

SiteLines



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Strong Staff, Key Location Enhance CEC's Collegeville Office

Fourteen years ago, Carroll Engineering opened its first Montgomery County office in Trappe, Pa. Today, after years of steady growth within and beyond that county's borders, Carroll serves a range of municipal and private clients from its office at 555 2nd Avenue in Collegeville.



"One of our first clients in Montgomery County was Schwenksville Borough, and Carroll Engineering is still the borough's engineer," says Kenneth R. Yerger Jr., manager of the Collegeville facility since before the 2001 move to this address. Yerger, who carries both PE and PLS after his name—professional engineer and professional land surveyor—heads a team of about a dozen engineers, land planners, surveyors, construction inspectors and office personnel.

Yerger considers the Collegeville office's strengths to lie with the services its personnel perform for municipal clients. However, land development projects for a variety of private clients, such as the Keystone Corporate Campus in Pottstown, are increasing in number every year.

"We have a strong staff," he notes. "It's well supported by the corporate office with its more extensive capabilities and personnel." Until recently, Yerger himself split his time between the Montgomery County and Warrington, Bucks County facilities, giving him a fine appreciation for what the main office offers his clients.



In the shadow of the High Bridge, the PICTA (Phoenixville Iron Canal Trail Association) Trail winds between the newly renovated Foundry Building and French Creek. This multi-use trail offers local shoppers and residents a one-mile walk near the Historic Business District.

"The Warrington office assists with traffic engineering services and supplies structural engineering for larger projects and environmental engineering when it's needed," says Yerger.

The Collegeville office fields two survey crews under Stephen Murphy, PLS, and has two construction inspectors on staff.

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Carroll Engineering's Collegeville Office Capabilities

Municipal Engineering

- Stormwater
- Road Improvements
- Professional Engineering
- Reviews/Consulting

Landscape Architecture

- Planting Plans
- Lighting Plans
- Naturalized Stormwater Management and Best Management Practices
- Site Design (planning roads, buildings, parking, circulation)
- Trail Design
- Parks and Recreational Design
- Signage
- Illustrative Renderings

Land Planning

- Zoning Issues
- Community Impact Statements
- Open Space Plans
- Community Design

Survey

- Stakeout
- Site Survey

Structural Engineering

Environmental Engineering

- Water Systems
- Sanitary Sewer Systems

From My Chair




Harry J. Barford Jr., PE

Along with the vigilance and caution that all Americans have found they must exercise in these trying times, all municipalities are now required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish advanced security to protect public water supplies from contamination or interrupted service.

The Vulnerability Assessment (VA) identifies critical assets and areas of a system that are susceptible to vandalism, insider sabotage, terrorist attacks and other malevolent acts. These assets include public well sites, pumping stations, water storage tanks, distribution systems, fire hydrants, control valves, accompanying electric power and more. The VA plan is useful not only to set up protection and security, but also to schedule repairs, to plan future system upgrades and for inventory.

The deadline for submission is June 30 for municipalities with systems serving 3,301 to 49,999 residents; VAs for larger systems were due in 2003. Carroll Engineering's staff includes specially trained engineers who are certified—an EPA requirement—to prepare VA plans. Michael H. McRee, PE, ext. 368, would be pleased to answer your questions regarding the requirements.

We take seriously the current threat to community services...and our own responsibility to ensure that our clients, our communities and our neighbors are as safe and secure as our skills can make them. 

Dresher Road Gets Array of Improvements

The substantial upgrades to Dresher Road in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, Pa.—nearly two decades in the planning—will begin in earnest this spring.

"Once the utilities are relocated, we can start on Phase I, which includes roadway widening and reconstruction along the west side of Dresher Road," says Jim Roche, PE, resident engineer on the project.

Although construction activity on the 1.75-mile stretch of Dresher between Welsh Road (Route 63) and Horsham Road (Route 463) commenced August 11, until now contractors had been working around the utilities in place. Crews have completed abutment work and nearly finished widening the bridge over Pennypack Creek.

Two retaining walls that are part of the project are currently under construction, as are storm sewers.


John Barbaz, PE, project engineer, notes that the phased project attempts "to minimize any inconvenience to the traveling public. We'll maintain left turn lanes at all intersections and install temporary signals throughout construction."

Phase II widens and reconstructs the east side of Dresher Road. Phase III calls for cleaning up the construction area and installing the wearing course over the entire road, plus final pavement markings, traffic signal upgrades and

signage. All phases are expected to be completed by June 30, 2005, according to Barbaz.

A feature of the \$5.75 million project is the high-tech signaling: a computerized closed-loop system that allows township personnel to monitor and adjust the timing from the township building on Horsham Road.

Carroll Engineering provided multi-disciplined engineering and surveying services for the design,

permitting and bid phases of the project. During the construction phase the firm is providing resident engineer, construction management and observation services. Construction is by JVC Contracting Company Inc., Chester Springs, Pa. 



To check progress:
<http://home.earthlink.net/~jsjcroche1/>


The Personnel Side of Carroll



CEC Engineer Recognized During Engineers Week

In conjunction with National Engineers Week February 22-28, the New Britain Township Board of Supervisors

in Bucks County, Pa. recognized township engineer Craig Kennard, PE. The board's resolution thanked Kennard "for his positive contributions and tireless efforts in his role" and noted the "high-quality and professional engineering

service he provides to the Township of New Britain." Kennard has worked with the township for seven years, serving as township engineer since 2000. He joined the Carroll Engineering staff in 1997. 

Everybody's Playground: A Project from the Heart

Just imagine it: a playground where children can play with all their friends and siblings—regardless of physical capabilities.

The 40-member-mighty Horsham Rotary Club imagined it. And then made it happen, through intense fundraising that amassed in less than two years more than \$400,000 from private individuals, public groups and corporate contributions.



The universally accessible Everybody's Playground at Lukens Park on Dresher Road in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, was dedicated last spring. This March the Pennsylvania

Recreation and Parks Society presented its 2004 Service Group Award to the Horsham Rotary for its efforts to bring this amazing gift to area children and families.

Horsham Rotary has long been involved in providing opportunities for youngsters with differences to play alongside those who are not challenged. Out of those interests, the idea grew for a playground where "nobody's different, everyone's equal, and they play side by side," says Mary Dare, who served as president of the club in 2001, in the midst of the fundraising.

"If all kids could play together from the time they're little, we believe they'll have no reason to discriminate later. And the quality of everyone's life improves."

The club raised awareness as it raised funds, using newspaper ads, letters and brochures, a printer cartridge-recycling program and grant applications. The last resulted in \$100,000 from the state's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Rotary group also had the full support of the township, including Bill Walker, director of parks and recreation, and Michael McGee, township manager.


General Recreation Inc., specialists in playground development, designed the playground with a safe, cushioned

surface that easily accommodates wheelchair use. There are slides, all kinds of climbing and swinging apparatus, see-through tunnels, ramps and plenty of room to run and play.



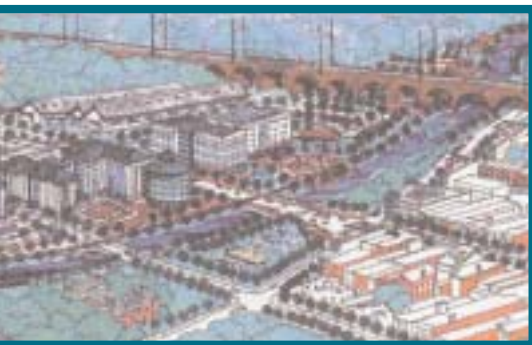
The project cost \$342,000, notes Walker. "Horsham Rotary has also given money toward the purchase of a pavilion and restroom structure—all handicapped-accessible—that will be installed this summer. Hatboro Rotary Club recently contributed \$18,000 to cover the installation and construction.

Dare reports that a parent at the spring 2003 opening said it was the first time her physically challenged daughter was able to play on a playground with her siblings—a heartwarming tribute to the efforts of the club and the many people who contributed to the project.

Dare sums it up: "It's a project from the heart...many hearts." 

Coatesville's Revitalization Strategy on Track

Making the City of Coatesville a vital economic center and a livable, walkable community are not idle goals for those who have embraced the vision of revitalizing this historic city along the West Branch of the Brandywine River in Chester County, Pa.



Coatesville has had its share of economic prosperity and woes. The city is the site of the longest operating steel mill in America, though Lukens Steel has been bought and sold twice in the past six years. The city's long economic decline began in the 1970s with a drop in employment from a high of more than 6,000 employees to the current base of just over 700.

E. Jean Krack, assistant manager for the City of Coatesville, serves with many others in various capacities with many others in ongoing plans for revitalization. As director of Economic & Community Development, he has been in the thick of establishing the development strategy.

"We set out on a five- to seven-year plan to establish Coatesville as the new destination in Chester County. We have just finished our fifth year and the developers are in line to move forward. We anticipate about a year to get them into position, so I would say we are exactly on track with our original goals and objectives."

The funding strategy with which the city is now working has over a dozen different components, from grants and loans to public and private investment. In the first five years of crucial planning

and early efforts, the city received 34 grants (of 35 applied for) worth more than \$6 million "to support quality-of-life issues and set the stage for the vision." These include more than \$1 million to build additional city parks, \$1.2 million for the streetscapes program, \$1.3 million to completely replace the traffic light system with a fiber-optic closed-loop system, along with the Main Street Manager Program, Weed & Seed Program and a "myriad of other programs to support the initial process."


Six developers—Tower Investments, Oliver Tyrone Pulver, Cansler Investment, Chetty Builders, Westrum Development and TRWhite Inc.—have projects that equate to injecting more than \$600 million into the downtown core.

"This is significant," says Krack, "since the assessment of the entire city today is \$270 million."

So far, the renovation of six downtown buildings has spurred interest in the Façade Improvement Program—including a complete reconstruction of 128 E. Lincoln Highway, where Carroll Engineering has its newest office. An additional dozen or so buildings needing facelifts are now in the program. Later this year, the six developers will begin showcasing their plans.


One feature of the redevelopment and revitalization plans is a riverwalk to incorporate the Brandywine—the artery and power source that stimulated the city's early growth and prosperity—into the fabric of the downtown.

"We cannot go back to 1950 and 1960 [and those more prosperous times]," notes Krack. "But we can create that experience of being able to walk in town and shop. Coatesville is going to be a livable and walkable community."

This is the first in a series of articles about the revitalization of the City of Coatesville. 

Strong Staff ...continued

Adam A. Supplee, a registered landscape architect and certified planner, is currently heading up a parking study for the Borough of Phoenixville—another of the office's municipal clients—for which he will provide analysis and recommend improvements.

"For the future, we hope to continue as we are, gradually expanding our services to meet the demands of our clients," Yerger says. "Because we sit next to Route 422, we're looking to expand our services from this base westward into Berks County and beyond. We have room here to increase our staff by six or more—specifically for PEs with design experience who can help us with our land development projects and municipal work." 

MS4 Deadline Reminder

CEC's Dick Wieland, PE, notes that most municipalities with MS4s (municipal separate storm sewer systems) have now received the state-issued General Permit 13. [See SiteLines, Winter 2004.] One requirement of that federal permit is coming up fast: the first annual report is due June 9, 2004, for the period covering March 10, 2003 to March 9, 2004. For answers or assistance, contact Dick Wieland, 215.343.5700 ext. 238, dwieland@carrollengineering.com.

Carroll Engineering Corporation

Seeks professionals to fill staffing vacancies at all three offices:
Warrington, Bucks County
Collegeville, Montgomery County
Coatesville, Chester County
Please send your resumé to the attention of Daniel P. Mullin, RLA, Vice President
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