

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. ◀◀

PROJECTS

Busy construction season continues before winter

PROJECT NEWS is heavy on construction this issue. Kent Rode in the Algona office reports that first stage construction of the **13-block Fort Dodge street improvement project** is on schedule.

"The first stage involves completion of seven blocks this year with six blocks to be constructed next year. Work involves sanitary and storm sewer and water main improvements along with new PCC paved streets. Ground work is nearing completion and paving is expected to begin by mid-September."

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Bryan Muhlbauer and KPL support Manning's summer Maize Daze Festival

July 18 dawned cool and clear in Manning, Iowa. It promised a great day for the town's festive Maize Daze. It was a promise fulfilled. Celebrating everything corn—corn dogs, cornbread, kettle corn; the festival also featured displays and a performance by native American dancers.

But, the hit of the the day was a specially constructed cornfield maze. A challenging puzzle where children and adults could wander, get lost (temporarily), and then finally find the right path to the end. The maze was the artistry of Kuehl and Payer's Bryan Muhlbauer.

"The Manning Heritage Foundation that hosts the event approached my dad about using a few acres of land that he farms and which adjoins the Manning Heritage Park where the festival is held.

"They wanted to build a cornfield maze as part of the event. I overheard the conversation, and volunteered to help design the maze."

Kuehl and Payer readily agreed to let Bryan, who is a survey technician, use their equipment to layout the maze and Bryan contributed his time.

"Since Heritage Park which has at its centerpiece a 350 year old authentic German Hausbarn imported piece by piece from Germany and reconstructed in the park, we wanted the maze to have a German American appeal."

A Hausbarn was a common form of dwelling in the 17th and 18th centuries in several areas of Germany. Hausbarns are unique in that they have separate living quarters for both people and livestock and space for farm equipment and supplies.

"We took the German Coat of Arms, which has at its center a large eagle, as the basis for our maze design. But the German Eagle's head is very difficult to duplicate and have it really look like an eagle. So we did the German Coat of Arms with the head of the American Bald eagle.

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The "German-American" eagle maze designed by Bryan and fashioned after Germany's ancient Coat of Arms; but with the head of the American Bald Eagle.

PROJECTS, continued ...

Construction will also begin in September on the **Algona Trail Project**.

"This PCC trail will lead from the Algona YMCA to and along the Bull Ditch, a local drainage ditch.

"Work has just started on the **Emmetsburg Ormsby addition**. This involves about **400 feet of sanitary sewer and a new sewer main**. The project is being constructed through back yard easements on the east side of the the lake to replace deteriorated private sewers.

"Topo surveying is also in progress for the **site design** for the **South Park Shelter House in Algona**. We are subcontractors to I and F Consultants in Mankato who is doing the architectural design for the shelter house.

"Most of the **site work on the Algona Middle School Project** is complete. Footings are in and block laying is proceeding. KPL is sub to Allers Architects and Associates on that project."

Kent also reports that the **traffic signal and turning lane at Highway 169 and MacGregor Street in Algona** is on hold as right-of-ways are acquired.

Bob Payer reports that paving construction for the City of **Spirit Lake** was complete in September with the **sidewalks finished, and lighting and landscaping finished**.

"The **Storm Lake overlay on West Fifth and Sixth Streets** goes to the council for acceptance on September 23.

"The **bridge over the Wahpeton River** has been let to Godbersen-Smith Construction with work to begin in March 2010. The **Expansion Boulevard** project will be placed this week; and the **Ochedon River Bridge west of Spencer** is awaiting National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Highway Administration approval."

Bob also says that the **bridge inspections for Kossuth and Clay counties** are in progress.

Ivan Droessler reports that the last **Sara Lee turkey feeding site** under Phase Two development has been designed and staked. "However, says Ivan, "the projected Phase Three is on hold due to economic conditions."

For **Hawkeye Pride, layer site development** is in progress with earth grading complete. "Foundation work on the first three laying barns and egg breaking facilities



Construction on 10th Avenue in Fort Dodge, part of a 13 block street improvement project.

is underway. Construction of a manure storage facility is to begin by mid-September. The ongoing staking is being done by Mark Wolf in the Algona Office with Steven White providing project oversight and onsite inspection.

"Full development is expected to take up to four years. The lagoon for the treatment of egg waste is to be constructed next spring. Development plans for this project are 90% complete with Steven White and Tom Grafft heading up lagoon design.

"Overall the number of animal waste projects has been significantly dropping due to high grain prices and low meat prices—something we don't expect to see change in the next 12 months.

"In landfill projects, **Cell A-3 construction at the Cherokee Landfill** is substantially complete. This cell construction included the installation of a 60 mil membrane liner. Earl Zimmerman has been the onsite inspector for construction. The general contractor, Joy Dirt Construction, has performed in a very timely fashion with good workmanship.

"In other landfill news, the

changes in ground water sampling protocol has led to significant additional expense for landfills. Tom Grafft has been overseeing the changes necessary in the installation of **additional sampling points for Cherokee, Buena Vista, and Sac County Landfills**. He is also managing the sampling and report preparation for these three landfill."

Curt Wiseman reports that **construction of the Rockwell bathhouse** is in full swing. Nick Frederiksen is the resident observer on the project. Curt also reports that a small **storm sewer project in Algona** should go into construction this fall when easements are finalized.

"We are also working with **Havelock**, currently unsewered, they are being forced to **sewer**, so we are **looking at options for collection and treatment** for them. And we have been hired by Livermore to put together a **preliminary plan for a water system involving a new well, and improvements to the waste water treatment plant** that they are hoping to use to apply for grants and loans.

"In a **separate Livermore project**, we are 50% complete on **designing sanitary sewer**



Construction on Phase One of a 13 block street improvement project in Fort Dodge is underway.

improvements. And we are finishing **plans for a new subdivision for Woodland Hills.**" In survey work, Scott Shevel reports that **construction staking for Mathers Construction for the new Highway 20** is underway. **American Land Title site surveys for Farmer's Coop** continue; **construction staking for Buena Vista County 600 Street** is complete; and we are about to begin work on the **Friesen Second Addition.**

Drainage news

In drainage news, Don Etler reports that the long range goal for **Drainage District 65, Pocahontas County** is to have the hearing process and bid taking in November or December of this

year. "But because of lack of land owner interest the Drainage District may build a treatment wetland, rather than build under CREPs."

"Meetings have begun with owners in **Pocahontas County** about the **construction of 10 agricultural drainage wells.** This would be the last large concentration of wells in the county and has a preliminary cost of \$1.5 million.

"Work is continuing on **Drainage District 48 in Palo Alto County and on Drainage District 36 in Greene County.** The last couple of months have also been busy getting **FEMA repairs** bid, including a large open channel stabilization project for **Drainage District 80,**

Palo Alto County. There are also smaller FEMA repairs in approximately 10 drainage districts in **Palo Alto, Pocahontas, and Humboldt counties.**

"Hearings are scheduled for September 22 for improvements in **Joint Drainage Districts 32 and 36, Kossuth and Hancock Counties.** This involves the **closure of one drainage well.** Another hearing on September 29 will be held on **proposed repairs or improvements to a lateral of Joint Drainage District 1, Palo Alto and Kossuth counties.** This district has run into some serious wetland issues which must be addressed before the board makes decisions. Four PRP wetlands in the watershed are at risk of being drained

by either the repair or improvements, and we are told by the USDA that if the PRP wetlands are drained, land owners will be in violation of the farm program. The USDA is also requiring that every landowner pledge an individual wetland determination or they will assume that the land owner has converted to wetlands if the project goes through."

Ivan Droessler reports that five miles of **open ditch clean out for Drainage District 6, Calhoun County** is complete with final certification process underway.

"In **Losey Drainage District, Monona County, excavation on four miles of open ditch clean out** **Continued, PROJECTS, page 4 ...**

News about KPLers

Algona "opens" newly remodeled office

THE REMODELING is done in the Algona office and the space is being enjoyed. See everyone hard at work in the new digs in the picture below.

KPL family

Katy Shevel, Scott's daughter, has started her freshman year at Wartburg where she is majoring in music therapy.

Best wishes to **Justin Anderson and Kristin Kirkholm** who will celebrate their marriage October 10.

Welcome to the newest KPLer, **Catherine Patricia Deters** born August 11.

Catherine Patricia weighed in at five pounds and twelve ounces.

Proud parents are Eric of the Storm Lake office and his wife, Michelle.



Eric Deters holding Catherine Patricia with brother, Michael, looking on.

Says dad, Ivan, "the team is in a rebuilding year with juniors filling many of the slots.

"The team is disappointed opening with two losses against Cherokee and Sheldon; but are hopeful of continued improvement in playing both sides of the ball."

Birthdays

Happy birthday to **Joanne Fraser** whose birthday is October 3; to **Tom Grafft** whose birthday is October 12; to **Clarence Krepps** whose birthday is October 19; to **Kent Rode** whose birthday is November 5;

To **La Donna Brummer** whose birthday is November 13; to **Zac Andersen** whose birthday is November 25; to **Diane Edwards** whose birthday is November 29;

To **Don Etler** whose birthday is December 4; to **Dave Anderson** whose birthday is December 15; to **Bryan Muhlbauer** whose birthday is December 21; and to **Barb Pingel, Mark Wolf, and Tom Mason** whose birthdays are December 23. ◀

Sports

Football has started again, and once again the Algona office has three family members on the team: **Alex Wiseman, Connor McGuire, and John Etler.**



From left, John, Alex, and Connor.

In Storm Lake, **Isaac Droessler** is following in the footsteps of his older brothers and playing on the offensive line as varsity center.



Algona's newly remodeled office.

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

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Welcome back to Tom Mason

TOM MASON returned to work in the Storm Lake office September 10, six weeks after open heart surgery needed to replace his aortic valve with a mechanical valve. While he was in surgery, doctors also completed a triple by-pass.

Tom learned he had a heart murmur when he was in his twenties. "It wasn't a big deal then, but it's been getting leakier and leakier. It was to the point where I would walk 100 yards and have to stop and rest at least a couple of times. Now I am exercising, playing golf and walking."

Tom also had Hodgkin's Disease a number of years ago and underwent chemo and radiation therapy which hardened his veins. This can reduce the amount of red blood cells and oxygen available for healing. Red blood cells are needed for proper healing after surgery, injuries, or broken bones.

"Since open heart surgery requires that the clavicle—a large bone—be broken open, healing was a concern."

To compensate, Tom spent several hours every day for ten days prior to surgery in a hyperbaric pressure chamber. During these sessions the pressure in the chamber is increased which forces more oxygen into the lungs, this in turn increases the building of red blood cells.

"I opted for the mechanical valve over the pig valve you often hear about. That's because it can last indefinitely whereas the pig valve usually has to be replaced after ten years. I feel great and it's great to be back. I was getting pretty bored, especially the last couple of weeks."

Welcome back, Tom. Many people have been asking about you. «

MAZE, continued ...

Really gave it a German-American appeal."

The Manning Heritage Foundation, a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization and which operates Heritage Park, was founded thirty years ago, its purpose is to preserve the German-American culture of the community of Manning which was founded in 1881 by immigrants from the Schleswig-Holstein area of Germany.

When the design was complete, Bryan used KPL's survey equipment to lay out and stake the maze. Bryan, his father Allen, and LeRoy Dammann constructed the maze by mowing the staked pathways.

The maze is still open to visitors this fall. "We may also do another maze for the Halloween Haunting, another Foundation Park celebration. But, that remains to be seen." «



**Heritage Park, showing the
hausbarn. The maze can be seen
towards the top of the picture.**

PROJECTS, continued ...

was begun, but unstable bank conditions have initiated a \$100,000 change order to stabilize the slopes. The contractor began work on the change order in early September. Greg Villegas is doing the additional construction staking.

"Bids were received September 8 on a **two mile open ditch clean out for Drainage District 122, Calhoun County**. The low bidder was King Construction with an award to be made after contract qualifications review. Construction is expected after harvest.

"For **New Farmers Lateral 3, Monona County, final plans for a three-quarter mile open ditch clean out** have been filed. Bid letting is set for October and construction after harvest.

"The **engineer's report for the open ditch clean out, Drainage District 73, Sac County**, is near completion, will be filed in early October with a hearing in late November. Bid letting is expected in February 2010.

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