2nd WOLF POINT APARTMENT TOWER BREAKS GROUND

A recent groundbreaking ceremony ushered in the beginning of construction on the second phase of the three-skyscraper project at Wolf Point.

Several dignitaries and labor leaders were on hand for the Wolf Point East groundbreaking ceremony, including Mike Carrigan, President of the Illinois AFL-CIO; Bob Reiter, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor; and Ralph Affrunti, President of the Chicago & Cook County Building Trades Council.

Located at the confluence of the Chicago River’s main, north and south branches, the upcoming tower will occupy one of the city’s most visible downtown sites.

More importantly, the project continues a recent trend of booming construction in Chicagoland, and will provide hundreds of construction jobs for many members of the building trades workforce.

One of the speakers at the event was Chris Kennedy (see left photo) representing the Kennedy family and Hines Interests, which have teamed up with AFL-CIO Trust to develop the project.

The East Tower’s overall cost is estimated at $360 million, and the 60-story rental apartment tower is expected to deliver its 698 luxury rental units in 2019.

The crown jewel of the project is expected to be in the third and final building, known as Wolf Point South, and is expected to rise 950 feet.

TOLLWAY’S WESTERN ACCESS DEAL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SETTLED

On June 13, the Illinois Tollway Board voted to approve a letter of intent with the Canadian Pacific Railway that creates the framework for a final agreement that will complete a western access highway to O’Hare airport.

According to all key stakeholders, this is a huge step toward resolving issues related to the construction of this vital new roadway, putting the largest infrastructure project in the Chicago suburbs on a forward trajectory.

Building a western access road to O’Hare will create and support nearly 25,000 jobs in construction and engineering. Once the project is completed, the region will realize 65,000 permanent jobs - 44,000 in Cook and nearly half that many in DuPage, thanks to a projected 10 million square feet of new office, retail and industrial space, along with 7,000 new hotel rooms.

REGISTER TODAY FOR CISCO’S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - SEPT. 10th

Glen Ellyn Road in Bloomingdale, IL.

Start gathering your foursomes and working on your short game! Fabulous barbecue luncheon, traditional prize raffle, and an event full of fun and surprises have marked this outing over the years!

Registration and sponsorship forms are available on CISCO’s website - www.cisco.org. To view and download, click on this link: http://cisco.org/wp-content/pdf/Golf-flyer18.pdf or call (630) 472-9411.

MARBA WEBSITE LISTS TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS

Several local area labor unions reached tentative agreements with the Mid-America Regional Bargaining Association (MARBA) this past month including the Automobile Mechanics Local 701; Electricians Local 117, 150 and 461; Roofers & Waterproofers Local 11; Glaziers Local 27 and Iron Workers Local 63.

To view their respective wage packages and the status of other pending agreements with MARBA, go to https://www.marba.org/wages.
UPCOMING SUMMER CAREER FAIRS INCLUDE 3rd CHA EVENT AND 1st WITH ST. SABINA

Last year, CISCO, the Chicago & Cook County Building Trades and the Chicago Housing Authority held two separate Hands-On Expos for a total of 400 residents as part of a unique Project Labor Agreement designed to recruit CHA residents into the building trades’ apprenticeship programs.

This year, the three organizations will hold a two-day event on the mornings of Thursday, July 26 and Friday, July 27.

Once again, the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters will host the event at its satellite Apprenticeship & Training Center in Chicago.

St. Sabina Church Expo

As we highlighted earlier this year, CISCO began working with St. Sabina Church’s “Strong Futures Program,” which the church began in 2016 as a pilot program of the City of Chicago and Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS).

On Friday, August 10, CISCO and St. Sabina will co-sponsor its inaugural Hands-On Expo. Participants will be able to talk to Apprenticeship Coordinators, Instructors and Apprentices of several building trades to learn about a career in the union construction industry.

CISCO’s mission and that of the Strong Futures model are a match, as the Strong Futures program was designed to create a more efficient way to service young adults by connecting them to existing workforce options, creating a successful pathway into the work place.

CISCO AND LEGISLATIVE PARTNERS URGE GOVERNOR TO SIGN SB 3052

Following the passage of SB 3052 by both the Illinois House and Senate, the IMSCA legislative initiative on retainage reform has moved to the Governor’s desk for his signature.

SB 3052 amends the Contractor Prompt Payment Act and addresses retention on private, commercial construction projects. It allows retainage to be withheld at 10%, but requires it be reduced to 5% when a construction project is 50% complete.

CISCO and IMSCA have sent letters to the Governor, and have reached out to fellow associations and members to send letters as well. If you have any questions, contact Jessica Newbold, Executive Director, Illinois Mechanical & Specialty Contractors Association (IMSCA) at (217) 523-4361.

ANOTHER LOOK AT IBEW LOCAL 9 AWARD-WINNING CENTER

In our last edition of Construction News Briefs, we highlighted IBEW Local 9’s new training facility in University Park, that won the Chicago Building Congress’ 2018 Merit Award for projects under $15 million.

The Center serves and instructs men and women who perform outside electrical work in the following fields: Cable Television and Telephone; Government; Utility; Line Clearance Tree Trimming; and Outside Construction and Distribution.

“I WANT SMART” MARKETING ADDS LOCATION COMPONENT

The “I Want SMART” marketing campaign, initiated by the Sheet Metal Workers’ Local Union 265 has added a new feature to its website that helps customers find an HVAC professional close to their business or residence.

Go to https://iwantsmart.com/locations/, add your address and zip code, and a list of companies appears with contact information in your area.

Proud members stand in front of the entrance of the new facility in University Park, and interior shot of main training area is pictured below.

Electrician Apprentice Jarrell Payne demonstrates wiring a doorbell during last year’s CHA event.

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