

# COMMON GROUND

JULY 2024

## THE CURTAIN CLOSES ON THE OLD LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Current and former students, community members gather for a last look before demolition**

Buildings don't last forever. At some point the cost of regular maintenance outpaces the cost of replacement.

Lake Elementary School opened when John F. Kennedy was president and the country was in a race to space with the Soviet Union.

In early July, it was the old school's final hurrah. A demolition contractor hired by RLI tore it down as RLI, GEM and subcontractor workers were putting some of the final touches on the new Lake Elementary School right next door.

More than a few former students and residents stopped by to say goodbye.



*Sharon and Sheri Stickler stopped by as machines clawed away at the old school.*

Sharon Stickler and her daughter, Sheri, reminisced about their connection to the building. Sharon, 85, was a cafeteria worker at the school for 25 years. Sheri was a student who was blessed to have her mother nearby as she went through



elementary school. Both women said they were sad to see the old building torn down.

The new school is expected to be ready to open at the start of the new school year.

## NEW FROM GEM SERVICE

### Refurbishing HVAC equipment can extend service life, save on costs

Buying new HVAC equipment isn't always in the cards for some customers, especially ones where cost and downtime are restricting issues.

GEM Service is now offering the option of refurbishing HVAC equipment so customers can improve their current systems at a fraction of the time and cost.

"Making a huge capital investment in new HVAC equipment isn't always possible," said GEM Service Director of Sales and Operations **Jake Everts**. "Add in the significant lead time needed to acquire new equipment, and refurbishing could be a better option for many customers."

The benefits of refurbishing are:

- A shorter lead time to get equipment operational, sometimes up to 20 weeks sooner.



*The before (above) and after photos show customers how much they could improve their current HVAC systems.*



- Savings of 20% to 45% when compared with new equipment.
- Reduced operational costs. Utility and maintenance savings can range from 10% to 30%.
- Improved reliability.
- Increased comfort for building occupants.

## NEW ASSOCIATES

Welcome!



Top row: **Cierra Fairchild**, Payroll Assistant, Accounting, GEM Walbridge; **Ryan Mapes**, Network Engineer, Information Technology, RLG Walbridge; **Shelby Stock**, Dispatcher, GEM Service, Walbridge.

Second row: **Justin Hennagir**, Maintenance Tech II, GEM Facility Maintenance, Walbridge; **Kiley Schroyer**, Contract Administrator, GEM Service, Walbridge; **Stephen Moore**, Senior VDC Technician, GEM Walbridge.



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## RECENT PROMOTIONS IN WALBRIDGE

**Congratulations!**



Top row, from left : **Jessica Mears**, RLG Controller; **Brandon Gartee**, GEM Director of Business Development; **Andrew Moses**, GEM Project Engineer.

Middle row: **Johnathon Moore**, RLI Project Engineer; **Harrison Newberg**, RLI Project Manager; **Hilal Smidi**, RLI Project Manager.

Bottom row: GEM Service Customer Experience and Contract Supervisor **Emily Baldenegro**; GEM Project Manager **Josh Fultz**; RLI Special Accounts Manager **Landon Richards**.

## LUNCH AND LEARN



LMS Coordinator **John Bebeau** guides associates through OneNote at the most recent Lunch and Learn.

### Associates sharpen their OneNote skills

RLG associates honed their Microsoft OneNote skills at a recent Lunch and Learn session. A video of this session and others are available in the RLGU database. Sessions highlighting other topics are being planned. If you have an idea you would like to learn more about or are a subject matter expert and would like to share with others, please reach out to **Kevin Sealts** to discuss your ideas.

## NEW WORK

**Archbold, Ohio** — RLI will build a 37,000-square-foot expansion to Four County Career Center to house new metal fabrication and electrical labs.

The project is utilizing a \$14 million grant from the State of Ohio for career technical education.

The project is expected to begin in March and finish in February 2026.

The team: Preconstruction: **John MacGregor**, **Brandon Boehm**; Business Development: **Andrew Lorenz**; Project Manager **Bryan Cox**; Superintendent **Tammy Euler**.

**Monclova Township, Ohio** — GEM is relocating a coil line from the Rolled Alloys steel-making facility in Temperance, Michigan, to the new RA facility here.

The work, which got underway July 15, covers rigging, electrical and piping work. The move is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

The team: Lead Project Manager **Brad Harhold**; Electrical Project Manager **Anne-Marie Weimer**; Piping Project Manager **Jack Bunge**; General Foreman **Joe Evans**; Business Development Director **Brandon Gartee**.

### New GEM Service Contracts

#### All State Brokerage

Columbus, Ohio

#### SFS Intec

Medina, Ohio

#### Toyota Technical Center

Ann Arbor, Michigan

#### Worthington Steel

Delta, Ohio

## HONORING OUR VETS

### GEM pipefitter foreman escorts vet to memorials in Washington

For many veterans, taking an Honor Flight to see the memorials for those who sacrificed their lives for our country is a sacred obligation.

Some of our veterans are disabled or just may need a little assistance on the trip. Being a volunteer “guardian,” or one who escorts a veteran on the trip, is an honor for GEM Pipefitter Foreman **Chad Kwiatkowski**. RLG is grateful for our veterans and proud to sponsor his travel.



**Chad Kwiatkowski**, right, and Army vet **Danny Richards**, get set to leave for Washington with other vets at Toledo Express Airport.

Kwiatkowski recently escorted Army veteran Danny Richards on his trip arranged by Findlay Honor Flight. One guardian is assigned to each veteran, helping them with boarding their flights, pushing wheelchairs if necessary, and any other task they need to make the trip easier, meaningful and memorable.

## THANKS FOR THE LEADS!

Every associate who reports a new business lead is entered into a drawing for \$100 in GEM and RLI merchandise.

Winners for 2024 Quarter 2:

**Andrew Deputy**, GEM  
**Bob Briggs**, RLI

The next drawing is in October for leads generated in July, August and September.

New Leads: **Andrew Deputy**; **Jason Quisenberry**; **Vince Piscopo**; **Travis Maag**; **Kevin Comerford**; **John MacGregor**; **Dan Kovacevic**.

Report your leads to:

**RLI** — **Shannon Deppen**, ext. 3005,  
[Shannon.Deppen@rlgbuilds.com](mailto:Shannon.Deppen@rlgbuilds.com)

**GEM** — **Julie Camper**, ext. 2654,  
[Julie.Camper@rlgbuilds.com](mailto:Julie.Camper@rlgbuilds.com)