



## FEATURED PROJECT

# Joliet In-Patient Treatment Center

Block Electric is wrapping up its completion of the Joliet In-Patient Treatment Center project, which began on April 15, 2019 and suffered a five week pandemic delay, although COVID wasn't the only challenge the crew encountered.

"The job was started pre COVID pandemic. It was at one point shutdown for 5 weeks, during that time we lost at least half of our crew to other jobs and had to replace them all at once when the work resumed," said General Foreman Chad Fowler. Fowler and the BIM/Pre Fab team worked well to assist with the field install. However, the extensive underground raceways that were TRIMBLE installed into block walls and electrical-data-security closets was "very challenging", he added.

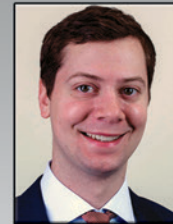
The Joliet In-Patient Treatment Center is a State of Illinois Medical Detention facility that combines the security of a detention center with a focus on mental/physical health for patient rehab and care. The project included three buildings,

including an Administration Office, a Detention/ Medical Center and a Central Utility Plant with extensive audio visual, low voltage and security systems.

The project started out as a Design Build Partnership between River City, Block Electric and ESD-Environmental Systems Design and Engineering Firm.

The team was led by Fowler and included the following Block Electric Foremen: Ron Stefaniak, Ryan Allen, Matt Crutchfield, Dave Senko and Miguel Chagoya, as well as an extensive crew of electricians that were all key in building this state of the art Medical Detention Facility. Key players included River City Construction; Phil Kingdon, Superintendent; Dan Troglia, Assistant Superintendent; Pavel Churin, Bowa Construction Project Engineer; Shane Verslues, Assistant Superintendent; and Brett Yemm, Assistant Superintendent.

## Vice President's Message



This summer has been relatively busy for most of us. With mostly everything reopened to full capacity, we were able to enjoy what we had missed out on over the last year. Our labor

hours overall were down from the year before, but that was mostly due to the lag of projects being started throughout the months of shutdowns during the pandemic.

However, over the last quarter, we have seen a substantial jump to our backlog as we booked many projects for the next year ahead. Our hope is that this new Delta variant doesn't slow things down as we had seen last summer. One of the biggest challenges facing the construction industry is the uncertainty of the ongoing impacts that the virus has on consumer behavior. No one can predict how the economy will change because of this. For many reasons, consumers have shifted much more to online shopping for basically everything. This has created a boom in distribution construction. The lockdowns also created a gap in healthcare spending as most of their time was focused on taking care of very sick COVID patients. Now, healthcare spending is up as they look to expand and recover from lost time during the lockdowns. You will see below several jobs we have recently picked up in healthcare and distribution.

Our customers are constantly shifting their focus on what work they want done, when they want their work done, and how quickly they want their work completed. This past year has really showcased how great we are at meeting this "shifted" challenge. For example, this past summer, we received numerous calls from our customers asking us to help complete their projects because their existing electrical sub was not able to finish on time or had created a mess with faulty work. Being able to complete a job right and on time is a given at Block Electric. We have always dedicated ourselves to create an even higher level of service in what we call CUSTOMER DELIGHT.

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## Vice President's Message

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We stand by it and I'm very proud to say we were able to service those customers and all our projects throughout the year with success no matter what the project was or what the schedule looked like. This is important because it's what keep our customers coming back to us through good times and bad times in our industry. We must always keep striving to provide that extra level of service.

Historically, we have had a very good safety record. This past year, we have seen that trend falter a bit. Our number one priority for our employees is, and always will be, safety. If you can't go home at the end of each shift in the same way you showed up – we failed. We are all in this together and I ask everyone to prioritize safety for yourself, your co-workers, and your families. We are always looking to make improvements in how we practice safety on our jobs starting with our twice weekly "tool box talks." We have updated these talks by providing the most current and relevant topics specifically for everyone's job sites. It's an extremely important first step in our safety culture. And moving forward, we will be expanding on these by becoming more specific to raise awareness to every day hazards on your job site. We are striving to keep a gold standard in safety for our company and in our industry. I know with your help, we can achieve this. Have a great rest of your summer and stay safe.

**New Projects:** ■ Argonne National Labs, Various Projects ■ CSL Behring, Building 33A Core & Shell ■ RUMC, Various Projects ■ NWU, Various Projects ■ Belden Stratford, Phase 2 ■ Chicago Park District, New Headquarters ■ Willow Lakes Estates, Maintenance Building ■ APMC, Sterile Processing Remodel ■ Walmart Distribution Centers, Various Locations ■ Chicago State University, Day Care Buildout.

— **SCOTT BLOCK**  
Vice President, Block Electric

## Spotlight On ERIC MATHIEU Block Electric Foreman

Block Electric Foreman

Eric Mathieu began his career with Block Electric in 2009. Prior to becoming an electrician and working for Block Electric, Eric attended college and worked part time at a body shop.

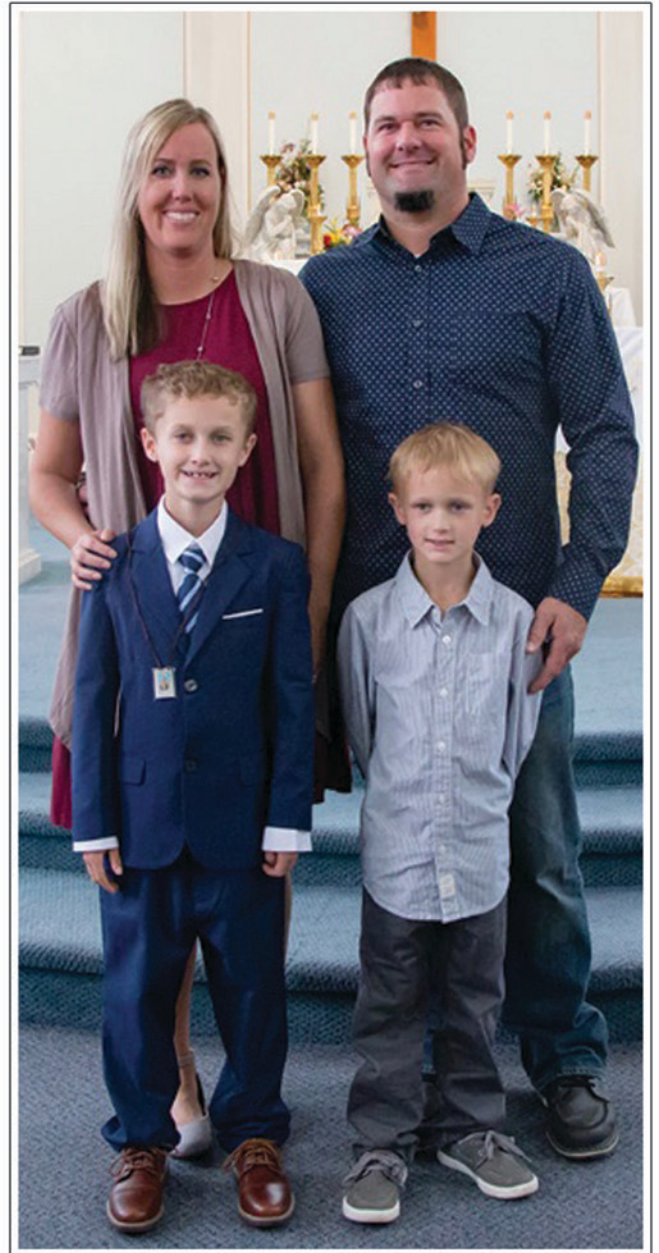
"I got started in the trade all by luck," Eric said. "I heard the IBEW was excepting applications. I knew my uncle was in the trade so I thought it would be a good fit for me. I applied and started 2 months later. Now it's almost been 20 years!"

Eric said his career at Block Electric has been full of new challenges and experiences and that he enjoys learning new things and meeting new people.

"The industry is always changing and there's always something new just knowing when a job is done the customer is getting quality work," he said. "That's something to be proud of."

Eric's recent projects include the Morris Medical Clinic in Diamond, the Morris Hospital Remodel Project, the Silver Cross Expansion Project, Joliet Inmate Hospital, the Statesville Prison Upgrade, and Abe Lincoln National Cemetery.

"I can tell you after working for Block the last 12 years I've met a lot of great coworkers," he said. "Great group of hard working men



and women. I know we will get the jobs done and still enjoy some laughs."

Eric lives in Utica with his wife Sarah and their two sons—Brady, who is 7 years old and Jace, who is 9 years old. Both boys play soccer and baseball, so those activities, along with time spent in the swimming pool, keep the family very busy.

In his spare time, Eric likes to workout, do some weightlifting and go fishing.



# Block Electric Awarded the 2021 Silver Cross Corporate Citizen Award

The Silver Cross Foundation raised \$294,000 at the 30th Anniversary of the Annual Charity Golf Classic held at Crystal Tree Country Club on June 28, 2021. More than 200 golfers and friends of Silver Cross came out to support the Hospital. Proceeds from the event will support new facilities, programs and technology including more medical, surgical, and birthing rooms and a 24-bed Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) opening in 2022.

"Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our many corporate partners, medical staff, clinical staff and event volunteers, Silver Cross can continue to bring advanced treatments and medical expertise so patients don't have to leave the area for safe, high quality healthcare," said Tracy Simons, Executive Director of the Silver Cross Foundation, the fund-raising arm for the Hospital.

To commemorate the fundraiser's 30th anniversary, Silver Cross honored Block Electric Company with the first Silver Cross Corporate Citizen Award. The new award recognizes a local business that has demonstrated meaningful leadership through corporate social responsibility programs, philanthropy and volunteerism in our community and at Silver Cross Hospital.

"Block Electric is truly deserving of this honor as their employees exemplify the values of caring service to others that are the bedrock of Silver Cross Hospital tradition," said Scott Paddock, SVP, External Affairs at Silver Cross Hospital.

Block Electric Company has a longstanding tradition of giving back. Since 1991, the Block Family Foundation has contributed over \$2.5 million to many charitable organizations including the Silver Cross Foundation. Their commitment to ensuring quality healthcare is available in our community dates back more than 30 years. Not only are they a loyal corporate philanthropy partner, but they literally help keep the lights on at the Hospital. In addition to supporting Silver Cross and many other hospitals, Block Electric has provided college scholarships to their employees' children and participated in the American Cancer Society's Walk and Roll event in Chicago for the past 10 years.



"Giving back to Silver Cross all these years has been a great privilege, and if this year has shown anything, it has always been worth it," said Scott Block, Vice President at Block Electric Company. "It is really Silver Cross that deserves all the credit for what they do every day."

With more than 70 organizations participating in the 2021 Silver Cross Charity Golf Classic, the presenting sponsor was Reed Construction. Block Electric Company was one of many major sponsors supporting the Hospital's Foundation.



## Customer Delight

Members of BWDesignGroup commended Block Electric for their work on the Costco Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"Overall, the electrical installation evidenced quality workmanship. This list is evidence of a well-managed project and a quality contractor. Nice work!"

—Keri Sapp, Director and Electrical Engineer, BWDesignGroup

"Great job on this project. It has been a pleasure working with Scott Schultz, Matt Crutchfield and the crew onsite!"

—Thomas Sime, Site Manager, Construction, BWDesignGroup





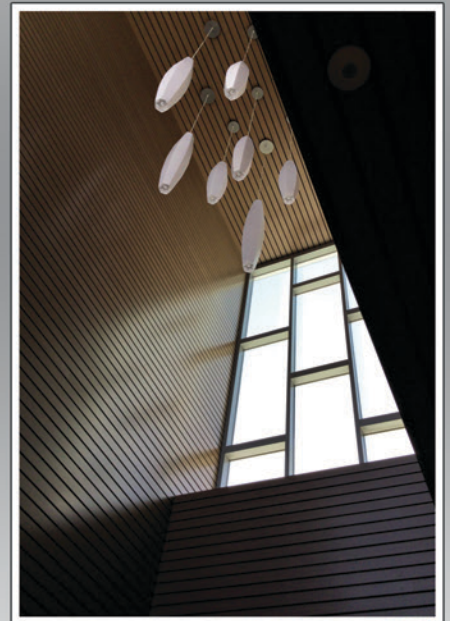
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## Block Electric's Safety Policy

It is our policy to provide all employees with a safe, healthful, and hazard-free workplace.

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 .80 and our Contractor Score is 2393 "Excellent". Matt McShane is our safety director.

## Knowing the Code: Article 300.4

### (E) Cables, Raceways, or Boxes Installed in or Under Roof.

**Decking.** A cable, raceway, or box, installed in exposed or concealed locations under metal-corrugated sheet roof decking, shall be installed and supported so there is not less than 38 mm (1-1/2 in.) measured from the lowest surface of the roof decking to the top of the cable, raceway, or box. A cable, raceway, or box shall not be installed in concealed locations in metal-corrugated, sheet decking-type roof. *Informational Note: Roof decking material is often repaired or replaced after the initial raceway or cabling and roofing installation and may be penetrated by the screws or other mechanical devices designed to provide "hold down" strength of the waterproof membrane or roof insulating material.* **Exception: Rigid metal conduit and intermediate metal conduit shall not be required to comply with 300.4(E).** For cables, raceways, and boxes installed below a metal-corrugated sheet roof decking installation, 300.4(E) requires at least 1-1/2 inches of separation from any of the roof decking surface, as illustrated in Exhibit 300.4. The 1-1/2-inch dimension is measured from the lowest point of the roof deck to the top surface of the cable, raceway, or box. This section prohibits cables, raceways, or boxes from being installed in the space between the metal deck and the roofing material. Roof replacement materials are fastened in place with long screws, which penetrate the roof decking installation and could continue into cables and raceways installed below. Adequate space between the corrugated sheet metal roof deck installation and the cables and raceways below the deck will prevent future damage to the cable or raceway installation. The exception clarifies that this requirement does not apply to more robust metal raceways such as RMC and IMC. **See Also 410.10 (F)** for similar requirements for luminaires.

## FOCUS ON SAFETY

# Protecting Yourself from Heat Stress

by Dept. of Health and Human Services, CDC

Heat stress, from exertion or hot environments, places workers at risk for illnesses such as heat stroke, heat exhaustion, or heat cramps.

### HEAT STROKE

A condition that occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature, and can cause death or permanent disability.

#### Symptoms

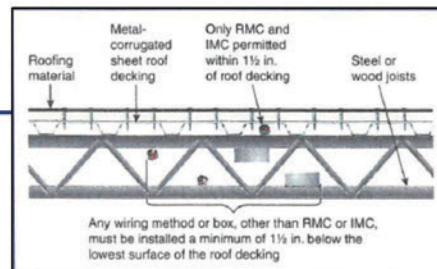
- High body temperature
- Confusion
- Loss of coordination
- Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating
- Throbbing headache
- Seizures, coma

#### First Aid

- Request immediate medical assistance.
- Move the worker to a cool, shaded area.
- Remove excess clothing and apply cool water to their body.

### HEAT EXHAUSTION

The body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt, usually through sweating.



#### Symptoms

- Rapid heart beat
- Heavy sweating
- Extreme weakness or fatigue
- Dizziness
- Nausea, vomiting
- Irritability
- Fast, shallow breathing
- Slightly elevated body temperature

#### First Aid

- Rest in a cool area.
- Drink plenty of water or other cool beverages.
- Take a cool shower, bath, or sponge bath.

### HEAT CRAMPS

Heat cramps affect workers who sweat a lot during strenuous activity. Sweating depletes the body's salt and moisture levels.

#### Symptoms

- Muscle cramps, pain, or spasms in the abdomen, arms or legs

#### First Aid

- Stop all activity, and sit in a cool place.
- Drink clear juice or a sports beverage, or drink water with food.
- Avoid salt tablets.
- Do not return to strenuous work for a few hours after the cramps subside.
- Seek medical attention if you have the following: heart problems, are on a low-sodium diet, or if the cramps do not subside within one hour.

### Protect Yourself

Avoid heavy exertion, extreme heat, sun exposure, and high humidity when possible. When these cannot be avoided, take the following preventative steps:

- Monitor your physical condition and that of your coworkers for signs or symptoms of heat illnesses.
- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting, breathable clothing such as cotton.
- Avoid non-breathable synthetic clothing.
- Gradually build up to heavy work.
- Schedule heavy work during the coolest parts of day.
- Take more breaks when doing heavier work, and in high heat and humidity.
- Take breaks in the shade or a cool area.
- Drink water frequently. Drink enough water that you never become thirsty.
- Be aware that protective clothing or personal protective equipment may increase the risk of heat-related illnesses.



# Block Announcements



## Announcing the Wedding of Scott and Alison Block

Congratulations to Scott and Alison Block who were married on Saturday, July 3, 2021.

Wishing you both a lifetime of love and happiness.

## Retirement

Congratulations to Jim Strege, who recently retired from Block Electric after 27 years of service. Thank you for all the years of dedication and hard work. You have been part of Block Electric's success and you will truly be missed. Congratulations on your new journey in life.

## Anniversary

Congratulations to Larry McCormick, who celebrated a milestone anniversary of 25 years on July 11, 2021.

Thank you for being part of our company's success over the years. We greatly appreciate and value your hard work and success. Happy Anniversary.



## Congratulations to Block Electric's New Journeyman

Congratulations to Anna O'Dell, who became a Block Electric Journeyman on August 22, 2021.

Welcome to our team!



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.

**Block Electric Company**  
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Block Electric Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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