

January 2023

SPRINGFIELD Business JOURNAL

Q&A with Andrea Aggertt
Architect of the Capitol

Springfield Rail
Improvements Project progresses

PRSRJ STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, IL
PERMIT NO 209



“Democracy depends on an informed electorate”

The Springfield Civic Watchdog Group (SCWG) is dedicated to identifying significant civic and economic trends in the life of our city. SCWG will report on civic and political news to inform the public regarding local government budgets, City Council voting, and political fundraising.

“New” Town & Country Shopping Center (T & C) and Springfield Reinvestment

- Larkspur Properties of Miami FL made the high bid and bought T & C at auction in June 2022.
- Meanwhile Larkspur President David Bernstein has visited Springfield regularly and met with City leaders, MacArthur Boulevard Association, and others to devise plans to return T & C to prosperity and vitality.
- Springfield needs to welcome reinvestment in our City.
- This year Mayor Langfelder worked diligently to welcome a \$30M reinvestment in the aging 30 story, 400 room Wyndham Hotel Downtown. A successful NY/NY buyer specializing in converting big box hotels to mixed uses planned to upgrade the hotel rooms and also create 250+ market rate apartments.
- However, 6 unyielding City Council members*, Mike Coffey and the Downtown Convention Center Board, and the Springfield Growth Alliance Executive Board worked against those efforts. With their singular focus on preserving hotel rooms, they were unwilling to accommodate the simultaneous goals of a \$30M upgrade to the Wyndham Hotel building and Downtown repopulation. They rejected repeated compromise efforts from our Mayor and the NY/NY buyer.
- Now who will invest in the low-occupancy cash-starved Wyndham hotel building?

Joe McMenamin
Alderman Ward 7

** Redpath, Purchase, DiCenso, Conley, Donelan and Hanauer*

RENDERING OF “NEW” T & C SHOPPING CTR LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM OUTER PARK AND MACARTHUR



TOWN & COUNTRY SHOPPING CENTER
SPRINGFIELD, IL



Paid for by Springfield Civic Watchdog Group NFP IL Corporation

CEFCU® Business Loans



At CEFCU, your Business Loan is more than a loan — it's an investment. Enjoy benefits such as:

- Flexible financing options
- Great rates
- Personal service
- And more!

Choose your local Credit Union for all your business financing needs. Call 217.546.2010, or 1.800.633.7077 ext. 37481, or visit cefcu.com/owner today.

CEFCU Not a bank. Better.™

2424 W. Iles Avenue, Springfield (near White Oaks Mall)
2449 N. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield (near Lowe's)
1000 E. Lincolnshire Boulevard, Springfield (near Walmart)

cefcu.com

Insured
by NCUA



As one of America's leading providers of recycling and waste services,

Republic Services® delivers simple and reliable solutions for your **construction project**. With our nationwide presence, a wide range of resources and single point of contact, we offer:

- A 99.9% pick-up reliability rate
- Solutions to help you achieve your sustainability goals
- Online account management through the MY Resource™ app

Please call Jeff Holt today at
217-377-0173



Sustainability In Action.

In this issue:

SBJ articles



Best Places to Work Alumni: Green Family Stores
By Holly A. Whisler



Springfield Rail Improvements Project progresses
By Carey Smith



Notable Springfield renovation projects
By Catherine O'Connor

12 MAJOR ENGINEERING FIRMS LIST • 18 MAJOR ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS LIST



Cover

Andrea Aggertt

By David Blanchette
Photo by Josh Catalano

Columns

28 Ask an attorney

By Thomas C. Pavlik Jr.

34 Professional development

By Kelly Gust

32 Medical news

36 Restaurant review

By Thomas C. Pavlik Jr.

30 Philanthropy

By Janet Seitz

38 New businesses

Making a plan

If you're anything like me, you end up spending much of every day putting out fires that you may not have even known existed when you first walked into the office. Some are both urgent and important, while others are urgent but not important. Stephen Covey, author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, popularized the idea of the time management quadrant. The toughest one to tackle is often those items that are not urgent, but important, since they tend to get overshadowed by the more pressing tasks each day.

The American Institute of Architects Illinois recently recognized the Illinois State Capitol Complex Master Plan with its Excellence in Master Planning Award (p. 22). While it may seem strange to recognize a plan, rather than a completed project, the reality is that lack of a long-range plan often leads to going off course. In this case, planning efforts began in 2007 but work at the Capitol complex stalled in 2013 due to lack of state funding, and the architect of the Capitol position was vacant for five years beginning in 2015. Andrea Aggertt was hired in 2019, the same year that the first capital bill in the last decade, Rebuild Illinois, allocated \$350 for work at the Capitol complex (p. 6).

A drive down MacArthur Boulevard or North Ninth Street in Springfield illustrates what happens when there is no cohesive plan to tie individual projects together. Likewise, companies can have employees each doing their own thing, without understanding how their work fits into the bigger picture. We only have 11 full-time employees for *Springfield Business Journal* and *Illinois Times* combined, but it's still helpful to have staff meetings several times a year to get a better understanding of what each department is working on and how one area affects another.

Whether or not you make New Year's resolutions, the start of a new year is a great time to focus on the important – although not urgent – tasks at hand. Both businesses and individuals can benefit from having a strategic plan and making adjustments along the way as needed.



Michelle Ownbey, publisher



Editor: Fletcher Farrar
fletcher@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

Publisher: Michelle Ownbey
michelle@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

Associate Publisher: James Bengfort
jbengfort@illinoistimes.com

Copy Editor: Stacie Lewis
stacie@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

Production Design: Brandon Turley
bturley@illinoistimes.com

Advertising:
Yolanda Bell
yolanda@springfieldbusinessjournal.com
217-679-7802

Haley Jackson
haley@springfieldbusinessjournal.com
217-679-7804

Beth Parkes-Irwin
beth@springfieldbusinessjournal.com
217-679-7803

Ron Young
ron@springfieldbusinessjournal.com
217-679-7807

Subscriptions:
springfieldbusinessjournal.com/subscribe
subs@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

January Contributors:

David Blanchette
Josh Catalano
Kelly Gust
Catherine O'Connor
Thomas C. Pavlik
Janet Seitz
Carey Smith
Holly Whisler

Address: P.O. Box 398, Springfield, IL 62705

Phone: 217-726-6600

Email: info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

Facebook: facebook.com/SBJIllinois

Twitter: twitter.com/sbjmonthly

SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL is published monthly by Central Illinois Communications, P.O. Box 5256, Springfield, IL 62705. The contents of SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL are copyrighted, and material contained herein may not be copied or reproduced without permission of the publisher. Opinions expressed in SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL are those of their authors, and no information or opinions expressed in SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL represent an endorsement or solicitation for purchase or sale by SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL or its staff.



Q & A
with
Andrea Aggertt

By David Blanchette

Andrea Aggertt was hired in October 2019 to serve as the Architect of the Capitol. She is currently overseeing \$350 million in work at the Capitol complex that was allocated as part of Rebuild Illinois, the first capital spending bill approved in the past decade. Aggertt is also responsible for completion and implementation of the master plan, which was paused more than a decade ago due to lack of funding.

Aggertt and her husband, John, relocated to Springfield from Bloomington, where she had spent the past 15 years working for Shive-Hattery, a national architecture and engineering firm. She grew up in a small town in Illinois and says she never considered becoming an architect until she was attending college at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Aggertt went on to receive her master's degree in architecture from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

PHOTO BY JOSH CATALANO

Did your young life give you an indication that you might someday be an architect?

I was born and raised in Newton in south-central Illinois, and I spent a lot of my days helping take care of the thousands of hogs on our farm. Growing up on a hog farm, there weren't any great architectural influences because it was frankly just our house, the farm and the silos.

I went to a small high school and there really wasn't a focus put on potential careers. I decided to go to Southern Illinois University Carbondale; I had a couple of cousins that went there, so I knew I would at least have some familiar faces when I got there. I didn't have a specific career path in mind. I had thoughts about possibly going into the health care profession.

When did you decide to study to be an architect?

I walked by a classroom at college every single day where all of the students were working on building three-dimensional models out of cardboard or foam core, plus drawing and sketching. It was the architecture program, and I thought that might be something I'd be interested in and potentially be good at.

I applied and was accepted to the architecture program, received my bachelor of science in architectural studies, and I felt there was so much more to learn before getting a full-time job. I went to graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and earned my master's degree. I was honored that I was asked to give the student commencement speech for the College of Fine & Applied Arts.

Your first professional job was with the Bloomington, Illinois, office of Shive-Hattery Architecture & Engineering. What did you learn there?

They had offices across the Midwest, and even though the Bloomington office was small, I had a knowledge base I could tap into from other architects and engineers who worked for the company in that region.

I became licensed in nine states, and I did projects relating to health care, commercial, retail, hospitality, banks; I even did some casinos. I did all kinds of architecture that I was able to get my hands on.

What did you enjoy most about being an architect?

Architecture is really about solving a problem.

For example, if I was asked to design an infusion clinic where people receive chemotherapy; you have to understand what that patient is feeling on the day they arrive, how can they be comforted while they are there, all the way until they leave the building. Then you also have to understand the efficiencies and work processes that a staff member has to perform on a daily basis. So you really immerse yourself in whatever design you're working on.

How did you end up being the Architect of the Capitol?

After 15 years of working for Shive-Hattery, I was ready for a change. A peer of mine



Andrea and John Aggertt with son Bennett, 11, and daughter Taylor, 4. PHOTO COURTESY ANDREA AGGERTT

sent me the job posting for the Architect of the Capitol. I had no idea that there was an Architect of the Capitol position. So I thought I would apply, but I was sure there was somebody better suited for the position than I.

I didn't have a lot of experience in historical architecture, but I had a lot of experience in running teams and running large projects successfully. So I applied and received several interviews and then the offer of the position. I started in October 2019.

What does the Architect of the Capitol do?

I joke that we are in charge of multimillion-dollar construction contracts and we also get a phone call when a bat gets into a building. We run the entire gamut.

We are really here to support the Legislature. After an election, we help to coordinate office refreshes with things like new carpet, paint and asbestos abatement. But the last two-and-a-half years we have been really focused on the large construction projects that are going on north of the William G. Stratton Building and at the North Wing of the Capitol.

Every single day when I walk in that building, I can't believe that I'm involved in this. I can't believe I have the honor to help make the Statehouse the best it can be for everybody here in Illinois.

What parts of the Capitol complex project may most people be unaware of?

One of the biggest obstacles at the Capitol is that not all of the areas are ADA compliant. That's our biggest thing, we want to make sure the Statehouse is fully compliant.

All of those utilities that people can't see behind the walls are aging. We have pipes that are 50 and 60 years old that are corroded and beyond their life span. Those are the things we are focusing on so the Statehouse can still serve taxpayers 100 years from now.

What is it like being a woman in a male-dominated field?

I often sit in meetings with 25 or 30 people where I am the only female, and I am in charge of the project. I get awestruck every time that I can be in charge of such a large project and also be a role model for other women. I think women often use the phrase that I used, 'I didn't think I would ever be selected for this position.' I think as women, we are often our own worst critics. I do feel like a bit of a pioneer.

What advice would you give to young people who may be considering a career in architecture?

It's not easy. You may see your college friends going out and having fun on an evening, and often you're busy working on a project or presentation that you have to give the next day. But I promise when you get to look at a building project that you have either spearheaded or helped to complete, it is the most satisfying thing. Because what you put on paper, you can now see in real life.

Also be sure to write down your dreams, because if you write your dreams down, they can and will come true with hard work.

BEST PLACES TO WORK

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Green Family Stores

By Holly A. Whisler

In 2015, Green Family Stores was recognized as one of *Springfield Business Journal's* Best Place to Work, an annual awards program sponsored by United Community Bank. Since that time, marketing director Rachael Buraski said much has changed, and yet even more positive things are happening at Green Family Stores, which is why it continues to be one of the Best Places to Work.

Buraski gave a quick list of business-related happenings since 2015: The Jacksonville store was sold; Green Certified West was built; and currently, a Hyundai store is under construction on Stanford Avenue, near Darcy's Pint, which will open in 2023. She said the staff is looking forward to having horseshoes for lunch.

There's also a strong possibility of adding another dealership in 2024. While Buraski said she can't spill the beans on that quite yet, she said, "It's going to be really cool, and maybe even have a dog park attached."

While Green Family Stores prides itself on the reputation it has built over the years, Buraski said the company is always growing and adapting. When management learned that their customers were having difficulty setting service appointments over the phone, they added a business development center and hired 20 new staff members to answer every call and make sure each customer's needs are met.

So much of what goes on at Green Family



A new Hyundai store, slated to open in 2023, is under construction on Stanford Avenue near D'Arcy's Pint.

PHOTO BY STACIE LEWIS

Stores is heavily influenced by chairman Todd Green, who says that it's about building relationships and connecting with the community. Buraski said that when an employee is passionate about doing something for the

community, Green will say, 'Make it happen, and put the ball through the hoop.'

It's that philosophy that allows Buraski the opportunity to leave early twice a month to lead a Girl Scout troop. Another employee teaches young men at The Outlet, a local nonprofit, how to change a tire. Carly Crawford, director of the business development center, teaches financial literacy to students at a local middle school. All of this happens while staff are on the clock. Buraski said, "My greatest joy is that



they allow me to run with my crazy ideas, and I love it.”

In 2015, Green Family Stores started a coat drive for area kids in need. Initially, Todd Green would buy coats to donate, but now the community donates hundreds of coats each year.

Some coats come from Lori Claus’ first-grade class at Our Savior’s Lutheran School. The students have a list of sizes that belong to a group of students from another local school, and they raise money to purchase a coat for each student. They do this by appealing to parishioners for donations, their teacher writes a grant for money to purchase coats and the class goes on a field trip to do the shopping. The first graders bring 50-70 coats to the Green Dodge store.

Ultimately, the annual coat drive will bring in about 200 coats, and Green Family Stores continues to accept donations all winter. Buraski said, “We’ve teamed up with One in a Million to help distribute the coats. And any teacher who knows a kid

without a coat, they give us call.”

In addition to keeping children in the community warm, the company also provides workforce training for older students. Since the company is always in need of certified automotive technicians, Green Family Stores has partnered with Lincoln Land Community College’s Workforce Equity Initiative to teach students to become certified automotive technicians. Students get paid to attend class, and when they finish the program, they have the opportunity to be hired.

Green Family Stores also values its current staff. Buraski said that management develops relationships with employees as a unique community. “We have the Cash Bash Holiday Party, where Green gives up to \$250,000 to employees, and it’s done in a very fun way. During the holidays, Mylas Copeland, a partner at Green Toyota, hires a photographer to take portraits of employees and their families. Each staff person also gets a turkey,” Buraski said. “It’s very special to work here.” **SBJ**

Nominate your company for this year’s Best Places to Work, sponsored by United Community Bank and *Springfield Business Journal*. The winning companies will be profiled in the March issue of *SBJ* and all employees will be invited to a reception and awards ceremony.

Criteria to nominate your company:

- Must have been in business at least two years
- Be located in Sangamon County or Morgan County
- Have 16 or more employees (those with 15 or fewer are eligible for our small business awards program, 15 Under Fifteen)

Visit springfieldbusinessjournal.com and submit a nomination by Friday, Jan. 13, to be considered for recognition.



Capitol

Construction Group LLC
DBA
EGIZII ELECTRIC

WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS

Commercial • Industrial • Traffic

Low Voltage – Voice Data – Fire Alarm – Security and CCTV





- Downtown Springfield Traffic Modernization
 - Ash & Laurel Underpass
- New Berlin & Mason City Water Treatment Plant Upgrades
 - Pleasant Plains New Gymnasium
 - UIS Fire Alarm Upgrade
- Camp Lincoln Bld 2 Renovation
- IL Capital North Wing Renovation
- SSCTC New Transportation Center
- Bloomington Arena LED lighting
- Lincoln’s Challenge Emergency Generator Installation





New Ownership November 2020

3009 Singer Ave. | Springfield, IL | 217-528-4001 | egizielelectric.com



Selvaggio Steel invests in the future

By David Blanchette

The second generation of a family-owned Springfield manufacturing business has taken the 65-year-old firm to a new level.

"We have made our company a leader in the industry," said Selvaggio Steel, Inc. President Mark Selvaggio. "We are one of the most technologically advanced companies in the industry, and my brother, sister and I did it together."

Siblings Mark, Tony and Michelle guided the expansion and technological advancement of the family steel fabrication business that has come a long way since their late father, Joe, founded the company in 1957 in his backyard near St. John's Hospital.

The latest Selvaggio upgrade has been the summer 2022 installation of a new machine made by the Japanese firm Daito that automatically and precisely drills, cuts and marks steel beams to the exact dimensions needed for each job.

"We have the most automated piece of steel fabrication equipment in the world

today," Mark said. "This computerized equipment doesn't normally make a mistake, so you get holes and cuts that are significantly closer than if you were doing it by hand."

Innovation is business as usual for Selvaggio Steel. The firm was the first in Illinois to install and use a three-dimensional, computer-aided drafting program called SDS/2 that is now the tool of choice for steel fabrication work. Selvaggio also led the industry by being among the first to use automated machines that increase accuracy and reduce production time. During the past two decades, Selvaggio has become a primary testing location for new, computerized production equipment.

"Michelle, Tony and I rode the technology wave, and we automated the company," Mark said. "A lot of people say our dad would be proud of what we've done, but we say honestly, he'd probably like to kick us in the rear end, because we spent so much money on equipment."

Selvaggio Steel had humble beginnings when father Joe started doing ornamental iron work at night in the backyard of his home on Miller Street. Joe ultimately quit his job with another local steel fabrication company to pursue his own business full-time.

Joe's brother, Jasper Selvaggio, joined the business a few years later and the two men amicably parted ways shortly thereafter, with Jasper continuing the ornamental iron work and Joe moving forward with structural steel fabrication. The two firms would merge again decades later.

Joe's sons, Mark and Tony, each started working in the Selvaggio Steel shop when they reached 17 years of age and returned to work at the factory during college breaks. Neither has worked anywhere else, and older brother Mark has now been with the company for 50 years. Sister Michelle came to work for the family business in 1984.

Joe, the company's president, died of cancer in 1985 and his wife Helen, the



company comptroller and bookkeeper, passed away later that same year. Joe and Helen left their children with a company that was well-positioned for growth.

New president Mark, vice president Tony, and treasurer Michelle took over where their father left off, growing Selvaggio Steel to a 30-employee, multimillion-dollar business with its hand in many major area construction projects.

Michelle left the company in 1994 but still retained ownership until her death in 2007.

"There's a concept we came up with several years ago called the Selvaggio Steel Advantage. We are very technologically advanced, more so than most fabricators," Mark said. "But the other thing is our people. We have a union company, and we have some of the top people in the industry. That's the Selvaggio Steel Advantage; it's our people and our technology."

Selvaggio's largest steel job to date is the ongoing Lanphier High School project that includes a new three-story classroom building, gymnasiums, theater center and

other amenities. The project is special to the Selvaggio brothers because that's the high school that their father, Joe, attended.

Selvaggio Steel has performed structural steel work for several buildings on the Illinois State Fairgrounds, including the Coliseum Building rehabilitation and the construction of the new Department of Natural Resources building. The firm just completed work on the new two-story pediatric center for Springfield Clinic on Old Jacksonville Road and the Memorial Health System child care center. All of the fencing and much of the structural steel work at the Governor's Mansion was fabricated by Selvaggio Steel.

"Dad, Tony and I have done almost all of the remodeling work at the State Capitol since the early 1970s," Mark said. "Right now, with our involvement in the North Wing project at the Capitol, our work from decades ago is being exposed, and we are going to be bolting to those beams again."

Mark is proud of what the family business has been able to accomplish.

"We have a major manufacturing plant

that is five minutes from the State Capitol," Mark said. "We have taken what our father gave us, and we have built on it."

"We pride ourselves on the fact that our customers trust us to do what's best for them and what's best for the project," Mark said. "They trust that we will put ourselves behind those two goals. That's the most important part about who we are."

Mark and Tony are now in their sixties, but they expect that Tony's son and company employee, Stephen Selvaggio, could develop into the third generation of family ownership. No matter what happens, Selvaggio Steel is here to stay.

"We've just invested over \$750,000 in a brand-new piece of equipment. That shows the industry and our employees that our company has a future," Mark said. "It would be easy to sit here and let the old equipment run until it fell apart, then just walk away. But we took money and invested it in the future of our business."

"We have a future in this industry and in this community," Mark said. "We are here and we are not going away." **SBJ**

MAJOR ENGINEERING FIRMS

Sources: The engineering firms.
Ranked by number of licensed engineers in Springfield/Jacksonville.
Number of full-time employees in engineering division may vary from total employee count.

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE / EMAIL	EMPLOYEES LIC. ENG.	ENG. DIV.1	PARTNERS/ PRINCIPALS	NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR EST'D
1	Hanson Professional Services 1525 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-788-2450 hanson-inc.com marketing@hanson-inc.com	56	194	Sergio Pecori Jeff Ball Ronda Folkerts Dennis Hollahan Mina Biggs	Smart City applications; Distillery Lab, Peoria; Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport Terminal; Springfield Rail Improvement Project; Springfield Sangamon Transportation Center; Illinois State Fairgrounds Coliseum Rehab; Emiquon water control structure, Havana; Commissioning for Sandy Grove Middle School commissioning (Cx), first net-positive school, N.C., Indianapolis Airport, JFK - Terminal-4 Energy Roadmap, BNSF Sandpoint, Idaho bridges.	1954
2	Crawford, Murphy & Tilly 2750 W. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-8050 cmtengr.com questions@cmtengr.com	44	124	Dan Meckes Bill Bailey Roger Austin Roger Driskell Brad Hamilton Stan Hanson	IDOT 1-55 six-lane expansion and Sixth Street Improvements; Hedley Drive and W. White Oaks Drive Intersection Improvements, Springfield; Sangamon County Water Reclamation District Combined Sewer Overflow improvements; Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport Airfield Improvements; CWLP Water Treatment Filter Expansion; Scheels Sports Park; Illinois Realtors Plaza and Jackson Street and Executive Mansion Improvements; Peoria Stormwater Program Management; Joliet Illinois Alternative Water Source Program; Master Plan for St. Louis Lambert International Airport; Downtown Bloomington Streetscapes, IL.	1946
3	Hutchison Engineering, Inc. 1801 W. Lafayette Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-7164 hutchisoneng.com info@hutchisoneng.com	18	44	Gregg Mounts Joe Hutchison Jim Burke Gary Hutchison	L Rte 9 Reconstruction - Bloomington, I-74 Corridor Expansion - Quad Cities, Hilldale Avenue Reconstruction - Washington Ridge Road Reconstruction - Grundy County US Rte 51-Business Reconstruction - Bloomington & Normal Various City Street Reconstruction for Carle Health Development - Danville, IL Rte 3/IL Rte 150 Reconstruction & ADA Improvements - Randolph County 19th Street & Mississippi River Shared Use Paths - Moline Rock Island Parkway & 85th Avenue Improvements - Rock Island Subdivision Design Services - Swift Pork Company (Beardstown) East and West State Street Improvements - Jacksonville Pioneer Parkway and North University St Improvements - Peoria County Highway 15 Widening and Resurfacing - LaSalle County County Highway 9 and County Highway 11 Improvements - Marion County Glen Avenue Construction Services - Peoria Ford County Windfarm Road Use Agreement - Ford County Capitol Avenue Improvements - Mt Sterling Beardstown Bridge Improvements - Beardstown.	1945
4	Quigg Engineering 2351 S. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703	217-670-0563 quiggengineering.com msaleem@quiggengineering.com	17	45	Mohammed Saleem Lori L. Quigg	I-74 Mississippi River Crossing between Moline and Bettendorf, IA, IowaDOT Chicago to St. Louis High Speed Rail, IDOT Bureau of Railroads I-294 (Tri-State Tollway) Mile Long Bridge Reconstruction, Illinois Tollway IL Route 4 - Meredosia Tied Arch Bridge, IDOT District 6 IL Route 75 - Rock River to IL Route 2, IDOT District 2 Interstate 55 Reconstruction: Toronto Road to Sherman Boulevard/Business 55, IDOT District 6.	2006
5	Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. 2417 W. White Oaks Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-8033 v-k.net vk@v-k.net	16	28	Mark Henderson Christopher Kohlrus Gene Arnold Mark Vasconcelles Shalya Pfaffe	Central IL: Chatham Road over Jacksonville Branch Creek, I-55/I-72 Interchange Bridge Rehabilitation, Drainage Improvements at Wabash Ave. and I-72, Springfield Clinic - Main Campus East, West and West Wabash ADA and parking lot improvements, Blessed Sacrament School Addition, Stone Creek Subdivision, White Oaks Mall/LA Fitness, Mt. Pulaski High School Addition, IL Route 125 Resurfacing and Intersection Improvements, Peoria IL: IL 116 over Kickapoo Creek, UP Railroad, and Kickapoo Creek Road; US-24 and IL 116 Interchange Bridge Rehabilitation, Main Street over Farm Creek Bridge Rehabilitation. Northern IL: Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park Roadway Improvements, Rock Cut State Park Site Improvements, East Moline Water Treatment Plant (Ultraviolet Disinfection Process), East Moline WWTP Improvements, US 150 over BNSF RR Bridge Replacement and Roadway Realignment (Galesburg), Cambridge Commercial Park - East Oak Street (Cambridge), Southern IL: I-57 over Pond Creek, I-57 over Middle Fork of Big Muddy River, IL 148 over Wolf Creek.	1961
6	Kuhn & Trello Consulting Engineers 109 N. Seventh St. Third Floor Springfield, IL 62701	217-679-0044 ktengr.com kkuhn@ktengr.com	15	26	Kevin L. Kuhn Michael J. Trello	New Railroad Overpass - Williamsville, IL; Repair Multi-Purpose Arena - Illinois State Fairgrounds; Repair and Resurface Roadways - Illinois State Fairgrounds; Multi Use Trail - Williamsville to Sherman; New Rest Area - Trail Of Tears North and South Bound - Anna, IL; New Spider Monkey Exhibit - Henson Robinson Zoo; New Health Sciences Building - SIUE; Replace Cooling Towers and Chillers - Illinois Capitol Complex; Various District 186 School Additions - Grant, Franklin, Blackhawk, Sandburg, Jefferson, Washington; Department of Military Affairs New Readiness Center - East Alton, IL; New Car Wash Facility - Willard Airport U of I; Building Addition - Fire Services Building U of I.	2013
7	WHKS & Co. 3695 S. Sixth St. Frontage Rd. West, Suite A Springfield, IL 62703	217-483-9457 whks.com springfield@whks.com	14	28	Fouad K. Daoud William K. Angerman Scott D. Sanford Scott Sweet Cory Chamberlain Chad Hodel Derek Thomas Tim Hrushka	Bridge replacements for Drawbridge Road and Churchill Road in Springfield; Bridge replacements for Taylor Road, Grove Road, and Garfield Avenue in Decatur; Brush College Road realignment in Decatur; Farmington Road realignment in West Peoria; IL 84 over Apple River bridge replacement in Hanover; I-74 over the Mississippi River; IL 17 over the Illinois River bridge in Lacon; IL 3 over Nine-Mile Creek roadway Realignment in Randolph County; I-80/I-74 interchange reconstruction and bridge replacement in Henry County; Tub Girder bridge project in Champaign County; New Water Treatment Plant for Glen Carbon; IL Rt. 104 Water Transmission Main for Otter Lake Water Commission; Water Treatment Plant Operation Trial for Collinsville.	1948
7	Benton & Associates 1970 W. Lafayette Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-4146 bentonassociates.com info@bentonassociates.com	14	37	Reginald H. Benton Jamie L. Headen William J. Sleeman Kenneth E. Sturgeon Matthew B. Hardy Benjamin M. Spreen Douglas J. Erickson C. Cameron Jones Stefanie J. Ballinger	Jacksonville WTP; Taylorville water system improvements; new Taylorville WTP; US 67 Jerseyville Bypass; SNAWS rural water Round Prairie rural water Beardstown Sanitary District WWTP improvements; Jacksonville WWTP CSO; I-64 bridges - St. Clair county; I-55 Bridges - Madison county; McDonough county transit facility; North Morgan rural water system; SMG Rural Water System; Beardstown flood damage improvements; Hayes residential/commercial development Jacksonville, Jacksonville WWTP, Pana Spillway, Intake & WTP Improvements, Taylorville West Main Cross Improvements, Taylorville East Main Cross Reconstruction, IDOT US 30-Stockton Resurfacing, IDOT US 30-Rock Falls Resurfacing, IDOT Bridge Repairs SIUE Entrance Road, IDOT IL 156-Waterloo Resurfacing and ADA Improvements. Astoria WTP Improvements, Industry Wastewater Improvements, Carrollton New Tank and Water Treatment Plant, Oldham County (KY) New WWTP, Sellersburg (KY) WWTP Improvements, Macon (MO) High Service Pump Station Improvements.	1970

SMART CITIES. SMART AIRPORTS. SMART FUTURE.

We live in a constantly changing, data-driven world, and Hanson's knowledge of how to use that data can help you make smarter decisions.

Make us your trusted partner for the future.



1525 S. SIXTH ST.
SPRINGFIELD, IL
(217) 788-2450



HANSON-INC.COM

HEADQUARTERED IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS | OFFICES NATIONWIDE

MAJOR ENGINEERING FIRMS

Sources: The engineering firms.
Ranked by number of licensed engineers in Springfield/Jacksonville.
Number of full-time employees in engineering division may vary from total employee count.

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE / EMAIL	EMPLOYEES LIC. ENG.	ENG. DIV.1	PARTNERS/ PRINCIPALS	NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR ESTD
8	Cummins Engineering Corporation 135 W. Lake Shore Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-726-8570 cumminsengineering.com kim@cumminsengineering.com	9	20	Kimberly S. Cummins Michael D. Cummins Michael E. Rapier	Eighth Street Bridge Replacement near the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District, Sangamon Valley Trail from Centennial Park to Irwin Bridge Road. Staking and Roadway construction observation for wind farm projects in Macon, Logan, and DeWitt counties. Erection engineer for the 5th & 6th Street high speed rail overpass bridges. Restoration of the Vachel Lindsay Bridge, Interstate 55 Bridge Improvements at South Grand Avenue and near Lincoln. Design and construction inspection of Christian County CH 12 cold-in-place pavement recycling and overlay, west of Pana. Site plan and parking lot design for District 6 Sign Shop in Springfield. City of Clinton overlay and ADA ramp improvements on Center Street. Various bridge replacements in Sangamon, Christian, and Logan counties. Various surveys and right-of-way negotiations.	1998
8	Andrews Engineering 3300 Ginger Creek Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-787-2334 andrews-eng.com marketing@andrews-eng.com	9	35	Kenneth W. Liss Douglas W. Mauntel Bradley J. Hunsberger	Various Illinois DOT-Statewide Hazardous: Advanced Contractor; US Dept. of Veteran Affairs; US D.O.E.; Commercial/ industrial development remediation Riverwoods, IL; utility ash management under State and Federal programs Central and Southern Illinois; RCRA, CERCLA, TSCA permits/corrective action south-side Chicago; IDOT-High Speed Rail corridor (construction inspection, health and safety, environmental).	1974
9	Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 201 Springfield, IL 62703	217-546-3400 hlreengineering.com hlr@hlreng.com	7	14	ReJena Lyon Steven W. Megginson	University of Illinois Civil Engineering Retainer, Elgin O'Hare I-490 IL 19 Construction Inspection, IDOT Phase I and Phase II Replacement of US 51 over Sugar Creek, Macomb Armory, IDOT I-74/I-57 Interchange, Meredosia Bridge Const. Layout, 9th & Dodge St. Bridges HSR Tier III., Illinois State Fairgrounds 8th St. Rehabilitation, 11th St. Extension Const. Layout, Harrah's Casino Expansion - Metropolis.	1965
9	Greene & Bradford 3501 Constitution Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-793-8844 www.gnbil.com kashifs@greeneandbradford.com	7	9	Kashif Syed Joseph Greene	IDOT-Traffic Studies for US 51 Business in Decatur; IDOT-Bridge Repairs for 8-Bridges on I-64 over various streams in Wayne County; IDOT-Construction Inspection & Surveying for Superstructure Replacement of 7-span Bridge on I-74 over Vermilion River, Three-Sided Culvert TR303 over Lake Fork, Pana; Bridge Rehabilitation on FAS 2583 Over LaMoine River, Schuyler County; Sunset Lake Spillway Inspection and Repairs, Girard; Menard Water Main Expansion Design and Construction Inspection, Menard County; Ward III Volutines Addition of Storm Sewer in Taylorville; Lincoln Tower Apartments Structural Rehabilitation, Springfield; Woodlake Estates Dam Inspections, Springfield; Starbucks Site Development and Foundation Design, Lincoln; Rainstorm Car Wash Site Developments, Springfield; Various ALTA, LOT, Topo Surveys, FEMA Certifications, Property Surveys and Site Developments.	1972
9	Patrick Engineering 300 W. Edwards St., Suite 200 Springfield, IL 62704	217-391-3500 patrickengineering.com cburger@patrickco.com	7	9	Daniel P. Dietzler Patrick Cassidy Chris Burger	FutureGen 2 pipeline and surface facilities (Jacksonville), ADM electrical projects in Decatur, CSX Railroad 14 bridges in East Central Illinois, wind farm siting assistance for Logan, Mason, Morgan, Livingston, Pike and Woodford counties; solid waste facility siting in Pike, Macon and DeWitt counties; mine subsidence monitoring near Williamsville.	1954
10	HDR Engineering 5201 S. Sixth St. Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-585-8300 hdrinc.com springfieldinfo@hdrinc.com	6	10	Matthew Cochran	Chicago to St. Louis High Speed Rail Project, Ameren/Robinson Transmission Line Reroute, Freshwater and Marine Fisheries Production and Research Facilities including the Little Manistee River Weir and Thompson State Fish Hatchery, Michigan; Roxbury State Fish Hatchery, Vermont; Lanesboro State Fish Hatchery, Minnesota and Fish Hatchery Improvements, State of Maine.	1984
11	Feezor Engineering 406 E. Walnut St. Chatham, IL 62629	217-483-3118 dfeezor@feezorengineering.com	5	18	Daniel Feezor Jenny Feezor Aaron Karlas	Prairie State Energy Campus - Residuals Management, Bridgeton Landfill Heat Extraction System, West Lake Landfill Remedial Investigation.	2000
11	Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing 421 South Grand Ave. West Suite 1A Springfield, IL 62704	217-679-6254 bfwengineers.com brotherham@bfwengineers.com	5	3	Ron Bacon Chris Farmer Mark Workman	I-55 Rehabilitation, north of Litchfield; IL 71 Widening & Reconstruction in Yorkville; IL 37 Shoulder Widening & Resurfacing north of Benton; I-64 Reconstruction, west of Mt. Vernon; I-70 Reconstruction/Rubblization, east of Effingham; I-57/I-74 Interchange Reconstruction (Champaign); F.A.P. Route 719, US 150 (Bloomington Road) US Over F.A.I. 57 (Champaign) F.A.U. Route 7159, Mattis Avenue Over F.A.I. 74 (Champaign) F.A.U. Route 7158, Mattis Avenue over F.A.I. 57 (Champaign).	1996
11	Martin Engineering Company of Illinois 3695 S. Sixth St. Frontage Road W. Springfield, IL 62703	217-698-8900 martinengineeringco.com mecmail@martinengineeringco.com	5	14	Philip G. Martin Steven R. Walker	Springfield: Centennial Pointe 2nd Add., Sloan Crossing Subdivision, Oak Park Estates 7th Add., S 6th Street U-Haul, Legacy Sports Complex, Sangamon Valley Trail- Phase 4, Rochester: Cottages at Carriage Crossing, Residences at Cardinal Hill Crossing, Riverton: Riverton Interstate Park, SIC Recycling Expansion. Pleasant Plains: New Gymnasium. Sherman: Old Tipton Estates 4th Addition. Williamsville: Williamsville High School. Decatur: 635,000 sf warehouse facility, Johns Hill School. Other: U-Haul of Forest Park, U-Haul of Champaign, Weir Street for City of Litchfield.	1982
12	WSP USA, Inc. 3200 Pleasant Run, Suite A Springfield, IL 62711	217-546-7455 wsp.com	4	11	Jim Wolfe Kevin Lentz	Interstate 64 Wabash River Bridge, Mazonia Braidwood mine reclamation, Springfield downtown one-way to two-way street conversion analysis, Logan county bridge, Springfield Airport complex improvements, Illinois State Police Memorial Park, Sinissippi Dam redesign.	1959

MAJOR ENGINEERING FIRMS

Sources: The engineering firms.
Ranked by number of licensed engineers in Springfield/Jacksonville.
Number of full-time employees in engineering division may vary from total employee count.

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE / EMAIL	EMPLOYEES LIC. ENG.	ENG. DIV.1	PARTNERS/ PRINCIPALS	NOTABLE PROJECTS	
12	Berners Schober Associates, Inc. 1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza #310 Springfield, IL 62701	217-528-6030 bernerschober.com info@bsagb.com	4	20	Ian Griffiths Darren Johnson John Miller Wendy Thorson Matthew Veriha Joseph Dettlaff Brian Meulemans	HEALTHCARE- HSHS St. John's Hospital: Fourth Floor Renovation, Electrophysiology Cath Lab Expansion, WCC Redcladding + Remodel, Exterior Lighting, Madison Street Parking Ramp, Infusion Center & Medical Oncology Clinic; HSHS St. Mary's Hospital: Cath Lab Replacement, Intensive Care Unit Remodel, MOB Remodel; HSHS St. Francis Hospital: Domestic Water Booster Pumps, Patient Floor Remodel, Air Handling Unit Replacements, Emergency Generator Upgrades; HSHS Holy Family Hospital: Chiller Replacement, Infrastructure Improvements, Chapel Renovation; HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital: Interventional Radiology Suite, Fifth Floor Patient Rooms, Emergency Department Remodel; HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital: Sleep Lab and Diagnostics Relocation, Orthopedic Inpatient Remodeling, Cath Lab Addition - COMMERCIAL- Brother James Court; Lincoln Land Community College; Concordia Village; District 186 Schools; Springfield Park District; Capital Development Board.	1898
12	Professional Service Industries 480 North St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-6663 psiusa.com eram.iqbal@intertek.com daniel.bilbrey@intertek.com	4	17	James Becco Daniel Bilbrey Eram Iqbal	YMCA of Springfield-Downtown, Springfield High Speed Rail, St. John's NICU Renovation, LRS Office Building and Garage, Sugar Creek Wind Farm, Hilltopper Wind Farm, Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport - Various Projects, CWLP Filter Addition and Renovation, Springfield Clinic - Wabash, New Pleasant Plains High School Gym Addition, Hindu Temple of Greater Springfield, Memorial Medical Center OR Renovations.	1961
13	Prairie Engineers 6405 Canadian Cross Dr. Springfield, IL 62711	217-605-0403 prairieengineers.com info@prairieengineers.com	3	13	Lisa Kramer Darren Forgy	Sangamon/Dirksen Intersection Improvements; Sault Ste Marie, Michigan U.S. Coast Guard Station Waterfront Repairs; Andrews Air Force Base Boundary Survey; Litchfield National Guard Armory Renovations; USDA NRCS Dam Rehabilitations in Oklahoma and Kansas; Sparta National Guard Armory New Firing Range; Ducks Unlimited Jenkins-Vanzilest Marsh; Rallsplitter Rest Area Renovations; UIS Sewer and Water Pipe Replacements.	2010
13	TRC Worldwide Engineering 975 S. Durkin Dr., Suite 205 Springfield, IL 62704	217-725-6262 trcw.com	3	2	Robert Boellner	University of Illinois in Springfield - various projects including the new student union, student housing renovations, cooling towers replacement, Sangamon Auditorium lighting controls; University of Chicago - various housing, HVAC and research laboratory projects; Illinois State University Capen Auditorium.	1985
14	Fehr Graham 2160 S. Sixth St., Suite E Springfield, IL 62703	217-544-8477 fehrgraham.com jsawyer@fehrgraham.com	2	12	Michael W. Gronewold Joel P. Zirkle Noah J. Carmichael Matthew A. Johnson Nathan P. Kass Jason T. Stoll Seth Gronewold	Bus pad reconstruction, Lincoln Correctional Center, Kennay Farms Distillery Rickhouse (structural), Rochelle, IL, Well House No. 11 (structural), Freeport, IL, US 34 over OVER TR 162 bridge replacements, Warren County, I-74 over French Creek bridge replacements, Knox County, Dixon I/EP bike path boardwalks/retaining walls; Springfield; Mill Creek Estates, Phase II; Kreston Place Subdivision; YMCA of Springfield-Downtown site development; Meadowbrook Road extension; Structural design: Lincoln Tomb Receiving Vault rehabilitation; IDOT Hanley Building Plaza waterproofing; Springfield Housing Authority Office addition.	1973

Hillier Records Management

For organized data management storage.

Hillier Records Management

The Hillier Advantage Includes:

- Secure Off-Site Records Storage | Computerized Tracking System
- Daily Magnetic Media Exchange | Retrieval & Re-file
- Climate Controlled Facility | Regular - Rush Emergency Services
- 24 Hour Service | Pick-up & Delivery

2728 S. 11th Street • Springfield, IL 62703
A Division of Hillier Storage & Moving Co.
ILL. C.C. 4285 MC/CH

217-525-8550

www.ilneca.org
Ed Midden - Springfield Division Chair
Billy J. Serbousek - Chapter Manager

www.ibew193.com
Rick Shereda - President
Neil Herve - Business Manager & Financial Secretary

LABOR AND MANAGEMENT WORKING TOGETHER IN THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING INDUSTRY

• Springfield Division NECA Members •

AmeriCALL Communications Company INC.
Eugene Dinardo
447 N. Walnut St., Suite B
Springfield, IL 62702
217-522-2255 • www.americallinc.com

Egizzi Electric, INC.
Carole Keating
3009 Singer Ave. • Springfield, IL 62703
217-528-4001 • www.ceiholding.com

Prairie State Plumbing & Heating, INC.
Jerry L. Judd
1499 W. State Route 29
Athens, IL 62613
217-636-9000

Anderson Electric, INC.
Rodney Frey
3501 S. Sixth St. • Springfield, IL 62703
217-529-5471
www.anderson-electric.com

Gano Electrical Contracting, INC.
Adam Craddock
701 Caldwell • Jacksonville, IL 62650
217-243-1414

Senergy Electric, Inc.
Matthew Giacomini
519 N. Elm St. Williamsville, IL 62639
217-566-2826
www.senergy-electric.com

B & B Electric, INC.
Todd Brinkman
3000 Reilly Dr. • Springfield, IL 62703
217-528-9666 • www.bbhelectric.net

Mansfield Electric Co.
H. Edward Midden, III
4425 Peoria Rd. • Springfield, IL 62702
217-523-0811

Technical Solutions & Services, Inc.
Jeff Pennington
1309 Woods Farm Ln, Springfield, IL 62704
217-836-7346

Porter Electric
Stephanie Grigsby
509 N Chicago St • Lincoln, IL 62656
309-241-5306

Springfield Rail Improvements Project progresses

By Carey Smith

"On time and on budget" are the words everyone likes to hear when it comes to a major infrastructure project encompassing more than a decade of work and a \$315 million continuing investment. Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder says, "Starting in 2014 with moving dirt to now, even with the pandemic, we were able to keep the project moving in a positive direction. It shows you the benefit of having leadership that knows the area."

Langfelder attributes much of the success of the project to Sen. Dick Durbin, who, along with Sen. Tammy Duckworth, was able to secure federal funding. When politics changed the party in power, Congressmen Darin LaHood and Rodney Davis took the lead. "That relationship took that message of unity to the federal level and didn't miss a beat," when the presidential administration changed from Barack Obama to Donald Trump and then to Joe Biden, remarks Langfelder.

The Springfield Rail Improvements Project will drastically reshape Springfield as it relocates and consolidates rail traffic from the Third Street corridor to the Tenth Street corridor. Several underpasses and other modifications will reduce the number of at-grade crossings from 68 to 32; this reduction is predicted to dramatically decrease rail, pedestrian and vehicular incidents. Director of Public Works Nate Bottom says, "Safety is a major issue in reducing at-grade crossings." The project is also projected to improve passenger trains being on time, notes Bottom, by eliminating freight train and Amtrak delays.

The most visible activity in the project currently is focused downtown, in what is referred to as Usable Segment III. The Sangamon County Transportation Center is a multimodal transit hub which will eventually house Amtrak, Greyhound and Springfield Mass Transit District buses. Construction has begun between Adams and Washington streets, on both sides of the Tenth Street. The Amtrak station and parking garage will be located on the west side of the tracks, the SMTD bus station will be on the east side of the tracks and a pedestrian bridge will connect the two. The SMTD bus portion is already completed, and the Amtrak portion is scheduled to begin in mid-2023 and wrap up by mid-2025.



An image of the proposed North Grand Avenue overpass adjacent to Robin Roberts Stadium.

PHOTO COURTESY HANSON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

SMTD's SMART Program, which provides mass transit to rural Sangamon and Menard Counties, is slated to purchase the parcel that is currently owned by Helping Hands of Springfield just north of the Transportation Center. Helping Hands will relocate its day services and an overflow shelter into the unused portion of the building on South Dirksen Parkway that also houses the Sangamon County Juvenile Center.

One other significant project in this segment is the creation of underpasses at Madison and Jefferson streets. Both streets will be closed to traffic beginning in April 2023, with the project expected to take 14 months. Traffic will be rerouted to the underpass at Carpenter Street between Ninth and Eleventh streets. Mike Mendenhall, SRIP's project manager at Hanson Professional Services, says, "We just want the public to be informed as much as possible. We expect people will take alternate routes to work and such."

Langfelder acknowledges that rerouting traffic on two major streets in Springfield will be inconvenient, but with the entire project slated for completion in 2025, it's easier to look

beyond a short-term inconvenience to the long-term benefits of rail consolidation. Bottom adds that signal timing will be adjusted to minimize disruption, and work that currently has lanes closed on South Grand Avenue and Cook Street will be finished before this project begins.

Businesses are also affected by the SRIP. As the project moves past the property acquisition stage, other changes, such as the \$5 million renovation at Springfield Electric, are now taking place. The property is owned by WRS Legacy LLC, and leased to Springfield Electric, which was acquired by Sonepar USA in 2021. After looking at alternative sites, Springfield Electric elected to stay at its current site at Ninth Street and Enos Avenue and remodel its facility using TIF assistance in the form of annual property tax rebates by the city of Springfield.

Springfield Electric's current warehouse and loading dock will be demolished and replaced with a newly constructed 19,400-square-foot warehouse and three-bay truck dock, complete with restructured and repaved parking lots. Work has already begun on this project.

Segment VI of the SRIP is scheduled to be-



Nathan Barber, owner of the Anything Buy-Sell-Trade store at the corner of Sixth Street and North Grand Avenue, says he is concerned about traffic along North Grand Avenue being rerouted as part of the rail improvements.

PHOTO BY STACIE LEWIS

gin in late 2023, with several key components affecting Springfield's north side. New tracks will be constructed to allow the railway corridor to continue north until it reaches the existing Union Pacific tracks just north of Caritas Bingo Hall, as the tracks currently veer northeast at Phillips Street. This involves the demolition of several houses along Tenth Street from Phillips Street to North Grand Avenue.

A new underpass will be constructed on North Grand Avenue between Ninth and Eleventh streets. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency building will be partially demolished, and the new track laid to bisect the building. New exterior walls will be built to refinish the remainder of the buildings on both the west and east side of the tracks, and the historic clocktower will remain intact with the west building.

IEPA offices will be moved to one of three locations in Springfield: the space previously occupied by Sears at White Oaks Mall, which is currently being remodeled; Jefferson Terrace near the Willard Ice Building, and another location belonging to Illinois Department of Transportation off of Dirksen Parkway (not their main facility).

Additionally, an overpass featuring a 10-foot pedestrian way with a concrete separation barrier will be constructed over the railroad

tracks by Robin Roberts Stadium. It will begin at the Dairy Queen on Nineteenth Street and continue to Eleventh Street. Mendenhall says the overpass is designed for safety, considering the amount of pedestrian traffic generated from the football field, ballpark and school.

Jamie Toole, a co-owner of Springfield Lucky Horseshoes baseball team, says that they are still learning about the project, and while they feel concerned for the businesses and residents who have had to relocate, they see the benefits the neighborhood could realize in the long run. Toole says, "We feel it'll be an enhancement. The north end has so much opportunity to rebound and do some cool things. We have a goal to improve Robin Roberts (Stadium) as well." The stadium itself is owned by Springfield Park District and leased to the team.

Overall, "if it's good for the community, we're supportive. We're the community's team," he said. Toole hopes for a future where families from the neighborhood walking to the stadium to watch a game will once again be the norm.

Beginning in early 2024, both the North Grand Avenue overpass and underpass will be constructed at the same time, which Hanson's Mendenhall says will minimize disruption and result in cost savings.

While traffic disruptions may be an inconvenience for some, it can be more of a problem

for business owners. Nathan Barber, who owns Anything Buy-Sell-Trade at Sixth Street and North Grand Avenue, says he is concerned. "Drive-by traffic is the most important thing when looking for a (business) location. If North Grand Avenue will be rerouted, there's not that drive-by traffic stopping by (my store). That would have a negative impact on my business."

Indeed, the project will provide a significant makeover for Springfield's north side. It can be a challenge to negotiate street traffic with several sets of tracks cutting through neighborhoods and business corridors. Increasingly long trains and a lack of convenient underpasses have frustrated northsiders for a long time.

Thanks to several other significant projects currently underway, the north end will look and feel much different for future generations. Moving Pillsbury Forward has made significant progress in demolishing the decrepit buildings on site, a major reconstruction at Lanphier High School is underway, and it is anticipated that the Third Street corridor will transition into a bike/walk corridor after the trains are relocated. Langfelder notes that the construction of bike/walk corridors in other cities "really accelerates housing and business development along those corridors."

According to Langfelder, the two hospitals in the Medical District have been hesitant to move forward with some construction projects as the district is bisected by the Third Street corridor. One hospital administrator reportedly called the SRIP the No. 1 most singularly important project for Springfield that our generation has ever seen.

Langfelder notes the railway corridors have long been an issue in Springfield, as rail consolidation was a part of the City's 1906 West Plan. "That's how slow things move," says Langfelder.

In addition to our federal elected leaders advocating for the SRIP, our city leaders have been working with dozens of private and public sector entities, as well as private citizens, in designing the SRIP to maximize benefit with the least disruptions. Mendenhall agrees, "We've had great leadership throughout the entire project. It's been a great thing to be a part of this. All parties are on board and want to make sure it happens."

With completion of the entire SRIP slated for December 2025, Langfelder says, "It's time to celebrate. Hopefully people understand what it took to get to this. It wasn't easy."

Carey Smith lives on Springfield's north end and is thankful for the vision and effort that will transform her community into a better place to live.

CARL FISCHER: April 19, 1939-March 25, 2022

"A knack for design"

By Carey Smith

"Both were very ambitious," notes Karen Prange of her parents, Carl and Kay Fischer, "both in our family life, and in their careers and professional lives. When people think of my dad, it's hard to think of him without Kay. They had the most amazing love affair, worked together, sailed together and raised a family together. They were truly inseparable, not because of dependency, but this deep-seated love they had."

A year after marrying and blending a family of five children, Carl and Kay Fischer began Carl Fischer Associates out of their large South Walnut Street home in Springfield. Prange recalls a portion of the first floor of their home dedicated to her parents' office and conference room, with draftsmen at work in the basement. The children played upstairs in the attic. "We were probably one of the first work-at-home families," jokes Prange.

A native of Springfield's north end, Fischer joined the U.S. Navy after graduating with a degree in architecture from Washington University in St. Louis. He returned to Springfield and worked for a couple of architecture firms before he and Kay partnered up. In 1982, after former coworker August Wisnosky joined the firm, it was renamed Fischer-Wisnosky Architects and then FWAI Architects. Farnsworth Group, a national full-service engineering, architectural and survey firm, acquired FWAI Architects in 2020, and it remains an integral part of Springfield's architectural scene.

"Carl had a knack for design," recounts Wisnosky, and was especially skilled in the area of historical restorations. The renovation of former President Ronald Reagan's childhood home in Dixon, Illinois, was Fischer's pride and joy. He actually spent time with the Reagans, reportedly hearing many family stories and spending Reagan's birthday with him.

Prange notes Fischer's lasting impact on the vistas of the streets of Springfield. "I think if you go through Springfield and look at the buildings that he designed, or influenced the design on, you'll see grace and simplicity. His buildings are not plain. They're not ordinary. But they're also not ostentatious, nor elaborate in ornamentation. They have this simple elegance to them that make them timeless."

Fischer's interest and skill in historical renovations brought him requests to renovate



Carl and Kay Fischer on their boat, Kathryn. The couple were married in 1975 during a sailing regatta.

PHOTO COURTESY KAREN PRANGE

many homes in the area of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. He purchased the old Broadwell's Drug Store at Fifth and Washington streets in the early 1980s and made it his office. Fischer donated the Broadwell building to the Springfield Art Association a year before his death.

"He did that partially because he knew the Art Association would take care of the building," says Prange. "They recognize the beauty of it, and will take care of it in a way that selling for commercial reasons would not." SAA is the long-term caretaker of Edwards Place, Springfield's oldest home on its original foundation. The Broadwell building currently houses the SAA Collective gallery and the Michael Victor II Art Library, as well as art studios and labs.

Fischer also had a passion for sailing and woodworking. He and Kay were married during a sailing regatta. They raced sailboats for many years at Island Bay Yacht Club and later purchased a boat where they would spend several weeks every summer sailing.

"My fondest memories were of days spent on boats, because that's where he relaxed," recalls Prange. "He was the captain and we were his crew. He loved being on water." Fischer taught all of his grandchildren to swim. "It was important

to him that they could take care of themselves in the water," says Prange.

When Carl and Kay built a house in Petersburg, a woodworking shop was part of the plans. "He finally got to do what he wanted," says Prange, of Fischer's many hours of making furniture and all of the wooden parts needed for their boat.

Prange notes that in her entryway is a shelving unit Fischer made with medicine drawers from the Broadwell building. "Appreciation for all things and taking care and reusing them was not just in his career, but in his hobbies," she says.

Prange says Fischer became more appreciative of his family as he aged, with five children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren added to their blended family.

"His love for us grew as his family grew. When he passed away earlier this year, the last time he talked with us, it wasn't about the business or his accolades. He just thanked us for being such a wonderful family. That's what he left us with. He was a wonderful man." **SBJ**

Carey Smith appreciates being invited into someone's inner world to shine a light on its distinctive beauty.



**65 YEARS OF TRUSTED SERVICE
TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY...
AND WE HAVE JUST BEGUN.**



SELVAGGIOSTEEL.COM | 1119 W. DORLAN AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702 | 217-528-4078

MAJOR ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS

Sources: The architectural firms.
Ranked by number of local registered architects.

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE / EMAIL	NUMBER OF LOCAL REGISTERED ARCHITECTS	NUMBER OF LOCAL FULL TIME EMPLOYEES	PRINCIPALS	NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR EST'D
1	Graham & Hyde Architects 1010 Clocktower Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-9380 grahamandhyde.com info@grahamandhyde.com	8	17	Jamie Cosgriff Kevin Handy David Leggans Ben Dockter	Vachel Lindsay Elementary School, St. Agnes Church, Hoogland Center for the Arts, First United Methodist Church, Blessed Sacrament Church, Carrollton Bank, St. John's Lutheran Church, Christ the King Parish Center, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Ridgely Elementary School, Ball Charter Elementary School, Cherry Hills Baptist Church, Benedictine University, Ben-Gil Elementary School, Gillespie, Panhandle Elementary School, Raymond, Ball-Chatham Community Schools, Chatham.	1968
2	Farnsworth Group 3201 W. White Oaks Dr. Suite 100 D Springfield, IL 62704	217-528-3661 f-w.com mbray@f-w.com	5	20	Paul Wheeler	Illinois State University School of Nursing, Illinois Treasurer - Chase Bank Renovation, Medics First, Memorial Daycare, Springfield District 186 school additions, Sangamon County Complex addition and renovation, Springfield Clinic Lab Facility, Springfield Clinic main campus renovation and addition, UIS Brookens Library renovation.	1976
3	Crawford, Murphy & Tilly 2750 W. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-8050 cmtengr.com questions@cmtengr.com	4	124	Dan Meckes George Cain Chris Stritzel Roger Austin	UIS Performing Arts Center entrance, Springfield; Plummer Sports Park Complex, Edwardsville; Executive Aircraft Hangar Complex, Bloomington; Pace Bus Facility renovation, Wheeling; Pace Pedestrian overpass bridge/access buildings, Illinois I-90 Tollway, Hoffman Estates; Central Illinois Utility Operations Facilities, Peoria and Decatur; SMTD Bus Storage Renovation; Sangamon County Water Reclamation District, Sugar and Spring Creek Wastewater Plants; airport vehicle/equipment storage buildings, Peoria and Bloomington; Fiducial Office renovation, Springfield; Sorling Northrup, Ltd. office building renovation, Springfield; CWLP new filter building addition; MidAmerica St. Louis Airport terminal expansion; administration building renovation, Metropolitan Sewer District, St. Louis; Water Treatment Plant renovations, Lincoln and Quincy.	1946
3	Berners Schober Associates, Inc. 1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza #310 Springfield, IL 62701	217-528-6030 bernersschober.com info@bsagb.com	4	11	Ian Griffiths Darren Johnson John Miller Wendy Thorson Matthew Veriha Joseph Dettlaff Brian Meulemans	HSHS St. John's Hospital: Fourth Floor Renovation, Prairie Heart Electrophysiology Cath Lab Expansion, WCC Recladding + Remodel, Exterior Lighting, Madison Street Parking Ramp, Infusion Center & Medical Oncology Clinic, New Intensive Care Unit; HSHS Medical Group: Litchfield Primary Care MOB, Edwardsville Clinic Imaging, Springfield MOB; HSHS St. Mary's Hospital: Cath Lab Replacement, Intensive Care Unit Remodel, MOB Remodel; HSHS Holy Family Hospital: Infrastructure Improvements, Chapel Renovation; HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital: Interventional Radiology Suite, Fifth Floor Patient Rooms, Emergency Department Remodel; HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital: Sleep Lab and Diagnostics Relocation, Lab Equipment Replacement, Orthopedic Inpatient Remodeling, Cath Lab Addition; Springfield Plastics expansion, Auburn; Blackburn College practice facilities, Carlinville.	1898
4	Evan Lloyd Associates 1630 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-789-7011 evanlloydarchitects.com tsmith@evanlloyd.com	3	12	Timothy B. Smith	BOS Center renovation and expansion, Centre @ 501 (new Chamber office and apartments), Altorfer Catepillar facility, Illinois State Police Credit Union, Waterways Building renovation, Engrained Brewery, Obed & Isaacs and Wm. Van's Coffee Shop, Prairie State Bank, Friar Tuck, County Market, Sangamon County Health Department renovation, Connor Co. Distribution/Sales Facility, Horace Mann interior renovations, Springfield. Illini Bank, new park and amphitheater, County Market, Sherman St. Mary School addition. Taylorville. Legence Bank corporate headquarters, Eldorado. National Bank and public library, Litchfield. Springfield Plastics expansion, Auburn. Blackburn College practice facilities, Carlinville.	1969
4	Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker 213 1/2 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-789-9515 mmpltd.com architect@mmpltd.com	3	8	David J. Leonatti T. David Parker	New senior housing, Gillespie; Renovation of 100 apartments, Alton; Interior design for PFA Financial & MMLP offices, Springfield; Housing Authority upgrade and renovation projects, Benld, Carlinville, Decatur, Girard, Springfield and others; New public works complex, Mundelein; Mt. Pulaski courthouse historic site; Bushnell-Prairie City Elementary School renovation, Bushnell; Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices Renovation; Renovate School and Police buildings, Carrollton; Additions and renovation to Franklin and Grant Middle Schools, Springfield; New elementary school, Springfield; Bank of Springfield Downtown Branch, Springfield, 27 units Virden; Village of Mt. Pulaski downtown streetscape; Children's Garden Lincoln Memorial Garden, Springfield.	1978
4	J.H. Petty and Associates, 3220 Executive Park Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-787-2844 jhp@jhpa.biz	3	6	Joseph H. Petty	Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport terminal expansion, LLCC Aviation Center classroom addition at ALCA. OSF clinics in Peoria, Urbana, Danville, Pekin, Rantoul, Morton Office building for Psychological Center. Elevate trampoline parks in Champaign, Milan and East Peoria. Blessing Hospital pharmacy, Pittsfield. New gymnasium and classroom addition for Villa Grove USD #302. Lake Land College president's office, conference center, new Alumni Center and new Work Force Building. New security entrance addition for Harmony-Emge School District 75. Numerous projects for Waverly School District #6. New secured entrance at Pike County Courthouse, Pittsfield.	1991
4	Steckel-Parker Architects 2941 Happy Landing Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-793-6444 steckelparker.com dave@steckelparker.com	3	5	David E. Steckel	Levi Ray & Shoup office complex, Brandt Consolidated, Taylorville school district gymnasium, Dick Van Dyke Appliance World, Prairie Eye Lasik building, Pepsi distribution center and office, United Community Bank, La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries, D'Arcy's Pint, Springfield District 186 projects, Pasta House, Jennings Auto Sales. Country Lane Memory Care, Riverton. Prairie Power, Jacksonville.	1964
4	John Shafer & Associates 1230 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-744-9036 shafer-arch.com john@shafer-arch.com	3	4	John Shafer	Henderson Eye Center, Anderson Electric, ISD Jacksonville, Heartland Credit Union, Bunn Corporate Office, Illinois Education Assn., Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Illinois Baptist State Assn., Shelter Insurance, Novanis Building, Illinois Assn. of School Administrators, Illinois Times, Midwest Technical Institute - various locations, LLCC Taylorville, Tri-City Public Library, Springfield Priority Care, LLCC Montgomery Hall, AGCO-GSI Corporate HQ expansion, New Salem restoration, Jefferson Terrace renovation, LLCC Medical Center renovation, 629 E. Adams, School District #186 projects.	1992
5	Cowdrey and German dESIGNED aRCHITECTURE 1305 Wabash Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-5730 designed-architecture.com cg@designed-architecture.com	2	3	Scott Cowdrey	Rolling Meadows Brewery, Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary, Nehemiah expansion. Downtown streetscape enhancement, Litchfield, Rexx Battery in Springfield and Jacksonville, Macoupin County Animal Shelter, Carlinville, Nature's Grace and Wellness Center, Vermont.	2007



CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROWTH
AND SUCCESS OF SPRINGFIELD'S
WORLD HEADQUARTER COMPANIES
WITH TIMELESS DESIGN
AND SEAMLESS ADDITIONS
SINCE 1964



STECKEL-PARKER ARCHITECTS, INC.

2941 HAPPY LANDING DRIVE SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711
PHONE: 217 793 6444
www.steckelparker.com dave@steckelparker.com



CMT
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly

Leveraging Infrastructure to

- » Elevate Quality of Place
- » Create Opportunity
- » Transform Communities



@cmtengrs | cmtengr.com





NOTABLE SPRINGFIELD RENOVATION PROJECTS

By Catherine O'Connor

According to plan: Multiyear state Capitol effort wins excellence award

Architect Avi Lothan of Lothan Van Hook DeStefano Architecture in Chicago has been the principal in charge of the Illinois State Capitol Complex Master Plan, a comprehensive effort begun in 2007-2008 to provide a vision of sustainable design objectives that guide future growth and expansion for the Illinois State Capitol. Rebuild Illinois, signed into law in June 2019, made funding available to complete the ambitious master planning process and commence work on projects at the Capitol complex, including enhanced visitor accessibility and creation of an oval plaza staging area, according to Lothan.

In fact, Lothan's plan has been selected for the American Institute of Architects Illinois' Excellence in Master Planning Award for its commitment to sustainable, vibrant and forward-thinking civic leadership. The Master Plan provides a guiding framework for investment and evolution of the Capitol for decades to come, according to Andrea Aggert, Architect of the Capitol.

Thanks to the Rebuild Illinois budget appropriation, the master planning process has involved compiling and updating nearly 14 years of detailed facility needs assessments, concept designs, LEED sustainability analyses and reports for each building determining the need for renovation or replacement.

Future demolition of the William G. Stratton Building, which is central to the plan, would provide a significant amount of green space adjacent to the



A mock-up of lighting fixtures on the second floor of the north wing of the Capitol. PHOTOS BY JOSH CATALANO

Illinois State Capitol Building. In Lothan's view, after the Stratton Building is demolished, a new HVAC utility plant could be installed as part of the overall sustainable infrastructure plan consistent with the objective of creating a carbon-neutral environment.

The planning effort required conscious consideration of historically significant buildings in the 122-acre campus. Following a facilities needs assessment, the plan established a vision of overall design objectives, identifying major projects for future phases of campus improvement. According to Lothan, standards based on socially and environmentally sustainable design principles, as well as financial and energy efficiency analyses, should be a consideration for all renovation and new construction within the complex. Ideally, any new buildings to be constructed will include space for retail and other amenities within the Capitol campus which would create a more attractive urban environment.

Stacy Pfingsten, executive vice president of AIA Illinois, acknowledges the masterful work of Lothan and others on this ambitious attempt to examine a wider Capitol complex study area and expertly integrate planning for the functions of state government along with symbiotic relationships to the city and regional urban development adjacent to it.

According to AIA professional jurors who reviewed the Master Plan award nomination, the comprehensive Illinois State Capitol Complex Master Plan illustrates excellence in providing an enduring vision of sustainable design objectives to guide future growth and expansion of the entire Illinois State Capitol Complex.

According to Aggert, the Illinois Capital Development Board, in concert with the Capitol Historic Preservation Board appointees, elected officials and their designees, periodically review planning for all projects in the realm of environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, community context, infrastructure, utility and parking needs. One such project is the State Capitol North Wing Renovation that began in July 2022. Under the direction of Philip Hamp of Vinci Hamp Architects of Chicago and Henneman Engineering of Champaign, the project is a continuation of an earlier west wing renovation that halted when funding dried up in 2013.

The north wing renovation is underway and will address the creation of a more accessible entrance to the Capitol. According to Aggert, this will also serve as an orientation space where tour guides can show videos of construction history spanning back more than 100 years. Scheduled to be

completed by the end of 2024, the north wing project made it necessary for the state Senate to vacate their chamber and relocate to the ornate Howlett Building Auditorium, which underwent extensive remodeling to replicate the Senate chamber configuration.

To the west of the Capitol and in front of the Stratton Building is a gaping hole in the ground that is the site for an underground parking deck. This will replace the 110 parking spots lost due to improvements to the Capitol entryway and plaza.

From Lothan's perspective, there is potential to amplify tourism for Springfield that could include transforming the Illinois State Armory building into a visitor center providing wayfinding from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to the Illinois Governor's Mansion, and creating an outdoor museum of statuary and monuments winding through the Illinois State Capitol Complex.

Horace Mann adaptive reuse carries on a legacy in downtown

The corner of east Washington and Seventh streets will become the new home for Horace Mann personnel and executives in residence. The company purchased the building at 628 E. Washington St., which has a rich history in the commercial legacy of downtown. Renovation of the upper two floors is nearly complete and will be used for flexible corporate use.

According to Tim Smith, president at Evan Lloyd Associates, efforts were made to respect the historic character of the building, which has been a significant landmark for more than a century. With the exception of the first-floor entry and some trim elements that were altered over the decades, the exterior is strikingly the same as it appears in early turn-of-the-century photos.

According to a *Souvenir Supplement* of Springfield's *Illinois State Journal*, a building was erected on the southwest corner of Seventh and Washington streets by Daniel Witmer in 1867. A successful manufacturer of doors and window sash, Witmer had various tenants and a third-floor meeting room that was used by fraternal, cultural and civic groups.

By 1880, the Springfield Board of Trade occupied the current site of 628 E. Washington St. where they promoted industrial growth and the establishment of the Springfield Watch Company, the Alexander Corn Products factory and the Springfield Woolen

New Year... New Space.

If You Need New or Modified Space, Call Us to Talk

LET US HELP YOU WITH ALL YOUR COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE NEEDS.
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT-LEASING-SUBLEASING-SALES OR PURCHASE.
CALL TERRI BLAKE MYERS OR STEVE MYERS TODAY TO BEGIN THE PROCESS.



Terri Blake Myers

Myers Commercial Real Estate, Inc.

1 West Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
217-747-0019



Steve Myers



CONGRATULATIONS,
RYAN CALDWELL

RSM is pleased to announce that our colleague, **Ryan Caldwell**, has been promoted to **Partner** in the Springfield Market.

rsmus.com

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING



RSM US LLP is the U.S. member firm of RSM International, a global network of independent audit, tax and consulting firms. Visit rsmus.com/aboutus for more information regarding RSM US LLP and RSM International.

**Celebrating OVER 160
Years In Business**



**HENSON
ROBINSON**

C O M P A N Y
E M P L O Y E E O W N E D

COMMERCIAL
HVAC • Plumbing • Roofing

RESIDENTIAL
HVAC • Plumbing

217.544.8451 | hensonrobinson.com | 

3550 Great Northern Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62711



Left: Horace Mann is investing in downtown Springfield with the purchase and renovation of the historic Witmer-Schuck building at the southwest corner of Washington and Seventh streets. Right: The lower level now houses Hageman Family Insurance, a local Horace Mann agency. PHOTOS COURTESY HORACE MANN



Mills. The Board served a variety of functions to support local businesses: it had a telegraph to receive up-to-date market information; it displayed samples of commodities and goods for sale and acted as an arbitrator for conflicts between businesses.

From 1889 until Springfield's City Hall was built in 1894, the building also housed government offices.

An 1892 *Souvenir Supplement* to Springfield's *Illinois State Journal* noted that G. Edward Baumann and his brother established a compounding pharmacy at the site and they advertised that they were "ready to dispense the purest drugs to the sick and suffering at any hour of the day and night."

Other than the pane glass display windows on the first-floor, the three-story building in the newspaper article looks almost exactly

as it appears today, 130 years later.

In the spirit of preserving the historic streetscape view, architect Smith worked with Horace Mann staff to select a compatible paint scheme and make minor repairs to the remarkably sturdy edifice. Though much of the interior had been altered over time, Smith was able to remove non-historic materials to recapture some of the original ceiling height. In addition, partitions and a second entry were added to the first floor, which now houses Hageman Family Insurance, a local Horace Mann agency.

The company has also purchased the building directly to the west of 628 E. Washington St. to create a small number of surface parking spots and green space that may also involve demolition of a second building beside it, according to Don Carley,

who oversees Horace Mann facilities.

Smith noted that the development team, which includes Evans Construction as the general contractor, plus Hanson Professional Services, B&B Electric, Henson-Robinson Company, E.L. Pruitt and STREB Fire Protection Services, is being guided by the City's Historic Sites Commission and building departments to ensure aesthetic compatibility within the site.

In words the *Illinois State Journal* used to describe Baumann's Pharmacy in 1892, all are counting on Horace Mann as a company that will continue to be "earnest and determined in business and have a purpose which is worthy of their honest efforts and worthy of the enterprising spirit of their fellow citizens and patrons in Springfield." **SBJ**

2023 MAYORAL FORUM

Sponsors



City of Springfield CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR



James Langfelder



Misty Buscher

SPRINGFIELD
Moderator: Bernie Schoenburg

Join us at the
Hoogland Center for the Arts
5:00 - 7:00 pm
LRS Theatre
420 S. Sixth St.

This event is complimentary.

January 25

Mechanic's liens

By Thomas C. Pavlik

With this month's focus on engineering and architecture, it seemed an appropriate time to talk about mechanic's liens. I'm going to start with some insight from a homeowner's perspective (which will generally also apply to owners of commercial property) and then briefly discuss the issue from a lien claimant's perspective.

If you are like most people, your house is your most valuable asset. The chances are that eventually you will want to make some improvements to your house. Some problems may be unavoidable, such as a disagreement with your spouse over the choice of wall coverings. Other problems, however, can be solved by knowing the basic information regarding mechanic's liens.

What is a mechanic's lien? In short, a mechanic's lien gives someone who furnishes goods or services to construct or improve real property a lien on that real property by which payment can be enforced. Mechanic's liens in Illinois are governed by the Mechanics Lien Act. Its provisions are automatically included in every contract regarding improvements to real property. Architectural and engineering providers are generally allowed to take advantage of the statute.

The typical problem a homeowner faces is when, after paying the general contractor in full, a subcontractor or material supplier shows up on the homeowner's doorstep claiming never to have been paid. Those subcontractors or material suppliers likely have a valid mechanic's lien against your property, which they can enforce through foreclosure – which means the property is sold to satisfy the debt. In this situation, most homeowners will pay rather than face such drastic consequences. Although that homeowner may well have a claim against the general contractor, that claim will likely need to be enforced through litigation.

How can the homeowner avoid this problem? The well-advised homeowner will require the general contractor to provide a list of all subcontractors and material suppliers as well as the amounts, if any, due each. Use your common sense, if the project involves electrical work, is an electrician on that list? If it involves a new roof, is the supplier of the roofing materials included? Make an effort



to know who is doing work on your home. Introduce yourself to the various workers. Ask them who they are and what they are doing. Make notes and compare your notes to the list provided by the general contractor. This list is called a contractor's sworn statement, and it is the duty of every general contractor to provide such a statement. Most reputable contractors will voluntarily follow this procedure.

When the time comes to make payments to the general contractor, the homeowner should make sure that he or she receives lien waivers from each subcontractor or material supplier on the list before payment is made. Assuming this procedure is followed, the homeowner will almost always be protected from claims of unlisted suppliers or subcontractors. The homeowner can also gain an extra layer of protection by making payment directly to those on the list. Although this is an additional inconvenience, it may well be worth the effort.

For some larger projects, including new home construction, the payment process is handled with a construction loan escrow established with a title company. This is usually done at the insistence of your lender. As the homeowner, however, you should know that the escrow is set up to protect the lender, not you. In other words, a construction loan escrow is no excuse to relax your

diligence.

From a lien claimant's perspective there are generally two issues: (1) ensuring that your lien filing strictly complies with all elements of the statute; and (2) following all of the deadlines.

Courts strictly enforce the statute, which means that even the slightest mistake can void a lien. I've seen many liens filed without the assistance of a lawyer, and in the vast majority of cases they are fatally flawed. So, either completely familiarize yourself with the statute, or ask for professional help.

For a lien claimant who is in a direct contractual relationship with the property owner (e.g., a general contractor), a lien must be filed within four months of the substantial completion of work. And a suit to enforce the lien must be filed within two years of that date, or the lien will automatically expire by operation of law.

For the claimant who is not in a direct contractual relationship with the owner (e.g., a subcontractor who only contracts with the general contractor) there are some different deadlines, and some very specific rules as to whom notices must be given, all of which are beyond the scope of this article. Further, there are separate rules for residential and commercial properties. Subcontractors who are having payment issues would be well advised to consult legal counsel at the first inkling of a problem.

The Illinois Mechanics Lien Act is a complicated statute. Failure to follow the Act's formalities can have drastic consequences for both the property owner and lien claimant. Documents that appear sufficient to meet the procedures outlined above may actually be deficient for a myriad of reasons. When in doubt, your best bet is to consult an attorney conversant in this area of the law. **SBJ**



Thomas C. Pavlik is an attorney with Delano Law Offices in Springfield.

This article is for informational and educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.


**COLDWELL BANKER
COMMERCIAL**
DEVONSHIRE
REALTY

\$299,000 | 2,500/MO

FOR SALE/LEASE

OFFICE

RETAIL

3,780 SF

2125 Stevenson Drive
Springfield, IL 62703


Blake Pryor
 📞 217.725.9518
 ✉ bpryor@cbcdr.com

CORNER LOT LOCATION • CLEAN, WELL MAINTAINED
 • 2,580 SF FREESTANDING RETAIL BUILDING
 • 1,200 SF DETACHED WAREHOUSE

See this listing & more at CBCDR.COM

Networking Services. Sized for you.

THREAT PREVENTION • SECURE VPN ACCESS • PERFORMANCE BOOST

Contact Sheila Feipel at 217.544.3100 today to schedule your complimentary network analysis.


HEART

SWITCHES
ROUTERS
FIREWALLS
CLOUD

IT Networking | Communications | Security | Life Safety | Infrastructure

www.heart.net

1.217.544.3100

Real People Real Solutions Real Banking

We Bank On You



Scan.
Tap.
Bank.
Call Us Today!



Andrew Olson
Business Banker
(855)211-0842
BankPBT.com



Peoples Bank & Trust

We Put People First.™



Giving of time, talent and treasure

By Janet Seitz

Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker, Ltd. provides architectural and environmental building planning and design services with a mission to improve the environment. The Springfield firm also has designs to build a better community through philanthropic efforts.

According to principal T. David Parker, philanthropy at MMLP is mostly done on an individual basis, although the company has made donations and volunteered its services.

"MMLP encourages our staff to be involved in the community through some sort of service," he said. "Efforts are made by individuals, and the firm supports them as they find the ways to contribute that mean something to them. MMLP supports our staff in several ways. We participate in fundraisers by donations and purchase of tickets to events. Most volunteer work happens outside office hours, but we do allow use of office time for calls and meetings, so much so we have a billing code, CS – Community Services. We also allow the use of office equipment and software for community service work."

Historically, the firm has focused on involvement in human service organizations and community service to strengthen the downtown area where the business is located, such as working with Downtown Springfield Inc., and the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

"Staff chooses to get involved with the organizations they can get passionate about," said Parker. "I feel a strong pull to work with youth. Others feel a vibrant downtown is important to the health of Springfield and want to contribute there. Sometimes, it is seen as a way to both contribute to the community and hopefully make business contacts, like Rotary, or boards such as SPARC. Several of us have become involved in our children's schools, serving on parent boards and booster clubs."

The Outlet, an organization with a mission to mentor young men, became a focus for Parker. He learned of the organization's efforts from a Rotary Club presentation in 2014 and worked to get The Outlet grants. Parker's church, Hope Presbyterian, has a local mission program called Hope in Action that dedicates a couple of weeks each summer to do hands-on work for local service agencies. The Outlet is a mission partner and the church helped with painting, gardening and minor repairs.

"In 2020," said Parker, "all the various volunteer activities I was involved in stopped, and I had the opportunity to look at where I spent my



T. David Parker, left, was part of a team from Hope Presbyterian Church that volunteered at Wooden It Be Lovely last year. PHOTO COURTESY T. DAVID PARKER

time. I realized the work of The Outlet, which had pivoted to virtual, was much closer to what I felt called to than many of the other organizations I volunteered with. So I became a mentor and tutor while sequestered at home in April of 2020. Since then, I have become a one-on-one mentor to a bright young man and have worked with Michael and Rikeesha (Phelon) and the leadership team on taking a look at the programing and the facility."

Parker donated his time to complete a planning study. Then when the organization considered moving to the former St. Joseph's Home, Parker and his firm built a digital model and contributed about half the time required.

MMLP often helps nonprofits with planning studies needed to assist in getting grant money. "They don't always get the money needed, so we end up helping figure out what they can manage," said Parker. "We helped Crosspoint Human Services get a gold LEED building certification and a geothermal system through grants awarded. We are in the process of trying to help an organization develop supportive housing for homeless veterans."

Over 45 years, MMLP has made many

contributions to area organizations such as churches, SPARC, Illinois Presbyterian Home, Heritage Foundation, Landmarks Illinois, Illinois Housing Council, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Springfield School District 186, Chatham and other school districts, Springfield Junior League, Lincoln Memorial Garden, Triangle Center, Goodwill and many others. The firm has also earned LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for its projects and organizations like the Illinois Audubon Society.

Parker received a volunteer of the year award from the board of directors of the Springfield Muni Opera for his contribution on the sets committee. The Muni has also benefitted from a long-range plan which has resulted in several new buildings, a pavilion and other improvements over the last seven years.

Parker said, "It is our privilege to be able to help worthwhile community efforts with our time, our talents and our treasure." **SBJ**

Janet Seitz is a local communications professional, writer and artist. To share your story, contact her at janetseitz1@gmail.com.







30 years of helping small businesses **grow | strengthen | expand**

THE **SBA 504 LOAN** PROGRAM...FINANCING SPECIFICALLY **CREATED FOR GROWING BUSINESSES**



LESS MONEY DOWN • LONG REPAYMENT TERMS • BELOW-MARKET FIXED RATES

If you're considering buying, building or refinancing fixed assets, there's simply no better program on the market than the SBA 504 Loan Program. In fact, the financing terms offered through this program are so good, 504 lending has seen record-breaking growth this year. The 504's below-market fixed rates, repayment terms of up to 25 years, and low down payment requirements have already helped thousands of businesses this year...let's talk about how it can help yours.

877-BEST 504 • GrowthCorp.com •    

Accredited by the U.S. Small Business Administration • Illinois' Largest 504 Lender

\$22 MILLION PAID TO PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU IN THE PAST FEW YEARS!

We Buy Many Vintage Collectibles

- ✓ Rare Coins ✓ Paper Money ✓ Diamonds ✓ Watches ✓ Sterling
- ✓ Gold & Silver Jewelry ✓ Costume Jewelry ✓ Turquoise ✓ Vintage Sports, Vintage Toys
- ✓ Native American Items ✓ Civil War, Military & Political Items

We can come to you or you can come to US!

DECATUR COIN AND JEWELRY

**50 Years in the Same Location
Family Owned**

Open Mon-Fri
Weekends by appointment

217-899-4346 • 217-423-0041

ETHICS • KNOWLEDGE • COLLECTORS • NUMISMATISTS

DecaturCoinandJewelry.com | 104 N. Main St • Decatur, IL

**WE OFFER COMPETITIVE BUY/SELL PRICES ON American Eagle Gold & Silver
Bullion Coins, 999 Silver Rounds and Bars and other Gold/Silver products.**

Springfield Clinic launches its own health plan

No resolution with Blue Cross in sight

By Dean Olsen

Some central Illinois patients who lost access to Springfield Clinic doctors last year could find their way back with the help of a new health plan option.

The Springfield Clinic Advantage Plan may not be the answer for everyone affected by the ongoing rift between the clinic and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. But the plan, administered through Decatur-based Consociate Health, offers employers an opportunity to become self-insured for health coverage and regain in-network services from the Springfield-based multi-specialty clinic.

The plan makes doctors and other central Illinois medical providers outside the clinic, as well as both of Springfield's acute-care hospitals, available through the HealthLink network.

"Too many patients have had trusted relationships with their Springfield Clinic doctors interrupted over the past year," Springfield Clinic chief executive officer Ray Williams said in a news release. "This plan removes the choice between driving out of the local area to find an available physician or putting off important health care decisions."

Self-insured health coverage used to be offered predominantly by large employers employing hundreds or thousands of workers because of the cash flow required to pay medical claims.

But new financing options offered by what are known as "stop-loss" insurers, which contract with employers to cover the most expensive claims, have made self-funded plans more accessible to smaller employers.

Darren Reynolds, president and CEO of Consociate Health, said these direct-to-employer plans, or D2E, represent a growing trend in the United States, especially in the past five years. They offer ways to potentially reduce employers' and employees' annual increases in premiums and other out-of-pocket costs, he said. Reynolds said the Springfield Clinic Advantage Plan will serve employers with as few as 10 workers, and clinic officials believe employers will be able to offer access to clinic providers and more choice overall at rates "equal to or better than" rates they would pay for traditional, fully insured insurance products.

The Springfield Clinic plan offers reduced

or waived copays and deductibles when using Springfield Clinic providers, as well as services to promote employee wellness and disease prevention. These benefits can help employers reduce long-term health care costs and catch problems before they become more severe to the employee and more costly to treat, Reynolds said.

The transparent nature of the plan, including how pharmaceutical drugs are priced, can help employers make better-informed choices on which providers to use so that money can be saved in the future to hold down costs for them and their workers, he said.

The clinic doesn't make money on the plan other than by potentially serving more patients, Reynolds said.

The clinic's decision to offer the Advantage Plan doesn't mean it has abandoned efforts to return to Blue Cross' network, clinic spokesman Zach Kerker said. "We would prefer to be in the network," he said.

A resolution doesn't appear imminent, however.

The clinic became an out-of-network provider for Blue Cross members in mid-November 2021 because the two businesses weren't able to work out an agreement that clinic officials considered adequate to financially support and sustain the clinic's primary and specialty care services throughout central Illinois. The clinic has more than 650 doctors, physician assistants and nurse practitioners in 80 different medical specialties.

During the past several months, the clinic has sent "multiple proposals with varying degrees of compromise, all of which were declined with no counterproposal from BCBS," Kerker said. "We sit alone at the negotiating table, hoping they'll join us again at some point."

Dave Van de Walle, a spokesman for Chicago-based Blue Cross, said in an email: "Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois has been working with Springfield Clinic for more than a year to reach a deal that ensures our members have access to the quality care they need at affordable prices. That work has included the exchange of ideas, proposals, counterproposals and in-person meetings. In the end, it is important to share that we proposed an arrangement to the clinic that would deliver value for our customers and members but, to date, the

clinic hasn't shown interest in such an arrangement."

Up to 100,000 central Illinois residents were affected by the rift in the beginning, representing about 20% of the clinic's patients, according to clinic officials. Blue Cross estimated the number affected at 55,000 patients.

Kerker said he doesn't know the net total of former clinic patients who are seeing doctors from other provider groups or delayed care in hopes that the clinic and Blue Cross will resolve the dispute.

The clinic's patient advocacy center receives dozens of calls each day from patients having a hard time getting timely access to doctors from other groups, Kerker said. "There's clearly an access problem in our community," he said.

SIU Medicine, the private practice group at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, has experienced a 30% increase in patient care since the split between Springfield Clinic and Blue Cross, according to chief medical officer Dr. Vidhya Prakash.

Average wait times for appointments have increased as a result, she said, but the staff has done "an exemplary job" of freeing up time for more appointments and procedures to ensure that the quality of care patients receive is not compromised.

SIU also has set up a system to streamline referrals of patients from doctors outside SIU, especially for "urgent" referrals, Prakash said.

SIU – with almost 300 full-time doctors, more than 200 other medical professionals and almost 400 young doctors in residency training programs in central and southern Illinois – doesn't expect the increase in patient volume to be temporary.

"We are treating this like it is the new normal," Prakash said.

Blue Cross this year agreed to pay a \$339,000 fine to the Illinois Department of Insurance for delaying the filing of documents backing up Blue Cross' claim that it has an adequate network in central Illinois even with the loss of Springfield Clinic providers.

Documents that Blue Cross filed to prove its network's adequacy remain under review, department spokeswoman Caron Brookens told *Illinois Times* on Dec. 1.

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

Reinventing **POSSIBLE**



The world is changing, and we're not just keeping up. We are **Reinventing Possible** as thought and action leaders for the future.

We meticulously reviewed and renewed our academic programs to leverage **current job market trends** and needs to address gaps in higher education that will improve our community and world.

The result of this multi-year process: exciting **new programs** and an **innovative approach** to the college experience to prepare ambitious change-makers of the future.

uis.edu/possible

WE KNOW YOU

At LLCU, our team of mortgage loan officers are dedicated to finding the best mortgage option for **you!**

Rural Development Mortgages, Construction Loans,
FHA & VA Mortgages, Conventional Mortgages,
Mortgage Refinancing

Get a **FREE Quote!**



Jeff Drake
Mortgage Loan Manager
217.254.2507
Mattoon Region
NMLS #1110123



Lisa Wilson
Mortgage Loan Officer
217.917-5716
Effingham Region
NMLS #1809787



Tricia Kramer
Mortgage Loan Officer
618.267.0683
Vandalia Region
NMLS #583883



Cyndi Kosentski
Senior Mortgage Loan Officer
217.615.3508
Decatur Region
NMLS #430461



LLCU.ORG
844.222.7788

*Other qualifications may apply. Subject to credit approval. Rates and terms subject to change without notice. Membership required. Equal Housing Lender. Federally insured by the NCUA. Privately insured by ESI. NMLS #412587



Local Springfield Team
Award Winning Results!



MATTOON SERVICE CENTER - 2022 AIA AWARD RECIPIENT

ENGINEERS | ARCHITECTS | SURVEYORS | SCIENTISTS
3201 West White Oaks Drive Suite 100D Springfield, IL 62707
217-528-3661 www.f-w.com

CEOs are working to improve workplaces for 2023

By Kelly Gust

I recently spoke to a group of 30 CEOs about how their workplaces are evolving to meet the demands of today's workforce. I also gathered feedback from clients of HR Full Circle and looked for significant workplace trends noted by sources such as the Society for Human Resource Management. According to these sources, the following are some of the hot topics for 2023:

Remote and flexible work

A top employee request and a prime strategy for attraction and retention continues to be workplace flexibility. Of course, many industries cannot offer full-time remote work, such as the health care CEOs I spoke with recently. However, remote and flexible work policies don't have to be all-or-nothing. Even a traditionally in-person job can consider an occasional remote shift, or catch-up day so employees can focus on administrative tasks, online training or special projects.

Flexibility can include work schedule adjustments, including self-scheduling and shift selection. Think longer days, but shorter weeks, when considering options such as four 10-hour days. Once you open your eyes to new ideas, there are often plenty of opportunities for flexibility. To improve retention, the CEOs I spoke with reported asking employees what they would find beneficial and then making efforts to implement those suggestions.

Expanded leave options

While many organizations are required to offer time off for reasons such as pregnancy, disability, military leave or a reason that would be covered under FMLA, some are expanding leave beyond what is compulsory.

The additional leave does not have to be

unlimited; the majority of CEOs I spoke with capped the expanded options at one to two weeks annually and leveraged a mix of both paid and unpaid time off, depending on budgets and the importance of this option to employees.

Mental health support

Mental health benefits, such as access to counseling or therapy services, continue to increase in demand. Such benefits are sometimes included in a traditional health plan; however, many employers supplement with an Employee Assistance Plan. EAPs offer a wide range of services including access to therapists, addiction treatment and attorneys. These services are provided confidentially to the employee and at a low cost to the employer.

Brad Probst, a senior agent with Ware Group General Agencies, a firm that helps employers expand voluntary benefit programs, talked with me about mental health benefits. He said, "EAPs can get lost in the crowd of other benefits. Many employers have an EAP or similar benefit in place, but need to promote it to employees. Use monthly staff meetings, company newsletters or other internal events to share information about mental health benefits to employees. An EAP can literally save lives."

Brad said, "It's important for employees to consistently convey the message to team members that it is OK not to be OK, especially after these last few years. There are so many tools that can help."

Mandatory time off

There is a lot of attention on burnout, and managers are not immune. In fact, The Predictive Index 2021

State of Talent Optimization Report included feedback from more than 500 organizations and reported 32% of managers are burned out, the highest percentage of the groups surveyed. While one more requirement is the last thing a tired manager needs, consider whether a vacation of at least a week or more could help reduce burnout of key staff (managerial or otherwise).

It forces them to step away, to hopefully get refreshed and renewed. Furthermore, it strengthens the organization, because the leader must have sufficiently trained staff and delegated important tasks to be performed in the manager's absence. And finally, some clear-headed problem-solving tends to happen when people step away from their problems for an extended period.

Leadership development

Finally, there is renewed focus on leadership development. The pandemic limited organizations in their ability to offer professional development training. Organizations are now feeling the pain from that lack of training, especially among supervisors. Poorly trained supervisors contribute to poor hiring practices, poor onboarding, a lack of motivation, increased turnover and compliance problems. Training your supervisors and managers is the fastest and most effective way to improve organizational culture and solve costly engagement and retention problems.

With 2023 around the corner, the time is right to be reviewing, researching and analyzing ways that your organization might continue to evolve. The best owners and CEOs continuously evaluate the market and make time for long-term planning. **SBJ**

MAYFLOWER.
217-546-1711 • 1-800-225-3597
Underfanger Moving & Storage

Tom & Karen Paisley,
Owner/Operators

Let Our
Expertise And
Experience
Help Plan The
BEST Move
For You

ICC No. MC-2934 ILL CC 2934-MC

CAPITAL MORTGAGE TEAM

Transform your house into your dream home
with one of our renovation loans programs.

capitalmortgage.com
217-820-4700
Flat Branch | NMLS: 224149 | EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Illinois Residential Mortgage Lender License (MR) License Number: MR.6850054
For more licensing information, go to: nmlsconsumeraccess.org | A Division of Flat Branch Mortgage, Inc.

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

Phone Systems
Security Systems
Structured Cabling
Managed Services
Hosted Solutions
Commercial WiFi
SIP Trunks

NEC
VIVOTEK
ADTRAN

AmeriCALL
COMMUNICATIONS

217-522-2255 • www.AmeriCALLinc.com
447 North Walnut Street • Springfield, IL 62702

Friendly, Trusted Partners
Committed to the success of your business.

We're with you!

MARINE BANK
726.0660 • ibankmarine.com

MEMBER
FDIC

Morgan Stanley



(L to R): **Larry Hardy** - Vice President, Financial Advisor, **Michael Witsman** - Financial Advisor, **Nancy Klay** - Senior Registered Associate, **Kip Leverton** - Associate Vice President, Financial Advisor, **Chad Golembeck** - Vice President, Financial Advisor

Experience, intellectual capital and dedicated personal service to help you meet your life goals.

The Mid-Illinois Group at Morgan Stanley

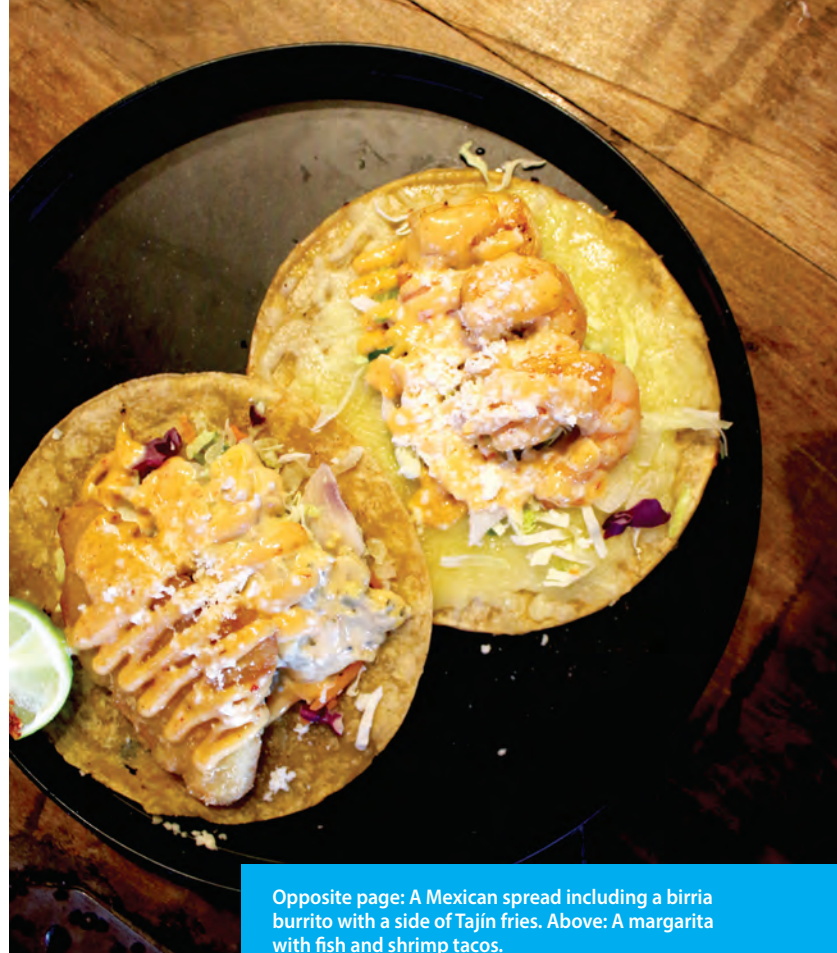
3201 West White Oaks Drive Suite 201 | Springfield, IL 62704 | 217-547-2900 | <https://advisor.morganstanley.com/mid-illinois-group>
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC. CRC4953867 9/22



Casa Real

CANTINA & GRILL





Opposite page: A Mexican spread including a birria burrito with a side of Tajin fries. Above: A margarita with fish and shrimp tacos.

I'm a big fan of fried chicken, so I had some mixed emotions when I heard that Raising Cane's was taking over the former Casa Real location on Wabash Avenue. Sure, Springfield has quite a few Mexican restaurants, but I've always been partial to Casa Real. Thankfully, Casa Real is open once again at 1121 Lincolnshire Blvd. at Legacy Pointe in the former Quaker Steak and Lube location.

Casa Real's new location is quite a downsize from its former space, which is not a bad thing. It's evident that the owners did quite a bit of work on the space as little décor is left over from its previous occupant. We were particularly impressed with the private bar area, complete with garage doors that open to the parking lot – perfect for private parties.

We arrived around 11:30 a.m., and by the time we left the restaurant was mostly full. Naturally, our server quickly arrived with chips and salsa. We all concluded that the salsa was different from that previously served by Casa Real, maybe the tomatoes were roasted, and it was thick enough that it didn't drip off of the chips. The same couldn't be said for the queso (\$7.25). It tasted fine, but it needed to be thicker. Be careful if you ask for the hot salsa. It was tomatillo-based and kicked like a mule.

We also tried the guacamole (\$10.49), which is served tableside from an impressive cart laden with avocados, limes and all the various

fixings. This dish, served in a lava rock container, was a pure delight. Paired with Casa Real's homemade tortilla chips, it didn't last long.

But our best starter was the elote corn dip (corn, lime, chile and queso fresco, \$7.99). My guests were particularly enamored with it. I found the slight sweet note to be a nice surprise, while the acid from the lime cut the fattiness from the dairy.

In keeping with its reduced footprint, Casa Real also trimmed its menu. Although there is a separate lunch menu, we decided to order off the main menu. There's plenty on it to keep just about anyone happy, although I wish they offered some of the more esoteric dishes like lengua.

As entrees, we opted for the dinner portion of carne asada (skirt steak with sautéed onions, pico de gallo, guac and rice or beans), the birria tacos (braised short rib, cheese, rice, beans, pickled red onion, consome and fries - \$16.99) and the taco salad (with chicken, \$12.99).

Thankfully, unlike so many other local restaurants, our entrees came out at the same time and were all piping hot. Birria is a broth made from braising liquid seasoned with dried chiles, cilantro and other spices I couldn't quite identify. Generally served as stew or soup, this version was more like a French dip, with the birria acting as the au jus. It was an incredibly flavorful dish. The fries, which were nicely

seasoned, almost seemed superfluous but tasted great when dunked in the birria.

The carne asada consisted of a very generous helping of skirt steak with a wonderful char on the outside, served on top of grilled onions. The accompanying guacamole suffered in comparison to the tableside version, but the beans and rice were a step above Casa Real's competitors. Frankly, it was too much for lunch.

The taco salad was reported as better than average. Just like it's hard to screw up a salad, it's likewise difficult to elevate one, which makes me wonder why my guest even opted for it in the first place.

Service was excellent, with one of my companions commenting that our server was the best he had experienced in quite some time.

Casa Real has certainly elevated the Mexican food game in Springfield. If you don't mind running the risk of spilling some salsa on your shirt, it should be on your list for client lunches or for a place to get good and flavorful food in a nice atmosphere. Job well done, Casa Real.

Address: 1121 Lincolnshire Blvd., Springfield

Phone: 217-303-5323

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.,

Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 1 a.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Website: <http://www.mycasareal.com>

New businesses

Sangamon County new business registrations, Nov. 16 - Dec. 15, 2022

Big Mac Performance, 1063 Circle Drive, Chatham. 319-850-7296. Andrew Draven McGhghy.

Elegant Extensions, 2208 E. Cedar St. 652-4918. Mariah Guest.

Power Pilates, 1 Cottonwood Drive, Chatham. 341-1991. Carolyn Schreyer.

Comfort Control Heating and Cooling, 11060 Sulphur Springs Road, Loami. 652-9245. Valerie Jolene Kessler.

Billy Sunday 1909 Celebration, P. O. Box 4845. 341-9782. Ministerial Alliance of Springfield.

InHomeTechs, 2001 Carrington Court. 494-0279. Kerry Ford.

Ultra Body Weight Loss, 420 Crossing Drive, Suite 3, Sherman. 494-4443. John Folkerts.

Midwest Event Rentals, 2911 Stanton St. 303-2345. Nathan Ryan Highley.

Smith Family Management, 9100 Johns Creek Road, Loami. 341-5307. Chelsea Smith.

Alexander Custom Improvements, 3500 N. Dirksen Parkway, Lot 109. 412-5645. Ryan Alexander.

Fair Price Retail Sales, 3053 E. Carpenter St. 685-1745. Rocky J. Browder.

Keeping It Clean, 800 S. Durkin Drive, Apt. 449. 816-6478. Paula M. English.

The Queen of Clean, 2017 Stockton Drive. 717-7185. Natalie Werts.

Subie City, 3211 Vigal Road. George Alan Argo, Cooper Alan Argo.

All-N-1 Tax Service, 2830 S. Glenwood Ave. 606-9579. Leslie Ingram.

Gentle Threads, 207 W. Jefferson St., Auburn. 565-3123. Anna Gentle.

Provision Arms and Ammo, 2321 Shabbona Drive. 891-2310. Larry L. Beck Jr.

Rightbyu Property Management, 2801 Wellington Drive. 414-0916. JR Hinchey.

Rose Remodeling and More, 6583 Wesley Chapel Road, Chatham. 816-1997. Justin K. Rose.

Food and Drink | For advertising information call 217-726-6600



TAQUERIA EL POLLO

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

MARGARITA SPECIAL!
753-9083 • 635 W. Jefferson, Spfld
(At the Former Mr. Egg Roll)



\$1.99

**ANY FLAVOR,
ANY TIME!***

*Must present this ad to redeem special margarita pricing. Indoors ONLY.



Antonio's PIZZA
ANYTHING GOES AT ANTONIO'S

antonios-pizza.com

**PICK UP & DELIVERY
AVAILABLE AT ANY OF
OUR 5 LOCATIONS**

1013 Wabash Ave - 217-787-5544
2114 N. Grand E. - 217-523-5544
3219 Lake Plaza Dr. - 217-529-3600
1233 Toronto Road - 217-585-0323
2701 W. Lawrence - 217-787-3355



D'ARCY'S PINT

**Voted
Best
Horseshoe!**

Locally Owned

Pick up • Delivery
Indoor Dining

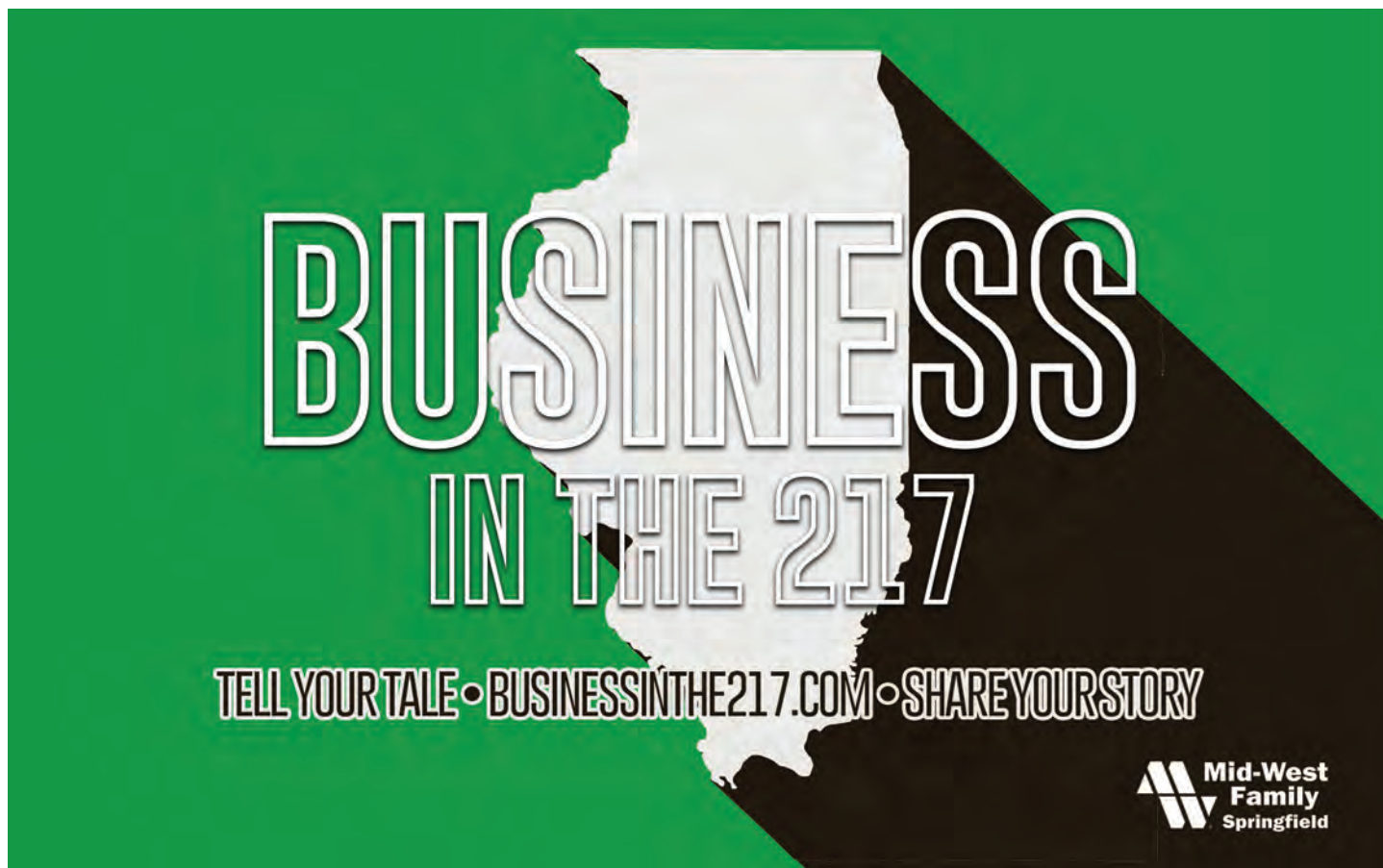
217-492-8800
661 W. Stanford • Spfld

Sunday & Monday Closed • Tuesday-Saturday: Kitchen is open 11am-9pm



Westwoods Lodge
FAMILY DINING
PUB AND GRILL
Home of the Tacklebox

217-698-9256 | 2406 West Jefferson St., Spfld | www.westwoodslodge.com



**BUSINESS
IN THE 217**

TELL YOUR TALE • BUSINESSINTHE217.COM • SHARE YOUR STORY

**Mid-West
Family
Springfield**

New businesses

Sangamon County new business registrations, Nov. 16 - Dec. 15, 2022

Harter Trucking, 317 Elm St., Buffalo. 652-1554. James Harter, Viola Harter.

Two Mops and a Bucket, 116 Eagle Ridge Dr., Chatham. 816-2485. Russell Lee Harden.

Jordyn Todd Photography, 4601 Ash Grove Drive, Apt. B2. 414-2782. Jordyn Todd.

SkinKar Mbh, 2070 W. Washington, Apt. 7. 361-1643. Celestine Medley.

Martinelli Family Enterprises, LLC, dba Marinelli Gamebirds and Livestock, 10000 Bell Fountain Road, Dawson. 364-7505. Gage Marinelli.

Midwest Power Wash & Painting, 3104 S. Park Ave. 473-7127. Martin Farmer.

Resonic Systems, 725 Hackberry Drive., Chatham. 638-0639. Justin Barney.

WOMAN'S EVENT CALENDAR

Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL) empowers all women, promotes professionalism and develops leadership abilities through purposeful inclusion, education, mentoring, networking and community involvement. If you'd like join over 200 professional female leaders serving Springfield and the surrounding area, visit one of the monthly luncheons or events to find out more.

IWIL will meet on Thursday, Jan. 26, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Illini Country Club. Registration is \$22 for members and guests through Jan. 20 and \$27 after that date. Walk-ins are welcome. Visit iwil.biz to register in advance or learn more about upcoming programs.

Sponsored by



SPRINGFIELD Business JOURNAL

Show your clients you support local business

SUBSCRIBE TO SBJ TODAY!

12 MONTHS FOR ONLY \$35

Print Copy • Digital Edition • Book of Lists



SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT:

springfieldbusinessjournal.com/subscribe



E.L. Pruitt Co.

E.L. Pruitt Co. is a leading provider of HVAC systems, plumbing and piping for commercial, industrial, institutional and service/maintenance clients.

Mechanical Contractors

Serving This Area With Pride for 50+ Years



BOS Center (Springfield)



Dana Thomas House (Springfield)



Illinois National Bank (Springfield)



Blessing Hospital (Quincy)



Sangamon County Complex (Springfield)



Johns Hill Magnet School (Decatur)



Springfield Memorial Hospital



YMCA (Springfield)



St. John's Hospital (Springfield)



LLCC (Springfield)



Medics First (Springfield)



West Side Christian (Springfield)



Fairview Elementary (Springfield)



UIS (Springfield)



Taylorville Memorial Hospital (Taylorville)



Millikin University (Decatur)



Springfield Clinic (Springfield)



Jacksonville Memorial Hospital

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • INSTITUTIONAL

Phone: (217) 789-0966 Fax: (217) 789-2694
3090 Colt Road PO Box 3306 Springfield, IL 62708

Phone: (217) 422-9590 Fax: (217) 422-9565
121 South Webster Decatur, IL 62563

www.elpruitt.com

E.L. Pruitt Co. is a design firm specializing in Design-Build and negotiated projects, including sealed drawings.

IL Plumbing License #058-147422

Marketplace | For advertising information call 217-726-6600



DESIGNER LANDSCAPES
Putting the great in the great outdoors.

4110 Morrisonville Avenue
Farmersville, IL
217.227.3256
designer-landscapes.com

Complete Landscape & Lawn Care Provider

- Landscape Design & Installation
- Patios & Walkways
- Retaining Walls
- Water Features
- Concrete Edging
- And More!

217.529.9700
SolutionPrint.com

3135 South 14th St.
Springfield, IL

Solution PRINTING

We are the Solution to All Your Printing Needs



Ron Furman & Sons PAVING

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

Parking Lots • Driveways • Seal Coating
Oil & Chip • Concrete • Recycled Asphalt

217-528-9407

3600 North Dirksen Pkwy • Springfield, IL • ronfurmanspaving@hotmail.com



Chad Mitchell Photography

\$50 Headshot Special



Call To Book Today
217.872.6856

NAI Central Illinois
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES, WORLDWIDE

John Lovelass
Managing Broker

O 309 454 4100
C 309 350 9326

2309 E Empire Street Ste. 600
Bloomington, Illinois 61704

See Website for Regional Listings: naicentrallinois.com



BENJAMIN F. EDWARDS & CO.
INVESTMENTS for GENERATIONS

David L. Brumme
Financial Advisor
Vice President - Investments

3038 Spring Mill
Springfield, IL 62704
Phone 217-441-8490
Toll Free 833-441-8490
Fax 217-441-8491

Member SIPC

david.brumme@benjaminfedwards.com



It's a Wrap
GIFTS & PROMOTIONS

Create connections,
show appreciation and
send thanks with
corporate gifts and
branded promotions!

Lisa GoldbergBelle
wrapthis.com • 217.698.9727

Morgan Stanley



Michael Witsman CFP®, ChFC®
Portfolio Manager
Financial Advisor
3201 White Oaks Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
217 547-2911
Michael.Witsman@morganstanley.com
NMLS# 1828659

© 2022 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC,
Member SIPC. CRC 3938502 01/22

ILLINOIS PAVING

ASPHALT AND PAVING EXPERTS

DRIVEWAY PROBLEMS?


CALL COUSIN BILL! 217-710-2860

WWW.ILPAVING.COM | 1337 WABASH AVE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704

BEDROCK MATERIALS

YOUR LANDSCAPING HEADQUARTERS!

217 . 525. 3466(DINO)
3600 N. DIRKSEN PARKWAY
BEDROCKMATERIALSINC.COM



Home of the Mammoth Scoop
Equals one cubic yard!

217.529.9700
SolutionPrint.com

3135 South 14th St.
Springfield, IL

Solution PRINTING



Mesh Banners
Window & Wall Decals
Real Estate Signage

ANY SIZE • ANY DESIGN • FAST!

*We are the **Solution**
to All Your
Printing Needs*



You May Qualify for an **Employee Retention Credit,** Even if You Claimed PPP!

UCB has already
helped employers
get back over
\$2.4 million

This could mean a tax credit of
\$26,000 per eligible employee!

Visit with us today to learn more
and see if you qualify.



UNITED COMMUNITY BANK
The Leader of Community Banking

UCBbank.com/ERC | 217-787-3000

Member
FDIC

