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ConstructionNEWS

September/October 2022

**State-of-the-Art
Mountaintop Beverage Facility
Under Construction in Morgantown**





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CONTENTS

Cover Story:

State-of-the-art Mountaintop Beverage facility
under construction in Morgantown 6

Features:

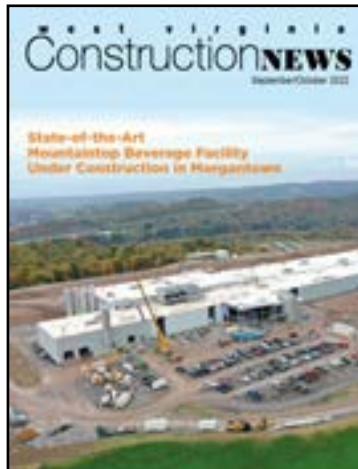
Investments in infrastructure 10
AIA presents 2022 architecture awards 28
YCF hosts successful events 30
40th APAWV Fall Meeting 34
Jason Pizatella new CAWV Chief Executive Officer 37

Construction briefs 38

Members in the news 41

New members 43

Advertisers 50



On the cover

The 315,000 square foot, \$250 million Mountaintop Beverage facility in Morgantown began construction November 30, 2021 and will be completed the end of 2022. For more on the state-of-the-art manufacturing plant, see page 6. Cover photo by Patrick Garcia, project manager, March-Westin Company, Inc.

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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State-of-the-Art Mountaintop Beverage Facility Under Construction in Morgantown



The Contractors Association of West Virginia's Young Contractors Forum (YCF), along with March-Westin Company, Inc., hosted a successful event on Friday, October 15. Over 30 members toured the \$250 million Mountaintop Beverage facility currently under construction in the upper part of the Morgantown Industrial Park.

The 315,000 square foot manufacturing plant will produce milk-based products for several brand name companies, as well as protein shakes, iced coffees and plant-based beverages. The state-of-the-art facility won't be using the pasteurization process. Instead, the plant will use aseptic, shelf-stable processing.

The processing equipment, accounting for about \$50 million of the facility's \$250 million construction costs, will heat the milk to 280 degrees for a few seconds and then flash cool it back down. The typical

pasteurization process heats milk to 160 degrees for 15 seconds. The second step is the packaging side. An extended shelf-life packaging option will extend the shelf life of aseptic milk to roughly 60 to 70 days compared to a pasteurized product that will last 21 days. By combining the thermal process with the aseptic packaging that is sterilized, the shelf life of that fluid is now up to a year.

"This will allow dairy products to go where refrigeration often can't because of cost or availability," said Jeff Sokal at the September 16 topping out celebration in which the last beam was set in place. "Think about food banks where you have central distribution points like Mountaineer or Huntington Food Banks, for instance. From there it goes to churches or smaller food banks, food pantries and different outlets. If it can go to those outlets or rural schools with the spoons and the napkins, it's going to be a lot more

economical to get the product there than it would be if you have to try and support refrigerated delivery," said Sokal who, along with Doug Jantzi, is a partner in the company.

March-Westin is the general contractor on the project which began November 29, 2021. Mountaineer Contractor/Preston Contractors, Inc., Kingwood, moved nearly 2 million cubic yards of dirt in just over 100 days to prepare the site. The first piece of vertical steel went up December 30, 2021. Topping out was a little over eight months. About 250 construction workers have been on-site daily. Construction is expected to be completed the end of December 2022 with production start-up scheduled for the first quarter of 2023. Mountaintop is currently looking to hire more than 100 workers by early 2023 on top of the 30 staff members already on board.

Patrick Garcia and Sam Stone, project managers for March-Westin,

provided the tour of the facility for YCF members. Garcia, who has been with the company since 2019, was a 2019 CAWV Scholarship Foundation award winner when he was a junior at West Virginia University majoring in Civil Engineering. He has a second degree in Biology.

"March-Westin poured over 12,000 yards of concrete on the job," Stone told members. "We poured just about every day. The facility also has over a mile of concrete curbs."

"We produced concrete every day from our plant in the Morgantown Industrial Park and trucked it to the site," said Pat Tucker, Central Supply Company, Bridgeport, who joined the YCF tour. "This has kept us quite busy this year."

A number of CAWV members in addition to Mountaineer Contractors and Central Supply have been on site with the project. They include Brewer & Company of West Virginia, Inc., Charleston; Sutter Roofing & Metal Company, Inc., Clarksburg; Contracting Engineering Consultants, Inc., Maidsville; A. Durer Inc., Morgantown; and ARCOR Mechanical Systems, Westover. The Thrasher Group, Bridgeport, performed the civil design work.

"Sutter Roofing assisted with the development of the project and has



March-Westin Company, Inc. set the 65' reverse osmosis water silo storage tank. The tank weighs approximately 34,500 lbs. (empty) and will hold 50,000 gallons.

completed 250,000 square feet of a new TPO roof system," said Nathan Harvey, YCF Co-chair and general manager of Sutter Roofing & Metal Company, Inc. "We are thrilled to be a part of this project and excited about the opportunities it will bring to West Virginia."

"Seeing this state of the art facility in-person was impressive to say the least," said YCF Co-chair Matt Spradling, Benchmark Construction Company, Inc. "Walking through the construction and seeing the intricacy of each and every room really opened your eyes to the process of producing the bottled

products. With construction moving right along, it will be exciting to see Mountaintop Beverage start manufacturing products and bring economic benefits to our state."

The facility will be using so much water in its production and cleaning process that the company decided to construct a separate plant to process and treat its wastewater. A 6,000 square foot structure was built adjacent to the plant.

In anticipation of Mountaintop Beverage locating on the site, the Morgantown Utility Board (MUB) approved in late 2020 the preliminary exploration of a funding source for some \$8 million in upgrades to facilitate the anchor development in the expanded Morgantown Industrial Park.

"This proposed Mountaintop Beverage facility is going to consume a large amount of water and sewer service — about 500 gallons a minute on a continuous around-the-clock basis," said Tim Ball, then-manager of MUB. "It's going to require substantial improvements in our system."

At that time, about \$4.1 million in water upgrades and \$3.9 million in sewer upgrades were anticipated to MUB's infrastructure. MUB was able to capture a \$2 million invest-



The project included a 6,000 square foot wastewater plant to process and treat the large amounts of water used for production and cleaning process. It is anticipated the plant will use about 500 gallons of wastewater a minute on a continuous basis.

ment from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. The \$2 million grant was awarded under EDA's \$300 million Coal Communities Commitment, which is funded by the \$3 billion appropriation provided to EDA by the American Rescue Plan.

The water line extension involved installation of a booster station, construction of a water tank and water lines of various sizes. In addition, a sanitary sewer line extension was also required. The sanitary sewer project involved construction of two pump stations and directional drilling beneath the Monongahela River for installation of a gravity fed sewer line.

Plans for the construction of the water and sewer projects were developed by E.L. Robinson Engineering Company of Charleston. Green River Group, Morgantown, was the successful bidder on the sanitary sewer line extension with its bid of \$2,998,293. Anderson Excavating, LLC, Morgantown, bid \$1,972,542 to construct the waterline extension. Mid Atlantic Storage Systems, Inc., Washington Court House, Ohio was the successful bidder at \$2,187,292 for the 1.3-million-gallon water storage tank.



Patrick Garcia (left) and Sam Stone, project managers for March-Westin, provided the tour of the facility for YCF members. Garcia, who has been with the company since 2019, was a 2019 CAWV Scholarship Foundation award winner when he was a junior at West Virginia University majoring in Civil Engineering.



Over 30 CAWV members toured the \$250 million Mountaintop Beverage facility currently under construction in the upper part of the Morgantown Industrial Park.


"The EDA's investment in our community will benefit the Morgantown area for generations to come," current MUB General Manager Mike McNulty was quoted as saying. "This is about ensuring the future through construction of infrastructure that makes growth possible. The Morgantown area's future is bright and we're happy to play such a significant role in its ongoing success," McNulty said. "These are indeed exciting times for the area."

Mountaintop Beverage's Sokal says plans are already in the works for

Phase Two of the project. The plant has the potential to grow to about 750,000 square feet. When the plant completes Phase Two of construction, Mountaintop Beverage will employ anywhere from 300 to 400 workers. On top of that would be hundreds of downstream jobs in farming and transportation.

Mountaintop and local officials are working with Governor Jim Justice on a proposed exit off I-79 that would direct traffic to the upper part of the Morgantown Industrial Park and Mountaintop Beverage. It will also provide access to additional shovel ready sites for further economic development. The promise of a round-the-clock flow of up to 100 trucks daily to the site has helped push conversation for the need of a new Harmony Grove Interchange connecting the Morgantown Industrial Park to I-79 directly.



"This project has had its challenges, but the reward of working on something so pivotal to the growth of West Virginia can't be measured. It's not often that a project or business this large comes to the area to start its roots, so it's been an honor to work with local, hardworking companies and people to make it happen," Garcia remarked. "We're excited for the future of Mountaintop Beverage and hope to be a part of their continued growth and success." 

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The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), passed in November 2021, is the largest U.S. infrastructure package in decades and provides over \$6 billion in funding for West Virginia's roads, bridges, water and sewer treatment facilities, abandoned mine land (AML) projects, airports and other infrastructure improvement projects.

The bill also provides a five-year reauthorization of the federal-aid highway bill and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, all three of which are now funded at higher levels. The bill is also a first-of-its-kind comprehensive investment in broadband deployment, equity, and affordability, which is essential to attracting new jobs and visitors to the state.

There will be additional funding to reinvigorate coal communities, including a new program to build clean energy on current and former mine lands. Grants will be available for manufacturers to build or retrofit facilities to produce or recycle energy products in communities that have seen coal mines or plants close.

Bowles Rice LLP made the theme of its Summer 2022 *Views & Visions* "Investments in Infrastructure." The issue contains articles from many state and local officials, state and federal contracting agencies, labor, and businesses who share their thoughts on how IIJA will have a positive impact on addressing West Virginia's critical infrastructure needs.

This issue of *West Virginia Construction News* reprints articles written by CAWV members and representatives. To read the full version of *Views & Visions*, visit www.bowlesrice.com/newsroom-visions.html.



Investments in Infrastructure

Marc A. Monteleone, Managing Partner
Bowles Rice LLP

The theme for this edition of *Views & Visions* is "Investments in Infrastructure." I believe that once you read the articles contained in this edition, you will agree The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA"), passed in November of 2021, may be one of the most important pieces of legislation passed by Congress in many years. The IIJA has the potential to become the catalyst for tremendous change in our region and country. Clearly the IIJA will produce much needed improvements to our roads, bridges, airports, broadband capabilities and other infrastructure projects, but perhaps more importantly the IIJA will lead to more high paying, good jobs for many workers across the nation.

Our country is still feeling the effects of COVID-19 and the impact it continues to have on our economy and job market. Many people lost their jobs during the pandemic, and a lot of those individuals are struggling to adapt to our changing world as we learn how to live with the disease. Studies show that jobs provide people with much more than just a paycheck. A good job is critical to the emotional wellbeing and psychological health of an individual. People gain self-esteem and confidence when working and the IIJA is projected to



Marc A. Monteleone
Bowles Rice LLP

create tens of thousands of jobs. Guest author Steve White's article focuses on the job creation aspect of the IIJA and what we need to do now in order to be ready for the influx of new jobs into our region.

As many of the articles point out, there are countless projects that have been planned for years, but they have been delayed because of the lack of adequate funding. As Senator Bob Casey and Mike Clowser allude to, there are a tremendous number of roads and bridges in West Virginia and Pennsylvania in dire need of repair. Pennsylvania is projected to receive \$16.28 billion and West Virginia is projected to receive \$3.76 billion for these types of projects. The direct and indirect impact from completion of many of these projects will be life-changing to our region.

As Mr. Clowser points out, every dollar spent on infrastructure in our society turns over 5 more times. Again, the impact from the IIJA will be tremendous.

I have practiced in the West Virginia construction industry for over 30 years and have never seen more optimism throughout the industry than over the last five years. It started with the West Virginia Roads to Prosperity initiative, which was enacted in 2017 and financed in 2018. That initiative provided over \$2.8 billion for West Virginia highway and bridge projects, and we have already enjoyed the benefits of many of the projects which have been completed under this program. Now, the IIJA is expanding the funding to many more exciting projects, including airport renovations, broadband, nuclear energy, water and wastewater systems, and shovel-ready sites for economic development. We have good reason to be excited!

I want to personally thank all the authors for taking time out of their busy schedules to share their thoughts and insights with us. Investing in infrastructure is critical for our future, both economically and emotionally. When I was in college, one of my professors often referred to this quote during his lectures, "A rising tide doesn't raise people who don't have a boat. We have to build the boat for them. We have to give them the basic infrastructure to rise with the tide." I think about this often and believe it is critical that we give people a chance to succeed by providing a strong foundation from which they can create more. Finally, Will Rogers once said, "Show me a healthy com-

munity with a healthy economy and I will show you a community that has its infrastructure in order..." I am really looking forward to seeing where we go from here and what we can accomplish because of these Investments in our Infrastructure.

The Road to Growth

Tyler Beaty, Project Manager
J.F. Allen Company

Across the great state of West Virginia, our infrastructure is in desperate need of investment. This fact was clearly stated in the American Society for Civil Engineers' 2020 Report Card for West Virginia's Infrastructure, which reported that our bridges, dams, drinking water, wastewater, and roads are in poor and/or at-risk conditions. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 that was passed by Congress and signed into law on November 15, 2021, will aid in the revitalization of West Virginia's infrastructure, while also providing excellent job opportunities to the residents of this great Mountain State. This bill is slated to invest nearly \$6 billion into West Virginia's infrastructure and provide jobs over the next decade.

In addition to providing a boost to other West Virginia contractors and businesses, the influx of dollars into our infrastructure will not only create continued employment opportunities for the next decade, but the investment into our infrastructure will also produce a quality environment that will welcome tourists into the area and provide a continued revenue stream for years to come.



Tyler Beaty
J.F. Allen Company

At J.F. Allen Company, the investment into our infrastructure is exciting, as we are a diverse company that provides a wide range of services in which the dollars will be directly related. Our company was founded in 1946 and has since established three asphalt plants and two aggregate quarries, as well as general construction, asphalt, and utility divisions that will all benefit from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. This is a great opportunity for J.F. Allen Company to continue its proven success, keep its employees employed, and provide an avenue for continued growth within the state. We have anticipated and accounted for the increased workload to come by expanding our team of dedicated employees by over 15% since 2020 and will continue to employ quality applicants and grow the company.

"... the investment into our infrastructure will also produce a quality environment that will welcome tourists into the area and provide a continued revenue stream for years to come."

A concern of J.F. Allen Company as a contractor is that the flow of dollars must be allocated within a time frame, and a large amount of dollars is going to be invested in a short amount of time. This creates a challenge for a lot of the small contractors in the area, as this amount of money brings in outside competition to the market and potentially provides contractor revenue to other states. While these large projects do create jobs for residents of West Virginia and revenue streams for local

businesses, they lessen the competition by reducing the amount of contractors capable of performing the work, attracting contractors from outside the state of West Virginia to enter the market and gain a share of the investment. This also creates higher market prices, which reduces the number of projects that can be completed. A concern for West Virginia contractors is that this influx of dollars will create an opportunity for outside firms to grow, and our state's money will not go as far as anticipated.

While this bill is certainly needed for our great state, another concern that is felt by every contractor or business owner is the need for quality employees. The unemployment rate in West Virginia, as of March 2022, is less than four percent and is the reason you see every employer hiring and businesses closing due to a shortage of quality people. People that want to work and support their families are currently working, so the induction of this bill creates a concern that there are not enough quality residents available to complete the work. The influx of dollars into the West Virginia economy will require additional residents to be employed. With the status of unemployment in West Virginia, this is seen as a major concern for contractors within the state.

In conclusion, the impact that this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 will have on the state of West Virginia is significant and beneficial to the residents of this state. As a contractor and employee in West Virginia, it is an exciting time to be in the construction industry. This bill is slated to bring roughly \$3 billion to repair and expand our network of roads and highways, nearly \$200 million for Corridor H, and

an additional \$475 million to upgrade, repair, and replace the old pipes, sewer systems, and drinking water systems in West Virginia. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue growth and employment for the next decade due to the influx of dollars into our economy.

The Time is Now for Improving West Virginia's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Robert Burton, President
West Virginia American Water

Historic Times for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Investment in West Virginia

West Virginia is a state of amazing natural resources with seemingly endless mountain vistas and dozens of pristine waterways. West Virginia is also a state with historical environmental challenges in its largest waterways, which include the Kanawha River and Ohio River Valleys. When it comes to water resources, specifically the state's drinking water and wastewater systems, West Virginia faces many challenges in delivering high-quality, safe, and reliable water services.

Status of West Virginia's Infrastructure

The 2020 Report Card for West Virginia's infrastructure, compiled by the West Virginia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, gave a grade of "D" to both the drinking water and wastewater infrastructure of the state. This grade means the infrastructure is deemed to be in poor to



Robert Burton
West Virginia American Water

fair condition and mostly below standard, with many elements approaching the end of their service life. A large portion of municipal and public service district systems exhibit significant deterioration, and condition and capacity are of significant concern with strong risk of failure.

For a significant number of municipal systems and public service districts, funding for capital infrastructure improvements is a long, difficult, and expensive process. Even with multiple grant and loan programs available in the state and the Appalachian region, systems may have to wait years for eligibility and funding; and though timelier, the cost of self-funding these investments is directly born by the limited customer bases of each individual utility.

"This represents historic levels of federal funding and will go a long way toward meeting critical water and wastewater infrastructure needs."

Historic Levels of Federal Funding Present Opportunities; Challenges Remain

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed by Congress in 2021 is set to deliver to West Virginia approximately \$475 million dollars over five years to fund public water and wastewater projects across the state. This represents historic levels of federal funding and will go a long way toward meeting critical water and wastewater infrastructure needs. However, this will not meet all the current and future needs of the state.





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The 2020 Report Card identifies current and near future needs for water and wastewater systems in West Virginia totaling over \$2 billion dollars. This substantial funding gap will require water and wastewater systems to look beyond federal and state funding to meet the needs of our infrastructure. Many public systems will need to evaluate rate increases to fund projects and to provide for operations and maintenance costs.

Private Investment Fills Funding Gaps

Other substantial sources of funding for water and wastewater systems can be found through Public-Private Partnerships and private, regulated utility capital investments. Through Public-Private Partnerships, public utilities can leverage private utilities and private investments to increase the likely success of projects using public financing while lowering the amounts of public money needed for these infrastructure projects. The ongoing partnerships also provide a reliable source of operations and main-

tenance, as they are then maintained by the private, regulated utility after the project is constructed. Additionally, direct infrastructure investment by private, regulated utilities taps into private debt and equity to fund projects that do not typically receive federal or state funding. This private funding does increase rate pressure on the customers of these regulated utilities, but this also provides a direct and real value to customers, as these improvements are both timely and substantial.

West Virginia American Water, a private, regulated utility, provides water service to approximately one-third of the state's population. The company has invested over \$250 million dollars into its water and wastewater systems between 2019 and the end of 2021. In addition, it is actively engaged in over a dozen Public-Private Partnerships that bring much needed water services to hundreds of state residents and provide millions more in private funding. West Virginia American Water stands ready to fill funding gaps by acquiring systems that are interested

in a sale or by establishing Public-Private Partnerships to extend or provide service.

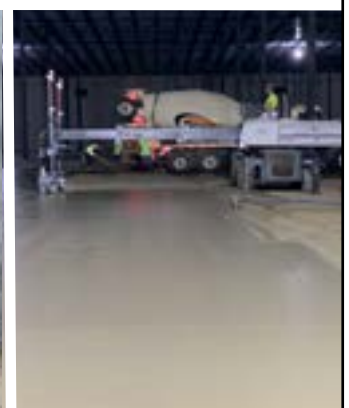
The Time is Now for Improving Our Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

West Virginia faces many challenges to its water and wastewater infrastructure, and there is not, and cannot be, one solution. These challenges can be met through the historic levels of funding that will be provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, through the other available federal and state grant and loan programs, through adequate and appropriate rate structuring of our public water and wastewater systems, through the strategic use of Public-Private Partnerships, and through the private investment of the state's private, regulated utilities.

Now is the time to take advantage of these opportunities and collectively provide safe, reliable water and wastewater services that all West Virginians expect and deserve.

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Creating the Environment for Growth and Expansion

Ryan Taylor, President
Pickering Associates

As most of us are probably aware, the U.S. Congress recently passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). As defined by the White House, this "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will rebuild America's roads, bridges, and rails; expand access to clean drinking water; ensure every American has access to high-speed internet; tackle the climate crisis; advance environmental justice; and invest in communities that have too often been left behind."

The bill provides \$550 billion in new spending on our nation's infrastructure over the next five years, including:

- \$110 billion for roads, bridges, and major projects.
- \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail.
- \$11 billion for transportation safety.
- \$39 billion for public transit.

- \$17 billion for ports and waterways.
- \$25 billion for airports.
- \$7.5 billion for clean school buses and ferries.
- \$7.5 billion for electric vehicle charging.
- \$1 billion to reconnect communities, including funds for projects that remove barriers to opportunity caused by legacy infrastructure.

Those are some very large numbers being tossed around, and not all that money is headed West Virginia's way. Based on formula funding, West Virginia can expect to receive almost \$4.4 billion in funds over the next five years. That's a historic investment that will make life better for hundreds of thousands of West Virginia residents, create a generation of good-paying jobs, and encourage economic growth.

Sounds great, but what will be impacted and why is it so important to the economic growth of West Virginia? Some of the impact is obvious – improved roads, clean water, expanded broadband, etc. are all critical to the state. But there is a less visible part that can play a huge



Ryan Taylor
Pickering Associates

role in future development in West Virginia. Let me explain what I mean.

One of the biggest economic growth challenges the state has had is attracting businesses to relocate or expand their operations here. We have had some great wins recently with the Nucor and GreenPower Motor Company announcements, but the competition between neighboring states is strong, and we can't sit on our laurels. We need to continue to create an enticing environment for companies to expand to West Virginia.



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One of the biggest keys to attracting new business to locate here is what some refer to as shovel-ready sites. Site selectors need a wide variety of information to determine whether a location is suitable. General site information includes:

- A description of all parcels that make up the site.
- A site map and schedule for site plan approvals and permits.
- A zoning description of the site plus current and future planned zoning of adjacent sites.
- Land use maps must be provided.

Information about whether the site or adjacent sites fall within the boundaries of special Economic Development Zones.

- Aerial photos noting site boundaries.
- The current price offering for land.
- Current real estate taxes and special assessments on all parcels that make up the site.
- Identification of current and former land use of the site and adjacent sites.

Site selectors also need to dive further into the physical attributes of the

ground to know whether the particular site is suitable for specific structures or uses. Certain tests and site assessments must be completed and documented, including geotechnical evaluations and Phase I (and II, if required) Environmental Site Assessments. The availability of utilities is also an extremely important factor that site selectors consider. The types of services available at the site and the names of the providers should be documented.

"We need to continue to create an enticing environment for companies to expand to West Virginia."

When reviewing potential sites, many of the selectors will even search out information regarding mean income, tax structure, quality of education, and, more generally, the overall quality of life for the region they would be serving. These intangibles are also very important as attractors to talent and the future workforce of facilities. They want what is best for their employees and, ultimately, what will bolster the community.

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tential new business is fairly straightforward since the majority of that information and infrastructure already exist. New, undeveloped sites are much more challenging. The costs to cover the preliminary work required on the front end has been difficult to cover without having a tenant lined up. The IIJA is helping change all of that.

The IIJA is providing funding specifically set aside to modernize our roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, airports, broadband, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. With that said, there are additional grant funds within the Appalachian Regional Commission that state and local governments can take advantage of to help fund specific business infrastructure development.

Eligible uses are expected to support the Appalachian Regional Commission goals of Building Appalachian Businesses; Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem; Building Appalachia's Infrastructure; Building Regional Culture and Tourism; and Building Community Leaders and Capacity. These funds can be used to complete planning, zoning, surveys, title work, environmental studies, soil analyses, and public infrastructure engineering prior to promoting the site for sale.

As you can see, the impact of the IIJA isn't just about improved roads and bridges, repairs and development of water and sewer systems, expansion of high-speed internet, and upgrading our power grids. It's about creating more livable communities, support-

ing disadvantaged and underserved areas, and positioning the state to win the 21st century through modern infrastructure. These impacts are fundamental to making the state's supply chain ecosystem more efficient and could be the key to raising competitiveness, especially as companies rethink global supply footprints in the pandemic's wake.

West Virginia Legislature Invests Heavily in Infrastructure

Tom Heywood, Esq.
Bowles Rice LLP

These are remarkable times in West Virginia. Record amounts of federal infrastructure monies are flowing into the state under the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") and the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act ("CARES"). Some \$6 billion in federal infrastructure monies are earmarked for the state and will be spent on a wide range of infrastructure projects over the next several years.

West Virginia also has an extremely well-funded Rainy Day Fund, which now exceeds \$1 billion and equals approximately 23 percent of West Virginia's general revenue budget of roughly \$4.5 billion. The rating agencies on Wall Street generally recommend that states maintain a budget surplus of between 15 and 20 percent of budget. Accordingly, West Virginia lawmakers have temporarily suspended further contributions to the state's Rainy Day Fund at this time, choosing, instead, to devote excess revenues to investments in our future.

Finally, West Virginia is enjoying a record budget surplus in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Through May 31, 2022, 11 months into West Virginia's fiscal year, the state's budget surplus is \$1.107 billion. West Virginia is expected to finish the fiscal year with an even larger surplus.

What to do with all this money?

To their great credit, Governor Justice and legislative leaders recognize that these record sums of money are

likely to never materialize again, and "should not be spent on a big fireworks show" (to quote House Speaker Roger Hanshaw). Rather, the Governor and Legislature are committed to investing these monies in infrastructure and other meaningful, long-term initiatives. Accordingly, the focus of West Virginia's budget and legislation in 2022 was on infrastructure and economic development.

Among the several infrastructure and investment bills passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Justice this year are the following:

BUILD WV Act (HB 4502) - The BUILD WV Act creates tax exemptions for developers if they build residential areas in certain regions of West Virginia. Two big factors constraining West Virginia's ability to grow faster are (1) lack of workforce, and (2) lack of housing. The BUILD WV Act is designed to address both issues. The goal of the bill is to incentivize contractors to build residential properties in areas with growing tourism/economic development needs by creating housing for employees of growing and incoming businesses.

"... developers and businesses across the state, region and nation are now in a much better position to spur sustainable growth and economic development in the Mountain State for years to come."

The BUILD WV Act targets the construction of "reasonably priced residential housing for graduate, post-graduate and professional job holders, technical workers, and entrepreneurs for targeted businesses in key geographical regions of this state." Tax exemptions available under the act include a potential municipal business tax exemption; a property value adjustment refundable tax credit for ten (10) years; and a sales tax exemption for building materials. Up to twelve (12) certified districts will be created in West Virginia under the BUILD WV Act. The minimum qualifying investment is \$3 million, and at least six residential units or houses must be built within the project.



Tom Heywood
Bowles Rice



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Districts will be designated, based on housing and employment needs; local support efforts within the district; and the projected economic impact of the housing project.

Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit (HB 4465) - West Virginia has provided a tax incentive to apprentices in the trades for several years. HB 4465 extends the credit to all apprenticeship programs.

Employer Sponsored Child Care Facilities (SB 656) - Yet another tax credit program enacted by the Legislature in 2022 is a tax credit for employer-sponsored childcare facilities.

A big reason that there is a worker shortage in West Virginia is that many women have left the workforce to take care of children, in the face of the reality that there are very few childcare options available. As a measure designed to incent the creation of childcare facilities, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce advocated for – and the Legislature passed – a tax credit of up

to 50 percent for employers who either establish and operate, alone or combining with other employers, childcare facilities for their employees. The tax credit is taken over five years. There are clawback provisions for any such childcare facility that does not operate for 14 years. Employers around the State of West Virginia are studying this pioneering legislation to determine whether it makes sense for them to own and operate childcare facilities for their employees.

Certified Sites and Development Readiness Program (HB 4002) - HB 4002 provides funds and various other incentives to create development-ready sites across West Virginia. For the past 50 years or longer, the number one reason that West Virginia loses economic development opportunities and projects is the lack of available flat land with water, sewer, and electric infrastructure. HB 4002 is designed to address this challenge by creating a series of incentives to develop available sites and have them “shovel ready” when job prospects and oppor-

tunities come to town.

The act creates a Certified Sites and Development Readiness Fund and sets criteria for a program to be administered by the West Virginia Department of Economic Development. The Department is required to develop evaluation criteria; establish an application process for the program; provide for site review and reporting to applicants of the site's readiness; or improvements to site for readiness. The Department is empowered to select sites and provide applicants up to a 50 percent matching funds grant to develop the site and to choose recipients for available micro-grants to fund improvements to the site.





Hats off to Governor Justice and the West Virginia Legislature for their responsible approach to long-term economic development and for adding many new tools to West Virginia's economic development toolbox in 2022. As a result of their efforts, developers and businesses across the state, region and nation are now in a much better



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position to spur sustainable growth and economic development in the Mountain State for years to come.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: A Big Boost to the Construction Industry

Mike Clowser, Executive Director
Contractors Association of West Virginia

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), passed in November 2021, is the largest U.S. infrastructure package in decades and provides over \$6 billion in funding for West Virginia's roads, bridges, water and sewer treatment facilities, abandoned mine land (AML) reclamation projects, airports, broadband, and other infrastructure improvement projects.

The IIJA will provide over \$3 billion for West Virginia highways and over \$500 million for bridges over the next five years. This represents nearly a 44 percent funding increase over the previ-

ous five-year highway bill. The bill also provides hundreds of millions of dollars to improve water and water systems in communities across the state, and \$600 million for rural broadband, which will connect and give all West Virginians access to telehealth, online education, and other benefits. Flood mitigation, weatherization, and funding for utility companies to shore up the electric grid are also part of the bill.

This new infrastructure investment will provide a much-needed boost to the construction industry while growing West Virginia's economy over the next decade. It is proven that for every dollar spent on infrastructure, it turns over five times. Spending money on meaningful infrastructure investment will create thousands of good paying construction jobs and improve the quality of life in all areas of our state.

The Contractors Association of West Virginia thanks Senator Shelley Moore Capito and Senator Joe Manchin, who were instrumental in crafting the bipartisan bill which passed the U.S. Senate 69 – 30. Thanks, too, to Congressman



Mike Clowser
Contractors Association of WV

David McKinley, P.E., who was one of 13 Republicans in the U.S. House to vote for the bill; without their support, the infrastructure bill would not have passed. The leadership they showed will fund significant upgrades to infrastructure in West Virginia, which is very much needed.

According to a report by the West Virginia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2020, West Virginia received a "D" grade on its infrastructure report card, saying the state's infrastructure "needs immediate at-




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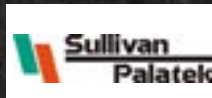
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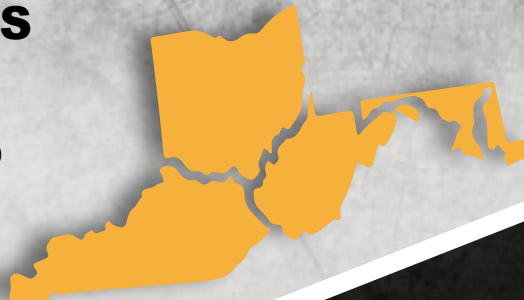


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tention.” Of the state’s 7,295 bridges, 1545 – or 21.2 percent – are structurally deficient.

The infrastructure report also gives a “D” for West Virginia’s drinking water and wastewater needs. More than 400 public drinking water systems serving 1.5 million West Virginians require nearly \$2 billion in repairs. There are 293 public water systems that serve more than 440,000 residents that require at least \$12 billion in upgrades and extensions.

The reason the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill passed in the House is because a majority of representatives understand that this measure will provide significant, tangible improvements to the lives of their constituents and the success of their local employers. Now the work begins.

Federal agencies will have to oversee the surge in funding, including administering new grants and designing new programs. The CAWV looks forward to working with state and local agencies – from our transportation department to local water and sewer utilities – who will have to identify and execute the needed projects. And this federal, state, and local coordination all comes amid continued construction material shortages, unprecedented price escalations, and other challenges CAWV members are experiencing due to the COVID pandemic.

The new infrastructure bill will demand more workers, too. Public agencies will be competing for scarce talent along with private sector contractors. The CAWV’s Workforce Development Task Force has been working to enhance career and technical training programs to create a future workforce for the construction industry. The task force has developed a program called “BuildWV” to provide students, parents, and guidance counselors with information on construction training, education, and on why construction is an excellent career option.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act features construction industry-championed reforms to speed up project delivery, offers new opportuni-




ties for private sector project financing where appropriate, facilitates enhanced worker safety, and bolsters investment in research and education programs. The bill also codifies a Trump administration directive, seeking to reduce the time it takes federal agencies to issue environmental approvals for major infrastructure projects, which could help speed completion of major highway projects such as Corridor H and Coalfields Expressway in southern West Virginia.

The positive impacts from IIJA-related construction activity will be felt quickly in West Virginia as work gets underway. A September 2021 report by global forecasting leader, IHS Markit, quantifies the initial outcomes:

- IIJA investment to fix West Virginia’s roads and transit system will add an additional \$678 million in state gross domestic product each year.
- The increased economic activity will benefit West Virginia residents – disposable income will increase

by \$249 million each year, an average of \$332 per household.

- State and local tax receipts will increase by an average of \$118 million per year. This is additional income that can be reinvested in the state, without any increase in tax rates.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill will create many opportunities for West Virginia and a better quality of life for our citizens. The members of the Contractors Association look forward to working with our partners in the private and public sectors to build a better West Virginia. 

To read the full version of Bowles Rice's *Views & Visions* visit:

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West Virginia Chapter of American Institute of Architects Recognizes Excellence in Design



The West Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture recognized six projects for excellence and achievement in architecture during an awards ceremony held August 27, 2022. Award winning projects are projects that successfully meet specific, individual project goals and requirements. Entries are weighed individually, not in competition with each other. Projects are designated with an Honor Award for excellence, or a Merit Award for achievement in architecture. All projects were reviewed by an independent, anonymous jury.

“The Design Awards are a celebration of architecture in West Virginia,” said Marie McCauley, president of AIA West Virginia. “It’s a wonderful opportunity for our members to celebrate the successes of these projects with their clients, and for the chapter as a whole to celebrate good design and the positive impact it has on the communities we serve throughout West Virginia.”

* Indicates CAWV Member

HONOR AWARDS

Excellence in Architecture



PROJECT: The Crooked BowTie House

ARCHITECT: Reader & Swartz Architects, PC

LOCATION: Great Cacapon, West Virginia

OWNER: Confidential

CONTRACTOR: Willoughby Construction & Consulting

Excellence in Architecture



PROJECT: Franklin County Judicial Center

ARCHITECT: Silling Architects*

LOCATION: Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

OWNER: Franklin County Commission

CONTRACTOR: Lobar, Inc.

MERIT AWARDS

Achievement in Architecture



PROJECT: Fairmont Fire Dept, Station #2

ARCHITECT: Omni Associates-Architects

LOCATION: Fairmont, West Virginia

OWNER: City of Fairmont

CONTRACTOR: Veritas Contracting, LLC

Achievement in Architecture



PROJECT: Mountain Run

ARCHITECT: Reader & Swartz Architects, PC

LOCATION: Berkeley Springs, West Virginia

OWNER: Confidential

CONTRACTOR: Willoughby Construction & Consulting

Achievement in Architecture



PROJECT: WVU Milan Puskar Center

ARCHITECT: SLAM Collaborative, Inc.

LOCATION: Morgantown, West Virginia

OWNER: West Virginia University

CONTRACTOR: March-Westin Company, Inc.*

Sustainable Design Excellence



PROJECT: Barboursville Public Library

ARCHITECT: Edward Tucker Architects, Inc.*

LOCATION: Barboursville, West Virginia

OWNER: Cabell County Public Library

CONTRACTOR: E.P. Leach & Sons, Inc.

CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF WEST VIRGINIA RECENT EVENTS

The goal of the Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) is to serve as the voice of the construction industry in West Virginia and to contribute to the success of our member firms. The CAWV offers members a number of opportunities to network and become involved in association and industry activities through social, educational, and community events, as well as through the CAWV committees and task forces. Featured in this issue of *West Virginia Construction News* are some of the association's most recent events.

YCF Hosts Successful Events

WVU Mountaineer Tailgate

Over 75 members and guests joined together for the Young Contractors Forum (YCF) WVU Tailgate on Thursday, October 13, in Morgantown. The event, provided by March-Westin Company, Inc., was held on the Red RV Lot near the entrance to the Milan Puskar Stadium.

Immediately following the event, members watched the Mountaineers defeat the Baylor Bears 43-40 in what might be considered the best game of the season.

"The tailgate was a great success," said YCF Co-chair Nathan Harvey, Sutter Roofing & Metal Company, Inc., Clarksburg. "March-Westin provided the perfect location and did an incredible job hosting the event. It was nice to network with members and enjoy food and drinks. The weather was perfect and WVU didn't disappoint."

Toys for Tots Golf Outing

Nearly 50 members and guests teed off at Little Creek Country Club in South Charleston on Friday, October 21, for the annual YCF Toys for Tots Golf Outing. The YCF has sponsored this event every year since 2013 and it continues to grow. The golf outing resulted in over 100 donated toys for local children that will be distributed through the Marine Reserves Toys for Tots program.



WVU Tailgate - Morgantown, West Virginia



Toys for Tots Golf Outing - Little Creek Country Club - South Charleston, West Virginia

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Coal River Kayak Tour

On Friday, September 30, the CAWV Young Contractors Forum (YCF), along with the Coal River Group (CRG) and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), hosted a kayak trip along the Coal River to view and learn about the WVDEP's ongoing stream restoration projects on the river.

The CRG is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and promoting the Coal River watershed. The group has been working closely with the WVDEP to address the many issues facing the Coal River, including sedimentation and failing sewers and septic systems that impact the watershed.

Since 2004, the CRG has been cleaning up the Coal River. Thousands of tires have been removed in the last 15 years and progress is still being made on the river. The WVDEP's REAP program has been a big contributor when it comes to tire and trash clean-ups.




YCF Coal River Kayak Tour - Tornado, West Virginia

Dennis Stottlemeyer, environmental resources analyst, WVDEP, spoke to attendees prior to launch, educating them on the WVDEP projects that stretch for a 17-mile section of the river.

YCF Co-chairs Nathan Harvey, Sutter Roofing & Metal Company, Inc.,

and Matt Spradling, Benchmark Construction, Inc., led the annual event. For more information on the CRG, visit www.coalrivergroup.com.

Members wishing to join the YCF can contact Cassidy Webb at cwebb@cawv.org or (304) 342-1166. 



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40th APAWV Fall Meeting at Canaan Valley Resort

Members and guests of the Asphalt Pavement Association of West Virginia attended the 40th Fall Meeting at Canaan Valley Resort, September 23 - 25. The family-oriented meeting is traditionally held in early fall and offers a mix of business and social activities. This year, nearly 150 were in attendance for the meeting in West Virginia's beautiful mountains.

The event started with a business session on Friday morning featuring opening remarks from West Virginia Division of Highways State Highway Engineer Alan Reed. Reed was then joined by WVDOH Deputy State Highway Engineers: Greg Bailey, chief engineer of operations; Gehan Elsayed, chief engineer of programs and performance management; Todd Rumbaugh, chief engineer of construction; Jason Foster, chief engineer of development; and the Deputy State Highway Engineer of Districts, Joe Pack.

Friday also included a golf and sporting clays tournament and an evening reception and banquet. Following the banquet, evening entertainment featured comedian and magician Michael Kent.

Gehan Elsayed kicked off the Saturday morning business session with an update on the WVDOH overall construction and maintenance program and funding that is contained in the

2023 outlook. Next, members heard from National Asphalt Pavement Association Director of Sustainable Pavements, Joseph Shacat, who discussed the environmental regulations and initiatives that have begun at the Federal level and are working through other agencies around the country.

Dr. John Zaniewski, former West Virginia University (WVU) Asphalt Technology professor, introduced the new Pat Parsons Asphalt Faculty Fellow, Dr. James Bryce. Dr. Bryce introduced himself to the membership and then discussed the future plans of the Asphalt Technology Program at WVU.

A WVDOH Materials update was provided by Ron Stanevich, director, MCS&T Division, and Shawn Jack, asphalt group supervisor. A WVDOH construction update was provided by Shawn Smith, director, Contract Administration. To expand upon the e-Ticketing topics discussed by the former presenters, Sean Miller from HaulHub Technologies discussed the WVDOH implementation plan of e-Ticketing for construction materials and how companies can get access to the state portal.

Wrapping up the Saturday session was an open discussion on new WVDOH specifications and current construction issues led by Chad Miller, quality control manager, J.F. Allen Company and

chair of the CAWV Asphalt Subcommittee.

Saturday's activities also included the annual children's program in the morning and concluded with an evening banquet with music by The Company Stores.

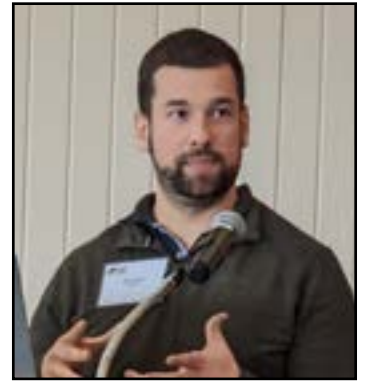
Over the course of the weekend there were plenty of opportunities for attendees and their families (including roughly 50 children) to enjoy activities at Canaan Valley. In addition, attendees got the chance to visit the neighboring towns of Davis and Thomas and enjoy the annual Leaf Peepers Festival.

APAWV concluded its Fall Meeting on Sunday, September 25, with a prayer breakfast featuring a message from Huntington Children's Museum President, Tosha Pelfrey. She spoke on fostering children's imagination and ingenuity through play and discussed how the Huntington Children's Museum is accomplishing this.

All presentations and other information can be found on the APA's website at www.asphaltwv.com.



Friday Business Session at the APAWV Fall Meeting featured WVDOH State Highway Engineer Alan Reed, along with WVDOH Deputy State Highway Engineers including: Greg Bailey, chief engineer of operations; Gehan Elsayed, chief engineer of programs and performance management; Todd Rumbaugh, chief engineer of construction; Jason Foster, chief engineer of development; and the Deputy State Highway Engineer of Districts, Joe Pack.



Members received updates from MCS&T and Contract Administration Divisions during the Saturday Business sessions from Ron Stanevich, director, and Shawn Jack, asphalt supervisor, MCS&T Division, along with Shawn Smith, director of Contract Administration.

Sean Miller, HaulHub Technologies, discussed the implementation plan of e-Ticketing for construction materials.



Golf Tournament winners at the 2022 Annual meeting (Left to Right): Austin Edman, Ross Johnson, Scott Withrow, Matt Campbell, Taylor Johnson, Tyler Beaty, Roger Hite, John Hambel, and Bryan Leatherman (presenter).



Dr. James Bryce, WVU's Pat Parsons Asphalt Faculty Fellow, discussed current and future research on asphalt pavements for WVU's Asphalt Technology program.



Joseph Shacat, NAPA's Director of Sustainable Pavements, discussed new environmental regulations including environmental product declarations and buy clean policies.



Attendees enjoyed Friday's reception and entertainment featuring comedian and magician Michael Kent.



Adam Bryce and Scarlett Crane jamming with The Company Stores of Charleston at Saturday evening's banquet.



Winners of the Sporting Clay competition, Matt Scott (center left) and Chris Sanson (center right) accompanied by Roger Hite (left) and John Crane.



Rick Johnson presented Toshia Pelfrey, president of the Huntington Children's Museum, with donations during the Sunday Prayer Breakfast.

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Jason Pizatella new CAWV Chief Executive Officer

The Board of Directors of the Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) selected Jason Pizatella as chief executive officer effective October 3, 2022. The incoming CEO is only the sixth person to lead the association since it was founded in 1923.

Pizatella, a native of Fairmont and graduate of West Virginia University and the West Virginia University College of Law, spent the past five years as an attorney with the West Virginia-based firm Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC, as a corporate lawyer representing clients in the areas of administrative law, public utilities, oil and natural gas, healthcare, and government relations.

He served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Jim Justice after serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce. Pizatella started at Spilman before joining state government in 2010 where, in a tenure spanning almost seven years, he was Deputy State Tax Commissioner, Acting Secretary of the Department of Revenue, Acting Secretary of the Department of Administration and Dep-

uty Chief of Staff to former Governor Earl Ray Tomblin.

Former Governor Tomblin asked him to lead the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Highways, a group tasked with studying the condition and long-term needs of the state's transportation system. Pizatella also represented the Governor on the West Virginia Parkways Authority and the Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council.

"I'm extremely excited to join the CAWV team at an exciting time to be in the construction industry," said the incoming CEO. "Following in Mr. Clowser's footsteps is no easy task but one that I readily embrace.

"CAWV will continue to add value every single day, from a presence at the State Capitol, to educational and networking opportunities for our members," he continued.

"With the ongoing investments from the Roads to Prosperity highway and bridge program as well as the newly implemented federal infrastructure law, we as an industry have to be ready when our state and federal part-



Jason Pizatella was selected as chief executive officer, effective October 3, 2022. He is only the sixth person to lead the association since it was founded in 1923.

ners need us with a skilled workforce who are able to get the job done."

"The board is thrilled to have found a candidate of Jason's caliber," said CAWV President James Ridgeway, March-Westin Company, Inc. "We're confident that the association will continue to flourish under his leadership for years to come."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 6, 2022
CAWV Holiday Open House

February 3-8, 2023
CAWV Midyear Meeting
Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa

March 1-2, 2023
Asphalt Paving Conference

March 22-23, 2023
West Virginia Construction & Design EXPO

March 22, 2023
CAWV State Meeting & Awards Ceremony

July 6-9, 2023
CAWV Annual Meeting



CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS



All Crane & Equipment Rental, Nitro, recently assisted in the installation of new HVAC equipment on the roof of the Kanawha County Judicial Building in Charleston. The Liebherr LTM1450 crane lifted the 14,000 lb. unit utilizing the crane's 276' main boom to reach the location.

■ **Parts of a citywide trail system have been updated in the City of Huntington.** A maintenance project on various sections of the Paul Ambrose Trail for Health was recently finished. About \$700,000 in the city's American Rescue Plan Act funds were used for the work. The project, which began last winter and was completed in August, involved weed removal, trail width restoration, rail-

ing repair and bollard installation/replacement on the Guyandotte. **Benchmark Construction Company, Inc.** of Hurricane completed the work...

■ **The Parkersburg Utility Board recently authorized a proposed easement agreement** with the new owners of the Memorial Bridge and approved payments on multiple wa-

ter system improvement projects. The utility for years has had water and sewer facilities and infrastructure on property beneath and around the bridge, which until last year was owned by the City of Parkersburg. The board voted to approve a contract with **Triton Construction Inc.**, St. Albans, for a \$3.3 million wastewater treatment plant improvement project. The project includes rehabilitating the chemical feed building among other upgrades...

■ **Governor Jim Justice recently held an event with officials from the City of Lewisburg** to break ground on a \$63 million project to upgrade and modernize the Lewisburg water system. Currently, Lewisburg's water treatment plant operates 24 hours a day at nearly 100% capacity. As a result, this city has been forced to issue boil water notices and endure water outages caused by mechanical failures, source water contamination, and leaks that are hard to find due to the karst terrain. The City of Lewisburg is the Regional Water Supplier in Greenbrier County and serves approximately 12,000 customers in Lewisburg, Ronceverte, Renick, Frankford, Maxwelton, Fairlea, and Caldwell. The project includes upgrading the water treatment plant's capacity from 1,200 gpm to 4,000 gpm; relocating the source of water supply upstream of the landfill and salvage yard which requires nearly 2 miles of 24" water line and a new raw water intake facility; construction of 3 million gallons of additional storage tanks; and the replacement of undersized water mains. Contractors on multiple contracts include **Orders Construction Company, Inc.**, St. Albans; **J. F. Allen Company**, Buckhannon; **Mid-Atlantic Storage Systems, Inc.**, Washington Court House, Ohio; **Pro Contracting, Inc.**, Lost Creek; **Empire Salvage & Recycling, Inc.**, Princeton; and project engineer **Chapman Technical Group**, St. Albans...

CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

■ **Summers County High School broke ground on an extension that will help** alleviate overcrowded classrooms, crowded hallways, and limited restrooms. Construction has begun on the new Summers County Middle School in Hinton. Summers County High School has housed the middle school for two years after an emergency closure of the middle school. The library was converted into a second cafeteria, and classes are held there and in the auditorium. The \$12 million project will include 13 classrooms and a second auditorium. Architect on the project is **McKinley Architecture + Engineering** in Wheeling...

■ **Working to meet the needs of a growing community, the New Creek Water Associations' (NCWA)** long awaited water line improvement

project is underway. Formed in 1971 to serve around 400 customers, now 50 years later, some of those same lines, with some additions, are serving 1,400 customers, including businesses, schools, apartment complexes and a hospital. The \$11 million project was designed by **RK&K Engineering** of Keyser. It includes four contracts which include water radio-read meters purchased through **Core & Main**, Martinsburg; an overhaul of the Boggs pump station by **Carl Belt, Inc.**, Cumberland, Maryland; and pipeline by **Glenn Johnston Inc.** of McKeesport. The project will also include the replacement of fire hydrants and the placement of additional ones along the system to aid in fire protection...

■ **Seven paving projects, two bridge replacement projects and**

two projects to install ADA-compliant curb cuts were among 13 construction projects recently awarded by the West Virginia Division of Highways. The contracts were: **West Virginia Paving Inc.**, Dunbar, was low bidder on a paving project from Daniels to Grandview Road in Raleigh County, with a bid of \$606,871; **Strawser Construction Inc.**, Columbus, Ohio, was low bidder on a paving project from Peach Tree Orchard to Muddlety in Nicholas County, with a bid of \$1,037,394; **Triton Construction Inc.**, St. Albans, was low bidder on a project to replace the Clifford Family Memorial Bridge in White Sulphur Springs, with a bid of \$5,645,000; **PDK Construction Inc.**, Pomeroy, Ohio, was low bidder on a signage project on Interstate 77 in Mercer County, with a bid of \$3,049,660; and **Rock Forge Bridge**

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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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CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS


Company, Amma, was low bidder on a contract to replace the Ralston Branch Bridge No. 2 in Wyoming County, with a bid of \$1,938,902...

■ **A large crane recently hoisted steel roof trusses for placement at the Citizens Bank** of West Virginia Amphitheatre at Davis & Elkins College. The near-end phase of construction topped off preparations for the 84th Mountain State Forest Festival and began a new era for a facility that will serve the local community. Renovations to the amphitheater began in July with **Applied Construction Solutions, Inc.**, Bridgeport, agreeing to perform the work within the nearly \$275,000 budget as a community partner. The newly designed amphitheater will eventually feature a roof to allow for performances in inclement weather

and lighting for nighttime events. In addition, the structure will have capabilities for a variety of production equipment. The concrete platform and steps were enhanced, and an accessibility ramp was installed. The structure will serve the community in multiple ways as an entertainment and event venue for locals as well as visitors...

■ **The Ravenswood City Council recently opened bids for the Phase 1 Marina Project.** The project includes 13 recreational vehicle paved sites with full water, sewer, and electrical hookups, as well as tent sites with water and power. An asphalt paved parking lot with 60 spaces and a sidewalk leading down to where the floating docks will be installed in the creek with a kayak launch will also be included.

Five additional parking spaces will be added on the lower lot with accessibility to the docks and kayak launch. All the parking lots will be lit for evening use. **AMPECO, Inc.** of Elkview was awarded the contract for \$1,665,758...

■ **The beginning phase of construction is underway at Shady Spring Elementary School** in Raleigh County. School board members recently approved a \$14.5 million bid from **Paramount Builders**, St. Albans, for major improvements including classrooms renovations, a kitchen upgrade, a "Safe School" entrance, stem lab and a new gymnasium. **ZMM Architects and Engineers**, Charleston, is the firm that designed the project. Construction is expected to take as long as two years to fully complete. 

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Sankoff George Fuller Award Winner; Ball to join Potesta

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - Mark Sankoff, P.E., P.S, chief engineer for Potesta & Associates, is the recipient of the 2021 George Warren Fuller Award in recognition of outstanding leadership and significant contribution to the advancement of water works within West Virginia.



Sankoff

The award is presented by the American Water Works Association and each year's honoree is chosen by previous award recipients. Sankoff has been working with public and private partners extending water services for over 40 years.

The firm announced that it has added Timothy L. Ball to its staff in its Morgantown office. Ball is the former general manager of Morgantown Utility Board, the largest publicly owned utility in West Virginia to offer water, sewer and storm water services throughout most of Monongalia County.

Potesta & Associates, Inc. was founded in 1997 to provide quality engineering and environmental consulting services to a wide variety of private and public clients in West Virginia and the eastern United States with offices in Charleston and Morgantown and Winchester, VA.

WVU Alumni Association awards Ben Ashley the James R. McCartney Community Service Award

MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA- The West Virginia University Alumni Association recently celebrated recipients of the 2022 Homecoming

and Alumni Service Awards during Homecoming Week. Ben Ashley was awarded the James R. McCartney Community Service Award representing outstanding citizenship and service within his community. During his time in WVU's Executive MBA program, Ashley served as a brand ambassador to help recruit prospective working professionals to the business program. Ashley's former role was director of architectural services at the School Building Authority of West Virginia and is currently the education market director for ZMM Architects & Engineers.



Ashley

CAWV President meets with counterparts on industry issues

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America chapter leaders, including CAWV President James Ridgeway, March-Westin Company, Inc., met in Washington, D.C. September 18-20 to discuss best practices and to address AGC's top legislative issues. The annual AGC National Chapter Leadership Conference,

held for the first time since 2019, featured national speakers and breakout sessions on the industry's and the association's pressing issues, including federal initiatives for infrastructure investment, workforce development, membership development, material price and supply chain challenges, and environmental and regulatory issues. There was also a session on mental health, suicide and opioid addiction in the construction industry.

Workforce development was a major portion of this year's chapter leaders conference. "We can no longer "Ready," "Fire," "Aim" in our hiring process," Tina Nazier, director of the National Construction and Real Estate Performance Leader for Wipfli, said during a workshop session. "Contractors must have a comprehensive workforce strategy for pre-hire, hire and post-hire phases. Contractors must figure out how to attract more people to look at their company, get them in their doors, and keep them working once they've been hired," she stated.

The new federal climate change initiatives' goal to be net zero by 2050 was the topic at the ses-



CAWV President James Ridgeway, March-Westin Company, Inc., (right) attended the AGC of America's National Chapter Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. in September. Joining President Ridgeway were Jason Pizatella, newly appointed CAWV CEO (left), and retiring CAWV Executive Director Mike Clowser.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

sion titled, "Getting Ahead of the 'Climate Change Policy' Storm." "Construction is responsible for 1% to 2% of greenhouse gas emissions and considered low carbon intensity since there are very few particular point sources," said Melinda Tomaino, director of environmental and sustainability for AGC. She outlined some of the opportunities and challenges contractors have identified relating to materials and equipment, including climate related reporting, embodied carbon of materials (buy clean), risk and insurance, electric vehicles and equipment – as well as actions the federal agencies are currently taking on climate issues.

"It is always good to meet and learn from AGC chapter leaders around the country," said President Ridgeway. "There are a lot of opportunities for the construction industry over the next few years. As always, there are issues that contractors must deal with on the federal level. I'm confident that AGC of America and the CAWV will be ready to navigate them so that our members can perform projects in an efficient and profitable manner," he said.



ARTBA announces 2022-2023 officers

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) announced the election of its 2022-2023 officers during its annual business meeting at the association's national convention, held in Nashville, Tennessee. They include: Chair: Paula Hammond, senior vice president, WSP USA, Seattle, Washington; Senior Vice Chair: Tim Duit,

president, Duit Construction, Edmond, Oklahoma; and First Vice Chair: Jeff Nelson, president, David Nelson Construction Co., Palm Harbor, Florida. CAWV member Michael Vecellio, vice president of the Vecellio Group and Vecellio and Grogan, Inc., was elected Southern Region Vice Chair. Established in 1902, ARTBA brings together all facets of the transportation construction industry to responsibly advocate for infrastructure investment and policy that meet the nation's need for safe and efficient travel.

ARTBA honors Mike Clowser

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Mike Clowser, executive director of the Contractors Association of West Virginia, received the highest honor from the Contractors Division of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) during the group's national convention in Nashville, Tennessee in September. ARTBA presents the Nello L. Teer, Jr. Award, named for a legendary past industry leader, to an individual who has advocated for and served the nation's transportation contractors.

Michael Vecellio of the Vecellio Group, an ARTBA vice chair at large, presented the award. During the ceremony, Vecellio cited Clowser's past leadership of ARTBA's Council of State Executives, a peer group which he chaired and has served as a respected mentor for his colleagues. Vecellio also noted that Clowser has not only worked closely with officials in West Virginia for decades, he has ensured that a long succession of its U.S. senators and representatives have championed federal transportation funding to benefit both the state and nation. "Simply put, West Virginia would not look the same to-



Michael Vecellio, vice president of The Vecellio Group, presented the Nello L. Teer, Jr. Award to CAWV Executive Director Mike Clowser during ARTBA's annual convention in Nashville in September. The award is given to an individual who has advocated for and served the nation's transportation contractors.

day without Mike Clowser," he told convention attendees.

In August 2022, the CAWV announced that Clowser will retire at the end of 2022 after 44 years of service. He joined the CAWV as Director of Member Services in 1979 and became Executive Director in 1983. He has served as Editor of *West Virginia Construction News*, the association's 85-year-old publication, since 1983.

"Early in my career, I had the privilege of working with the generation who built the infrastructure," Clowser said. "Over the past four decades, I worked with the generation whose job it's been to maintain and grow it. It's been an honor to work for the members of the Contractors Association of West Virginia who put on their boots every day and go out and build projects that improve the quality of life for all West Virginians."

Clowser thanked ARTBA and its members for the award.



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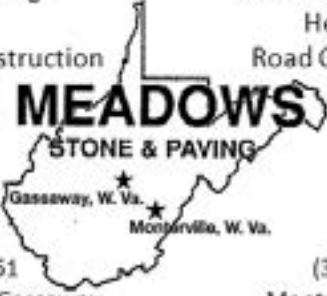
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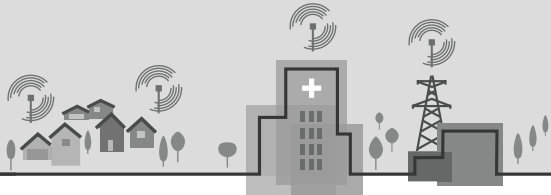
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