

## McMAHON Employees Don't Mind Getting Their Hands Dirty

McMAHON employees were quick to form teams to participate in mud run events organized in support of two very worthy causes. In September, the team of Stuart Boerst, Alex Kispert, Tayler Woelz, Carly Diedrich, Tom Kispert, Matt Greely, and Larry Henderson (missing from photo) completed the **Tough Mudder** at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin in support of The Wounded Warrior Project.



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## From the President...

For years now, the McMahon Group has been steadily adding to our base services and expertise. Our latest addition is encapsulated in a company called Integrated Public Resources (IPR). IPR's mandate is to close the loop in terms of providing full privatization of municipal services where appropriate and when asked for by our clients. Specifically, it is to provide private sector financing over long periods of time to provide communities with necessary projects where money is short. It is certainly not for everyone, but it is available to those interested in exploring public/private partnerships on wastewater, water, storm water, collection and distribution infrastructure, streets and roads, etc. and virtually any building needs a community may have. All of this can be done at low rates over the long-term with complete open book policies for every venture. Local banks and contractors will be used for every possible task involved. We are excited by this new venture for us and our clients and will have much more to say on this in the near future.

McMAHON is approaching the end of another solid year. We added new staff in many areas. All are good solid citizens and proud members of their respective communities. We also had a record year for giving to various charities and supporting community events which is something we typically do with little fanfare as some of you know. This is something I am very proud of and so are all our staff members!

Well, the way this fall is shaping up, this just may be another tough winter here in the upper Midwest. Let's hope I'm wrong on that count, as the infrastructure took a beating last winter as you all know and getting outside certainly wasn't always pleasant.

During this time of year, we think about all that we are grateful for. We treasure our relationship and thank you for the opportunity to serve you. From our whole gang here at the McMahon Group, we wish you all the best throughout the upcoming holiday season and beyond.



In October, Sam and Carin Tijan, Ashlee Prochnow, Jean Kloehn, Marya Miller, Jennifer Schaff and Craig Sachs finished the **Warrior Princess Mud Run** to proudly support Harbor House domestic abuse programs.



## Staff Additions

### Environment & Infrastructure:

Andrea Bonell PROJECT ENGINEER  
Shane Kelliher ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

### Admin./Accounting:

Jennifer Harris ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Tracy Schuler ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Denny Lamers



## McMAHON Implements New Design Tool Technology

What separates McMahon from other Engineering and Architectural firms is not “what” we do, but “how” we do things. Our process is truly what separates us from our competitors. In an effort to continually improve our process and strive to give the best delivery of service to our clients, we have implemented some new tools and approaches to design with our clients.

For several years we have implemented electronic whiteboard technology using our Sharp Aquos Board. The large touch screen monitor is a terrific tool to interact with our clients and assist our design team in working out ideas and working through challenges. These touch screen sessions can be done on a virtual whiteboard or even as an overlay on our projects in AutoCAD, Revit or any other software we may be using. While this works great in our office, it presents a rather difficult challenge in attempting to take this technology and process to our clients. Although we proved this wasn't impossible to do, there were subtle signals from management that this may not be the most feasible way to deliver this process to our clients and design team. (Yes, that is our Aquos Board covered by a blanket in the back of one of our company trucks)



We turned to Office Technology Group to help us find a way to expand the delivery of this process. McMAHON now has a mobile touch screen solution that we can take on the road without causing undue stress to our management team. The system consists of a 20" Sharp Aquos touch screen monitor, a 42" Sharp HD LCD display monitor, a tripod stand for the monitor and mobile carrying cases for all the devices. When connected to one of our laptops with the Sharp Pen Software installed, we can have whiteboard sessions identical to those we've had on our in-office Aquos Board.

Simply having technology doesn't get you far if you don't come up with some innovative ways to use it. Recently, the architectural team has come up with a way to bridge the “disconnect” that often occurs between the client's vision of their project and the initial designs. The standard procedure for many years has been to obtain the program information from the client and then go back to the office and develop a preliminary design from that information. Rarely, is there any instant connection and the design spot-on. More often than not, this process results in numerous iterations and a back-and-forth exchanges between the designer and the client to communicate design intent and develop the client's vision. While this process is not entirely flawed, it is inefficient and can be frustrating for the client if not managed properly.

***So, what if you developed the schematic ideas and layouts directly with the client? What if you developed the major building blocks of that project in real-time with the information the client is providing?...***

Well, we tried this and the initial results have been fantastic. Several noteworthy things have happened when this process is implemented; client and designer communication is greatly improved because there is a “visual component” now added to the on-going conversation while it is happening; clients can see what constraints arise from various options and what is motivating the designer to go in a certain direction; and most importantly there is buy-in from both the client and the designer during the preliminary discussion rather than as a result of numerous back and forth attempts.



This process is not without risk and is also not devoid of the work that went into the previous process. The designer still has to do their homework and use the information they have received to come up with an idea of where this conversation can and will go during the design process. It takes a small leap of faith to show up at your client's location without a concept design already on paper. The rewards of working through this process in front of and with your client can and have been remarkable! At the end of the day, these new tools are just that . . . new tools. Without the right people and the right process none of this would work. But in the hands of talented people here at McMahon, these tools can help our clients achieve their vision in a way that no one else can.



## Architecture: On The Boards

(design projects in the works)

2014 has been a busy and positive year for the Architectural sector of McMAHON. These are just a few of the many projects they have been working on as of late.

- Airgas, New Facility DAVENPORT, IA
- Appleton Area School District, Huntley Elementary School Addition APPLETON, WI
- Appleton Area School District, Einstein Middle School Remodel and Addition APPLETON, WI
- Appleton Area School District, Appleton West H.S. Tech Ed/ Art Remodel APPLETON, WI
- Brillion Public Schools, Elementary and Middle School Renovations BRILLION, WI
- Feeding America, New Facility LITTLE CHUTE, WI
- Fox Valley Hematology and Oncology, New Facility APPLETON WI
- Galloway Company, New Corporate Offices and Production Facilities NEENAH, WI
- Les Stumpf Ford, Facility Renovation APPLETON, WI
- City of Menasha, Menasha Senior Center Addition and Renovation MENASHA, WI
- Sunrise Office Building, New Office Building BISMARCK, ND
- Twin City Catholic Educational System, New St Mary Catholic Middle School NEENAH, WI

## Construction Begins on Boys & Girls Club of Menasha

Ground was broken for the new Boys & Girls Club of Menasha on the corner of 6th and Racine streets in Menasha. The new 33,000 square foot facility will be a place for students ages 6-18. Features will include a 7,500 square foot teen center complete with full-sized robotics laboratory, a dance studio, fitness center and performing arts center.

All of the funding for the new facility came through donations, both financial and donated services. McMAHON was honored to be able to support the new facility by way of providing Phase 1 Environmental Assessment, Topographic Survey, Property Consolidation Services, Civil Engineering, Storm Water Management Design, and Structural Engineering. The new facility is expected to open June of 2015.



## This Month's Q&A

**Q:** How do you reduce the amount of unattractive algae floating on top of a pond?

**A:** Plant native aquatic plants which uptake nutrients and cool the water (by shading). This will have a remarkable effect of reducing the formation of algae naturally without having to treat with costly chemicals.

*To learn more about this and other environmental/ecological services we offer, contact McMAHON Environmental Scientist, Stuart Boerst, P.S.S., P.H. at [sboerst@mcmgrp.com](mailto:sboerst@mcmgrp.com)*

## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

McMAHON is proud to support programs and events that help individuals and organizations make our communities a better place to live. Some recent examples of sponsorships and contributions made by McMAHON include:

- Appleton Girls Hockey Club
- Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce
- Stockbridge Walleye Tournament
- Village of Kimberly  
Vanden Boogaard Memorial
- Fox Valley Warming Shelter
- Winnebago County  
Heroin Task Force
- Jr. Gamblers  
AAA Hockey Program
- Fox Cities Stars
- Hilbert Wolves Athletic Boosters  
Golf Outing
- Tri-County Ice Arena
- The Giving Tree of  
Howard-Suamico
- Town of Menasha Fire Department
- Salvation Army
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Menasha
- St. Gabriel Elementary School PTO
- Lawrence University – Academy  
of Music
- Chances Animal Rescue



## Featured McMAHON Client: TCCES

Twin City Catholic Educational System (TCCES) of the Neenah and Menasha, WI area is a community of educators, students, families and supporters who have sacrificed and believed, for more than 100 years, in the importance of providing a strong academic foundation for our youth, rooted in the values and traditions of our Catholic faith. For the most part, TCCES facilities were in good shape, with one exception. Their middle school was crumbling before their eyes. To give their educators and students an opportunity for a quality education, they needed to replace this facility.

TCCES Middle School project posed a unique opportunity to unite the traditions of the Catholic faith with a new, state-of-the-art, middle school educational environment. Early in the process, the project leadership team established overall project imperatives; Priority one was to create an educational environment which promotes and celebrates true academic excellence; and two, ground the building design in traditions of Catholicism.

The overall classroom arrangement is comprised of flexible, grade level “pods,” each containing 3-4 large core classrooms and adjacent collaborative learning areas; group study/project rooms and student lockers. There are three separate, shared classrooms for band/choir, art and science. The science and art rooms are located to take advantage of an outdoor learning environment. The overall facility has the flexibility to integrate current and long-term technology trends.

To promote Catholic tradition, the overall layout of the building is organized around three metaphors consistently seen in Catholic architecture for 2000 years. These metaphors, in simplest form, are: Body, City and Temple.

The new 300-student school will complete the educational system, giving them quality educational facilities, from pre-K through high school, and providing the children who attend, the most valuable gift they could ever receive.

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