

# BLUEPRINT for Progress

FALL 2015

CONSTRUCTION NEWS & INFORMATION FROM MINGHINI'S GENERAL CONTRACTORS, INC.

## The Technology Revolution

According to Umberto Colombo, a world famous nuclear physicist and former chairman of the United Nations's Advisory Committee on Science and Technology, THE WORLD IS IN THE THROES OF A TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION. This "revolution" differs from the periodic waves of technical change that have marked industrial society's progress since its origins 200 years ago.

A shift is occurring from the mass production era, where we produce essentially standardized goods in ever-larger units; where there is an emphasis on quantitative production goals requiring ever higher inputs of capital, energy, and raw materials to produce more and more; where there is little attention to environmental impact, resource use, and conservation issues.

In the new paradigm made possible by technology there is an emphasis on quality and diversification of products and processes. There is a diffusion of small but highly productive units that rely on new technologies and are linked to a process of decentralization of production. There is an adoption of process and product choices requiring far less energy and materials input per unit of output. And today there is a greater awareness of the need to preserve the quality of local and global environments.

Thus, we are in a period of transition between two epochs, a time comparable to the industrial revolution, when the steam engine was introduced and coal was the emerging energy source. Then, as now, there was widespread fear of the future, a fear derived from the difficulty of even imagining the range of opportunities that an ongoing revolution brings in terms of new activities and related jobs.

During a transition of this magnitude, the sustaining systems and status quo are disrupted and conditions of mismatch occur in labor markets. The demand for new jobs and skills increases, and old activities disappear or lose their importance in the marketplace. These changes are visible; their impact is almost immediate. For example, it is now clear that the paper-free office is going to be widespread in a few years.

What does this mean for the Construction Industry and everyday small businesses? It requires all of us to embrace life-long learning to continually retool the way we think and operate. We have to adopt new technologies and methods in order to do business in new ways. Managers and owners have to stay ahead of learning curves by reading, studying and bringing in expertise to make our operations efficient, progressive, and safe. ■

*For 9 years in a row, the Martinsburg Journal readers have chosen Minghini's as the "Best of the Best" in the category of Commercial Contractors.*



## Community Service

Rotarians worked in the Youth Fair concession stand August 8th. Here Craig is manning the hot cheese machine.



2015 Women of Distinction. These Eastern Panhandle women, (Bridget Cohee, Lynne Seibert-Steptoe, Pam Wagoner, Linda Largent McGraw) are recognized by the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital for their achievements and positive role modeling for girls. Berniece serves on the committee that organizes this event each year. ■

Rotarians worked in the Youth Fair concession stand August 8th. Here Craig is manning the hot cheese machine.

# Editor's Message

## Technology Makes Sense, but Don't Lose the Human Touch

As I hold our newest grandchild, sweet Savannah, I can't but think about the future and what life will be like when she and our grandson Boyd reach adulthood. The way that technology now dominates all aspects of our living, with new inventions springing up daily—the future is bound to be shaped by technological applications we can't even imagine.

We all use technology in our businesses and personal lives. One cannot really function efficiently without computers, telecommunications or the other features of modernity—from credit cards to smart phones. Technology has made the workplace and world a safer and healthier place. It has given us amazing materials like lightweight polymers and nanoparticles that are impacting the way we construct buildings as well as myriad aspects of our material world.

We have far surpassed Orwell's once-frightening world of 1984. And today with Artificial Intelligence a certain reality, we are beginning to rely more and more on soul-less machines for work and relationships! Already in England they are advertising human-looking household robots on TV, who will be your "trusted helper and friend". There are "printers" you can buy to create any product you can imagine in your home or work. There are "apps" for your smartphone to help you navigate, understand and experience the world as you design it.

You can be almost anywhere in the world and attend a virtual university, get medical advice and be with your friends and family at the touch of a key or click.

Facebook has swept the Baby Boomer generation replacing live quality friendships with quantitative virtual ones from all corners of the globe, should one so desire. The quantity and immediacy of information a result of the www and other telecommunications staples like smartphones means we live in a global village as opposed to a vast planet, the latter the world view of our parent's generation before WWII accelerated many of the technologies (like airplanes and communications) that enabled us to explore the far corners of the world.

But in thinking about of all this technological progress, we need to remember that it has only been five centuries since we humans thought the world was flat and people were tortured and ex-communicated for thinking otherwise. Now we are taught that change is the norm and we expect wondrous things from Science. Our appetite for "new and improved" and immediate gratification has never been greater. But at what cost?

Our life expectancy and massive population explosion to 13 billion humans worldwide bears witness to medical breakthroughs which have given us the means to understand microbes, control epidemics, treat diseases, and prolong life.

Yet with all these technological marvels, which give us the highest quality of life the world has ever experienced, also come grave problems that could lead to serious consequences for our future world. Will Science be able to deal with global warming, overpopulation, pollution, unequal access to resources, errant meteors, cataclysmic natural disasters like volcanic eruptions, and to some people's way of thinking, the nefarious products of science without morality – from nuclear bombs and germ warfare to genetic engineering and identity

theft? It seems that for every productive advance brought by Technology there is its negative counterpart used for control and avarice by evil people.

So I'm not confident that the world of our grandchildren will be better than this world; but I pray to God that mankind will in its frenzied pursuit of Progress be guided by ethical values as opposed to imperialistic greed. I pray too that our legacy will be the realization that equality and education are essential to fulfill our creative potential, which will be paramount if mankind and the world is to prosper in the future.

Like you, I want for my grandchildren a healthy, peaceful, interdependent world that allows all people the opportunity to pursue their dreams, like we have done. ■



**Berniece Collis**  
Vice President

## Subcontractor Profile

**Jim Harper, President**

**Advanced Electrical Contractors Inc.**

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**301-766-0939**



**Jim Harper,**  
President

Starting in 2004 with only a pick-up truck, his electrical knowledge and an ambitious dream, Jim and his wife Robin have built Adelcon into one of the top full-service electrical contracting companies in the quad-state region. The company holds licenses in MD, WV, PA and VA. Today, a company of 10, Adelcon specializes in medium-size commercial jobs in the \$150,000 to \$500,000 range as well as providing smaller commercial and residential services. It has annual sales in excess of \$1.5 million.

Some of Adelcon's capabilities include new construction, renovation, repairs and service calls, lighting upgrades, electrical service upgrades, fire alarm installations, bucket truck services, trenching services and small tenant fit-outs.

The company has worked with Minghini's on many projects, including but not limited to the new Hedgesville Library, Foxcroft retail projects, Domino Pizza facilities, Potomac Intermediate School and Opequon Motors renovation.

States Jim, "Minghini's is awesome to work with. They are very professional and work together as a team. They care about people and treat everyone with a lot of respect. Minghini's does what it says its going to do when its due and that's rare these days!"

In his spare time, Jim enjoys being with his family. Robin, his wife, works with him in the business and they have two children, Jarrett (14) and Jilian (9). Jim also likes attending baseball games and making train models.

Modest by nature, he attributes the success of his company, like the success of Minghini's, to TEAMWORK! "It's not about me, it's all about the team," Jim concludes. ■

# Supplier Advice

Lancaster Safety Consulting Inc.  
Wexford, PA 15090  
888.403.6026 [www.LancasterSafety.com](http://www.LancasterSafety.com)  
[Becky.Lancaster@LancasterSafety.com](mailto:Becky.Lancaster@LancasterSafety.com)



*Becky Lancaster*

## Planning for Accident Prevention

Accidents are never planned but it is possible to plan for accident prevention! The best way to prevent workplace injuries is to eliminate any potential safety hazard. This is accomplished through the use of engineering controls such as designing a process to remove the hazard, substituting a less hazardous process or chemical, or establishing a physical barrier or local ventilation to reduce exposure. Safe work practices and administrative controls are the second line of defense against accidents. If a hazard still exists after implementing engineering, work practice, and administrative controls, personal protective equipment (PPE) is the last line of defense. If you see a hazard, remember to report it to your supervisor immediately!

Lancaster Safety Consulting, Inc. (LSCI) provides occupational safety and health management services nationwide. The company has highly qualified safety consultants throughout the country ready to help you with safety and health concerns, including assisting customers with an OSHA inspection, safety and health training, OSHA compliant written programs, safety inspections, safety audits, contractor prequalification process, OSHA webinars, and more. ■

# Projects

## Completed

Rankin Physical Therapy

Shoppes@ Foxcroft

Domino's Ranson  
and Inwood remodels

Berkeley Springs High School  
kitchen repairs

Morgan County Senior Living  
Center

AlSaleh Dental Office



## Projects in Progress

Jefferson County School Bus Garage

Mattress Warehouse

Valley Mall Primanti Brothers' Shell Building

Enterprise RAC Remodel and Addition

Potomack Intermediate School Additions

Bunker Hill United Methodist Church Addition

# Client Profile

Jennifer Rankin, Rankin, RN, Financial Manager, Rankin Physical Therapy  
[jrankin.rpt@gmail.com](mailto:jrankin.rpt@gmail.com) 279-2417 [www.rankinpt.com](http://www.rankinpt.com)

Rankin Physical Therapy was founded in April 2001 by a dynamic couple who are dedicated to wellness and recovery. Kelly Rankin, the therapeutic director has 17 years of experience as a licensed physical therapist.

Currently Rankin Physical Therapy has four locations in the Eastern Panhandle and 50 employees, but the company plans to open a facility in Inwood by the end of the year.

In addition to rehabilitation services Rankin Physical Therapy operates wellness centers in the Hedgesville and Berkeley Springs locations. It offers therapeutic services for orthopedic and musculo-skeletal injuries, back pain, sports injuries, custom foot orthotics, neurological disorders, gait and balance training, vestibular disorders, workers comp/personal injury, post amputation therapy, wound care, incontinence and pelvic pain, and running assessments.

Having a solid business background as the manager of the Outback Steakhouse Restaurant in Martinsburg for 9 years, Jennifer handles all of the financial operations of the business from payroll to A/P. She also is a school nurse two days a week. But that's not all that this busy young professional has on her plate: she and Kelly have two beautiful children, seven and three years old.

Jennifer worked closely with Minghini's on the recent construction of the company's Hedgesville facilities. The new complex is located on the west side of Roaring Lion Drive off of WV Route 9 and adjacent to the Food Lion Shopping Center. The building is comprised of 8,200 S.F. and consists of offices, treatment rooms, men and women's locker rooms, and a heated therapy pool. Its reception area extends into the large circular waiting room with impressive clerestory windows. There is a large wellness therapy area where all types of equipment is available to patients.

According to Jennifer, "It was amazing working with Minghini's. They are easy to communicate with and whenever I had a question they always got back to me right away and were very pleasant to deal with."

In their non-working time, Kelly and Jennifer enjoy travelling with their family and both volunteer at St. Joseph's School in Martinsburg where their children attend school. The family lives in Martinsburg. ■





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## Staff News

**Kudos Berniece!** *Berniece received the Martinsburg Rotary Club's prestigious "Rotarian of the Year" Award*



*Tia Collis,  
CPA Joins Minghini's  
as CFO*

In March 2015, Tia joined Minghini's as its first CFO. Tia graduated from Shepherd University in 2005 with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Business Administration. Tia worked in the Public Accounting Industry for almost 10 years, with a speciality in auditing employee retirement plans, nonprofit organizations, and privately held companies in the industries of manufacturing and distributing. Minghini's is pleased to have this talented individual on its management team.



**Congrats Craig!**  
*Craig received his second Paul Harris Fellow Award from Rotary this year.*

**Granddaughter Carlie, a Senior!** *The Collis' granddaughter, Carlie is entering her senior year of high school and her last season of soccer! Good luck, Carlie. It's an exciting time of life for you.*



**Welcoming a Granddaughter!**  
*Savannah Grace Collis was born on May 3, 2015 weighing 8.3 pounds and 20.25 inches long with a full head of black hair. (Left); Three generations of Collises: Dad Jacob, Grandpa Craig and Sweet Savannah. (right)*

