



## Experienced. Connected. Unique.

By Paul J. Marcus  
Vice President of Corporate Development

Happy New Year and best wishes for a prosperous 2007! To start the New Year, we're kicking off a fresh edition of our newsletter, The SDA Connection. As you may have received SDA newsletters in the past, you will notice a change in format and design. Having held a companywide naming contest, "The SDA Connection" was the overwhelming favorite (which name was originated by our own Wanda Cassell and Sandy Alford, each of whom received a crisp new Ben Franklin).

To us, the intrinsic meaning of "The SDA Connection" typifies how we intend on transforming our business practices in 2007. As an organization, as clients, as partners and as friends, we together have an impressive matrix of relationships that we can utilize to foster stronger ties and form new business friendships. Now all we have to do is carry with us the mindset of connecting people-with-people and people-to-projects. With this in mind we invite you to be part of The SDA Connection.

As we look ahead into 2007, SDA will focus on continued implementation of our 2006-2009 strategic plan including such initiatives as an SDA University, geographic expansion planning, rewards and recognition incentives, customer intimacy and project cost controlling, to name a few. In April of this year, our new Board of Directors will look to wrap up their first year of corporate guidance and direction. So congratulations to Cathy DeDecker, Dave Lakin, Dave Potter, George Platz, Tom Sovel and Paul Wade for a job well done.

Also in the news for 2007, some of our client projects are already slated to win recognition awards this coming year. While we're not permitted to let the cat out of the bag as yet, stay tuned for our next announcement on the winners. Awards and recognition are certainly prideful achievements, but I would be remiss not to acknowledge the pride our SDA team takes toward community giving. We've been fortunate to help over a dozen very deserving organizations this past year and look forward to another year of giving of our time and talents.

To me, it is among these reasons SDA continues to be  
**"The Benchmark of Excellence."**



# CLIENT & PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## LENOX TOWNSHIP'S NORTH GRATIOT INTERCEPTOR DRAIN:

By Sermed K. Saif, PE

After 20 years of negotiations and lawsuits, Lenox Township performed the ground breaking ceremony on September 18, 2006 for the main sewer arm that will serve the Eastern District of Lenox Township. Construction began in September, 2006.

Lenox Township has been an SDA client for almost 30 years. SDA has seen this project evolve from it's early stage since the 1980's. In the early 1990's, the sewer was designed to carry only 1.8 CFS as permitted by Macomb County. However, no construction permit was issued until 2005, after negotiations were successful to increase the contracted capacity to 11.64 CFS. The project was awarded to Ric-Man Construction, and will be administered by the Office of the macomb County Public Works Commissioner, Anthony V. Marrocco.

The North Gratiot Interceptor Drain: Phase 5 & Lenox Local Drain will provide sanitary service to Lenox Township and the Village of New Haven. The sewer is designed along the east side of Gratiot Avenue from 26 Mile Road to 31 Mile Road and consists of approximately 31,600 feet of 15" through 36" diameter concrete sewer pipes. The service area for this sewer extends from 26 Mile Road to the north limits of the Township and between Grand Truck Western Rail Road, Lowe Plank Road, and County Line Road.

### SDA has the following roles on the project:

- Hydraulic Study
- Alignment Study
- Topographic Survey
- Preliminary / Final Sewer Design
- Permitting
- Construction Layout
- Construction Engineering
- Contract Administration
- Record Drawings



*Pictured left to right:  
Steve Mancini, President Ric-Man Construction, Inc.;  
John Gardner, Supervisor, Lenox Township;  
Anthony V. Marrocco, Commissioner, Macomb County Public Works;  
Debra Mack, Former President, Village of New Haven;  
and David Lakin, President of SDA.*

The sewer construction will be performed in a high traffic area along Gratiot Avenue through the Village of New Haven and Lenox Township. The project features open cut excavation (approximately 25,300 feet) and tunneling construction (approximately 6,300 feet) at depths of 30 feet or more below the existing surface through various soil types from loose to very dense hard pan.

The design constraints include existing Detroit Edison overhead transmission lines, existing underground utilities, numerous river crossings, and very limited construction work areas between the edge of the pavement and the existing road Right-Of-Way where a unique traffic treatment plan has been designed.



# CLIENT & PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

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A Parshall Flume Meter Pit was designed to calculate the flow strictly from Lenox Township that will be maintained and operated by the Macomb County Public Works Office.

Specific SDA services consist of Sanitary Sewer Master Plan and Design, Contract Administration, Construction Layout and Staking, and Record Drawings. SDA was also responsible for obtaining all public agency approvals for the necessary permits including: MDEQ Act 451, Part 31 (Floodplain), MDEQ Act 451, Part 41 (Sanitary Sewer), Michigan Department of Transportation, Macomb County Office County Public Works Soil Erosion and Drain Crossing, and obtaining the Road Commission Macomb County Permits.

## THE CONNER GREENWAY PROJECT

**By Paul Wade, PE**

SDA was proud to participate in a project for the City of Detroit by providing construction engineering services.

The City of Detroit was the anchor for the Conner Greenway Initiative which, when fully completed, will create a 9-mile urban pedestrian pathway along historic Conner Avenue from the Detroit River to Eight Mile Road. This project has provided the catalyst for the initiative with the Detroit City Airport and Conner Playfield providing high profile operations. The Detroit Eastside Community Collaborative developed the project and was assisted with funding from the GreenWays Initiative and MDOT.



A sense of urgency for the first phase of the project was to complete the Airport work before Super Bowl XL. The remainder of the project was completed in July, 2006. The project influence was along Conner Avenue from Harper Avenue to the Detroit City Airport. Construction consisted of 1.3 miles of bituminous pathway, new fencing along the Airport, signing, and a total landscape program with hundreds of trees and bushes.

The project included many critical stakeholders: the Detroit Eastside Community Collaborative (representing 15 non-profit organizations), Super Bowl XL Committee, Detroit City Airport, Wayne County Department of Public Services, Michigan Department of Transportation, Detroit Engineering Department and the Detroit Recreation Department. And that didn't include the many sidewalk superintendents. With post-9/11 regulations, the replacement of the fencing at the Detroit City Airport created a challenge and required close coordination with construction activities.

The entire Conner Creek Greenway is expected to be completed in 3 to 5 years and SDA hopes to be a partner in each phase of the project until it is completed. SDA would like to be remembered as the company that helps bring dreams to reality.

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# CLIENT & PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## SDA'S TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

SDA's Transportation Group has begun work on the **M-59 Rehabilitation** project. This MDOT project calls for a complete rehabilitation of a two-mile section of M-59 east of Pontiac from Wide Track to Opdyke Roads. The scope covers both the eastbound and westbound lanes and includes a complete rehabilitation with minor drainage and geometric improvements.



*The Snooper Bridge Inspection Crane was utilized on the Huron Parkway Bridge Rehabilitation Project and the 2006/2007 Bridge Inspection Program.*

SDA's Bridge Engineers have begun designing the reconstruction of the **Grand River Bridge over Kent Lake** project. They were also selected for the **Huron Parkway Bridge Rehabilitation** project and the **2006-2007 Ann Arbor Bridge Inspection** project. The Huron Parkway Bridge project and two bridges in the Ann Arbor bridge inspection program will utilize a state-of-the-art piece of equipment called a Snooper Bridge Crane to allow close inspection of the structural components from beneath the bridge.

The Snooper bridge inspection and maintenance cranes are multi-purpose units that provide the most extensive reach capabilities for a wide variety of bridges, viaducts, and trestles. The fully hydraulic cranes allow operators, engineers, and inspectors to position themselves

exactly where needed in order to perform all types of tasks under the bridges when accessing them from below is not a feasible option. When in position, up to three people can work continuously in the bucket as the truck moves along the bridge deck.

### Accelerate Your Project Approval with a Traffic Impact & Engineering Study

Most agencies and municipalities place an importance on the effect of traffic volumes from new facilities on existing roads and surrounding communities. SDA has expertise in performing traffic impact and analysis studies for communities and developers alike. These studies often include the following ...

- Historical Data Review
- Data Collection
- Non-Motorized Traffic Plans
- Review of Vehicular Movements
- Traffic Volume Analyses
- Road Improvement Recommendations
- Signal Operation Review
- Pavement Marking Review
- Design and Engineering of Improvements

For more information, please contact Cheryl Gregory ([cgregory@spaldingdedecker.com](mailto:cgregory@spaldingdedecker.com) or 248-844-5400).



# SDA'S NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## COMMUNITY MATTERS

**In April, 2006, SDA Appointed A New Board of Directors:**



**Paul C. Wade, PE, Chairman**  
**David A. Lakin, PE, President**  
**George M. Platz, PS, Vice President and Secretary**  
**David Potter, PE, Vice President and Treasurer**  
**Thomas J. Sovel, PE, Vice President**  
**Cathy DeDecker, PE, PS, Vice President**

### COMMUNITY MATTERS

Each community event provides SDA employee's an opportunity to build teams and leadership. It is one of the most rewarding experiences in that little by little we build community and assert that we are a living company.

- Bowl for Kids' Sake 3/2006
- Adopt-A-Road 4/2006
- Christmas in April 4/2006
- Motor City Makeover 5/2006
- River Days: Troy & Clinton Township 6/2006
- Clinton Township Concert in the Park 7/2006
- Macomb Township Air Margaritaville 7/2006
- Adopt-A-Highway 9/2006
- Clinton River Cleanup 9/2006
- Toys for Tots 12/2006



*Bowl for Kids' Sake*



*Adopt-A-Highway: M-59*



*Clinton River Cleanup*



*Motor City Makeover*



## SDA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Cathy DeDecker, PS** was appointed by Governor Granholm to fill a vacancy on the **State of Michigan Licensure Board for Land Surveyors**. She was also named **Construction Woman of the Year** by the **National Association of Women in Construction**.
- **Charles Groover, PE** was elected to serve on the **Board of Directors of the Detroit Post of the Society of American Military Engineers**.
- **Kimberly McDaniel, PE** was appointed **Associate Director of the Louisiana Tech University Engineering and Science Foundation**.
- **Mustapha Hamood, PE** received the **MSPE Individual Engineer of the Year in Private Practice Award from MSPE**.
- **Dana Suggitt** was named **Member of the Year** by the **Michigan Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar**.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Cheryl Gregory, PE**, Transportation Department Manager, and **Eric Kipp, PE**, co-authored "**1 For The Thumb**" an article featured in the January, 2006 edition of **Roads & Bridges** highlighting the I-94 Concrete Overlay \$32 million Construction Project.

## SDA'S NEW MEMBERSHIPS

- SDA joined the **Detroit Chapter of the Associated General Contractors**
- SDA joined **Automation Alley**, Michigan's Member-Based Consortium of High-Tech Companies





# CAREERS AT SDA

**SDA is seeking to fill the following positions in the Transportation Department:**

- **Project Manager – Roads:** Candidate must perform and supervise engineering work related to highway and interstate reconstruction, intersection improvements, subdivision street rehabilitation, large land development projects which include transportation features. Estimate fees, determine scope of work, and preparation of proposals and contracts on large or multiple projects. Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering, Michigan PE, a minimum of 8 years' practical experience, including MDOT project experience, and Microstation and GeoPak experience required. AutoCAD experience a plus.



*SDA's 2006 design of the I-94 Concrete Overlay in St. Clair County received the Michigan Concrete Paving Association's (MCPA) award for Overlay Project of the Year.*

- **Project Manager – Bridge:** Candidate must perform and supervise engineering work related to the design, construction, and operation of civil structural projects. Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering/Surveying, Michigan PE, a minimum of 8 years' practical experience, including MDOT project experience, required.



*SDA's bridge engineers had to design the Kirkway Bridge in Bloomfield Township to match, in texture and color, the existing stone pillars and walls at the entrance of this subdivision.*

- **Project Manager – Transportation:** Candidate must perform and supervise engineering work related to traffic operations, corridor, and traffic impact studies, community impact assessments, parking studies and signal optimization. Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering, Michigan PE, a minimum of 8 years' practical experience, including MDOT project experience, required. PTOE desirable.





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HAPPY NEW YEAR

From Your Friends At

Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc.