STATE OF ILLINOIS PASSES $45 BILLION CAPITAL BILL

The General Assembly passed the state’s first Capital Bill in 10 years - a $45 billion multi-year package of transportation (horizontal) and building (vertical) improvements.

The Program, branded “Rebuild Illinois” will spend roughly:

- $28.6 billion on transportation,
- $5.9 billion on education facilities at both higher education and K-12,
- $4.4 billion in deferred maintenance at state facilities,
- $1 billion in environment and conservation projects,
- $711 million in economic and community development,
- $440 million on healthcare and human services facilities, and
- $420 million in broadband deployment

Funding for the plan will come from a variety of sources including increases to gas taxes, license plate and vehicle registration fees, cigarette taxes, garage and parking lot taxes, as well as from revenues captured from expanded gambling and sports betting.

Other funding relies on bonding and federal funds.

The Governor’s Office stated that the “Rebuild Illinois” program will create 540,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs.

More news and photos on the back page.
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In addition to the Capital Bill, another bill impacting the construction industry received good news as Senate Bill 1636 seeking retainage reform was approved by the House.

With the bill having been approved by both the Senate and the House, it will move to the Governor’s desk for his signature before becoming law. As a reminder, SB 1636 amends the Contractor Prompt Payment Act and allows retainage to be withheld at a rate of 10% for the first half of a construction project, but has to be reduced to 5% once the project is 50% complete. This bill only applies to private, commercial construction projects.

HEALTH AND CAREER FAIR SET FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Cisco will be teaming up with the Cook County Health Commission, Congressman Danny Davis (D-7th Dist.), Pepsico and the New Covenant Community Development Corporation to conduct a Health and Career Fair on Thursday, June 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Kennedy King College, 6301 S. Halsted St. in Chicago.

Several building trades representative will be on hand as th event will include a construction job fair and health screenings such as HIV, STDs, prostate cancer, diabetes and blood pressure. Attendees may also receive CPR training and tests for heart health.

Keynote speaker for the event is Terry Mason, Chief Operating Officer, Cook County Dept. of Public Health.

SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE SETS ORIENTATION/TESTING DATES FOR HIGHWAY TRAINING PROGRAM

South Suburban College announced dates for orientation and testing for its highly successful Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP).

Registration is open now with orientation and testing being held on June 11th through 13th, 2019.

The HCCTP is a 12-week program that runs Monday through Friday from 7:50 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily. This is a pre-apprenticeship program for individuals interested in getting into an apprenticeship program with any of the construction trades. The next class begins July 15, 2019.

For more information, go to the college’s website: https://www.ssc.edu/

SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE HONORS JOHNETTA RYAN

When South Suburban College recognized its Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) graduates recently, it also took that opportunity to recognize Cisco’s Education-to-Careers Director Johnetta Ryan with the first-ever “Attitude of Gratitude” Award.

Johnetta took the award in stride and said, “Evidently, having a good attitude pays off, and I greatly appreciate the award.”

CHICAGOLAND AGC NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Yesterday, the Chicagoland Associated General Contractors (CAGC), announced the appointment of Tom Cuculich as Executive Director. He will begin his role effective July 15.

Cuculich brings three decades of experience and will lead implementation of all Board-approved programs and services. Cuculich is transitioning from his role as County Administrator for DuPage County which he held for over a decade. He also holds experience as the Executive Director for the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority.

Outgoing Executive Director Dan McLaughlin served in the role for over six years, most notably playing an instrumental role in merging Chicago’s Builders Association with Fox Valley AGC. He will continue on with the organization in a part-time capacity.

D-DAY REMEMBRANCE

We will never forget the courage and sacrifice made by 160,000 allied troops that landed on Normandy’s beaches on June 6, 1944.