

2015
fall issue

5

THE owners' *manual*



Aaaand...they're done!
ALL CT Service Plazas are officially complete.

THE owners' manual

issue 5. fall 2015

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1



BL BUZZ: WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AROUND BL?

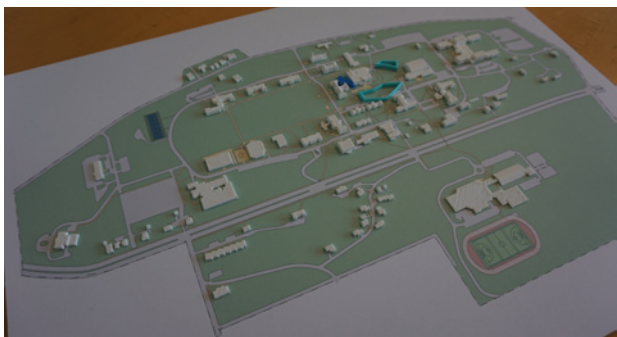
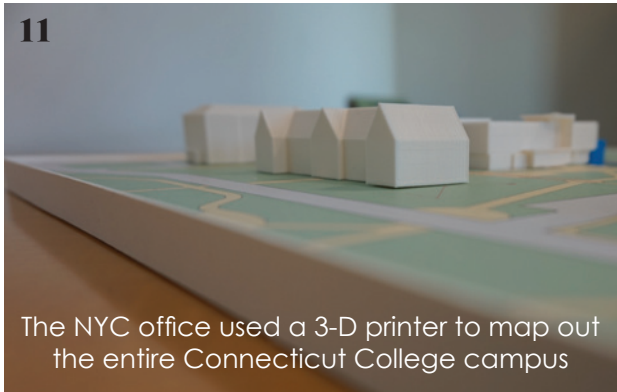
- 1. Ground breaking ceremony for the Middletown, CT Veteran's Cemetery (see page 22 for more info on this important project)
- 2. Tim Hydrusko, Trevor Wentz and Jacob Houtz representing which department? (can you guess?)
- 3. Bob Celata married his longtime love, Patty, in August (with a dapper-looking Stan Novak as his best man)
- 4. Asha Perkoski and Leah DelGrego scope each other out...new BL BFFs?
- 5. Raina Huebner and Cristy Shamus channel their inner (and outer) cowgirls for an ESOP BBQ in Meriden.
- 6. Ray Gradwell, Kathy Rodo, Jess Osborne, Jennifer Usher and Nick Giardina represented BL at the Bushnell Park Summer Solstice (BL has been a longtime sponsor of the event)



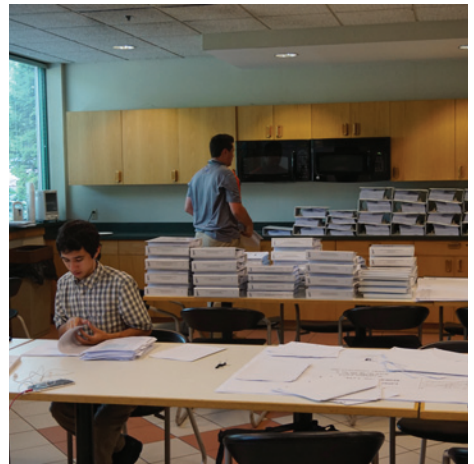
BL BUZZ: WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AROUND BL?
(A LOT!)



Bob Cappelli, Steve Cappelli, Derek Everett, and Matt Cote of the Canton, OH office donated their time and expertise to Uniontown, OH for the layout and excavation of the Uniontown Community Park. Thank you for donating your time to give to the community!



The NYC office used a 3-D printer to map out the entire Connecticut College campus



12



10 Bob Davidson delivers the donated backpacks to Cradles to Crayons



13 Our color-coordinated team from the Norwood, MA office.

7-10: BL gives back again with a company-wide backpack drive, organized by the Giving Back Committee. *What's the Giving Back Committee you ask? See pages 24-25!*

11: Hey, did you know that BL has access to a 3-D printer? It was recently used for a presentation to Connecticut College. Neat!

12: Wow, that's a lot of paper! Our summer interns were hard at work for the ASR project in the Meriden office.

13: Our color-coordinated team from the Norwood, MA office.

14: Some summer fun at the CT/MA/NY Summer Picnic in Farmington, CT.

15: Brad Wolf, Ally Szyba, Bob Blickley and Mike Lozanoff represent BL at a BisNow event in New Jersey.

16: Steve Iovanna & Rai Muhlbauer at the ICSC show in Boston, MA.

17: Leadership Development Foundations in Bristol, CT.

18: Is that a BL blanket I spy? Haley Swain had hers proudly on display at a VW car show.



Um, do I know you?
Rich Holland & Leah DelGREGO at the Summer Picnic.





NEVER FORGET

Discussing September 11th is never an easy task but not acknowledging that this newsletter was going to be published on 9/11 was not to be ignored either. Every year, the attacks of 9/11 recede further into the past. We are grateful for those who shared their personal experiences, photos, and thoughts in this special section.

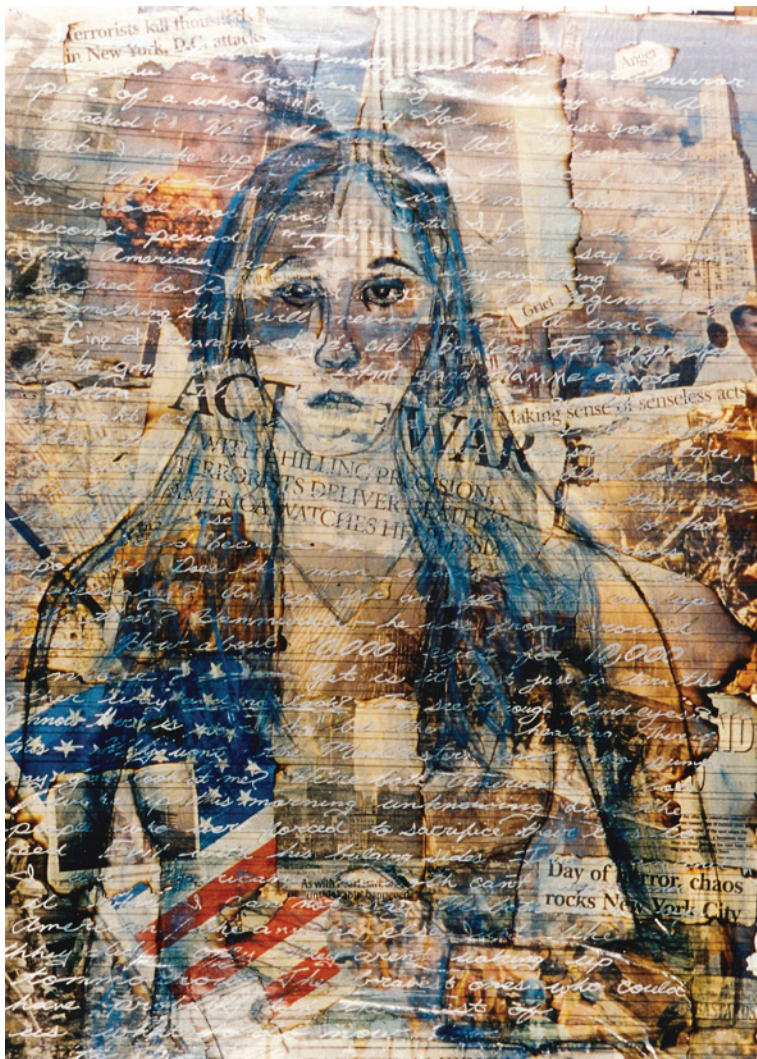
Whether you lost someone close or experienced that day huddled in a conference room watching it unfold on television, 9/11 jars emotions and memories that we don't look to conjure up.

The heart of this special section is to honor the lives of those who were lost; to take pause in our day and collective memories so that we – NEVER FORGET.

9/11/01

I did this piece in the days following the attack. I was a senior in high school doing a series for a portfolio for college with about a piece a month. The goal of the painting/collage was to capture the moment's emotions and freeze them in time; I remember no one really understood for a few weeks who committed the attack or why. The death toll was uncertain at that point. The term terrorism was new to my generation & with no one really knowing if this could be the beginning of WWII or if more attacks would follow. The fear of not knowing was paralyzing for the whole country. The overwhelming global sadness was everywhere.

~ MOLLY SALAFIA



How do we explain the inexplicable to our children? When first talking about the attacks of 9/11 with my older son in 2013, I realized that what I was saying sounded like a scene out of a movie. Total make believe and he was really into the action heroes. He couldn't comprehend the impact and magnitude of the loss from that day and how could he from his 10 year old perspective? (And, did I really want him to?) So, instead of talking about the terrorists and the planes and the firefighters and the unanswerable question of why this all happened – which I could not fully answer. I told him about Stu Meltzer. I told him that I knew someone who died that day. Stu was 32 years old and working at Cantor Fitzgerald when the plane hit Tower 1. “Was he scared?” he asked. “Yes, he was scared because that day was scary.” I shared with him funny stories from when I hung out with Stu at Trinity College, we went to NY to see Broadway plays and when he was our cousin's roommate in California. I told him that he was a dad and had two boys just like him and his brother. I mentioned that we should go to the NY memorial and remember him. So we did. And although it may seem odd that I am standing by a solemn memorial for the lost with a smile on my face, I am smiling and hugging my boys for Stu who never got the chance to do the same.

~ HEATHER HALOTEK

THREE FORTY THREE:

There are few events in life when you remember exactly where and what you were doing and feeling when tragedy struck. I was working in New London, CT when the towers fell. I remember it clearly like it was yesterday hearing the news and walking out of work to a local pizza shop – glued to a television –feeling helpless, a feeling of disbelief, a pit in my stomach as the events unfolded. Knowing that the towers had to have been filled with firefighters and wondering how many of my brothers were alive or dead?

I recall in the aftermath a network of firefighters from Connecticut banding together to provide any type of support necessary for those down in New York. While I was not down there and could not even begin to imagine what the victims' families were going through, I still felt (like many other Americans and all of those in the fire service) that we all shared in the loss of that day.

Every year since the event my local fire department has held a 9/11 remembrance. We honor all of those who lost their lives trying to save others that day. Every year we read the names of the fallen and ring the bell one more time for them. Every year the group at the ceremony gets smaller and yet we still vow never to forget. We vow never to forget not only the 343 first responders but the other 3,000 souls that were lost that day. We vow to never forget that day changed the way we as Americans perceive the environment around us. We vow never to forget that day changed the mission and the way firefighting is performed. Every time I pick up my fire helmet, I see the 343 that is inscribed on it and it keeps that event fresh in mind and the memory of that day alive.

And why keep it alive? So, as the numbers dwindle and as the event is pushed further back into history, I keep a promise to those who fell that day. I honor them, I keep them alive by remembrance and by telling their story to younger individuals. I do so that all remember that there were sacrifices made just for being an American. I see the three forty three and thus I will Never Forget.

~ DOMINICK CELTRUDA



I worked for another consulting company providing environmental services for a client representing several building owners that had retained our services to collect WTC dust samples inside and outside their buildings. I worked in the weeks just past 9/11 from behind the police lines of “Ground Zero”, in and around many of the impacted buildings.

~ CRISTY SHAMUS



I debated whether I should write anything about my experience with September 11, since I believe that the focus should always be on the innocent people who were killed that day and their families, both those who worked in the buildings and those who went in to offer help.

I worked for Leslie E. Robertson Associates in Manhattan for five years. For those who don't know, Les Robertson was the structural engineer who designed the World Trade Center, including the twin towers and the three plaza buildings. As such, the firm regularly did work for the Port Authority and tenants moving into the buildings. Having started in 1992, I was there for the terrorist bombing in February 1993, in which six people were killed and many injured. We had nearly every engineer in the company working on documenting the damage, and designing repairs and shoring during the first several weeks after

the bombing. We worked seven days a week, 14 hours per day for the first month. After that, the company insisted that we reduce our time on the job to more healthy levels, although we still worked many six-day weeks of 10 to 12 hours per day. The Port Authority set up a kitchen on the Concourse Level and fed all of the workers lunch and dinner during this time at no charge. Access to the work area was strictly controlled by the NYPD who issued ID cards that required weekly validating stickers. Eventually we received photo ID cards to streamline the process of passing through the checkpoints. We performed all kinds of work for the next 7 months that focused mainly on clean-up, and repair of the damage. In the beginning we documented all of the structural damage over the 16 acre site on the Plaza level and all six sub-basement levels below that. We designed countless shoring towers and posts, monitored the removal of untold tons of debris, designed temporary bracing, and devised ways to repair all of the damage done to the structure.

The bomb was placed outside of the southeast corner of the north tower, on the B2 parking garage level. This was the second basement level below the Concourse Level, which is where the shops were and the exit from the PATH train when you came up the escalator. Above the Concourse level was the exterior Plaza level that was at the street elevation along the east side of the site. Being located where it was, most of the damage done by the explosion was to the sub-basement levels, B1 through B6. Probably unbeknownst to the bombers, directly below the B2 level where they parked their truck bomb, was the chiller plant for the entire WTC facility. This huge open room started at the B5 level, and reached up to the B2 level. Thus there was no B3 or B4 floor structure in this location. This meant that the explosive force had a large void in which to expand which lessened its effect to some degree. Nevertheless, much damage was done to the basement parking level concrete slabs, which also served to brace the columns for the hotel building on the west side of the WTC site as well as the basement slurry walls.

As a result, the hotel was closed for many months after the bombing until repairs to stabilize its columns were completed.

During the course of this work, our structural engineering firm hired several architects to assist in documenting the damage and preparing the repair drawings. Eventually, all but one of them left or was laid off, but the one we kept ultimately went on to become the chief architect for the World Trade Center. He died during the attacks on 9/11 responding to the plane crash on the north tower.

Eventually the repair work was completed and we returned to a more normal routine in our daily jobs. However, partially because of the work that I did during the reconstruction, the World Trade Center Engineering department of the Port Authority requested that I come and work for them one day a week. So, I spent Wednesdays for almost a year working on the 36th floor of the north tower. Eventually they hired an engineer and after training him, my time working in the World Trade Engineering

department ended. I left the firm in December of 1998 and never imagined that the towers would be attacked again.

On September 11, 2001 I was working in Bridgeport CT when we all know what happened. Because of my history with the buildings a group of us was given the chance to assist with engineering support for the search and rescue efforts as volunteers. On Sunday, September 16, 2001 I returned to the World Trade Center site. I can only describe what I saw as surreal. It was as if what we were looking at was in a dream and not real. I had worked in the buildings. I spent countless hours looking at the original drawings for the many jobs that we were doing for the Port Authority and private tenants. I once spent a week on the 90th floor watching iron workers repair damage to an elevator shaft floor beam from 6 pm to 1 am, since they could only weld in the building after hours. And now all of it was gone. A nine story stair tower that I designed for the commodities exchange to the east of the south tower no longer existed.

Our shift at the site lasted from about 4 pm to 1 am the next day. I walked up the stairs (no electricity, so no elevators) to the 20th floor of the World Financial Center building occupied by American Express (Amex) on the west side of West Street to monitor some debris from the towers that was being secured so that rescue efforts in the Winter Garden below could be performed. On the way down we stopped on the 17th floor to perform the same task. The lobby of the Amex building was being used as a cafeteria and stock room for donated goods. Anything a rescue worker needed was there: boots, clothes, gloves, medical equipment. The rest of our shift was spent in the area of West Street and Vesey Street working with the contractors doing clean-up in that quadrant of the site. We talked to many firefighters and iron workers. During that time we were all on the same team, we all had the same goal. Everyone cooperated and we all acted as if we had known each other forever. On that day we were all Americans.

continued >



To describe the site is impossible. No photographs I have seen capture the magnitude of the destruction. The collapsed towers were still burning and smoldering, so smoke filled the air. The smell of dead bodies was everywhere. The work was slow and methodical. The fire department was in charge, and they were still looking for survivors, so the cleanup was secondary. The iron workers would move some wreckage, then the fire department went in and looked. This pattern repeated around the clock. No survivors were found on our shift, only bodies. The firemen told us that they suspected that there were 150 bodies under the wreckage near the Winter Garden based on information they had before the towers collapsed, but the debris couldn't be moved because it was holding up part of the building.

It would take a few days to be stabilized, and then the recovery started at that location.

By the time we turned the site over to our relief crew, it was 1:30 am, and we had missed the last train out of the city. We walked up West Street past the inner security perimeter, past the news satellite trucks and beyond the outer security perimeter. There were people standing behind the barricades on West Street at 3:00 in the morning to clap, and shout encouragement and thanks as we walked by. They offered us cold water to drink - doing all that they could do, just as we had done. I have never felt the way I did walking up West Street that early morning with all of those people clapping for us. You would have thought that we had personally

saved their mother's life. It's something that I will never forget.

We walked all the way to the Javits Center where a volunteer command center was set up. We would have been happy to sleep on the floor (which we did briefly) but a downtown hotel was contacted and two free rooms for the night were obtained for us. A volunteer drove us across town to the hotel in his own car. Imagine packing 4 engineers and a driver in a two-door Honda Civic and racing from the Javits Center to Midtown at 4 am. Again, here was another person doing what he could for the cause. We slept for about 90 minutes in our fancy hotel room and got up in time to walk across the street to Grand Central for the first train back to Connecticut.

~ *WHITNEY MCNULTY*





1. Photo 1 shows a section of the tower exterior wall columns and floor beams being lifted by a crane. This piece is 3 floors tall. In the background is World Financial Center building 2 with the large American flag.
2. Photo 2 is looking northeast at what remains of the northwest plaza building and the north tower. The tall building in the background is the Verizon building.
3. Photo 3 shows part of the exterior wall columns and floor beam from the towers.
4. Photo 4 shows the exterior walls of the north tower with the northwest plaza building to the left.



When the WTC memorial plaza first opened in 2011, the lines were long. I remember reserving tickets on a damp fall evening. The autumn fog softened the bright lights of lower Manhattan.

In 2011, access to the plaza and memorial was still closely guarded. In order to enter, visitors had to pass through an airport-style security and a suffocating crowd. Once inside though, the plaza opened up to a wide expanse of Swamp White Oaks and stone walkways. Surrounding the site were several buildings in various stages of infancy. To the northwest, WTC 1 was materializing into a formidable mass of steel and blast-proof concrete. A decade's long stretch of political wrangling, design considerations and negotiations were beginning to give form to the World Trade Center site.

The centerpiece of the plaza were two waterfalls that conformed to the footprint of the former towers. The perimeters were relatively small considering the height of the fallen structures. The winner of the World Trade Center Site Memorial Competition was an Israeli architect—Michael Arad of Handel Architects. He had collaborated with landscape-architecture firm Peter Walker and Partners to create a design called Reflecting Absence.

From a distance, a visitor's first experience with Reflecting Absence is the memorial's light and the sound of falling water. Only when a visitor is at the edge of the voids, does the full emptiness become visceral. The bronze parapet inscribed with the names of the victims is illuminated from behind and from a distance appear to float in an abstract band of light like candles surrounding a missing altar. The effect is reverent and reserved, but never austere.

When the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation issued the request for submissions, they were looking for a gesture that is both universal and conveys the magnitude of loss. Each visitor interprets the impact of the memorial in their own way. Each visitor has a unique understanding and proximity to the tragedy of 9/11. As I walked through the ground of the memorial several years ago, I knew that the symbolic effect of Reflecting Absence had surpassed all my expectations.

~ ALGIS KALVAITIS

SAFETY TIP: How to



Enlist a friend to hike with you: someone who likes hiking and is good company is a good choice.



Choose where to hike. Consider the following when choosing: natural views and landscape, accessibility, the availability of marked hiking trails, the length of the hike based on your personal experience and ability. Consider the terrain of the area as well. Hills and mountains are beautiful but even a short steep hike can be too challenging.



Pack plenty of water. Even if you plan to hike for just a couple of hours, you do not want to run the risk of becoming dehydrated. Plan 1 L per person per hour of hiking.



Wear supportive, closed footwear and comfortable socks. Hiking boots are best. If you do not have boots, wear comfortable shoes with thick supportive soles. Make sure to take an extra pair of socks as well, particularly if you are going on a longer hike.



Wear a hat and sunscreen. Pack additional sunscreen.



Somewhere along the trail you will probably get hungry, so you should pack something like GORP (Good Old Raisins and Peanuts). GORP doesn't have to be raisins and peanuts. Cherries, almonds, M&Ms, walnuts, cranberries, and peanut butter chips are all good. Anything non-perishable and bite-sized will do. If you are eating a meal on the trail, pack light, and as spill-free as possible. Sandwiches, bite-sized vegetables, beef sticks, fruit leather, and apples are also good trail food. Pack a small bag to contain any trash that you make. Do not leave any trash on the trail.

to Prepare for a Hike



Pack basic first aid supplies, including bandages, moleskin, tweezers, and antiseptic wipes.



If you are going somewhere with steep, rocky slopes, then fingerless gloves are a good thing to have on you. Normal work-gloves are good too. Hiking or walking sticks are also helpful for getting up a steep slopes, particularly if you carry a heavy pack or do not have good balance.



Pack a cell phone. [Be aware that in many hiking areas, there is no cell coverage -- check your provider's coverage map.]



Let someone know that you are hiking, where, and how long you expect to hike. Tell them you will check in with them when you return. Then check in with that person when you return. Just in case anything goes wrong (for example, you get lost), that person will know where to look for you, or know to contact help if you do not return as expected.



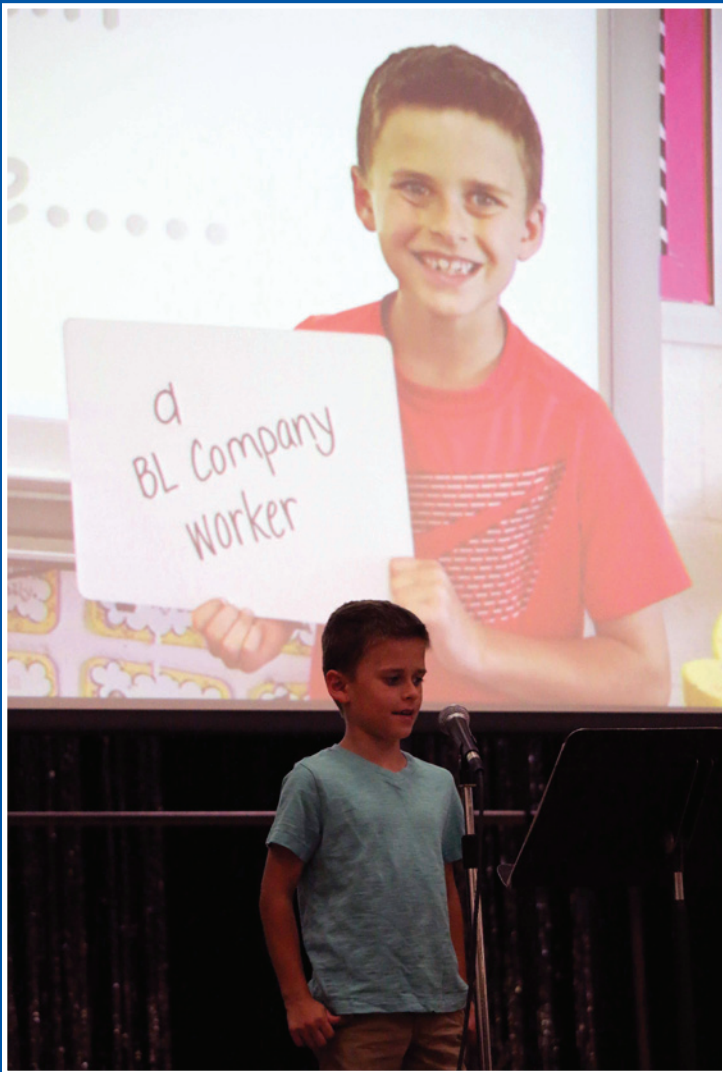
Make sure you are conditioned for long hikes. For example, if you are going on a 9-mile hike, try a 5-mile hike a week or two before, carrying the same gear on your back that you will have for the 9-mile. This gives you time to get comfortable with your bag, and to fix any weight-distribution problems in your packing, and also time to find a comfortable strap adjustment.

And, remember the golden rule of hiking: Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints. So, Pack your camera!



Source: WikiHow

The Next Generation of Employee Owners



<<<<<<<<<< **GET HIS RESUME READY!**
When Dalton Kohl was asked the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" his dad, Derek Kohl, Director of Engineering, would have guessed the answer would have definitely been "a baseball player." Most kids in his first grade class said doctor, teacher, fireman, police man, etc. but we can see Dalton has bigger things in store. He is only in the first grade so he didn't quite get the spelling right but we are still very impressed and proud of his answer.



>>>>>> **WE'RE HIRING!** <<<<<<<<<

Do you know someone who could be a great fit for the BL team?

Be sure to check out the Careers section on BL's website to see a current list of job openings.

Oh, and did we mention that there's a Finders Fee incentive? Details can be found on the Intranet, or just reach out to Mina Almengor.

Question of the Quarter

Who was your favorite teacher or mentor growing up (or even now) and why?



①

My 6th grade teacher, Mr. Yiengst. He taught pre-algebra and was also my "homeroom" teacher, so I had other subjects with him as well. 11 and 12 year olds can be a tough age, but he was never afraid to push students to work harder and be the best they could be. He often used unconventional means when teaching that made learning easier and more fun. His class was the first time I truly felt challenged in school, and while I may have grumbled about it at the time (ha!), it was one of the most fun years I had in school and I've always looked back on him fondly.



②

My most influential teacher was Mrs. Wirth...she taught science (of course) at South Windsor High School. I first had her for human anatomy and physiology and then later for some cool classes as an upper classman such as bacteriology. (YES.....you CAN take a whole class on bacteriology!) Most of the kids thought she was mean and a hard teacher. For me, she was wonderful. Mrs. Wirth encouraged me to pursue college and a career in the sciences and assured me I could do whatever I put my mind to which was important for me to hear since I had recently moved and was struggling through a very difficult cultural shift (upstate New York country girl to South Windsor High School – yikes!). In thinking about sharing this, I realize I never went back to let her know that I did continue on in my entire career, being a biology geek. I like to think she would be proud of me, and I will never forget her.



③

Most definitely my college history teacher at Brooklyn College – Professor Ruiz. The history part of the class was great but what I remember most from his classes were what I call the "Ruiz life lessons." He would weave stories of different cultures into his lectures and the one that has always stayed with me is "don't forget to look up." He would say, New Yorkers are always in a rush to get to the next place. Heads down and pushing forward. Don't forget to look up and change your perspective. There is beautiful architecture and details you miss by never observing the full world around you.



④

My favorite teacher was my History teacher during my Junior year at Chatham High School. She had previously been a professional ballerina, so music played a large part in how she taught. Our final project that year was to find a song that described a historical event and to write a paper about how the two connected. She really gave me a stronger appreciation for music and taught us that history can be found all around us.

1 // Krystal Bealing | Camp Hill, PA

2 // Kim Lesay | Meriden, CT

3 // Heather Halotek | Meriden, CT

4 // Julie Schembir | Houston, TX

Get to
KNOW

Land

Arch

landscape architecture

land·scape ar·chi·tec·ture

// NOUN //

the art and practice of designing the outdoor environment, especially designing parks or gardens together with buildings and roads.

Landscape architects design the built environment of neighborhoods, towns and cities while also protecting and managing the natural environment. Members of the profession have a special commitment to improving the quality of life through the best design of places for people and other living things. At BL Companies we are lucky to have quite an experienced team of Landscape Architecture professionals who you are about to "Get to Know."

Who's Who?

Dominick Celtrua (Hartford)

State University of New York at Cobleskill
– Associates in Horticultural Design &
State University of New York College of
Environmental Science and Forestry at
Syracuse

Josh Egnatz (Hartford)

Cornell University
(*ever heard of it?*)

Mark Heeb (Camp Hill)

Penn State University (undergrad) &
University of Georgia (grad)

Greg Holtzman (Camp Hill)

Penn State University

Joe Kelleher (Hartford)

UConn

Elliot Shibley (Camp Hill)

Penn State University

Wayne Violette (Meriden)

U! C! O! N! N! UConn! UConn! UConn!

Be Inspired

What inspired your career in Landscape Architecture?

CELTRUDA: As a child working outdoors on a friends farm, the feeling of nature (a fall morning in New England), and my high school art teacher David Belval who introduced me to the profession.

EGNATZ: Robert Trent Jones. He is a golf course architect - perhaps the first who went to college with the specific purpose of becoming a golf course architect. I became interested in landscape Architecture in part because I liked this type of design and the course local to where I grew up was designed by Robert Trent Jones. My interests in the profession have since expanded, but I still have a sentimental dream of someday designing (or contributing to the design) of a golf course.

HEEB: I worked in construction beginning at age 13 and enjoyed the process of seeing a design turn into a finished product. The integration of art and science found in landscape architecture really spoke to me.

HOLTZMAN: It included an upgraded meal plan.

KELLEHER: In high school, when looking for colleges I wanted to study architecture, but at the time there was not a single undergraduate architecture program offered in CT. I learned that UConn had a "landscape" architecture program. Although I didn't really know what that was, I had a love of nature and art. Landscape Architecture seemed like the perfect union of these two interests.

SHIBLEY: Trips to Yosemite National Park and Yellowstone National Park.

VIOLETTE: Growing up, I thought I would be an Architect. Kind of like George Costanza, I liked the sound of it. I was very much into designing things. Legos probably kick started that. During high school I was drawing floor plans and elevations in CAD. I think I even walked around with blueprints in the back pack to look cool. Yes, I was clueless then too. And then the college search began and the term Landscape Architecture surfaced. I was intrigued about its basis in design (like architecture) but was fascinated about the "open palate" of working with the land. The more I learned the more I was hooked. There were no boundaries and no limits to what was possible (and no budgets in college design). The design process for Landscape Architecture has me hooked and wanting for more.

What does Landscape Architecture mean to you?

CELTRUDA: Taking the complexities of space and organizing them into a simplistic social cultural order that defines area as place!

EGNATZ: I spent 4 years in college learning about it. I've spent half my waking life the past 10 years doing it. I think about it constantly, I worry about it, I advocate for it, I depend on it. It is not just my job, it is a professional mission.

HEEB: The ability to shape the built environment

HOLTZMAN: Someone once told me that "Landscape architecture encompasses the analysis, planning, design, management and stewardship of the natural and built environment through science and design...It is a profession that is broad in scale and scope. Landscape Architects receive training in site design, historic preservation, and planning, as well as in technical and scientific areas such as grading, drainage, horticulture, and environmental sciences. With this diverse background, landscape architects possess a unique blend of abilities to help address important local, regional, and national priorities."

KELLEHER: Trying to make the world a better place, and forever explaining to others what exactly it is that you do.

SHIBLEY: Providing creative, pragmatic, aesthetic, and sustainable places that benefit individuals, communities, and the environment.

VIOLETTE: Landscape Architecture is boundless and ever changing. That sounds epic. But that challenges and excites me. Landscape Architecture is all around, no matter where you go - you can see it. And the solution is not something that just happens. It needs to be discovered. This discovery is a process and that is the fun/challenging part.



————— This or That —————

CAD or hand drawing?

CELTRUDA: I believe both are equally important yet I feel hand drawing is fast becoming a lost art!

EGNATZ: There is a time for both, and understanding the right time to use one versus the other is important.

HEEB: BOTH

HOLTZMAN: Hand drawings completed in CAD

KELLEHER: CAD

SHIBLEY: Hand drawing for initial sketches – CAD for finished work

VIOLETTE: The spirit of a design rests in the "looseness" of a hand sketch. It is a bit magical that a hand sketch (doesn't have to be good but effective) can say so much. The process of hand sketching in design development is critical. You will likely find a roll of trace (or onion skin) at arms' reach for a Landscape Architect.

Marker or crayon?

CELTRUDA: Age 0 to 15 years old crayon, marker ever since.... Yet I do not stay within the lines!

EGNATZ: Marker. Crayons don't reproduce well.

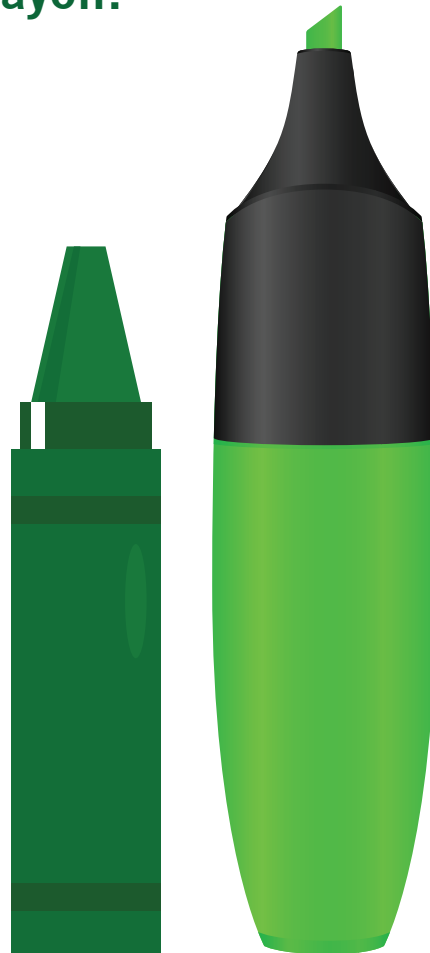
HEEB: Marker

HOLTZMAN: Watercolor

KELLEHER: Marker

SHIBLEY: Marker (and occasionally colored pencil)

VIOLETTE: These days, I have moved to CRAYON. My 2 1/2 year old daughter and I do plenty of "fridge worthy" coloring book pictures at home. I enjoy telling her that I get to color at work too. She thinks that is pretty cool.



Markers win!



Trees, shrubs, groundcover, grasses and perennials – Our Landscape Architects share some of their favorites:

- Autumn leadwort
- Dogwoods
- Eastern Redbud *for its "are you kidding me" flower color*
- Faxinus Pennsylvanica (Green Ash)
- Fountain grass *(for the fun)*
- Hemerocallis
- Inkberry for the versatility.
- Iris
- Juniperus horizontalis Bar Harbor Juniper)

- Leucothoe fontanesiana 'scarletta' (Scarlet Leucothoe)
- Liatris
- Liriope muscari 'variegata' (Variegated Lilyturf)
- Liriope
- 'Karl Foerster' Feather Reed Grass
- Monkey Puzzle tree
- Nyssa sylvatica (Tupelo)
- Paeonis (Peonies varieties)

- Pennisetum alopecuroides 'hameln' (Hameln Fountain Grass)
- Red Maple
- Redwoods
- Schizachyrium scoparium 'prairie blues' (Little Bluestem)
- Serviceberry for its multi-stem form.
- Spiraea x bumalada (Anthony Waterer Spirae)



BL Projects

What are we working on?

VETERAN'S CEMETERY | MIDDLETOWN, CT

Located in Middletown, Connecticut this project is highlighted by the design of a 3,000 niche columbarium expansion to house the urns of our fallen veterans. The design of this important site element includes a visitor parking areas, rain garden, handicapped accessible routes, memorial plaza walk as well as a vegetated earthen berm to buffer the site from the residential area to the west. Our Landscape Architects have been working with the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services, Division of Construction Services and the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs since 2014 to develop Conceptual Plans and Construction Level Documentation. The memorial is currently under construction and should be completed by May 2016.



CHARLOTTE MOTOR SPEEDWAY | CHARLOTTE, NC

BL Companies began master planning and conceptual design in the Summer of 2014 for various locations surrounding the Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina. Working with ReadCo Development, a local Connecticut Real Estate Development firm, our civil engineering group including our landscape architects have been crafting conceptual plans to achieve the ultimate goal of creating a year-long, sustainable destination centered around the Speedway. The concept plans include luxurious track side villas with access to the track on non-race days, a bungalow style unit mini-resort adjacent to the Speedway for those interested in staying right near the racing action, and a new entertainment and retail pedestrian centered village highlighted by a 25,000 seat LIVE NATION theatre.



Projects

What is your dream project?

CELTRUDA: Landscape Architect of Record for the creation of a new National Park.

EGNATZ: I have a few:

- A new golf course; not just a renovation, but an entirely new layout.
- A camp ground, nestled deep in the mountains, with trails, camp sites, cabins, great natural views, etc.
- A roof top garden, with sweeping views, spared no expense.
- Another Waterfront Park – one where I'm the lead designer.

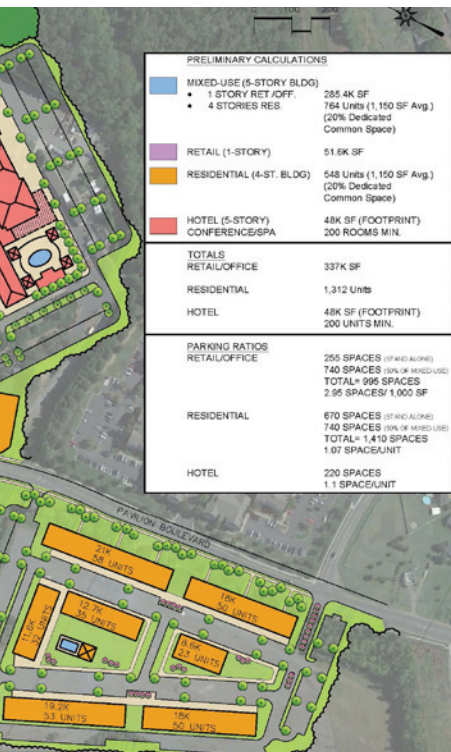
HEEB: Design and build a small home that is 100% off the grid

HOLTZMAN: Well, other than what I am doing now, I would have to say it would be a Zen Garden.

KELLEHER: A dynamic outdoor plaza at a modern art museum.

SHIBLEY: Urban green infrastructure (integrating functioning, sustainable designs into urban environments).

VIOLETTE: City Center Park or Community Park.



The Debate

Landscape Architecture – Science or Art?

Science first, followed by art. Understanding of a site (site analysis) is heavily dependent on a scientific study of a space. This analysis includes natural landform, solar orientation, existing soils and general site characteristics observations (just to name a few). The art comes in by blending existing conditions and characteristics with proposed elements. The blend is crucial to enable a development to appropriately mesh with the site and its surroundings. A gentle touch or brush stroke is often needed for this blend.

Ah, and the great debate ends in a blending of the two.

Giving Back Committee



Where do I go with an opportunity for BL to give back?

The Giving Back Committee

One of the most important things about corporate social responsibility is knowing where to go within your organization with an idea for a drive, walk, fundraiser or volunteer activity. It is vitally important to have a point of contact – an answer to the question – “where do I go with an opportunity for BL to give back?”

With the start of the Giving Back Committee you now have that point of contact.

Our Mission

To promote and foster social responsibility and involvement through charitable giving, volunteerism and community projects. The Giving Back Committee coordinates and communicates BL’s giving back initiatives and schedule of events.

Why a Giving Back Committee?

BL Companies believes in the value of giving back to the communities where we work and live. Promoting volunteerism among our employee owners just makes good business sense.

- >> It is a great way to encourage team-building among our employee owners throughout all offices and regions.
- >> It improves the health of the community by building a better business climate and increasing the well-being of the company’s employee owners and business partners.
- >> It increases the company’s visibility in the community, building shareholder trust and client loyalty.
- >> It places our employee owners in leadership roles in the community and provides them with the opportunity to gain business skills and career development experiences that they might not otherwise gain in their day to day jobs.
- >> It enhances employee morale and creates a sense of pride in the community.
- >> It works in collaboration with other BL committees especially the ESOP Communications and Wellness Committees for ideas and support.

Member Responsibilities

Meet monthly to review ideas, programs and charitable agencies that are looking for support from our employee owners. Communication and promotion of BL sponsored events will be handled through the committee chair or other regional designees. This will be determined prior to promotion of specific event.

**Up
Next**



Stay tuned for more hands on volunteer opportunities in your areas and get those razors ready for a month of relaxation. Movember will be soon underway to help promote men’s health awareness.



Members

// Meriden //

Heather Halotek – Chairperson
Annette Hyland
Jessica Osborne
Cristy Shamus

// Bridgeport // Is this You?

// Hartford //

Brett Stark

// Camp Hill //

Terri Delo
Sharon Lucisano
Stephanie Weitzel

// Canton //

Bob Cappelli

// KOP //

Bob Davidson

// Houston //

A.J. Pisana
Julie Schembri

// NYC //

Skyler Marinoff

// Norwood //

Looking for someone like you

Off to School

The first of many organized events took place this summer with the Back to School backpack and school supply drive. **86** backpacks were donated and filled for children in need for Cradles to Crayons, Operation Backpack and 'r kids Family Center by your generous participation. **(Wow!)**

Randi Rubin Rodriguez of 'r kids Family Center came to Meriden to collect the backpacks and meet the employee owners of BL Companies and it was with much gratitude she said:

“Your school supplies and backpack collection has made such a difference in our families’ lives! Now they have a terrific backpack with wonderful supplies in them; crayon boxes with clean, pointy crayons in them, erasers and glue sticks no one else has used before! To begin the school year with a smile on their faces and the confidence their new school bags give them is a major feat!

And although we provide fantastic programs and clinical services to our parents and children, and have amazing success rates, these types of ‘giving’ make all the difference in the world to how our families understand our desire for them to live the fullest lives they can live and enjoy some of the many comforts we take for granted every day. We could not provide that extra ‘umph’ in our work if it weren’t for you and the BL giving corporate values you each demonstrate throughout the year.

I am very grateful to each of you, to the relationships we have developed and the warmth of your generosity.”



BATS!

What I Did This Summer by Rachael Hyland

Some people spend their summer at the beach, swimming or fishing. I spent my summer in Ohio, and was lucky enough to work for 2 weeks mist-netting bats. Before you get squeamish about how "disgusting" bats are, let me remind you that bats eat tons (literally tons) of nuisance bugs, such as flies, mosquitoes, and beetles that normally eat your vegetable garden, and save farmers around the US billions in pesticides. Also take a minute to learn about the disease-causing fungus known as White

Nose Syndrome that has been decimating bat populations around the eastern half of the US for almost a decade. Bats are an important part of the ecosystem, therefore when large scale projects involving tree clearing are proposed, such as the Utopia pipeline, it is necessary to conduct surveys for threatened and endangered bats that possibly inhabit the area. As someone who has spent several years helping with bat research from the comfort of a car or office, this was a fantastic

opportunity to actually get hands-on training. I got to hold my first bat (a female red bat), I learned how to set up and dismantle mist-nets (see time-lapse video), and I also increased my knowledge of the federal regulations regarding bat surveys. For 14 days straight I went to work around 7pm and didn't get back until almost 3, not ideal hours for most people, but it was definitely a treat for me.

Learn more about white nose syndrome: <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>



Client Kudos

Hello Utopia Bat Team,

Massive kudos coming your way! Allan Campbell asked me on the mgmt. call yesterday to tell you guys directly that he greatly appreciates the effort and dedication that your team has given to the Utopia project! He is using your team's progress and efficiencies as an example of what to do right on our calls with all the 5 Utopia consultants! Your team finished ahead of schedule, under budget and exhibited the flexibility and inter-team communication required to even add an additional site!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Bat efforts; your team of wiley bat bandits rocked it out and Allan is extremely proud of your efforts as are we!!

Jeanne M. Welch, Office Director, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Rachael Hyland was the BL Companies representative on this team. She was part of mist netting for bats at 51 locations between the netting season of June 1 – August 15th. That's about 75 days. To put this in perspective, the teams needed to set up two nets for two nights at all 51 locations and this couldn't be done if it was raining (thus subtracting days from the 75). So, the teams completed 102 net nights in under 75 days.

SAVE THE BAT by Kim Lesay

On April 2 of 2015, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. The northern long-eared bat's range includes much of the eastern and north central United States, and all Canadian provinces from the Atlantic Ocean west to the southern Yukon Territory and eastern British Columbia. The species' range encompasses 37 states. This listing is largely due to the emergence of white-nose syndrome which has resulted in a dramatic population decline since the disease was first noted in New York in 2006. The USFWS has also issued an interim 4(d) rule

which provides some flexibility to landowners, land managers, government agencies and others as they conduct activities in northern long-eared bat habitat. Based on a large number of comments, the public comment period on the 4(d) rule was extended and just recently closed on July 1, 2015.

Many States have already listed this species or will soon follow the USFWS ruling. Connecticut for example, will be listing this bat, as well as most of the other tree roosting bats as either State Threatened or Endangered. Forested areas are utilized by this species as roosting and foraging habitat, and land development

and infrastructure improvement projects that will involve tree clearing will very likely be affected by these changes when either State or Federal funding is utilized, or when state or federal permitting is required. We are already seeing this issue arise in correspondence between the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and USFWS on projects currently under review. There are challenges and impacts these changes may have on project goals and schedules so the natural resources team will be communicating with clients to make them aware of the plight of the northern long-eared bat.

Legal Brief

By the Legal Dept.

Practical advice based on BL's policies and procedures as well as things that might be helpful in your life outside BL.

On May 4, the PM Plan was rolled out to all Project Managers, the Accounting Department and all administrative employees. One of the purposes of the Plan is to have all the PM tools in one place so that they are easily accessible by Project Managers. An important but often overlooked task and tool in the PM toolbox is Project Closeout. Why is this task/tool overlooked? Because PM's, like all of us, are busy. As soon as a PM is finished one job, he/she is onto the next. It is hard to take a few hours to pull together a final project review, assemble e-mails into a .pst file, purge drafts that are no longer needed and communicate with Marketing and Accounting, but these steps are critical in the project management process.

Why? When a PM takes the time to pull the project team together to review the project, he/she can gain valuable insight about how to go about the next job, whether it be a similar project for the same client or a new one. Was the job priced right? What worked well? Where can we improve? Similarly, pulling all of the project e-mails together presents valuable information if someone needs to examine the project at a later date. Purging duplicate documents or drafts that are no longer needed per the Document Retention Policy makes for a much easier file review if an employee needs to review the project in the future. Syncing up with the Marketing Department to write or update a project sheet saves hours when we are trying to get new work. Notifying Accounting when a project has closed out helps Accounting and the IT Department close out files in a timely manner.



Time – none of us have enough of it. But taking a few hours at the end of the project to thank the project team and debrief, pull the project files together and work with Marketing and Accounting to close out the project will have enormous benefits in the long run.

IT TIP

BY DAVID PARENT

Ransom

Look out...you don't want to hold your computer up for "Ransomware"

If you consider a computer network to consist of a series of layers that any malware or virus needs to penetrate, the outermost layer would consist of the users themselves. Thus, the very first layer we need to harden is that of you – the human operator.

Software just by itself is not enough anymore, we know that you do not come to work with the intention of clicking on phishing emails and infecting the computers! A simple knowledge of what red flags to be aware of can make a huge difference in the ability to discern malicious links/software from legitimate traffic. As the methods hackers use to trick users are constantly changing, it is important to keep up-to-date on not only the basics of IT and email security, but also the ever changing attack types and threat vectors. After all, everyone knows that there is no Nigerian prince out there and it's just a scammer right?

Users Beware

In order to become infected by a strain of Ransomware or other Virus, a user will have to have at least downloaded and run some sort of file. Here's what you need to look out for:

email Vector

By far the most common scenario involves an email attachment disguised as an innocuous file. Many times hackers will send a file with multiple extensions to try to hide the true type of file you are receiving. If a user receives an email with an attachment or even a link to a software download, and they install or open that attachment without verifying its authenticity and the sender's intention, this can lead directly to a ransomware infection. This is the most common way ransomware is installed on a user's machine.

drive-by-Download

Increasingly, infections happen through drive-by downloads, where visiting a website with a compromised or old browser or software plug-in. A typical office worker is constantly using various types of software on a daily basis. Often, a hacker will discover a bug in a piece of software that can be exploited to allow the execution of malicious code.

free Software Vector

Another common way to infect a user's machine is to offer a free version of a piece of software. By preying on the user in this way, the hackers can bypass any firewall or email filter. After all, the user downloaded the file directly themselves.

Blind Web Search

Another way users can be infected is to search for something via a search engine and not pay close attention to the results. All results typically show a Title and then under that, the actual URL where they would be redirected to if they pick the link. The Title can be written to state anything, so you should always look closely at where the URL web link under the Title is pointing to.

Connecticut Highways Service Plazas



YAY! Construction on all 23 of the Service Plazas is complete. Even if you didn't work on this project, you've likely visited one of the Connecticut Service Plazas at some point -- and if you haven't, be sure to check one out the next time you're traveling through CT. With locations on I-95, I-395 and the Merritt Parkway, there are plenty to choose from for your next "pit stop".

Merritt Parkway (way before) + AFTER



----- are you ready? -----

ESOP
MONTH
IS
COMING!



“Summited Mount Everest, did you?
Was that just the one time?”

Happenings

SEPTEMBER

11 Employee Owner Meeting
23 First Day of Fall
23-25 LDEP

OCTOBER

ALL MONTH LONG:
ESOP MONTH

12 Columbus Day
31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

Movember!
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends
11 Veterans' Day
26 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

6 Hanukkah Begins
22 First Day of Winter
25 Christmas Day



Did you know...
Birthdays and BL
anniversaries can be
found on the Intranet!



Architecture
Engineering
Environmental
Land Surveying

Employee owned. Client driven.

Issue 5: Fall 2015

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Director: Heather Halotek

Members:

Liz Augustine
Jessica Osborne
Kathy Rodo

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Algis Kalvaitis
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