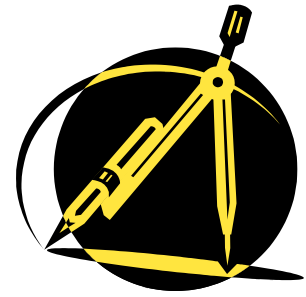


# The Compass



Volume III, Issue 4

Autumn 2006

**Inside this issue:**

- Drees and Fischer 2  
Collaborate on  
New Campbell  
County  
Subdivision
- Viox & Viox Has 2  
Success With  
Recent Zone  
Changes
- Employees 2  
Donate Food and  
Supplies to  
Welcome House
- Employee 3  
Happenings
- Health and 3  
Wellness in the  
Workplace
- 13th Golf Outing 3  
the Best Yet for  
NKSP

## The View from the Top by Jim and Bill Viox

During the summer months, we spent considerable time reviewing the need to expand to allow our staff to be more responsive to the customer needs. Recently, we were able to acquire an additional 12,000 square feet in leased space in the Ameristop shopping center located next to our main office at 466 Erlanger Road. The newly acquired space will become available in phases between October 2006 through February 2007. The new area will house portions of engineering and boundary surveying and will include a large conference room and employee break room.

Our Strategic Plan calls for dividing our firm into six divisions; public agency engineering, private sector engineering, landscape architecture, planning services, boundary survey-

ing, and construction surveying. The new divisions will allow for the staff to specialize in the various services. We anticipate that additional staff will be required in the engineering and surveying divisions.

Our staff stayed busy this summer on a wide variety of projects. We provided engineering, surveying, and/or landscape architecture services for a hotel, office complexes, banks, a veterinarian hospital, condominiums, single-family subdivisions, road improvements, water main extensions, and many other public projects. In addition, our planning and landscape architecture divisions were responsible for several zone change presentations.

Finally, many staff members attended conferences and workshops recently to meet their professional development

hour requirements for licensure and/or certifications. The conferences also provided our professionals with a general awareness of current issues and new innovations. The conferences included the American Water Works Association Conference in San Antonio, Texas, the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Planning Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the American Society of Landscape Architects Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



*Ameristop shopping center on Erlanger Road (Viox & Viox office expansion located on far left side of center)*

## Viox & Viox Sets New Standard With High-Tech Presentations

As everyone knows, it is far too easy to allow the ever-changing advances in technology to pass you by. The staff at Viox & Viox has a goal to stay on top of the most up-to-date advancements in today's technology-driven world. Their latest efforts have been focused on the increasing need for high-end graphics for public presentations.

The staff has found that the amount of presentations that the firm has been asked to do has steadily in-

creased over the past several years; whether it be for public hearings, community meetings, or marketing purposes. Because of the high demand for visual presentations, the staff felt that it was worth it to spend extra time learning and experimenting with new graphic software, including 3D modeling and animation.

Viox & Viox now has a new standard public presentation format which has been extremely successful and has evoked a lot of positive re-

sponses. Each presentation not only includes historical data, photographs, and current engineering plans and designs, but also three-dimensional renderings and animation that allows the audience to visualize how a project will look from all points within the immediate vicinity. Says one staffer regarding the presentations, "The uses are limitless; the graphics can really help anybody understand the intricacies of a designed project. It is so important for the audience to actually visualize a project within its surroundings."



View from Entry into Arcadia

**Top:** Rendering of entrance to Arcadia Community **Bottom:** View from Entrance

## Drees and Fischer Collaborate on New Campbell County Subdivision

Alexandria, Kentucky will soon be home to a new 900-home community. Drees Homes and Fischer Homes formed a joint venture to create the future plans for "Arcadia", a subdivision on 327 acres off of U.S. 27.

The planned unit development will include single-family homes, patio homes, townhomes, and condominiums. The residents of Arcadia will have access to a community pool and clubhouse and walking trails.

The partnering of

Fischer Homes and Drees Homes is a first for the two Northern Kentucky-based builders. The two companies believe that the partnership will give customers a wider variety of housing choices within one community. Both Fischer and Drees will offer single-family homes with price ranges up to \$350,000. In addition, Fischer will construct patio homes, while Drees will build the townhomes and condominiums.

Viox & Viox are the engineers for this unique pro-

ject. Currently Viox & Viox and the Drees Company is working through the rezoning process with the City of Alexandria.

Viox & Viox's engineering and surveying services will include grading, storm water control, sanitary and storm sewers, water mains, street design, and construction staking. The project also includes a mile long sanitary sewer transmission line and force main and a new regional sanitary sewer pump station. Construction is slated to begin in early 2007.



**Top:** Entrance to Steeplechase **Bottom:** Entrance to Highland Country Club

## Viox & Viox Has Success With Recent Zone Changes

Viox & Viox received recent notice that two pending zone changes were approved for future developments. The firm had prepared plans for two residential subdivisions for Centerline Development; The Tracks at Steeplechase in Richmond and Fort Thomas Overlook in Fort Thomas. Both developments required an application to the requisite planning commissions to make amendments to the current zoning maps.

The zone change for

the Tracks at Steeplechase entailed approval from Boone County Fiscal Court to convert 92 acres of agricultural land to suburban residential. The development will consist of 217 single-family homes. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2007.

The City of Fort Thomas recently approved a zone change on 15 acres formally belonging to Highland Country Club. Centerline Development purchased 15 acres that will be developed

into 65 single-family townhome units off of Blossom Lane. Construction is set to begin immediately.

Viox & Viox worked closely with Tim Reese of Centerline Development to prepare for the zone change process. Viox & Viox prepared presentations for the public hearings which included detailed plans and graphic renderings of the future developments.

## Employees Donate Food and Supplies to Welcome House

This summer, Welcome House of Northern Kentucky, a non-profit organization that provides food, clothing, and shelter for those in need, sent a letter to Viox & Viox and other local businesses stating that their supplies were critically low. The employees responded by putting together an office-wide food, clothing and household item drive.

The employees were asked to bring in items such as

non-perishable foods, personal hygiene articles, towels, sheets, umbrellas, and other household goods. One raffle ticket was given for every three items that were donated. During the drive, which took place over two weeks in August, employees brought in enough donated goods to fill up 7 large boxes.

The raffle drawing was held on August 17th. Sandy McMillan was the big winner of the day; taking home

a \$50.00 gas card. The other winners were Aaron Duesing and Caroline Welter who both went home with gift cards to Subway.

Jim Viox and Caroline Welter delivered the donated goods to Welcome House. Rina Saperstein with Welcome House sent a letter thanking the firm for the generous donations which will be used to help local homeless or impoverished individuals and families.



Viox & Viox employees load boxes for delivery to the Welcome House

## Employee Happenings

### Viox & Viox Employment Anniversaries

The following employees are celebrating employment anniversaries this fall:

**2 years**

**Kenny Courts** (Hired on Sept. 27, 2004)

**Carter Dickerson** (Hired on Oct. 11, 2004)

**3 years**

**Sandy McMillan** (Hired on Oct. 13, 2003)

**5 years**

**Jason Anderson** (Hired on Sept. 4, 2001)

**10 years**

**Megan de Sola** (Hired on

Oct. 1, 1996)

**11 years**

**Tim McNeely** (Hired on Oct. 9, 1995)

**16 years**

**Pat Jones** (Hired on Nov. 12, 1990)

**27 years**

**Chuck Faeth** (Hired on Sept. 4, 1979)

Congratulations to everyone - Viox & Viox appreciates your hard work and dedication!

### Autumn Birthdays

**Bill Viox** - Sept. 14

**Jason Thorwarth** - Sept. 17

**Caroline Weltzer** - Sept. 27

**Mike Utz** - Oct. 1

**Dean Tanner** - Oct. 5

**Sandy McMillan** - Oct. 13

**Nancy Viox** - Oct. 13

**Megan de Sola** - Oct. 30

**Jimmy Viox** - Nov. 5

**Kenny Courts** - Nov. 6

**Christian Craddock** - Nov. 30

Happy Birthday to all of you!

### Announcements

- Congratulations to **Michael Miller** and Brandy Sturgeon on the birth of their son, **Donald Espen**, on September 22nd.



Espen Miller

## Health and Wellness in The Workplace

As the cost of health care seems to continually reach new limits both for employers and employees, many of us feel as though there is little to be done to slow this upward spiral. When it is time for a company to go through its annual renewal process, the health and wellness of the employees play into the cost of what the new rates will be. This is where the actions of each employee can be important. Studies show that maintaining a health conscious lifestyle will increase

wellness and therefore mean less money spent at the doctor's office, pharmacist or hospital. Keeping a healthful lifestyle will not only help to make a positive affect in one's life but also it will help to decrease the overall cost of insurance in premiums and co-pays.

What else can be done? Make smart choices. Before heading out to the emergency room for that sinus infection, check to see if your doctor's office has a location that offers walk-in evening

hours. Ask your doctor if a new prescription comes in a generic form. Utilize the company's flexible spending plan. Also, if you are married and have children be sure to recalculate the cost each year of coverage at one spouse's work versus another.

The bottom line is that there are steps that can be taken to lower overall medical costs. Just being a little more conscious of everyday choices related to health and medical costs can make a big difference.

**"There are steps that can be taken to lower overall medical costs."**

**-Caroline Weltzer  
Director of Finance  
Viox & Viox**



## 13th Golf Outing the Best Yet for NKSPE

The Northern Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers (NKSPE) showed that 13 is truly a lucky number this year. The 13th annual golf outing, held on September 18th at Triple Crown Country Club, broke records with the number of sponsors and total money raised.

The outing raised a total of \$11,020; an increase of over \$400 from the previous record-breaking year. The money is contributed to the

Professional Engineers Scholarship Fund which is then distributed to deserving engineering students.

The event included a luncheon, golf, and dinner and was again organized by Jim Viox and Jim Berling. This year, 73 companies agreed to be hole sponsors and the event hosted 122 golfers.

As always, the organizers were overwhelmed by the generosity of local businesses. Enough donations were given

to allow each golfer to win a door prize ranging from golf balls to a weekend golf package at Perry Park. Special thanks go to Contech Construction Products and GRW, Inc.; who sponsored two holes each.

The big winners of the day included the Coppage Construction team who placed 1st. The longest drive was awarded to Ron Sweeney and Mark Seibert and the closest to the pin was Mark Burgess and Mark Spicer.

**"We were very pleased with the increase in net for scholarships. It makes all of our hard work very worthwhile."**

**-Jim Viox  
NKSPE Golf Outing  
Committee**



466 Erlanger Road  
Erlanger, KY 41018

Phone: 859.727.3293  
Fax: 859.727.8452

We're on the Web!  
[www.vioxinc.com](http://www.vioxinc.com)

#### Important Dates and Upcoming Events:

- **Oct. 31** - Halloween
- **Nov. 1** - Start of new health care plan year for Viox & Viox employees
- **Nov. 23 and 24** - Thanksgiving Holiday (office closed)
- **Dec. 22** - Viox Christmas Luncheon
- **Dec. 25** - Christmas Holiday (office closed)
- **Jan. 1** - New Year's Day (office closed)

Viox & Viox began providing engineering and surveying services to Northern Kentucky in 1945. The firm, originally founded by James H. Viox, Jr., P.E., L.S. and George Rassenfoss, P.E., is now owned by Mr. Viox's two sons, James H. Viox, III, P.E., P.L.S. and William R. Viox, P.E., P.L.S.

Viox & Viox has grown and expanded their services over the years and currently employs approximately 35 employees. Viox & Viox currently offers services in municipal engineering, commercial, industrial and residential planning, public utilities, surveying, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and landscape architecture. With over 70% of its employees from Northern Kentucky, the firm is closely connected to the local residents and the issues and challenges that face the community. It is our intent and hope to continue to progress and produce the high quality of professional services for which we are known.

#### Our Mission Statement:

To continue to serve a diverse spectrum of clients in an accurate and timely manner.

To make Viox & Viox a positive work environment that will enable employees to grow both professionally and personally.

To continually progress in the area of technology so as to serve our clients by the most advanced methods available.

To be the premier Civil Engineering / Surveying / Landscape Architecture firm within the Tri-State area with a solid reputation of delivering excellent service from a professional staff in the most cost effective, timely, and accurate way possible.

*Creating innovative pathways through progressive design...one client at a time.*