

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

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Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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Safety Department Update

Ruben Bera – Safety and Claims Manager

With all that has been happening with COVID-19, the disruptions, the testing, the changes and quarantines, we in the Safety Department have been staying busy with changes as well. In addition to keeping our hands on the pulse of Commonwealth Safety, we have made some changes and improvements to your Safety Department.

We recently added another safety manager to our department, Nick Hansen. With the addition of Nick, we needed more space. We recently completed an upgrade to our office. The new remodel allows us more working space, individual offices and upgrades to help us operate more efficiently. The remodel was not only needed, but greatly appreciated.

Todd Longenecker has assumed the responsibilities of managing the safety department. He is learning the ins and outs of running the department and gaining a good understanding of what it takes to keep everyone informed, educated and safe. He also has been assisting in other parts of the company. He and I are part of our COVID response team.

Ann Curtis continues to be a vital part of the department. She is constantly busy with not only her responsibilities, but also trying to keep track of the three of us. The work she does behind the scenes is unmeasurable.

I have transitioned to a new role and to a part time employee. I'm assisting Todd as he grows into his role and share my experiences with both Todd and Nick. My transition began in May of this year. Turning over the keys to the Safety Department was bittersweet. I can't begin to tell all my stories, experiences, and ever lasting friendships I've developed. I can recall my first day on the job and the challenges ahead. We've come a long way. With the help of everyone, we were able to grow and develop our safety program to one of the most successful ones in the industry. It was all possible because of the commitment management made to become not only a leader in the electrical industry, but also a leader in electrical safety. It was all our employees who joined in to make us who we are today. I often referred to my job as being the bus driver. One by one the bus got fuller with all of you joining our efforts to keep everyone safe. The time has come to change the driver of the bus, but make no mistake about this, the route has not changed.

Commonwealth Electric will continue to grow and be successful. Our safety will always be the top priority. Our employees are our number one asset.

As I step aside and begin my next chapter, the memories of this great company will always be with me. Remember, at Commonwealth Electric, our safety -



Ruben Bera – Safety and Claims Manager



We sell it, Promote it, and We are Proud of it.

Graceland's College

Kevin McCarty - Project Manager

The Newcome Student Center on Graceland College's campus in Lamoni, Iowa recently underwent a complete remodel. The goal of the remodel was to make the Student Center more inviting with modern amenities that students would enjoy. This consisted of a game room with large televisions, pool tables, and lounge areas. After this area was complete, they thought they wanted to update a key piece, the music. They realized they needed an updated system and reached out to Commonwealth for design help.

Kevin McCarty, Low Voltage Systems Project Manager, has worked hard in developing and maintaining the relationship with Graceland College. After understanding the need and with COVID 19 creating cost cutting measures at colleges everywhere, having a solid design while staying within a budget was a primary concern. Kevin created an audio system design that was efficient, user friendly and met the requirements of the project. Jake Belcher, Low Voltage Technician, installed the Yamaha commercial grade amplifier, (8) Klipsch speakers and a 12-inch Klipsch subwoofer as the backbone of the system. All audio was mixed and balanced using a mixing board.



Student Center Portable A-V Console & Rack



Jake Belcher, Lead Installation Technician

A Graceland employee has informed Kevin that now school is back in session, the students are visiting the Student Center daily and have mentioned how nice it is to have the updated student center space as well as a sound system that they can easily access and use at their convenience. This designed system has further solidified the great partnership between Graceland College and Commonwealth Communications. So much so that the Commonwealth Low Voltage Systems design team was again asked to step-up and revamp the audio system for the College Great Room. This space had been used for large lectures, dances, and seminars. This space had been ignored and unused due to the inadequate audio system design and the years of neglect. When looking at providing a system for the space, if finances were not a concern, the "Easy Button" would have created a design to completely remove and replace the existing system. However, keeping true to the budget concerns of the college, Kevin created a design to enhance the existing system while reworking components in the space. Jake implemented the design and the result now allows for years of continued use of the Great Room once again. Excellent work from our Low Voltage System's team members, Kevin and Jake, in maintaining a happy customer!

Long-time Des Moines Foreman Celebrates Retirement

Ashley Huinker - Project/Safety Coordinator



Mike Van Der Hart, Foreman Electrician

After 18 years with Commonwealth Electric in Des Moines, Mike Van Der Hart, a long-time foreman electrician is celebrating his retirement. Mike started with Commonwealth in 2002 and has worked as an electrician on countless projects and jobsites over the years. Most recently, Mike was the on-site electrician at the Des Moines ADM Oil Refinery plant. He spent 4 years at ADM taking care of their day-to-day needs.

Mike plans to celebrate his retirement by taking an elk hunting trip in Colorado this fall. Aside from that, he plans to finish up numerous home projects, take it easy and enjoy his retirement.

Mike stated that "It's been great working with Commonwealth over the years. The best contractor I have ever worked for."

On behalf of the Des Moines branch, we would like to thank Mike for his years of service and dedication here at Commonwealth. Enjoy your retirement Mike, you've earned it!

UNK Otto Olsen Low Voltage Project

Brian Buskirk – Low Voltage Manager



Commonwealth Lincoln Low Voltage was awarded the UNK Otto Olsen project last year in Kearney, Nebraska. We have had a team on the road for the last six months doing whatever it takes to get this project completed on time so the students could start school. There have been many changes in the project due to COVID-19 but the on-site team overcame every obstacle that was thrown their way.



Eric Trost was the foreman on site and has done a great job organizing material shipments, doing safety paperwork and getting all the necessary PPE for everyday use including a steam tunnel fiber pull where the temperature is usual-

ly around 120 degrees. The last piece to this job's puzzle was completing a mini data center where we set twelve data cabinets and surrounded it with ladder tray for fiber and communication cables.

Thank you to the Commonwealth Low Voltage team who have been on the road and away from their families to assist the University of Nebraska on making this new building a work of art.

Creighton University – Phoenix, Arizona

Caleb Graham – Senior Project Manager

Creighton University is expanding in the Phoenix area! CECM Phoenix has recently secured the 183,000 sf (7) story medical school located in the popular Park Central area of downtown Phoenix.

CECM's contract is with newly revived customer Okland Construction Company and includes both the core, shell and tenant improvements. The contract value for the entire project is just over 6.6 million dollars.

This project is currently over 50% complete and right on schedule to finish early next year. The Project Manager is Caleb Graham (with help from PM Jon Imada). Project Estimator is Jeffery Campbell and the field team are headed by General Foreman Adam Jimenez.



Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D) Moves to New Headquarters & CECM Helps to Modernize Their Facility

Jon Folkers – Business Developer and Adam Brumbaugh, P.E.



Omaha, NE: Commonwealth Electric was awarded the MUD Headquarters renovation project. MCL Construction Company was the general contractor who chose CECM to manage this 2-phase project.

Metropolitan Utilities District was previously located at 1723 Harney Street and was recently acquired by Douglas County. The acquisition made it possible to move to their new headquarters, located at 7350 World Communications Drive in Omaha. The recent move to this 3-story/91,000 sq. ft. building with parking garage location will accommodate more than 300 employees, from administrative and professional functions of the company. The headquarters facility is an open-concept facility with collaborative space allowing for a better work environment for current and future staff, with the opportunity for expansion of District staff and service.

The headquarters renovation consisted of a 2-phase project because the first floor was occupied by MUD personnel. Phase I was started on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Upon completion of phase I, all M.U.D. personnel moved to the 2nd and 3rd floor, while renovation work continued onto the 1st floor. Phase I started in April 2020 and is close to completion. We are approaching phase II of the project with an estimated completion date scheduled for late November 2020.



The project consisted of a complete remodel of the interior and added a new electrical distribution system at their headquarters facility in north Omaha. The headquarters facility is receiving a new tele-communication, audio-video, and security upgrades.

The newly renovated headquarters is also receiving a newer and more modern upgrade to their 2003 lighting system. The lighting upgrade consisted of the installation of L.E.D. luminaires and was performed by CECM staff members. The upgrade to L.E.D. lighting will contribute to an increase to their lighting efficiency, an extended light life-span, improved safety, and deliver an overall long-term savings for M.U.D. The electrical renovations also included two new uninterruptable power supplies (UPS's) and a new generator backup. All modern upgrades will make the headquarters better suited to fit the needs and demands of all M.U.D. personnel.

Our team for this project consisted of Adam Brumbaugh, P.E. – Project Manager; Matt Burnham – Foreman, and Ron Castro – Field Operations Manager, along with several field electricians. Adam, Matt, Ron and their team of electricians had to meet the needs and expectations of our customer M.U.D.

We value our relationship with M.U.D. & the general contractor, MCL and we will continue to live our values with each project that we perform for them.



Retention Treatment Basin (RTB) at Saddle Creek

Jon Folkers – Business Developer and Marketing w/Adam Brumbaugh, P.E.- Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric – Omaha, NE was hired by Hawkins Construction on behalf of the city of Omaha to perform the electrical functions of this project.

This 3-Year project is part of the CSO program, (Combined Sewer Overflow). The Saddle Creek Retention Treatment Basin (RTB) will provide improved water quality for the Little Papillion Creek. The purpose of the RTB facility is to capture rain and snow water, due to wet weather conditions, and treat it prior to release. Overflows can occur during these wet-weather events.

Reducing pollutant discharge to the Missouri River and Papillion Creek and ultimately improving water quality is one of the key goals of the CSO Program. The overall objective of the Missouri River Water Quality Monitoring (WQ) Program is to understand the effects of Omaha’s combined sewer system discharges on the overall water quality in the Missouri River.

Other improvements for the Saddle Creek Facility include building a head works facility with grit & screening equipment, odor control, and a chemical storing/treatment facility. In addition, an administration building will provide needed office space for full-time staff, additional city offices, and provide maintenance access to the facility.

This is the 4th major project that we have performed for the CSO program over the past 6 years. We have performed all 4 projects with Hawkins Construction as the general contractor. Adam Brumbaugh, P.E. / Project Manager has run all CSO projects for CECM, since joining the team in 2017. Matt Fuchs, General Foreman, has also been involved with all 4 major projects.

Making a difference in the lives of fellow citizens of Omaha is something to be proud of. So, whether we are helping to make safe waters for fishing, improved water for boating, or enhancing the Riverfront Downtown Development, we feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work with the City of Omaha’s CSO Program and to work beside Hawkins Construction Company on these community improvement projects. <http://www.omahacso.com/projects/sad-dlecreekrbt/>



By the Numbers:	The Saddle Creek Retention Treatment Basin Project
190	Number of tons of soil that have been excavated to create space for basin
3.3	# (In Millions) Gallons of storm/sanitary water the new basin will hold
160	# (In Millions) Gallons of storm/sanitary per day to be captured and treated at the facility
848	# of Steel columns that support the weight of concrete, water, soil and other building materials
13	# of miles the 848 beams would cover if they were stacked end-to-end on top of one another
80.94	# of feet the average length of each column



Henry Doorly Zoo Makes Project Enhancements During a Difficult Time

Jon Folkers – Business Developer & Marketing Manager w/Troy Deats, Sr. Project Manager

Commonwealth Electric – Omaha, NE was hired recently to perform a project at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, NE. We worked under the guidance of our General Contractor, JE Dunn.

The project consisted of a new indoor stingray exhibit, event center, and a stingray life support building. Some of the details of those projects are listed here:



- The state of the art, 5431 sf, Stingray Exhibit will house a large saltwater pool for live interaction with the rays.
- The 9938 sf Event Center will be used for private events such as weddings and business events
- The 934 sf life support building will be used for testing and monitoring the saltwater parameters for the ray exhibit.

The CECM project team consists of Field Foreman, Mike Hayes. Mike was assisted with a strong crew with team members Bill Salber, Mike Martinez, Ian Water, and Jeff Huttenstine. Our off-site team consists of Project Manager, Dan Cahalan and Senior Project Manager, Troy Deats.

JE Dunn and Henry Doorly Zoo were pleased with our performance and provided us with positive feedback regarding our planning abilities, providing the correct personnel for a successful job, and staying ahead of the fast-paced work-schedule. Our team was committed to these projects and understand that our efforts will help our customer, Henry Doorly Zoo, continue to grow their brand with these projects.

Troy Deats, Senior PM, said, *"The group has worked hard during this strange time and has been committed to strengthening our relationship with the Zoo and with our general contractor, JE Dunn. We are thankful to be a part of this project, as we continue to make Henry Doorly Zoo the best in the nation."*

We were encouraged by the outcome of this project, and we encourage you to visit the Henry Doorly Zoo and help support this amazing Omaha exhibit.

