ohio, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. The firm recently acquired property to construct a new office / warehouse complex over the next few years and plans to continue expanding its position in each line of business.

In recent years, Davis Athletics has provided new bleachers for Huntington High School, Cabell Midland High School, and the new Doddridge County Stadium. Locker projects include Tyler County schools, East Fairmont High School, and a signature project installing the new West Virginia University football lockers in Morgantown in coordination with March-Westin's \$41 million expansion and renovation project at the Milan Puskar Center. A number of new playground projects have led to growth in that area with the overhauling of playgrounds at Paden City and New Martinsville Elementary, Arther I. Boreman Elementary, City of Upper Arlington (OH) and Johnson Elementary.

Davis Athletics, LLC www.davisathletics.net Fred Davis, Vice President davisathletics@gmail.com (304) 428-3000



East Coast Metal Systems SHEET METAL FABRICATION

Tridelphia, West Virginia

East Coast Metal Systems, Inc. (ECMS) is an experienced full-service fabricator and installer of engineered architectural metal and exterior envelope systems. From pre-construction and design through fabrication and installation, ECMS offers the experience, resources, and capabilities required to complete any metal fabrication project.

Founded in 1990, the company originated after the need for experienced architectural metal fabricators was observed in the industry. With 100 years of construction background, their experience and expertise fit that need.

Housed in a 60,000 square foot facility located in Triadelphia, ECMS employs approximately 75 people on location and another 150 people in the field.

After 30 years and thousands of jobs later, they continue to rely on an experienced workforce. ECMS is now one of only eight certified MCM (Metal Composite Material) fabricators in the United States, allowing them to offer architectural and custom fabrication in various markets throughout the country.

One of the most unique projects is Northridge Local Schools in Dayton, Ohio. The school mascot is a polar bear, and ECMS was able to create a structure outside of the school that closely resembles an iceberg. ECMS provided Secure-Scan 3D Laser Scanning Services and fabricated 243 metal composite panels for the project. The one-of-a-kind feature has recently been selected to win an award from the Metal Construction Association.

Unique in the industry, they offer diverse products and the capability to adapt to fit smaller architectural jobs as well as large commercial projects. Another distinctive aspect is that they work in all parts of the metal envelope systems from manufacturing to install. This helps ECMS understand the processes, needs, and objectives of the customer.

"If we know where the customer will start the install of the metal project, we are sure to pack it accordingly," said John Trifonoff, vice president. "We will place the panels that are going to be used first on the top of a shipping order and number them accordingly. Those little details can make all the difference to a customer, and our team takes full advantage of these small details that set us apart from others."

East Coast Metal Systems www.ecmsinc.net John Trifonoff, Vice President jtrifonoff@ecmsinc.net (304) 909-4220



Koontz Bryant Johnson Williams ENGINEERING SERVICES Hurricane, West Virginia

Established in 1990, Koontz Bryant Johnson Williams (KBJW) has served as a leading civil engineering firm in the region for more than 30 years, offering experienced civil engineering, geotechnical, environmental and surveying services.

"We are very proud of all our projects and client relationships, said Bruce King, director of Operations. "KBJW is fortunate to have worked on dozens of colleges and universities, numerous interesting subdivisions, shopping centers, office parks, and energy projects throughout West Virginia." KBJW has six offices employing over 100 professional engineers, designers, planners, scientists and surveyors throughout West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Virginia. In 2020 the company completed work for over 750 different clients on over 1,000 projects.

"We streamline the overall process for our clients by managing a project from the early due diligence stage, through the post construction phase ensuring our clients, contractors, and developers the luxury of dealing with one company, stated King. "It is our mission to ensure every project is successfully completed on time, within budget, and to our client's satisfaction."

Despite recent growth and expansion, KBJW remains a family-oriented and fun place to work. They are dedicated to the success of clients, communities, and employees, committed to client satisfaction and fostering lasting relationships built on quality work and trust, and are personally vested in making cities, towns, and projects, the best they can be.

Koontz Bryant Johnson Williams kbjwgroup.com Bruce King, Director of Operations bking@kbjwgroup.com (304) 993-1826



Philadelphia Insurance Companies INSURANCE & BONDING Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Insurance Companies (PHLY) has provided industry leading expertise and unsurpassed customer service for more than 55 years. Headquartered in Bala Cynwyd, PA, they provide value-added coverages and services for select industries across the United States.

PHLY is one of the strongest rated surety companies in the country with an A++ (Superior) rating by A.M. Best. In today's economic climate, contractors and principals need proof of bonding in order to qualify for many work projects and statutory compliance surety requirements. PHLY recognizes this need and offers financially sound bonding options for well-qualified contractors and Commercial Surety Accounts.

PHLY operates in 50 offices covering the United States and are a niche marketer specializing in over 120+ markets. Their surety division is strategically located in all major time zones across the country to ensure an underwriter is in the office when the client is and never far away.

"We value ourselves as business partners with the contractor and surety agent," said William Chapman, assistant vice president. "We consistently strive to understand the needs of our accounts and agents' business while developing our relationship. Through these strong relationships, we offer competitive rates and sound work programs for established contractors and commercial accounts. Together, we present options for commercial accounts and smaller contractors to provide them with the chance to compete for projects. Thus, we help qualified contractors thrive so that more American jobs may be created."

Philadelphia Insurance Companies www.phly.com William Chapman, Assistant Vice President william.chapman@phly.com (412) 356-2096



Seubert & Associates, Inc. INSURANCE & BONDING Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Seubert & Associates, Inc. was founded in 1973 by Tom Seubert in Pittsburgh as an independent insurance agency that served the property and casualty needs of Pittsburgh and the surrounding area. Throughout the years, Seubert has remained committed to protecting their clients' business, employees, and bottom line.

Today, Seubert is led by Brandon Mueller (President & CEO) and Bri-

an Long (Chairman) and is known as one of the largest independently owned brokerage firms in the region. With a 47-year track record, Seubert continues to focus on always doing what is best for the client while helping them to minimize risk and maximize potential.

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Their team includes 110+ employees, consisting of an in-house claims management department and a staff of professional safety providers. The firm is headquartered on the North Shore of Pittsburgh. In 2018 Seubert expanded their risk management expertise into a new marketplace – the Mid-Atlantic region, by opening an office in downtown Washington, DC. Seubert's diverse client-base has regional, national, and international insurance needs that they are fully capable of fulfilling. Their licensed professionals can place business in all 50 states, and beyond.

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diverse mix of construction and industrial companies, utilities, municipalities, government agencies and others. They provide equipment including trucks, aerial work platforms, counterbalance forklifts, reach forklifts, earth movers, compressors, homeowner equipment, and more. Together, these are considered general and aerial rentals, and they make up the bulk of URI's rental fleet and customer base. They also offer specialty rentals through their, Pump, Power, and Trench Divisions.

United Rentals is comprised of a qualified team of approximately 18,250 industry experts with knowledge about equipment applications for all types of construction and industrial projects. The company also rents equipment in five primary specialty fields including: Trench safety; power and HVAC; tool solutions; fluid solutions; and reliable onsite services. Additional specialty fields include: Radio services; sports and entertainment; and drone services.

United Rentals

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When you need help with construction related legal matters, you want a firm that understands the industry and has the know-how and experience required to provide cost-effective solutions. Daniels Law Firm, PLLC focuses on meeting the legal services needs of construction businesses in West Virginia and surrounding states. Our firm represents a broad spectrum of clients, including heavy highway, utility and building contractors, coal mining companies, and construction suppliers. We offer a wide range of services and can handle almost any type of legal problem for our clients. We excel in these and other areas:

Construction law Corporate and business law Government contracts Commercial and civil litigation Arbitration and mediation Business and tax planning Insurance litigation Wills, trusts and estates

Our attorneys can handle virtually any legal problems your business may encounter. Please call us at 304-342-6666, if we can be of assistance. In addition, the firm is engaged in a diversified civil practice and represents clients from all areas of the business community. Daniels Law Firm is a member of the following organizations:

- Contractors Association of West Virginia
- Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.
- West Virginia Coal Association
- National Utility Contractors Association
- · West Virginia Rural Water Association
- West Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants
- American Arbitration Association



Daniels Law Firm, PLLC, BB&T Square, 300 Summers Street, Suite 1270, Charleston, WV 25301 Phone (304) 342-6666 – www.danielslawfirm.com

A CAUSE FOR PAWS: CAWV Young Contractors Forum Leads Successful Structure Project



The CAWV Young Contractors Forum (YCF) recently led a successful project to help the animals and volunteers of the Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association (KCHA). The project consisted of building a bus stop-style structure at the outdoor dog play area. The 16 footlong structure took roughly three days to complete. CAWV members contributed to the design, build, and materials.

"Volunteers here at KCHA are the lifeblood of this organization," said KCHA Executive Director Bethany Hively. "Rain or shine, 365 days a year, these volunteers and employees give their all to care for the animals."

Hively said that for years volunteers have endured the harsh weather elements without any coverage and this structure will help to provide some shelter when taking the animals outdoors.

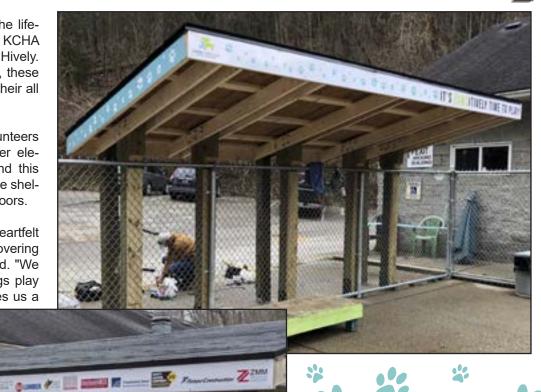
"KCHA would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the CAWV for the covering in our dog play yard," Hively said. "We are committed to letting our dogs play every day and the structure gives us a

BUILDING A BETTER WEST VIRGINIA

place for our staff and animals to get out of the elements. We are incredibly thankful for your generosity."

KCHA is committed to saving the lives of animals through sheltering, adoption, foster care, spay and neuter programs, cruelty prevention, and community outreach. Their mission is guided by compassion and the drive to be a leader in progressive animal sheltering, eliminating unwarranted euthanasia, and creating a community that celebrates the human-animal bond.

The YCF continues to educate future leaders through training, networking and community-based projects. For more information contact Cassidy Webb at cwebb@cawv.org.







To view a video on the project, visit https://youtu.be/IQc5-a1cr1E.

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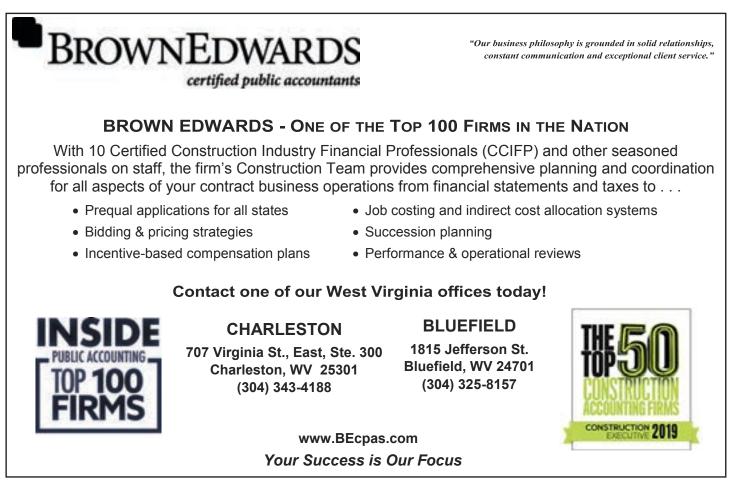
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For information on how you can help KCHA's mission by donating, volunteering, adopting and more, visit www.adoptcharleston.com.



CONSTRUCTION NEWS 34











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CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, recently announced the Raleigh County Memorial Airport Industrial Park will receive \$3.5 million award from the U.S Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The \$8.3 million project will also receive \$4.8 million in funding from state, local and private sources. The Raleigh County Memorial Airport Industrial Park project will grade 105 acres of land, construct an access road, and install water and sewer infrastructure to create land that is primed for commercial and industrial development...

Major sewer system improvements are moving forward in the city of Wheeling, as council recently approved more than \$500,000 worth of work along 37th Street. The South Wheeling project is part of the city's long-term sewer improvement plan, separating old systems with combined storm sewer and sanitary sewer lines. Overall, the city's multi-phase, long term control plan is expected to bring a total of around \$280 million worth of improvements and environmental upgrades to the city's underground infrastructure systems over the course of 20 years. Members of Wheeling City Council authorized City Manager Robert Herron to spend \$519,965 for the city's 37th Street storm sewer project. Cast and Baker Corporation of Canonsburg, PA, was the low bidder for the work, with bids also received from Ohio-West Virginia Excavating of Shadyside, OH, for \$543.230. James White Construction of Weirton for \$560,000, and Savage Construction of Wheeling for \$798.060...

Bids were recently accepted

for the reclamation of the refuse area and pond outlet improvements of the Royal Scot Minerals Permit in Greenbrier County. Low bidder on the project was Central Contracting, Inc. of St. Albans for \$3.3 million. Other bidders included Collins Building & Contracting, Inc. of Flatwoods for \$3.6 million, Eastern Arrow Corporation, Inc. of Charleston for \$4.3 million, Mountaineer Infrastructure, LLC of Dry Fork for \$4.39 million, Main Street Builders, LLC of Princeton for \$4.5 million, J. F. Allen Company of Buckhannon for \$4.9 million, and Thompson Construction Group, Inc. of Sumter, SC, for \$5.7 million...

The Putnam County Commission took the next step in renovating the current sheriff's facility and adding a new one. During a county commission meeting, commissioners heard three presentations from architect design firms hoping to be chosen for the project. After an executive session, the commission unanimously voted on Silling Architects, Charleston. However, before the project gets started, the company and the commission must negotiate a price. Sheriff Eggleton says the current facility is outdated and right now, day report is operating in another building off-site. The new facility will sit between the courthouse and state police detachment in Winfield. Although they have not negotiated a price for the project with Silling yet, it is anticipated between three to five million dollars...

■ Bids for the Webster County Landfill closure construction were recently accepted. Low bidder on the project was Eastern Arrow Corporation, Inc. of Charleston for \$2.85 million. Other bidders included A.J. Burk, LLC of Horner for \$2.87 million, J.F. Allen Company of Buckhannon for \$3.1 million, and Central Contracting, Inc. of St. Albans for \$4.1 million...

■ The Morgantown City Council recently voted 7-0 to begin the next phase of the runway extension project for the Morgantown Municipal Airport. Of the 15 bids received, a \$5.1 million bid from Doss Enterprises, LC, Jane Lew, was the lowest. The runway extension has been in the works for nearly a decade. The project is a collaboration between the airport and the city, with the airport primarily driving it. The funding for the project comes from the FAA, which has given the airport almost \$7.8 million. The project has been broken into phases over the next five years. The first step of the project will be land clearing which will begin with an environmental study to determine that while there are no current species living on the land necessary for the runway extension. Next year, construction will begin on the portion of the project that moves the runway itself. The other top bidders included Cast & Baker Corporation of Canonsburg, PA, for \$5.3 million, Anderson Excavating, LLC of Morgantown for \$5.82 million, and Mountaineer Infrastructure, LLC of Dry Fork for \$5.84 million...

Bids were recently accepted for the Earl Vickers Memorial Bridge rehabilitation in Montgomery. The bridge links Fayette and Kanawha counties and runs over the Kanawha River. Low bidder on the project was Triton Construction, Inc. of St. Albans for \$15.25 million. Other bidders included Kokosing Construction Company, Inc. of Westerville, OH, for \$15.29 million, Brayman Construction Corporation of Saxonburg, PA, for \$16.3 million, Swank Construction Company, LLC of New Kensington, PA, for \$17.3 million, and Orders Construction Company, Inc. of St. Albans for \$19.7 million.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Harry H. Esbenshade Jr. honored with gift to WVU John Chambers College of Business and Economics

MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA -

A state-of-the-art auditorium at Reynolds Hall, the new home of West Virginia University's John Chambers College of Business and Economics, will be named in hon-

or of the late Harry H. Esbenshade Jr., an accomplished business leader and philanthropist in Vienna, according to WVU officials.



The Esbenshade Esbenshade Foundation and other Esbenshade interests joined to recognize Esbenshade Jr. with a gift to the university and the next generation of business leaders. His son, Harry "Hap" Esbenshade III, established the foundation.

Slated for completion in 2022, Reynolds Hall will feature highly adaptive, collaborative spaces that reflect a reimagined vision for business education at WVU. The innovative approach integrates start-up culture with hands-on learning that will prepare students to excel in a rapidly changing global environment, officials said. The 300-seat auditorium will create an atmosphere where academic instruction is strengthened by interaction with real-world industry leaders and entrepreneurs, officials said.

Although the Esbenshades never attended WVU, both have considered themselves lifelong Mountaineers. Hap Esbenshade recognized the construction of Reynolds Hall as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a meaningful impact in his father's memory on the state they both love, according to a university news release. Hap described his father as "the best businessman I have ever known." A native of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, his father began expanding what is now the Tri-State/Service Roofing & Sheet Metal Group following his graduation from Yale University and service in the U.S. Navy.



A. MORTON THOMAS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

AMT opens Charleston office

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA -A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. (AMT) recently announced the opening of its new Charleston office. This expansion is due to AMT's growth in practice base and statewide leadership and resources. Located at 815 Quarrier Street, this location will enable AMT to broaden its client service and be near activities at the Capitol, WVDOH headquarters, and industry partners. Wes Hevener, PE will be leading the Charleston office and continuing to collaborate with his AMT colleagues in AMT's Parkersburg, West Virginia office.

WV Business & Industry Council elects Mike Clowser chairman

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA -The West Virginia Business & Industry Council recently announced that Mike Clowser has been elect-



ed as chairman of the organization. He succeeds Chris Hamilton, president of the West Virginia Coal Association, who has served in the position since

2012. Clowser, who serves as executive director of the Contractors Association of West Virginia, assumed the chairmanship of the West Virginia Business & Industry Council on January 1, 2021. Bridget Lambert, president of the West Virginia Retailers Association, was elected first vice chairwoman of the organization. The West Virginia Business & Industry Council represents numerous West Virginia trade associations and businesses accounting for hundreds of thousands of employees across the state. The organization's goal is to enhance the business climate in West Virginia, and its members have been working to that end for more than four decades.



Denny & Alastanos, PLLC, joins the Rodeheaver Group, PC

CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA -Denny & Alastanos, PLLC, a certified public accounting firm with deep roots in Harrison County, is now part of the Rodeheaver Group, PC a well-respected regional firm in North Central West Virginia and Western Maryland. Jim Denny, the managing member of Denny & Alastanos, said the Rodeheaver group is a growing firm with offices in Oakland, Maryland and Morgantown. The additional experience, resources, and technology will allow their combined team members to better serve clients and provide additional growth opportunities for professional staff. For Rodeheaver's three principal members — Brant Morehead, Lynn Flink and Dave Shaffer - the experience and reputation of Denny & Alastanos' professional staff --made the decision to pursue the merger easy. The firm's clients will now have access to 15 CPAs, eight professional accountants and four para-professionals.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

% FERGUSON

Ferguson acquires Old Dominion Supply, Inc. and Atlantic Construction Fabrics, Inc.

NEWPORT NEWS. VIRGINIA -Ferguson plc announced the acquisition of Old Dominion Supply, Inc., a wholesale distributor of HVAC parts and supplies in Maryland and Northern Virginia, and Atlantic Construction Fabrics, Inc., a geotextile company operating along the East coast. Founded in 1962, Old Dominion is a wholesale distributor of HVAC parts and supplies to residential and commercial contractors. The company operates with approximately 40 associates based out of two locations and serves the Washington D.C. metro area, Baltimore, Central Maryland and North-

ern Virginia. The company has annualized revenue of approximately \$55 million. Founded in 1984, ACF provides geotextile, stormwater and erosion control solutions to the civil construction market primarily along the East coast. Headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, the company operates with approximately 190 associates across 20 locations from Florida to Maine and extending west into Ohio. The company has annualized revenue of approximately \$100 million. Ferguson plc is a leading value added distributor of plumbing and heating products to professional contractors principally operating in North America.



Submit your news to Cassidy Webb at (304) 342-1166 or email cwebb@cawv.org.



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For more information on CAWV Member Recruitment Rewards, contact Pat McDonald at 304-342-1166 or pmcdonald@cawv.org.













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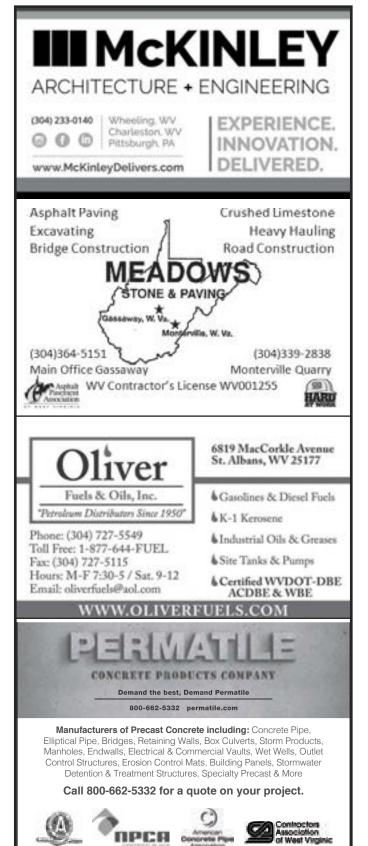
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