



STRAIGHT
LINES

SUMMER 2017

Spicer
group

Summer 2017

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Congratulations to Sue Slade on 35 years at Spicer Group and her retirement

The first time Susan L. Slade was officially on the payroll at Spicer Group, the business was still named Spicer Engineering and her last name was still Shaw.

Just 16 years old and the granddaughter of founder Clifford Spicer, Sue became the youngest – but not the last – Spicer descendant to work here over many years.

She began when the company was still located on South Michigan Avenue and employed less than 35 people.

Sue worked at Spicer throughout high school and after, until leaving to follow her husband, Richard Slade, to Michigan State University where he finished his teaching degree. The family returned to Saginaw later with their oldest son, Tim, and over the years added two more sons, Scott and Adam, and a daughter, Kelly.

In 1987, after being in the trenches on full-time mom duty, Sue returned to Spicer to resume her professional career. She has since worked in all three of our corporate headquarters – from Michigan Avenue, to the building at Washington and Remington, and finally here on Washington and Janes – and for all seven of our presidents.

In 1992, she was promoted to the clerical coordinator position and assisted in the first of two moves for Spicer's headquarters.

In 1996, and over the next several years, with a full-time job and a full-time family, she finished her Bachelor of Science in Community Development – Emphasis HR degree from Central Michigan University's Extended Degree Programs.



In 1998, she officially took on the role of Executive Assistant, with her title of HR Manager coming later as the position evolved due to the rapid growth of the company and the increased demands on employee hiring.

Sue's professional achievements include earning the Professional in Human Resource Certification (PHR) sponsored by the HR Certification Institute, as well as the SHRM-CP awarded by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). She has also been a board member for the local SHRM chapter and has participated in many community and educational events and programs that help promote the development of students and others who are preparing for their careers.

Sue is a walking encyclopedia of knowledge not only on human resources issues, but also on the history of Spicer Group, and more importantly, the employees who have helped develop the company into the 200+ employee firm we are today.

What Sue's professional file won't include, however, are her experiences and memories with the hundreds of Spicer Group employees she has worked with during her time here. She has been behind the scenes, helping to shape the company by investing in the employees who have walked through the doors of our business just like she did.

Now, after 35 years of calling Spicer home, she has retired to enjoy her six grandchildren, catch up on the sewing projects, and read the books that have been piling up.

Congratulations on your retirement, Sue!

Congratulations to our New Senior Associates and Associates



Nicholas D. Czerwinski, P.E., named as a new Senior Associate

Spicer Group is proud to announce the recent promotion of Nicholas D. Czerwinski, P.E., as a new Senior Associate. Nick began working for Spicer Group while still in high school in 2001. While attending college, he continued to work for us part-time. In 2007, he was hired full-time as a Design Engineer in Spicer Group's Water Resources Group at our Saginaw office. Nick is now a Project Manager. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan Technological University in Civil Engineering and became a registered Professional Engineer in Michigan in 2011.



Mark D. Norton, P.E., named as a new Senior Associate

Spicer Group is proud to announce the recent promotion of Mark D. Norton, P.E., as a new Senior Associate. Mark joined Spicer Group as a Project Manager in the Municipal Group in our Saginaw office in November of 2014. Prior to coming to Spicer Group, Mark worked 10 years with Civil Engineering Consultants, Inc. in Auburn and 9 years with Wade Trim in its Bay City office. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University in Civil Engineering, and he has been a registered Professional Engineer in Michigan since 2001.



Joel G. Morgan, P.E., named as a new Associate

Spicer Group is proud to announce the recent promotion of Joel G. Morgan, P.E., as a new Associate. Joel joined Spicer Group's Water Resources Group in our St. Johns office in October of 2011 as a Design Engineer. He is now a Project Manager. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Calvin College and a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota. Joel became a registered Professional Engineer in Michigan in 2015.



Steven R. Rutkowski, P.E., named as a new Associate

Spicer Group is proud to announce the recent promotion of Steven R. Rutkowski, P.E. as a new Associate. Steven joined Spicer Group's Municipal Group in our Saginaw Office in January of 2013 as a Design Engineer. He is now a Project Manager. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan Technological University in Civil Engineering, with a minor in Municipal Engineering, and a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Norwich University. Steven became a registered Professional Engineer in Michigan in 2016.

GRAND RAPIDS - A newly-finished project in Kent County has solved a decades-long erosion problem that a small and aging waterway was causing in a local neighborhood.

Built in the 1960's, this watercourse drained storm water along North Hampton Drive from the area west of the Leonard Street exit from I-96 on the eastern edge of Grand Rapids. Although within the Waring Drain watershed, this natural watercourse was not a part of the designated county drain.

"Over the years, development in the area had increased runoff and channelized the flow of the storm water into this open channel watercourse," Spicer Project Manager and Engineer Paul Forton, P.E., said. "The erosion was chewing away at yards, undercutting trees, creating vertical banks, sending sediment downstream, and was creating unsafe conditions in the neighborhood."

In 2014, the Kent County Drain Office hired Spicer Group to analyze the issues occurring in this area of the Waring Drain, obtain easements needed from property owners to make this watercourse an extension of the Waring Drain, and design a solution to the erosion issues to improve safety and stability along the drain's course.

"A stable stream channel needed to be constructed to handle undetained storm water flow from contributing neighborhoods," Kent County Drain Engineer Brad Boomstra said. "Upstream detention and storm sewer solutions were considered, however, due to complete buildout in the watershed, these options were not feasible."

This natural waterway was never included in the original Waring Drain, which needed to happen before construction could begin. With Spicer's assistance, Kent County was able to obtain property easements from each of the landowners along the drain. This was

the most challenging part of the project, Boomstra said, because of the concerns residents had on how the project would impact their property.

Once it was established as an extension of the Waring Drain, Spicer designed rock crossing structures for grade control along its length to negate the fast-moving water that was creating the erosion issues.

"Instead of having a steady, steep ski-slope grade in the drain, now it looks more like a set of stairs. The energy no longer increases steadily as it proceeds down the slope, but rather it cascades over the rock cross vanes which dissipate the water's energy. A series of these rock crossings were installed down the channel to address the velocity issue," Forton said.

While permitting and design began in 2015, construction did not start until late 2016. Quantum Construction, a general contractor based in Douglas, built the project. While installing the rock crossings,

they also reshaped the banks and replanted natural vegetation to ensure slope stabilization.

"A straw and coconut blanket was also placed on the newly-graded slopes to help get us through the winter and ensure we had stable banks and good grass growth in the spring," Forton said. "The product worked perfectly as there were no major repairs required after construction even after withstanding several solid rain events through the winter."

Construction was finished on the project in the spring of 2017 and former Kent County Drain Commissioner Bill Byl said this was the perfect project to retire on.

"This creek had potential to become a neighborhood asset," Byl said. "This project was complicated and challenging, and frustrating at times, but ultimately a big benefit for our drain network and the residents. This is the kind of project that made the job of drain commissioner so worthwhile."

WARING DRAIN



Before



After

TYLER POND



TRESTLE REPLACEMENT

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP- Nestled between two defunct factories that once produced parts for Ford, General Motors, and B-24 bombers by the hour during the height of WWII sits a narrow, man-made body of water called Tyler Pond that was constructed to hold water to be used in case of fire emergencies at the manufacturing plants.

Spanning the width of Tyler Pond are two sanitary sewer mains, a 24-inch gravity sewer and a 36-inch force main, that connect to a pump station along Airport Road and a nearby wastewater treatment plant. They are supported across the pond by two old timber trestle bridges that were built more than 40 years ago.

The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA), who owns and operates the sanitary sewer lines, hired Spicer Group in 2011 to conduct a structural analysis of the trestle bridges. The trestle had experienced numerous structural failures throughout the years and other than minor maintenance, had not been significantly rehabilitated since construction.

“That was the crux of the problem,” Phil Westmoreland, P.E., project manager for Spicer Group said. “The old wooden trestles were falling apart and we recommended a plan at the time to replace them.”

The YCUA considered several different possibilities over the next few years for replacing the aging trestles, but when another project to drain the pond and decommission the dam at the eastern end



INSTALLATION OF RIP RAP TO PROTECT THE NEW CULVERT'S ARCH BRIDGES



INSTALLING OF SHEET PILING AT COFFER DAM



SETTING A PRE-CAST ARCH BRIDGE

"This is a unique solution," Westmoreland said about the project. "Ponds aren't drawn down very often, and I have never taken an elevated utility of this size and put it underground, all while the utility is still live and serving customers."

Tyler Pond drains into the Willow Run stream and there are no plans to refill the pond manually now that the dam is decommissioned, but the culvert will allow water to flow freely beneath the buried utilities. Construction on the project will be finalized by fall of this year.

COMPACTING SAND FILL AROUND THE ARCH BRIDGE IN TYLER POND

of it came about, Spicer engineers developed a solution to bury the utilities.

"We designed a culvert to fix the issue," Westmoreland said. "The utilities are buried over the culvert. This was not the cheaper solution, but it was the safer one and makes the utilities easier for YCUA to maintain."

The new culvert is a 12-foot-tall, 34-foot-wide precast concrete arched structure that spans the reduced flow channel for the new stream where the eastern trestle was originally placed. Both sanitary sewer mains will be buried on top of the culvert.

To begin construction, however, crews from Dan's Excavating, the project contractor based in Shelby Township, had to first build a coffer dam around the pond's original dam and then draw the water down six inches at a time per the Department of Environmental Quality permit that was issued for the project. This process took about a month to complete.

During construction, the sanitary sewer lines were rerouted and kept in service while the old trestle structures were dismantled.



2017

Recreation

Grants

Kochville Township
Krossroads Park Expansion

MNRTF Acquisition
Grant

\$524,900

Branch County
Angel Cove Park Expansion

MNRTF Acquisition
Grant

\$84,300

Lapeer County
Goodland Twp Park Acquisition

MNRTF Acquisition
Grant

\$67,000

City of Saginaw
Ojibway Island Improvements

MNRTF Development
Grant

\$245,000

Ingham County
McNamara Landing

MNRTF Development
Grant

\$105,800

Plainfield Township
Loon Lake Park Improvements

MNRTF Development
Grant

\$140,000

Long Rapids Township
Township Park Improvements

MNRTF Development
Grant

\$70,000

Village of Ashley
Village Park Improvements

Land & Water
Conservation Fund

\$106,200

Midland Township
Township Park Development

Land & Water
Conservation Fund

\$98,100

Monitor Township
Township Park Improvements

Land & Water
Conservation Fund

\$102,300

Ingham County
Burchfield Park Overlook Pavilion

Recreation Passport
Grant Program

\$45,000

Village of Capac
Capac Park Improvements

Recreation Passport
Grant Program

\$45,000

Totals: \$1,633,600

In 2016, Spicer Group professionals put more than two decades of successful grant writing experience to work and helped communities across Michigan garner \$1,633,600 in grant funding to make projects a reality. A dozen grants written by Spicer Group were funded through programs like the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Recreation Passport Grant. With construction season in full swing for 2017, some of the following projects will be underway this year.

Krossroads Park Expansion, Kochville Township: This popular community park opened in 2004, with a boundless playground for children of all abilities, a pond, and detention basin on the original parcel, leaving little room for open play space or more amenities. This grant will pay for the acquisition of a 27.5-acre parcel of land that surrounds the current park. The Township would like to develop the property and expand the park's capacity so this park continues to be the community hub but can also provide outdoor gaming opportunities.

Angel Cove Park Expansion, Branch County: To expand on this already established, fully-developed, popular community park, the County is using this grant to help acquire two parcels of land totaling more than 4 acres along the Coldwater River. The expansion will help the park offer more camping, a pavilion and a handicap-accessible canoe/kayak launch, the first of its kind in the County.

Goodland Township Park Acquisition, Goodland Township: This grant will be used to help acquire more than 8 acres of land adjacent to the Township Hall. The acquired land will become Goodland Township Park, the first public park in the community. Currently the land is an undeveloped field with wooded areas. The Township plans to not only build a walking path, pavilion, and play equipment on the land, but also would like to preserve the site's existing natural features, including the old trees, vegetation, and green space.

Ojibway Island Improvements, City of Saginaw: Now a part of the state's Iron Belle Trail, the multi-use path system on the 3-acre Ojibway Island will get a facelift with this grant-funded project. Along with pathway improvements, this project includes improvements to the existing restroom building for ADA accessibility, and improvements to an existing bridge on the path system.

McNamara Landing Improvements, Ingham County: This landing along the Grand River is located on the southern border of the 540-acre Burchfield Park and currently consists of sidewalk and steps to the river. This grant will help fund the expansion and development of a universally-accessible canoe/kayak launch, a family-style accessible restroom with solar lighting, and two paved universally-accessible parking spaces. Additional signage and a kiosk designating this spot as a waterway trailhead will be added while connecting all facilities by concrete walkways. The development will be a critical launching point and connect McNamara Landing with the accessible ramp in Dimondale approximately eight miles downstream.

Loon Lake Park Improvements, Plainfield Township: Loon Lake Park is the setting for a non-motorized path with a trailhead parking lot off Kokosing Road. The pathway will be a part of the state's Iron Belle Trail, which will traverse through the natural areas in the park and will feature benches and rest areas along the path, interpretive signs and trash and recycling receptacles at the new parking area.

Long Rapids Township Park Improvements, Long Rapids Township: Located along the Thunder Bay River, this project will make improvements to the park's deteriorated existing canoe launch. It will be replaced with a new universally-accessible canoe/kayak launch and a fishing/wildlife viewing platform. A new accessible parking lot and paths connecting the amenities will also be constructed. This project will spearhead

the efforts of the Thunder Bay River Organization to develop a water trail plan which will assist in furthering their efforts to provide recreational opportunities on the Thunder Bay River.

Ashley Village Park Improvements, Village of Ashley: This project includes a half-mile of universally-accessible paved pathway, paved handicap parking, and new play equipment in the Village's only park. Currently, there are no universally-accessible paths in the Village. The new pathway will encircle the park's existing ball diamonds and playground. The project will also remove old and outdated play equipment and replace it with newer, safer equipment.

Midland Township Park Development, Midland Charter Township: Through this grant, the first park in the Township will be developed on a 24.4-acre parcel of land that surrounds the Township Hall. The first phase of park development will include a trail through the park woodlands that connects to the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail and will allow for wildlife viewing and bird watching. It will also include a picnic pavilion with tables, benches, and interpretive signs. All improvements will be universally accessible.

Monitor Township Park Improvements, Monitor Charter Township: The project includes renovations and upgrades that will add features and increase the safety and usability of the 21-acre park. Old, outdated and unsafe playground equipment will be removed along with the existing grills that are old and falling apart. New playground

equipment will be installed, along with new grills, picnic tables, safety lighting, signs for the fitness course, electrical upgrades, tree replacement, and parking and drainage improvements. All improvements will be universally accessible.

Burchfield Park Overlook Pavilion Accessibility Upgrades, Ingham County: As one of the County's oldest park facilities, many of the features in the park, including the Overlook Pavilion, were built over 30 years ago. This project will renovate the picnic area by replacing the existing pavilion, construct a new pre-cast concrete restroom building with two unisex restrooms in an open grassy area, provide a new paved accessible parking area, and an ADA paved path leading to all of the new improvements. The new shelter will have a capacity of 300 persons and will be located directly next to a bluff overlooking a fishing pond, open field, volleyball courts, and a basketball court.

Aldrich Park Improvements, Village of Capac: This 4.1-acre parcel of village-owned land is already established as an existing recreation open space in the community. This grant will fund a project to construct a new playground with engineered wood fiber safety surfacing in the park, and add benches, a sand volleyball court, and a six-foot-wide path to provide equitable access to both amenities. In conjunction with this, the Village will reconfigure parking, leaving a large majority of park as open play fields to continue to facilitate the current use of the park and provide open space that is not available elsewhere.

Spicer Group, Inc.

230 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607-1286
989.754.4717

St. Johns, MI
989.224.2355

Dundee, MI
734.823.3308

Lansing, MI
517.325.9977

Grand Rapids, MI
616.458.8580

Detroit, MI
989.928.8036

Manistee, MI
231.794.5620

Atlanta, GA
989.284.8178

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Sebewaing Celebrates New Restroom at Village Park

Sebewaing's Village Park is a central gathering point for the community and is used heavily by both visitors and residents. Several youth softball and baseball leagues operate in the park, drawing players from across the Thumb region, and the park is the home of the Michigan Sugar Festival which draws several thousand visitors each year. The original restroom was built in 1959 and was outdated and undersized. Spicer Group assisted the Village in applying for a \$100,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund. The application was approved and helped fund the \$177,000 total construction cost. Spicer Group provided design and construction inspection for the project, which was completed with general contractor, Sakon Builders, LLC.

