

Building Pittsburgh

Information and events affecting Pittsburgh's construction and real estate market

Bidding a Project the Right Way

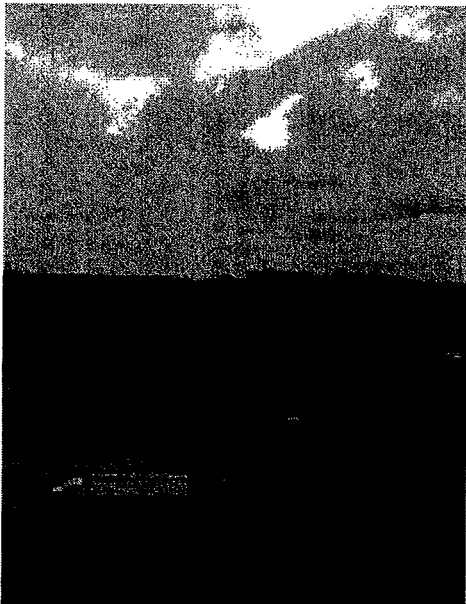
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On Nov. 18, the West Jefferson Hills School District board will authorized the bidding of their \$76.3 million new high school. The school district, architect and construction mgr. have created a schedule and bidding method that really makes sense. For that reason it stands out in our industry.

First, the documents are set to be available the day after the board approves the bid date. Second, the bid date will be Jan. 12, meaning the owner isn't expecting that the industry will ignore the holidays to bid its job. But beyond the reasonable lead time, the architect and CM have set a pre-bid meeting for Dec. 8 and asked for all RFI's by Dec. 16. That gives bidders two weeks (plus the Thanksgiving holiday) to review the documents before the pre-bid, then allows another week for RFI's. The architect has committed to reply to all RFI's by Dec. 29, meaning that the major addenda will be issued two weeks before bid date. That also means that answers will be waiting for contractors once they return from the holiday downtime.

This project was going to get everyone's full attention regardless of how smoothly the bidding process went but showing respect for the industry's time during this time of year is extraordinary and should yield dividends down the road. Let's hope other owners follow the example.

A sidebar discussion at the Allegheny Conference's commercial real estate luncheon Friday yielded news that Oliver Hatcher Construction had started work on the 316,000 sq. ft. spec warehouse for Ashley Capital Group at the FIP. Buncher should be starting work on an 82,000 sq. ft. warehouse at Findlay Industrial Park sometime later this winter



The park's developer, Imperial Land Co. said that there were other users interested in lots at the park, as well as at smaller sites in Imperial Land's new Westport Woods. The entry road for that is shown on the photo at left.

Continental Building Systems has started construction on the next flex office at Pittsburgh International Business Park, a 62,000 sq. ft. fifth building branded as Building 400. Continental was also selected to build the retail shops at the Siena at St. Clair. The 87,000 sq. ft. building will house the complementary retailers at the center anchored by Whole Foods.

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About Jeff Burd

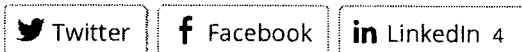
Jeff Burd started working in the information side of the construction industry with McGraw-Hill's Dodge Reports in 1981. He worked in a variety of management positions with McGraw-Hill, eventually settling back in Pittsburgh in 1991.



Burd founded the Pittsburgh Construction News (PCN) in 1994 and began a career of providing information about what is moving the construction and real estate industry in western PA so that regional firms can make strategic decisions about growing and managing their businesses. After the sale of PCN in 2005, Burd founded the magazine *BreakingGround*, a bi-monthly publication for executives in construction and real estate. In 2012, he launched *DEVELOPINGPittsburgh*, a semi-annual commercial real estate magazine done on behalf of NAIOP Pittsburgh.

The magazines were founded in part to highlight the transformation of the region and combat the onslaught of negative media impressions about Pittsburgh at the time. A promoter of all things Pittsburgh, Burd is a regular speaker on the regional and national economy.

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Lou Stempkowski | [May 3, 2012 at 11:31 am](#) | [Reply](#)

Nice job Jeff!
Lou Stempkowski



Tim White | [August 8, 2012 at 7:55 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

Jeff -- great commentary on the Pittsburgh markets, appreciate it.



Jon O'Brien | [November 14, 2012 at 3:06 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

