

Street project eased by good community relations

When Holland Charter Township wanted to widen 6,200 feet of Riley Street – one of the fastest growing areas in Ottawa County – Prein&Newhof knew its biggest challenge would be accommodating the thousands of people who use Riley Street every day.

“Riley is one of Ottawa County’s main east-west thoroughfares,” said P&N Project Manager Jeff Bergstrom, P.E. “Everyone needed the project, but they also needed to get between home and work, and businesses needed to stay open. We worked hard to be respectful of that.”

As the township has grown in recent years, Riley Street has become increasingly congested during rush hour. Three businesses in an industrial park along Riley – Great Lakes Woods, Request Foods, and Sordel – have also been planning to expand and add employees, further increasing the traffic on Riley Street.

To encourage that expansion and to enhance traffic flow along all of Riley Street, Holland Charter Township decided to improve Riley between US 31 to the east and 136th Street to the west, widening it from two lanes to five and adding a turn signal at 128th Avenue.

And because the project would bring new jobs, Holland Charter Township received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the Ottawa County Economic Development Corporation to partially fund the project. The remainder of the funding came from the MDOT Economic Development Fund and from the township.

Keeping Residents Informed

Many residents and businesses along Riley Street were concerned that the construction would harm their property or make it less accessible. So throughout the project, the P&N team made a consistent effort to keep them informed of the project’s progress and requirements.

“Some people were worried,” said Township Superintendent Bill Driesenga, “but we had a first class team that did their best to communicate with everyone. Riley was one of the smoothest projects we’ve ever done.”

Early in the project, residents and businesses along Riley Street were sent a preliminary time frame and a letter providing the names and telephone numbers of the P&N team members. Later, they received a summary of the project

and a detailed schedule describing how and when the project would affect their property.

P&N also established bi-weekly progress meetings, held at a local fire station, to give residents another opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns. These meetings were attended by representatives from Holland Charter Township and the Ottawa County Road Commission, by contracting firm Kammaing & Roodvoets, and by engineers and construction observers from Prein&Newhof.

“If we heard that a resident had concerns, we would approach them,” said P&N Field Manager Ken Thompson. “We always tried to address their concerns as quickly as possible.”



Using CDBG funds, Holland Charter Township expanded Riley Street to five lanes and improved its stormwater system.

Keeping Residents Safe

Throughout construction, the P&N team made sure all of the properties along Riley Street were accessible.

During some phases of the project, however, traffic between 136th and US 31 was rerouted 2 miles north to Quincy Street. Unfortunately, many drivers thought that was too far out of their way.

“It took a while to convince the general public that they couldn’t use Riley as a through-road during construction,” said P&N’s Bergstrom. “You may have open holes and a rough road, but people just want to get where they’re going. Some even drove on residents’ lawns to get around areas the contractor had closed off.”

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Employee Achievement



This winter, the State of Michigan licensed **Nicole L. Dyer** as a Professional Engineer (P.E.). Nicole holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Calvin College. She joined P&N in 2000, and is

currently working from the firm's Grand Rapids Office as a Project Engineer. Nicole has worked on water distribution system, wastewater collection system, and stormwater management projects.

New Employees



Nyssa Morris has joined Prein&Newhof as the firm's Information Management Coordinator. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Grand Valley State University.



Jonathan R. Reimink, E.I.T., has joined the Grand Rapids Civil Engineering Department. Jon graduated from Calvin College in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a past

recipient of the *Robert J. Reimink/Prein&Newhof* Scholarship. He began working for P&N as an intern in 1998.



Jeffrey Smith has joined Prein&Newhof as a Civil Technician in the firm's Grand Rapids and Holland Offices. He holds an Associates Degree in CADD from ITT Technical Institute, and comes to P&N with

computer-generated drafting experience.

Congratulations

Prein&Newhof congratulates **Robert E. Snell, P.E., P.S.**, of the firm's Kalamazoo Office on his 80th birthday! Bob has been working as an engineer in Kalamazoo since 1947. He has also served as the Kalamazoo County Surveyor, an elected position, for 42 years.

Service Milestones

Prein&Newhof extends its appreciation for the years of service each of the following employees have provided to the company.

Congratulations on your milestone anniversaries!

- **Deborah L. Johnson**, Administrative Assistant, celebrates 25 years.
- **Richard K. Garter**, CADD Technician, achieves 20 years.
- **Kris E. Fisher**, Field Technician; and **James E. Kirkwood, P.E.**, Project Manager; both reach 15 years.
- **Mark E. Adas, P.E.**, Project Engineer; **Roderick E. Korhorn, P.E.**, Project Manager; **Mark R. Prein, P.E.**, Project Manager; **John A. Stroo, P.E.**, Project Manager; and **Tyrone A. Van Den Berg**, CADD Technician; all achieve 10 years.
- **Jonathan P. Anderson**, Laboratory Technician; **Heather A. Crockford, E.I.T.**, Project Engineer; **Pamela K. Miller**, Administrative Assistant; and **Thomas A. Smith, P.E.**, Project Manager, all reach 5 years.

Prein&Newhof Online

Previous issues of *In View* are now available online at www.preinnewhof.com.

Honors & Awards

Prein&Newhof congratulates the City of South Haven and the entire P&N project team of the **Covert Lake Michigan Intake & Pump Station** project, which recently received two distinguished awards.

- The Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan (ACEC/M) awarded the project an *Honorable Conceptor Award for Engineering & Surveying Excellence*.
- The Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association awarded the project its *Project of the Year Award* for 2005 in the "Environmental over \$10 Million" category.

Prein&Newhof would like to thank and congratulate numerous employees from throughout the firm for their hard work on this complicated project, particularly Principal-in-Charge **Thomas Newhof, P.E.**, and Project Manager **Mark V. Lee, P.E.**

The Covert Lake Michigan Intake & Pump Station project was featured in the Spring 2004 issue of *In View*.

Funding helps Michigan's communities grow

Each year the State of Michigan receives about \$40 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority uses approximately 25 percent of this CDBG money to finance housing-related activities that assist low and moderate income persons. The remaining 75 percent of CDBG funds are administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

Last fall, Governor Granholm created two new programs under her "Grow Michigan Communities" initiative as a way to leverage MEDC-administered CDBG allocations to support her goal of improving the state's economy.

These two programs, Michigan Public Works and Michigan's Downtowns and Gateways, rely on CDBG funding "to help communities meet the costs of continuous improvement," said MEDC President and CEO Don Jakeway. "This new initiative will help make downtowns more attractive for business growth and job creation."

The Michigan Public Works program benefits communities where 51 percent or more of the population is composed of low and moderate income residents. It includes projects that upgrade existing public infrastructure systems by replacing or adding capacity to these systems.

Michigan's Downtowns and Gateways funding is designated for private projects that will lead to job creation and private investment in traditional,

downtown commercial centers or major arteries leading into downtowns. Successful projects will secure at least a 10 percent local match, a 2:1 ratio of private to public investment, and the project will be located within a designated Downtown Development Authority.

Grants & Loans Guide

Prein&Newhof has just updated and republished its free financing reference guide for Michigan communities.

The guide, titled **Grants & Loans 2005**, includes new funding programs, current contact information for each grant or loan program, and an extensive list of print and online resources.

To request a copy, contact Jim Hegarty, P.E., at (616) 364-8491 or jhegarty@preinnewhof.com.

Prein&Newhof has extensive experience working with communities to identify their infrastructure needs and to secure funding for their projects.

P&N has helped its clients secure CDBGs for water and wastewater system improvements, industrial park developments, roadway enhancements, dam removal studies, sidewalk additions, and dump closure projects.

If you would like more information about how Michigan's CDBG program could benefit your community, contact Jim Hegarty, P.E., at (616) 364-8491 or jhegarty@preinnewhof.com.

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To keep workers and Riley Street residents safe, the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department was brought in to encourage residents to use the detour two miles north on Quincy Street.

Protecting & Improving Riley

Riley Street is now serving Holland Charter Township and its citizens better than ever.

In fact, the Midwest Michigan Branch of the American Public Works Association recently named Riley Street its Project of the Year in the "transportation projects under \$2 million" category.

"Everyone is very pleased with the finished project," said Driesenga. "It has alleviated traffic congestion and made Riley much safer."

Riley Street even looks the same. Changes to lawns and driveways were necessary on both sides of the street, but the P&N team worked hard

to make the changes invisible, regrading lawns and even repaving driveways.

"We wanted to keep smooth transitions between driveways and the street," said Bergstrom, "and we wanted everyone to have a nice, mowable lawn."

One of the most important enhancements to Riley Street is much less visible. To improve stormwater drainage in the area, the ditches along Riley Street were replaced with an enclosed sewer system.

The new system, designed by P&N, routes water to existing county drains, increasing the control of stormwater treatment. Because Riley Street passes through a flood plain, P&N performed a hydraulic analysis on the area. As a result, a county drain was moved, and two box culverts were extended.

With the help of the CDBG program, residents of Holland Charter Township now have a wider road with better traffic flow, an improved stormwater system, and the opportunity for business growth.





Riverwalk adds beauty to Big Rapids with grant funds

After successfully removing a hazardous, deteriorated dam from the Muskegon River in 2001, Big Rapids officials launched an ambitious campaign give its citizens access to the river's natural beauty.

That dream has been realized through the Riverwalk, a two-mile trail winding along and across the Muskegon River, through woods, parks, and meadows, connecting downtown Big Rapids to the south with Northend Riverside Park to the north.



To help all of Big Rapids' residents enjoy the river, the Riverwalk includes four handicap-accessible fishing platforms, two pedestrian bridges spanning the river, a

pedestrian bridge across Mitchell Creek, and a number of resting areas—including one that recognizes the contributions of local donors.

This recognition acknowledges that Big Rapids was able to fund nearly the entire \$1 million Riverwalk project through grants and donations. Over \$250,000 was raised by "Access for All," a private citizen-led group promoting handicap access to the Muskegon River. The remainder of the funding came through a \$450,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and a \$200,000 grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust.

Prein&Newhof, having engineered the dam removal, was also chosen as the civil and structural engineering firm for the Riverwalk.

The P&N team completed bridge and foundation design, hydraulic modeling, and permit acquisition for the bridges, fishing platforms, resting areas, and retaining walls.

Landscape architecture design was completed by Cornelisse Design Associates, who also managed the Riverwalk project during construction.

Phase I of the Riverwalk was completed in 2002. Phase II is currently under construction. It will be completed in the fall of 2005, and will add nearly a mile of trail to the Riverwalk.

The project received a Quality of Life Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers, Michigan Section. It was also named Project of the Year (Structural Category) by the American Public Works Association, Michigan Chapter.

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