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On the cover
Governor Jim Justice’s new administration has been hard at work fulfilling the
duties of their offices and charting their goals and objectives for the next four
years. West Virginia Construction News interviewed the heads of the departments
and agencies that routinely design, award and administer construction and design
contracts to get their thoughts on the programs that will affect Contractor Associ-
ation of West Virginia members this year and beyond, and to give members a better
understanding of the many attributes they bring to their new positions. To read
more on the new administration leaders and their goals, see page 6. Cover photo
by Ashley Hofmaster.

The Contractors Association of West Virginia is a nonprofit trade organization representing the building,
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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.
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Frank “Bucky” Blackwell is the executive director of the School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA). Blackwell grew up in the small coal community of Corinne, graduated from Mullens High School, and earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Marshall University.

Blackwell has been an educator his entire professional career, over 47 years. He has held the position of teacher, principal, president of the Elementary Principals’ Association, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of Wyoming County Schools, where he was awarded West Virginia Superintendent of the Year.

He has worked with the SBA since its beginning in 1989, working to obtain funding for renovations and new schools in Wyoming County during his years as superintendent. Improvements were successfully made in the Wyoming County system. Two new high schools were built (Wyoming East and Westside), a new Pre K-8 school was built (Huff); and a new Pre K-4 elementary (Pineville) was built with financial assistance of the SBA.

The director hopes to continue the accomplishments of the SBA, which has completed $1.85 billion in school construction projects throughout the state since 1989 including:

- 34 New High Schools
- 32 New Middle Schools
- 79 New Primary or K-8 Schools
- Over 1,500 addition, renovation and improvement projects in existing school facilities.

Since his appointment in January, the director says the dedication of
the Board and the staff to serve the School Building Authority is most impressive.

“The Board and staff serve to meet the education facility needs of the children of West Virginia in an efficient and economic manner,” said Blackwell.

According to the former educator, the biggest challenge of the SBA is to oversee and guide the numerous ongoing projects.

“It’s challenging to insure long-range planning is reviewed to assure proper investment and expenditure of state funds,” the director stated.

The SBA approved $48,844,292 of NEEDs Projects in December 2016 and $6,726,167 in Major Improvement Projects (MIP) on June 26, 2017 that included many school renovations, repairs, additions and several new schools across West Virginia.

A list of these projects may be obtained by visiting the SBA website at www.sba.wv.gov.

“I want to assure all contractors, architects, engineers and other interested parties that the SBA wants your participation in SBA projects,” said Blackwell. “We will make sure you have a fair opportunity to obtain work with the School Building Authority.”

We will make sure you have a fair opportunity to obtain work with the SBA.

- Frank Blackwell, Executive Director

Blackwell served seven years in the West Virginia House of Delegates and was Chairman of the Roads and Transportation Committee for two years. He has been a member of the West Virginia Master Plan for Public Education and Senior Manager’s Symposium. He also is a former member of Concord University’s Board of Governors and served as Chairman of the Board.

AUSTIN CAPERTON, SECRETARY WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Austin Caperton serves as secretary for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP).

After he graduated with an engineering degree from Virginia Tech and a law degree from West Virginia University, he held a number of senior leadership positions in the business world. He has served as the director of the Beckley – Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce, United Bank WV, the West Virginia Council for Community & Economic Development and vice chairman of the West Virginia Public Energy Authority.

He served as president of Caperton Inc., a strategic business consulting company. Caperton has experience working with companies to create jobs in the energy industry.

Caperton says his energy industry background and law degree will help him in his new position, which also requires leadership skills.

“I was fortunate to be placed in leadership positions at an early age and to have been exposed to many special leaders like my cousin Gaston (former Governor Gaston Caperton),” he said. “Over a 40-year career I’ve tried to take what I’ve learned from my own experience and incorporate things I learned from those other leaders to become better.”

The secretary says within his five months as secretary, he’s recognized that the WVDEP is a huge agency with a lot of responsibilities.

“We regulate mining, oil and gas, air quality, water quality and solid waste. We also administer several other programs such as Abandoned Mine Lands. The WVDEP was well managed before I came here.”

Caperton says his first goal as secretary is to learn what needs to be done. After some time and research he will be able to establish goals for the department.

The secretary says he is impressed about the educational background and knowledge of the laws, rules and regulations that WVDEP employees possess.

Like many other state agencies, the secretary said the biggest challenge the WVDEP faces is funding.

“We rely on fees and federal dollars in large part and take very little general revenue from the state,” said Caperton. “Declines in the industries we regulate and calls for less federal spending under the new administration will present challenges. However, the WVDEP has already begun to address some of those issues.”

WVDEP construction projects revolve around the AML program and the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program for sewer projects which have a very positive economic and environmental impact on the state. One of Caperton’s commitments is to make certain that the permitting processes are as efficient as possible.

“I tell my staff often that for every day that a valid permit sits in our office due to inefficiency there is someone sitting at home on unemployment or welfare.”

- Austin Caperton, Cabinet Secretary

Dave Hardy serves as Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Revenue. He also serves as
the governor’s designee on both the Municipal Home Rule Board and the Board of Treasury Investments.

A native of Pratt, Hardy earned a Bachelor of Arts in history and government and a Bachelor of Science in accounting from West Virginia University Institute of Technology. He earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

He was named a partner at the Jackson Kelly law firm in 1993 and, in 2012, he formed the Hardy Pence firm, which specializes in mining and energy law. He also has served on the board of the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences and the Charleston Area Alliance.

Hardy brings with him to the Department of Revenue more than 33 years of experience in private legal practice and is also a certified public accountant with decades of experience balancing the budget for the Mountain State’s most populous county.

As a lawyer, Hardy has experience in all aspects of the mining industry, including occupational and mine health and safety matters and deliberate intent occupational injury litigation, and been designated a “Best Lawyer in America” in energy law as well as a “Top Lawyer” in the West Virginia Top Lawyers Guide. He has lectured widely throughout the country in the areas of occupational and mine health and safety law and he still teaches a master’s degree level class on public budgeting at West Virginia State University.

He has a combined 22 years of service to the citizens of Kanawha County, first as a member of Charleston City Council from 1995 to 2001, and later as a commissioner on the Kanawha County Commission from 2001 to 2017. In these years he gained experience working with public budgets.

“Although the State of West Virginia’s budget is enormous in comparison, the basics of a budget are the same,” the secretary said. “You work with a variety of stakeholders on issues about which they are extremely passionate, but you are working with public funds that only stretch so far. You must make the same difficult decisions at a city, county or state level. Do you fund or cut vital services to citizens across the entire state? Decisions are not simple, nor are they easy on any level.”

Hardy says the biggest challenge the agency is facing right now is fixing the huge structural hole in the state’s budget.

“We are working every day to find solutions for that problem while also keeping the state moving forward and prospering,” he said.

“We must continue to build a culture of respect and trust among all branches of government for our citizens. Our mission is to move this state forward.

- Dave Hardy, Cabinet Secretary

Hardy says that he might have entered state government with no idea what to expect from the people working here.

“I am so thoroughly impressed with the professionalism of all the employees I’ve encountered in my agency and beyond. The people I’ve worked with are dedicated to the cause of moving West Virginia forward and they work hard to that end every day, including many weekends. It’s impressive.”

Aside from working to fix the structural hole in the state’s budget, another challenge the agency is facing is how to work together for the betterment of West Virginia.

“We must continue to build a culture of respect and trust among all branches of government for our citizens,” he stated. “Our collective mission is to move this state forward.

“In the Department of Revenue, it won’t matter what your political affiliation is or whose office you work in, we want to work with you. Ideally, I want this office to be perceived as a nonpartisan office. We will work with everyone. It’s the only way we can fulfill our mission.”

Secretary Hardy says that Governor Justice’s roads initiative is incredible and has the potential to propel West Virginia forward more quickly than he could imagine.

“I am hopeful that the state’s contractors, engineers and architects really get behind the statewide bond election and promote passing it in a way that only experts in their industry can. It’s a great thing for West Virginia,” he concluded.

STEPHENV MCDANIEL, DIRECTOR WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Stephen McDaniel was named the Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR). McDaniel is a native of Bridgeport. He attended Fairmont State College and West Virginia University.

He helped his family build Total Health Services of WV, a medical supply company. He also established the Mozark Mountain Tree Farm in Tucker County, is a lifetime member of Trout Unlimited, lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, West Virginia Bowhunters Association and the Brooks Birds Club.

McDaniel says that operating sev-
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eral business, as well as experience he’s gained in other endeavors, has helped him to get acclimated to his new position. He has spent his life outdoors hunting, fishing and hiking in West Virginia.

“...The economic impact of projects is always greater for the state when projects are performed by West Virginia companies.”
- Stephen McDaniel, Director

During his time as director, McDaniel will focus on improving efficiencies for the public, increasing tourism through the use of the state’s natural resources and enhancing the overall experience in state parks, wildlife management areas and state forests.

He says he is impressed by the staff of the WVDNR.

“We have very dedicated people, most of who have served the division for decades,” McDaniel stated. “These people love what they do and they make my job a pleasure each and every day.”

McDaniel says the WVDNR faces many challenges, including a 30% decrease in the overall purchase of hunting and fishing licenses since 2005. This decline is being seen throughout the country and is due to socioeconomic activities.

“It’s a real concern because 80% of our resources revenue is directly related to the sale of licenses,” he stated.

The WVDNR is currently developing an overall strategy that will focus on recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters and anglers.

McDaniel also wants to look at ways to include the state’s school systems to broaden the opportunities for students to participate in the Archery in Schools program, youth hunting and fishing days, as well as hunter safety programs.

Another major challenge the WVDNR faces is the deterioration of infrastructure within the state park system.

“The majority of the facilities in our parks is between 50 and 70 years of age and are in need of substantial improvements,” the director said. “We are developing short and long term plans to satisfy our infrastructure needs.”

According to McDaniel, the WVDNR will begin the process of renovating the lodge at Cacapon Resort State Park this year. They anticipate the sale of bonds for the project this summer and will proceed to the bidding process this fall or early winter.

“As a state agency, we are always happy and eager to work with West Virginia companies,” McDaniel concluded. “The economic impact of projects is always greater for the state when projects are performed by West Virginia companies.”

JOHN A. MYERS, SECRETARY WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

John Myers serves as cabinet secretary for the West Virginia Department of Administration (WVDOA). He is a graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in business.

Myers has worked around construction most of his life, giving much credit to his parents. His father would spend long hours working at a job during the day and most often well into the night building their home with the support of his mother.

“Dad would build a house to sell and pay for his own,” said the new cabinet secretary. “Our garage was nearly always full of cabinets that he built and would install for someone else. I learned quite a lot from him and built my own home when I was able. To this day, it seems like I am always building something even if it is a small project around the house.”

Before beginning his career in public service, the secretary managed corporate administration for Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Buffalo and worked in the Marketing and Customer Services group for American Electric Power (AEP).

Although he spent a lot of time around construction, working at AEP gave him exposure to construction as an industry. He would work with home owners and builders to achieve energy efficiency through the usage of HVAC systems, off-peak water heating, proper insulation and lighting. He says his position at Toyota gave him the opportunity to manage many supporting business functions such as general services, purchasing, facilities, security, information technology, external and government affairs, and environmental. During his time there he helped to complete three plant expansions which provided him experience in project management.

Secretary Myers served as acting director for the West Virginia Lottery Commission and acting director of the West Virginia Racing Commission. He was the agency lead for the two phases of renovating the newly acquired lottery headquarters. He says that serving as director of the Lottery and the Racing Commission gave him exposure to most aspects of state government.

“All of these experiences have, and will continue to, helped me in administering the programs and services at the Department of Administration,” he said.

The secretary says he has two initial goals that he hopes to fulfill. The first is to provide assistance to Governor Jim Justice in achieving the vision of growth that he has set forth for the State. The second is he wants the WVDOA to be the best customer service organization possible. Myers says customer service is the WVDOA’s main function, whether is it...
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providing technology, procurement, facility management or personnel to other agencies within state government.

"I have been most impressed by the highly knowledgeable and dedicated group of individuals who work in the WVDOA," the secretary stated. "When you look at the size of the department and the diverse functions that we oversee, it becomes obvious very quickly that the people in the agencies know what they are doing and are providing quality services within state government and to the citizens of West Virginia."

"I will offer an open door to my office in the WVDOA. Should you have a suggestion on how we can improve any of our programs and services, I not only encourage you to reach out to me but I welcome the opportunity to meet with you."

- John Myers, Cabinet Secretary

Myers says the WVDOA is looking at every agency to see where they might find ways to be more efficient.

"I am old enough to have been in the business world prior to everybody having a computer sitting on their desk. When we moved into the technological era, it brought an increase in efficiency due to the amount of information that is now available at your fingertips and the speed at which it can be accessed."

The challenge now is how to move it to the next level.

"We would like to be able to bid a job through the state procurement process faster. However, you also must be able to bid it in a way that is fair and transparent to all vendors seeking the business. We are looking at ways to accomplish both efficiencies and fairness, but sometimes the wheels move slowly when it requires legislative changes."

Myers says the WVDOA offered about 15 ideas for procurement improvements during the last legislative session and only three were passed.

"We are not giving up. We will continue to generate proactive ideas that will enhance efficiencies within state government," he stated.

The Department of Administration is looking at a couple necessary construction projects in the upcoming year. The first is to repair the State Capitol dome as a result of water intrusion over the years. This project has a different scope than previous projects related to this structure. This project involves repairing where water has penetrated the large stones at the base of the dome and the drains that are supposed to carry away that water. Over time, those drains have deteriorated and are not easily accessible. The water is causing damage to the interior dome and walls of the Capitol. Most employees and visitors to the Capitol are unaware that the dome they see from the outside is built above another dome that is seen from the interior.

Another anticipated project is the installation of a new HVAC system in the One Davis Square building (ODS), which houses agencies within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources in downtown Charleston.

"Currently, we have been renting a HVAC system to keep the building operational for DHHR. With the near completion of Building 3, we will have some swing space available to allow us to move forward with a more cost-effective design for ODS. It is no secret that money remains very tight; therefore, in completing this repair, it will require the postponement of other projects to free up funding."

The WVDOA has identified a large number of necessary repairs that are needed to Building 4 on the California Avenue end of the Capitol campus. However, with two floors of that building remaining closed and, upon the move of Workforce West Virginia from the building, appears they will not have enough funding to make required modifications this year. Additionally, sprinkler systems need to be installed in many of the buildings as well as electrical upgrades. As funding is made available, the agency anticipates a few such projects over the next year.

Myers encourages contractors, engineers and architects to join together with the Governor and his plan to grow West Virginia.

"We are starting to see some signs of hope in the economy and, with the road projects and the jobs that these initiatives will create, the future of our state is extremely positive. One project often leads to another and yet another.

"I will offer an open door to my office in the WVDOA. Should you have a suggestion on how we can improve any of our programs and services, I not only encourage you to reach out to me but I welcome the opportunity to meet with you," Myers conveyed.

Jeff Sandy serves as cabinet secretary for the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety (DMAPS). He is a 1979 graduate of Marshall University with a BBA specializing in accounting, and a 1980 graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center with a designation of special agent with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Criminal Investigations Division. He is designated as a certified fraud examiner and a certified anti-money laundering specialist.

From 1982 to 1993, he was assigned to the Presidential Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force in the Northern Judicial District of West Vir-
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- National Utility Contractors Association
- West Virginia Rural Water Association
- West Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants
- American Arbitration Association

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Virginia. During that time, Sandy worked on several significant investigations which resulted in him receiving the Attorney General Award, West Virginia U.S. Treasury Employee of the Year, Mid-Ohio Valley Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, and several commendations from the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

In 1993, he accepted the supervisory special agent position for the Southern Judicial District of West Virginia in Charleston. In 2005, he became a member of the nationally recognized U.S. Department of Justice State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training Program. He was elected sheriff of Wood County in 2008. During his time as sheriff, Sandy helped designers build out the Wood County Sheriff’s Office space at the Wood County Justice Center.

In 2013, he returned to private practice, and in 2015, he formed a forensic investigative firm to provide services to protect federal, state, and local governments, businesses and individuals from fraud and corruption.

“Our National Guard is recognized around the world for its quality work. Our correctional officers spend hours with criminals who have committed some horrific crimes. The West Virginia State Police since 1919 have sacrificed greatly to keep crime low in our state. Finally, our Homeland Security and Emergency Management personnel come to the forefront during the worst of the worst times that our citizens face.”

Sandy believes in modernization and aims to improve DMAPs. He has already begun the process of consolidating agencies, which will reduce administrative overhead.

According to Sandy, DMAPs is paying over $1.4 million a year for rent for individual agencies. On January 27, the governor’s office gave DMAPs authorization to conduct a study to build a state-of-the-art facility to bring together each individual agency under one roof.

The secretary also wants to develop leaders of tomorrow in DMAPs but, due to the work environment and wages, they have a retention problem.

“We need to work to give a better future to our employees,” he stated.

The state’s drug epidemic is also a major concern and Sandy plans to get DMAPs more involved.

“Illegal drugs continue to cost West Virginia taxpayers millions each year. We must do a smarter job to prevent the generational cycle of drug abuse,” said Sandy. “Law enforcement cannot do it all, and prisons are already crowded.”

Sandy says that DMAPs will be getting more involved in drug prevention and education.

“From addicts getting pregnant and giving birth to children with birth defects and learning disabilities, to inmates making sizable profits selling drugs in correctional facilities, we must do a better job.”

The secretary also thinks the agency needs to give a second chance to non-violent offenders.

“If they’ve earned it and proven they are ready, we need to make sure there are opportunities for convicted felons to be productive members of society.”

DMAPS and its agencies partner with many entities and associations during disasters and emergency situations through the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.

“We have worked with the Contractors Association in the past by looking at building inspections and developing scopes of work for recovery projects,” Sandy said. “Our partners have also provided volunteer support in their various fields of expertise to assist during the response mode.”

THOMAS SMITH, SECRETARY WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Thomas “Tom” Smith serves as cabinet secretary of the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOt) and Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOT). He is a 1980 graduate of North Carolina State University, with a B.S. in civil engineering, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Smith began his career with the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), and held various field engineering positions in a number of states, including Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, Ohio and California. He most recently served as FHWA’s Division Administrator for the West Virginia Division for over 16 years.

“I had a wonderful career with USDOT for 37½ years,” said Smith. “I worked all over the U.S., from Texas to California, Ohio, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Georgia, and saw a lot of ways the different DOT’s do things. That variety of experience has been wonderful in preparing me for this job.”

In December, Smith retired as Senior Transportation Advisor for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in Washington, D.C., where he oversaw the administration of many needed roadways such as US Route 35 and...
Appalachian Corridors D and H, which brought four-lane highways to previously underserved areas of the state.

"I had the great fortune of working with the ARC which gave me a chance to focus not only on transportation, but transportation in Appalachia," Smith stated. "It was a wonderful experience that is directly applied to this new position as secretary."

Smith said there are four major things of importance that he learned from his past work experience:

1) The importance of strategic planning.

"Steven Covey says “begin with an end in mind,” where you’re really trying to focus on where you’re trying to go and putting the strategies in place to do that," Smith said. "That is exactly what we’ll have to do with the Governor’s initiative as we move forward."

2) The critical importance of partnership and teamwork.

"Teamwork is the way we work together at WVDOT internally. Partnership is what we do with our partners, including both CAW and ACEC. It’s important that we absolutely require the partnership we have with the private side to help deliver projects," Smith stated.

3) The importance of good communication.

"In this position you have to make sure you’re providing information, sometimes over and over again," said Smith. "You have to make sure all partners have the ability to understand and hear the same message."

4) The importance of persistence and determination.

"For a program like we’re getting ready to embark on (Governor Jim Justice’s $2.8 billion highway infrastructure package), you better be ready to show up every day and be there until the job is done," stated Smith. "It’s so important to keep on pushing until you get things across the finish line."

The secretary says his first priority - and the biggest challenge he’s facing in his new position - is delivering Gov. Justice’s economic recovery and infrastructure plan. Smith also says that $2.8 billion figure is an eye popping number.

"This is the first time in the history of West Virginia that we’ve had an infusion of dollars this size. Delivering this program and recognizing the importance of it, as far as what it does for jobs and the economy in West Virginia, is really good for transportation."

Something else Smith hopes to accomplish is to develop a more objective scoring system for how projects are selected.

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"The type of roads we are trying to build with the Governor’s program can make a dramatic impact. We are up to that challenge."

- Thomas Smith, Cabinet Secretary
“We need to consider, how do we pick the best projects? How do we make sure the projects we pick are the best for economic recovery? How do we make sure they will enhance safety,” questioned the secretary. “A number of states, notably North Carolina and Virginia, are coming up with ways to pick the best projects, making it more objective and less subjective. I’m hoping we can learn from them.”

Smith also plans to develop better preservation strategies.

“We have to do a better job of taking care of what we have. There are ways to make things last longer with better maintenance. I want to make sure we advance good preservation projects and strategies. I think we can do better.”

Another challenge Smith notes is the environmental permitting process. Smith says if you pay attention to the national dialogue, it is a problem all over the nation.

“Projects can get backed up for months through this permitting process. We need to look for ways to streamline to speed up the process.”

Smith says that WVDOT will also be looking for ways to make their internal systems better.

“We have amazing people who have dedicated themselves to transportation. We need to find better ways to take care of them. We don’t pay them enough. It would be great to find ways to take care of them as we go forward; recognize them for the work they do. Since I’ve been in this chair now for the last five months, I’ve been amazed at the dedication and sacrifice of the people we have here.”

Smith says it’s his duty to let people know that it’s astounding the amount of work that gets done with the number of people they actually have.

“Other states may have five people doing a particular function and we have one if we are lucky, maybe a half. That dedication, hard work and personal sacrifice we have here at WVDOT is very impressive.”

The current size of staff is a challenge but the ability to expand is even more a challenge. Smith says increasing the transportation program size with the Governor’s plan, it’s important they also increase the number of staff.

“We recently met with the West Virginia Department of Administration and told them that within a space of a few months we need to add hundreds of employees. We discussed the ways to do that, since the process has been very slow in the past. We have issues with personnel systems and the procurement systems. Those will be challenging as we move out.”

Another challenge people may not realize - and something that the Governor’s program can certainly help with – is with the nature of our road system, according to Smith. Safety is a real issue since West Virginia has one of the highest fatality rates in the country.

“The type of roads we are trying to build with the Governor’s pro-
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The company has grown to employ over 400 professionals in six different states. In addition to his engineering pursuits, he also held interests in commercial and residential developments in North Central West Virginia through High Tech Development, LLC, the developing company of the White Oaks Business Park in Harrison County.

In his role as secretary he oversees nine agencies, including the Development Office, the divisions of Energy, Forestry, Labor, Natural Resources and Tourism, the Office of Miners’ Health, Safety and Training, WorkForce West Virginia, and Geological and Economic Survey.

“Many of those states have business attraction and expansion teams that are several times the size of our West Virginia team,” said Thrasher. “We are aggressively pursuing every opportunity, and we have more projects in the pipeline in the last six months than we’ve had in the previous four years.

“We could be doing more, but we simply do not have the staffing levels to compete. We also don’t have the funding to hire needed staff. To alleviate this issue, we’re getting ready to unveil the EXCEL program. Through EXCEL, high-quality loaned executives and retired executives will lend their knowledge and expertise to the department of commerce, allowing us to move forward on key initiatives.”

One of the first projects Thrasher was tasked with was an initiative to

H. WOOD THRASHER, SECRETARY WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

H. Wood “Woody” Thrasher serves as cabinet secretary for the West Virginia Department of Commerce. Thrasher is the previous president and chief executive officer of The Thrasher Group, Inc., a leading Mid-Atlantic engineering and architectural firm, with headquarters based in Bridgeport.

In 1983, Thrasher with his father, Henry, started Thrasher Engineering in Harrison County with one employee.

“I started Thrasher Engineering in 1983 with my father in part because I was frustrated that a large portion of engineering work was consistently awarded to out-of-state firms,” he said. “I set out to dispel the belief within our state that West Virginians weren’t capable of handling complex projects and ideas. Throughout my career, I’ve been successful in learning how to create jobs and stimulate economic activity.”

The company has grown to employ...
rebrand West Virginia.

“We must do this for several reasons,” the secretary said. “In order to project a positive image to everybody else we must first feel good about ourselves. Our past shouldn’t define who we are moving forward. It’s time to take control of the conversation and change the narrative. We have a very positive message. Tourism will take the lead in this effort, but the message will flow into other areas of commerce such as state parks, DNR and our business attraction and expansion team. We’re going to come up with a new image for West Virginia that reflects who we are and where we’re going. West Virginia has a great story to tell.”

The secretary says that West Virginia is on the verge of a rebirth. Passage of the Governor’s roads initiative was a major step forward for the state, and will create thousands of new jobs, provide much needed infrastructure repairs and lay the foundation for future development within the state. Looking at economic development, he says the broadband bill was also a critical piece of the puzzle.

“With broadband in place, our West Virginia communities will not only be a great place to experience the quality of life our state offers,” he said, “they’ll also become a great place to locate a business.”

Thrasher says he is going to build on these two initiatives and use them to attract new economic development opportunities to West Virginia.

“We have great potential in the shale gas and manufacturing industries,” he noted. “These two industries have the ability to change the face of West Virginia and really reshape the future of our state for decades to come.”

Thrasher remains very active with his alma mater. In 2012, he was elected to the West Virginia University Alumni Association’s Board of Directors, and currently serves as its chairman. He is a distinguished alumnus of the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources and has been active on various committees within the College. He has served as past president of the West Virginia American Council of Engineering Companies and the West Virginia Society of Professional Engineers. In 2000, Thrasher was named “Entrepreneur of the Year” by the national professional services firm of Ernst and Young. He has also served as an officer on the executive and financial committee for West Virginia University Hospital.

He is also very involved in the community, being a part of local organizations throughout the state. He is past president of the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce, and on the board of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

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On May 31, the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and the Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) released the latest national metro construction employment data for April in the Governor’s Reception Room at the State Capitol.

“Six years ago, the CAWV led a news conference announcing that Charleston, West Virginia was reported as one of the fastest growing construction markets in the country. Unfortunately, today the news is different,” said CAWV Executive Director Mike Clowser as he began the news conference.

AGC Chief Economist Ken Simonson announced that the Charleston Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the second highest decline in construction employment of any of the 358 metro areas that AGC tracks.

The data released determined that Charleston metro area lost about 1,200 construction jobs between April 2016 and April 2017, a 16 percent decrease. The current employment totals are the lowest recorded in the area since 1990, when the federal government first began tracking the data.

“I wish I had better news to deliver,” said Simonson. “Construction employment in West Virginia has been declining for much of the past five years. Since the most recent peak in June 2012, construction employment has declined by 5,500 jobs or 15 percent. It’s reported that 39 states added construction jobs, while construction employment stagnated here in the Mountain State at the lowest April level since 1993.”

What makes the job losses even more frustrating, according to Simonson, is the fact many of them could have been avoided.

Construction firms that work on vital infrastructure projects, like highways and bridges, are seeing less work than just a few years ago because total public spending on infrastructure and other public works has declined by 8.5 percent in the past 12 months alone. Public spending nationally on highway and street construction has slipped 2.4 percent, other transportation facilities such as trains and airports have dropped 12 percent, water supply construction dropped 14 percent and sewage waste disposal plummeted 22 percent.

“The good news is there appears to be growing support for making investments in infrastructure,” stated Simonson.

Simonson said the $2.8 billion infrastructure construction program proposed by Governor Jim Justice would put thousands of construction workers back to work and address the Mountain State’s neglect-
ed roads and bridges. He also said new infrastructure investments would make the state’s economy more efficient and businesses competitive by cutting traffic delays and lowering energy costs.

“Enacting significant infrastructure programs will bring immediate and widespread benefits to the economy, not just in construction,” Simonson said.

Simonson said that a billion dollars invested in non-residential construction produces about 9,600 construction jobs and 4,700 jobs in supporting industries like suppliers such as quarries, mining, manufacturing businesses and services businesses ranging from leasing companies, accounting firms to architectural and engineering firms.

“Enacting significant infrastructure programs clearly delivers long term benefits to the whole economy,” he said.

Simonson reported that twenty-two states in the last few years have found ways of increasing their funding for highways, and those states with a divided government found packages to appeal to all parties.

“They are putting workers on the job and, frankly, they will be drawing those workers out of West Virginia,” said Simonson.

West Virginia Department of Transportation Secretary Tom Smith joined AGC and CAWV at the news conference and said the jobs report is very distressing news.

Secretary Smith cited the February 2017 report from the national transportation research organization TRIP that said poor road conditions cost West Virginia drivers $1.4 billion annually because of factors ranging from repair costs to lost time from traffic congestion.

Governor Justice’s highway proposal

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Gov.: ‘Progress is being made’

Latest state budget plan offers lower sales tax hike, slower income tax reductions

By Phil Kabler

A NATIONAL contractors group voiced its approval for Gov. Jim Justice’s proposed infrastructure plan Wednesday, saying it would create jobs and address one of the largest declines in contractors jobs nationwide.

“Proposals like the governor’s will bring more workers into the economy. Without increased funding, West Virginia infrastructure will continue to crumble and jobs will disappear.”

Justice said in a statement Wednesday: “I’m excited every new proposal allows us to continue strong economic growth and bring more opportunities, which will help all of our people.”

Industry group: Justice infrastructure plan will create needed jobs

By J. Mark Adkins

The Charleston Gazette-Mail in conjunction with WCHS-TV, WOWK-TV, WSAZ-TV, and made the front page of the June 1, 2017 Charleston Gazette-Mail.

AGC releases construction employment information monthly along with materials price indexes, legislative and regulatory updates on a regular basis. Contact AGC online at www.agc.org for more details on the health of the industry nationwide.

would “cost less than doing nothing” and provide immediate employment opportunities, Secretary Smith said at the announcement.

“We are on a steady decline,” said the secretary. “It’s truly astounding to hear the numbers that are being reported, both in the TRIP report and also with the loss of employment. That’s over 5,000 jobs that have been lost in West Virginia since 2012.”

Smith noted that the employment rate in the Charleston area is back to what it was in 1993 and West Virginia is yet again last in about 400 metro areas. “We should be sick of being last,” said Smith.

He said the lack of infrastructure investment in recent years has cre-
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Continental Brick Company (CBC), West Virginia’s only brick manufacturer, expects to produce 15 million to 20 million bricks in 2017 at the company’s century-old plant near Martinsburg in Berkeley County.

CBC was formerly known as Continental Clay Products Company and was established by F. Vernon Aler, a local attorney and newspaper editor. The company was incorporated in 1920, but went bankrupt before being reincorporated in the 1930s, according to historical accounts. The company was reorganized while in bankruptcy in the 1980s and was established as CBC in March 1984.

At one time, CBC was among a number of brick manufacturing sites in Berkeley County, including a sizable North Mountain operation near Hedgesville. The company, which is based in Lynchburg, VA, has only one plant.

Established on what once was part of a farm, the privately held company at 154 Charles Town Road employs 35 to 40 workers depending on product demand. If both of the plant’s kilns were being operated at full capacity, the company could produce as many as 60 million bricks annually. Even then, CBC would be considered a small producer by industry standards. A single modern kiln that is built today can produce as many as 100 million bricks per year. A typical brick house requires 25,000 to 30,000 bricks to build.

Company Vice President Donald Sult says the manufacturing process has changed much over the years. He said they no longer use a cyclical process using the round, periodic kilns that were loaded, fired, cooled, unloaded, then loaded again, a process that could be done twice a month. It was inefficient, using energy to heat up the air, walls of the kiln, and the brick from ambient temperature to 2,000°F and back to ambient temperature.

“Only the brick could be sold so the energy used in heating the kiln itself was wasted,” said Sult. “Today’s tunnel kiln is lit one time per year. It heats the walls of the kiln and the brick inside. The bricks are pushed through the kiln constantly, 24 hours per day, seven days per week while the kiln is operating. Once the walls of the kiln are heated they are kept hot by the burners and hot brick. This is a continuous process and is much more efficient than the periodic kilns.”

Sult also says efficiency in today’s operation is much more automated.

“The bricks are set on the kiln car by machine rather than by hand,” he said. “The brick is still unloaded by hand and blended on a monorail system that forms cubes of brick for storage and shipment.”

The firing process is monitored and controlled by computers now, whereas the firing process in the periodic kilns used to be monitored by putting a pole in the top of the kiln to measure how much the brick had shrunk or “contracted”. When the brick had contracted the proper amount they were considered fired and the kiln was put out letting the fired brick cool.

Brick is made from clay and shale and then fired in a kiln at temperatures as hot as 2,000 degrees. The plant stopped burning coal two years ago and switched to natural gas. Sult
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Brick is made from clay and shale and then fired in a kiln at temperatures as hot as 2,000 degrees. Company Vice President Donald Sult says the raw material used to manufacture brick, shale, is the same as it was back in 1917. Most of the shale used by CBC is mined within two miles of the plant.

The company has access to ship bricks by rail, but hasn’t for about five years because it has not been as efficient as hauling products by truck. The company has been helped by relatively low prices for natural gas, which is used to fuel the kiln.

The use of brick in construction projects faces stiff competition from other building materials such as vinyl siding, stone, glass, stainless steel and precast concrete. It’s estimated that the demand for brick is a third of what it was in 2000.

“The demand for brick has decreased throughout the industry after the recession of 2007,” Sult stated. “Since then alternative wall coverings have cut into the demand for brick. Stone, vinyl siding, block, glass, and exotic metals are all being used on the exterior of commercial and residential buildings.”

CBC’s level of production has remained fairly stable over the last few years, at 15 million to 20 million bricks annually. To compete, the company has added more colors, shapes and sizes of brick to diversify its product line, including “thin brick,” which has the durability and characteristics of traditional brick.

“We have developed different colors and styles of brick to appeal to the current tastes of consumers and architects,” said Sult. “We also developed the ability to make thin brick - or ½” thick slabs - of just the face portion of the brick. This has become very popular in new commercial construction and renovation work.”

The color control and excellent physical properties of the brick are known throughout the industry. Recent upgrades to their manufacturing and quality control processes have enabled CBC to continue to meet the stringent requirements more commonly specified for commercial projects.

The plant’s location along Interstate 81, combined with its rail car loading capability, enable Continental brick to be shipped efficiently and cost effectively to projects in West Virginia, Washington D.C., and throughout the mid-Atlantic and New England regions.

For 100 years, CBC has supplied brick for multiple schools, churches, hospitals, residences, townhomes, apartments and many other commercial and institutional buildings. Many of the buildings have received awards for excellence.
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NEW DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS
NOW REQUIRED FOR CONTRACTS
WITH WEST VIRGINIA
STATE AGENCIES

by Gene Bailey, II and Carl Fletcher, Jr.
Hendrickson & Long, PLLC

During the 2017 Regular Session, the West Virginia Legislature enacted a law that affects virtually every contractor doing business with the State of West Virginia.

House Bill 2001, which concerns the West Virginia Ethics Commission, went into effect July 7, 2017. As part of that law, state agencies are now prohibited from entering into a contract, or a series of related contracts, having an actual or estimated value of $100,000 or more until the contractor fills out a “Disclosure of Interested Parties to Contracts” form and submits it to the state agency.

The disclosure requirement applies to all types of business entities, including sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations. The contractor must list on the form all “interested parties” to the contract or contracts.

The law defines “interested parties” (1) as any entity performing work or service pursuant to, or in furtherance of, the applicable contract, including subcontractors; (2) all persons who have a 25% or greater ownership interest in any business entity performing work or service pursuant to, or in furtherance of, the applicable contract, except if that entity is a publicly traded company; and (3) any person or business entity, if any, that served as a compensated broker or an intermediary to facilitate or negotiate terms of the applicable contract with the state agency, except for those who performed legal services related to the contract’s negotiation or drafting.

The contractor must complete the disclosure form and submit it to the contracting state agency after contract award, but before entering into the contract. Within thirty days after the contract is completed or terminated, the contractor must submit a supplemental disclosure identifying any new or different interested parties to the contract.

The West Virginia Ethics Commission has developed the required “Disclosure of Interested Parties to Contracts” form, which may be downloaded from the Ethics Commission website at www.ethics.wv.gov. It is also available on the State Purchasing Division’s website, www.WVPurchasing.gov.

Items to be listed on the disclosure form include the contractor’s name and address, the contractor’s authorized agent, identifying information about the contract, and the name of the governmental agency awarding the contract. The contractor must not only list each known interested party, but also those “reasonably anticipated.” The disclosure form requires the verified signature of the contractor’s authorized agent, who must acknowledge that disclosure is made under oath and penalty of perjury.

Although the Ethics Commission oversees the disclosure process, it cautions on its website that any questions regarding the law should be directed to the contracting state agency.

Within fifteen days of receiving a completed disclosure form, the contracting state agency must send a copy to the West Virginia Ethics Commission. The Commission will then make copies of the disclosure publicly available and post it on its website.

The law exempts institutions of higher education so long as they have policies in place that substantially mirror the requirements of the law. The law also requires institutions of higher education to report to the Ethics Commission annually every business entity that received more than $100,000 from it during the previous fiscal year, along with a list of the “interested parties” in any such entity.

The disclosure requirements are part of a broad effort to prohibit nepotism, increase transparency in public contracting, and, ultimately, rebuild trust in government. Requiring contractors involved in significant contracts with state agencies to identify the individuals and entities who stand to benefit from them and publishing that information is intended to help prevent favoritism and insider-type deals.

The new contractor disclosure requirements are found in Sections 6D-1-1 through -4 of the West Virginia Code. The Ethics Commission website also summarizes key provisions of the disclosure law.
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After months of construction, the new addition to the Vienna Senior Health and Wellness Center was recently unveiled. When construction began, the site for the new gymnasium was the center’s parking lot. During a tour of the facility last fall, Vienna Mayor Randy Rapp said the gymnasium, designed by Pickering and Associates of Parkersburg, would be 30-feet by 70-feet, with a floor to ceiling clearance of 18 feet. An adjacent parcel acquired by the city about two years ago will be the center’s new parking lot. Officials said the new gymnasium will be connected to the existing building by a covered walkway. Phoenix Associates of Parkersburg was awarded the contract to construct the approximately $380,000 building last October...

The Martinsburg City Council recently opted for the more conservative of two construction options for a new Martinsburg police department building that will save the city an estimated $3.2 million by choosing not to include a basement. A building with basement option came with an estimated $16.3 million price tag compared to $13.1 million for the building option without one. Charleston-based Silling Architects — as requested by the council — provided building construction cost scenarios with and without a basement. By adopting the no basement option the city would be able to pay for the building on its own over two years by tightening its financial operating belt and not budget for any additional capital projects. The new building will be built parallel to the old police and court building, bordered by North College and West Race streets. The project is estimated to take between 12 and 15 months to build...

A new community center at Valley Park is set to be mostly completed by February 2018, if all goes as planned. Members of the Putnam County Commission voted unanimously recently to award a construction contract for the community center to Bluefield-based Swope Construction Company. The commission accepted Swope Construction’s bid of $6,550,000 for the project — the lowest bid submitted to the county. The new community center is part of a multi-million dollar improvement project for the park in Hurricane. The project also includes construction of a new entrance sign and lane for the park, new ADA-accessible playgrounds, a new community center, baseball and soccer fields and multiple other park improvements. It also includes improvements to the park’s wave pool, including cabanas and a snack bar. The $15 million project will primarily be financed through the TIF funds, with the county footing $3 million. First phase of the project was completed by Wolf Creek Contracting of Waterford, Ohio. Designer of the project is ZMM Architects and Engineers of Charleston...

The Weston Sanitary Board is overseeing a $12 million sewage line extension project that will add 294 homes and incorporate replacement of the Stonecoal Creek interceptor line, as well as improvements to the wastewater treatment plant.
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Treatment plant. The line will serve customers in Butchersville between Shadybrook and Jackson’s Mill and Turnertown and requires the replacement of the Stonecoal interceptor for inflow and infiltration of river water into the sewage lines. The sanitary board is obtaining the funding and the rights-of-way. It was designed by The Thrasher Group of Bridgeport. The project is expected to go to bid early next year with construction time being a year...

- A new roof at the Capitol Theatre in Wheeling is being installed. Kalkreuth Roofing and Sheet Metal of Wheeling is installing the $169,000 roof. Kalkreuth is removing the existing roof, consisting of multiple layers of asphalt, in preparation to install a more modern rubber roof. Officials said the bidding process was competitive, “but Kalkreuth’s offer was especially generous and part of Kalkreuth’s commitment to the Wheeling community,” said Wheeling-Ohio County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Frank O’Brien...

- The West Virginia Department of Transportation and the Division of Highways held a construction job fair in June for people looking for jobs in related fields. There were a total of twenty-two organizations including businesses, unions, government offices and advocacy groups spent five hours meeting attendees at The Prosperity Center about job and on-the-job training opportunities. West Virginia is tied at having the 14th highest unemployment rate in the country with 4.8 percent in April, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The national unemployment rate is 4.4 percent. The CAWV participated in the fair as well as the following members: Bear Contracting, LLC, Bridgeport; Kokosing Construction Company, Inc., South Charleston; Mid-Atlantic Maintenance Corp., Mineral Wells; Mountaineer Contractors, Inc., Kingwood; Orders Construction Company, St. Albans and Triton Construction, Inc., St. Albans...

- The Rowlesburg water line extension project is yet another step closer to reality. The town of Rowlesburg along with The Thrasher Group of Bridgeport opened the bid documents recently in May. J.F. Allen Company of Buckhannon was the low bidder on the water line exten-
sion, while Mid-Atlantic Storage Systems, Inc. of Washington Court House, Ohio, was the low bidder for the water holding tank. Construction on the project won’t begin until late July or early August. It is estimated to take eight months to do the water line work and approximately six months for the building of the water tank. The water line project is going to serve an additional 150 customers on the south end of Rowlesburg. The town received a $1.5 million Small Cities Block Grant for the project in January 2015 that was secured by a $2 million loan from the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council. The town also received a $1 million grant from the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council. The project includes the installation of water lines, fire hydrants, meters, a water booster station, a 100,000-gallon storage tank, as well as other improvements needed to provide safe and reliable drinking water...

- Governor Jim Justice recently signed S.B. 1006 into law that’s expected to fund millions of dollars in road construction projects. The bill will add approximately $130 million annually to the state Road Fund by increasing DMV fees, raising the floor on the average wholesale price for gas, creating a registration fee for non-gasoline using vehicles and adding one percent to the five percent tax on the purchase of vehicles. The increases went into effect July 1...

- The Wood County Commission recently reviewed a number of bids for infrastructure work that will occur within the Emerson Commons tax increment financing (TIF) district. The commission opened three construction bids for infrastructure work, including water, sewer, roads, lighting and more, at the 383-acre district located on both sides of Interstate 77 at its intersection with West Virginia 2 and encompass the interchange. The work is being paid for from bonds being sold to finance the project that will build a number of retail businesses, restaurants, hotels and other businesses. The contractors to bid were Capitol Valley Contracting Inc. of Elkview for $3,305,547; Bear Contracting, LLC of Bridgeport for $3,774,158.30; and A.L.L. Construction, Inc. of Mt. Storm for $4,805,725.20. Engineer on the project is Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc. of Bridgeport...

- Morgantown City Council recently approved an airport improvement plan for the Morgantown Municipal Airport worth $3.5 million, which includes the ongoing construction of new T-hangars east of the airport runway and subsequent projects related to and building toward the extension
of the runway. The airport’s day-
to-day operating budget was ap-
proved at $2.4 million, $200,000 of which was allocated from the
city’s general fund. From 2013-
’15 there were no general fund allocations from the city. In 2016, $30,000 was allocated and in the current fiscal year, $70,000 was budgeted but $130,000 had been provided as of May 10...

- The School Building Au-
thority of West Virginia recent-
ly announced grand awards
which total about $6.7 million
to 10 county public school sys-
tems. The awards include: Fay-
ette County will receive $1 million
for a new “safe school entrance”
and renovations at Oak Hill High
to accommodate Fayetteville High
students; Randolph County will
receive $980,000 for electrical
and heating, ventilation and air
conditioning upgrades to Harman,
a prekindergarten through 12th-
grade school; Webster County
will receive $931,000 for new ceil-
ings, lights and lockers in Web-
ster County High; Pocahontas will
receive $925,000 for Pocahontas
County High renovations including
replacing the sewage treatment
system, water tank, fire alarm, ga-
rage doors, windows, entry doors
and roof over vocational build-
ing; Taylor County will receive
$860,000 to add three classrooms
and a restroom to West Taylor El-
Triton Construction, Inc. of St. Albans recently completed a paving project on Pennsylvania Avenue in Charleston. The $2 million project consisted of excavation, concrete repair, paving and new striping. Rumble Ready Mix, Inc., Scott Depot, is shown pouring concrete
in a night pour.
elementary; Lincoln County will receive $600,000 for sewer plant replacements at Midway Elementary and Duval P K-8; Pendleton County will receive $592,000 for heating, ventilation and air conditioning renovations in the gym areas at Pendleton County Middle/High and Brandywine Elementary; Mason County will receive $384,000 for heating, ventilation and air conditioning replacement and upgrades at several schools; Mercer County will receive $281,000 for restroom renovations to Mercer Elementary; and Monongalia County will receive $163,000 for heating, ventilation and air conditioning renovations at Mountain-view Elementary...

- U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-WV, recently announced a $3 million grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to bring broadband internet service to more than 3,500 households and businesses in three West Virginia counties. Capito’s office said the grant, plus $450,000 in local matching funds, will bring internet service to unserved areas of Barbour, Randolph and Upshur counties. In 2015, Capito announced the Capito Connect plan to encourage broadband expansion in the state. Grant money can be used for constructing, acquiring or leasing property or lands used to deploy broadband service; providing broadband service free of charge for two years to facilities such as public schools, fire stations and public libraries; and improving, expanding, constructing or acquiring a community center to provide online access to the public. During the 2017 regular session of the West Virginia Legislature, lawmakers passed a bill that would allow communities to set up broadband cooperatives to land federal grant money for internet expansion. The law also would expand the authority of the state Broadband Council to plan and monitor internet growth, and streamline the process for expanding broadband service...

- Bids were received for sewer system improvements for the Central Boaz PSD, Contract #2, in at the Claywood Park PSD in Davisville. The project consists of constructing gravity main line, service line, pressure force main, sewer mains, manholes, grinder pumps and pump stations. Low bidder on the project was Everett L. Harper & Sons, Inc. of Parkersburg for $1.5 million, Rover Construction Inc. of St. Albans for $1.9 million, FAMCO, Inc. of Huntington for $2 million; and J. F. Allen Company of Buckhannon for $2.2 million.

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Gregory T. Gordon, SR VP - Bonds
Jeremy Stanley, AVP - Commercial Lines
Nancy Johnson - Personal Lines
Terri Dodrill, VP - Commercial Lines
Rob Groom, VP - Employee Benefits
2017

September 17-19, 2017
ARTBA National Convention
*Omni Amelia Island Hotel*
Amelia Island, FL

September 21-24, 2017
APA Annual Meeting
*Canaan Valley Resort*
Davis, WV

October 12, 2017
CAWV Board of Directors Meeting
*Location TBD*

October 20, 2017
Toys for Tots Golf Outing
Hosted by the YCF
*Little Creek Golf Course*
South Charleston, WV

2018

February 1-7, 2018
CAWV Midyear Meeting
*Marco Island Marriott*
Marco Island, FL

February 26-28, 2018
The 99th Annual AGC Convention
*Hyatt Regency*
New Orleans, LA

March 21, 2018
CAWV State Meeting
*Charleston Civic Center*
Charleston, WV

March 21-22, 2018
WV Construction & Design EXPO
*Charleston Civic Center*
Charleston, WV

2019

June 1, 2018
CAWV Scholarship Golf Outing
*Berry Hills Country Club*
Charleston, WV

July 12-15, 2018
CAWV Annual Meeting
*The Greenbrier*
White Sulphur Springs, WV

January 2019
CAWV Midyear Meeting
*Westin Grand Cayman*
Seven Mile Beach Resort
Cayman Islands
CA WV members inducted into West Virginia Business Hall of Fame

MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA—Three West Virginia business people will be inducted into the West Virginia Business Hall of Fame at the beginning of this year’s West Virginia Business Summit and Annual Meeting that will be held in August.

Inductees for 2017 are: Charles T. Jones, president and CEO of Amherst Industries, of Charleston; Robert O. Orders, CEO of Orders Construction Company, of Charleston; and D. Stephen Walker, former president and CEO of Walker Machinery Co., of Boca Grande, Fla.

The West Virginia University College of Business and Economics launched the Business Hall of Fame in 2001 to recognize business leaders who have strong ties to West Virginia and have made a significant impact across the business landscape of their local communities, the state, the nation and around the globe. To date, 62 individuals from a variety of business sectors and from various parts of the country and world have received the award.

Charles “Charlie” T. Jones, who recently celebrated his 99th birthday, is referred to as a “coal miner, farmer, riverboat captain and Renaissance man.” Following his service in the U.S. Navy with the Navy Seabees at Guadalcanal and as an engineering officer sweeping magnetic mines around Japan during World War II, he joined Amherst Madison in 1946. Amherst Madison is a transportation and construction company based at Port Amherst on the north bank of the Kanawha River in Charleston. He became president and CEO of Amherst Industries and today remains active as chairman of parent company Port Amherst Ltd. He graduated with a business degree from the Babson Institute in Massachusetts and also holds a Master of Towing Vessels, Western Rivers, license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard. He has served on several industry boards and is active in his community, as he will receive the YMCA of Kanawha Valley’s “Spirit of the Valley” award Aug. 12 for his long support of the organization’s youth programs. Jones was also recently honored as a Distinguished West Virginian by Gov. Jim Justice and inducted into Who’s Who in West Virginia Business by The State Journal.

Robert “Bob” O. Orders graduated from WVU in 1972 with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and went on to become a registered professional engineer in West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland. As CEO, he helped to grow Orders Construction Company from a small bridge construction firm into a regional provider of a wide range of construction services. Orders previously served as president of the Contractors Association of West Virginia and as a trustee for the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Currently, he serves on the advisory board of BB&T in Charleston and is a trustee of the Nature Conservancy of West Virginia. He is a member of the board of directors of the WVU Foundation and the board of directors of the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. He also is a trustee at First Presbyterian Church of Charleston.

In 1971, D. Stephen “Steve” Walker entered the family business of Walker Machinery, a Caterpillar dealer for western West Virginia and southeast Ohio. He was president and chief operating officer from 1983 until the sale of the business and his retirement in 2010. During his career, he served on numerous industry boards of directors, including the Contractors Association of West Virginia, the West Virginia Coal Association and the National Bank of Commerce in Charleston. Walker has also served on many nonprofit boards. He was the past chairman of the West Virginia State University Foundation and on the board of trustees for West Virginia Wesleyan College. After earning his degree in marketing at WVU in 1967 and his service in the U.S. Army National Guard and Reserves, he returned to WVU to earn his J.D. at the College of Law in 1971 and was admitted to the bar in West Virginia. Walker is currently on the Professional Sales Advisory Council for the WVU College of Business and Economics.

“These three gentlemen are success stories in their respective industries, and through their innovation and business acumen they have contributed significantly to the business landscape,” Javier Reyes, Milan Puskar Dean of the WVU College of Business and Economics, said in a news release. “Each brings a unique sense of pride, passion and spirit to our beloved state and the business community. It is an honor to welcome them to the West Virginia Business Hall of Fame, and to celebrate their recognition and the example they set for us all.”
West Virginia Chamber presents 2017 Five-Diamond Employer Awards

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - Several of the state’s top employers were recently recognized by the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce with Diamond awards for their companies’ efforts to offer employee enrichment and community outreach programs. West Virginia’s Five Diamond Employers are “the kind of companies that people would like to work for and the kind of jobs people would like to have,” according to West Virginia Chamber of Commerce President Steve Roberts.

The awards typically go to both small and large businesses that have comprehensive human resources employee development programs, which can include a variety of continuing education and health and wellness programs. The awards program is in its fifth year, with a total of seven winners.

Among the winners were March-Westin, the largest full-service construction management, general contracting and design build firm in the state. Founded in 1984, March-Westin has more than 200 full-time employees with offices located in Morgantown.

Also recognized as a Five Diamond Employer was West Virginia American Water, based in Charleston and employs 300 people in the state. It currently serves 333 West Virginia communities.

Roberts said that making the awards list are companies that consider its employees their most valuable resource. “It means they are one of a select group of premier employers in West Virginia,” he said.

CAWV members named to State Journal’s Generation Next: 40 Under 40

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - Three CAWV members were recently named to the State Journal’s Generation Next: 40 Under 40 for their leadership and service to the state. For the past 12 years, The State Journal has recognized and honored young professionals throughout West Virginia who are working and volunteering to make the state a better place.

Among those selected were Ryan Wheeler of Terradon, Poca; Angi Smith of United Bank, Charleston; and Clifton Clark of BB&T, Charleston.

Matheny Motors adds Ford to list of franchises, opening location in St. Marys

ST. MARYS, WEST VIRGINIA - Matheny Motors has added the former Herrington Ford to its list of franchises with the approval of the Ford Motor Co. On May 6, the dealership became Matheny Ford and is located in St. Marys. Tim Matheny, president of Matheny Motors and the fourth-generation owner says there are plans in place for continued growth with the full Ford product line, which will include a large inventory of the Ford Super Duty product.

This addition will allow the expansion of the commercial operations in other divisions of Matheny Motors, which has 11 facilities in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland and Virginia. The company will be able to purchase bigger trucks and supply them to be upfitted with chassis for wreckers and utility bodies.

Within the next two years, major facelifts will come to the three buildings which make up Matheny Ford. The service area sits across Route 2 from the sales area. Used cars are on the lot of a former Exxon franchise, which is situated on a side street next to the new car lot.

Matheny Motors was founded in 1922 and represents Ford, Buick, GMC, Freightliner, Thomas Built buses, Hino, Isuzu trucks, Miller Towing equipment, Landoll and AC trailers, E-One and KME fire trucks, Demers and Osage ambulances.

CAWV Communications Manager attends AGC Chapter Staff Orientation

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA - Contractors Association of West Virginia’s Communications Manager, Cassidy Webb, recently attended the Associated General Contractors of America’s Chapter Staff Orientation. The event was held at the national association’s headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. The meeting gives the opportunity for AGC chapter staff to come together, discuss issues facing their chapters while brainstorming solutions, and to learn more about the resources AGC of America has available to offer its chapters. Webb has been with the CAWV since September 2014.
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