



## Message from WRL Project Manager, Steve Hickey

"Things are Changing at WRL"

I thought I would use this issue's editorial to share some of my thoughts on what I have seen during my tenure at WRL as a Project Manager. This summer I will be completing my 10th year with the company. I would like to share my perspective on three areas: co-workers, infrastructure and projects.

Co-workers: As I look around at my co-workers, I see many who have longer tenure, in some cases almost twice my 10 years of service. I also see a lot of newer faces, some who have only just started. We have increased the number of Project Managers from 3 to 6, added Assistant PM's and seen the supporting staff grow as well. I have had the privilege of working with most of the longer term office staff, superintendents, carpenters and laborers on some of the projects where we have been teamed up. I know that any success that I have achieved has only been through the team effort made by every single WRL team member and subcontractor contributing to the successful completion of each project. Our Superintendents are the backbone of the company and we have been through a tremendous amount of frustration, anxiety, joy and sense of accomplishment in the various projects we have handled together. I have learned a lot from all of you and would like to thank you for your dedicated and professional performance.



Steve Hickey

Infrastructure: It's no secret to anyone working in or visiting the office in the past few months that we have been experiencing some recent growing pains. This is just the most recent remodel, during my ten years I have seen the office footprint change at least four times. In each case it has been to allow for the addition of more personnel to the office which has been due to the growth in the number of projects that we are working on. This last expansion has taken in all of the previous warehouse area, so any future growth will really be exciting as we may have to add a second floor and a multi-level parking garage!!

Projects: I have had the opportunity and privilege to experience a wide range of projects, spanning from small remodeling and addition projects all the way up to the new 400,000 sq ft / \$64 million Hallsville High School, which remains the largest single project completed by WRL to date. I have also seen us move back into the health care area over the past few years with the new lab, clinic and hospital projects. In addition, we completed three large projects for Tyler ISD and established a relationship with Brookshire's when we teamed up with them to build the new Super 1 in South Tyler. All of these projects have seen the design teams utilizing new technology and construction techniques that were unheard of ten years ago, providing us

with continuous learning opportunities.

Summing up, there have been a lot of changes in the last ten years and our future continues to look bright as we see the volume and size of projects as well as our customer base grow. We are blessed to live in East Texas where we see the population increasing at well above the national average, helping to create the growth we experience. Growth can be challenging but always remains exciting.

## WRL Team Member Spotlight - Ryan Bolen



Ryan Bolen

If you think he looks young now as a Field Engineer, you should have seen him in 2010 when WRL hired him as a Laborer and Assistant Carpenter!! Even as a high school student who worked here part time, Ryan Bolen displayed SOLID characteristics that WRL values in its team members. His co-workers, classmates, and superiors will tell you that Ryan brings integrity and great morale to each project he joins and is always ready to help in any way possible. General Manager, David Deen, states, "I have seen Ryan under tough and trying circumstances, in his work environment and in his personal life. He is always the same; he holds onto his Christian values and does not waiver in his beliefs and standards. I look forward to watching Ryan grow in his different roles here at WRL."

Over the last six years, Ryan has worked his way up the ladder from laborer to carpenter to foreman and now to Field Engineer. Currently, Ryan works on all of the SIX Bullard ISD projects, assisting the Project Manager by updating changes to Procore, our construction software, and filling in for Superintendents on the job site when needed. Ryan will be graduating this May with a Bachelor's degree in Construction Management from the University of Texas at Tyler that will help him excel as a Project Superintendent in the near future and one day as a Project Manager. We are blessed to have such a loyal, hardworking team member who shows up every day with the perfect combination of honesty, integrity, reliability, and a positive attitude.

Ryan expresses, "My favorite part of working for WRL is the people and their willingness to let others learn and grow. Everyone, both in the office and in the field, has been a huge blessing by being flexible with my school schedule and even helping on homework assignments. Everyone has taken opportunities to teach me and they have been extremely patient, even when I make mistakes."

Ryan's personal motto: 2 Timothy 4:2,5 ...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. But you be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. Ryan claims the scripture and boatloads of coffee keep him motivated; that and the fact he tries to do his best at whatever he puts his hands on.

Featured Project - Sword Co.  
New Warehouse and Renovations



If you haven't heard, Sword Co. moved to 19981 HWY 69 South in Tyler into this beautiful renovated office/warehouse space and also added a hollow metal door & frame welding shop and warehouse in the back. WRL performed a complete interior demolition of walls, floors, dry wall and wood paneling, down to the metal frame to construct their new front showroom for doors, hardware, and specialty items. We also installed new stone front elevation and expanded the existing building to add offices and warehouse space. We then added an entire new separate storage and warehouse in the back, which houses the welding shop. We poured concrete and paved areas including multiple truck delivery docks to the rear warehouse. In addition to the typical site drains, sanitary sewer, and retaining walls, we also built a new perimeter security fence. This was a quick six month project, designed by EHR Architects of Tyler and completed in December 2015.

## Upcoming Project - Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Church - Flint, TX



Sitework will begin at St. Mary Magdalene of Flint for the new sanctuary & Family Life Center in April 2016. WRL will act as the Construction Manager at-Risk while working with PREVOT Design Services of Louisiana. The project will be broken into two phases, the first being the sitework package. The site is an improved 10 acre tract with existing church, family life center, kitchen,

classrooms, administrative offices, paving, drainage, and site utilities. A creek crosses the site dividing the site into two sections. Phase I will require the installation of an underground box culvert and associated earthwork to essentially bury the creek throughout a large portion of the site to allow for new parking and drives to be constructed. Phase II will be the construction of a new Church Building for worship services to accommodate 650 seats, a Daily Chapel, Choir Suite, All Weather Entry, and Foyer (Narthex) space.

We are thankful for our repeat clients like St. Mary Magdalene. The first project we constructed for them was a multi-purpose building in 2001.

## Upcoming Project - Longview ISD Pre-K and Kindergarten Montessori School



WRL has broken ground for the \$31MM new campus for Longview ISD. The [Longview Montessori School](#) is a 150,000 sq feet facility that will house up to 1,400 Pre-K/Kindergarten students from several surrounding districts. The school will be the largest Montessori School in the state of Texas. At the intersection of US 259 & HWY 80, the project sits on 20 acres of heavily wooded landscape. The project is composed with extensive site work including drilling 440 geothermal wells and extensive earthworks requiring over 200,000 cubic yards of dirt to hauled off the site. The building will consist of 64 unique classrooms that specifically cater to the Montessori method of learning. Plans for the new facility include an outdoor playground with learning gardens, art and music rooms and a stage in the cafeteria. This school is set for completion in the fall of 2017. We will be working with Huckabee & Associates on this Hard Bid project.

In 2010, WRL also worked with Huckabee & Associates to simultaneously construct three new elementary schools for Longview ISD. We are very pleased to work with Longview ISD again on such an important new campus in their community.

## Our Partners are Paramount - Express Employment Professionals

Since 2000, WRL has relied on [Express Employment Professionals of Tyler](#) to provide us with general laborers and office staff. Express Employment Professionals of Tyler is locally owned by Rocky and



Carrie Gill, who opened their franchise in 1995. Although they are locally owned, they are internally backed by Express, boasting 700 offices worldwide. In addition to offering general laborers, they also provide skilled trade, office, accounting and IT staff. Their Industrial Staffing Team has 16 years' experience; their Office Team: 18 years' experience; and their Specialized Recruiting: 7 years.

Business decisions come down to time and money and they help us save on both.

Thank you, Express!!

## Community Involvement - Bike MS: Sam's Club Ride

At WRL, participation with the community is very important, but focus on our families is essential. This is why I (Catherine Nussbaum) made the commitment to ride and raise funds in a 150 mile bike ride for my MS WARRIOR cousin, Teresa Deen (wife of WRL Superintendent Darryl Deen). Teresa is living with MS. To quote her: "I'm very thankful I was not diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis until I was 48. I was able to keep up with my sons' activities, volunteering & holding a part-time job for 10 years. I hope I can be active with my wonderful grandson."



On April 30th and May 1st, I will join thousands of others in a movement to end multiple sclerosis by participating in [Bike MS: Sam's Club Round-Up Ride in D/FW](#). When you make a gift to the National MS Society, you support research and local services to those affected with this unpredictable disease. Not only does my ride support my family members living with MS, but also the many people in our community diagnosed with MS. MS is a disease that affects the central nervous system. Some symptoms of MS may include loss of balance, impaired vision and hearing, fatigue, muscle weakness and, in some, paralysis. Even simple everyday living skills become increasingly difficult. Everyone is affected differently by this disease, and there is NO CURE.

Bike MS is more than a ride. It's a way to make a difference. Mile by mile and dollar by dollar, Bike MS is changing lives. That's why I'm proud to be participating in this year's event. You can donate to MS research and this bike event online at <http://main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/catnuss2016>.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## More Upcoming Projects at WRL

|                                      |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| North Lamar ISD<br>Multiple Projects | All Saints Episcopal School<br>Lower Campus Renovations |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|

|                   |                                      |  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Architect:<br>WRA | Architect:<br>Fitzpatrick Architects |  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|

## Projects in Progress at WRL

|                                      |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Precision Spine Care<br>Longview     | Sleep Medicine Institute of<br>Texas | Tyler ISD - Aquatics Center |
| Architect:<br>Fitzpatrick Architects | Architect:<br>Fitzpatrick Architects | Architect:<br>Corgan        |

|  |                                      |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mother Frances Hospital<br>South Tyler | Northeast Texas Community<br>College | Mother Frances<br>Grande Health Park Clinic |
| Architect:<br>Philo Wilke Architects   | Architect:<br>Corgan                 | Architect:<br>Eubanks Harris Roberts Craig  |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Bullard ISD<br>2015 Bond Program           | Texas Bank & Trust<br>Canton                 | Fenton Nissan -<br>Tiffany Springs<br>Kansas City Shop & Car Wash |
| Architect:<br>Eubanks Harris Roberts Craig | Architect:<br>Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects | Architect:<br>Davidson Architects                                 |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Fenton Nissan of Rockwall<br>New Dealership | Fenton - The Legends Nissan<br>Dealership<br>Kansas City | National Cardiovascular<br>Partners (Baytown) |
| Architect:<br>BWA                           | Architect:<br>BWA  | Architect:<br>Fitzpatrick                     |

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Jennifer Bonnell hired as Accounts Payable.  
 Kenneth Kennedy hired as Project Manager.  
 Morgan Mitchell hired as Project Superintendent.  
 Roy Shafer hired as Project Superintendent.  
 Greg Bramley hired as Project Superintendent.

## Second Quarter Birthdays and Work Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

April  
4/13 Jay Cashion  
4/17 David Nobles  
4/20 Dave Clark  
4/21 David Salinas  
4/27 Barry Clifton

April  
David Nobles - 5 years

May  
5/9 Kenneth Kennedy  
5/20 Darin Dowdy  
5/31 Robert Hernandez

May  
Jay Cashion - 7 years  
Ryan Bolen - 5 years

June  
6/2 Bob Bonner  
6/8 Bob Leavine  
6/21 Darby Mullen  
6/27 Teresa Berry

June  
Josh Coburn - 7 years  
Rene Viramontes - 3 years

Sincerely,

Catherine Nussbaum  
Business Development Manager  
WRL General Contractors  
[Website](#)

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