



FEATURED PROJECT LaSalle-Peru Township High School



Block Electric has completed 4 out of the 5 phases at LaSalle-Peru Township High School. The Block team has been on site for over a year and a half and is still on site making miscellaneous changes for the customer.

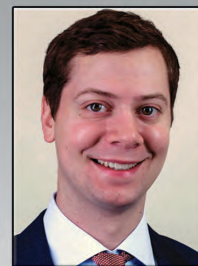
Block Electric crews have worked over 23,500 hours, most of which were over the past summer. This accounts for \$6.5 million total of the \$38 million renovation. Pepper Construction and their team were the construction managers, and Kevin Sheridan led the Block Electric crews as the Foreman.

The project began in the summer of 2017 when Block Electric upgraded LaSalle-Peru Township High School's

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Vice President's Message



As we move into our 99th year in business, I'd like to look back on some of the highlights throughout this year.

Labor hours in 2018 have reached over 300,000. At our peak, we had 84 electricians working in local 134, 109 electricians in local 176 and 22 electricians in surrounding other locals for a total of 215 electricians.

We have entered into a new market at O'Hare Airport with the American Airline's GEM building, ARFF building, and ATS building to name a few. O'Hare has big plans for expansion in the next several years and we are very excited about this new opportunity.

One of our biggest hurdles this past year was the Costco Meatpacking Facility in Morris, IL. The Costco team faced many challenges due to the design by the architect and engineering firms. Our team was receiving, on site, multitudes of equipment that was never shown on the drawings or planned for. This was only the second meatpacking facility Costco had ever built and there were a lot of learning curves to overcome. By the time the project was completed, we had worked 86,000 regular hours plus 6,000 overtime hours and we were able to complete the job on time within the considerably tight schedule.

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Vice President's Message

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I am extremely proud of all our project teams and the challenges we were able to overcome this year. As you'll read about in this newsletter, Doug Henline will be hanging up his project management hat at the end of the year. Doug has a 34 year career with Block Electric and has been nothing less than one of our most valuable employees.

Doug helped our Shorewood branch grow from just 4 electricians when he started to over 100 electricians today. Doug has managed many projects throughout his career as well as our largest project ever at the new Silver Cross Hospital. I had the privilege to work alongside Doug and I know I can speak for many others when I say that he's very charismatic, punctual, and hard working. You will also learn a lot!

Thank you Doug for your tremendous leadership, loyalty, and dedication to Block Electric. We wish you all the best in your next chapter.

— **SCOTT BLOCK**

Vice President, Block Electric

Project Manager Doug Henline set to retire after 34 years

After a lucrative 34 year career at Block Electric, Project Manager Doug Henline is set to retire at the end of this month. Doug started his apprenticeship in 1979 and was hired by Block Electric in 1984, only to be laid off and rehired within his first year with the company.

"When I started with Block there were 4 electricians in Shorewood—Leo Keigher, Jim Mullens, Bill Enz and Tony Frescura—and one Project Manager, Mike Deger," Doug said. "I was not sure how long Block Electric was going to stay in business down here. I guess I was wrong."

Doug was working for Block Electric when he married his wife Deb on November 16, 1985. "She was a saint in the early years with four young children and a husband that spent too many hours at work," he said. "I could not have done this job without her."

While Doug worked on numerous jobs throughout his many years at Block Electric, he said "the new Silver Cross Hospital was the biggest challenge of my career."

While the new Silver Cross Hospital presented its challenges, Doug has a special fondness for Silver Cross Hospital. His daughters Miranda and Morgan were born at the old Silver Cross Hospital in 1987 and 1988. "I was working in the field for Leo at Silver Cross" at the time, Doug said. His grandsons were born at the new Silver Cross Hospital in 2015, 2016 and 2017, while Morgan's daughter will be giving birth to his granddaughter there in February of 2019. Doug has two other children, Lonnie and Melissa, who were born at Morris Hospital prior to Block Electric working there.

Doug ran work in the field for Block Electric at the following locations from 1984 through 1993: Toyal America., Crossfield Chemicals (now PQ), Durkee Foods/Lipton/Loders, Silver Cross (old hospital) and Harrah's from September of 1993 until the end of that year when he came into the office. "Harding Electric went out of business and Pepper called us to finish the Harrah's project," Doug said. "We worked seven days a week to complete this by Christmas and had 30 men on the job. I took them over as a project manager in 1994 and kept them until now."

Doug was promoted to Project Manager in January of 1994. "I started by doing estimates by hand for a couple of years," he said. "Thank God for computers!"

Doug took on various new accounts as a Project Manager, many of which he is still in charge



today, including: Akzo (1994), Stepan (1995), Harrah's (1994), CB&I (1997), Lindblad Construction (1998), Parson Energy/PPL/LSP (2001), Morris Hospital (2001), Dollar Tree (2003), Low Voltage Solutions (2005), Reed Construction (2006), Silver Cross New Hospital (2009), M & M Banks (2010), Narvick Construction (2012), Troy Schools (2013), Wescom 911 (2013), JBBR/ARC/ZENITH (2014) and Costco (2016).

In addition to the accounts he cultivated, Doug took over additional accounts from other Project Manager's, including: Silver Cross (Old Hospital) (1994), Crossfield/PQ (1994), Toyal (1994), Bolingbrook Hospital (2015), Graybar Distribution (2015), Morris Co Gen (2015) and Seneca Schools (2016). Doug is still in charge of these accounts today.

Looking back, Doug is grateful for the opportunity he was given by the Block family to have such a wonderful career and cherishes the friendships he has made along the way.

"The one thing I appreciate the most was the friendships I had with my Block Electric co-workers, as well as with my customers," Doug said. "I don't think that anyone can keep their accounts for their whole career without the friendships you build with your customers. Customer Delight!"

"I worked with two of the best secretaries you could ever ask for, Sheila and Sonja, my whole career. I worked for three great Branch Managers—Mike, Tim and Jim—in my career," Doug said. "I worked for Jack Block, and Bob and Mike Deger, and now Scott and Michael Block. All the greatest people to be associated with."

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entire electrical infrastructure with a new service from Peru Power, a 3,000 amp main switchboard and a 500 kw generator. Block Electric ran over 4,000 feet of 3 1/2" conduit feeding new distribution and branch panel boards.

"This summer's schedule was by far the most challenging part of this project," Project Manager Scott Schultz said. Since the school was built in 1898, the first few weeks of the project were

spent on asbestos abatement. Once that was complete Block had until September 10 to finish the job because teachers and students were returning to school on September 12.

"Students are treated to some of the best new technology with short-throw projectors, smart teaching walls, a new STEM lab wing and, best of all, new air conditioning and heating," Schultz said.

Welcome New Journeymen

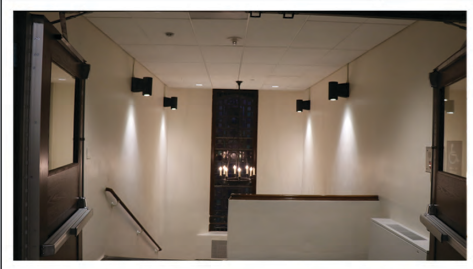
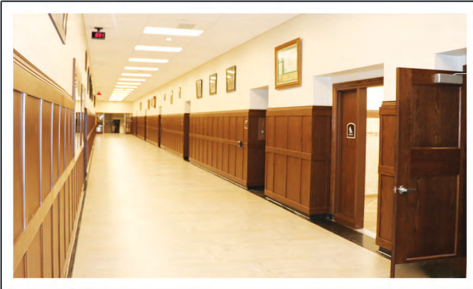
Congratulations to the following employees who completed the required on the job training and related instruction qualifying him/her to receive Journeyman status: Timothy Olson Jr., who became a Journeyman on December 11, 2018; and James Padgurskis, who became a Journeyman on December 11, 2018.





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**NEW IDEAS NEEDED...
WIN A VISA GIFT CARD!**

New Products, Tools and Prefab Assemblies

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for fresh and innovative ideas for new products, tools and ongoing prefab assemblies to feature in future issues of the Block Electric newsletter.

In an effort to make our jobs run more efficiently and be more cost-effective, we are looking for your suggestions regarding which tools can be used in your day-to-day work to make your lives easier.

There are no right or wrong answers. We're looking for any and all products and ideas to share with the team.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

If your idea is featured in the Block Electric newsletter, you will receive up to a \$50.00 Visa gift card.



Pigtailed receptacles

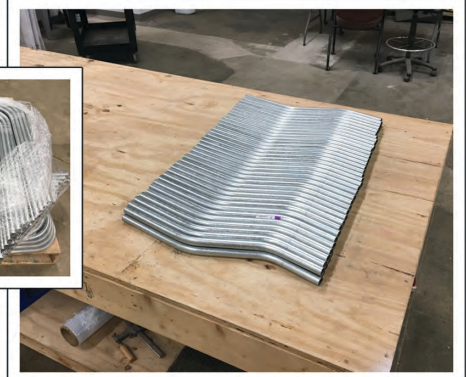


Calling All Offsets! Call in all your 1/2", 3/4", 1" EMT or 1/2" and 3/4" Rigid, IMC and PVC Coated offsets to Luke at the prefab shop today!

Offsets



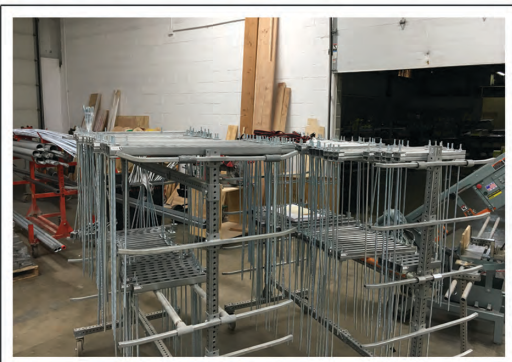
90's



Strut racks



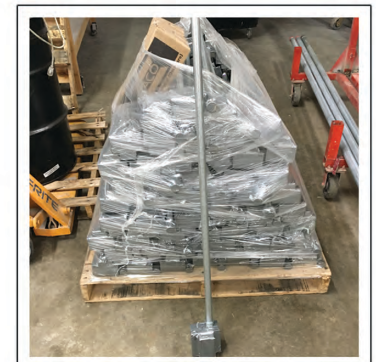
Stubs



Strut racks with rods



Strut racks



Masonry box with stub

Spotlight On: Matt Crutchfield FOREMAN

Not long after Foreman Matt Crutchfield began working as a truck driver for Block Electric in 2001 he knew Block was where he wanted to be. "I started to look up to quite a few of the guys out there," Matt said of his time as a truck driver. "I knew where I wanted to end up at an early point of my career." In 2006 Matt began working at Block Electric as a first year apprentice for Azko Nobel.



"I was born and raised Union through and through; grandfathers, uncles, and my Father. Lots of old school blood; carpenters, sheet metal workers, and electricians."

— Foreman Matt Crutchfield

Before joining the Block Electric team, Matt worked in construction doing residential siding, fascia, and soffit work. He was introduced to Block Electric by his uncle, who worked at the company for over 20 years before retiring.

Matt said he is currently experiencing some of his most "unique, unusual and favorite customer experiences" since he began working at Block Electric. "I like the fact that I'm now working for and alongside of many guys that I've looked up to in the industry," he said. Right now he's busy working on day-to-day tasks to keep improving the Costco meat plant and "keeping the customers very happy by, in their words, 'Pulling rabbits out of my hat', and doing it with good guys by my side all the way," Matt said. "I've been stepping up to complete short notice tasks—some small and some very involved in both aspects, power and controls."

During his career at Block Electric Matt has worked at various hospital jobs, including

Argonne and Akzo Nobel, where he worked for almost 4 1/2 years. He's also worked on various smaller jobs, including IMTT River House Remodel, USA Hoist Power Distribution and Volflex Power Distribution.

Matt and his wife Kate have 3 children: 5-year-old Declan, 4-year-old Charlotte and 3-year-old Clayton. They are currently very busy renovating and upgrading their farmhouse and keeping up their property in Wilmington, IL, Matt's hometown where he was born and raised.

In his free time, Matt enjoys many outdoor hobbies including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, woodworking and planting trees throughout his property.

As for an interesting fact others may not know about Matt: "I was born and raised Union through and through; grandfathers, uncles, and my Father," Matt said. "Lots of old school blood; carpenters, sheet metal workers, and electricians."

FOCUS ON SAFETY

Winter Holiday Safety Tips

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

A WORD OF CAUTION

- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- More than a third of home decoration fires are started by candles!
- Forty-two percent of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

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Block Electric Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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