New Younkers Store Nears Completion

Michael Price – Branch Manager, Des Moines

The Younkers project in Muskegon, Michigan consists of the construction of a new 106,000 square foot retail anchor store for Saks Incorporated. Younkers will be one of several anchor retailers of the new 106,000 square foot retail anchor store for Saks Incorporated. Younkers will be one of several anchor retailers of the new “Mall of the Lakes” in Muskegon. The renovated facility will include classrooms, administrative offices, gym facilities and conference areas. The electrical portion of the renovation includes new power distribution, new lighting, new branch circuit wiring for lighting and power, new fire alarm system, new telephone and data cabling and equipment and new mechanical systems. The general contractor on the project is Neumann Brothers Construction Company. This is a nice project for the Des Moines location and we are happy to be involved with a project that will mean so much to the at risk kids of the Des Moines area.

Bob Scheer is the Project General Foreman and Stacy Markel is the project Foreman learning the ins and outs of Saks retail construction. We have partnered with The ME Group to provide our drafting services and engineering supervision. We have teamed with a local NECA contractor for our labor force. These types of out of town projects present a unique set of problems but Bob and Stacy are doing a great job. The project looks to be done on schedule and within budget.

The Des Moines location does not have a line crew due to the retirement and red tagging of our 1964 2-year period of not having a boom truck of any kind, allowed us to perform. Our Service manager, Michael Duffy, is heading up the implementation of the new truck under Aerial Services. This truck is offering the services this truck generating new customers by Aerial Services job number have done an outstanding job of implementing this truck and making the first year of Aerial Services a profitable one. We are looking forward to expanding our customer base in 2001 and continuing to service our existing customers with this new addition to our fleet.

The point I am trying to make is that Commonwealth Electric is people – not trucks, not locations, not buildings but people working as a team, doing the best and most ethical work that they can achieve. I am very proud to be part of a company such as ours. Throughout our newsletter are articles about our people, the things that they do outside of work to “give back” to our children and our neighborhoods. This is what makes us strong and makes us a great company–the work ethic, the team concept and the caring.

God Bless You!

Tom Price, President
The Commonwealth Quarterly

Coaching Kids is Challenging, Rewarding

Matt Briggs - Electrician

I am an electrician at Commonwealth Electric. With some of my spare time, I coach a 12 and under roller hockey team for the Lincoln Thunder Roller Hockey (which is similar to ice hockey except with a few less pads and a few less rules).

Thunder is one of three roller hockey clubs in Lincoln. We are currently holding our practices at the Abbott Sports Complex indoor facility and host three tournaments each year.

Our season begins the first week in January and can run through July if we qualify for a national tournament. Last season, we took a team to the Nationals in Rockford, Illinois and placed fourth among an extremely tough field.

This year I am coaching a very talented group of kids and we are currently in the middle of our season. We travel to tournaments about every other weekend and include places like Des Moines, Kansas City, Omaha, and Hastings. We are enjoying coaching experience and found that while I’m not so good at playing the sport myself, I seemed to have a knack for coaching and really enjoy it. It has become a very rewarding part of my life and I think I learn as much as the kids. I didn’t grow up with the sport so it has been a real challenge to try to learn and teach at the same time.

Oversight

I was introduced to roller hockey five years ago when my son, who was seven at the time, first played the sport for Paul Hoegemeyer who was a Thunder coach. Last year, I took on a reserve team as my coaching experience. It has become a very rewarding part of my life and I think I learn as much as the kids. I didn’t grow up with the sport so it has been a real challenge to try to learn and teach at the same time.

Power Cell Installation Goes Smoothly

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In reviewing the project, Demmel emphasized the critical need for coordination among HDR Engineering, the primary consulting firm; Sure Power, the provider of the entire power system; ONSI, the manufacturer of the fuel cell; Commonwealth Electric, the installer; and First National Bank of Omaha, the customer.

Demmel observed that there is big potential for critical power with high availability, especially for data centers. Contractors, he said, need to be aware of the necessity for these requirements. For actual installation, contractors should review the process well ahead of time. Space was at a premium with the FNBO installation, so most of the conduit and wire layout had to be done in the concrete slab. This took foresight and planning.

OSHA Class Teaches Safe Work Habits

Ruben Bera - Safety Director

One of the most important parts of an effective safety and health program is management support. It can be difficult for safety directors, project managers and field employees to focus on safety matters if they feel they don’t get the support they need and deserve.

As many of you know, OSHA has a program called the OSHA 10 Hour Safety and Health class. This class is designed to give our employees a good overall view of the OSHA safety requirements. This class covers many of the daily obstacles we face and offers guidelines that will help reduce exposure to unnecessary accidents and OSHA fines.

On Saturday, April 7th, I conducted an OSHA class for the Omaha and Lincoln project managers and branch managers. Also in attendance was Dave Firestone, Vice President. The topics covered were the same that you were taught. Having these managers in the class certainly sends a message that management is supportive of all of your safety efforts. I feel that the class will help managers better understand what is expected of you and also make them aware of the potential exposures you face day in and day out.

Many times a project manager will come to your site and not fully understand why we do the things we do. They now know why we test the wires, wear protective clothing, wear fall protection, why we purchase the best safety equipment available and why it is so important that safety rules are followed.

I heard many positive comments and I believe this is another big step towards making our company the best there is. Not only do we provide quality service, we also provide well-trained and safe workers, and this includes upper management.

The next time you see your project manager, ask them about your safety. You’ll be surprised on the new support you’ll receive and how much better they understand your work environment.

Safety is everyone’s responsibility. We must all stay informed and work safe.

Anniversaries

Richard Kirk 13 yrs. 4/25/88
Gregory Derks 12 yrs. 5/15/89
Ricky Mass 12 yrs. 6/26/89
John Pieloch 11 yrs. 6/18/90
David Robel 9 yrs. 4/27/92
Benjamin Burns 9 yrs. 5/4/92
Cassandra Vachal 9 yrs. 5/18/92
Ronald Savicky 8 yrs. 6/22/93
Clayton Anderson 8 yrs. 6/24/93
Larry Lahman 7 yrs. 4/4/94
Gary Prevette 7 yrs. 6/1/94
Douglas Standage 7 yrs. 6/6/94
Dale Hoywart 7 yrs. 6/20/94
Juan Lopez 6 yrs. 5/28/95
Matthew Firestone 5 yrs. 5/13/96
Sean Tooker 5 yrs. 5/13/96
Richard Garcia 5 yrs. 5/23/96
Gerald Vanairogen 4 yrs. 8/12/97
Joshua Phipps 3 yrs. 4/16/98
Paul Behrends 3 yrs. 4/15/98
Spencer Sanborn 2 yrs. 6/2/99
Alvin Duba 2 yrs. 6/2/99
Melvin Saalfeld 2 yrs. 6/9/99
Pat Klausen 1 yr. 11/1/99
John Carstens 1 yr. 4/21/99
Nicole Schmid 1 yr. 6/30/99
Spencer Sanborn 1 yr. 7/1/99
Chad Behrends 1 yr. 5/22/99
Joshua Phipps 1 yr. 5/22/99
JoAnn Asch 1 yr. 4/16/90
Richard Garcia 1 yr. 5/4/92
David maurice Scobie 1 yr. 11/1/99
Sean Knego 1 yr. 6/25/99
Kevin Kula 1 yr. 6/25/99

Birthdays

April
David Firestone 4/2
Spencer Sanborn 4/3
Cassandra Vachal 4/6
Douglas Standage 4/8
Melvin Saalfeld 4/14
Roger Othling 4/15
Clayton Anderson 4/20
Dallas Hall 4/25
Louis Havlat 4/30

May
Jon Carstens 5/2
David Maurice Scobie 5/2
Robert Dean Carpenter 5/4
Thomas Price 5/5
Matthew Briggs 5/6
Robert Maise 5/7
Justin Stone 5/15
Steven Layton 5/16
Andrew Ingwersen 5/19
Alan Pendleton 5/24
Scott Virus 5/29

June
William Thilien 6/8
Daniel Limbeck 6/9
Russell Adams 6/11
Michael Vollersten 6/23
Todd Havlat 6/25
Jason Olman 6/25
Brian Cheaney 6/25
Sean Knego 6/28
Kevin Kula 6/28

July
Jeremy Carbonneau 7/1 yr. 6/30/00
Nicole Schmid 1 yr. 6/22/00
Jon Carstens 1 yr. 6/1/00
Pat Klausen 1 yr. 4/24/00
Melvin Saalfeld 2 yrs. 6/28/99
Alvin Duba 2 yrs. 6/2/99
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Ruben Bera - Safety Director

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Aerial Services Now Available in Des Moines

Michael Price - Branch Manager, Des Moines

In the spring of 2000, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest in Des Moines, Iowa committed to the investment of a new Aerial Lift Truck. The truck was added to our fleet after a 2-year period of not having a boom truck of any kind, due to the retirement and red tagging of our 1964 Elliot mounted on its 1962 Chevy chassis. During this period, we had to turn away a lot of service work and rent equipment on a job-to-job basis to meet our customers needs. We had received a lot of requests for parking lot maintenance, new pole installation, and holiday lighting, so we knew the demand was there. After a long analysis of the numbers, the company made the commitment to purchase the truck.

The Des Moines location does not have a line crew and we hope that this truck and the work it generates will eventually bring us into that market.