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ConstructionNEWS

September/October 2021



**2021 AIA Design Award
Winners Recognized**



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On the cover

Thirty-two projects were entered in this year's West Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects' design awards competition. Seven projects were selected to receive Honor, Merit and Citation awards. This issue's cover features the new 33,000 square foot Martinsburg Police Department and Municipal Court facility. The \$14 million project was designed by Silling Architects, Charleston, and constructed by W. Harley Miller Contractors, Inc., Martinsburg. To see this year's award-winning projects, see page 6.

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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2021 AIA Design Award Winners Recognized

The West Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects — AIA West Virginia — has announced the winners of the AIA's top design awards for 2021.

The AIA West Virginia Honor Award for Excellence in Architecture recognizes projects and details that demonstrate exemplary achievement of design. Entries are not judged in competition with each other, but rather by measuring the architect's performance against each project's potential. Thus, projects of ordinary program or modest budget can merit an award based on the architect's skill in optimizing the design opportunity.

Thirty-two project submissions and one submission for craftsmanship from the chapter were reviewed by a five-person jury headed by the team of Marc Goldmon and Paul Matheny, principals at Matheny Goldmon Architecture + Interiors, LLC, an award-winning firm in Huntsville, Alabama.

"These awards are a celebration of architecture in West Virginia," said Matt Breakey, president of AIA West Virginia. "It's a wonderful opportunity to gather with peers, clients and partners in the design and construction industry to recognize design excellence and celebrate the role of design in our built environment and its importance to the communities in which we all live and work."

Two Honor Awards, two Merit Awards

and three Citation Awards were selected. AIA West Virginia announced the winners on June 22 at the Clay Center in Charleston.

Paradigm Architecture of Morgantown won both an Honor Award for Excellence in Architecture and a Merit Award.

The West Virginia University College of Business and Economics Startup Engine project won the Honor Award and is approximately 7,500 square feet of incubator and co-working space for new businesses underneath the University Place Garage in Morgantown.

The project consists of office space, accelerator space for new businesses, meeting space for over 200 people, offices for program directors, a community kitchen area, and conference rooms. In addition, the entire space is readily available with top-of-the-line technology capabilities such as video conferencing and virtual presentations.

The program's mission is to attract, select and accelerate startups focused on the sectors/industries identified in the West Virginia Forward report with the objective of supporting the diversification of the state's economy. The Startup Engine supports this diversity through sector-specific, cohort-based business development program. The program helps startups hone their ideas, access seed capital, develop

mentor relationships and partner with existing businesses.

The Merit Award celebrates Paradigm Architecture for its work on The Aquatic Center at Mylan Park, an 89,000-square-foot state-of-the-art swimming and diving facility that houses an Olympic-sized competition pool and a diving well, as well as a community recreation pool and outdoor splash pad.

The Aquatic Center at Mylan Park is more than just a new recreational amenity for Morgantown. It is a "quality of life" facility that sets a new standard for opportunities to improve the health and wellness of residents. It also adds athletic, entertainment and economic energy to serve as a valuable catalyst for community and regional growth.

CAWV member firm March-Westin Company, Inc., Morgantown, is the contractor on the Aquatic Center at Mylan Park.

Silling Architects of Charleston received an Honor Award for Excellence in Architecture and a Merit Award. The Honor Award was bestowed on the new Martinsburg Police Department and Municipal Court Project. With a growing police department and municipal court operations, the city of Martinsburg was in need of additional space for these services.

Working closely with representatives

HONOR AWARDS

Excellence in Architecture



PROJECT: Martinsburg Police Department & Municipal Court

ARCHITECT: Silling Architects

LOCATION: Martinsburg, West Virginia

OWNER: City of Martinsburg

CONTRACTOR: W. Harley Miller Contractors, Inc.

Excellence in Architecture



PROJECT: West Virginia University College of Business and Economics Startup Engine

ARCHITECT: Paradigm Architecture

LOCATION: Morgantown, West Virginia

OWNER: West Virginia University

CONTRACTOR: Lombardi Development

MERIT AWARDS



PROJECT: Lofts on 5th

ARCHITECT: Silling Architects

LOCATION: Fernandina Beach, Florida

OWNER: Lofts on 5th, LLC

CONTRACTOR: DPS Professional Solutions, LLC



PROJECT: The Aquatic Center at Mylan Park

ARCHITECT: Paradigm Architecture

LOCATION: Morgantown, West Virginia

OWNER: Mylan Park

CONTRACTOR: March-Westin Company, Inc.

CITATION FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN ARCHITECTURE



PROJECT: Highlawn Elementary
ARCHITECT: Edward Tucker Architects
LOCATION: Cabell County, West Virginia
OWNER: Cabell County Schools
CONTRACTOR: Mi-De-Con



PROJECT: Leidos at Westridge Commerce Center
ARCHITECT: Desmone Architects
LOCATION: Morgantown, West Virginia
OWNER: WestRidge, Inc.
CONTRACTOR: Landau Building Company



PROJECT: Suncrest Elementary
ARCHITECT: Williamson Shriver Architects, Inc.
LOCATION: Morgantown, West Virginia
OWNER: Monongalia County Schools
CONTRACTOR: City Construction Company

from the city, police department and municipal court, Silling performed programming services and developed a graphic test-fit as a means to demonstrate how the program could fit in a new building constructed on the purchased property.

Overall, the design of this new justice facility is contemporary and relevant within its historic context. It is transparent and accessible while maintaining safety and security. It cares for the well-being of its public users of the courts, as well as its judicial and law enforcement staffs, and it is executed in a way that elevates the spirit of place and adds value to its context.

CAWV member W. Harley Miller Contractors, Inc., Martinsburg, is the contractor on the project.

Silling Architects was also presented a Merit Award for the Lofts on 5th Project located in the historic district of downtown Fernandina Beach, Florida. As charming coastal cities throughout the South continue to be revitalized and residents reanimate the urban fabric of our towns, this project adaptively reuses a non-contributing, vacant three-story masonry structure to deliver nine modern, sophisticated housing units.

Edward Tucker Architects of Hunting-

ton won a Citation for Highlawn Elementary School in Cabell County. The new school was located on the site of the former Enslow School, which had been vacant for many years.

The Enslow structure was demolished to make way for the new building, with only the existing gymnasium remaining to be integrated into the new design. The existing alley and utilities that bisected the site were re-routed to allow for a more secure campus plan.

The design of the new building features brick detailing that pays homage to the historic neighborhood

context, while incorporating modern elements such as wood timber framing and metallic panels. Natural materials and earth-toned colors create a comfortable learning environment, with abundant windows providing a sense of openness and access to daylight. The building edge defines a central courtyard for the playground area.

Desmone Architects of Morgantown was awarded a Citation for the design of Leidos at Westridge Commerce Center. The new construction is a 30,000-square-foot, single-story building for the Morgantown office of the Leidos information technology company.

The two metal buildings are linked by a long, conventional steel-framed area where one of the main corridors is located. The office and employee areas are placed in the larger form, and several conference rooms and a reception space are located in the smaller form.

The interior spaces are arranged

along a central axis-corridor, with widened nodes of space where cross-corridors intersect with it. High, open ceilings, clerestory windows, and an abundance of interior and exterior glass provide ample natural light to the users.


Charleston-based Williamson Shriver Architects Inc.'s design of Suncrest Elementary School also won a Citation.

Suncrest Elementary School is a new K-5 elementary school in Morgantown established through closing the existing Suncrest PK3 Primary School and the redistricting North Elementary School boundaries to alleviate overcrowding. This project was funded jointly by Monongalia County Schools and the School Building Authority of West Virginia in the spring of 2014.

The primary design focus of this school was a large STREAM Lab (Science Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) for the entire school to utilize. The STREAM Lab included a large flexible teaching

space with two adjacent classrooms delineated by operable glass partitions.

One of the classroom spaces provides specialized learning equipment centered around the science curriculum. The second is a more flexible use space with direct connections to the adjacent art lab.

Located in the large area is a work room and circulation desk for the Media Center spaces. An Art Walk corridor was incorporated behind the administrative area that provided an area to display student work. This corridor is traveled by students daily as it connects the academic areas to the dining room and gymnasium. 

***CAWV MEMBERS ARE IN BOLD TYPE.**



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CAWV MEMBERS *SERVE IN WEST VIRGINIA'S* CITIZEN LEGISLATURE

Before running for the West Virginia Senate in 2016, Chandler Swope built a thriving construction business in Bluefield. He was one of several entrepreneurs sworn into the West Virginia Legislature that year.

Joining him as a new senator was Glenn Jeffries, who, as president of Cornerstone Interiors, Inc. in Putnam County, had lobbied issues before the legislature affecting his company.

Vernon Criss, vice president of Atlas Towing Company in Parkersburg, was appointed in 1987 by then-Governor Arch Moore to the West Virginia House of Delegates and served until 1991. He decided to run again for a seat from the 10th District and was elected in 2016.

By 2021, six of the 134 members of the West Virginia Legislature were members of the Contractors Association of West Virginia.

Adam Burkhammer, A.J. Burk, LLC, Horner, and Clay Riley, The Thrasher Group, Bridgeport, ran and were elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 2020. There was a vacancy in the House and Governor Jim Justice in January 2021 appointed Josh Booth, vice president of Highway Safety, Inc., Huntington, to the 19th District seat representing Wayne County.

The "Citizen's Guide to the Legislature" on the West Virginia Legislature's website states: "A 'Citizen Legislature' represents West Virginia. While lawmakers are elected by the people to serve as their representative voice in government, they are also professionals in other occupations. This is known as a

part-time Legislature."

Of the 34 senators in the legislature, about a third list business as their vocation before moving into politics. Senate President Craig Blair, R-Berkeley, often promotes his business background as giving him experience when developing legislative policy.



President Blair

"The Legislature has been focused on crafting legislation designed to create jobs and bring opportunities to the citizens of West Virginia, and we have enacted bold comprehensive tax, legal, regulatory and education reform legislation that are key to unlocking West Virginia's full economic potential," President Blair writes on his Senate homepage. "We have worked hard to ensure that tax

dollars are spent in a fiscally responsible manner. We have passed flat-line budgets without cutting services or endangering our most vulnerable citizens, and our rainy day fund is healthy. We have made changes to and investments in our pension plans, and they are in great shape."

The President adds, "Changes to our business tax structure in recent years have included elimination of the business franchise tax and the reduction of the corporate net income tax. We do not foresee any new or increased taxes on the horizon, and we fully expect a mea-



Contractors Association of West Virginia members serving in the West Virginia Legislature are working on a wide variety of issues to make the state a better place to live and work. CAWV members in the West Virginia Senate and House of Delegates are (L-R): Adam Burkhammer, Josh Booth, Chandler Swope, Clay Riley, Vernon Criss and Glenn Jeffries.



CASSIDY WEBB PHOTO

sure to pass next year that will eliminate the manufacturing inventory, machinery, and equipment tax and the personal property tax on motor vehicles.”

The 100-seat House of Delegates mirrors the Senate with about one-third of members who associate themselves as business related.



Speaker Hanshaw writes “The House of Delegates is considered ‘The People’s House,’ and it’s critical for us as your elected representatives to have your input so we know how best to advocate on your behalf,” writes Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, on his website page. “So I encourage you to reach out and contact me and your local delegate so your voice can be heard.

“It’s my goal to work every day to make West Virginia a better place to live, work and raise a family. If you’re a business owner, thank you for choosing to invest in our state and we hope to help you grow and create more jobs.”

The Contractors Association of West Virginia works to ensure the construction industry’s voice is heard by policy makers at all levels of government. CAWV members participate in the association’s legislative action network which provides a powerful and effective mechanism to guarantee contractors’ voices are heard in the local, state and federal policy-making process.

“Legislators really do like to hear from you especially if you live in their district,” said Clay Riley, R-Harrison. “CAWV members have a wealth of information, experience, and knowledge from which your representatives could benefit. Reach out to your senator and delegate now and get to know them before there is an issue of concern.”

Riley joined with other CAWV members to talk with *West Virginia Construction News* about what motivated them to serve in the West Virginia Legislature and on what they believe are the key

issues affecting West Virginia and the construction industry. They also talked about the importance of contractors becoming involved in the political process.

Their responses to the questions listed are as follows:



Chandler Swope
Former President
Swope
Construction
Company
Bluefield, West Virginia

West Virginia Senate - 6th District
Elected in 2016 and 2020

Senate Committees: Banking and Industry; Economic Development; Energy, Industry and Mining; Finance; Government Organization; and Transportation and Infrastructure

1. Delegate John Shott asked me to consider running. My first response was “no”. I couldn’t visualize how someone with no political experience would be qualified to be a Senator. The next day I asked Ron Mallory, my successor at Swope Construction, what he thought about it. I was aware that he would be affected, positively or negatively, if I ran for public office because he was running a company with my name on it. Ron answered, “What’s wrong with doing something worthwhile when you’re retired.” I decided to think about it. Within two weeks I decided “why not me.” I decided a business background, service on various boards of directors and no personal political agenda qualified me to make impartial decisions on behalf my constituents.

2. Association participation is perhaps the most important because associations are governed by a board of directors which is a democratic governance model like the legislature. Also, business experience teaches how to make decisions with the best information available and live with the results.

3. CAWV, Associated Builders and Contractors of WV, Associated General Contractors of Virginia, Bluefield

West Virginia Construction News Interview Questions

1. Why did you decide to run for office?
2. How has your background prepared you to serve in the West Virginia Legislature?
3. Have you served on local boards or offices prior to becoming a legislator?
4. Has the legislative process been what you expected?
5. What is the most surprising thing you have experienced?
6. You serve on numerous committees. Which ones are you most active with? What are the issues you’re addressing in these committees?
7. How was it operating this year’s session due to COVID restrictions since the Capitol was closed to the public?
8. What is the best way for your constituents to contact you?
9. The state of West Virginia will receive over \$4.4 billion in COVID relief funds, including funds for water, sewer and broadband. How would you like to see the infrastructure dollars allocated?
10. Is your company having issues finding a qualified workforce?
11. The WV Legislature has passed bills to create and improve workforce development programs. What additional programs should the legislature look at to train people for construction, manufacturing and other trades?
12. Have you been following the \$1.2 trillion traditional, bipartisan infrastructure bill passed by the U.S. Senate and is currently before the U.S. House? What benefit would the funding included in the bipartisan bill have on jobs, economic development and infrastructure projects in West Virginia?
13. What would you like to include in the WVCN article that has not been covered?
14. Would you encourage fellow CAWV members to run for elected office?



Senator Glenn Jeffries, D-Putnam, discusses legislation during a committee meeting with Senator Chandler Swope, R-Mercer (right), and Senate Finance Chairman Eric Tarr, R-Putnam (back to camera). West Virginia Legislature photo by Perry Bennett.

Regional Medical Center, First Century Bank, Bluefield Chamber of Commerce and the Hugh I. Shott Foundation.

4. Having lobbied with contractor associations, I knew how the process works. Also, my father served as mayor of Welch for 20 years during the 1960s and 1970s.

5. I was surprised at how many “great” people I serve with in the Senate. I don’t mean just “good,” but “great”. Considering how sketchy the election process is, with only a third of voters actually voting and very few of them really knowing anything about the candidates, it was surprising to see that many great people in the same room.

6. I think the most important issues are elimination of Personal Income Tax and the Equipment and Inventory Tax. With over \$400 million in excess revenue last year and \$150 million so far this year, we should dedicate most of that revenue to elimination of these taxes. I can’t think of anything that has a greater potential to trigger economic growth. We will need some help with the Equipment and Inventory tax because the voters will have to pass a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to reduce this tax. Counties and school boards are against it because they don’t trust the legislature to replace the revenue even though

the Constitution requires it. Also, there is zero likelihood even one legislator would vote to cut revenues to their home county. I know I wouldn’t. I’m also personally interested in the demolition of dilapidated properties to beautify our state and upgrading the IT infrastructure of state agencies. Most agencies are seriously behind on current technology. No organization, public or private, can remain efficient and competitive without current technology.

7. It didn’t affect the amount of work we got done. We passed about 10% more bills than an average year. The biggest downside was that associations and lobbyists had a harder time reaching us and we really need their input. However, I feel there was enough communication to feel comfortable with the decisions I had to make.

8. My Senate phone is (304) 357-7843 and email is chandler.swope@wvsenate.gov. However, I’m only in my Senate office less than one fourth of the year. I welcome calls and email on my personal accounts.

9. Broadband, water, sewer, highways, and IT infrastructure. I included IT infrastructure because many state agencies are still in the dark ages with IT. Shouldn’t we be able to do more on our phones like many other states?

10. I’m no longer active in Swope Construction but I’m told they are keeping up with job schedules. However, I get constant inquiries from employers of every sort who are having trouble with staffing. For example, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources employs 2,000 people but currently has 600 unfilled jobs and is having trouble even getting applications.

11. We need orientation programs that expose students to vocations other than college beginning in the 8th or 9th grade. Orientation also needs to focus on teachers and guidance counselors who generally know almost nothing except college education. About 15 years ago, AGC of Virginia did a program to introduce guidance counselors to local factories. They were shocked to learn that manufacturing was clean, well-lit, and used high-tech equipment. Their image of manufacturing was hot, back-breaking work like you might imagine in a steel mill or foundry. In high school, I took both college preparatory and vocational education. My vocational training has proven just as valuable as my college education. At that time, McDowell Vocational School taught at least 11 trades. Today, vocational education is a shadow of what it once was. Community colleges have addressed some of the need, but we should rebuild vocational education at the high school level.

12. My biggest concern are reports that nearly 40% of the bill is for social programs. We desperately need infrastructure, but the other spending will only increase inflation which is already at a 30 year high. West Virginia’s infrastructure needs are estimated to exceed \$40 billion (broadband, water, sewer, highways). This is almost ten times our annual General Revenue budget. I hope before the bill is passed, the entire \$1.2 trillion is dedicated to “real” infrastructure instead of “social” infrastructure.

13. Can’t think of anything.

14. Absolutely. Beginning in 2014, legislative leaders with a business background were essential for strengthening the business-friendly economy we enjoy today. Somewhere along the way we lost sight of the fact that social pro-

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grams (free stuff) wouldn't exist without goods and services (and tax revenues) driven by business. Our General Revenue tax receipts have grown nearly 25% (\$1 billion per year) since 2016 without increasing taxes. Personally, being part of a team that is pulling West Virginia out of the basement is the most satisfying job I've ever had.



Glenn D. Jeffries
President
Cornerstone
Interiors, Inc.
Eleanor, West Virginia

West Virginia Senate - 8th District
Elected in 2016 and 2020
Senate Committees: Economic Development; Energy, Industry and Mining; Finance; Government Organization; Natural Resources; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Workforce

1. When I ran in 2016 and for re-election

in 2020, it was due to my deep concern about the direction of our state. That has not changed. Just as they have in states throughout this country and in Washington DC, special interests have come to rule our State Capitol. Compromise has become a deeply neglected skill. One need only look to the divisiveness of the legislative sessions of the recent past to understand that things are not going well in West Virginia. When elected officials refuse to listen or compromise, no good can possibly come. Since elected, I have been willing to work with everyone, listen respectfully and make the difficult decisions to shape a better future for West Virginia that lifts everyone.

2. I have been an employee and an employer. I think having both experiences prepared me in many ways for public service. When you are working with 133 legislators, the Governor and administration leaders, the organizations working to influence public policy, and must meet the needs of constituents, that represents a lot of folks to hear out and seek to understand. Plus, my wife and our family, our businesses and community commitments all need attention. It's

a lot to juggle!

3. I am a member of the Putnam County Economic Development Authority, the Contractors Association of West Virginia, trustee on both the WV Carpenters and WV Painters Health Funds, trustee on the WV Carpenters Pension Fund, trustee on WV Carpenters Apprentice Organization, past president of the Kanawha Valley Builders Association, and past board member of Poca Valley Bank. My wife and I are active in our church and community organizations.

4. As an employer, I lobbied for a few years so I had some idea about the legislative process. Being on this side, making decisions that affect lives and livelihoods is a big responsibility. My first goal is to always be respectful of any person who wants to speak with me.

5. The increasing partisanship has been the most frustrating. It is needless, ego driven and damaging to our state and nation.

6. I represent the West Virginia Sen-



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ate on the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council. After a couple of meetings, it became apparent that we needed to restructure the way we distribute funding. Many counties found it impossible to come up with the match required to receive state and federal funding to improve water and wastewater systems. With the passage of my legislation, S.B. 153 in 2019, the Water Development Authority can now use monies in the Infrastructure Fund to provide additional grants, rather than loans. If on January 1, the amount available for grants in a congressional district is below \$150,000, the council may convert up to 30% of the funds available for loans to grants. All funding must stay within the designated congressional district.

Many of our water and wastewater systems in communities around West Virginia are very old and in disrepair. Also, many smaller or rural communities do not have access to clean drinking water and sanitary wastewater systems. In 2020, we passed S.B. 589, which allows the West Virginia Infrastructure

and Jobs Development Council to direct the Water Development Authority to make loans or grants to address critical needs in water and sewer systems around the state from moneys allocated from the excess lottery funds. It also allows extension of a water or sewer system to add customers with a total project cost of less than \$500,000.

S.B. 76, passed in 2017, created the Second Chance for Employment Act which allows non-violent offenders who have paid their debt to society to apply for expungement of their record. This legislation still needs work, but it is starting to make a real difference for individuals. I strongly believe that a productive citizen who can make an honest living and take care of their family is important to stability in our communities.

7. It was odd not having folks around and, frankly, not healthy for the legislative process. Government needs lots of eyes looking in and bright light shining on it.

8. My cell is (304) 881-4980 or glenn.

jeffries@wvsenate.gov.

9. Our state, counties and local governments have an extraordinary opportunity. I am pleased to see most are taking it quite seriously, seeking public input, planning, and investing for the future. All three, water, sewer and broadband, are woefully underfunded in our state and most of our country. We have not made significant infrastructure investments in many decades. It holds back our economy and real growth. I'm cautiously optimistic we will manage to do the right thing.

10. Yes.

11. We must get a handle on our drug crisis. Where there are jobs available, employers often have a difficult time finding reliable employees who can consistently pass drug screening. More private sector treatment centers and drug court programs will help. Providing affordable access to higher education and useful technical training will help create and fill the jobs of the future. I'm proud to have supported S.B. 1,

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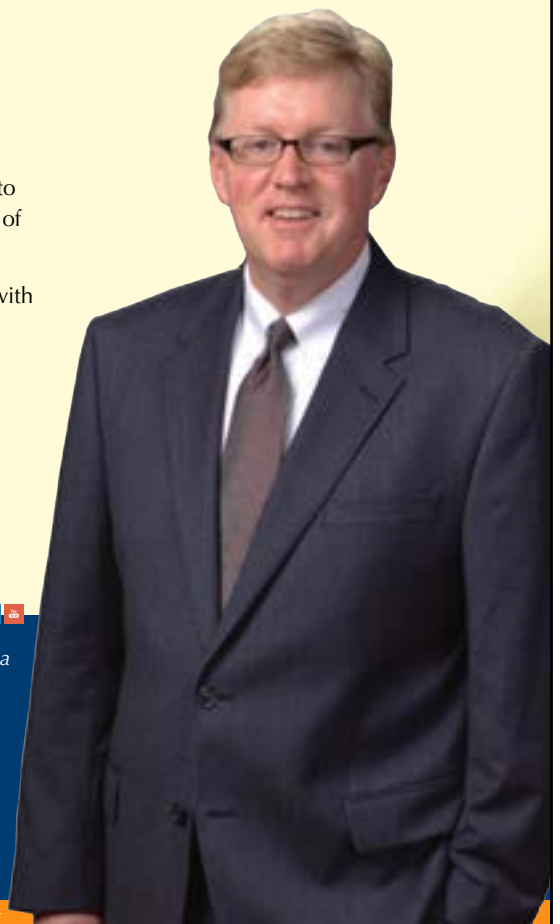
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Attorney Robert "Bo" Sweeney (licensed in WV) has a practice based in civil litigation, with a concentration in the defense of mesothelioma and asbestos claims, construction disputes and defending employers in deliberate intent suits.

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passed in 2019, to provide last dollar in tuition for students attending our higher education institutions while pursuing an in-demand technical field. Also, I have offered legislation to expand technical education into our middle schools. H.B. 4790, which passed in the 2020 session, will help pave the way.

12. Yes, I have followed it closely and spoken with Senator Joe Manchin and his staff about developments several times. West Virginia has very significant infrastructure needs and consistently poorly rated structures. Over five years, we will receive:

- \$3 billion for federal-aid highway apportioned programs;
- \$506 million for bridge replacement and repairs;
- \$200 million for Corridor H;
- \$196 million to improve public transportation options across the state;
- \$486.7 million for water infrastructure through state revolving funds, including the Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs;
- \$43 million for our vital airports;
- \$600 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state, and to help provide access to 258,000 West Virginians without it;
- \$16 million from a new revolving loan fund to encourage energy efficiency upgrades;
- \$47 million in funding for weatherization; and
- West Virginia will be eligible to apply for funds for flood mitigation, power grid resiliency, freight and passenger rail improvements, cybersecurity, plugging orphan wells, cleanup of abandoned mine lands, critical minerals development, and more.

13. Thank you to the members of the CAWV for believing in West Virginia. You provide stability for our communi-

ties and jobs for our families. Thanks to the dedicated staff for working so hard on our behalf.

14. If you are interested, please reach out to any of us currently serving. Honestly, if you do it well, it's a tough job that takes away time from your business and family. We need more West Virginia business owners, but I can't in good conscience sugar coat it. It's a significant commitment.



Vernon Criss

Vice President
Atlas Towing Company
Parkersburg, West Virginia

West Virginia House of Delegates - 10th District
Appointed by Governor Arch Moore in 1987 and served until 1991. Elected in 2016, 2018 and 2020
Committees: Banking and Insurance; Finance; Health and Human Resources; Rules; and Technology and Infrastructure

1. I was appointed by then-Governor Arch Moore in 1987 and served until 1991. I decided to serve again and ran, and was elected, in 2016.

2. My family historically has been involved in politics, road construction materials and banking.

3. I have served on our hospital board, president of the local Boy Scout Council and our County Park Commission.

4. Yes. But understand that there isn't any book that can teach this experience. You have to "walk through the fire."

5. New delegates that don't yet understand the legislative process.

6. I serve as Vice Chairman of the House Finance Committee. This committee directs how your tax dollars are to be spent.

7. It was difficult to address a number of the issues without the business community being there to provide insight an commentary of bills affecting business.

8. I welcome calls to my phone at 304-481-0167. People can always email me at vernon.criss@wvhouse.gov.

9. Water, Sewer and Roads!

10. Yes. Young people and their work ethics.

11. Great skills can be a life long career along with good manners and work ethics.

12. Continue to direct federal dollars into infrastructure and not into social programs.

13. My family businesses have been involved with CAWV from the beginning. Criss & Shaver, a ready-mix concrete company, came to Charleston in 1932 and we have been an associate member all this time.

14. Yes. BUT, be prepared that it isn't a 60 day job. It goes all year.



Josh Booth

Vice President
Highway Safety, Inc.
Huntington, West Virginia

West Virginia House of Delegates - 19th District

Appointed by Governor Jim Justice in January 2021

Committees: Government Organization; Senior, Children and Family Issues; and Technology and Infrastructure

1. I was taught from an early age, and truly believe, we each have a responsibility to stand up and take action when we can to improve our community.

2. I understand the nuances of infrastructure construction, budgets, and

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what real West Virginians are going through every day to provide for their families and trying to keep their kids here at home when they grow up.

3. Currently serving as an At-Large Board member for the Contractors Association of West Virginia.

4. For the most part, yes. I have been fortunate to build strong relationships with other delegates and state leaders during my first year. Relationships are the key to making things happen in the legislative process.

5. Hearing the State Capitol hallways silent. The pandemic did not allow visitors during session.

6. Transportation and infrastructure are close to my heart and has a huge role in the expansion and modernization of our state's facilities. We're currently working on how to best use the American Rescue Plan funds. The House leadership would like these one-time funds to go towards projects that will benefit the next generation of West Virginians. Also, work zone safety. I have always believed modern, safe roads save lives and dollars.

7. We all know that COVID created less than ideal situations for us all and the legislature was no different. I look forward to more interaction from the public in coming sessions.

8. I welcome phone calls, emails and social media messages. I want to be as available as possible to my constituents and I am always happy to schedule a face-to-face meeting.

9. Ultimately, the state may receive even more money, but we have to make incremental investment in water, sewer and broadband now, and encourage local communities to do the same and not wait. Access roads and bridges to medical facilities are also being reviewed to identify potential projects.

10. Yes, there is a shortage of trained workers who can pass a fitness for duty test.

11. West Virginia must encourage trade education and we must expand those trade programs to include fiber optic termination and splicing and communications. CDL training programs, in my opinion, is the most critical need.

12. Yes, daily, and in my opinion, will cause an increased demand for the various tradesman in West Virginia. I don't want this surge of work to sock the labor markets. Several delegates, including myself, have been meeting with the construction trades to discuss how to they will keep up the needs of industry once these dollars start flowing in.

13. Waiting to see what the final number will be from the federal government could cause us to have increased costs, limited workforce and delayed schedules.

14. Absolutely. The construction industry prepares us to understand the complexities of development, budget, process and, most importantly, people. If you have the urge to serve your community, I would encourage you to do just that. I am always available to discuss my experiences with others.



Adam Burkhammer
President
A.J. Burk, LLC
Horner, West Virginia

West Virginia House of Delegates - 46th District

Elected in 2020

Committees: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Energy and Manufacturing; Judiciary; and Workforce Development

1. As a concerned citizen, I was worried about the direction our country was headed in and I felt that my personal and professional experiences could be beneficial to my community and the state as a legislator to ensure a positive direction moving forward.

2. As a business owner, you have many areas that you have to deal with which gives you a broad understanding of law, regulation, and overall government. From creating a budget to taxes, labor law, insurance, and the list could go on as to things that you have to deal with on a daily basis that gives a business owner the ability to understand how government and law play a role in our daily lives.

3. This is my first elected office.

6. That is a toss up between Energy and Manufacturing and Judiciary. As a state driven by the energy sector, I know that anything we do in that committee will impact the state in multiple ways so I take it very serious when dealing with those issues. But I also enjoy the diversity of Judiciary where we tackle a diversity of issues on a daily basis and with my own personal and professional experiences, I feel that I can contribute it to many of the issues.

7. With it being my first term, I really didn't know anything different. But now that we have more traffic in the capitol, I look back and realize it was rather quiet during the COVID session. However, I do enjoy the public having better access which allows for better interaction with everyone.

8. With a busy schedule between business and the legislature, my email is the best way to contact me at adam.burkhammer@wvhouse.gov.

9. There is such diversity in our state between regions that this must be a collective effort from across the state, including different areas of development offices, infrastructure experts, and other interested parties. But to get down to the actual spending, it needs to be separated into two categories. First, we need to look at immediate needs. What projects do need to get completed right away to ensure that our citizens are being taken care of? But we can not be so focused on immediate needs that we miss this once in a lifetime investment opportunity which leads me to the second phase of allocating this money. What can we invest in that

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will shape the future of our state for decades to come?

10. With the slow down of some of the larger projects in our area (Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast pipelines), we are not seeing the workforce issues that we were seeing in the past 2-3 year span.

11. I applaud all the work that has been done to this point on workforce development and I think it would benefit us to allow the recent things put in place to take effect before we continue to throw resources at the issue.

12. I have intermittently followed the bill on the federal level and I do believe it would have a great impact on the infrastructure in West Virginia as we have crucial needs for roads and bridges, water and sewer, and, most importantly, broadband but we need to be mindful of any strings attached to the federal bills. Higher taxes on small business, further regulation on our energy sectors, and general inflation could do more harm to our economy than good.

14. Absolutely!! We are to be a government for the people, by the people, and I believe our founding fathers wanted everyone involved. They wanted a diverse mix of people of varying skills, experiences, and backgrounds.



Clay Riley
Vice President
of Strategic
Growth
The Thrasher
Group
Bridgeport, West
Virginia

West Virginia House of Delegates -
48th District
Elected in 2020
Committees: Finance; Political Sub-
divisions; and Technology and Infra-
structure

1. I experienced a few public policy situations, related to our industry, where I felt that having someone with a construction/engineering back-

ground would have led to a more successful outcome. My father always told me that if I didn't like something that it was my responsibility to fix it or shut up. Therefore, I decided to put my name on the ballot.

2. As an engineer, it is critical to consider multiple aspects of an issue, especially unintended consequences. Similarly, when considering public policy, it is important to listen to all sides of an issue and determine the appropriate path forward.

3. I have served on numerous boards and committees prior to my election. Some of those boards include United Way of Harrison County, American Council of Engineering Companies, Shale Crescent USA, and Healthy Harrison.

4. For the most part, I would say the legislative process has been what I expected.

5. How incredibly difficult to get a bill passed no matter how "good" of an idea or policy it is. I still believe that good ideas will get passed in the end and I've witnessed it. However, you may have to spend a few sessions working to create enough momentum to pass the bill. There will be thousands of bills submitted annually and only 10% might make it to a vote.

6. Finance is my most active committee and it is critical to the long-term success of our state. West Virginia has limited financial resources. We must wisely invest these funds to get the greatest return on our dollar. Whether infrastructure or social programs, we have to be fiscally responsible and make sure investments provide benefit.

7. COVID made it harder than normal to interact with the public. I really made a conscious effort to have outbound communication and accept every appointment requested by a member of the public. However, the informal and chance interactions with people at the Capitol was missing.

8. I'm pretty flexible and welcome phone calls, emails and social media

messages. My cell phone (304) 844-5679 is published widely and is normally the quickest way to get me.

9. I would prefer us to spend the American Rescue Plan funds on hard assets like infrastructure and economic development projects. We have an opportunity, and for once the funding, to make a major contribution to the long-term success of West Virginia.

10. Yes, finding a qualified and trained workforce has been a challenge as of recent.

11. The West Virginia Legislature has passed bills to create and improve workforce development programs. I would like to see the legislature continue to work on second chance legislation that will provide opportunities for someone who made a mistake in life but has made restitution. I believe that providing some liability coverage and incentives to employers could help train potential employees and bring people back into the workforce.

12. Yes, West Virginia could significantly benefit from the traditional infrastructure bill. We've been nudging our infrastructure and economic development projects along for decades. The \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill is a way for West Virginia to give our programs a shove. It is critical that we are successful in deployment of this money because every other state will receive funding too.

13. Legislators really do like to hear from you, especially if you live in their district. CAWV members have a wealth of information, experience, and knowledge from which your representatives could benefit. Reach out to your senator and delegate now and get to know them before there is an issue of concern.

14. Yes, CAWV members understand that making landscape altering changes in West Virginia is a process, it takes time, and it takes commitment. In public office they can use their experienced to make a difference and West Virginia needs them.



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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:

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- West Virginia Coal Association
- National Utility Contractors Association
- West Virginia Rural Water Association
- West Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants
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CAWV Members Tour New Wildlife Education Center and Kayak the Coal River



COAL
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GROUP



The Contractors Association of West Virginia's Young Contractors Forum (YCF), along with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) and Coal River Group, hosted a successful event on Friday, September 10.

Members toured the \$5 million Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center, built by CAWV member Wolf Creek Contracting Company headquartered in Waterford, Ohio.

The facility is located in Alum Creek and resides on 102 acres of land that borders US Rt. 119 (Corridor G) on the southern and eastern sides and extends north to the confluence of the Big Coal and Little Coal Rivers, forming the triangular shaped property.

The tour was led by Roger Wolfe, engineer associate for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) and overseer of the project.

The Wildlife Education Center houses exhibits that educate visitors about West Virginia's native wildlife including conservation, game management, forestry, stream restoration and how to identify native plants and animals. Visitors to the center will also learn about some of our state's wildlife success stories and what they can do to





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improve the health of wildlife populations at home.

The natural area has three miles of trails and includes three new connecting trails, interpretive signage and outdoor exhibits. The flora, fauna, geologic and Coal River history are available all year long throughout the trails.

A few key elements of the 7,000 square foot educational facility includes: Cavity masonry load-bearing perimeter walls supported on concrete foundation; wood and steel framed roof with standing seam metal roof covering over insulated roof decking; aluminum-

framed entrances, storefront framing, and glazed curtain wall construction; masonry interior partition walls; concrete floor slabs; interior finishes; related plumbing, HVAC, and electrical work; and site utilities and site improvements including paving and landscaping.

Wolf Creek Contracting Company was awarded the \$4.1 million project through the competitive bid process and are providing general contracting services as well as self-performing concrete.

The center was developed thanks to

the partnership of the WVDNR, Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation, and CAWV members ZMM Architects and Engineers and E.L. Robinson Engineering who all helped to bring the vision for the center a reality.

Dennis Stottlemeyer, deputy environmental advocate for the WVDEP, gave the group an up-close look at just a few of the projects that stretch for a 17-mile section of the river. Stottlemeyer, an avid kayaker himself, has been involved in the projects from the beginning and has seen the difference the projects are making.



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Encova Insurance/CAWV Association Safety Program Offers New Opportunity for Associate Members

The Contractors Association of West Virginia's partnership with Encova Insurance has provided significant savings on contracting members' workers' compensation insurance costs. The program, which began in 2009, provides a discount on premium costs to contractor members with a three-year loss ratio of 65% or less.

The CAWV and Encova program is also a great resource for risk management and loss control measures. CAWV members have access to loss control policies, return-to-work programs and safety seminars, all of which are aimed to increase safety-related performance at the work site and to reduce workers' compensation costs and related expenses.

Effective September 1, 2021, select CAWV Associate Division members, whose policy effective date is on or after September 1, 2021, may participate in the program. Associate members whose business operations require them to work on the jobsite on a regular basis, experiencing many of the same risks as the contractor members, may now qualify to receive a policy premium discount.

Lisa Teel, assistant vice president of agency operations for Encova, announced the new workers' compensation plan for CAWV members at the CAWV Annual Meeting held in July at The Greenbrier.

"Since 2009, the CAWV and Encova have offered a discounted workers' comp plan for contractors, which has saved CAWV members hundreds of thousands of dollars in premiums and provided services to keep jobsites safe," Teel told members. "We are

pleased to announce today a new program that will benefit all CAWV members. Over the next few months, we will be rolling out a program to CAWV Associate Division members to offer them a discount on their workers' comp premium."

Teel explained that this new addition to the program is designed to emphasize safety and return to work programs for companies that face similar hazards in their day-to-day operations as those faced by construction companies.

"Encova believes that by implementing safety initiatives and return-to-work programs that are proven to be effective in the construction industries, CAWV Associate member companies can potentially see a reduction in their total cost of risk – both direct costs related to injuries and indirect costs that arise because of those injuries," Teel emphasized.

Teel explained that this new addition to the program is limited to Associate members who have workplace exposures similar to those faced by contractor members. Any CAWV Associate member insured for workers' compensation by Encova with active payroll in one or more of the following classification codes may participate if they meet program eligibility requirements.

CLASS CODE DESCRIPTION

1624	Quarry NOC and drivers
3030	Iron or steel: fabrication: iron or steel works - shop - structural and drivers
3620	Boilermaking
3724	Machinery or equipment erection or repair



The Encova Insurance/CAWV Association Safety Program supports and rewards policyholders' efforts towards creating a safer workplace by providing a discount to eligible CAWV members.

"There are many benefits of our partnership with the CAWV," Lisa Teel, assistant vice president of agency operations, Encova, noted. "Positive results include the following."

- Improved risk management and loss control
- A safer workplace
- A reduction of the direct and indirect costs of workplace injuries due to fewer injuries and return-to-work programs when there is an injury
- Eligibility to earn discounts on policy premiums
- Eligibility to participate in annual safety training seminars
- Long-term workers' compensation savings through improved performance

- 4034 Concrete products manufacturing and drivers
- 5403 Carpentry
- 5437 Carpentry - installation of cabinet work or interior trim
- 6204 Drilling NOC and drivers
- 6216 Oil or gas - lease work NOC - by specialist contractor and drivers
- 6217 Excavation and drivers
- 8107 Machinery dealer NOC - store or yard
- 8232 Lumberyard new materials only: all other employees and yard, warehouse, drivers
- 8350 Gasoline dealer and drivers
- 8601 Architectural or engineering firm - including salespersons and drivers
- 8602 Surveyors, timber cruisers, oil or gas geologists or scouts and drivers
- 8720 Inspection of risks for insurance or valuation purposes NOC
- 9402 Street cleaning and drivers

"Associate members must meet all the requirements of the program, including signing the member agreement, implementing a comprehensive safety program, implementing an effective

return-to-work program, agreeing to report claims in 48 hours or less, and attending at least one safety training per year," Teel stated. "The loss ratio threshold to participate is a 3-year loss ratio of 65%."

Associate members who are eligible to participate in another Encova association safety discount program as a regular member are ineligible to participate in the CAWV program as an associate member.

"The longstanding Encova/CAWV insurance partnership is truly a win-win arrangement, helping each organization add members and increase revenue," said CAWV President Nate Orders, president, Orders Construction Company, St. Albans. "More importantly, the program provides significant premium discounts to participating companies, incentivizes them to place a greater emphasis on safety, and ultimately creates safer working conditions for their employees. I am excited and grateful that Encova is now working with us to extend this program to select associate members," he stated.

All CAWV members should contact their Encova insurance agent for more information on the current contractor and new associate program requirements to see if they are eligible to begin receiving the discount.

Members can also contact Pat McDonald, CAWV assistant executive director, at (304) 342-1166 or pmcdonald@cawv.org.

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CAR SHOW 2021

MEMBERS DISPLAY THEIR UNIQUE VEHICLES

The CAWV Car Show, held Friday, October 1, at the CAWV Headquarters in Charleston, was a great success with over 100 attendees. In addition to food and refreshments, this year's event featured live music from *Non Friction* and over 30 unique and vintage cars, trucks and motorcycles owned by members. Winners of the car show were:

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Bill Faulks – 2016 Lamborghini Huracan



Best of Show Import 2000 and Older
Pat Parsons – 1973 Porsche 911 T



Best of Show American Classic
John Goetz – 1965 Ford Mustang



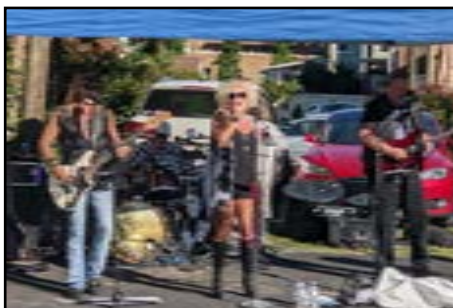
Winner Best of Show Overall
Rich Jacobs – 1981 Chevrolet K-10 Truck



Best of Show American 2001 & Newer
Jason Lamm – 2016 Chevrolet Corvette



Jim Mattingly's 1928 Ford Model A was just one of the impressive cars at the show.



Members enjoyed live music by Non Friction of Charleston.



The CAWV Car Show 2021 was held at the association headquarters in Charleston and featured over 30 unique vehicles and over 100 attendees.

Shelly Hartley joins CAWV



Shelly Hartley
CAWV Administrative Assistant
shartley@cawv.org

The Contractors Association of West Virginia is pleased to announce that Shelly Hartley has joined the staff as Administrative Assistant at the CAWV, effective October 4.

Shelly will be working with the CAWV Planroom and Bid Clearinghouse, as well as assisting in day to day operations. She looks forward to working with the association's architect and engineering partners on project notices, getting plans and specs for the CAWV Planroom, bid results and other project information. She will also be involved in membership and committee engagement.

Shelly brings over twenty years of knowledge and experience in the hospitality industry which will be beneficial to the association. Prior to joining the CAWV, Shelly served as the Catering Event Manager at the

Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. She most recently served as the Maître d' at Laury's Restaurant in Charleston.

"We are pleased that Shelly has joined the CAWV family," said CAWV Executive Director Mike Clowser. "She brings attributes to our staff that will be of great benefit to our members and our organization."

Shelly is a native of Hurricane and resides in Charleston. She enjoys spending time coordinating and volunteering for fundraising events, as well as fostering for the Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association.





Members are encouraged to call Shelly at (304) 342-1166 or email at shartley@cawv.org and welcome her to the Association.



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CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS



The newly renovated and expanded Jefferson County Visitors Center in Harpers Ferry recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate its grand opening. The \$850,000 project's shell was constructed by W. Harley Miller Contractors of Martinsburg. The visitors center, which was once a trailer, is expected to serve over 50,000 visitors per year. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-WV, (center) led the ribbon cutting ceremony.

■ **The Charles Town City Council recently heard about the city's future sewer infrastructure plans** at a recent meeting. The information came as Kristen Stolipher, the city's utility board general manager, went before the council with a presentation, alerting council members what they are in for as the city upgrades its infrastructure. In all, the improvement projects are set to cost the city roughly \$12 million and will address an array of things, including water plant improvements and a couple well sites, among other issues. In addition to that, the city plans to confront two major sewer projects, the first of which will be the collections systems project, which addresses needs within the city's sewer collection system. As a result, the city will be upgrading several pump stations and addressing capacity needs. The second project will be the renewal and replacement project, which comes after the utility board noticed deficiencies in sludge handling at the sewer plant. Included in the renewal and replacement project, which

Stolipher called "significant," is a new electrical building, new electrical components and a new generator...

■ **Officials from the Mineral Wells Public Service District are requesting \$436,000** from the Wood County Commission to do an immediate emergency line replacement. Officials from the PSD, the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council and **Burgess and Niple, Inc.**, Parkersburg, appeared before the commission to request the money to replace a 10-inch water transmission line which provides water from the Claywood Park water treatment plant to Mineral Wells PSD and is the primary source of water for the Mineral Wells PSD water system, serving around 2,550 customers and a school with 600-700 students as well as providing water for local fire protection services...

■ **A bond that would support upgrades to Milton's sewer system has been approved** by the town's City Council. The sewer bond is

worth \$7.9 million and would support a system-wide project to update Milton's sewer system, which has been in the works for several years. The bond has \$5.8 million committed in loan dollars and \$2.1 million committed in grant dollars from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Corey Smith, of **The Thrasher Group**, said that bids for the project are expected to go out in the next 90 days. Construction for the sewer project may begin next year...

■ **Gov. Jim Justice recently announced that CS Global Group, a Turkish Mining company** that specializes in barite manufacturing and sales, has chosen Moundsville as the location for its first manufacturing plant in the United States. The company will create 47 new full-time jobs and plans to invest \$10 million in the facility, which will be operational by the first quarter of 2022. CS Global Group, which operates in more than 60 countries, manufactures and sells barium sulfate, which is used in the oil and gas drilling industry and other industrial applications. The company is officially incorporated in West Virginia as ADO Industries, Inc. To process raw materials at the Moundsville plant, ADO Industries will build a new barite grinding system, which will include a vertical mill that produces a coarse product used in the oil and gas industry. The company plans to also install a second mill, called micronizer, to produce a finer product for use in other industries, such as painting and automotive. The final product, which will be stored in existing silos at the site, will be dispatched in bulk trucks or railcars or in bags, depending on the type of customer...

■ **Bids were recently accepted for HVAC repairs for the Federal Correctional Institution's** administrative building in Beckley. Low

CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

bidder was **H.E. Neumann Company** of Tridelphia for \$1,384,865. Other bidders included **Cattrell Companies, Inc.** of Toronto, Ohio, for \$1,613,150, and **Casto Technical Services, Inc.** of Charleston for \$1,646,511...

■ **The Wood County Commission will discuss what will be in a new 911 center with ZMM Architects & Engineers** of Charleston. The commission chose the firm for the renovation of the 18,000-square-foot former Suddenlink call center at U.S. 50 and Interstate 77 and to convert it into the new dispatching center. Discussions among state officials point to the possibility of establishing regional 911 centers, and local officials believe this facility could eventually be geared to such an operation. The Wood County 911 Center already dispatches for Wirt County...

■ **The city of Wheeling's plans to construct a new parking structure at the corner of 11th and Market streets** is moving forward full steam, as the Wheeling Planning Commission recently granted a special use permit and site plan approval. The new parking garage is needed to support the planned \$30 million private redevelopment of the former Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel headquarters by property owner Dr. John Johnson's Access Infrastructure and developer Steve Coon of Coon Restoration into the Historic Wheeling-Pitt Lofts, a 128-unit apartment complex in the heart of downtown. In order to facilitate this major investment, the city is expected to invest around \$14 million into the new parking structure...

■ **Bids were recently accepted for the Beechwood detention tank project** in Parkersburg. Low bidder was **Alan Stone Compa-**

ny of Vincent, Ohio, for \$320,500. Second bidder on the project was **J.C. Bosley Construction, Inc.** of Parkersburg at \$389,800...

■ **Wheeling's Main Street will see narrowed sections of road lined with dozens** of orange barrels in the coming months. Construction crews continue working on the city's complex waterline replacement project, but city officials say that project still looks like it will finish on time. Construction crews with **Pro Contracting Incorporated** of Lost Creek continue to encounter various obstacles beneath the downtown streets that make the nearly year-long project a "very complex" enterprise, according to Wheeling Public Works Director Russell "Rusty" Jebbia. Crews are replacing 20-inch water lines more than a century old with 16-inch lines and installing temporary above ground 6-inch water lines to provide continued water service to businesses and other buildings along Main Street. In addition to old trolley tracks beneath the street, crews have also encoun-

tered old underground vaults from Wheeling's past in some areas. Considering the complexities of the project, Jebbia said the contractor is moving along on schedule and they are well beyond the halfway point of the project. He said the project is still expected to be completed by February 2022...

■ **The developers who own the Prichard Hotel Building in Huntington have been awarded** a \$3 million grant toward its goal of developing housing for low-income elderly residents. The grant, which is called the HUD Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Award, will support "a massive redevelopment project for the Prichard Hotel Building," a news release from Cornerstone Community Development said. The project budget to renovate over 100,000 square feet in the building is \$40 million. Construction on the building is expected to start in January and will take 24 months to complete. The plan for the building includes 108 state-of-the-art living spaces for low-income elderly ages 55 and



Crews with Pro Contracting Incorporated of Lost Creek work to install new waterlines throughout downtown Wheeling. The project includes replacing 20-inch water lines that are more than a century old with new 16-inch lines. The project is on schedule and is expected to be completed in February.

CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

over. After renovation, the building will have “an intergenerational focus,” with living spaces for younger age groups. The first three floors of the building will be the Geriatric Center for Excellence...

■ **Design and construction plans are almost finished for Huntington's Hal Greer Boulevard Complete Streets project.** The West Virginia Division of Highways will put the project out to bid soon. Partners on the initiative are the City of Huntington, the WVDOH and the KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission. The redesign work is based on the Hal Greer Corridor Management Plan, which had input from residents and businesses. The plan calls for work on Hal Greer from 3rd Avenue to Washington Boulevard. The current estimated cost for the construction is \$10,790,594. The city would be responsible for 20% of the project, or \$2,158,119, which is in the city's budget and the remaining funds would come from federal funds through KYOVA...

■ **Three U.S. senators recently participated in a field hearing on rural water systems** and the challenges affecting current drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in West Virginia. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held the hearing in Beckley, in which Committee Chairman Tom Carper, D-DE, and Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito, R-WV, listened to infrastructure leaders about needed help for rural communities with outdated systems. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-WV, joined Carper and Capito; Manchin is the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, whose areas of focus overlap with the Environment and Public Works Committee. Federal legislators in the current Congress have pushed for legislation addressing infra-

structure issues. The American Society of Civil Engineers gave the United States a C- and West Virginia a D in its 2021 infrastructure report card. West Virginia scored poor grades in drinking water and wastewater; the association noted leaking pipelines and topography as problems in operating effective systems. Wayne Morgan, the executive director of the West Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council, Jason Roberts with the Region One Planning and Development Council, and Todd Grinstead with the West Virginia Rural Water Association, testified about West Virginia's water systems; each panelist described problems like a declining customer base affecting money for improvements and the state's geography limiting rehabilitation. The three also stated rural communities face challenges with accessing funds, even from government programs...

■ **Bids were recently accepted for the Page-Kincaid PSD water treatment plant decommissioning project.** Low bidder was **Reagan Enterprises LLC** of Princeton for \$92,100. Other bidders included **ALL-CON, LLC** of Beaver for \$120,000, **Reclaim Company, LLC** of Fairmont for \$253,548, and **Orders Construction Company, Inc.** of St. Albans for \$265,300...

■ **A group of local business owners, nonprofit organization leaders, and government officials** gathered at the Tygart Hotel to discuss ideas, hopes, and the current status of the rehabilitation of Elkins' largest residential building. Driven by loans and investment from the state and dedicated local banks like Davis Trust Company, Freedom Bank, and Pendleton Community Bank, and led by Woodlands Development and Lending, the \$16-million-dollar project will result in the historic building once again

becoming a boutique hotel serving the families, institutions, and burgeoning recreational tourism economy of the region. The Tygart Hotel building was built in 1907 and hosted many famous visitors over its years as the Hotel Gassaway, later renamed the Hotel Tygart...

■ **West Virginia is ready to go on broadband expansion projects as soon as the federal government releases American Rescue Plan funds,** while the Federal Communications Commission announced that Bridgeport-based Citynet will receive support for its rural broadband plans. West Virginia lawmakers received an update on broadband projects during the October legislative interim meetings. The Joint Committee on Technology heard testimony from Mitch Carmichael, cabinet secretary for the Department of Economic Development. Carmichael said there is more than \$478 million in mostly federal funds allocated to the state for broadband expansion, including \$136 million specifically allocated to West Virginia through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The \$136 million doesn't count the \$1.36 billion for the state and \$678 million for cities and counties that can also be used for broadband infrastructure thanks to ARPA...

■ **Bids were recently accepted for the Salem Rail Trail upgrades, Contract 2.** The project will consist of paving, culverts and ditches for approximately 10,500 feet of rail trail. Low bidder on the project was **Blue Gold Development LLC** of Rivesville for \$196,182. Other bidders included: Naternicolas Masonry of Fairmont for \$217,650; **Green River Group, LLC** of Morgantown for \$219,209; **Kelly Paving, Inc.** of Williamstown for \$249,499; **Anderson Excavating, LLC** of Morgantown for \$250,600; **Wolfe's Excavating, LLC** of Clarksburg for

CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

\$252,775; **Bear Contracting, LLC** of Clarksburg for \$255,799; and **Cove Run Contracting, LLC** of Anmoore for \$360,000...

■ **A second round of bids was opened for a scaled back version of a new Meadow Bridge Regional PK-12 School**, with both bids coming in under targeted costs. The low bidder for Phase 1 work of the new school, which will combine students from Meadow Bridge elementary and high schools, was **Swope Construction Company**, Bluefield, with a bid of \$9,960,000. The only other bidder was Danhill Construction which submitted a bid of \$10,850,000. Plans call for the entire construction to be completed in time for the beginning of the 2023 school term. In December 2019, the SBA awarded \$20 million to Fayette County Schools to design and build the new school in the southeastern end of Fayette County. The first round of bids came in high...

■ **The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has opted to move forward with plans to buy a 461-acre tract along U.S. 219 straddling the Randolph-Pocahontas county line**, where it will relocate its Underground Safety Research Program for miner health and safety. NIOSH intends to build a 164,000-square-foot underground test facility that would be carved out of a rock formation 500 feet beneath the surface, requiring the excavation of 152,000 tons of rock through boring, drilling and blasting. The underground facility would be lined with reinforced concrete to provide blast-resistance during tests. An above-ground fire suppression test facility would include a filtering system, to remove particulate residue from tests involving combustion. All water and chemical solutions used in firefighting tests would drain into a sump, from which the water would later be recycled


and reused on site, and solid residue would be periodically hauled to a landfill. An estimated 17,000 to 25,000 square feet of above-ground buildings would be constructed to accommodate offices, classrooms and control and storage facilities. The estimated build-out time for the development is four years which clears the way for the General Services Administration to begin negotiating the purchase of the site from the Consortium for Silver Creek Group...

■ **Bids were recently accepted for the Tomlinson PSD water system improvement project.** The project was advertised in three contracts. Low bidder for Contract 1 was **Glenn Johnston, Inc.** of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, for \$4,298,460. Other bidders included **The James White Construction Company** of Weirton for \$4,945,772 and **Alex E. Paris Contracting Company, Inc.** of Atlasburg, Pennsylvania, for \$5,668,908. Low bidder for Contract 2 was Glenn Johnston, Inc. for \$3,446,771. Other bidders included The James White Construction Company for \$3,498,448 and Alex E. Paris Contracting Company, Inc. for \$4,304,594. Low bidder for Contract 3 was The James White Construction Company for \$1,823,090 with Alex E Paris Contracting Company, Inc. submitting a bid for \$2,470,800...

■ **Beckley Common Council voted to declare an emergency demolition of a former medical lab at 227 Prince St.**, which the city owns. Captain Donald Morgan of the Beckley Fire Department said that bolts in the building walls have gotten significantly worse since the spring. "The roof materials have deteriorated and had been leaking for quite some time," said Morgan. He added that the moisture caused the wooden roof trusses inside the building to rot and sag and to put pressure on the walls. The building

will be demolished by **Empire Salvage & Recycling, Inc.**, Princeton, for \$149,863, and Empire crews will also remove debris...

■ **A Chicago-based aviation consulting firm has been contracted to conduct an environmental impact study of a plan to extend Yeager Airport's runway to 7,000 feet and add 1,000-foot safety overrun areas at each end**, making use of land in neighboring Coonskin Park. During a special meeting, the Charleston airport's governing board authorized its chairman, Ed Hill, to sign a contract with Ricondo & Associates to conduct the study, funded through a \$5.6 million grant approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. The study is expected to take about three years to complete. In addition to addressing environmental issues involved in the massive earth-moving effort the project would entail, the study will identify improvements that could be made at Coonskin to mitigate the loss of land now used by the park. A massive earth-moving project is needed to provide Yeager with a 7,000-foot runway with 1,000-foot long, 500-foot wide safety zones at each end. The airport seeks the improvements to meet the needs of aircraft expected to be using the facility in the decades to come, and to fully meet Federal Aviation Administration safety standards...

■ **Bids were recently accepted for the construction and reclamation of the OSR Buffalo Coal** for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. The project will consist of clearing and grubbing, construction of support areas and access roads, installation of drainage channels, pumping stations, regrading and excavation of site, pond reclamation, and erosion and sediment control. Low bidder on the project is **A.J. Burk, LLC** of Horner for \$10,956,990. 

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Major League Baseball great Darryl Strawberry, center, presents the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Tom Landry Award to John Jarrett, left, and Kevin Kemerer during FCA's annual Night of Champions event held in Charleston in September.

Construction leaders honored for contribution to Christian Athletes Organization

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA – The Fellowship of Christian Athletes –WV Chapter held its annual Night of Champions September 14 at the Charleston Embassy Suites Hotel. This year's speaker was Darryl Strawberry, the former professional baseball right fielder and author who played 17 seasons in Major League Baseball. During his career, he helped lead the New York Mets to a World Series championship in 1986 and the New York Yankees to three World Series championships in 1996, 1998 and 1999.

At the sponsor luncheon, John Jarrett, president of Jarrett Construction Services, Inc., Charleston, and Kevin Kemerer, president of Precision Pump and Valve Service, Inc., Cross Lanes, were honored with the Tom Landry Award, named for the long-time Dallas Cowboys head football coach and FCA supporter.

The award is given to major supporters of the organization.

Since 1954, FCA has been challenging coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high and youth levels to use the powerful platform of sport to reach every coach and every athlete with the transforming power of religion. FCA focuses on serving local communities around the globe by engaging, equipping and empowering coaches and athletes to unite, inspire and change the world through the gospel.



March-Westin Board names new President and Officers

MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA – The March-Westin Company, Inc., Morgantown, in a recent Board of Directors meeting, nominated James Ridgeway to the role of Pres-

ident and Matthew Bourne to the role of Vice-President. Kevin Salisbury was named Vice-President of Finance, and Marguerite Horvath was named Vice-President of Legal and HR. Phil Weser will continue in the role of CEO. All nominations were approved unanimously by the board.

"These guys have been filling these roles for a while, it was time their titles matched their responsibilities," said past President Phil Weser. "This team is unbelievably strong and stacks up well against any executive group. We are extremely well positioned to uphold the values and work ethic March-Westin is known for."

In March 1999, Weser visited his alma mater, West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVUIT), in search of future leaders for March-Westin. That year he recruited and hired James Ridgeway from White Sulphur Springs. Since then, Ridgeway has worked on numerous projects totaling well over \$500 million. He currently serves as CAWV Senior Vice President.

Matthew Bourne, from Bluefield, was recruited and hired from WVUIT in 2000. He was the general manager at CEC Steel for six years, ran the March-Westin Maryland division for four years, and has been managing projects with March-Westin since 2013. Both Ridgeway and Bourne received their Executive MBAs from the University of Pittsburgh in 2009. Throughout their tenure, they have provided foundational leadership and helped shape March-Westin into the company it is today.

March-Westin was founded in 1984 and provides full-service engineering and general contracting services for commercial entities. March-Westin Company, Inc. employs over 200 local workers and has successfully completed over 3000 projects and individual contracts.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Triton Construction, Inc. names new President and Officers

NITRO, WEST VIRGINIA - Triton Construction, Inc., Nitro, recently named Chris Apperson to the role of President. In addition to Apperson, Charlene Eskew was named Chief Financial Officer, Steve Diehl as Executive Vice President, Bruce Dunlap as Vice President, and Jason Hunter as Vice President. John Farley will continue in the role of Chairman/CEO.

TJ Obrokta inducted into Marshall University Business Hall of Fame

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA - The Marshall University Lewis Col-

lege of Business and Brad D. Smith Schools of Business recently inducted five business leaders into its Business Hall of Fame, their highest honor.



Obrokta

Thomas J. Obrokta Jr., president and CEO of Encova Insurance, was inducted at a ceremony held September 17. Obrokta first served as the company's (formerly BrickStreet) general counsel, senior vice president and secretary when it was launched in 2006. He became its chief operating officer in 2012 and gave up his general counsel position in June 2014 to focus on operations. He was Brick-

Street's president from May 2015 until BrickStreet's affiliation with Motorists Insurance Group closed in April 2017.

Joining Obrokta as a 2021 inductee are: Chris Cline, founder of Foresight Energy (posthumously); Marshall University President Dr. Jerome Gilbert; Robert R. Simpson Jr., former interim business dean; and the Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin, former governor of West Virginia.



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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Tucker Architects in Huntington has been planning, designing and overseeing the construction of buildings all over Huntington. The company is now celebrating 25 years of continuous growth, but while the business is celebrating 25 years in Huntington, its roots date back 111 years. Edwin Tucker, owner, said the firm inherited an architectural legacy beginning with Levi Johnson Dean, who opened his practice in 1910 as Dean and Dean Architects.

Edward Tucker Architects averages about 40 to 50 projects a year. With a focus on education and health care, major projects in recent years have been completed for Cabell Huntington Hospital, Marshall University, Marshall Health, Huntington Federal Savings Bank, Cabell

County Schools, Raceland-Worthington Schools, West Virginia State University, Bluefield College, Cabell County public libraries, the Huntington Museum of Art, and many others.



Kanawha Stone Company Announces Staff Promotions

POCA, WEST VIRGINIA - During its annual Winter Conference, Kanawha Stone Company, Inc. announced staff promotions and geographic restructuring to benefit operational efficiency. Ashley Lioi, P.E., MS was named East Regional Manager and Rock Brogan as the

company's West Regional Manager.

Lioi is a registered professional engineer in WV, VA, PA, NC, KY, TN and MD. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a Master of Science in Construction Management from New York University. Lioi's promotion comes after having managed Kanawha Stone projects for energy, transportation and site development clients since 2013.

Brogan is a 43-year industry veteran and has been serving as Kanawha Stone Company's primary Operations Manager in WV, PA, OH and KY for decades. Brogan's role continues as before, with a corporate restructuring to accommodate for



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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

the company's anticipated growth.

"We are fortunate to have two individuals of this caliber to lead operations," said Kanawha Stone Company President Tom Kittredge. "The level of dedication, knowledge and passion that each of them brings greatly benefit our employees, shareholders and most importantly, our clients."

West Virginia Game Changer announces Board of Directors

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - Officials with the West Virginia Game Changer initiative have announced that Clarksburg businessman David B. Alvarez, Applied Construction Solutions, Inc., and a member of the West Virginia




Alvarez

University Board of Governors, will serve on its Board of Directors. The initiative's primary goal is to help curb the lingering effects of the opioid epidemic by working with and educating the state's students.

CAWV members honored as up-and-coming West Virginia business leaders

CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA - The State Journal has been recognizing and honoring young professionals throughout West Virginia as part of Generation Next: 40 Under 40 for the past 16 years. The program was created to celebrate the state's outstanding professional people who are making a difference at work and in their communities.

CAWV members were well represented in this year's 40 Under 40 including: Andrew Dawson, United Bank; Candice Harlow, Jackson Kel-

ly; Jordan Herrick, Bailey & Wyant; Jason Henderson, Energy Transportation; Julie Moore, Bowles Rice; Michael Moore, Steptoe & Johnson; Kylea Radcliff, The Thrasher Group; Steven Peters, First Energy; Tia Reppert, Bear Contracting; Charlie Robinson, Assured Partners; Emily Signorelli, Brown, Edwards & Company; and Joe Wheeling, Civil & Environmental Consultants. 

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