

# HOWARD COUNTY NEW CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

FALL 2020



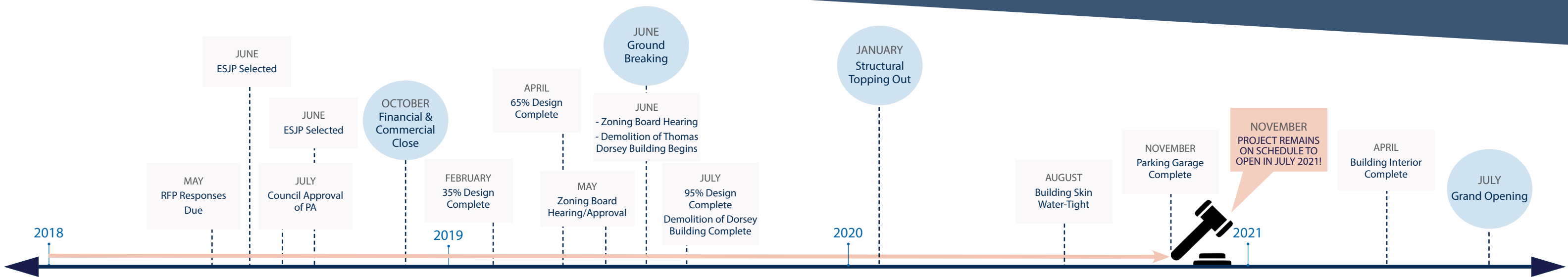
CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOWARD COUNTY

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## Inside this Edition

- 1.0 Project News
- 2.0 Giving Back to the Community
- 3.0 Spotlight on Local & Minority-Owned Businesses
- 4.0 Voices from the Project





Left: Project team poses in front of the courthouse at the Topping Out Ceremony in January 2020. Right: Craftworkers sign beam at the Topping Out Ceremony in January 2020. *Note: photos taken before the implementation of COVID-19 protocols.*



# 1 PROJECT NEWS

## Project Team Celebrates Topping Out

The Howard County Circuit Courthouse project team celebrated the building's topping out in late January 2020 with a ceremony at the project site. A major construction milestone, topping out refers to placing the last structural steel beam on top of the building. The entire project team signed the beam, as shown above, before it was hoisted in the air and placed on top of the structure.

Since the structural topping out in January, the project team has been hard at work on the exterior and interior of the building. The building's exterior, which became water-tight in August 2020, can be seen in the progress photo on the bottom right. The team continues to work on the building's interior, which is on track for completion in the Spring of 2021.

## Working Safely During COVID-19

Based upon the federal government's designation of construction as an essential business, the project team has continued to build the new courthouse throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Clark team and its trade partners have implemented a wide range of safety measures to ensure the health and safety of all team members on the job site.

In late February 2020 (in advance of community spread and lockdown procedures), the project team encouraged employees to practice healthy habits and stay home if they were sick. Since that time and initial recommendations, the construction team has continued to work with all trade partners to implement the following health and safety measures:

- requirement for face coverings to be worn on the jobsite by all workers

- daily symptom checks
- additional handwashing and sanitizing stations
- increased frequency of site, facilities, and restroom cleanings
- social distancing during all activities and staggered work schedules

Additionally, the job site has a COVID-19 Site Monitor to ensure all workers onsite adhere to the Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s social distancing guidelines as well as state and local health directions.

The entire project team's cooperation with these new safety measures has allowed work to continue with no significant interruptions, mitigating potential schedule impacts to the project, thus far.

**“Clark has been outstanding at understanding and developing a system that provides for the safe and healthy commission of work for both their own engineers, managers, and field supervisors, as well as their trade partners on site. Living with the pandemic is new to everyone alive today, and the guidelines for dealing with pandemic change and evolve. Clark has made every attempt to ensure that the tradesmen on site receive a sanitary work environment, clean portable toilets and wash facilities, clean drinking water, and safe and socially distant performance of their work. Clark’s process has been a dynamic effort born from continuous intelligent conversation throughout their levels of management to ensure that they exceed local, state, and federal guidelines and recommendations for all persons associated with this project. In short, Clark cares. This is a category that is almost immeasurable while being a consistent core value that each member of their team exhibits daily.”**

**Buzz Brown**  
North Point Builders



Progress photo from September 2020

## 2 GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

The Edgemoor-Star America Judicial Partners (ESJP) team currently delivering and eventually operating the new courthouse continued to give back to the local community in several ways in 2020.

### ESJP Raises Over \$38K for COVID-19 Relief Fund

In April 2020, ESJP set up the "New Howard County Courthouse Development Team COVID-19 Relief Fund" to support local COVID-19 relief efforts in Howard County. The relief fund, which is being administered through the Community Foundation of Howard County, has raised \$38,600 to-date. The donor-advised fund is being used to support local nonprofits addressing the needs of Howard County residents adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**"Though our original intent was to rally the other companies working on the project to donate (and they have done so), it has been heartwarming to see the number of individuals who have voluntarily and generously contributed personally to the cause."**

**Brian Dugan, CEO**  
Edgemoor-Star Judicial Partners

While creating the fund, ESJP recognized that the pandemic has been especially hard on the small and local nonprofits that are integral to the fabric of the Howard County community. Many of these organizations are largely funded through charitable donations and County-administered grants, the availability of which has been negatively impacted by COVID-19, threatening the

### Back-to-School Kits

In August, ESJP donated to Prepare for Success and ESJP team members delivering the new courthouse helped stuff school kits for students in Howard County Public Schools.



viability of these firms, the livelihood of those they employ, and the good they do in the community.

In addition to creating the New Howard County Courthouse Development Team COVID-19 Relief Fund, the ESJP team stepped in to assist the Howard County Community Foundation's Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) program. After learning about the student-led fundraising campaign to raise \$5,000 for COVID-19 relief, ESJP offered to match their \$5,000 goal to double the impact of the students' fundraising efforts.

**"ESJP has been a great partner to our community, especially during our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As this crisis has highlighted the true disparities in our community, ESJP's fundraising has supported our local nonprofits and other organizations' critical work to provide for our most vulnerable residents."**

**Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive**



## 3 SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL & MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

### Howard County-Based Allen & Shariff on the Significance of Delivering the New Courthouse Project



**Zack Shariff, CEO of Allen & Shariff, spoke to ESJP about his firm and its role on the Project, and what delivering the new courthouse means to them.**

As a Howard County resident, I'm excited to be a part of this Project because it's so important to the efficient provision of essential services to the citizens and has been a long time coming. The existing courthouse is too small, no longer functional for its user groups, and challenging to operate safely. As Howard County-certified minority firm, it's important to have contributed to this monumental project that will be around for generations, and I commend Edgemoor-Star Judicial Partners and the County for giving us this opportunity. This is

just the type of significant local project that enables firms like ours to grow and thrive right here in Howard County.

Allen & Shariff is an engineering, construction, and project management firm based in Howard County, Maryland that has been in business for 28 years. When we first started out, we did mainly tenant fit-out projects—our first project was the Naval Academy fit-out in Annapolis. Since then, our two-person team grew to eight-ten in the first five or six years and has continued to grow exponentially ever since. We currently have 91 employees.

Our team is serving as the Third-Party Commissioning Agent on the Project. We have been involved from the design phase onward to ensure that the County's program requirements are met being a sustainability standpoint and the courthouse is able to operate at peak efficiency. We will also validate implementation and provide systems testing.



### Strategic Partnership Program Graduates Four Howard County-Based Firms in 2020

This summer, four Howard County-based firms graduated from Clark's Strategic Partnership Program:

- Camille Scott Interior Design and Renovation, LLC
- F&F Wholesalers
- FW Cleaning Group
- IJC Systems Inc.

The Strategic Partnership Program is a free, 10-month MBA-style intensive training program that was developed in

2006 in response to the lack of training and development programs for small businesses in the construction industry.

Since its inception, the Strategic Partnership Program has expanded to **seven cities**, with **800+ graduates nationwide** and **over \$1B+ in subcontracts** awarded to SPP graduates.

The current 2020-2021 Strategic Partnership Program class also includes four Howard County-based firms.



## 4 VOICES FROM THE PROJECT

### Two Questions with Tom Meunier

**Congratulations on your recent appointment to Director of Public Works. Tell us about your role on the courthouse project over the past few years.**

I serve as Howard County's Project Manager for the new courthouse. I took over the project in October 2018 after the project reached financial close. At that point, the commercial arrangements and financing were in-place for the project, both of which are a big part of setting up a successful P3. However, design still needed to be completed and, of course, the project needed to be built. So, I've been involved in helping oversee design and construction.

**How has your experience working on this public-private partnership been different from other projects you've been involved with?**

This is the first P3 project that I've been involved with. From my experience, it has been a very collaborative process between the Edgemoor-Star America Judicial Partners (ESJP) consortium and the owner (Howard County), where all parties are truly working together to achieve the best results. That's not to say that's not the goal in the traditional delivery model, but in a P3, the risk reallocation tends to bring a different mindset to the table, which in this case has helped the project go very smoothly. Our private partner, ESJP, is incentivized to make decisions like a long-term owner, which aligns them with us.



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**STAR AMERICA**  
EDGEMOOR-STAR AMERICA JUDICIAL PARTNERS

To read more about the project, please visit: [howardcountymd.gov/HowardCourthouse](http://howardcountymd.gov/HowardCourthouse)