

## Our Mission

To be the leading consultant solving the engineering or land surveying problems unique to rural-urban communities and their enterprise—government, business, and agribusiness. And in the process, to build trust and lasting relationships with the people among whom we work and live. ◀

## Southdale residents have safe water thanks to KPL

KEEPING COMMUNITY water supplies safe is all part of the daily job for KPL's Brian Klein who serves as a certified operator for a number of Iowa communities as part of KPL's water and wastewater operations services.

One of the duties Brian and Tom Grafft (certified operator in the Storm Lake office) perform for client communities is routine sampling of the public water supply. In mid-January, Brian pulled a routine sample and sent it to Mangold Environmental Testing in Storm Lake. The lab notified him that the sample had tested positive for total coliform.

Without delay, Brian pulled four repeat samples and sent these to the lab also. Again, on January 25, the four new samples came back positive for total coliform and one came back positive for E-coli. A water emergency plan went into action and the state Department of Natural Resources got involved. Phone calls were made to every residence of Southdale and written notices hand delivered to every resident and an announcement sent to local news media: Water from the community water system was not to be used for consumption unless it was first boiled.

By this time, Brian was well into solving the problem. As soon as the samples came back suspect, Brian started looking for the source of the contamination. What he found was at the well head itself. A PVC elbow on the air vent for the pump had broken off—most likely from a build up of ice  
**Continued, WATER, page 4**

## PROJECTS

## KPL wins Highway 60 construction staking

### Multi-crew project to start this spring

"IT'S THE BIGGEST construction staking project we've ever done," says Scott Shevel who explains. "I had originally only quoted about a third of the job, but we had several calls the morning of the letting asking for a quote on the whole thing, so I submitted one and we ended up with it."

The Highway 60 bypass near Sibley includes 9.5 miles of 4-lane paving and entrance and exit ramps. "Construction will start as

soon as the grading carried over from the previous years is completed in early spring. Completion is scheduled for late fall.

Two survey crews from the Storm Lake office and one from the Algona office will be assigned to the project. "And we'll add others on an as-needed basis."

In other project news: The Storm Lake office will also be doing the construction staking for the Raccoon Valley Bio-diesel plant. Work will begin as soon as the financing is finalized. This plant is  
**Continued, PROJECTS, Page 2**

## Katy Shevel wins piano audition

KATY SHEVEL daughter of Scott and Joanie Shevel received a one-rating at the Iowa Music Teachers Association district piano auditions on January 20 at Buena Vista University. Katy, who is performing at the E level, the highest level in the competition will now advance to the state competition to be held on March 17 at the Iowa State University in Ames.

As part of the competition Katy had to perform three selections representing three different periods of music—and perform them by memory.

Katy also competed at the state level last year. She studies with Gwynn Gerlach. ◀



**Katy Shevel to compete March 17 in Ames, Iowa.** Photo Courtesy of the Storm Lake Times.

**PROJECTS,  
continued**

located near Storm Lake east of Highway 71. Work on the **Alwaysis Project** will also continue in spring as soon as the weather breaks and will include construction of **parking and bio-retention facilities** and possibly the Great Lawn and walking trails.

A survey for the regional office for **Kensington LLC** is also underway in the Algona office. Says Tom Edgerton, “Kensington is an ethanol company which will be building three plants in northern Iowa.”

“Construction continues on expansions to **Rembrandt Enterprises** facilities,” says Ivan Droessler. “We also have some potential projects coming up which are the result of a series of fines levied on open feed lots by the EPA. Jaylin Dahlhauser has been talking with representatives of a number of these feed lots.”

The Algona office and Kent Rode are working on **confinement swine finishing buildings for General Development** also of Algona. “The project involves the permitting process along with the development of a master matrix for each. There are three sites. One for 9600 head; one for 7200 head; and the third for 4200 head,” says Kent. “I’m also working on a site plan for an **industrial park in Emmetsburg**—we’re doing the preliminary plat now.”

Bid letting for the **horizontal expansion to the Sac County Landfill** is set for February. Construction is scheduled to be complete by September of 2007. And the final plans and specifications for the **horizontal expansion to the Cherokee Landfill** were filed February 8. Bid letting is to be set for March with construction scheduled for September.

In Algona, Curt Wiseman is working on a design for **Snap-On Tools**. “They are putting up a new addition. We’ve got the civil work, utilities and site survey. We are working with KC Engineering of Sioux City on that project.



**Rembrandt Enterprises, Inc. At top is Manure Barn Number 5, a fabric covered building. The facility below is Layer Barn Number 17/18.**

“The **Cherokee Landfill building** is under construction,” adds Curt. “They are using ground blankets there to try and keep the ground warm enough to work when this cold weather breaks.” This building will house the machinery for making fuel pellets from recycled material.

“The **swimming pool for Hospers**, now under construction is still on schedule. We are heavy into design for **lagoon expansions for Early and Pomeroy**. We are doing environmental reviews and other reviews now. The soil borings are done and we’ll be moving to purchase when the reviews are complete.

“Kuehl and Payer has also been hired to do a new subdivision in Algona. **Diamond Estates. It is being developed by a group of Algona contractors.** We’re getting started on the preliminary plat

and will be moving into the design process and construction summer and fall. We may even see final platting and some house construction in fall.

“The **main lift station and force main for the Kossuth Regional Health Center** went on line last week, and just in time too. The night of the day they were installed the old ones went out.”

Bob Payer reports that the Storm Lake office is also developing the proposed **infrastructure plans required for the anticipated elementary school** to be built in the western side of the city by the **Storm Lake School District**. “Nueman, Monson, Wicter is the architect for the school. We are working with them to provide water, sewer, and access and parking for bus and passenger cars. One of the more unique aspects of the project will be to

develop storm water management for this 26 acre site. And also to determine how cars will access the site. The school district is working with Snyder Associates of Ankeny to review traffic flows around the existing middle school and to determine the impact the addition of the elementary school will have on the streets surrounding the two schools.”

Bob also says revised plans and specs for reletting a **parking lot** for the **Buena Vista Regional Medical Center** are in progress. The reletting is scheduled for February 22 with construction complete by midsummer. This lot will give additional space for the restricted area and for spaces that may be lost in the future due

to expansion. “On project **Awaysis: East Lakeshore Drive** and the **bio-retention facility** were let on January 23, along with work on the Great Lawn Playground and Beach Area. KPL provided plans for the **bio-retention pond and parking areas** as a sub to BCBM of Omaha. Contracts should be awarded in early February with construction complete by early summer.

“**Bridge inspection for Kossuth and Clay counties** has also begun with office preparation and some field work. These will be complete in July. Finally, Tom Grafft is working with the **BV Solid Waste Commission** on the October of 2007 plans for closure of the landfill,” says Bob.

Neal Kuehl says that plans and specs for the **wastewater lagoon in Westside** are being finished with bidding expected in 30 to 45 days.

“We are also waiting on the final word to start design of the **wastewater lagoon in Sloan**. The property has been designated there and soils and the preliminary survey are next.

“Also starting are the **preliminary engineering activity and survey for a major water distribution project in Albert City to loop mains and replace meters**. And construction on **swimming pools in Cherokee and Clear Lake** continues. “We are pushing for an end of May opening for these pools.”

### Drainage news

Kuehl and Payer has been awarded another **CREP** (Conservation Resource Enhancement Program) project says Don Etler. “We are responding to more RFPs on a monthly basis and anticipate several CREP Projects in the next several years.

“We are also wrapping up the reclassification in **Joint Drainage District 77, Pocahontas and Palo Alto Counties** and also for the **West Bend Sub-Drainage District**.

“We anticipate construction of a large tile main near **Corwith** to allow for closure of two drainage wells and tile main. This will receive 40% funding by a grant **Continued, PROJECTS, page 4**

## News about KPLers

### Officers, executive committee elected at annual meeting

KUEHL AND PAYER stockholders held their annual meeting on January 20. The current officers were reelected: **Don Etler**, President; **Bob Payer**, Senior Vice-President; and **Ivan Droessler**, Treasurer.

**Bob Payer** is taking over Neal Kuehl’s role on the executive committee as Chief Operating Officer. Also serving on the executive committee are **Ivan Droessler, Don Etler, Curt Wiseman**, and **Jeff Krueger**.

**Clarence Krepps** serves as Chief Administrative Officer, a non-voting position.

### Congratulations

To **Jaylin Dahlhauser** who has received his Professional Engineer designation from the state of Iowa.

To **Heidi Rode**, daughter of **Kent Rode**, who made the Dean’s list at Iowa State University in Ames.

Heidi is a freshman and is majoring in civil engineering.

### Seminars and meetings

**Jaylin Dahlhauser** completed the Technical Service Provider Training put on by the NRCS in January. **Ivan Droessler** completed the same training on February 8. This training is required to provide ag waste services.

**Don Etler** attended the Environmental and Energy Committee of ACEC meeting in San Diego on January 26 and 27. Topics on the agenda included: infrastructure funding; renewable energy, and global warming. Don is the only ag engineer on the committee and has been assigned to the carbon balance subcommittee which was formed to help ACEC educate the public about carbon dioxide contributions to global warming and about reasonable ways to deal with carbon emissions. Says Don, “I’m on the committee because how the land is cropped impacts carbon dioxide in the air.”

### Volunteers

**Jaylin Dahlhauser** will spend two weeks in Angola this spring through



**Fashion at work.** The Algona KPLers above say the trendy look improves their efficiency on the job!

Engineering Ministries International in Colorado Springs. He will be helping to design a campus there for Youth of Christ.

### Sports

**John Etler**, Don’s son, played on both the Algona A and B eighth grade basketball squads. Both had very successful seasons. The A team, with a 10 and 0 season, won their games by an average of more than 25 points. The B squad

compiled a 9 and 2 record. John also plays on the AAU team which has a 5 and 1 record to date.

### Happy birthday

To **Neal Kuehl** whose birthday is January 4; to **Tom Edgerton** whose birthday is January 9; to **Curt Wiseman** whose birthday is January 16; to **Earl Zimmerman** whose birthday is January 25; and to **Ted Zimmerman** whose birthday is January 26; ◀◀

**Kuehl and Payer, Ltd.**

1725 N. Lake Avenue, PO Box 458  
Storm Lake, IA 50588-0458

1609 US Highway 18 East, PO Box 715  
Algona, IA 50511-0715

423 West Main Street  
Sac City, IA 50583

**INTERACTION is published  
for Kuehl and Payer, Ltd. by  
Coppola-Sharp, Inc. «**

**WATER, continued ...**

in the abnormally cold winter weather. That opening would make the well vulnerable to all sorts of contaminants.

Brian made repairs to the well vent and disinfected the well and distribution system by shocking them with chlorine to destroy the bacteria. Again water samples were pulled and sent off to Marigold Environmental Testing. This time the results came back negative. The water was safe to drink.

Said Brian, when all was back to normal: "This situation was corrected in very short order; and its all because I had such excellent coordination among all of us—KPL, the DNR, Southdale, and Mangold Environmental Testing." «

---

**PROJECTS, continued ...**

from the Watershed Improvement Review Board of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

"And we are taking bids on the open ditch clean out of **Drainage District 63, Pocahontas County**. We also anticipate additional drainage construction work in **Pocahontas County** in the summer and fall in **Drainage District Branch 46 and Joint Drainage District 77.**"

Ivan Droessler reports that **Drainage District 81, Sac County**, open ditch clean out completion hearing was held January 23, and the project accepted by the trustees. Annexation and reclassification is underway with Jaylin Dahlhauser.

"The clean out of **Gray Lateral C** was completed in November with the completion hearing in December and the project accepted by the trustees. The **Gray Lateral E** open ditch expansion was completed in November and the final soil leveling and pipe installation will occur this spring. The open ditch clean out for

## Looking towards the year ahead

---

*Here's what some KPL shareholders see for 2007.*

**NEAL KUEHL.** "I'm looking for a good overall year, maybe a little slower than 2006, but good. I think it will be slower in the waste and water area. We're waiting for the state to establish new water standards; and communities are waiting for those standards before doing anything. But, once those standards are promulgated, it will be really busy. Probably towards the end of the year."

**BOB PAYER.** "We'll continue to be busy. Similar to the last two to three years. We're also seeing an uptick from the high grain prices influencing the ag economy and peripheral projects related to alternative fuel production—even though we don't design the plants themselves."

**IVAN DROESSLER.** "Due to strong commodity prices, I would expect construction projects on the ag side to be strong—but with fewer swine feeding operations projects. We expect feedlots to come into compliance with DNR rules so they can make use of ethanol byproducts. Swine can't digest ethanol byproducts so there will probably be fewer of these projects coming on board. But, both animal waste and drainage areas should be strong."

**DON ETLER.** "The Iowa economy is good now. The jump in commodity prices in 2006, driven by bio-fuels expansions will create many opportunities out there for KPL to provide services. Even though we are not designing plants we get land surveys, construction staking, and other related work."

**CURT WISEMAN.** "I'm looking at a lot of work coming in. There is new industry in Algona and that is adding projects. A lot of it seems to be industrial parks. We're looking at infrastructure. And communities. There are replacement issues, and budgeting and planning is going on now. So there is a lot coming up even though it is not on the books yet. But the backlog is good too. So I'm positive. Very positive." «

**Drainage District 10, Calhoun County** will proceed in the spring of 2007. Annexation and reclassification proceedings are underway with Jaylin. The same is true for **Joint Drainage District 19-26, Sac and Buena Vista Counties**. And on the **AMU Stormwater Control/Drainage Project in Alta**, the finals plans are complete and were filed February 5. Bid letting is set for March."

*If you have questions about these or similar projects, talk to any of the people mentioned. «*