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BLUEPRINT for Progress

WINTER 2012

CONSTRUCTION NEWS & INFORMATION FROM MINGHINI'S GENERAL CONTRACTORS, INC.

EASTERN PANHANDLE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Kelly Tanksley, Director of Development
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CLIENT PROFILE

Kelly, formerly a Customer Service Representative at Quad Graphics for the past 12 years, started her new position at the MBCPC last summer taking on an impressive initial endeavor to raise $1.2 million for the new Hedgesville Library. Already a third of the way there, Kelly bubbles over with enthusiasm for the project, which has already broken ground.

The Library Board felt that as people and companies see the facility materialize, the funding will come in as it will play so many valuable information and community roles for the Hedgesville Area.

States Kelly, "In these days and times of limited resources, libraries only receive public funding for operating costs. So if we want and need new facilities, we have to raise the money ourselves."

The light-filled, two-storey facility will have WIFI, computer labs, an exhibition area for artwork, a reference library, a children's library, community meeting and conferences rooms, and a garden in front. All types of community and children's organizations, such as the scouts and the Literacy Group of the Eastern Panhandle, will be able to use it for their meetings and workshops. Moreover, the Library Board looks forward to holding Young Writers Group and Ecology Group meetings in this location.

"This will be a stimulating, safe haven for children," adds Kelly. "We are so thrilled to be working with Minghini's on this project. They are wonderful people and so resourceful to us as we construct the new library in stages." ■

New and Completed Projects

The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.
--Eramus

Completed Projects

Morgan, Jennie and Carly Collis' New Home, Martinsburg
Classroom Additions, Musselman High School
Classroom Additions, North Middle School

New Projects

Spring Mills Middle School, Safe Routes to School (sidewalks)
Hedgesville Library



MINGHINI'S IS CONSTRUCTING THE NEW HEDGESVILLE LIBRARY!
The Martinsburg/Berkeley County Library Board hopes to complete the 9,000 sq. ft. building by Christmas of 2012, assuming that adequate donations come into the Foundation. The new state-of-the-art facility will be used as a resource library and community center offering WIFI, computer training and other classes as well as meeting and conference rooms. It will be connected by sidewalks to the Hedgesville Middle School next door.



Berniece Collis
Vice President

Editor's Message

Education – Our Highest Priority

We devoted this issue of *Blueprints for Progress* to Education. Higher education has had a huge impact on my life … every aspect of it. After getting my undergraduate degree from Shepherd University in Comprehensive Health and Physical Eduction and my Masters degree from West Virginia University in Specific Learning Disabilities in 1982, I had the privilege of teaching at Hedgesville Middle School for 11 years. While I loved teaching and my students, when we purchased Minghini's 23 years ago, I felt led to help operate and develop the business. Yet, during my work as VP at Minghini's I have been able to contribute to the educational system of Berkeley County by serving on the board of education for two terms, and I continue to be involved in education through my work with the Girls Scouts National Capital Chapter and diverse community organizations serving youth and families.

Education is a fascinating concept. In its most general sense, it's viewed as the means through which the aims and habits of a society lives on from one generation to the next. Generally, it occurs through any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts. In its narrow, technical sense, education is the formal process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills, customs and values from one generation to another, e.g., through instruction in school.

All developed countries require their children to undergo systematic education up to a certain age. But in this complex world, the concept of "Lifetime Education" is perhaps a more relevant concept, due to the speed and pervasiveness of change in the world.

But what are the real benefits of having an opportunity to get educated? The most pragmatic benefit is acquisition of job knowledge and skills. This makes one more competitive in the job market and higher education has a rather dramatic impact on one's paycheck over a lifetime. Consider that compared to a high school education, the average male can expect to add $111,000 for an associate degree, $218,000 for a bachelor's degree, and $1.2 million more salary over a career for an MBA! To me higher education means that we are taught to think critically. We learn to solve problems or at least to ask the right questions. We don't accept things we are told at face value. We develop the ability to find the resources we need (often information) to improve our lives and businesses. And I've also noticed that most educated people don't just accept things as they are; but have the tools and confidence to become agents of positive change. What's more, their minds are open to new horizons –conceptually, geographically and culturally.

The educated people I know in the Eastern Panhandle see beyond our small niche of WV and within our specific time in history. In fact, they are always creating new ways of doing things that are more in keeping with the novel challenges we face today. They are the people with vision …on the job, for their companies, their product lines or services, their family, their community, and sometimes even the world.

Learning is exciting at any age. Our brain is a powerful organ, more diverse and complex than any computer on the planet. This organ needs to be stimulated by learning; our world needs to be nurtured by educated people. If the USA expects to continue its role as the world's leading economy, the land of opportunity, the source of technical innovation, and the defender of the Democratic way, then we have to make Education our highest priority within a framework of ethical righteousness. We must ensure that our children get a quality higher education. ■

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one. –Malcolm Forbes

Community Service

Bags of Love…Nutrition for School Children

Craig Collis knows a good thing. In celebrating his birthday in December instead of presents he asked that friends and family make donations to Bags of Love, a non-profit organization that packs students book bags with nutritional food to help them get through the weekends and holidays. Sixteen churches are providing nutrition to 18 schools in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties. The group inconspicuously provides food to approximately 500 young people (what area) who are at risk of not having food when school is not in session. If you wish to help the program, they will gladly accept monetary donations or nutritious consumables, such as juice boxes, small bottles of water, applesauce cups, small cereal boxes, granola bars, cheese/peanut butter crackers, pop tarts, raisin boxes, and small microwavable meals. (Food that can be opened and prepared by a small child.) To donate, see www.365church.org/bol. ■

IF YOU THINK THAT EDUCATION IS EXPENSIVE, TRY IGNORANCE.

Steve Hartmann (left), who has been a carpenter with Minghini's for the past 15 years will retire in 2012. He is seen at the Company Christmas party with Craig Collis.





Supplier Profile

Alex Miller, Project Manager, Hollow Metal Division. Berkeley-Mountaineer Glass and Door
Martinsburg 304/ 267-4527 ext. 112 • Berkeleymountaineer@yahoo.com

Started almost a year ago, the Hollow Metal Division supplies hollow metal doors and frames, wood doors, hardware for doors and custom materials. Berkeley-Mountaineer Glass and Door also supplies the whole scope of Division 8 including aluminum storefronts, curtain walls, glazing and toilet partitioning and accessories to its commercial market. The company also has a Residential Division to serve the needs of consumers.

Alex joined the company, partially owned by his father Doug, almost three years ago after working for Triad Engineers in Loudon County as an Environmental Consultant. He is pleased to be working close to home as he and his wife Bethany are rearing their two year old daughter and being in Martinsburg working close to his home allows him more family time.

Alex has supplied many projects for Minghini's and says he loves working with them because they are so personable. "It's not like working with just another contractor, it's like working with friends…so very satisfying."

Alex got his degree at Shepherd University in 2003. He comments on the experience, "I remember my first day of college in the fall of 1999. I was driving to my first 8:00am class and all I wanted to do was turn around and go back home. I would join the Air Guard and maybe I would go to college some day in the future. Although the thought ran through my mind more than once, I decided that this is where I was supposed to be. From that first class to my final exam in December 2003, I had learned so much and gained a confidence in myself that I did not have. It gave me an understanding that nothing would be impossible - hard work has its rewards. I became an individual that was ready to make a difference in this world. I earned a Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Environmental Sciences. This degree has given me opportunities I would have missed had I turned around that August morning. Although I no longer work in a profession related to my degree, I use what I learned during that experience in my everyday life." ■



Subcontractor Profile

Rep. Eric Householder, (R)
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Vice President of Airrow Sheetmetal Company, Inc.
Martinsburg, 304-267-9004
www.airrowsheetmetal.com

Eric Householder epitomizes the educated, involved businessman. After more than two decades of running Air-Row Sheetmetal Company Inc. with his father, Dale, during which time he obtained an MBA from Frostburg State University, Eric realized that to effect change he would have to run for office. Carrying Jefferson County as a Republican for the first time, Eric has been immersed in research, debate and decision-making in his role as Representative for Berkeley and Jefferson County (56th District) on a wide range of issues of critical interest to the state economy and Eastern Panhandle people —from the current shale oil initiative to income tax reform.

For several years before running for office, Eric worked with Berniece Collis tirelessly on the Legislative Committee of the Associated Builders and Contractors-Cumberland Valley trying persuade the State to abolish the unfair Prevailing Wage Bidding Requirement (only to be sidetracked by the unkept promises of the previous administration). Eric, who ran on an increased prosperity and decreased government platform, is focusing on solutions to improve the State's higher education results and fiscal reforms such as phasing out the State income tax on individuals.

According to Rep. Householder, "I'm a fervent advocate of Continuing Education for myself and my employees. I've recently completed classes in Finance, Tax and Fiscal Policy Issues to educate myself on options for decreasing the size of government and creating policies that are more pro-business and less of a burden on individuals. I am deeply concerned about the drop-out rate of college students in WV institutions, as well as the competency of our workforce. Our upcoming generations must have a solid education to be able to provide leadership during a time of changing demographics and complex global economic issues. For WV to be a prosperous, competitive State, we need an educated workforce and accountable leaders willing to take the risk of changing antequated fiscal policies that hurt not help our economy."

Air-row Sheetmetal Company Inc. has worked on scores of projects as a HVAC subcontractor to Minghini's. ■

Staff News

Berniece Selected Woman of Distinction by GSCNC



A full house gathered this fall to recognize the 2011 Women of Distinction as selected by the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. The program, begun in 2005 with seven initial honorees, welcomed three into the ranks of those chosen for their distinguished service, excellent leadership and their capacity to serve as role models for girls.

Berkeley County's Berniece Collis and Mary Hayward were joined by Jefferson County's Phyllis LeTart as the 2011 Women of Distinction. Berniece is the only one of this year's recipients who was a member of Girl Scouts. She is the former president of the Girl Scouts of Shawnee Council and serves on the board of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. In addition, she is a member of the MVB Bank board of directors, the Martinsburg Rotary Club and was the first woman recognized by the chamber for the Leslie Golliday Business Person of the Year Award. ■



In November, Berniece and other members of the The McMurran Scholars Association awarded its new scholarship, established through the Shepherd University Foundation, to graduate student Laura Gilpin, of Martinsburg. The McMurran Scholars Association scholarship is an annual award designated for McMurran scholars attending Shepherd as full- or part-time graduate students.

For more information or to complete a resource directory form, contact Robert Shaw at the Shepherd University Foundation, 304-876-5195 or rshaw02@shepherd.edu or visit www.shepherd.edu/aaweb/mcmurran. ■

Associate Profile



Vicki Jenkins,
Director/Principal

James Rumsey
Technical Institute

Hedgesville
304/754-7925
email: vjenkins@access.k12.wv.us

Vicki Jenkins is celebrating her 23rd year with James Rumsey. Formerly she was Assistant Director in charge of post-secondary education, but assumed the helm as Director and Principal 8 years ago.

According to Vicki, the biggest challenge to the institution is keeping qualified instructors since they can make so much more working in their respective trades. Another challenge is finding the money for needed renovations because the institution only receives funding from the School Building Authority.

James Rumsey is the designated Area Technical School for Berkeley, Morgan and Jefferson County School Districts. It offers career and technical education opportunities for high school and adult learners. Moreover, its career and technical education programs are designed and validated by business and industry standards and are approved and/or accredited by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges (NCA). Secondary students will earn elective high school credits and, in articulated programs, will earn college credits while still in high school. Its instructors and staff are current and credentialed in their areas of expertise by the West Virginia State Board of Education.

High School Students enrolled in JRTI's Building Construction Program study a variety of related subjects in both theory and shop practice. The course provides for training in all phases of home construction: walls, roof, windows and doors, and blueprint reading. Shop and safety activities are combined with classroom instruction. Students are not required to become registered apprentices to take the Building Construction Class but are encouraged to do so. Some math and computer literacy prerequisites may be required for registration.

The institution also offers a variety of adult evening classes in the Construction Trades, including electrical code preparation, electrical theory, basic carpentry, forklift operation, welding, and computer classes. According to Vicki, the most popular courses are HVAC and Electrical which are year-long programs that only cost between two and three thousand dollars. Notes Vicki, "The benefit to high school students of taking our electrical program, for example, is that they can sit for the journeyman exam after one year of study as compared to having to work in the field for 4 years if they are an apprentice.

Vicki is well acquainted with Minghini's work in that the company has done several renovation jobs for James Rumsey over the years. "They're just wonderful to work with," states Vicki and the feeling is quite mutual.

Local Higher Education Resources

For a full list of the Higher Education opportunities in the Eastern Panhandle, see: www.developmentauthority.com/higher-education

Construction Training

In 2006 the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors in Hagerstown opened its new training facility. **Barr Construction Institute** provides training and educational programs in Management; Apprenticeship; Craft; Professional; and Safety. The Apprenticeship Training Program is a four-year schedule for most trades. Three-hour classes are held two evenings a week usually from 6-9pm, from September through March. Apprentices work during the day in their selected trade to earn on-the-job training hours. Depending upon the trade the program covers 2-4 years of classroom related instruction

To attain Journeyperson status for most trades, a student must accumulate eight thousand (8,000) on-the-job training hours and at least 576 hours of related instruction in order to achieve Journeyperson status. A full-time job totals 2,000 hours each year and our Apprenticeship Training Program provides at least 144 hours of related instruction per year. While BCI offers 16 curriculum trade courses, the most popular are: Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, and Sheet Metal. For more information, call or Kathy Gress at (301) 739-1190 or email: kathy@abccvc.com.

MINGHINI'S
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