

2009 Year in Review: Southwestern Illinois Developments

Amelia V. Carriel Junior High, O'Fallon

By **KERRY L. BEISER**

FGM Architects Inc. designed the new Amelia V. Carriel Junior High School located on Seven Hills Road in O'Fallon. The \$26 million, 131,000-square-foot school - built by Holland Construction Services Inc. and designed by FGM Architects - was completed in July 2009. It accommodates sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students and is easing the population of other schools in the O'Fallon School District.

Construction of the school on a 42-acre site allows for future growth in the O'Fallon Community Consolidated School District #90.

The school was named after Amelia V. Carriel, a dedicated teacher who worked in District #90 for 51 years beginning in 1874.

FGM's design was based on the school's concept of engaging the mind, body and spirit in the learning process. Classrooms represent the mind, fitness and health education programs focus on

the body and the school's arts, music and drama facilities are designed to enhance the spirit.

The school consists of three two-story classroom wings or houses, each dedicated to a different grade level. Each wing features seven classrooms, two science rooms, one computer room and a teacher resource area. A commons area is positioned between each wing to be used for team teaching, special projects and the presentation of student work. The wings are painted different colors so the students can easily identify each grade.

Shared spaces include art and science rooms, a gymnasium and a media center. The media center contains the school library and a communications lab where students can access computers, as well as video and sound technology programs. An outdoor patio connects to the media center and an outdoor courtyard connects to the art rooms to integrate indoor and outdoor teaching



spaces.

A full kitchen and a cafeteria are also included in the layout. The cafeteria is designed with three-tiered seating and contains a black box stage. It can double as a dining area and a performance setting for both the school and the community. Depending on the

type of event, the cafeteria can seat up to 600 people.

The school is currently designed for 900 students, and can easily expand to accommodate up to 1,200 students. Core spaces such as the art and science rooms, media center, cafeteria and restrooms are planned for expansion.

O'Fallon Township High School Milburn Campus, O'Fallon

By **KATE GENO**

The O'Fallon Township High School Milburn Campus is a new freshman campus designed by Wm. B. Ittner Architects and built by Holland Construction Services. The campus opened in 2009 to provide additional space for high school students in O'Fallon Township School District #201.

The 166,500-square-foot school features two 2-story academic wings that consist of 43 classrooms total. An instructional media center is connected

to the academic wing and is intended for school-wide use. It contains computer workstations, a student lounge and a quiet study area.

A multi-purpose room/cafeteria that has a capacity of 1,000 students is situated off the main lobby of the school. There is also an exterior dining area for students to eat outdoors.

The school contains a regulation-size practice gym that includes bleachers and unique floor-to-ceiling graphics such as tiger paws and a large "O" for O'Fallon.



Motivational quotes are inscribed on the interior walls.

A focal point of the design is the 19,000-square-foot auditorium that seats 740 people and contains a full stage and orchestra pit. It is used for both school and community use. Ittner designed the space to be a learning environment for students who want to be involved in the technical side of productions.

The main lobby of the school features digital wall graphics that outline the history of O'Fallon and the school district. Artwork that displays the school in context with the O'Fallon community is located outside the library and the cafeteria. Additional artwork includes

images of individuals who have made significant achievements throughout history.

Security is a major focus for the school and access control was an important part of the design. All buses pick up and drop off students at the front entry of the school and they must enter through the front doors into the lobby.

Holland Construction Services utilized tilt-up concrete panels for the gymnasium, load-bearing masonry for the kitchen and cafeteria, and structural steel for the classrooms, administration and library. The exterior consists of brick veneer and stone. The construction cost totaled \$38.5 million.

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First National Bank in Staunton, Troy

By KATE GENO

The First National Bank in Staunton recently built a new branch in Troy, replacing its previous building with a more contemporary design. It was designed and built by Commercial Design Inc., a division of MSC of Ballwin, Mo. The FNB branch building previously

located on this site, at Illinois Rte. 162 and Bargraves Boulevard, was torn down and rebuilt from the ground up. Construction took less than a year to complete after starting in September 2008 and finishing in June 2009. The result is a 5,600-square-foot, one-story building at a construction cost of \$1.4 million.

A unique part of the exterior design is a semi-circle tower roof that is positioned above the main entrance to the bank. It has a copper finish and the name of the bank is inscribed on it. This design feature is prominent and makes the bank easily recognizable to its clients. Several white pillars are located beneath this roof and flank the entrance. The copper finish is also continued on the overhang on the exterior of the building.

FNB Staunton's Troy location is a full-service branch, managed by David Gansner. The staff consists of two lenders, one lending assistant and six tellers. The interior of the bank features three offices for the lending professionals, two work areas for lending assistants, a meeting room, lunchroom, and the teller booths. The main lobby is open and airy



with high ceilings. Four drive-up lanes and an ATM machine are attached to the building for the convenience of the bank's clients.

First National Bank in Staunton was founded in 1934 and has cultivated its status as an independently owned

community bank ever since. It celebrated its 75th anniversary serving the Southwestern Illinois community in 2009.

FNB Staunton, headquartered in Staunton, has a total of 10 locations to serve its clients in Madison and Macoupin counties.

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Costello announces HUD grants for St. Clair County

U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello (D-Illinois) announces that St. Clair County has been awarded formula grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The funds will be used for the rehabilitation of homeowner and rental properties, including: water, sewer, street and other public service facility improvements, handicap accessibility and special needs housing and the clearance of unsafe structures.

O'Connor & Partners brings home gold

Marketing work by O'Connor & Partners, with offices in Belleville and St. Louis, has earned a gold award for Web site editing on behalf of Paric, the St. Louis-based regional contractor.

The entry by O'Connor account manager Angela Shultis of Alton was one of nearly 5,000 judged in the MarCom 2009 competition organized to recognize outstanding achievements by marketing and communications professionals.

Holland Construction building Ritchie Bros. site

Holland Construction Services Inc. is currently building a 13,557-square-foot building for Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers in Caseyville.

PASS celebrates 40 years

PASS Security, a locally based physical security and low voltage provider, is celebrating its 40th year in business.

Environmental Operations takes on sustainable project

Environmental Operations Inc., with an office in Fairview Heights, has completed an environmental consulting project for Graybar Electric Company Inc., allowing Graybar to take the lead in leasing a new, sustainable, 136,000-square-foot service center in Carteret, N.J.

TheBANK of Edwardsville welcomes Pritchett

TheBANK of Edwardsville announces that Ryan Pritchett has been hired as an assistant vice president of asset and liability management.

Gori Julian adds Boaz

Gori Julian & Associates announces the addition of Lauren Boaz as an attorney to the growing firm specializing in asbestos litigation.

Jamerson joins Environmental Operations

Courtney Jamerson of St. Charles has joined Environmental Operations Inc. as an environmental technician in the industrial hygiene services section.

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2009 Year in Review: Southwestern Illinois Developments

Prairie State Energy Campus, Washington County

By **KERRY L. BEISER**

Work on the mammoth Prairie State Energy Campus is nearly 40 percent complete.

More than 5.8 million hours of construction labor have been expended at the site by more than 2,600 workers at the mine and the plant. Construction wages paid are close to \$1 billion at this point. Once in operation, the plant will create 500 permanent jobs and is estimated to stimulate the creation of another 860 jobs in Illinois.

Estimated economic impact of this mega-project, according to the University of Illinois, is \$785 million annually, with a \$64 million in estimated earnings income across the region.

Sheri Bilderback, manager of public relations for Prairie State Generating Co., says the Prairie State Energy Campus - a \$4 billion effort - is the second-largest capital project in Illinois over the past 10 years. Spanning 700

acres, the development will include a coal mine that produces 6.3 million tons annually along with a 1,600-megawatt power plant.

Unit one of the plant is projected to be completed by August 2011, with unit two reaching completion in May 2012.

Approximately 11,600 tons of rebar have been installed to date, with some 4,000 tons remaining. Over 165,000 cubic yards of concrete have been poured - enough to fill more than 50 Olympic-sized swimming pools - with another 25,000 cubic yards to go. In terms of structural steel, 32,000 tons have been used so far; the project will require another 26,000 tons before work is done. Total structural and miscellaneous steel used in this project will equal about half of the steel used to build the Sears Tower.

A total of 168 miles of belt and 120 miles of fiber optic cable - enough to stretch from St. Louis to El Paso - is



being used in the project's construction. Total crane lifting capacity is approximately 12,000 tons.

Bilderback says that once in operation,

Prairie State Energy Campus' emissions will be less than one-half of the average of regulated emissions rates of all U.S. coal-fired plants.

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IMPACT building Lee's Chicken in Belleville

Crews from construction-management firm IMPACT Strategies have begun work on Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken, located near Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville. This is the first Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken in Belleville and the second in the Metro East - the first is located in Granite City. The restaurant is anticipated to open in March 2010.

Sandifer joins Gori Julian

Gori Julian & Associates welcomes Gregory Sandifer as an attorney specializing in asbestos litigation.

Allsup named BBB award finalist

Belleville-based Allsup Inc. has been selected as a 2010 International BBB award finalist in the Marketplace Excellence competition held by the

Council of Better Business Bureaus, based in Arlington, Va. The International Torch Awards are given by the council to recognize businesses and executives exhibiting integrity in the marketplace and exemplary dedication to fostering trust between businesses and consumers.

Five companies were finalists in the international business competition. Allsup received the BBB Torch Award for world-class customer service in

2006, recognizing the company's commitment to serving people with disabilities nationwide.

Korte finishes USPS facility

The Korte Co. has completed a \$13 million facility for the United States Postal Service, representing a savings of approximately \$3.4 million for the 26,388-square-foot facility. To date, TKC has delivered a total of 39 projects for the USPS throughout the country.

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Government Affairs Report:

Illinois State Chamber of Commerce

By **DOUGLAS L. WHITLEY**
President and CEO
Illinois State Chamber
of Commerce

Governor Repeals Partnership Tax Increase

Joined by the Illinois Chamber and members of a chamber-led coalition, Gov. Pat Quinn signed HB 2239 on Dec. 16 to repeal an increase in the tax on Illinois partnerships that was scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1. The Illinois Chamber, represented by Todd Maisch, vice president of government affairs, thanked



Whitley

of more than 20 associations and organizations representing a diverse cross-section of professions to seek the

the governor and the General Assembly for taking swift action to repeal a tax that would have crippled many of the state's smaller businesses.

The Illinois Chamber led a coalition

full repeal of the new tax during the fall veto session. HB 2239 cleared the General Assembly unanimously in October, picking up over 90 House and Senate sponsors along the way.

HB 2239 is now Public Act 96-0835.

Federal Update

U.S. House Approves Problematic Financial Overhaul Legislation

The U.S. House wrapped up debate on its version of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act in mid-December, passing the legislation by a

vote of 223-202. Despite efforts by some moderate Democrats to address some concerns of the business community, the massive financial regulatory reform bill still creates a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency that will have adverse consequences on employers, particularly small employers.

While both the U.S. Chamber and the Illinois Chamber support efforts to modernize the nation's financial regulatory system, H.R. 4173 will arm a new governmental agency with unprecedented authority to determine the types of financial products from which businesses and consumers could select.

Illinois Government Affairs Report:

St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association

By **KEVIN RIGGS**
Director, Illinois Public Affairs
St. Louis Regional Chamber
and Growth Association

ILLINOIS

Since the completion of the Fall Veto Session in October, there has not been a lot of legislative activity due to the General Assembly standing at recess



Riggs

until Jan. 12, 2010. However, regional partners and the Southwestern Illinois legislative delegation have successfully advocated for the SIUE Science Laboratory to be included in Phase I of the governor's capital construction plan. Gov. Pat Quinn traveled to SIUE in early December to officiate the \$78 million ground breaking ceremony. With the passage of the state's \$29 billion capital bill last spring, SIUE will be able to renovate the existing science laboratory and construct a new 107,884-square-foot science facility to accommodate growth of science programs at the university. The new facility will house research and instructional laboratory space, classrooms, offices and common areas. Renovations to the existing 60,000-square-foot facility include upgrading the HVAC, mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems, replacing windows and abating asbestos-containing materials. The project will create approximately 435 construction jobs and the first phase of construction is slated to begin soon.

SB 1906: Finance Authority Projects (Sen. David Koehler, D-Pekin, & Rep. William Black, R-Danville). This economic development legislation was recently signed by Gov. Quinn to allow the Illinois Finance Authority to use up to \$3 billion in guaranteed energy project financing available for qualified renewable energy and clean coal efforts. In addition, the law increased the state and IFA's loan guarantee from \$75

million to \$225 million for agricultural businesses. It also provided guarantees to back qualified renewable energy projects such as wind, biodiesel or biomass initiatives that are related to agriculture. In addition, the law positions Illinois to compete for federal stimulus loan guarantees designated for the new green projects.

HB 542: Medicaid Hospital Assessments (Sen. Jeff Schoenberg, D-Evanston, & Rep. Dan Reitz, D-Sparta). The governor just signed this legislation that creates a special program that uses enhanced federal match dollars available from the Hospital Assessment Program to make \$120 million in one-time federal assistance payments to hospitals that

realt high volumes of Medicaid patients and rural access hospitals. The law also helps the state use increased federal funding to pay Medicaid bills owed to other providers, such as pharmacists. The infusion of funds will benefit regional hospitals throughout the St. Louis Community such as Anderson, BJC, Memorial, St. Elizabeth's and SSM.

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SIHC receives healthcare grant

U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello (D-IL) announces that the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation, which serves the Metro East, has been awarded a \$4.86 million Health Center Cluster grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The funds will be used to provide healthcare services.