



WILHELM WORKS

faWILHELM.com | 317.359.5411 | 3914 Prospect Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

Winter 2010

A new look for Indy: on the skyline and from the top floor

Visitors to the top of the JW Marriott Hotel enjoyed a new bird's eye view of downtown Indianapolis in early December during a topping-out tour of the 376-foot tall structure.

Mayor Greg Ballard and his wife Winnie were among the dignitaries and other guests who enjoyed the view. Just as important, the tour signaled that the 1,005-room hotel is on schedule to open in February 2011.



Wilhelm Construction superintendent Billy Hubbard.

Wilhelm construction superintendent, Billy Hubbard, guided reporters, photographers and others on a portion of the tour along with officials from White Lodging, the JW Marriott developers.

Hubbard supervised the construction of the JW Marriott's concrete frame, the third tallest such structure in Indianapolis. It is also among the largest concrete mat foundations in Indianapolis.

Here are several more fun facts about this monumental project that is adding a new dimension to the downtown skyline:

- 18,300 tri-axle dump truck loads of dirt were excavated from the foundation
- 33,973 cubic yards of concrete are in the building
- 270 million pounds is the total weight of the concrete
- 2,200 tons of reinforcing steel in the concrete frame

Building GREEN! for Nature Conservancy



Indiana Nature Conservancy headquarters takes shape with recycled brick, spacious windows and native Indiana plantings

The Indiana Nature Conservancy makes a statement with its new headquarters.

"As a global conservation organization, we should take a leadership role in portraying our values," says Executive Director Mary McConnell. "I wanted to build the most sustainable building at an efficient price."

The Nature Conservancy's new downtown Indianapolis headquarters, The Efroymsen Conservation Center, opens in March. The Conservancy hopes the building will earn Indiana's first platinum designation from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

The Nature Conservancy's 35 employees will be heated and cooled with air from 38 geothermal wells dug into the Earth's constant 55-degree layer below the frost line. Natural light reaches every room in the building, a LEED requirement, even in the basement boardroom, which looks out to a "living wall" of native Indiana cliff-dwelling plants. When lights are necessary, they will be "smart" ones that turn on and off automatically as illumination fluctuates. Three on-site windmills will supplement electric power.

Ayres says, "The hardwood flooring and trim is milled from poplar, tulip and shagbark hickory harvested on Hoosier lands managed by The Conservancy. That's a neat feature."

Wilhelm project manager, Jeremy Ayres, sticks closely to the design by Axis Architects' lead architect Eric Anderson. "I've never had a project that looks as close to the renderings the way this one has," says Anderson.

"Wilhelm's guys in the field did a very good job of bringing up issues that arise during construction: they have a good

idea of the LEED process and what it requires," Anderson says.

Everything about the eye-catching, modern building is geared to conserving energy and resources.

The main surface of the exterior walls is brick recycled from the previous building on the site, Indiana limestone and Pennsylvania bluestone. (The bluestone is from within the 500 miles radius LEED requires.) Parts of the exterior and interior are cement board that resists rot and insects.

Ayres says, "The hardwood flooring and trim is milled from poplar, tulip and shagbark hickory harvested on Hoosier lands managed by The Conservancy. That's a neat feature."

(Continued on inside)

Mentoring helps mechanical contractor

John Sexson had a common entrepreneurial problem. As president of Sexson Mechanical, he did it all. And as such, found it difficult to focus on important company priorities.

Two years ago, Sexson established a mentoring relationship with Wilhelm Construction. The result? He learned to delegate.



Sexson Mechanical works with Wilhelm and others on the VA Medical Center

“This is a big thing for me,” Sexson says. “After 11 years, I hired a controller to head our accounting systems. I now have time for estimating and marketing.”

Wilhelm’s diverse business mentoring program is modeled after the Indiana Construction Roundtable (ICR) Diversity Initiative. The ICR is a group of large construction customers and builders of which Wilhelm President Phil Kenney is a board member. Mentoring relationships are built around a monthly meeting focusing on a single topic such as insurance, bonding, safety, or project management.

Sexson Mechanical, founded in 1998, provides plumbing, HVAC and piping for projects including the Indianapolis International Airport, JW Marriott and VA Medical Center. It recently replaced a 30-year-old underground steam system at the Plainfield Correctional Facility.

“You couldn’t pay for what we have learned from Wilhelm,” Sexson says. “They’ve been in business for more than 80 years. They’ve offered everything to me. It’s up to us to implement what they’ve shown us.” Sexson and Wilhelm will soon establish a date for Sexson Mechanical to “graduate” from the mentoring program.

“This is a big thing for me,” Sexson says. “After 11 years, I hired a controller to head our accounting systems. I now have time for estimating & marketing.”

Wilhelm’s David Werking says, “Mentoring helps us understand the challenges that a small business might have. And it shares our values with prospective sub-contractors.”



Hardy plants begin to grow on the Nature Conservancy roof even during an Indiana winter

(Continued from page 1)

On the roof, green plants absorb the sun’s heat and capture rainwater. The water is piped into a tank in the basement from which it is distributed for the building’s toilets and to irrigate plants. In the parking lot, rainwater runs off concrete into permeable stone and below ground into a 48-inch PVC pipe. The stored water seeps through the porous pipe into the ground. The fully contained water system releases no water into Indianapolis’ overburdened storm sewers.

McConnell loves the results.

“Probably the greatest story of all is that we are paying a tiny premium for building and we will make it back quickly in energy efficiency,” says McConnell. “We are not building a Cadillac, we are building a striking, energy-efficient, cost-effective Prius.”

dinos

**admire
new digs**

The father and son Brachiosaurus peeking under the roof of the Children's Museum of Indianapolis' addition know a good thing when they see it. They are spying on the new welcome center, the centerpiece of a multi-dimensional project helmed by Wilhelm Construction.

Wilhelm's Dennis Burke, construction superintendent on the job, had the challenge of overseeing more than 20 subcontractors as they transformed Ratio Architects' design into an eagerly awaited addition to a beloved attraction.

Wilhelm was able to meet an aggressive construction schedule on time to coincide with the opening of the traveling King Tut exhibit last June. A new permanent exhibit entitled "Take Me There: Egypt," opened at the same time.

The welcome center is a three-story expanded entrance reaching out to Illinois Street on the building's west side. Several other aspects of the project took shape at the same time: the pedestrian bridge over Illinois Street was lengthened to connect a parking garage with the museum; a new passenger drop-off in front of the museum was created with cooperation from the Department of Public Works; the museum's popular public library branch was moved and expanded; and the museum's freight entrance was moved away from visitor traffic.

Two outdoor attractions were also part of the project: the "7 Wonders of the World" limestone sculptures and a rain garden to capture water before it flows into the city sewers.

Work proceeded on all these projects while the museum – home for everything from model trains and glass sculptures to a working carousel and planetarium – remained open for hundreds of daily visitors.

"We realized our vision for this project," says Museum Vice President Craig Emsweller. "It was more than a building: we improved our safety and accessibility, and greened the campus."

Emsweller was managing his first construction project for the museum. He said Wilhelm explained everything. "This company is incredibly well thought-of here. Their people had our best interests at heart."





MIDWEST BALANCE + SERVICE

Clears the air Midwest Balance & Service, an affiliated company of Wilhelm Construction, balances the flow of air and water in HVAC systems. While Midwest works in any commercial setting, the strictest requirements are for laboratories and hospitals as these facilities require as many as a dozen air changes an hour to ensure that air is free of harmful germs. Hospitals in Indianapolis, Columbus, Greenfield and Lafayette are among those that entrust their needs for clean air to Midwest Balance.

For example, at Henry County Hospital in New Castle, Midwest Balance set up the airflow in the remodeled surgery suite.

Bill Hatfield, maintenance systems supervisor at the hospital, says, "Midwest Balance is critical to the surgery suite. You've got to control the air, and you can't do it without the proper balance. Midwest Balance was on top of everything."

Henry County's orthopedic surgery team – Drs. Damion Harris, Thomas Mathews and Lindsey Rolston – attracts patients around eastern Indiana. Their specialties include shoulder, hip and knee repair and replacement. Dr. Rolston developed an alternative to knee replacement that is now used in other countries.

Dr. Harris says, "It is imperative that we as surgeons have a sterile environment in the OR to prevent infection. While we may not be aware of good airflow, we certainly would know if we didn't have it."

A Wilhelm affiliate since 2007, Midwest Balance is one of the largest companies of its kind in Indiana with eight technicians. A current non-hospital job is the Fairfield Inn on the Marriott Plaza downtown. The assignment: keeping air in hallways from entering guest rooms, a safety factor should a fire occur.

Wilhelm losers are winners

More than 660 pounds have been lost around Wilhelm Construction. Don't bother looking for them.

Employees at Wilhelm Construction are heeding the message about good health. After one and a half years of an employee wellness program, employees have lost weight, lowered cholesterol counts and filed fewer health claims.

Beckie Quandee, Wilhelm account manager for Circle Health Partners, says, "The improvement I saw in one year was one of the best I've seen."

Backtrack to late 2007, a time when company health insurance premiums were rising 15-20% a year. CFO Joe Cathcart says, "A healthy workforce is most important from the personal and company viewpoint. We also were trying to control costs."

After a review of several companies, Circle Health Partners was chosen to help shape up Wilhelm's employees. Every employee had access to blood screening, biometric tests (to determine things such as body fat ratio and resting heart beat) and a take-home questionnaire.



The results? Wilhelm's human resource benefits coordinator, Debbie Gee says, "Wow, we were pretty unhealthy." Weight and cholesterol needed to come down, so they were the focus of the wellness campaign's first year.

Circle Health Partners provides follow-up counseling, postcards targeted for specific needs and a newsletter for all employees. Call them "kick-in-the-pants" reminders.

A company-wide "Biggest Loser" contest attracted 35 participants. Final results won't be known until February, but an aggregate of 660 pounds had been exercised and dieted away by January. And more employees are signing up for Biggest Loser II beginning in March. (There are prizes along the way, but employees also agreed to donate a canned food product to Gleaners Food Bank for each pound lost. Wilhelm is matching the donation.)

Most importantly, employee health claims across Wilhelm have dropped dramatically. Average employee health claims are down 14% compared to last year.

"Wilhelm employees have really embraced their wellness program," says Quandee of Circle Health. We've seen incredible improvement."

NEW CONTRACTS

Wilhelm Construction New Contracts

Wishard Hospital Parking Structure, Indianapolis, GC, **\$27,397,000**
IUPUI California Street Parking Garage, Indianapolis, GC, **\$11,400,000**
Clarian Health Methodist Neurosurgery Core #1, Indianapolis, GC, **\$990,000**
Cook Pharmica Mechanical Room, Bloomington, GC, **\$879,000**

Poynter Sheet Metal New Contracts

Indiana University Cinema, Bloomington **\$480,000**
Veterans Administration Hospital, Indianapolis **\$192,000**
Carrier Reliability, Indianapolis **\$350,000**
SIA Degrease Tank, Lafayette **\$396,755**
Columbus East High School, Columbus **\$962,600**
Columbus North High School, Columbus **\$1,340,000**
Lynwood Elementary, Indianapolis **\$123,230**
Harris Elementary School, Greenfield **\$135,175**
Crawfordsville High School, Crawfordsville **\$94,700**
Birch Bayh Federal Courthouse, Indianapolis **\$2,237,500**
Eli Lilly M88, Indianapolis **\$733,600**

Freitag-Weinhardt New Contracts

Danisco **\$307,000**
Hershey **\$75,000**
Hoosier Energy **\$2,270,000**
Kellogg **\$294,000**
Lincolnland **\$46,700**
Marathon **\$878,700**
McCutcheon High School **\$285,500**
Parsons @ Newport **\$37,700**
Purdue **\$334,300**
Terre Haute Regional Hospital **\$435,000**