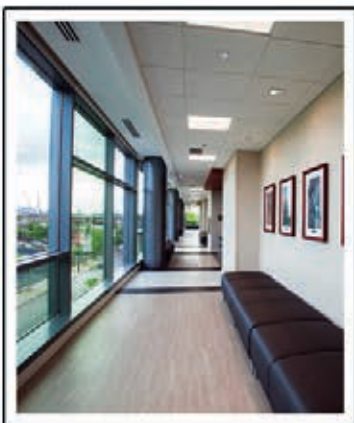


## FEATURED PROJECT

# St. Bernard Medical Office Building



*Block Electric recently worked with St. Bernard Hospital to create a state-of-the-art Medical Office Building at 63rd and Stewart in Chicago.*

*(See story on page 4)*

## Vice President's Message



As we move into the spring with a very mild winter, our work outlook is going to be picking up. Projects for the summer are currently bidding now and we forecast

a very busy one with Costco Meat Plant and Mudd Hall Library coming to fruition around the same time.

We have picked up a few more jobs such as an air handler unit replacement project at Mercy Hospital, new patient rooms at Silver Cross Hospital and the Hines VA Hospital Boiler Plant project.

We have made bid headway into our operations in the last few months with the build-out of our new prefabrication shop. We now need everyone's support to keep the shop as busy as possible. No job is too small or big to utilize these capabilities. Staying creative and thinking ahead are more important now than ever in today's proven fast market. With the infrastructure we have in place, I know you will be able to make it a success for us all.

Our Niles office has added a new team member to our staff, Ryan Appelhans. Ryan was hired on to be our Project Coordinator where he will be assisting all our project managers during pre-construction and throughout our projects. Please join me in welcoming Ryan in his new position.

Most importantly, as we continue to grow and move around into different markets for work, it's very important to keep our customers delighted while being flexible enough to build new relationships. Our customers know they can rely on us for anything and I invite you to continue that trend as we move forward into various markets. Enjoy your spring!

Hopefully it's as pleasant as our winter has been.

— SCOTT BLOCK

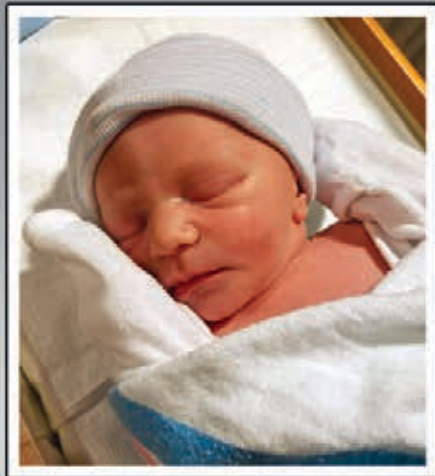


## New Additions

### *Block families welcome new babies*

#### Ariana Thea Mota

Congratulations to Kathy and David Mota on their new addition. Baby Ariana Thea Mota was born on December 28 at 7:35 p.m. and weighed 6 lbs., 2 ozs.



#### Travis Kole Dickson

Congratulations to Nick Dickson and his wife Ashley on their second bundle of joy, Travis Kole Dickson. Travis was born on December 8 and weighed 7 lbs., 6 ozs.

## Spotlight On: Michael Belke

### GENERAL FOREMAN

As a General Foreman at Block Electric, Michael Belke takes great pride in working in a trade he entered right after high school. Michael began working at Block Electric in January of 2003 and left in December of 2009, when he and his wife Christina moved to California. After moving back to Illinois, Michael rejoined the Block Electric team in October of 2015.

Michael is currently working on a BIM project at Laboratories of Astrophysics and Space Research, which has scientists who work closely with NASA. "There is a world renowned scientist working in the sub-basement throughout the construction process. His experiments are a constant mystery to us tradesman. The ongoing joke is the ghost of Einstein lives in our building," Michael said. "From an electrical standpoint, it's a BIM job which has been a helpful process to layout and coordinate the job, utilize the Trimble unit, and work on prefab. It's nice to see how technology can advance our trade."

Prior to the LASR job, Michael's last project

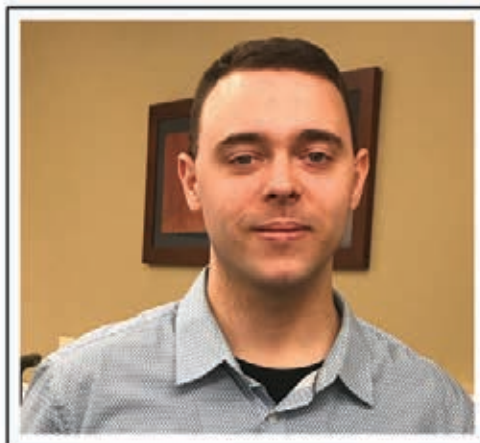


for Block Electric was working on the Shedd Aquarium in 2008. While he was living on the west coast, Michael worked at a Beverly Hills BMW car dealership, the Port of Long Beach maintenance facility and the Long Beach City College Culinary Arts School.

When he's not busy overseeing Block Electric's day to day operations at LASR, Michael is an avid runner and enjoys reading, drawing/sketching and traveling. He has competed in five half marathons, four marathons, and a 200 mile relay race through the state of Oregon.

Michael lives in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood with Christina. The couple will be celebrating their ten year anniversary soon.

## Welcome to the Block



### PROJECT COORDINATOR Ryan Applehans

Block Electric would like to welcome Ryan Appelhans as our Project Coordinator. Ryan started on February 20th in our Niles office. He grew up in Chicago, building homes with his father, Scott. With a focus on management, and exceeding project needs, Ryan has a passion for construction and the people in the industry. Ryan's background, and his experience, makes him a great asset to our company. Welcome aboard Ryan!



# AWARD WINNING WORK: Shakespeare Garden wins Historic Preservation Award

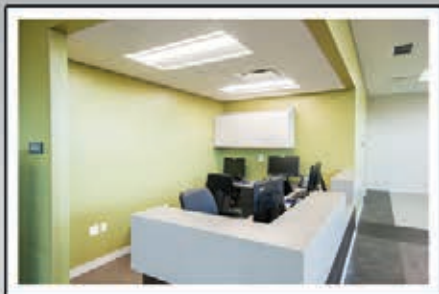
In 1916, Jens Jensen designated the Shakespeare Garden on the campus of the renowned Northwestern University in Chicago to commemorate the tricentennial of William Shakespeare's death. One hundred years later, the client assembled a team of landscape architects, designers, and artisans, including Block Electric, to add enhancements to the garden, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On behalf of the Shakespeare Garden Restoration/Enhancement Project Team, Hitchcock Design Group submitted the project to the IL ASLA for a Historic Preservation Award—and won.

Between March and June of last year, Block Electric's Frank Raucci and Brendan Christy worked closely with Northwestern University's Landscape Architect Ann Ziegelmaier to install new landscape, pathway and bench lighting throughout the garden. Dozens of small LED lightbulbs were strategically placed throughout the historic garden. The fountain at the east end of the garden is lit by a pencil-thin fixture to represent moonlight, and the stone benches are illuminated from underneath.







## FEATURED PROJECT

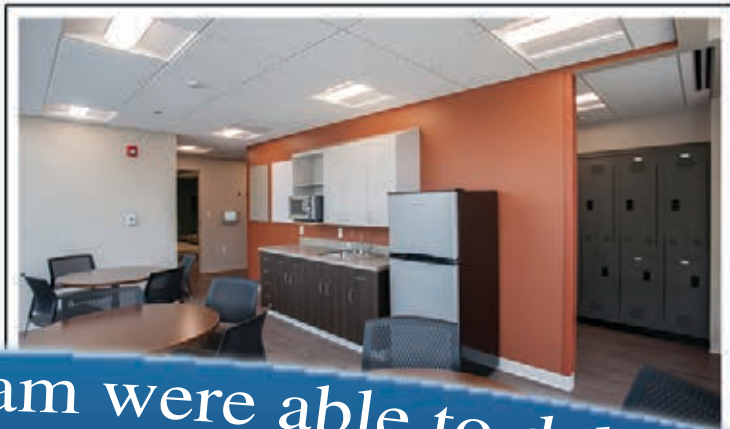
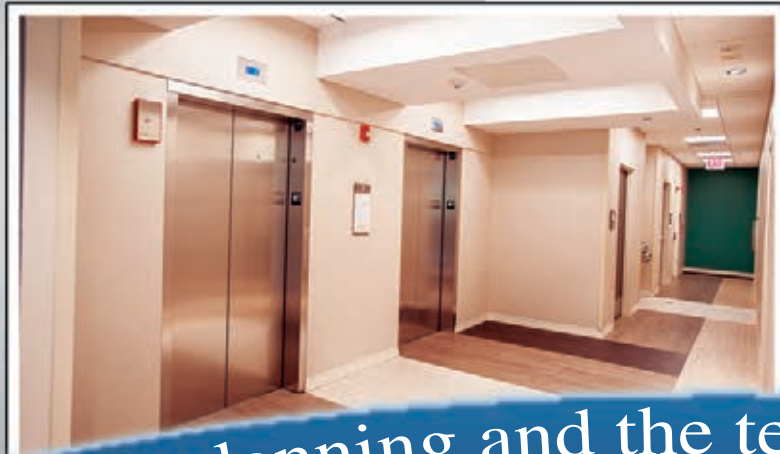
# St. Bernard Medical Office

The St. Bernard Medical Office Building began as a conceptual building and grew into a completed health care facility. This project was budgetary and through project meetings it was refined into a finished product. As part of this lean project, Block Electric and representatives from other trades were involved from the very beginning with schedules, material release dates, valued engineering, and helping in the electrical distribution design.

The St. Bernard Medical Office Building started from the ground up at 63rd and Stewart in

Chicago. The grounds were filled with old foundations from row homes taken down years ago. This made trenching for the Com Ed feeders a challenge. Martin Will, who was the foreman in charge of this project, was faced with the challenge of planning around cold weather and coordinating with all the other trades to get these lines into the new building.

Once the building's concrete and steel were set, Jessie Geiger and his team were able to create CAD designs for the electrical installations and then Trimble the building. Block Electric



*“Pre-planning and the team were able to deliver*



# Building

prefabbed the boxes and hangers and was able to begin the installation of conduits and panels before the walls were in. Martin and his team worked tirelessly with all the trades and helped keep the building on time and budget.

Because of all the pre-planning that went into the process, the St. Bernard Medical Office Building was a huge success. Martin and his team were able to deliver customer delight to St. Bernard. Since this project was completed, Block Electric has done various other small projects at St. Bernard's main hospital building.



customer delight to St. Bernard” —Mike Arvesen

# Customer Delight

Block Electric received a letter praising the crew currently remodeling the Shakespeare Theatre at Navy Pier. We wanted to share some of the very nice things the Project Coordinator at Navy Pier had to say about the team at the Theatre and Block Electric. Please keep up the great work in making our customers delighted.

"I wanted to take a moment to send you a note about Block Electric. I have worked with many notable electrical companies over my many years on many challenging projects. I see now that we need the independence and the expertise of a firm like Block who could look out for our best interests as we go about fixing and working with the infrastructure at Navy Pier. Thank you for your on-going stewardship at Navy Pier."

Subject: Shakespeare

Hey Jerry. I just wanted to drop you a note hoping you would forward it to the correct people there at Block.

I walked the Shakespeare site today at Navy Pier and I have to tell you the pipe work on that job is outstanding! Very, very tight spaces to put the conduits, but Jerry and his crew are really giving us a high quality install!

Thanks for helping us push this job along!

**Joe Koppers**  
**Director Of Field Operations**  
**Bulley & Andrews LLC.**

## FOCUS ON SAFETY:

# Use the Right Tool

*by Sea Bright Insurance Loss Control*

How many times have you struggled with a job that would have been easy if you have the right tool? Have you ever tried to drive a nail with a pipe wrench or screwdriver handle? Have you used a knife or a dime to turn a screw? The simplest of tasks can be frustrating and difficult if you do not have the proper tools to work with.

Using the right tool is also important when it comes to preventing accidents. Who has not skinned their knuckles using pliers when a socket would have done the job? Many injuries occur not because a job is too dangerous, but because the worker uses the wrong tool or piece of equipment.

Think for a moment about the job you do. More specifically, think about the variety of tasks you perform. Do you have the tools and equipment you need to do the job without exposing yourself or co-workers to unnecessary injury? Are you aware of any special tools created to make the tasks you perform easier and safer? Does your company use them? If not, let your supervisor know.

Do you make use of dollies and hand trucks to reduce exposure to material handling injuries? Do you get a ladder instead of standing on a chair

or climbing up the shelves? Do you use a man lift instead of a ladder when you need both hands free and need to access areas several feet apart? Ensure your forklifts rating is adequate for the load it will carry. In a kitchen setting, do you have the right knives? Do you have non-metallic spark resistant tools where there is a fire/ explosion hazard?

Nobody knows your job as well as you do. If you have thought of a better way to do it, or if you know of a tool or piece of equipment that would make your job safer, tell your employer about it.

The few moments you save by using something else will not make up for the dollars and time spent in response to your injury. It is wiser to spend money on buying the right tool than for medical bills and decreased production.

Remember to inspect selected tools to ensure it is safe.

Are wooden handles free of splinters or cracks?

Are electrical tools double grounded?

Do you know how to use the tool?

Remember the right tool will save you time, money, and injuries.

## Block Electric's Safety Policy

It is our policy to provide all employees with a safe, healthful, and hazard-free work place. The intent at all times is to comply with the provisions of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA).

Block Electric recognizes that accident prevention and efficient production are interrelated. We further recognize our responsibility to provide adequate training, safeguards and safety equipment for each employee. In turn each employee bears the responsibility to comply with all safety regulations and the use of required safety equipment. The safety and well being of our employees has been and will continue to be of primary importance.

Our EMR is .70 and our Contractor Score is 2390. Phil Casto is our safety director.



## Block Electric Scholarship Application Deadline: April 30

The application deadline for the annual Block Electric Scholarship is Sunday, April 30. Application instructions are listed below and are in your Team Member Handbook. Submit all applications to: Ms. Pauline Staab, Porte Brown Accounting and Consulting, 1752 Capital Street, Suite 400, Elgin, Illinois 60124

## Scholarship Eligibility/ Application Instructions

Block Electric is committed to the success and achievements of the people who make up our company. We are also interested in promoting the achievements of the next generation of individuals. In order to help accomplish this, we offer a partial scholarship program to our people for their children who are interested in attending college. The funding is made through Block Electric Co.

### Eligibility

The following persons are eligible to apply for a scholarship:

1. Children of a Block Electric Co. employee. The employee must be employed by Block Electric for at least five (5) years prior to application.
2. The applicant must have maintained a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale during the last two (2) years of high school, or if presently attending college, a 2.5 average in the last complete year.
3. Applicants must be seeking enrollment or enrolled in a four year accredited college or university.
4. Prior recipients can also be eligible. They must re-apply annually, and must have maintained a 2.5 grade point average while attending college.
5. Children of the officers of Block Electric Co. are not eligible to participate.

### Scholarship Amounts

Individual scholarships of \$2,000.00 will be made available. A maximum of three (3) scholarships will be awarded each year.

### Selection Criteria

Selections will be made by the independent accounting firm of Porte Brown.

### Application Process

All applications must be in writing only and sent to: Ms. Pauline Staab, Porte Brown Accounting and Consulting 1752 Capital Street, Suite 400, Elgin, IL 60124

Any questions can be directed to Scott Block or Ryan Underwood at 847 647 4030.

The application is simply a letter written to Ms. Pauline Staab stating the following information:

1. Name, address, telephone number and social security number of the applicant.
2. Name of parent of applicant.
3. Name and address of college or university to be attended.
4. The applicant's high school and/or college (in the event of re application) should be instructed to send the applicant's transcripts to Ms. Staab at the above address.
5. A summary of why the applicant is in need of this scholarship.

The deadline for the application, along with the other information, is April 30. The selection and notification will be made by May 31.

### Other

Block Electric Co. reserves the right to change the eligibility, scholarship amount, and selection criteria at any time.

## REGISTER NOW! Walk & Roll Chicago

**Saturday, April 22**

*Soldier Field, Stadium Green*



Join us on Saturday, April 22, 2017 to celebrate the impact Walk & Roll Chicago has made in our community over the last 46 years! There's still time to join Team Block Electric for the annual American Cancer Society Walk and Roll.

To sign up for CEI-Team Block Electric, go to: <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/blockelectric> Click on either "Join a Team" or "Donate Now".

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Crissy Sorensen or Donna Dreksler.

Walk & Roll is a family friendly fundraising event to benefit the American Cancer Society. Beginning in Chicago in 1971 as a bike-a-thon, Walk & Roll is a unique "party with a purpose" that brings our community together in the fight against cancer.

Come together with thousands of walkers, runners, skaters, cyclists and volunteers to honor cancer survivors, raise awareness about reducing cancer risk, and raise money to support the lifesaving services of the American Cancer Society. Participants can select from a 5K walk, 5K run, 10K skate, or 15K bike.

The American Cancer Society is the largest voluntary health organization in the world. On behalf of Block Electric, thank you for your support of the American Cancer Society.

**Block Electric Company**  
7107 Milwaukee Avenue  
Niles, Illinois 60714



Block Electric Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## REGISTER NOW!

WALK AND ROLL CHICAGO – SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017  
Soldier Field, Stadium Green. See Page 7 for more details.

Visit [www.blockelectric.com](http://www.blockelectric.com) to see our new updated website!

**Niles:**  
7107 Milwaukee Avenue • Niles, IL 60714  
Phone: 847.647.4030 • Fax: 847.647.6980

**Block Electric Company**  
Service ■ Safety ■ Quality  
[www.blockelectric.com](http://www.blockelectric.com)

**Shorewood:**  
203-C Earl Road • Shorewood, IL 60404  
Phone: 815.744.2000 • Fax: 815.744.6070