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# WATTS HAPPENINGS

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Summer 2004

Watts Engineers

3826 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14226

## WATTS ENGINEERS ADDS ARCHITECTURE SERVICES

With the addition of Edward O. Watts, Jr., AIA, Watts Engineers has recently expanded its services to include architecture, subsequently changing its name to Watts Engineering and Architecture, PC.

Edward has over eight years of experience as a Project Architect and Project Designer at various firms designing a wide variety of commercial and residential projects. With Watts Engineering and Architecture being able to provide full design services, Watts has been able to team with local and out-of-state architecture firms to successfully become involved with a number of projects.

The most notable projects to date are the design services we are providing for the Buffalo Public Schools Phase II Projects. The School #82 Addition and Renovation Project that is currently underway is the first project that Watts has done that involves Architecture, Asbestos and Lead Design, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Civil, and Structural Engineering working together. This \$7,000,000 project involves the reconfiguration and upgrade of classrooms, offices, and ancillary spaces to incorporate new technology to accommodate 375 early childhood students in the existing 86,000 square foot building. The project also involves restoration components as well, as the 1930 building will have the exterior stone and brick restored and cleaned, the existing wood windows are to be refurbished to accept insulated glazing, and the auditorium will be restored. The parking lot will incorporate a new drainage system and accommodate parking for 100 cars.

## ARSENIC IN THE PLAYGROUND



Watts Engineers has assisted several local municipalities and school districts recently in the assessment of potential environmental concerns associated with their wooden playground structures. Clients have

included Town of Amherst School District, City of Lackawanna Recreation Department, and Town of Newfane School District.

Our assistance to these municipalities has been prompted by published reports of the leaching of arsenic from chromated copper arsenic (CCA) treated wood products commonly used in outdoor settings. Arsenic is a poison and known human carcinogen and the EPA announced a voluntary decision by industry to move consumer use of treated wood products away from CCA treated wood by December 31, 2003, in favor of new alternative wood products. CCA treated wood is commonly used for decks, walkways, fences, gazebos, playground equipment, sign posts, retaining walls and noise barriers.

Unfortunately, the amount and rate at which arsenic leaches varies considerably depending upon the local climate, acidity of the rain and soil, age of the wood product, and how much CCA was applied. Watts Engineers recommends all recreation departments and school districts with maintenance responsibilities for pressure treated playgrounds investigate the possibility of elevated arsenic levels in the underlying and surrounding soils and playground cushioning materials.

## NEW EMPLOYEES

We welcome **Edward Watts, AIA** to the firm as a Project Manager. Mr. Watts possesses a Masters of Science in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University and a Bachelors of Architecture from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. He is licensed as an architect in New Jersey and New York with over 8 years of experience.

Watts Engineers is pleased to welcome **TJ Pierce** back to our Environmental Department after 3 years working with another consultant. TJ is an Environmental Consultant specializing in asbestos and lead based paint services.

The MEP Department recently welcomed Senior Engineering Technician **Eric Cunningham** to the firm. Eric has over eight years of experience in plumbing and HVAC engineering. He is nearing completion of dual Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology degrees from Buffalo State College.

Another addition to our MEP Department is **Corey Wilson, EIT**. Corey is Project Engineer and has his BS in Electrical Engineering from UB. He has over 7 years of experience.

**Erika R. Abbondozieri** has also recently joined the firm as an Architect Designer. Erika possesses a Master of Architecture and a Baccalaureate of Professional Studies in Architecture from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Erika has over 6 years of architectural experience.

Our Architecture Department is also pleased to welcome **Lonny L. Bradley** as an Intern Architect. Lonny received his Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Interior Design from Cazenovia College and expects to complete his Masters of Architecture from UB by the end of the year.

Watts Engineers is also pleased to welcome **Stephen Buccilli** to our Civil/Transportation Department. Steve is an EIT with a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering from Clarkson

University. Steve is working on transportation projects.

We would also like to welcome **Joseph Eppolito, Jr.**, Senior Mechanical Designer. Joe is a graduate of Alfred University with an Associates Degree in Applied Science with over 22 years of experience. Joe is working on the Bennett High School project.

**Darrell Borowiak** has also returned to Watts Engineers as a Construction Inspector on the NFTA's Runway 5-23 and Taxiway "A" project.

**Bob Sinicropi** began working for Watts Engineers in August. Bob is working on the Lake Forest North Subdivision, Phase 1B in the Town of Amherst. This assignment is being performed for the Town Engineering Department as one of the Town's Public Improvement Permit (P.I.P) projects.

We would like to welcome **David Chiles** as our new part time custodian. David works late afternoons daily so be sure to say hello when you see him.

## EMPLOYEE UPDATES



Best wishes go out to **Kevin Janik** and his wife Joanna on the recent birth of twins, Jocelyn Ann & Nicole Taylor. Jocelyn and Nicole were born on July 24<sup>th</sup> and both girls weighed 5 pounds, 7 ounces. We are all very happy that Joanna and the babies are home, happy and healthy!

Congratulations also go out to **Becky Mingoia** and her husband David on the birth of their son Aidan Thomas. Aidan was born in February and weighed in at 9 pounds, 4 ounces. Aidan and big sister Hallie sure keep Becky and Dave on their toes!

