



HUNTER RHODE - JULY



JEREMIAH CUSHMAN - AUGUST



JEREMIAH CUSHMAN - SEPTEMBER

The winter months can be drab and dreary. However, it can also be the best time to turn an empty lot into a beautiful building for a bustling business. On December 29, 2023, a dozer and hylift began work for a new Rita's Italian Ice. The Chambersburg location opened on May 8, 2024.

Derek Lietman was chosen as DHM's Superintendent to work with Brian Zoeller of the Zoeller Group. Brian said, "Historically, our company focuses more on restoration and remodeling work of existing structures. So, it was comforting having the expertise of DHM on this project." When asked what his checklist included, Derek said, "We graded the site for parking and the building. Dug the building footers and stoned the slab. The utility crew installed the storm water systems, water service, sewer connection, roof drains, and trenching for electric and communications. The site crew installed curbing, dumpster pad, stone for sidewalk and the parking lot. The environmental division installed three paver parking spaces."

Derek was very pleased with the grading of the parking lot. "It was our first time implementing a GPS stone box for the skid loader to grade the parking lot. Tucker Hess did a great job at learning how to run it and creating a well-graded parking lot." Derek added, "I would like to give a shout out to Ganoe Paving for doing a fantastic job paving the parking lot."

When asked his thoughts on working with DHM, Brian said, "Derek was very accommodating of a very tight schedule, in a small site, with public access still open to a neighboring shopping center. Given all

these potential headaches, Derek and his crew worked with us each step of the way without issue and helped us bring the project in on time." Brian adds, "I've seen DHM has since brought in Rita's Mobile Ice Wagon on a few occasions for employees. It's great to see small, local businesses supporting one another." Before the winter months arrive, go to Rita's and try one of everything!



Before



After

Over the last five years, the DHM utility crews have averaged over **200,000** feet of pipe installed each year. We'll do the math for you – that's almost **38 miles** of pipe and conduit! Just for perspective, if you start at the DHM office and laid pipe in a straight flat line you could almost reach the Susquehanna River on 81 going north, Hanover to the east, Martinsburg going south, and Everett to the west.

The DHM Underground Utilities Division consists of six pipe crews and two hydro-excavation trucks. Our 42 employees are experienced and ready to tackle a large variety of work. This hard-working group handles everything from the standard water, sewer, storm, and electric installation to box culverts, underground retention systems, hydro-excavation, leak repairs and sewer line cleaning.

The projects taken on by these crews' range in depth from barely in the ground roof drains to sanitary sewer and storm sewers at depths up to 40' deep and from ¾" site light conduit to 90" corrugated metal storm drains. From small Nyloplast inlets to sewer manholes to specialized concrete storm systems and pump stations weighing more than 50,000 pounds. The guys have the experience and knowledge to take on any project that comes through the doors of DHM.

When asked why they like working at DHM, frequent answers from the crew members are that they appreciate being treated "like family", "with respect", they like having "nice, new equipment" and that "when we need something, the company is willing to get it to make our job easier". A lot of companies use sayings like these as marketing slogans when trying to hire new employees. With DHM these aren't just slogans, they are guiding principles that have been passed down through four generations. All levels of management know that this is the kind of environment they are expected to provide for the employees.

So, what does the future hold for the Utilities Division? It appears we are going to see GPS play a greater role in the crews. GPS is already being used by some crews on their equipment to keep them online and minimize over digging. The foremen use GPS for as-built information and verifying elevations. The future will likely include expanding the role of GPS to cut back on the number of stakes the surveyors need to hammer in the ground on a job, and even go to 3D model as-builts at some point. Also coming down the road for the utility crews will be newer products. HDPE fusion pipe is growing in popularity, and we are starting to see sanitary sewer manholes made from corrugated plastic pipe or SDR pipe.

The outlook continues to be bright for utility work in our region. With housing, community parks, and commercial work all continuing to show signs of going strong, there is plenty of work coming in to be bid. We continue to keep an eye on our hard-working employees for potential advancement opportunities and bringing in new hard workers to fill open positions. At the same time, we are keeping an eye on the future and possible expansion of this division to handle an ever-increasing workload.

From the Utility Crew Managers to the most recent hires, the Utilities Division is blessed with smart, hardworking, and dedicated employees. This group does an outstanding job and should be proud of the work they do every day to keep up a tradition of quality work that stretches back to the founding of the company.

When you think of dynamite and blowing things up, it is hard not to think of the popular Looney Tunes character, Wile E. Coyote. The Coyote was always trying to catch the Roadrunner by setting off dynamite in his path.

DHM has been doing their own blasting since the 1970's. Today, there are two licensed blasters on the team – Gerry Mohler and Jon-Luc Hailey. As the senior member of the group, Gerry has been blasting with DHM for eight years. Gerry was trained and mentored by one of the area's most knowledgeable blasters, retired DHM employee, Bob Ranck.

Jon-Luc recently passed the grueling test to earn the Pennsylvania General Blaster's License. Prior to taking the test, one must have at least a year of verified applicable field experience. The classes and testing is a three-day process and consists of three parts – general knowledge, surface mining, and trenching & construction. Jon-Luc said, "Studying for the test was time consuming. I was given a study guide to be prepared, but only to find out the test had changed, which resulted in a lot of notes being taken. I would spend each night studying at least five hours."

As with all jobs there are challenges, and blasting is no different. The gentlemen agree that safety is the top priority. Gerry's goal is to "Make sure that everyone goes home the way they came in that day." Another concern for the blasters is what lies under the ground is not always detectable and making sure the rock breaks. Additionally, you are not able to see the voids in the ground which can lead to additional fly rock. Jon-Luc agrees and adds, "Trying to do my duties as a safe blaster while working alongside other crews and their equipment can be a challenge."

Jon-Luc appreciates his fellow employees, "We all work extremely well together from the drillers who give detailed information about each shot to Gerry who mentored me. I have been with DHM for five years, they are a family-friendly company that will help you in time of need. I'm thankful for the opportunity to expand my skill set in becoming a blaster." Agreeing with Jon-Luc, Gerry adds, "The people I work with, we work as a team and communicate with each other. We help each other out."

To Wile E. Coyote, if you happen to read this newsletter, you may complete a DHM application online to learn from some of the best blasters in the area. Who knows, you may end up catching the Roadrunner...safely.

Gerry Mohler & Jon-Luc Hailey



Photos by Braden McSherry, Vac Truck Operator



KELLY KRAMER
SAFETY DIRECTOR

Recently during my OSHA construction safety update training course, we reviewed the top ten causes of death at work for 2023. What do you think the leading cause at work was last year?

Many people would probably guess trenching, maybe falls, electrical shock, or getting struck by heavy equipment. All very good guesses and they are four of the top causes, but #1 was driving or vehicle related incidents. Not only was it the leading cause of death last year, but it has also been for as long as I can remember. Last year, vehicle related roadway incidents accounted for 1,369 work-related fatalities. Add to this that here at DHM our commercial licensed vehicles amassed 2,205,827 miles in 2023. This does not include our fleet of pick-up trucks and other non-commercial vehicles.

Given these grim fatality statistics, the difficult driving environment drivers are faced with each day that I witnessed while performing a ride along with one of our triaxle drivers, and the number of other drivers on the road with their questionable behaviors, the message for this quarter is drive safely 100% of the time! If not, the consequences could be very severe.

To always be safe follow these safe driving principles:

- **Prepare yourself physically and mentally to drive.** Make sure you are rested, not under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and drive with a positive safety attitude. Drive as though you are a professional driver.
- **Drive defensively.** Defensive driving is driving to prevent accidents, despite the actions or inactions of others and the conditions around you. This means:
 - **Anticipating what other drivers will do and the conditions or hazards around you.** An effective way to do this is ask "What if?". An example might be if you are tailgating the driver in front of you and the road is wet... "what if" they must slow down suddenly. It becomes more likely that you might hit them and be at fault for a vehicle crash, damage your car, possibly their vehicle or worse hurt someone else or yourself. A defensive driver will take that information and adjust their following distance based upon the other driver and the conditions.
- **Keep your eyes on the road.** Simply drive! Don't get distracted by texting, use of electronic devices or other activities. According to the National Safety Council there were nine fatalities each day last year relating to distracted driving and from a recent study, 84% of drivers in the survey recognize phone distractions as being "unacceptable", and 36% of the same drivers admit to reading or sending a text while

driving during the previous month.

- **Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you.** There are many formulas, but the National Safety Council recommends a minimum of three seconds, plus an additional second for each hazard. If you rearend another vehicle, you are almost always at fault and will be liable for repairs or injuries.
- **Respect traffic laws.** Speed is either the cause or a contributing factor in 90% of all crashes. Maintain a safe speed. Reduce your speed in school or construction zones, while pulling a trailer, in areas where deer or other wildlife are common, and when other hazards are present.
- **Maintain your vehicle in good driving condition.** Tires and brakes would be two of the most important items to inspect regularly.
- **Avoid backing whenever possible.** This is one of our leading causes of crashes at work and within my own family of six at home. It is typically best to implement "Forward First Parking". This can be accomplished by pulling through or backing into the spot while continually assessing the hazards using mirrors and a camera.
- **Always wear your seatbelt.** This is one of the simplest ways to reduce the severity of a crash.

I am continually impressed with the professionalism with which our commercial drivers drive, and I hope these simple tips will help you to travel safely and enjoy time with your family and allow you to do the things that you enjoy 100% of the time.



Modern construction often needs "outside the box thinking" to solve unexpected issues.

We were recently called to help St. Thomas Township Municipal Authority with a broken force main sewer line that was a prime example of this. The line was almost 19' deep and boxed in with a gravity sewer line on one side, a pump station and electrical control panel on two additional sides and very poor digging conditions. A 336 excavator was brought in and was able to bulk out a large portion of the material and install shoring for our employees' safety. However, it was unable to finish the excavation due to space constraints.

Faced with having to hand dig the last 3' to get to the pipe, our crew called for DHM's new hydro-excavation truck to assist with removing the remaining material. The hydro truck was able to remove material

from over and around the pipe. It also kept leakage from the pipe contained to prevent environmental contamination from the broken line. What could have been a multi-day repair job was cut down to an overnight fix.

The crew of Greg Martin, Travis Carbaugh, Braden McSherry, Jay Christophel, and Mike Varner went above and beyond the call of duty. They had worked a full day on their assigned job and then volunteered to tackle this overnight project. They worked until 4:30 in the morning to get the leak repaired. Several of them were back to their usual jobs on time that morning after wrapping up the all-night repair. This is one example of DHM's employees stepping up and working together to get the job done.



Day or night, our Vac Trucks come prepared to work.



Our employees showed great dedication in working through the night to get the township of St. Thomas up and running.

NEW HIRES

Haden Ocker, Equipment Operator, Utility
Darrian Click, Pipelayer, Utility
Danny Guariglia, Equipment Operator, Utility
Jeremiah Cushman, Equipment Operator, Utility

Shawn Lytle, Equipment Operator, Utility
Aaron Rotz, Equipment Operator, Residential
Brent Jones, Equipment Operator, Site
Tawny Gallagher, Accounting Assistant

ELEVATING THE GRADE

Clay Christophel, Lead Person, Utility

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hunter & Mikayla Rhoe
welcomed their second child, daughter, Harper
Blaine & Megan Peiffer
welcomed their first child, daughter, Audrey
Jeremy & Brooke Hessong
welcomed twins, son, Blake and daughter, Laken

Brady Corwell & Kaitlynn Beam
welcomed their first child, son, Bowen
Brandon Besecker & Heather Sechrist
welcomed their first child, daughter, Paisley
Spencer & Miranda Ulsh
welcomed their second child, son, Remington

WEDDINGS

Jeb & Beca Newman, August 10
Hunter & Mikayla Rhoe, September 28

RETIREMENTS

Brad Leedy, 12/5/05 – 8/2/24

At DHM, our employees work for and alongside some great people, and we wanted to offer the opportunity for them to receive recognition for what they do to help make this such a great company.

Employees can nominate coworkers who are innovative, dedicated, safety conscious, productive, have a strong work ethic, or a positive attitude.

Each month employees are chosen from the nominees. Help us congratulate the employees below as they strive for excellence and integrity in every aspect of their work.

JULY 2024



LARRY SHOOP
Driver



MARSHA MYERS
Front Office Assistant



ROB SNIVELY
Superintendent

AUGUST 2024



CHASE MARTIN
Estimator



KYLE CULBERTSON
Mechanic



TRAVIS CARBAUGH
Utilities Foreman

SEPTEMBER 2024



CALEB JOHNSON
Mechanic



JAIME GONZALEZ
Laborer



RON COOK
Pastor



DHM EMPLOYEE
CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Mark your calendar for the DHM Christmas Banquet! The banquet will be held on Monday, December 16th at the Green Grove Gardens in Greencastle, PA.

More details to come!