



Your Guide TO DOING BUSINESS WITH West Virginia Department of Transportation



Volume 33, October 2019

OFFICIALS BREAK GROUND FOR SENIOR-THEMED MURDOCH HEIGHTS APARTMENTS

PARKERSBURG — Ground was recently broken for a new senior apartment complex in Parkersburg. Local city, business and development leaders gathered Friday at the site of the new Murdoch Heights Apartments at 1602 Murdoch Ave. for a groundbreaking ceremony.

Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley as well as Mayor Tom Joyce of Parkersburg, Councilperson Bob Mercer, Lindsey Piersol with the Wood County Economic Development Authority, Wendy Shriver with Downtown PKB, Kelly Goedel with the Wood County Senior Citizens Association and developers Steve and Chris Sadd of Grant Street Commons with several members of their team and partners on the project were in attendance for the dedication of the 44,000-square-foot four-story senior apartment complex.

Chamber President Jill Parsons reminded those in attendance about some other milestones in history on Sept. 6 including the Mayflower departing England in 1620, Carnation processes its first can of evaporated milk in 1899, the first Piggly Wiggly opened in Memphis, Tenn., in 1916, “The Brady Bunch” premieres on ABC in 1969 and Serena Williams won her third U.S. Open title in 2008.

Funding for the project was made possible through the

allocation of Housing Tax Credits by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF), with investment services provided by Community Housing Affordable Equity Corporation (CAHEC) of Raleigh, N.C. The architectural services are provided by Margolis Architects of Charleston along with design engineering by Allegheny Design of Morgantown.

The general contractor is City Construction Company Inc. of Clarksburg.

Murdoch Heights will offer large, open-concept living spaces, apartments with ENERGY STAR appliances, including washers and dryers in units, and other amenities designed for elderly living,” said Chris Sadd, a partner in Grant Street Commons. “Its energy efficiency features will mean low monthly utility costs for all residents.”

Other features will include an elevator, exercise room, community spaces, ample on-site parking, and free washers and dryers in every apartment.

Steve Sadd highlighted the welcome he received from the city of Parkersburg during initial talks as his company explored coming to Parkersburg for a project.

Grant Street Commons currently has five community residential rental properties under construction across four cities in West Virginia.

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About The WVDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on WVDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with WVDOT as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program. We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

5 BEST FREE CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATING & TAKEOFF PRODUCTS TO CUT TURNAROUND TIME AND WIN MORE BIDS

Performing accurate cost estimating is critical to the success of your construction business. Estimate too high and you win fewer jobs, too low and your profits disappear. So, it's important to get it right every time! Estimating by hand is time-consuming, so at some point, you may consider using software to bid more jobs in less time. Although software can be a big investment, not every tool has to break the bank.

“Free” doesn’t always mean “zero cost.” Free and open source products are free to download or use, but you’ll likely need an IT team to implement them and oversee maintenance and hosting. Some free software is a trimmed-down version of a paid application, locking you out of certain functionality until you become a paid customer. In either case, you may have to pay to make a free product work for your business.

Here’s the software this guide will cover:

1. Easy-Pro Builders Estimator
2. iScope
3. Estimate
4. PlanViewer
5. Vu360

1. Easy-Pro Builders Estimator

Easy-Pro Builders Estimator is a construction-focused spreadsheet tool that operates on the Apache OpenOffice spreadsheet Calc. It works on Linux and

Windows OS, and is also compatible with Microsoft Excel and Mac OS 10.6 and newer.

Easy-Pro is suitable for small build firms, contractors and tradesmen who estimate jobs from hundreds to hundreds of thousand dollars in scope. It is used primarily in the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and Australia.

2: iScope

iScope estimating software integrates with the Craftsman Book Company pricing database. This gives users access to current materials and labor costs when putting together an estimate. It is designed using macros and short codes (see iScope glossary to reference section codes) which saves time and cuts down on redundant data entry.

iScope was initially created by a public insurance adjuster for loss estimating. But, since estimating damage claims is similar to estimating for remodeling, this product is suitable for use by remodeling and light residential and commercial contractors.

3: Estimate

Estimate is a web-based, open source construction estimating application. A centralized, regional database provides storage, maintenance and data recovery.

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Supportive Services Offered:

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website
- Plan Reading



**Within the past 3 months,
CEI assisted DBEs
in obtaining
\$6 MILLION
IN BONDING!!**

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CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.