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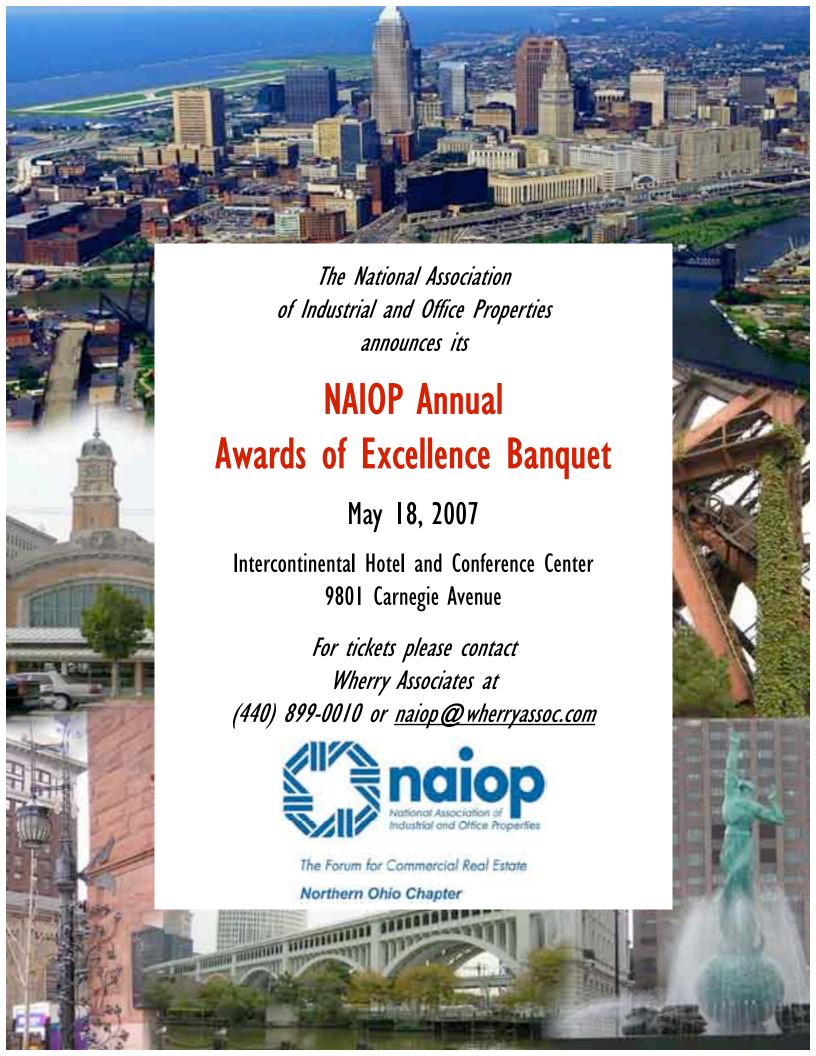
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FEATURES



Lakeside Living at Larimar

Gated Willowick residential development unveils model homes

12 **March Construction Slips One Percent**

17 **Honoring Home Team Heroes**

Heritage Park at Jacobs Field celebrates Tribe history

Developing Theories 22

Bob Nieto navigates Northeast Ohio's changing landscape

Pet Project 25

The Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa offers ritzy space for domesticated pals to sit, stay & lie down

40 More Years 47

Architectural firm Weber Murphy Fox looks to the future

Special Section: HVAC & Plumbing Systems

- 52 Artful Engineering: Protecting priceless paintings at The Cleveland Museum of Art requires close HVAC tolerances
- 59 Mechanical, Plumbing Contractors on the Move: MCA, CPCA presidents announce recent organization news
- 61 Heard on the Hill: Coleman Spohn president testifies before House of Reps
- 62 Living, Breathing Buildings: Automation, integration of quality components key to superior HVAC systems

INSERT: Built to Last

Fortney & Weygandt, Inc. approaches three decades of success as homegrown national general contractor

DEPARTMENTS

- 8 PROPERTIES PEOPLE
- **BOMA BUSINESS**
- **LEGAL PERSPECTIVES**
- **36 CABOR CORNER**
- **BILLBOARD** 37
- **FINANCIAL STRATEGIES**
- CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS REPORT

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

May 2007



KEN KRYCH

Mechanically Inclined

elcome to our annual HVAC and Plumbing Systems issue. With summer around the corner, we received a healthy collection of articles from and about regional experts in these fields. We trust you will find these features on mechanical and plumbing systems informative and entertaining.

In addition, this month we present an article on a special anniversary of the architecture/construction management firm of Weber Murphy Fox/Arris and their unique history and in many ways groundbreaking approach to design and building.

With baseball season upon us we thought it would be a great time to show-case Heritage Park at Jacobs Field, which is a tribute to the Cleveland Indians' greatest players throughout their long, illustrious history.

One of our friends a long-time contributor narrowly escaped serious injury when the motor of his plane just quit on a recent flight from Youngstown. A special feature this month describes Bob Nieto's ordeal – we are glad he was able to walk away from the accident. We are also happy to include his thoughts on the state of development in the area.

Our cover story focuses on The Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa, a one-of-a kind project in Orange Township. Howard Perlmuter, M.A. demonstrates what can



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be done with a dream, hard work and dedication in creating the first of what most likely will be more of its kind across the country.

Lastly, this month we have included a special insert publication targeting North Olmsted-based contractor Fortney & Weygandt, Inc. and the company's sustained nationwide growth in a variety of building types for a multitude of clients.

Looking forward, next month is our Environmental Solutions issue, which will take a look at the growing trend of green design in both new building and renovations.

We're always searching for story ideas and encourage you to contribute! If you notice a new structure going up in your area or have just finished a great project, we would like to hear from you. Also, any noteworthy news about your company is always welcomed. Feel free to email me at kkrych@propertiesmag.com or call me at 216.251.0035. Enjoy the sunshine!

Positively,

Kenneth C. Krych Owner/Publisher

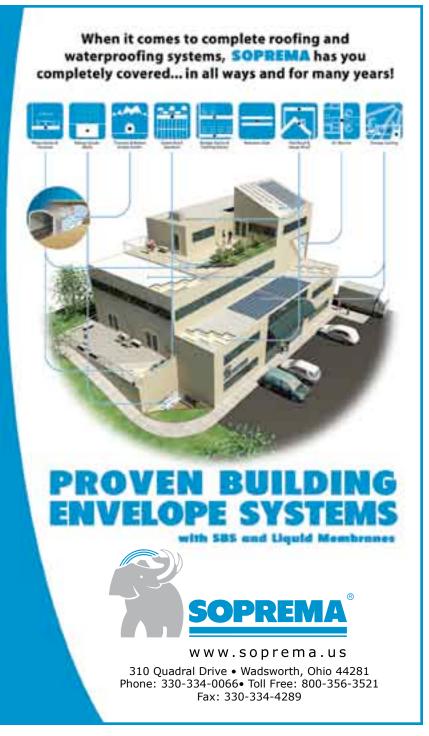
Letters

I received a copy of your April issue of Properties and was impressed with the tremendous effort you put forth in creating a very interesting, accurate and impressive article featuring Kent Free Library. It was a pleasure experiencing the interview process with you. I appreciate... your publication's interest in the project. Thank you for the excellent coverage and best wishes for continued success....

John E. Kosar, AIA Principal/Chairman Emeritus Burt Hill

We welcome your feedback at Properties Magazine. Letters can be directed to kkrych@propertiesmag.com or by mail to Properties Magazine, P.O. Box 112127, Cleveland, Ohio 44111.





PROPERTIES PEOPLE

Highlighting notable industry events









- 1 (From left) **Paul Jance**, owner, and **Evelyn N. Kuzilla**, president, of Jance & Company, Inc.
- 2 (From left) **Dean W. Rankin**, project manager, and **Mike Marron**, president, of Baywest Construction Group, Inc.
- 3 Carl Cathcart, chief estimator, and Jeannette Davisson, director of business development, for Fiorelli Construction
- 4 **John Kiczek**, president, and **Matthew Large**, vice president, of Kiczek Builders, Inc.

The Blue Book GC Showcase 2007 Event

Recently, The Blue Book held its third annual GC Showcase event at the Embassy Suites hotel in Independence where 40 general contractors had the opportunity to meet and interact with 1,000 attendees and gather information for its database for potential new subcontractors and suppliers.









Westfield SouthPark Party

Redevelopment at Westfield SouthPark Mall has been completed, adding 200,000 square feet of new retail space anchored by a new 14-screen Cinemark theater. In celebration, the mall recently opened the doors for guests with a host of restaurants supplying great food. Graycor Construction Company, of Homewood, Illinois, was contractor while the design portion was provided by Dorsky Hodgson Parrish Yue, of Beachwood.

- 1 Interior entrance of the new Cinemark Theater
- 2 (From left) **Tom Lloyd**, assistant general manager, and **Andy Selesnik**, CMD, customer service & marketing director, of Westfield SouthPark
- 3 *Properties* account executive Andrea Keener with new friend Spider Man
- 4 Exterior view of revitalized Westfield SouthPark Mall

PCS Open House

An evening celebration was held recently by PCS Project and Construction Services, Inc. to welcome guests to its new headquarters on the ninth floor of the IMG building at 1360 E. 9th St. in downtown Cleveland. Its staff of 40 now enjoys an entire floor of new offices and furnishings with spectacular views of the city and lake from their vantage point. Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson made opening remarks.

- 1 (From left) Ken Krych, Properties publisher, Robert Strickland, president of PCS Project and Construction Services, Inc., and Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson.
- 2 (From left) Vijay Khosla, executive vice president of PSI Inc., Mayor Frank Jackson and Jerry Hutchinson, of PSI, Inc.





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Each year the number of participants continues to grow. If you haven't experienced *The Blue Book's GC Showcase* – log on to **thebluebook.com** for more opportunities coming nationwide this September and look out for another Cleveland Showcase in 2008!

To learn more about The Blue Book's complete network of information and marketing resources, call: 216-513-6714 or 800-431-2584.



Lakeside Living at Larimar

Gated Willowick residential development unveils model homes

rea developer Ted Sahley recently joined forces with local broker/realtor and developer Frank Kaim to build Larimar, a new private, gated lakefront community in Willowick. Its name "Larimar" is derived from a rare blue gemstone that comes from the Dominican Republic.

The Larimar community has about 17 acres of lakefront property in Lake County. The master planned community offers luxury residences consisting of single-family, attached single-family, town homes and mid-rise condominiums ranging from \$230,000 to \$800,000.

"Larimar has the ultimate spectacular lakefront view with over two-thirds of the community having lakefront views and all having access to 1,300 feet of beautiful Lake Erie sandy beach," Sahley says.

The development is being handled by WAP (Willowick Acquisition Partners) Construction, led by Kirk Betteley who has been building in Lake County for over 30 years, according to Project Sales Manager Jane Kaim.

"I find it very rewarding to sit down with the home buyer and incorporate their ideas into a design," Betteley says. "I combine both classic and dramatic elements to create an atmosphere that is distinctive, sophisticated and timeless."

Sahley says there be will approximately 200 residences including a large



BLUE VIEW When completed, the new Larimar development will include four mid-rise condominiums offering expansive lakefront views.

variety of housing "to satisfy everyone's needs." For example, there will be four mid-rise lakefront condominium buildings and nine single-family residential lakefront homes that each have more than 4,000 square feet of living space with balconies and windows overlooking Lake Erie.

Larimar currently has two models available to tour, including one with a first floor master, vaulted ceilings and loft. Both have hardwood floors, granite countertops, high ceilings, crown molding and walkout lower levels with great rooms, full baths and second kitchens.

"This kind of a development is a new animal for Willowick," Jane Kaim says. "Up to this point, there have not been high-end homes of this kind available as many of the homes in the area are bungalows and ranches. To have these homes located right on the lake just adds to how special they are."

Kaim says she expects all residences to be built and filled within the next five years.

"Homeowners will love the resort style living on the North Coast and will appreciate the quality construction and craftsmanship," she says.







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March Construction Slips One Percent

New construction starts in March settled back 1% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$605.1 billion, it was reported by McGraw-Hill Construction, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies. Nonresidential building retreated after its surge of activity in February. Meanwhile, residential building edged upward, and the public works sector registered a strong gain. During the first three months of 2007, total construction on an unadjusted basis came in at \$134.8 billion, down 15% from the corresponding period of 2006. The year-to-date decline for total construction was the result of sharply lower residential building compared to the first quarter of 2006, which was prior to the time when last year's housing correction became severe. If residential building is excluded from the year-to-date figures, new construction starts in the first three months of 2007 were up 2% compared to last year.

The March statistics produced a reading of 128 for the Dodge Index (2000=100), down slightly from a revised 130 for February.

"The pattern for overall construction activity so far in 2007 is being shaped by the weak residential sector, in similarity to what occurred from the spring of 2006 through the end of last year," says Robert A. Murray, vice president of economic affairs for McGraw-Hill Construction. "Both nonresidential building and public works picked up the

slack in 2006, and it's expected that this will also occur in 2007, but to a lesser degree. Nonresidential building has been volatile in the early months of 2007, and while the odds still favor more growth, there's concern that tighter lending conditions and the slower economy could soon begin to dampen commercial construction. The public works sector still appears on track for more expansion this year, given the funding support coming from the federal and state governments."

Nonresidential building

Nonresidential building in March dropped 10% to \$200.4 billion (annual rate), coming in about halfway between this year's weak January and robust February. The largest March declines for nonresidential building were found in the institutional sector. Amusement-related projects fell 68%, following a February that had been boosted by the start of a massive \$1.3 billion convention center expansion project in New York,

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New York. The public buildings category (courthouses and detention facilities) retreated 28%, and healthcare facilities fell 25% from an elevated February. School construction held steady in March, aided by the start of a \$151 million college building in Brooklyn, New York, as well as numerous high school buildings that reached groundbreaking around the nation.

Transportation terminal work increased 4% in March, reflecting the start of a \$122 million ferry terminal renovation in New York City and a \$53 million airport terminal renovation in Newark, New Jersey. Church construction in March rebounded 29% from a weak February.

The commercial structure types generally strengthened in March. Hotel construction increased 24%, aided by the start of a \$130 million hotel and entertainment center in Michigan City, Indiana. Office construction grew 15%, with support coming from large office projects in Chicago, Illinois (\$132 million); Mooresville, North Carolina (\$109 million); and Miami, Florida (\$103 million).

"Office construction showed healthy growth in 2006, and it's expected that another gain will be reported for full year 2007, although the level of activity is still considerably below what was registered in the late 1990s," Murray says.

Store construction in March grew 1%, continuing to show surprising resilience in light of the decline for residential development that has taken place over the past year. In contrast, warehouse construction in March fell 11%, and the manufacturing plant category dropped 34% from its improved amount in February. While losing momentum, the manufacturing plant category included

March Construction Contracts for Cleveland Area

McGraw-Hill Construction recently reported on March contracts for future construction in the metropolitan statistical area of Cleveland, consisting of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties. An authority on the construction market, the firm produces Dodge Reports and Sweets Catalog Files. According to the Dodge Analytics unit of McGraw-Hill Construction, the latest month's construction activity followed this pattern:

| | 2007 | 2006 | Percent Change |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Nonresidential | \$96,004,000 | \$99,973,000 | -4 |
| Residential | \$70,560,000 | \$106,658,000 | -34 |
| Total Building | \$166,564,000 | \$206,631,000 | -19 |

For the year-to-date on a cumulative basis, the totals are:

| | 2007 | 2006 | Percent Change |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Nonresidential | \$208,659,000 | \$269,377,000 | -23 |
| Residential | \$201,873,000 | \$256,133,000 | -21 |
| Total Building | \$410,532,000 | \$525,510,000 | -22 |

- · Nonresidential buildings include commercial, manufacturing, educational, religious, administrative, recreational, hotel, dormitory and other buildings.
- Residential buildings include one- and two-family houses and apartments.

Source: McGraw-Hill Construction

these large projects in March - a \$165 million expansion to a cement plant in Pennsylvania, plus the start of two large ethanol plants located in Iowa (\$100 million) and Kansas (\$60 million).

Residential building

Residential building, at \$279.8 billion (annual rate), was up 1% in March. The dollar volume for single-family housing grew 3%, helped by improved activity in the Midwest (up 18% from a very weak February), the West (up 3%), and the South Central (up 2%). The dollar amount for single-family construction in the Northeast was unchanged in March, while the South Atlantic receded 2%. Mortgage rates continue to be low, as the 30-year mortgage rate averaged 6.2% in March, down from 6.3% in February.

However, the investor-led portion of homebuver demand remains weak, and the turmoil in the subprime mortgage market is limiting loan availability.

"The very depressed levels for new and existing home sales in February and March suggest that any near term improvement for single-family homebuilding will be sporadic at best," Murray

Multifamily housing in March dropped 7%, as the downward trend for this side of the housing market is growing more discernible, after comparative stability during 2006. While the number of very large multifamily projects that reach groundbreaking each month is becoming smaller, March did see the start of several such projects, located in Louisville, Kentucky (\$204 million); Cambridge,



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Massachusetts (\$84 million); and Atlanta, Georgia (\$84 million).

Nonbuilding construction

Nonbuilding construction advanced 10% in March to \$125.0 billion (annual rate). The transportation side of the public works sector soared in March, with highway construction climbing 50% after a subdued February, reflecting widespread strength across the nation.

"In mid-February, Congress finalized fiscal 2007 spending levels for a number of construction accounts, including a 10% increase for the federal-aid highway program," Murray says. "This greater financing, combined with the fact that state departments of transportation now have a more certain funding horizon, contributed to the strong March increase for highways."

Bridge construction also soared in March, jumping 60% with the boost coming from the start of large bridge projects located in Louisiana (\$167 million), West Virginia (\$108 million), and two in New York (\$84 million and \$78 million). On the environmental side, sewer construction in March advanced 46%, with the two largest sewer-related construction starts located in California (\$180 million) and Massachusetts (\$140 million). Water supply construction in March grew 16%, but both river/harbor development and miscellaneous site work were down 6%. Overall public works construction in March climbed a substantial 29%. The nonbuilding total for March was pulled down to just a 10% gain as the result of a substantial 81% drop for electric utility construction, which is prone to volatility on a monthby-month basis.

The 15% drop for total construction during the first three months of 2007 was due to this performance by major sector – residential building, down 29%; nonresidential building, down 1%; and nonbuilding construction, up 7%. With subsequent months, it's expected that the decline for residential building will not be as steep, exerting a smaller downward pull on the year-to-date amount for total construction. On a regional basis, the first three months of 2007 showed total construction relative to last year perform as follows - the South Central, down 4%; the Northeast, down 11%; the Midwest and South Atlantic, each down 15%; and the West, down 25%.

Building Owners and Managers Association of Greater Cleveland

Better Energy Purchasing Decisions

urchasing energy can be both frustrating and confusing. For those who have never been involved in purchasing energy, it is easy to be overwhelmed by all of the lingo associated with natural gas, electricity or fuel oils. Even seasoned purchasers that understand the industry can be frustrated by wild swings in price and the speed in which they happen. The price of natural gas and electricity has been known to double in very short periods of time.

Periodically thinking about energy prices after a tough budget meeting or searching around for the cheapest supplier once a year is a poor substitute for an effective plan to control your energy costs. Here are a few guidelines.

Even seasoned purchasers that understand the [energy] industry can be frustrated by wild swings in price and the speed with which they happen.

Expand your purchasing horizon and turn volatility into your friend. This doesn't mean you should enter into a two-year, fixed-price transaction tomorrow. What it does mean is that you should lengthen the horizon so that you are in a position to make a long-term purchasing decision. The savviest buyers we deal with are not just looking at purchasing opportunities today, but well into the future. Work with an energy supplier that is going to provide you with topnotch information, ideas and access to experts that are in the markets every day.

Understand what is most important to you. Is it price stability or a guaranteed price? Is it meeting a budget? Is it achieving the lowest possible price, while not exceeding some maximum price? Is it taking advantage of lower future pricing? A supplier can also offer you a combination or portfolio of buying strategies for energy commodities to fit your needs. Understand that there is no one best time to buy a fixed price in volatile energy markets.

Spend some time figuring out how to use less energy. The best energy consulting dollars you spend should help you identify ways to reduce your overall energy consumption and outline the necessary actions to do so. The first step may be a simple energy audit that shows how energy usage is related to certain activities and how

> much energy is consumed during different times of the day or week. This may give you the insight needed to undertake projects that can lead to real savings.

> It is easy to feel overwhelmed

fast-moving energy prices. While you may not be able to control what OPEC does or what happens to electricity prices, you should spend more time on each of these three areas.

BOMA Greater Cleveland is proud to provide this space to our associate members so they can inform, educate and share their knowledge with property management professionals. This article was written by Diane C. Coleman, senior account manager with Hess Corporation. She can be reached at dcoleman@hess.com. Hess Corporation has been a member of BOMA Greater Cleveland since 2002.

> Tanice Farham Janice L. Parham Executive Vice President BOMA Greater Cleveland



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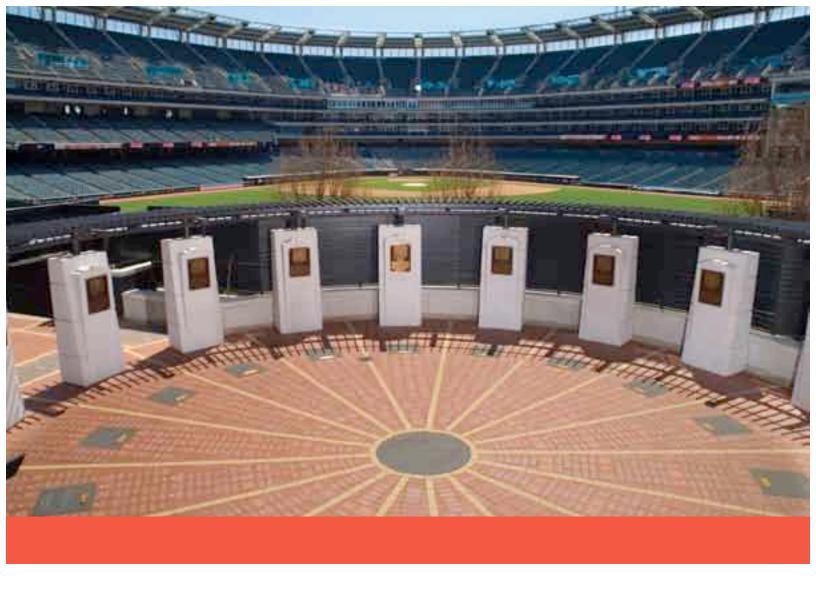
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Honoring Home Team Heroes

Heritage Park at Jacobs Field celebrates Tribe history

By Mark Watt | Photos by Dan Medlik/Cleveland Indians

rom within, the new \$1.1 million Heritage Park at Jacobs Field is designed as a serene, respectful homage to the colorful history of the Cleveland Indians. Opened in April, the 4,300-square-foot walkthrough exhibit incorporates obelisk-like monuments, bronzed plaques and engraved pavers, honoring the greatest players and most memorable moments in the baseball team's history, all of which are spread across a two-tiered space just beyond the centerfield wall. But if you're seated behind home plate, you may not even notice that the exhibit is there.

Actually, that's the point, according to Bob DiBiasio, vice president of public relations for the Cleveland Indians.

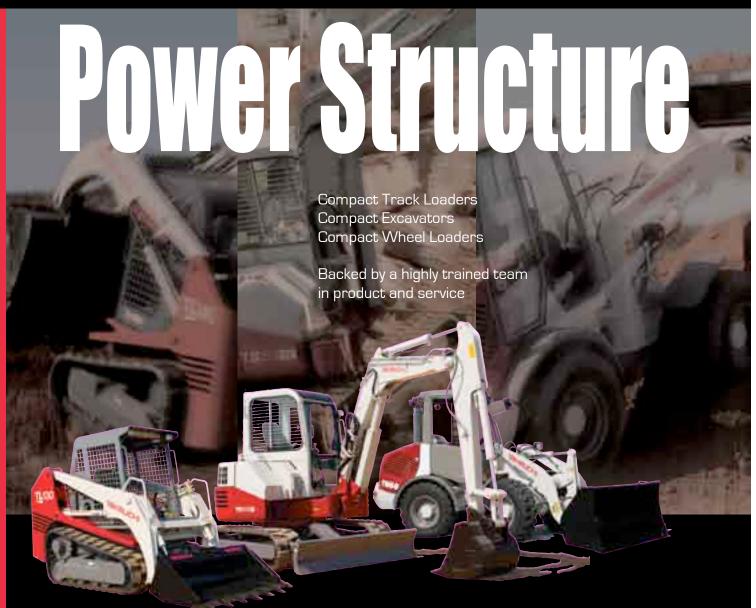
"For a number of years, we had been thinking of a way to honor our rich history somewhere in Jacobs Field, but finding the right space was a challenge," DiBiasio says. "We looked at every corner of the building. At one point while we were walking around the park, it dawned on us that the one space that was underutilized was the area in dead center field."

This venue beyond the center field wall, with picnic tables and carefully

groomed greenery, had been an inviting part of the ballpark since it opened in 1994, but wasn't available for fans to use during games. This was because of a need to retain the hitters' point of view during game play, a protocol applied at all major league baseball parks. The idea is that batters at home plate should always have a clear view of the pitcher, without colors, complex patterns or movement in the background to distract attention.

As DiBiasio explains, the hope was to better utilize the space by transforming it into a park-like historical exhibit that could be open during games. So in early 2006, the Cleveland Indians enlisted Christopher Wynn, AIA, director of design at Osborn Architects & Engineers, to come up with a new design for the space to honor the team's heritage while retaining the "batter's eye zone."

"That was the biggest challenge of the project, especially as there were two tiers in the existing space," Wynn says. "We dealt with it in the design by using screen walls, as well as shrubbery and trees, to block all pedestrian movement from the hitters' point of view. The landscaping was important because



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LEADING LINEUP The lower tier of Heritage Park includes a bowed retaining wall featuring granite blocks inscribed with names from the Top 100 Indians Roster, a group of Tribe greats selected by fans and former players during the team's centennial celebration in 2001.

"Jacobs Field

already has its own

architectural language.

so Heritage Park was

built to fit right in."

Osborn Architects & Engineers

Christopher Wynn

we wanted to soften the look of it from inside the ballpark."

Covering the bases

In October 2006, construction of the park began under the direction of general contractor Neshkin Construction, which had previously worked for the Cleveland Indians on team shop buildouts, construction of new concession

stands and suite renovations.

"We started work right after the baseball season ended in September and continued through winter and spring," says Neshkin Construction Vice President Alan Pollack, who acted

as project manager. "Thankfully, the weather held out for us and we were able to complete all concrete work before the cold weather really hit. The project wrapped up two weeks before Opening Day [in April]."

Wynn's final design retains the preexisting two tiers of space in a new way. The upper tier has been transformed into a rotunda. Honored here are 15 ballplayers in the 27-member Cleveland Indians Hall of Fame who have also been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Names, images and brief biographies of these players, including legends such as Satchel Paige, Bob Feller, Nap Lajoie and Larry Doby, are captured on bronzed plaques set upon precast concrete monuments arranged in a semi-circle.

"The monuments are architectural precast, but are designed to match the Indiana limestone that is used on the exterior of Jacobs Field," Wynn says, noting that several other materials were selected to match those existing else-

> where in the facility. "Jacobs Field already has its own architectural language, so Heritage Park was built to fit right in."

Lighting fixtures are integrated into a trellis of steel that connects the monuments.

"The lighting was a tricky design element, because we had to make it work within the existing situation and there is a lot of electrical work running below. It's slab on grade, but there are tons of conduit and water pipes. It's made to look as effortless as possible, but required a lot of effort to make it work."

The lower tier, accessed by two sets of stairs as well as an elevator for handicap access, includes monuments honoring the remaining 12 members of the Cleveland Indians Hall of Fame. On this level, a bowed retaining wall features granite blocks inscribed with names from the Top 100 Indians Roster,



Uncovering a Relic of Indians History

ne notable treasure included at Jacobs Field's ne notable treasure included.

Heritage Park is a bronzed plaque honoring Raymond Johnson Chapman, who began playing shortstop for the Cleveland Indians in 1912. Nicknamed "Chappie," Chapman was hit by a pitch from the New York Yankees' Carl Mays on August 16, 1920 and died the following morning at the age of 29. (Struck in the temple before the advent of batting helmets, he is the only player in the history of baseball to die from injuries sustained during game play.)

The 175-pound plaque, featuring a detailed image of Chapman's bust surrounded by a base-



ball diamond, was cast in his honor and originally hung at League Park, which was the team's ballpark at the time. Sometime between 1932 and 1946, when the team began playing at the newly constructed Cleveland

Municipal Stadium, the plaque was moved to the new park and put on display, before being removed for unknown reasons.

When the Tribe moved to Jacobs Field in 1994. the plague was crated and moved to the new ballpark. Although the team initially planned on putting the plague on display at the new facility, it eventually was forgotten until this February when workers were cleaning out a storage room in the ballpark and found the artifact.

Last minute changes during the construction of Heritage Park allowed for the plague to be hung as part of the exhibit, after a careful restoration process brought the artifact back to a presentable condition. Located on the lower tier of Heritage Park, the plague is now on display as a permanent fixture of the newly designed space honoring the history of the Cleveland Indians. -MW

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HIDING OUT Screen walls and shrubbery are used to hide pedestrian activity at Heritage Park, providing an uninterrupted line of sight for batters at home plate.

a group of Tribe greats selected by former players and fans in 2001 as part of the team's 100th anniversary.

Also on the lower tier is a late addition to Heritage Park: a nearly 90-year-old, bronzed plaque honoring Ray Chapman, who played shortstop for Cleveland in the early 1900s and died in 1920 after being hit by a pitch during a game against the New York Yankees. The plaque was rediscovered in a storage room early this year, restored and is now a permanent part of the exhibit.

Thirty-eight pavers located throughout Heritage Park are inscribed with memorable moments from Tribe history, such as Len Barker's perfect game in 1981, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson hitting a .408 batting average in 1911, and fans setting a Major League Baseball record with 455 straight sellouts from 1995 to 2001.

As Wynn notes, the design allows space for additional plaques to be placed within the park. This summer, in fact, the team plans to induct four more players into the Hall of Fame. Right-handed pitchers Charles Nagy, Mike Garcia and Jim Bagby Sr., and right-handed slugger Andre Thornton will be enshrined over the weekend of August 10-12, bringing the total number of honorees to 31.

"In the future, there may be some temporary exhibits at the park as well," Wynn says.

A grand slam

Now that the project is completed, Pollack says the Cleveland Indians are enjoying the new addition to their home

20 Properties | May 2007

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NIGHT LIGHTS Lighting fixtures are integrated into a trellis of steel connecting monuments on Heritage Park's upper tier.

ballpark - and that he enjoys visiting Heritage Park too when he makes it out to Tribe games.

"I've been a baseball fan all of my life, so I can say that being a part of this has been one of the highlights of my life," Pollack says. "When I go down there, I have a real sense of accomplishment. It's an honor."

DiBiasio says the Cleveland Indians organization is very pleased with the new Heritage Park exhibit.

"It was a tremendous team effort by a lot of local Cleveland companies," DiBiasio says. "It seemed like everyone who worked on the project was a baseball fan too. They had a lot of fun working on this project because it is so special." P







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Developing Theories

Bob Nieto navigates Northeast Ohio's changing landscape

By Jessica Nelson | Photos courtesy Bob Nieto

Bob Nieto, president of R.G. Nieto Co., has had a fascinating career in real estate management, brokerage, investments, auctioneering and mortgages in Northeast Ohio thanks to his fearlessness in facing challenges head on. A former contributor to *Properties*, Nieto served in the Air Force in Korea, became a fifth-degree black belt and owned his own martial arts school in Woodmere Village before turning to commercial real estate in the 1970s. After five years of success selling commercial properties with a local real estate firm, he got his broker's license and opened his own firm.

Today, R. G. Nieto Co. specializes in the acquisition and management of strip shopping centers, mortgage brokering and real estate auctioneering.

Nieto has strip shopping centers in 10 cities over four counties as far south



ROLLING ON Bob Nieto has learned to adapt to changes in Northeast Ohio's real estate market.

as Orrville and as far east as Mentor and Painesville, as well as properties in Cleveland and surrounding suburbs.

The changing face of Northeast Ohio real estate

"Rather than urban or suburban properties, I've been focusing on rural properties," Nieto says.

He has his reasons. For one, more square footage is available for less money in rural areas. Rural areas aren't overbuilt so businesses encounter less competition. Most importantly, investments in more populated areas are becoming increasingly difficult.

"I think there is overdevelopment in our region," Nieto says. He contrasts areas like Cleveland and places like the Carolinas that are currently seeing a steady influx of people. "Here we're doing our best right now to hold our own population."

Citing recent new developments in the region, Nieto says, "when you build new like that, you're really only taking some other shopping center's share. It's just moving the dollars around. It's being terribly diluted."

Another challenge Northeast Ohio is facing is an influx of buyers from out of state.



"It seems like we're getting beat by people from out of state buying our real estate," Nieto says.

Within the past five to six years is when Nieto began to notice this change.

"People here have to rely on financing, but out-of-staters don't, so that's better for the seller," he says. "That situation's never really happened before."

Then tax reform hit

The biggest factor leading up to the current state of commercial real estate in Northeast Ohio was the Tax Reform Act of 1986, according to Nieto.

"A lot of people got out of the business," he says.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 completely changed the whole scenario, he says. Instead of discouraging investors who bought and sold real estate to avoid paying taxes, the reform is widely regarded as having had the effect of discouraging normal law-abiding investors, too.

"Benefits were gone, capital gains rates were changed, everything was changed for real estate," he says. "After tax reform hit, you couldn't buy and sell the same way. It caused the whole industry to come to a standstill."

Properties in focus

Nieto saw an opportunity to publish his views on life after tax reform within Properties in a section formerly known as "Investment Corner." He wrote letters to Congress, as well.

"Capital gains rates have been relaxed and other things have relaxed since then," Nieto says. "It's better and we can live with it, but it's not the same."

He will tell you to compare The Plain Dealer's commercial real estate classifieds of today to what they were before 1986.

Ironically, "the tax reform in a way helped me get to where I am now actually," says Nieto. After the reform, he didn't want to leave the business, so he diversified. "Instead of just selling buildings I started to lease. I also started to manage, and the management end is what got me into purchasing."

Nieto is currently in the process of due diligence for Kenton Plaza, a shopping center in Kenton, Ohio. P



R.G. Nieto Co. President Survives Plane Crash

The way to overcome this is to meet the devil head on," thought R.G. Nieto Co. President Bob Nieto of his fear of flying 11 years ago. The first airplane he was on in 1966 was struck by lightning. The last airplane he was on crashed in a field in Portage County in the last week of March 2007.

At 4,500 feet up, the engine just stopped. A deadly silence filled the cockpit of Nieto's 1966 Alon Aircoupe. Turning to co-pilot Brian McGreen, Nieto said, "We're going to make this. We're going to land this plane. We're going to be okay."

"I honestly felt it wasn't my time yet," says Nieto. "Fortunately neither one of us panicked. You really don't know what you're going to do in a situation like that, if you're going to panic or scream or yell. We were both

very calm and we were handling our duties."

For an airplane's engine to quit midflight is as rare as a car's engine stopping while it's being driven.

Nieto and McGreen stayed calm and immediately focused on following emergency flight procedures. McGreen took over the controls because he was the more experienced pilot. The duo split duties. Nieto called Akron-Canton Air Traffic Control to declare a mayday. Nearest to the Portage County Airport, they headed there, constantly looking for places to land.



LUCK IN THE AIR Bob Nieto and his co-pilot were treated and released from the hospital within hours of surviving a plane crash in Portage County.

Without power, the pilots could only raise and lower the nose of the plane to maintain the airspeed necessary to stay aloft as long as possible. They had the airport runway in their sights, but the closer they came, the more houses, buildings, power lines and trees they had to contend with.

"We were sinking fast," says Nieto. When they realized they weren't going to be able to reach the airport, they picked a field and aimed for it.

They dropped 80 feet to the ground, skidding and careening into ditches. One ditch ripped off the plane's landing gear and spun the plane 180 degrees. The right wing sheered off, the fuselage was crumpled and the cockpit was split open like an eggshell.

The header gas tank directly in front of both pilots had ruptured and the plane's electrical system was still on, leaving the possibility of an explosion or fire.

Miraculously, Nieto and McGreen quickly escaped the wreckage and were treated and released from the hospital within hours. -JN



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PET! PROJECT

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By Nancy Loyan Schuemann | Photos courtesy The Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa

magine a luxury resort with a spacious lobby of commissioned artwork, a designer boutique, lavish suites with a view of lush gardens and a fountain swimming pool, state-of-the-art amenities, a full-service spa for pampering, fitness activities, gourmet cuisine and black stretch limousine service... for pets.

The Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa, located at 27349 Miles Road in Orange Village, offers all of this and more. The first upscale pet resort in Northeast Ohio, the 15,166-square-foot Barkley is the pet equivalent of a posh human hotel and resort.

Entering through dual glass-encased vestibules, the spacious lobby is bathed in natural light from a coffered ceiling with skylight. It features a tiled floor, a curvilinear bi-level reception desk with a solid surface top impregnated with glittering copper shavings, overhead pendulum lights, digital plasma screen signage and shelves of unique boutique items.

Hints abound that this is not for human accommodation, from the name on the classically inspired exterior with



FUR FRIENDLY The Barkley Hotel & Day Spa is designed as a pet equivalent of a posh human resort, which is noticeable upon entering. The spacious lobby, furnished with dog- and cat-themed artwork, features a tiled floor, a reception desk with a solid surface top impregnated with glittering copper shavings, overhead pendulum lights, digital plasma screen signage and shelves of unique boutique items.

its paw print logo, the cast concrete paws in the gardens, the custom artwork of world-renowned animal artist Anthony Valentino Robinson and the plush pet beds and designer collars in the boutique to the glass-enclosed doggie daycare romping yard visible from behind the reception area.

The design is based on those found in fine human resort hotels. The natural-toned masonry exterior has an arched, lit porte-cochere, as well as inlaid brick and stone pillars, floor-to-ceiling windows shaded by striped awnings and a design rail across the roofline. It is constructed with steel interior walls, steel bar joist with metal deck, asphalt roof and a poured concrete floor. Landscaping is lush and inviting.

For ease of accessibility, the facility is one level. To the left of the lobby is an area exclusively for dogs. To the right is an area designated for cats.

In the designated dog area there are four levels of boarding, each with its own ambiance and menu of amenities. All guests are given four daily potty breaks and a bedtime biscuit.

For the discerning guest, the most luxurious suites (at \$65 a night) are the Executive Poolside Suites. Each elegant glass privacy-door suite has a view of the four-foot deep pool com-

plete with arched fountains. Suites range from 64 to 120 square feet. Some, like the Presidential Suite, with its pet-level fireplace, also have an outdoor view with oversized windows. Others face an indoor courtyard. All suites not sporting outdoor views have the option to have direct access to an adjoining park suite. Floors are of tile while each spacious suite has its own iron bed, designer bedding, monogrammed towels, individual climate and lighting control, an in-suite flat-screen plasma television broadcasting animal programming (a new movie, such as "Snow Dogs," is featured every day), raised food bowls and "snoutcams," giving owners continual pet-level access to their pets via the Internet. A complimentary tummy rub and spritz of bottled water are included.

Another level of boarding is the Barkley Park Suites (at \$49 a night). These suites line the perimeter of an indoor park complete with a fire hydrant. The grass-like Tourturf and silk flowers lining a lighted perimeter soffit/flower box creates a garden setting complete with additional colorful blooms and a soothing concrete fountain. Suites, ranging from 36 to 54 square feet, have curved wrought iron-gates, white iron beds with fine bedding, raised food bowls, in-suite television entertain-

ment and community Web cams, giving owners Internet access.

Standard suites (at \$29 a night) have glass doors, raised floors, Barkley cots with lambskin bedding, raised food bowls and communal television.

For small breeds and puppies, petite suites (at \$24 a night) are available in their own dedicated area, insulated from larger breeds for a more stress-free stay.

Other optional amenities include extra potty breaks, personal playtime, story time, trail hiking, busy bones, tummy rubs, pooltime, room service from Hyde Park Steak House, limousine rides about town or to McDonalds (in The Barkley's elegant black stretch limousine for transportation), shopping allowances, vacation photographs and emails and special needs. The Barkley can accommodate 160 canine and feline guests.

The Barkley also hosts educational seminars, birthday parties, "yappy" hours, "pooch-cake" breakfasts, "bark" mitzvahs, "mutt" rimonies and other special occasions.

No matter what level of accommodation, each suite adheres to standards above those required by law of a pet boarding facility. Each area features its own food preparation center with counters, sink and refrigerator. Classical and



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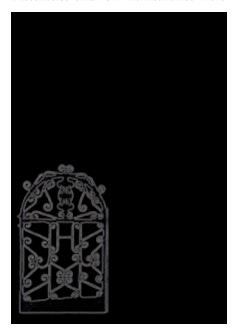
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jazz music is piped into all rooms. Air is ventilated to continually circulate draftfree fresh air throughout eight individual air zones to help minimize the spread of odors, airborne germs and contaminants. A central Powerwash system is implemented to cleanse and sanitize each suite and assures a uniform attention to cleanliness. Linen and begging are changed every day. The Barkley has its own laundry-housekeeping center with commercial washers and dryers and a 90second, 140-degree dishwasher to assure cleanliness and sanitation.

"Animal facilities are one of the most unique facilities we can build," says Laurence "Larry" Kline, president of Kline Construction Corporation. "It is necessary to have the proper odor control and noise abatement systems designed and installed for any animal facility to be a success."

All landscaping materials situated on the three-acre property are non-toxic. An outdoor park will adjoin the facility with a mound of wildflowers and a state-of-the-art water detention system designed by Carol Palansky, arborist/ landscaper with Natures Way, Inc.

"The Barkley is unique," Palansky explains. "This site had many challenges. No plant or any part of a plant, meaning seed, berry, bark or leaf could be toxic in any way to dogs and cats. We had to address a sloping site for erosion control and storm water management. The roadside plantings had to be suited for erosion control and salt tolerance as well as needing no added irrigation. Aesthetics and low maintenance were







PAMPERED PETS The Barkley offers myriad luxuries for guests, from bedtime stories to sessions on a hydrotherapy treadmill

also added to the challenge. The site was to be as sustainable as possible, requiring little or no additional irrigation, with no pesticides and only the use or organic or natural fertilizers applied to nourish the plants and lawn areas."

The landscape plan included customselected wildflowers on the east side of the property to be part of the overall sustainable theme. A large rain garden planting will be incorporated into the detention basin area. Wildflowers and selected plants are utilized for storm water management. "The idea was to slow rainwater runoff to reduce erosion, filter the water before entering drains and waterways," she says. "Not only will the landscape be beautiful but very functional. Besides, dogs love to watch fluttering butterflies."

As with any hotel and spa complex, the spa at The Barkley plays an important role in a guest's visit.

The Barkley has a Health & Wellness Center offering a variety of therapies and relaxation techniques. Offerings include acupuncture, weight management programs, thermal therapy, massotherapy, neuromuscular stimulation, joint mobilization and canine hydrotherapy. A unique feature is the hydrotherapy treadmill. A pet can step in, trot on the treadmill while immersed in soothing and bouyant 85-degree water. This therapy is joint-friendly, taking 80% of the weight off the joints.

The Barkley's Grooming Salon & Day Spa is state-of-the-art with a tiled floor, adjustable grooming stations with overhead electric and special air filters and dehumidifiers. A walk-in bathtub and shower utilizes the Hydrosurge system,

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For exercise and social enjoyment, The Barkley has a 2,200-square-foot Doggie Daycare for guests or day trippers. Each dog is tested for temperament before joining the daily canine playgroup. Surrounded by custom four-foot-high wrought iron fencing (custom designed by Amish ironworker Chester Miller),

the area features a joint-friendly, noise absorbing Tourturf floor (with drainage system), Crayola colored walls, plastic play furniture, sofas and toys, creating an atmosphere of fun. Dogs of all ages and breeds romp with abandon while staff supervises and encourages exercise and play. The area extends outdoors when a large overhead door is opened. Eightfoot chain-link fencing, buried eight inches underground to prohibit digging, surrounds the perimeter. Crushed limestone, which neutralizes urine, forms the base. All fencing and entrances are

redundant to prevent escape. The facility has security and smoke detection systems as well.

An electronics room houses the "brains" behind the facility's multiple telephone lines, major fire suppression system, 24-hour security system, back-up generator and the 32 cameras that record and monitor the premises.

The Barkley has not only gone to the dogs. Cats are also welcomed and pampered accordingly. Kitty City is a secure area designated for those of the feline persuasion. Each Cat Condo (at \$18 a night) has three levels for play, climbing and napping. Each features its own litter box and self-contained air ventilation system to prevent respiratory problems. Portholes offer aquarium views or outdoor birdfeeder views. Beds and bowls are raised and cat-oriented movies are played.

The Barkley is a busy place and has sold out its accommodations on several occasions since its grand opening on February 8. The number of employees has grown from seven to 47 in 60 days. It's no wonder, since Americans love their pets and spend accordingly. The dog industry alone generates over \$38 billion a year in this country (compared to the U.S. airline industry which generates around \$32 billion a year). Studies have shown that 92% of pet owners view their pets as children and 91% say "I love you" to their pets.

Howard Perlmuter, MA, president and CEO of The Barkley, is a native Clevelander (from Pepper Pike and a graduate of Orange High School and



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FOUR ON THE FLOOR Materials were selected with air quality, noise control and overall cleanliness in mind. Flooring in the play area (left) and in common areas near the overnight suites utilize Tourturf, a joint-friendly, noise absorbing material, and a drainage system.

Ashland University) who came up with concept of the Barkley while working as a successful record producer in Los Angeles. It all began with his adoption of two Golden Retrievers and their subsequent training and stardom in movies and advertising.

"I spent more on my dogs than on myself," Perlmuter says. "They were my children and went everywhere, even getting frequent flier miles. I wanted a peace of mind when my dogs were boarded. I saw an untapped industry with potential. As an entrepreneur, I not only recognized it as an opportunity, but also had the means to seize it. In March 2002, I wrote out the concept of a chain of pet hotels on a Taco Bell napkin."

In June, 2003 Perlmuter devised a 200-page business plan, this after visiting over 200 boarding facilities around the country (there are over 11,000, mostly small "mom and pop") and completed a spreadsheet comprised of 300 items on each facility and completed a statistical analysis to determine what amenities worked.

"The industry was underserved to meet the needs of the consumer," Perlmuter says. "My idea was to meet the demands of the consumer while instilling a brand name."

Perlmuter updated the business plan in October of 2004. At that time, he made the decision to leave Los Angeles and return to Cleveland to build his first pet hotel and day spa. Though the market would have been more lucrative in Los Angeles or in Las Vegas, the start-up costs and risk would have been greater.

"I figured if it works in Cleveland, it will work anywhere," Perlmuter says. "I'm from Cleveland, it offered zero competition and there was an investor base in Cleveland."

To prepare for the project, Perlmuter studied and became an Advanced Certified Pet Care Technician and hired the country's leading animal care architect. The Cleveland firm Herschman Architects, Inc. was then hired to take it to the next level of completion. Perlmuter also hired a local firm that specializes in constructing animal facilities around the country, Kline Construction in Mentor.

"Our company attends the Veterinary Economics Construction and Design Conference in Kansas City each year," Kline says. "I met Howard there three or four years ago. We assisted in the process



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of design and then performed the construction contracting."

Kline Construction was founded in 1980 as a masonry-subcontracting firm and in 1997 were involved in the construction of their first veterinary hospital. In 2001, the firm acquired VetCon. The firm now specializes in building veterinary clinics, having built 50 throughout the country.

"The Barkley is the first luxury quality facility we've built for pets," he says.

"I wanted to build from scratch, designing every inch from the ground up with a specific purpose in mind," Perlmuter says. "The plan is based on service and a budget to maintain the look, feel and perception of a luxury hotel, a mixture of elegance with what I call the 'cuteness' factor. It took a year of focus groups and primary research to come up with the name and trademark."

"The challenge was understanding the overall scope of the project," says Christopher Mierke, architect with Herschman Architects, Inc. "The owner had very clear expectations. We had to control the size and flow and utilized consultants in the field. The number one goal was to use sustainable materials that maintained hygiene. We are excited to be part of this new trend."

After being denied by many financial institutions, KeyBank understood the concept and became instrumental in creating the private equity financing. The Greater Cleveland Growth Association



FANCY FELINES The Barkley has not only gone to the dogs. Cats are also welcomed and pampered accordingly, with cat-themed movies played on plasma televisions, an aquarium of fish for visual interest and views of a birdfeeder outside.

and the Small Business Administration were also key players.

The site was chosen based on demographics and perception. It was selected based on its freeway visibility, being equidistant from a freeway entrance and exit, its five-mile radius from human hotels, close proximity to two emergency veterinary clinics, location near white collar employees, and a location in Orange, ranked in the top three of desirable Cleveland suburbs. Orange was chosen for its perception and one of the

few with zoning laws that did not prohibit the overnight boarding of pets.

Securing the land wasn't easy. For 25 years, the property had been used as storage for a landscaping company and the property was not for sale. An offer was made to the landowner who agreed to sell half of the property. The owner was eventually convinced, at a price, to sell all three acres and a purchase agreement was made. However, the landscape tenant intervened and refused to move. Avoiding legal proceedings, Perlmuter took the problem into his own hands and resolved it by relocating the landscaper to another parcel up the street and adding additional monetary incentive.

The day before the project broke ground in May of 2006, the City of Orange informed Perlmuter that he had to pay \$82,000 for the right, not the labor or materials, to tap into the sewers for his project or it wasn't going to happen. In 1991, sewer lines had been replaced on Miles Road and instead of assessing taxes, if there was no building on the premises there was no fee. This and the fact that the fee involved 13 years of accrued fees and interest had not been disclosed earlier, Perlmuter says. A settlement was reached and the project was able to proceed. The Barkley took nine months to complete.

"I'm proud to finally see that what began on a napkin is now brick and mortar and with customers," Perlmuter says.



LEGAL PERSPECTIVES

Navigating property laws & regulations

Public Contractors Beware





JOHN P. SLAGTER

ANTHONY R. VACANTI

uring the last election, political contributions exchanged for public contracts was a hot-button issue. Under such political scrutiny, the Ohio General Assembly passed H.B. 694, a sweeping reform of Ohio's campaign finance laws that affects all public contractors and design professionals. This new law severely constrains public contractors' and design professionals' ability to make political contributions to officeholders that award bid or unbid public contracts valued over \$500. Its impact is not limited to construction-related contracts as affected public contracts include all those let by the state, state agencies and political subdivisions, including local governments and appointed boards, agencies and commissions. Failure to follow the legislation's requirements, even inadvertently, can lead to harsh consequences, including loss of a public contract and even criminal liability. H.B. 694 imposes sanctions that include criminal prosecution and contract rescission for contractors that violate its limits.

The provisions of H.B. 694 affect all contributions made after January 1, 2007. Under the new law an officeholder (and all boards, agencies or commissions the officeholder appoints) cannot award a public contract if the officeholder received campaign contributions exceeding \$1,000 during the preceding two years from an individual owner, member, partner, 20% shareholder or professional corporation shareholder of a public contractor. The limit includes contributions by owners' spouses and minor children.

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Further, an officeholder (and all boards, agencies or commissions the officeholder appoints) cannot award a public contract to a contractor or design professional if the officeholder received campaign contributions exceeding \$2,000 during the preceding two years from all of a public contractor's partners, members, 20% shareholders (of a general corporation), or professional corporation shareholders (including owners' spouses and minor children), and any "affiliated PAC."

The burden of proving compliance with H.B. 694 rests on the contractor or design professional. Before being awarded a public contract, the contractor or design professional must certify compliance with H.B. 694. False certifications are punishable as fifth degree

[H.B. 694] severely constrains public contractors' and design professionals' ability to make political contributions to officeholders that award bid or unbid public contracts valued over \$500.

felonies. The same limits apply from the award of a contract until one year after its completion. Further contributions over the limits after the award of a contract can result in fines and rescission of the contract.

Under H.B. 694, seemingly nominal support of an officeholder from a contractor or design professional or their owners can disqualify the contractor and design professional from receiving public contracts or may result in the loss of already-awarded contracts. Therefore, it is important for every contractor and design professional involved in public construction to closely monitor the political contributions it makes and the contributions made by its owners and any affiliated PAC. P

The material appearing in this article is meant to provide general information only and not as a substitute for legal advice. Readers should seek the advice of their attorney or contact John at islagter@bdblaw.com (888.843.2825) or Anthony at avacanti@bdblaw.com (888.843.2825). This article may not be reprinted without the express permission of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP © 2007.





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MIKE FANOUS

Eliminating Taxes on Foreclosures and Short Sales

Realtors across the country are supporting legislation that would change the current law that forces individuals to pay an income tax when they have had a part of a mortgage loan forgiven or have been forced to foreclose because of their inability to pay their mortgage.

Since the early 1990s, the National Association of Realtors has actively engaged in efforts to change this law and is encouraged by the actions taken recently by the House of Representatives with the introduction of the Mortgage Cancellation Tax Relief Act, also know as the Andrews-Lewis bill.

When homeowners with only a small amount of equity have no choice but to sell their home, stagnant or declining property values can cause them to fall short of the amount needed to pay off a mortgage (which is considered a short sale). In addition, a rise in foreclosures is anticipated and already many families have been harmed by sub-prime mortgages and are finding themselves in foreclosure.

Given that growing condition, the National Association of Realtors has been working hard to help more homeowners and their families keep their home and to make the prospect of losing their home less burdensome.

The current tax code requires a lender who forgives debt to provide a Form 1099 to the IRS stating the amount the borrower has been forgiven. That disclosure applies whether it is a short sale, foreclosure, deed in lieu of foreclosure or any similar arrangement that relieves borrowers of the obligation to pay some portion of their debt. If the property is sold at foreclosure or is sold for less than was borrowed, that difference is considered income and is subject to the tax.

The Andrews-Lewis bill would ensure that any debt forgiven on disposition of a principal residence will not be taxed. **P**

Mike Fanous is the 2007 chairman of the board for the Cleveland Area Board of Realtors.



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HOME COMING Team members and city officials break ground (left) for Francis Court Gables (right).

Francis Court Gables Breaks Ground

Recently, Teresi Brothers Construction, architectural firm Studio Techne and various city officials were on hand for the groundbreaking of a new development in South Euclid. Francis Court Gables is a planned unit development consisting of 16 townhouses where tree-lined sidewalks connect them to Francis Court and will create a pedestrian-friendly environment.

All townhouses are two-story with attached two-car garages. Bedrooms will have large insulated windows that will provide a great view and take advantage of natural sunlight. Exteriors are designed using a rich palate of materials and attention to details of nearby historic homes. The use of brick and dimensional shingles are considered to further add to the warmth and character.

There are various design choices, including homes with three bedroom units and one-anda-half bath starting at \$199,900. The project is projected to be completed sometime this fall. For further information call 440.823.4460 or see www.franciscourtgables.com.

D-A-S Construction Announces Promotions

Full-service commercial construction firm D-A-S Construction Co. recently announced three promotions.

Ron Linard has been promoted to the position of senior estimator. Prior to his promotion, Linard held the position of estimator for over nine years. Linard provided estimating and pre-construction services for many of D-A-S' larger projects including House of Blues, West Side Community House and Airport Fast Park.

D-A-S has also promoted Lori Alba to director of marketing. Alba joined the organization in 2000 as marketing manager and is credited with implementing strategic

branding and marketing programs for the company. She was recently recognized by Crain's Cleveland Businesses Magazine as one of the publication's "Twenty in Their 20's". She is a board member of the Garfield Heights Chamber of Commerce, and serves as the chair of its branding and marketing Committee. Additionally, she serves as the chairperson of BOMA (Building Owners & Managers Association) Greater Cleveland's branding taskforce.

Michael Shanahan has promoted to the position of project manager. Shanahan has over seven years of experience in the commercial construction industry. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Technology from the University of Akron along with an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Surveying and Construction Engineering Technology.

Ulmer & Berne Partner Appointed to Care Alliance Health Center Board

Ulmer & Berne LLP announced recently that one of its partners, Craig S. Miller, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for Care Alliance Health Center.

Care Alliance Health Center is a non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) whose mission is to provide high-quality health care, patient advocacy and related services to people who need them the most, regardless of their ability to pay, in a manner that is costeffective and empowers people

Developing News

New York City-based firm ESI Designs has been selected to lead a \$3 million interior renovation at The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. The firm, which specializes in designing experiential spaces and has completed projects for Sony, the Children's Museum of Los Angeles and more, is planning for a phased construction that will take place from January to March 2008. The project aims to ease navigation throughout the museum, which may include reorganizing its main exhibit hall to present information and memorabilia in a more chronological fashion, making the Hall of Fame more accessible and visible, and improving the museum's audiovisual systems.

Construction of Canton's first LEED-certified building is currently in its final phases. The Metropolitan Centre, a service center for senior citizens in downtown Canton overseen by the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, is scheduled to open this summer.



The Metropolitan Centre

Meeting energy conservation and environmental needs and earning points under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system are a number of sustainable design features, including a geothermal system, automated building control systems, solar outdoor lighting, recyclable building materials, energy-efficient lighting controls and a non-hydraulic Ecospace elevator system. The project, which entails renovating and connecting two existing buildings that together total approximately 56,000 square feet,

(Continued on pg. 39)



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As an attorney with Ulmer & Berne, Miller is Chair of the Public Law Group, and holds 30 years of experience that integrates public law/public contracts/government relations, real estate development and financing,

construction law, zoning and land use and nonprofit corporations. He assists corporate headquarter relocations involving complex public and private financing, as well as private developers and companies in new construction and major renovation projects. Miller represents local and regional public agencies in public law matters. He also counsels clients in real estate and eminent domain.

Gilbane Names Senior VP/Regional Manager

Gilbane Building Company recently named Thomas M. Laird, Jr. as senior vice president and regional manager of its Central Regional Office (CRO). In this position, he



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will oversee regional operations in five states including Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and southern Indiana. Laird is a 21-year veteran of Gilbane and in his new role will provide overall management and leadership of the 130-person CRO team. Significant active projects within the region include The Cleveland Museum of Art in Cleveland; Firelands Regional Medical Center in Sandusky; The Ohio State University Recreational and Physical Activity Center in Columbus; Pfizer Exubera Expansion in Terre Haute, Indiana; and The University of Kentucky Medical Center Parking Garage in Lexington, Kentucky.

Laird joined Gilbane as a management trainee in 1986 and progressed through a number of construction operations and leadership assignments. Most recently he served as district manager in the Cleveland office and vice president, regional manager of business development in the Mid-Atlantic Region. He is a member of Leadership Cleveland as well as the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP).

Perspectus Architecture Associate Receives LEED Accreditation

Perspectus Architecture, a Cleveland-based professional design firm, recently announced that David L. Potts, AIA, project associate with the firm, has received certification as a LEED Accredited Professional. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental (LEED) Design Green

Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Potts has a strong focus on sustainable design and urban design principles with extensive knowledge of computer graphics programs and various graphic presentation techniques. He has been actively involved in a variety of project types, including medical and retail services.

Potts earned a Bachelor of Science in Fine and Professional Arts in 2002 and a Masters of Architecture (emphasis on Urban Design) in 2004 from Kent State University. He resides in Cleveland.

KS Associates Appoints Senior Project Manager

Elyria-based civil engineering and land surveying firm KS Associates, Inc. recently announced David W. Vorndran, P.E.,



David W. Vorndran

been appointed to senior project manager of KS Associates' Commercial Land Development Group. In this position, Vorndran

is responsible for managing large-scale commercial development projects including big-box retail developments. His responsibilities include coordinating all phases of projects, from preliminary planning and design through cost estimating and final project construction.

Prior to joining Associates, Vorndran served as a consultant for a full-service real estate development and management company. He has played key roles on high-profile commercial projects, including Legacy Village in Lyndhurst and Steelyard Commons on the edge of Cleveland's industrial valley. Vorndran has a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Cleveland State University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer Ohio.

Suntrol & Custom Tint, Inc. Welcomes Sales Manager

Suntrol Company, the largest window film dealer in Ohio serving the residential and commercial markets, recently announced that it has hired Robert Coolidge as sales manager. Pending the merger with a Columbus dealer, Suntrol will serve on a daily basis about two-thirds rather than a quarter of the state of Ohio. Suntrol has also recently opened offices in southern Florida. With these expansions, a sales manager was the logical step to keep the more than 30year-old company cohesive, says Suntrol President John Hansen.

"Rob was hired to bring the company to the next level," Hansen says.

is being led by general contractor W.G. Fairfield Company and John Patrick Picard Architects, Inc.

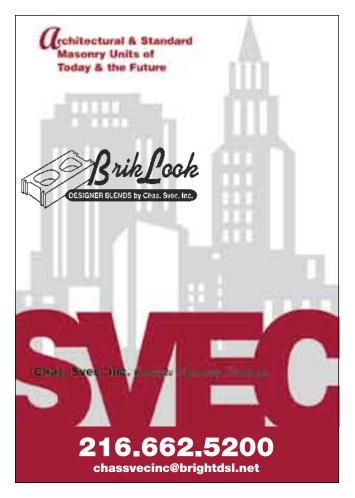
Lake Hospital System recently broke ground on a \$150 million health care facility in Concord Township. The threestory, 300,000-square-foot hospital, which will be called TriPoint Medical Center, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009. State-of-the-art features will include electronic medical records and computerized radiology systems that will be integrated with electronic information at other facilities in the Lake Hospital System to provide up-tothe-minute updates on patients.

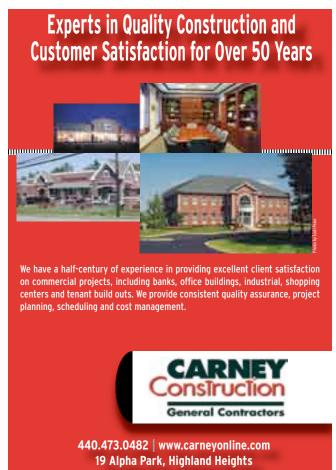
The Akron Zoo recently received LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for its Education Center/Komodo Kingdom exhibit (see full story; Properties, October 2005). Designed by TC Architects and constructed by Welty Building Co. Ltd. in 2005, the facility is the first building in Summit County and the 15th in Ohio to receive the honor. Only two other zoos in the U.S. - San Diego Zoo and Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle - have LEED-certified buildings.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., a Massachusetts-based firm that specializes in designing security detection instruments, recently opened a new 80,000-square-foot, one-story facility in Oakwood. The company is currently working on technology for detecting nuclear weapons and radiological materials after receiving part of a \$1.6 billion contract from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The \$5.7 million facility, located on an 11.5-acre site, was built by Streetsboro-based design/build firm Geis Companies.

Expansion at Westfield SouthPark in Strongsville has been completed. As part of the \$60 million revitalization project, the shopping, dining and entertainment center added 200,000

(Continued on pg. 41)







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Coolidge is a graduate of Buffalo State College and has held management positions for New Horizons Computer Learning Centers, Corporate Express, and Advanstar Communications, Inc.

Suntrol Company, founded in 1975, is a Northern Ohio leader in residential and commercial glass tinting.



Francis M. Coakley

Broker Launches Coakley Real Estate Company

Northeast Ohio commercial real estate broker Francis M. "Sandy" Coakley recently announced the formation of Coakley Real Estate Company LLC. Located in a street-level retail space in The Bradley Building at 1224 West Sixth Street in downtown Cleveland's Historic Warehouse District, Coakley Real Estate Company focuses on the sale of historic properties, leasing of downtown/suburban retail and office space, and sale of luxury condominiums and homes.

With 22 years of commercial real estate experience, Coakley's accomplishments reflect the completion of more than 450 office/retail lease transactions and the sale of numerous buildings, specifically in downtown Cleveland's Gateway, Warehouse and Flats Districts. Most recently, he served as vice president of the Chartwell Group and was a leading force in the company's office/commercial and retail leasing division. Coakley also served as vice president of sales for the Cleveland Stevedore Company as well as president of Coakley Terminals.

Coakley's partner is his wife, Gaye Ramstrom-Coakley, who has a real estate license plus 27 years of radio sales and management experience.

Kowit & Passov Names Retail Division VP

Kowit & Passov Real Estate Group recently announced the appointment of Tori R. Nook to vice president of the firm's retail division. Nook will assist in the day-to-day brokerage of the retail division as well as recruitment and training of new agents.

Having joined KPREG in 1999 as a retail specialist, she



Tori R. Nook

has represented landlords, national and regional tenants with various retail projects, site selections and land acquisitions in Ohio. Nook is a graduate of John Carroll University, cum laude, and has numerous professional affiliations including the International Council on Shopping Centers.

Cell Phone Service Provides Access to Real Estate Property Values

A Denver-based company recently announced a beta release that it hopes will be the next step in real estate revolution: cell phone text messaging. HouseFront is a mobile service allowing people to receive free property values and information on more than 77 million homes in the U.S., whether listed for sale or not, via mobile phone and text messaging.

"HouseFront gives the user access to housing information while they stand in front of a home, using technology that nearly every American has in their hand," HouseFront founder James Eberhard says.

Through mobile technology and a proprietary data system, HouseFront users can access information about homes and neighborhoods almost instantly from anywhere. Whether driving through a desirable neighborhood or standing in front of their dream home, the user simply types in the property address to his or her cell phone, sends to the common short code 46873 (which spells out "HOUSE") and HouseFront will send a response that includes the home's estimated value and characteristics including the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, total square footage, last sold date and neighborhood sales trends. The service is free, although standard text messaging rates apply.

square feet of retail space, including a 50,000-square-foot Dick's Sporting Goods that opened last summer, various restaurants and 25 new specialty retailers. The enhancements also include two new sky lit courts, new landscaping and brick paving, outdoor seating areas, a new elevator and escalator, new column treatments and two drivethrough Porte Cochere entrances. Most recently completed at the center is a new Cinemark Movie Theater, featuring 14 screens. General contractor for the project is Illinois-based firm Graycor and project architect Dorsky Hodgson Parrish Yue.

Demolition recently began at the vacant Saint Luke's Medical Center campus in Cleveland's Buckeye-Shaker neighborhood as part of a \$75 million rehabilitation and reuse project on the 28-acre site. Three buildings are coming down although the main hospital building will be retained and renovated to include up to 210 apartments, an auditorium for use by the community and perhaps classrooms, a health club and commercial space. The project is part of a plan devised by nonprofit development organization Neighborhood Progress Inc. to transform the site into a community gathering space.

Cleveland State University officials recently announced a plan to construct a new building along Euclid Avenue as a home for its studio art and theater programs. Architectural firm Westlake Reed Leskosky has developed conceptual plans for the proposed \$50 million project, which would replace the vacant Corlett Building with a new facility between East 18th Street and East 21st Street. If the project carries through, the new arts complex would likely begin construction in 2010, after the completion of current university projects including a new \$35 million College of **Education and Human Services building** to be complete in 2009 and a new \$55 million student union building to be completed in 2010. P

News about people, products, places & plans

For serious property hunters, the service also includes an interface between the user's cell phone and an online database (available at www.HouseFront.com).

1900 Euclid Avenue Lofts Building Under New Management

Coral Asset Management Company, the third-party management arm of local real estate development firm, The Coral Company, recently entered into a management agreement for the landmark 1900 Euclid Avenue Lofts Building in downtown Cleveland. The property joins 113 St. Clair and Statler Arms Apartments in the collection



1900 Euclid Avenue Lofts

of downtown buildings that Coral Asset Management Company manages.

Located across the street from Cleveland State University, 1900 Euclid Avenue Lofts Building was originally a 1920s era office structure that was transformed into a residential community featuring 80 contemporarystyle apartments in 2002. The first floor offers approxi-

mately 5,000 square feet of retail space.

Data Indicates Jump in Nat'l Foreclosure Listings

Updated quarterly foreclosure data compiled by Bargain Network, an online provider of real estate foreclosures, pre-foreclosures and for-sale-by-owner property listings and information, indicates that the number of foreclosures in the first quarter of 2007 (January through March) rose approximately 20% to 414,000 filings compared to the fourth quarter of 2006 (October through December). In addition, foreclosure activity in the most recent month (March 2007)

rose more than 25% over the previous month to approximately 158,000. When the nationwide foreclosure statistics for the current month (March 2007) are compared to similar numbers from March 2006, foreclosure listing activity in the U.S. is estimated to have climbed upwards of 50-60%.

Data indicates that 4,478 foreclosures were filed in Ohio during the month of March (one foreclosure for every 1,067 households), a 23% increase from February.

Approximately 13% of the national foreclosure activity was comprised of land, commercial buildings, multifamily residences, mobile homes, etc.





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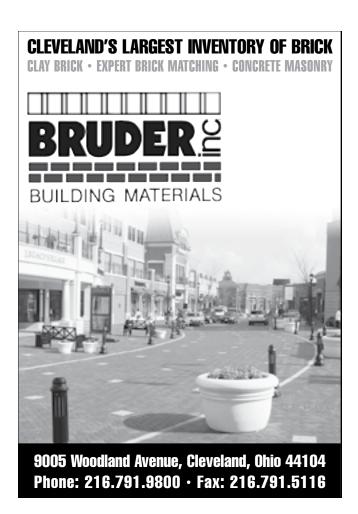
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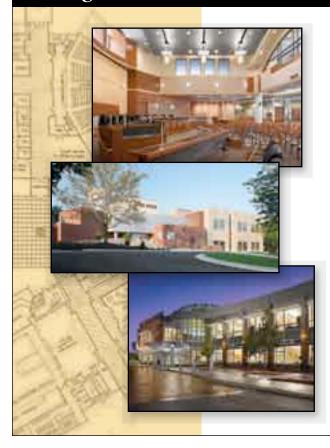
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Closing the Deal

Sale Contract, providing a brief description of each. I thought it might be a good idea to give additional details on some of the more critical components, since a few short sentences will not do justice to many. So for the next couple months, we will tackle one of the more mystifying ones, that being closing costs. Periodically over future issues, we will take a look at some others.

Closing costs are simply all of the ancillary costs that occur during the sale process and can be divided into two categories: (1) costs that are directly associated with the transaction, and (2) income and expenses that have been or will be associated with the property. It is critical for both the Seller and the Buyer to fully understand these costs. The amount of the sale price, the amount the Seller walks away with and the amount the Buyer needs to write the check for are all very different numbers, dictated by the closing costs and how they are pro-rated or shared. This month, we will talk about the direct costs that arise as a result of the sale of a property. Next month, we will tackle income and expenses that are associated with the property and need to be divided between the Seller and the Buyer. But before we get into a detailed discussion, a quick word on what I'll term "local customs." Many closing costs are handled the same way, regardless of where the property is

located. However, some closing costs vary depending on the city or state, hence the term "local customs." In the discussion below, I will note which specific items are governed by local customs. But these should always be confirmed, particularly if the property is located outside of Northern Ohio.

Title costs

There are a whole host of costs associated with the title work. The most costly is the title policy, which is insurance that the title is agreed to at closing. The premium associated with this title policy is determined by the sale price. Other costs include record release/reconveyance costs, title and/or wire fees, recording fees, among others. Local custom has the title costs, particularly the cost of the premium, are divided evenly between the Seller and the Buyer. One side note on title costs: if the Buyer is concurrently pursuing a loan to purchase the property, the lender may require that

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additional endorsements and requirements be made by the title company. The additional costs that may arise from the lender requirements are usually the sole responsibility of the Buyer.

Escrow fee

This is the fee that is charged by the escrow agent (usually the tile company) for their services. Escrow agents serve a valuable role in a closing, as they are the pivot point between all of the interested parties. They collect, verify and re-distribute all of the pertinent documents and monies among the Buyer, the Seller, the Lender, the Broker and the municipality. Escrow fees are typically split evenly between the Seller and the Buyer according to local customs.

Transfer tax

This represents a tax on the sales proceeds that is assessed by the county in which the property is located. In all of the counties in Ohio, this tax is equal to \$4 per \$1,000 of value as established by the transfer price. This is sometimes called Tax Stamps or Conveyance Fee. Local custom has this item being totally paid for by the Seller, with the logic being that the Seller is getting the full benefit of the sales proceeds so they should have the full liability of any tax associated with these proceeds. However, there can be pushback on this item from time to time, particularly when the sale prices gets into the multi-millions.

Due diligence costs

Typically, the Buyer will be directly responsible for any due diligence costs that arise during their inspection period. These can include items such as environmental studies, surveys, appraisals, mechanical and structural studies, etc. However, these items can get a bit fuzzy at times. For instance, the Seller may be asked or even required to provide an environmental study or a survey. This may not be an issue if these types of studies have been recently completed and it is usually less expensive and faster for the Buyer to update an older study rather than starting one from scratch. However, it may be a bit more problematic if the Seller's cupboards are bare.

Brokerage fee

This is the sale commission that is payable if the Seller was using the services of a real estate broker. Typically,

Heard Here First

The Soothsayer If you are a regular reader of this column, you may recall a bold prediction that I made in the January 2005 issue. At that time, I said that although 2006 would be another big year in the Cleveland investment market I thought that 2007 would be a blockbuster. Fast-forward to the end of the first guarter 2007 and the total investment volume thus far has been almost \$400 million. Stay tuned to see if I should be trading in my HP10B for a deck of tarot cards. -AP

the brokerage fee is the responsibility of the Seller, as they engaged the broker to assist them in selling the property. There is usually a separate agreement, either a formal exclusive agreement or a commission letter, between the Seller and the broker that dictates the amount and timing of the payment.

Legal fees

In many transactions, the Seller and the Buyer consult their respective attorneys to facilitate the deal. I've said it before and I'll say it again: the best advice that I can give you is to consult with a good attorney. It is money well spent. In this instance, the Seller and the Buyer are typically directly responsible for any legal costs that they incur.

Next month, we'll conclude this discussion of closing costs, moving onto the dividing of income and expenses associated with the property. P

Alec Pacella is regional manager for First Industrial Realty Trust, Inc. He can be reached by phone at 216.525.0968 or by email at apacella@firstindustrial.com.



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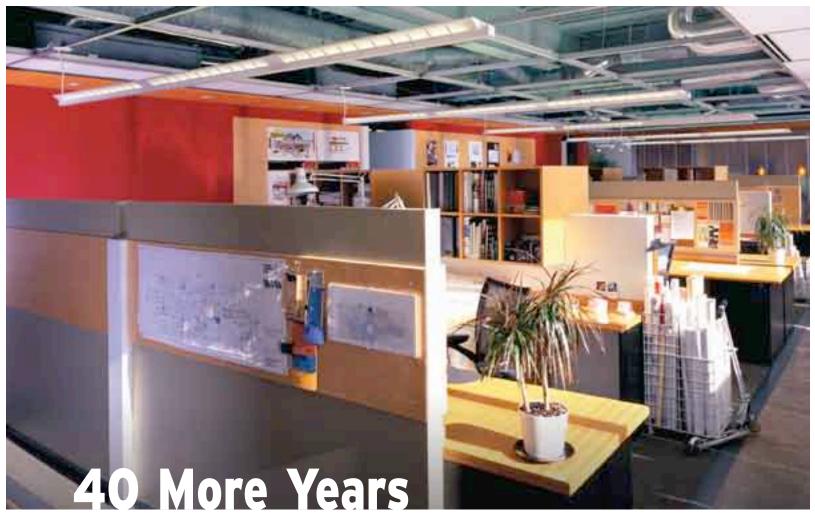








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Architectural firm Weber Murphy Fox looks to the future

By Jessica Nelson | Photos courtesy Weber Murphy Fox

Forty more years" is the new tagline at the Weber Murphy Fox Cleveland branch office. This year marks the regional architectural firm's 40th anniversary. Headquartered in Erie, Pennsylvania, Weber Murphy Fox's business base has expanded to Ohio, Michigan and New York State thanks to forward-looking practices and a unique, all-inclusive approach to construction management.

"We are absolutely convinced that this a great point of departure," says Douglas Hoffman, AIA, principal. "Let's move ahead with it."

The biggest milestone

When Weber Murphy Fox introduced construction management to its repertoire in 1983, it opened doors. It was the first architectural firm in Northwest Pennsylvania to offer the total package including landscaping and interior design, and this 360-degree service was the big ticket that set the firm apart from the pack. It still is, Hoffman says.

"We are an architecturally driven construction management office," he says.

"What the design-led approach does is focus on the appropriate design and then wrap the construction around it," says Chuck Haynes, director of marketing.

Clients pay one flat fee up front and Weber Murphy Fox adjusts building plans moving forward.

"Our method of construction management was a little different than the way other people did it," Hoffmann says. "We treat it as a professional service. Our goal is to save money for the client."

The firm is so tightly knit after 40 years that on-staff builders expect and anticipate the improvements and details architects will address during preconstruction planning talks.

"It makes a huge difference because the client gets to a good comfort level at an early stage that they have got a building they can afford, in addition to a building they'll want to look at," Hoffman says.

"It's both sides of the equation working towards a common goal," Haynes says.

Lake Erie waterfront development

Weber Murphy Fox attained another milestone in the mid-1980s when the firm began to act as a waterfront developer in Pennsylvania.

Community focus, economic development and social initiative are the key factors that drive the group's design and planning goals.

In conjunction with the Erie Western Pennsylvania Port Authority, the firm was responsible for designing the entire Erie Waterfront master plan including

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LOCAL FLAIR Locally, Weber Murphy Fox has

LOCAL FLAIR Locally, Weber Murphy Fox has completed work for a wide range of clients, including Jacob's Field, Gilbane, Pioneer Standard Electronics, Ohio Savings Bank, Bank One and Cleveland State University (above).

the Pepsi Amphitheatre and Dobbins Tower, dock, gazebo and marina.

Weber Murphy Fox also created a cultural center by converting a decommissioned power plant into the Maritime Museum, which houses the U.S. Brig Niagara, permanently berthed in Erie. An expansion of this project created the largest public library built in Pennsylvania in the 20th century.

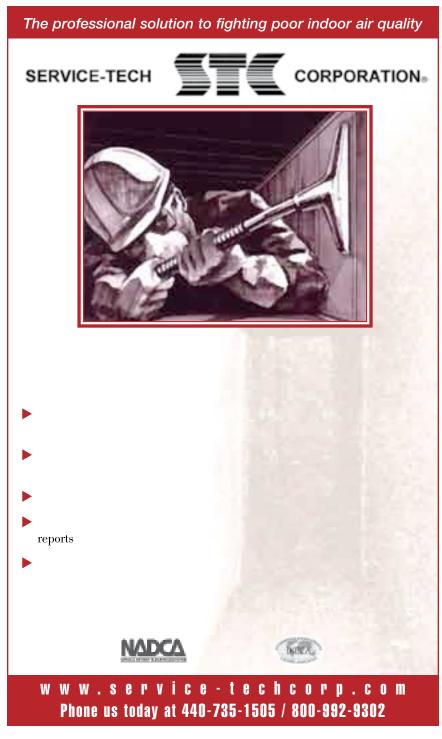
"Not only were we instrumental in the design but we were also instrumental in leading the community to the decision making process," Hoffman says.

Expansion

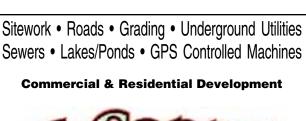
The launching of each new regional branch office has been a key benchmark of success throughout the years. According to Hoffman, the Erie head-quarters earns 70% of the company's net sales while Cleveland is responsible for 25%, and the State College, Pennsylvania office earns the remaining 5%.

During the process of transitioning from a local firm to a regional firm, the company realized that "to be successful as a regional firm we needed to develop areas of expertise, what we call vertical markets, and one of those is higher education," Hoffman says. "We've gotten very good at that. A second is health care facilities."

The company encourages its architects to specialize in specific building markets such as corporate spaces, banks,









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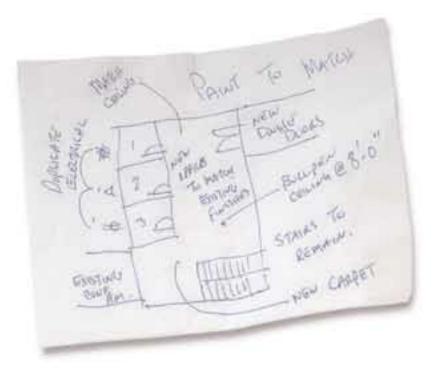
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GONE GREEN The firm's Cleveland office was built to be as green as possible and features exposed concrete flooring, exposed ceilings and recycled carpets.

schools and universities, health care facilities, recreational venues and even religious buildings.

A specialist helps to organize each project team by researching and sharing current best practices in a specific vertical market.

"It's all about the passion," Haynes says. "That's how you really become an expert. We really are flexible. We allow people to create their own niche."

Several employees teach architecture and design at Kent State University and Penn State University. Many are published authors. Most are actively involved in arts and community organizations including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Rotary Club and the Girl Scouts to determine community needs and to groom the next generation of Weber Murphy Fox team members.

The firm actively recruits graduate student interns. Three years ago when Herm Weber was a foreign lecturer at Chang Mai University in Thailand, the firm arranged an exchange program between itself, local colleges and local architectural firms and the School of Architecture at the university. The program has expanded to several national firms and gives architecture exchange students an opportunity to experience working and designing in different cul-

"Mentoring is the way you learn," Hoffman says.

It is also the way that the Midwest's next generation of architects and builders will find their passions and cultivate specializations.

"That's one of the directions through which this company will continue to grow: understanding the business case with studio expertise," says Haynes. "It is not us grey-haired guys who are going to get to the next 40 years, it is the next generation. The mentoring has to happen."

40 more years

"The company has always had a forward looking view," Hoffman says. "We are all about trying to be an integrated service. It always looks ahead."

The firm's long-term goals include opening more branches in the Carolinas, adding mechanical and electrical divisions to its in-house services, and focusing on green design.

In fact, the Cleveland branch office was built and designed to be as green as possible as a functioning demonstration model for clients. The floor is exposed concrete, the ceilings are open and exposed, the carpets are recycled, and the kitchen area cupboards are made of pressed sunflowers.

Weber Murphy Fox recently won a \$25 million project in New York State to design and build Holiday Valley's Tamarack Club, a luxury resort timeshare community that will include living, shopping, dining and recreation areas.

"Let's add the services; let's add the offices; let's add the creativity, whether it be through development or educational ventures," Hoffman says. "That's what we want to do." ${f P}$

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Artful Engineering

Protecting priceless paintings at The Cleveland Museum of Art requires close HVAC tolerances

By Jeanne Bluffstone | Photos courtesy Karpinski Engineering

When it comes to renovating a structure as important as Cleveland's world-class Museum of Art, aesthetics is only one critical component. Equally, if not more important, is the planning of heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems that ensure precise control of humidity and interior temperature. Stringent values must be maintained in order to protect the condition of the museum's irreplaceable artwork.

A great deal of planning goes into a major project such as the one at the art museum. In addition to planning systems that protect the museum's collections, there is historical value in the buildings and careful attention is required in order to protect both the buildings and the treasures they house.

Renovating the buildings in stages

The original art museum building, which will remain intact, dates back to 1916. That is the portion that faces the reflection pond. Over the years, as the museum and its contents grew, a first addition was commissioned and built in 1956 and a second in 1971.



COOL ART HVAC is a crucial component of renovating The Cleveland Museum of Art.

This second addition was designed by well-known New York architect Marcel Breuer. In the late 1980s another addition was added to the structures that existed at that time. The project cur-

rently under construction replaces the 1956 addition in phase one and the 1989 addition in phase two, which has not yet commenced.

At present, the renovation, which started last year, is 75% complete. The first building to be completed and opened was the Breuer building which now houses an exhibit of Monet artwork. The most recent building, the one built in the '80s, will be torn down and replaced with a new structure in the second phase of the current construction project.

Experience in historical preservation

Karpinski Engineering is more than familiar with renovations of historical and artistic value. The firm was the engineer for the renovation and expansion of Severance Hall a few years ago and designed the HVAC system's renovation and expansion for that building project. It also designed the HVAC, lighting and plumbing systems that are the lifeblood of the renovated portions of the art museum expansion project.

Just as rapid changes in temperature and humidity can adversely affect the condition of priceless musical instruments, so do paintings, canvases and paint respond in different ways to sudden changes in humidity and temperature. Knowing that, close tolerances are required to maintain environmental consistency throughout the year, according to Dennis Wessel, senior vice president and director of marketing for Karpinski Engineering.

The Breuer Building, the addition to the building at the museum's entrance from the parking lot drive, is the first of the existing museum buildings to open

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TIGHT WRAP Karpinski sealed supply ducts in the museum's original 1916 building.

after the renovation and is one of only two Cleveland buildings designed by the famous Hungarian-born architect. It will also remain as the only building designed by Breuer after the Cuyahoga County's planned demolition of the Ameritrust Building.

Systems that are critical, yet hidden

The engineering required for an intricate project such as the Cleveland Art Museum included heating and air conditioning, electrical power and power for the lighting, among others.

"While we didn't do the actual lighting design, we assisted with that and provided all the power for the lighting as well as the plumbing design for the renovations," Wessel says.

The most critical part of the engineering was the heating, air conditioning and ventilation because of the environmental control accuracy required for the artwork.

"If the building gets too hot or too cold, or too humid or too dry, there could be deterioration of the artifacts," he says. "Something that most people don't realize is when relative humidity changes rapidly in an environment that houses ancient works and art, significant stress and pressure can be placed on the artwork by the resultant change in vapor pressure."

In the summer, the air conditioning equipment has to remove humidity from the air and in the winter, it has to spray steam into the air to add humidity, thus keeping not only temperature, but also humidity constant.

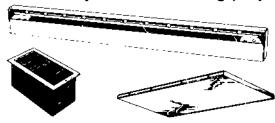
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- 70-72 degrees and 48-52% relative humidity," Wessel says.

To provide humidification in the wintertime, rather than using steam from the nearby Medical Center Company located between CWRU and University Hospital, Karpinski installed a clean steam system that emits no chemicals and uses soft water to produce steam without introducing any particulates into the air stream, says Wessel.

Cooling for the museum is provided by large water chillers which are used to produce cold water that is distributed to air handling equipment which subsequently and delivers the conditioned air to various parts of the building.

When the engineers started working in the original building, they discovered that the equipment in the building had been installed in 1916. The system worked by taking return air out of the building and running it through two brick return air tunnels. It's the original tunnel, and interestingly enough, the same type of tunnel

exists under Severance Hall's basement floor. Severance's tunnel is made of concrete; those at the art museum are approximately six feet high and four feet wide and are made of brick. Although the tunnel remained intact, it had to be cleaned prior to use.

Additionally, the majority of the original sheet-metal supply air ductwork in the 1916 building was concealed within interior brick walls of the building construction. In order to avoid the costly removal and replacement of this brick construction existing ducts were to be reused but had a considerable amount of leakage due to the original method of construction. Eliminating this leakage was going to be a challenge. A relatively new duct sealing method, which was developed at Lawrence Berkley Laboratories in California, was investigated and used successfully. This sealing process utilizes a water-based sealant, which was tested by the museum curator and determined to be safe for use in the proximity of the artwork, which is sprayed into the ducts. The material





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congeals at holes in the ducts eventually closing up these penetrations, considerably reducing the original duct leakage.

Filtration system keeps air, art clean

Obviously, because of the artwork, the filtration system in the building has to be high-efficiency, so it has not only high efficiency filtration for removing particulate matter, but also uses a gas phase filtration that uses a mixture of chemicals, primarily activated carbon and potassium permanganate, to remove aerosols and chemicals from the air. The filters remove particles and contaminants such as formaldehydes in carpeting, aerosols and other organic chemicals.

Karpinski Engineering worked with New York architect Rafael and Vinolv on the project, says Wessel. Vinoly also designed the Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, which is the largest LEED certified convention center in the country.

"While the architect designs the visible portions of the buildings, what we engineers design most people don't see," Wessel says. "But our systems have to work or there would be a lot of problems. Without our engineering, the constructed buildings wouldn't have light or heating and cooling, and would be virtually unoccupiable."

Some of the systems are very high tech.

"We designed a digital automation system for the art museum that controls all of the heating cooling and lighting," he says. "The system is run by a central terminal that is controlled by the building operators. The system monitors what's happening all over the building and can tell if the HVAC and lighting are operating properly. Lighting can be turned off and on automatically and temperatures can be reset as necessary from this remote location." P

For more info on Karpinski Engineering (www. karpinskieng.com), contact Dennis Wessel, senior vice president and director of marketing, 3135 Euclid Ave. in Cleveland, or email him at dwessel@karpinksieng.com.

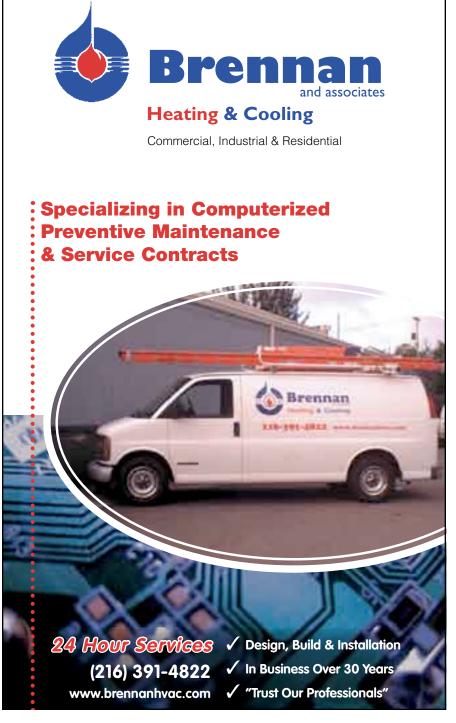
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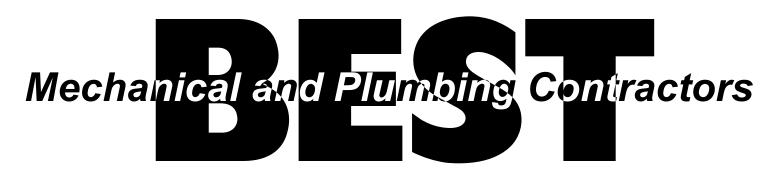


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Mechanical, Plumbing Contractors on the Move

MCA, CPCA presidents announce recent organization news

Photos by Mort Tucker Photography

The president of the Mechanical Contractors' Association of Cleveland (MCA) and the president of the Cleveland Plumbing Contractors' Association (CPCA) have two things in common. First of all, both of their organizations are under the administrative umbrella of the Mechanical and Plumbing Industry Council (MAPIC), and secondly, they both have some interesting news to tell.

MCA President James Neiheiser is anxious to announce that MCA of Cleveland has established a student chapter at Kent State University (KSU). This student chapter will be housed in the brand new Construction Management Department at KSU.

The purpose of the chapter is to expose students to the mechanical contracting





TWO WITH NEWS MCA President James Neiheiser and CPCA President Scott Wallenstein have projects in the pipeline.

industry by inviting the students to participate in MCA meetings and seminars and by instituting an internship program whereby KSU students can work for MCA members during the summer or part-time during the school year.

"We look at this student chapter as an apprenticeship program for contractors,"

President Jim Neiheiser says. "We have a program in place to replenish our field workforce and that's called apprenticeship, but we have never developed a program to replenish our management workforce. Well now we have that program in place and it is off to a good start."

The faculty advisor is in place and KSU, Local MCA and National MCAA have signed off. The first 12 students held their inaugural meeting in April. Nationwide, this will be the 39th student chapter. It couldn't have come at a better time, Neiheiser says, because the National MCAA Student Chapter's annual summit will be held in Cleveland this October. These KSU students will also be sponsored by MCA of Cleveland to attend the MCAA

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National Convention in California next March, where they will compete with the other 38 chapters in a contest to win scholarships.

Neiheiser is also pleased to announce that MCA and its union partner, Pipefitters Local #120, are about to undertake some community volunteer projects. For seven years, MCA and Local #120 provided free pre-winter furnace maintenance for senior citizens, and now they are extending heating, air conditioning and sprinkler services to non-profit organizations. According to Neiheiser, if a non-profit, communitybased organization that provides service to needy individuals requests help, MCA and Local #120 will consider that request and try to provide a free service.

Scott Wallenstein, president of CPCA, also has a few things to brag about. CPCA's education and promotion arm,

Neiheiser and Wallenstein agree that there are many positive advances going on in the union mechanical and plumbing industry, and those advances will pay dividends in the future.

CPI, has initiated a cooperative program with the Cleveland Clinic's Children's Hospital. The Clinic informed CPCA that hot water tanks and infants don't always get along that well. In fact, according to the Clinic, scalding during bath time is a frequent occurrence for infants because bath water that is comfortable to an adult could burn an infant. So CPCA and CPI put their heads together and developed and anti-scald kit that includes an informative brochure on the safe way to bathe newborns and a plastic (credit card size) thermometer. To date, 7,000 of these kits have been distributed to new mothers as they were discharged from one of the Cleveland Clinic Hospitals.

Wallenstein is also proud to announce a new joint effort with Plumbers' Local

Heard on the Hill

Coleman Spohn president testifies before U.S. House of Reps

Spohn oleman Corporation President Lonnie Coleman testified on Capitol Hill last month before the House of Representatives' Small Business Committee, urging Congress to repeal the 3% withholding provision. Coleman, a past president of the Mechanical Contractors' Association of Cleveland (MCA), was representing MCAA and five other union-signatory construction employer associations in the Campaign for Quality Construction (NECA, SMACNA, ICE, TAUC and FCA).

At the hearing, he stressed the immediate need for repeal of the added withholding provision as proposed in the Meek-Herger repeal bill, H.R. 023. The subject of the hearing has attracted opposition from business groups in varied industries and public purchasing agencies that argue against high administrative and contract costs that jeopardize agency



HOUSE BOUND Representing MCAA and other construction employer associations on a recent D.C. visit, Lonnie Coleman urged Congress to repeal the 3% withholding provision.

procurement goals. Lonnie also discussed a wide array of possible procurement and fiscal reforms that could be used to close the gap without burdening tax compliant construction contractors with even further contract payment withholding. He suggested ways to improve the screening of responsible bidders and offerors with tax compliance certification requirements. He also emphasized the need to reform misclassification of employees as independent contractors as a way to close a big part of the tax gap, and the ongoing need to eliminate retainage and require prompt payment by government agencies at all levels.

Coleman is the chairman of the Government Affairs Committee at the National MCAA, a position he has held for six years. One of his credentials is that he is currently treasurer of MCAA and in two years will be the national president of MCAA, a spot that hasn't been held by a Clevelander since Horace Wetzell of the Smith & Oby Company in 1958. Coleman will be the first minority contractor to be president of this 118-year-old organization. P

#55 to enhance productivity, professionalism and the image of the plumbing industry. CPCA and Plumbers' Local #55 have adopted the Standards for Excellence, which are guidelines for professional behavior, efficient productivity, quality workmanship, high ethics and a positive image. Local #55 and CPCA have established a new committee called the Industry Standards Group (ISG), which will educate contractors

and union members on the value of the new Standards for Excellence.

Neiheiser and Wallenstein agree that there are many positive advances going on in the union mechanical and plumbing industry, and those advances will pay dividends in the future. In the meantime, MCA and CPCA remain strong and vital, and in the forefront on mechanical and plumbing issues, Neiheiser says.

Living, Breathing Buildings

Automation, integration of quality components key to superior HVAC systems

By Greg Drensky

Abuilding's automation system isn't just for heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment any more. Today's world allows access into many more aspects of a building's operation, maintenance, security and safety. Discerning owners should look at their buildings as complete living, breathing systems where everything can and should work in conjunction. This allows for access to the building's vital systems, which provides for easier and more complete maintenance. The various components that should be considered for energy management and integration are HVAC equipment, lighting control, smoke control, card access/security, and closed circuit television (CCTV). All of these components can be viewed and/or accessed through a common front end either through a PC on site or remotely with internet access. This is what is referred to as integration; the connection of various system components through a common link (the building automation system or BAS).

HVAC equipment has been utilizing direct digital control (DDC) systems since 1980 to schedule, maintain and diagnose systems. Most of the major control companies have migrated into open protocol systems (BACnet or Lon), knocking down the proprietary wall and giving owners an open system with more control over their buildings and their budget. Practically all HVAC manufacturers can provide their equipment with factory mounted BACnet or Lon controls which allows the Integrator to communicate directly with the equipment.

Lighting control is often integrated into the BAS as well. This provides a common point of scheduling which leads directly into energy management. Lighting accounts for approximately 33% of a buildings overall energy use. Ohio Building Code requires that a lighting control system be provided in all commercial buildings. Typically the majority of lights are scheduled in conjunction with the HVAC equipment so they operate in tandem during occupied times. Some systems also utilize motion detectors to limit energy consumption in areas that are not consistently occupied.

Smoke control is of course an important and vital portion of your building. While the BAS cannot control the smoke control systems themselves, they can be integrated into the BAS to monitor them. The BAS can contain floor plans, which will show areas that are in alarm, test or normal mode. If a condition changes an email or page can be sent to notify someone of an alarm and the location of that alarm.

Unfortunately in today's world card access and security in buildings is a high priority. Many Integrators have a BACnet or Lon based card access system, which will provide critical information such as access control, activity monitoring, intrusion detection, alarms, and floor plan graphic displays. This provides an owner with up to date access to see who is in the building and who can enter the building, along with email or pager notification of any alarms. Did you change the locks the last time an employee left your company? A card access system is a simple way to manage who can and cannot enter your building.

CCTV systems can and often do accompany a card access system. The CCTV system will record all activity at points of interest and can be viewed through the BAS. Often they are placed at entrances to monitor visitors coming into buildings, or other critical areas of the building or site such as deliv-

ery docks, power equipment, HVAC equipment or parking lots. Some CCTV systems can also provide motion sensitive cameras, which will save on energy and storage space on your server.

Do you have a campus of buildings? That is not a problem. Access to any building in a campus can be done through the Internet or with a wireless system that will transmit information between buildings. Access can be provided with a user id and password, and for any predetermined security level. This allows for remote viewing of the building by maintenance, security, management or owners at any time.

Finally and most importantly make sure the Integrator provides a complete and detailed point-to-point commissioning report. This report goes through each and every point of interest in the BAS to insure that all components are working, communicating, coordinated and accessible through the front end. This will guarantee an operating system per your requirements.

When you combine all of these building components into one complete and automated system you gain the advantages of one common point of access. With a single point of access it is easier for the users to be trained, navigate and utilize the system to its full potential.

Just as well you save on installation costs by not having redundant systems, and having only one point of contact for updates, service and maintenance of the system.

There is a lot of technology present that should be taken advantage of to increase your building's efficiency, safety and security for you, your clients and your employees. At a minimum you should look into the specific costs and advantages of these systems for your buildings. Estimates and consultations are free services that an Integrator will offer so you can evaluate the need, requirements and level of sophistication your building requires. P

Author Greg Drensky is the Marketing Manager at Jacco & Associates located in Hudson. Jacco has been providing Alerton and Honeywell Energy Management and Integration systems since 1989. You can contact him at (330) 342-9400 extension 126 or gregd@jacco.com.

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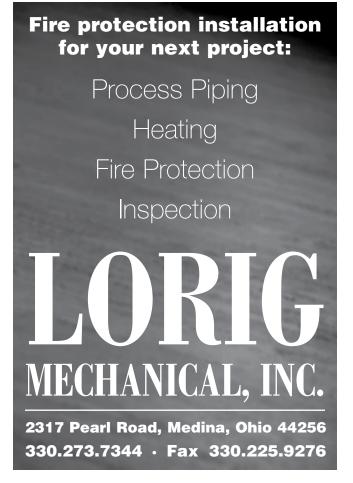
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PN-S0411008

HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Lorain County Community College Technology

Elyria, OH (Lorain Co.)

CONTRACTING METHOD: G.C. Subcontracts

STATUS: Owner awarded tax credits; planning is

underway.

OWNER: **Equity Trust**

> 225 Burns Road Elyria, OH 44035 (440) 323-5491

G.C.: Williams Brothers Builders, Inc.

> 686 Sugar Lane Elyria, OH 44035-6310

(440) 365-3261 FAX (440) 365-5674

DETAILS: 28,000 SF; sitework; utilities; concrete;

mechanical; electrical; HVAC; painting; plumbing; lighting; wood and plastics; drywall; insulation; doors and hardware; masonry; glass and glazing; metals; floor

coverings; finishes; fire suppression.

PN-S0412046

YMCA RECREATION CENTER

Avon, OH (Lorain Co.)

CONTRACTING METHOD: G.C. Bids (By Invitation

Only)

STATUS: Planning is preliminary; construction pos-

sible in 2008.

OWNER: City of Avon

36080 Chester Road Avon, OH 44011

www.cityofavon.com (440) 937-7800

Greater Cleveland YMCA OWNER: 2200 Prospect Ave.

Cleveland, OH 44115 (216) 344-0095

OWNER:

DETAILS: Approx. 70,000 SF; swimming pool, exercise equipment and rooms for audult and children's activities; concrete; masonry; structural steel; wood and plastics; roof membrane; insulation; steel doors/hardware; caulking; glass and glazing; painting; drywall; floor coverings; toilet and bath accessories; plumbing; HVAC; electrical;

lighting.

PN-R0614070

NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chagrin Falls, OH (Cuyahoga Co.) **ESTIMATED AMOUNT: \$5,700,000 CONTRACTING METHOD: Public Bids**

UPDATE: Consultant is assessing possible locations;

owner will seek a bond issue in 2008.

Village of Chagrin Falls

21 West Washington Street

Chagrin Falls, OH 44022



525 Dan Street, Akron, OH 44310 330-253-1020 • Fax: 330-253-1042





(440) 247-5050

CONSULTANT: Horne & King Architects

7219 Sawmill Road, Suite 106

Dublin, OH 43016 www.horneandking.com

(614) 766-6711 FAX (614) 766-6713

DETAILS: Approx. 27,000 SF; offices; dispatch area; restrooms and locker rooms; possible firing range; sitework; concrete; masonry; HVAC; doors and hardware; glass and glazing; electrical; drywall; toilet and bathroom accessories; lighting; painting; floor cover-

PN-R1208034

BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE FACILITY

To be determined, OH (Cuyahoga Co.) **ESTIMATED AMOUNT: \$68,250,000 CONTRACTING METHOD: Public Bids**

UPDATE: Announcing architect; bid schedule to be

determined.

Ohio Dept. of Mental Health OWNER:

30 East Broad Street

Suite 1160

Columbus, OH 432153430 www.mh.state.oh.us

(614) 466-5060 FAX (614) 644-5621

ARCHITECT: Hasenstab Architects, Inc.

190 N. Union St. #400 Akron, OH 44304 www.hainc.cc

(330) 434-4464 FAX (330) 434-8546

DETAILS: Project No. 580-2006-178





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PN-S0406002

HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Akron, OH (Summit Co.) South Main Street **ESTIMATED AMOUNT:** \$10,000,000-15,000,000 **CONTRACTING METHOD:** Owner Subcontracts

STATUS: Owner recently signed a memorandum

of understanding with city; a fall 2007 groundbreaking is planned.

OWNER: Signet Development Ltd.

75 East Market Street Akron, OH 44308 (330) 762-9102

DETAILS: New headquarters building for owner;

50,000-100,000 SF three- to five-story structure; concrete; masonry; structural steel; wood and plastics; drywall; insulation; doors and hardware; glass and glazing; electrical; HVAC; mechanical; metals; floor coverings; elevators; fire pro-

tection.

PN-S0404022

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Hudson, OH (Summit Co.) **ESTIMATED AMOUNT:** \$7,000,000

CONTRACTING METHOD: G.C. Bids (By Invitation

Only)

STATUS: Conceptual site plans have been

approved.

OWNER: Hudson Community Chapel

650 W. Streetsboro Street Hudson, OH 44236 (330) 650-9533

ARCHITECT: Braun & Steidl Architects - Akron

1041 West Market Street Akron, OH 44313 www.bsa-net.com

(330) 864-7755 FAX (330) 864-3691

DETAILS: 31,787 SF addition to existing 77,945

SF facility; two-story children's ministry addition on the western corner; interior expansions for a larger nursery; two-story teen worship center on the southeast corner; atrium expansion; concrete; metals; lighting; electrical; painting; HVAC; drywall; insulation; wood and plas-

PN-S0404014

MARITIME MUSEUM Vermilion, OH (Lorain Co.)

ESTIMATED AMOUNT: \$10,000,000

tics; floor coverings.

CONTRACTING METHOD: G.C. Bids (By Invitation

Only) or Negotiated G.C.

STATUS: Owner is fundraising and interviewing

firms to conduct a feasibility study.

OWNER: Great Lakes Historical Society

480 Main Street P.O. Box 435 Vermilion, OH 44089 (440) 967-3467

DETAILS: 40,000 SF facility to house a full-scale rep-

lica of a Great Lakes schooner; space for permanent and traveling exhibits, workshops and events; to be located on the former Lorain pellet terminal; concrete; electrical; lighting; painting; mechanical; wood and plastics; masonry; sitework; drywall; insulation; doors and hardware; floor coverings; glass and glazing.

PN-P0121002

RICHARD HOWE HOUSE RENOVATION

Akron, OH (Summit Co.) S. High St. ESTIMATED AMOUNT: \$1,500,000 CONTRACTING METHOD: G.C. Subcontracts

UPDATE: Announcing architectural team; construc-

tion schedule to be announced.

OWNER: Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor Coalition 520 South Main Street, Suite 2452

Akron, OH 44311 (330) 434-5657

ARCHITECT: Braun & Steidl Architects - Akron

1041 West Market Street Akron, OH 44313 www.bsa-net.com

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ARCHITECT: Chambers, Murphy & Burge Architects

43 E. Market Street, Suite 201

Akron, OH 44308

(330) 434-9300 FAX (330) 434-9331

G.C.: Welty Building Corporation

123 S. Miller Road Akron, OH 44333 www.weltybldg.com

(330) 867-2400 FAX (330) 864-4566

DETAILS: Two stories; convert historic 1836 house into canal-trail visitor center and offices;

electrical; plumbing; brick work; carpentry; structural; HVAC; plaster; drywall; finishes.

PN-R1226033

LAKEFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Beachwood, OH (Cuyahoga Co.) 24801 Lakeshore

ESTIMATED AMOUNT: \$75,000,000

CONTRACTING METHOD: G.C. Bids (By Invitation

UPDATE: Announcing contracting method; project

is being redesigned.

DEVELOPER: K & D Group Inc.

4420 Sherwin Road Willoughby, OH 44094

(440) 946-3600 FAX (440) 946-8760

ARCHITECT: City Architecture Inc.

3634 Euclid Avenue, Suite 100

Cleveland, OH 44115



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DETAILS: 30 floating homes; three stories; concrete; masonry; metals; wood and plastics; doors and windows; glass and glazing; drywall; painting; carpeting; HVAC; fire protection; plumbing; lighting.

PN-S0215003

BEREA RECREATION CENTER EXPANSION

Berea, OH (Cuyahoga Co.) Front Street **ESTIMATED AMOUNT: \$5,000,000 CONTRACTING METHOD: Public Bids**

UPDATE: Announcing architect; bid schedule to be

determined; plans are in design.

OWNER: City of Berea

> 11 Berea Commons Berea, OH 44017 www.bereaohio.com (440) 826-5800

ARCHITECT: RCU Architects

7311 Valleyview Drive Independence, OH 44131

(216) 524-6068 FAX (216) 524-6072

DETAILS: Approx. 30,000 SF; sitework; concrete;

masonry/brick; rough carpentry; glass & glazing; metal door & windows; painting;

interior finishes.

PN-S0329006

OFFICE/WAREHOUSE

Macedonia, OH (Summit Co.) East Highland Road **CONTRACTING METHOD:** D/B Subcontracts

STATUS: Project has received preliminary approval

from city; owner seeking tenants.

OWNER: Industrial Works Management LLC c/o

D/B

D/B: **Scannell Properties**

800 East 96th Street Indianapolis, IN 46240

(317) 843-5959 FAX (317) 843-5957

DETAILS: 152,000 SF warehouse and a 28,000 SF

office/warehouse building; sitework; concrete slab; thermal & moisture protection; plumbing; electrical; HVAC; interior fin-

ishes.

PN-S0110003

GATES MILLS HORTICULTURE CENTER UPGRADES Gates Mills, OH (Cuyahoga Co.) 390 County Line

Road

CONTRACTING METHOD: Public Bids

UPDATE: Bidding is now expected in late April

OWNER: **Gates Mills Horticulture Center**

390 County Line Rd. Gates Mills, OH 44040 (440) 605-9517

OWNER: **Mayfield City Schools**

> 59 Alpha Park Drive Highland Heights, OH 44143 www.mayfield.k12.oh.us/ (440) 995-6900

ARCHITECT: Doty & Miller Architects 600 Broadway Avenue

Bedford, OH 44146 www.dotyandmiller.com

(440) 399-4100 FAX (440) 399-4111

DETAILS: Large scale remodeling to bathrooms and revising classroom space and work areas; plumbing; floor tile; fixtures; lighting; additional details to be determined.

PN-R0508043

JUSTICE CENTER

Berea, OH (Cuyahoga Co.) **ESTIMATED AMOUNT:** \$9,500,000 **CONTRACTING METHOD: Public Bids**

UPDATE: Announcing estimated amount; plan-

ning is preliminary; owner is reviewing

options.

OWNER: City of Berea

11 Berea Commons Berea. OH 44017 www.bereaohio.com (440) 826-5800

DETAILS: SF to be determined; sitework; landscaping; concrete; masonry; structural steel; thermal and moisture protection; finishes; drywall; painting; HVAC; plumbing; elec-

trical; lighting.

PN-N1104003

HEALTH SCIENCE BUILDING

Ashtabula, OH (Ashtabula Co.) **ESTIMATED AMOUNT:** \$12,000,000 **CONTRACTING METHOD: Public Bids UPDATE:** Bidding to advance shortly. KSU - Architect's Office OWNER: 334 Lowry Hall

Kent, OH 44242

www.kent.edu/facilitiesplanning

univarchitect@kent.edu

(330) 672-3880 FAX (330) 672-2648

ARCHITECT: CBLH Design Inc.

7550 Lucerne Drive, Suite 207 Middleburg Heights, OH 44130 www.cblhdesign.com info@cblhdesign.com

(440) 243-2000 FAX (440) 243-3305

AGENT: **ODAS - State Architect**

4200 Surface Road Columbus, OH 43228

(614) 466-4761 FAX (614) 644-7982

DETAILS: KSU - 20323

45,000 SF; laboratories; classrooms to include an auditorium-style classroom; sitework, service drives and 100-150 parking spaces; brick/masonry; utilities; concrete; glass and glazing; HVAC; electrical; mechanical; plumbing; painting; drywall; insulation; floor coverings; doors

and hardware.

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| CSU Cabinet Company | 2 |
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| Damschroder Construction, LLC | |
| DAS Construction | 5 |
| Decorative Surfaces, Inc | |
| Delta Industrial Services, Inc | |
| Dunlop & Johnston, Inc | |
| Eagle Fabricators | 3 |
| eBlueprint | |
| GEM Electric, Inc. | |
| Gilhara Ruildian Ca | |
| Gilbane Building CoGivens Geotech | |
| Great Lakes Flooring | |
| Greater Cleveland Real Estate Organizations (| |
| H Leff Electric | JCNLO) 1 |
| Health & Fitness Equipment Centers | 1 |
| Hoffman Group, The | <i>6</i> |
| Indy Equipment & Fabricating | 1 |
| Infinity Construction | 3 |
| J.V. Janitorial Services, Inc | 6 |
| JACCO & Associates Inc | 6 |
| Jance Construction, LLC | 6 |
| KAS Interiors | |
| Key Bank | |
| Kingsview Landscape Co., Inc | |
| Kline Construction, Corp | 2 |
| Korfant & Mazzone Construction | 4 |
| Krill Company, The | |
| Kurtz Bros | |
| Lake Erie Winnelson | |
| Lorig Mechanical | |
| Mason Structural Steel, Inc | |
| McConnell Excavating, Ltd | |
| McGraw-Hill Construction Network | |
| Mechanical Contractors Association | |
| Miller Ornamental | |
| 3 , | |
| NAIOP | |
| Neshkin Construction Company | |
| construction company | |

| North Coast Concrete, Inc. | 45 |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Ohio Concrete Sawing & Drilling | |
| Ohio Paving & Construction | |
| Pease Photography | |
| Perrin Asphalt Co., Inc. | |
| Pete & Pete Container Service, Inc | |
| Power Alarm | 20 |
| Precision Environmental Co | |
| ProSource Flooring | |
| RAF Building Maintenance | |
| Rogers Commercial Flooing, Inc | |
| S. A. Comunale | 56 |
| Schneider-Dorsey & Rubin | |
| Schulz, Charles Building Company | |
| Service-Tech Corporation | |
| SMACNA Cleveland | |
| SMPS Northeast Ohio | |
| Sobol Sales Co | |
| Soprema, Inc | |
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| Clearview Window & Gutter Cleaning | FW-14 |
| Cleveland Chemical Pest Control, Inc | FW-8 |
| Columbia Building Products | FW-13 |
| Courtad Inc | |
| Dougherty Lumber Company, The | FW-5 |
| Flooring International | FW-9 |
| Fortney & Weygandt, Inc | FW-16 |
| Geist Co., The | |
| HMH Restoration Ltd | FW-9 |
| Industrial Energy Systems, Inc | FW-6 |
| Joseph M. Electric, Co | |
| Lisco Heating & Cooling, Inc | |
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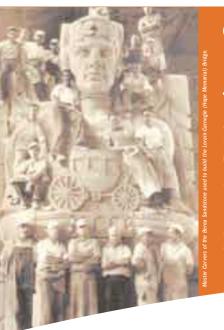
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