



EHRBAR

Since 1903

ADVANTAGE

A PUBLICATION FOR AND ABOUT EDWARD EHRBAR, INC. CUSTOMERS • 2013 NO. 2

Features inside...

A&J CONSTRUCTION

(Seated, L-R) Owner/VP Ray Boa, Owner/
President Al Augusto, (standing, L-R) Director
of Operations Louis Augusto, Milling Crew
Foreman Joe Boa and VP/Paving
Operations Officer Danny Augusto



Nick Toumanios,
Vice President and
Chief Estimator

William Vescio,
President

Steven Vescio,
CFO

LAWS CONSTRUCTION CORP.

STEIERT LANDSCAPE SERVICE, INC.

Mark Steiert (center), Founder and Owner, his son Mike
and his sister Jeanne Grella, Office Manager



A. VITTI EXCAVATORS

Tony Vitti Jr.,
Owner



BREEZY POINT COOPERATIVE

Arthur Lighthall,
General Manager



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IN THIS ISSUE

LAWS CONSTRUCTION CORP.

See how this Westchester County firm is overcoming challenges to build a world-class golf course in the Bronx.

STEIERT LANDSCAPE SERVICE, INC.

This Glen Cove, N.Y., contractor has an eye for making the new look old.

BREEZY POINT COOPERATIVE

Find what steps this Rockaway Peninsula community is taking to protect residents from super storms.

A. VITTI EXCAVATORS

Hard work has led to success for this Stamford, Conn., excavation and recycling contractor.

A&J CONSTRUCTION

Check out the Wirtgen products that have offered proven productivity and reliability for this Connecticut paving company.

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

Read all about Komatsu's revolutionary *intelligent Machine Control* dozers and how they can maximize production and lower costs.

NEW PRODUCT

Discover how the rugged design of Komatsu's new PC360LC-10 Waste Handler provides maximum uptime in tough applications.

BREAKING NEWS

Now you can increase your productivity in rock excavation and demolition with the new Xcentric™ Ripper attachments.

NEW INCENTIVES

Take a look at Komatsu's new program that offers incentives and financing to help you make needed repairs now.

PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

Read about Edward Ehrbar, Inc.'s new JCB compact machinery, parts inventory and product support.

KOMATSU & YOU

Komatsu Vice President Ed Powers shares his thoughts on building lasting relationships through listening and the "gemba" philosophy.

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A SALUTE TO AN **EHRBAR** CUSTOMER

LAWS CONSTRUCTION CORP.

Westchester County firm overcomes challenges to build world-class golf course in the Bronx



William Vescio,
President



Steven Vescio,
CFO



Nick Toumanios,
Vice President and
Chief Estimator

With New York Botanical Garden, Yankee Stadium and a top-rated zoo, the Bronx already has numerous iconic destinations for visitors and residents alike. Soon, the borough will add another. Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2014. When it does, the Jack Nicklaus-designed course, which will be operated by the Trump organization as concessionaire, will immediately be recognized as one of the top public courses in the nation. It may become home to a PGA tour event or possibly host a PGA Championship or U.S. Open. But the property's journey from undesirable to world-class golf course was not an easy one.

In the 1950s, Ferry Point, which sits on the East River where the Whitestone Bridge connects Queens to the Bronx, was a landfill. Though closed in 1962, it remained an illegal dumping ground and eyesore for much of the next four decades. In 1998, former NYC Mayor Rudolph Giuliani proposed building a golf course on the property to beautify the land. Since it was once a landfill, the property could not be used for residential, commercial or most industrial purposes, but a golf course would be a way to make good use of the land. The project was awarded to a private developer, but years of design and planning fell by the wayside when he pulled out. However, in 2008, Mayor Michael Bloomberg resurrected it as a city-financed project.

About that same time, LAWS Construction Corp of Pleasantville, N.Y., was building Ferry Point Community Park. LAWS is a general contractor that offers a wide range of services including excavation/site work, underground utilities, roads, bridges and retaining walls. So when the golf course project next door to the community park came up for bid, LAWS went after it and won the contract for excavation, shaping, utilities, irrigation and cart paths.

"We started work on the golf course in 2009," recalled LAWS CFO Steven Vescio. "It was originally supposed to be a \$54 million, two-year project. Four years later, we're almost finished with our portion, which will probably end up at about \$115 million. The additional cost had little to do with change orders or anything we could control. The project was wrought with numerous delays and changes due to the environmental conditions caused from working on a former landfill, addressing the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) requirements, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) concerns and significant design changes."

For example, most projects allow reburial of material, but at Ferry Point, LAWS was required to take out, haul offsite and dispose of more than 180,000 tons of municipal solid waste. Other unforeseen conditions and added requirements impacted the schedule and costs, such as additional pond liners, added demarcation geo-fabric and additional drainage. Significant "re-shaping" of the contours was required to accommodate golf design criteria and drainage requirements and at the same time maintaining the quality of play that Jack Nicklaus has visioned.

"Another huge cost overrun was a requirement from the NYSDEC to line all the ponds and dig a geofoam trench across the entire site," said Vescio. "Since we were bringing in several million yards of material to properly cover the landfill, the

LAWS Construction uses this Komatsu D39PX dozer to stockpile material. "This is the biggest job we've ever done, and it's first class," said CFO Steven Vescio. "It will be a thing of beauty. We're very pleased to have been a part of it."





Using a Komatsu WA380-6 wheel loader, a LAWS Construction operator loads trucks at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point (aerial view shown above). More than 3.5 million yards of material was used to transform the former landfill into a championship golf course.



▶ VIDEO

NYCDEP was concerned that it would be too much weight on the existing sewer system. So they had us dig down 30-35 feet to expose the box culvert line, create some access manholes and fill the trench back up with large styrofoam blocks called geofoam. That trench added nearly \$8 million to the cost of the project."

Although it hasn't been without issues and critics, Vescio and NYC Parks and Rec Chief Engineer John Natoli, P.E., who has kept a close eye on the work, are proud of Ferry Point.

"With the Community Park and a Waterfront Park along with the golf course, this is a 200-acre development," noted Natoli. "Personally, I think it's one of the greatest inner-city parks department projects ever. I'm very proud of our involvement in taking a blighted area and turning it into something beautiful and worthwhile for our citizens."

"For LAWS, this is the biggest job we've ever done, and it's first class," added Vescio. "It will be the only Jack Nicklaus Signature-designed course in the country that's open to the general public – and it will be a thing of beauty. We're very pleased to have been a part of it."

If anybody can do it, it's probably not a job for LAWS

Although LAWS Construction had never done a golf course, other than a design-build of a cart tunnel at Old Oaks Country Club, Ferry Point was a project seemingly tailor-made for the company.

"From the earthwork to irrigation to paving, it encompassed a lot of services we would be able to provide in-house," said Vescio. "Beyond that, it was going to be a challenge, and frankly, that's what my dad (LAWS President and co-owner William Vescio) prefers. He prefers tricky, complex projects over run-of-the-mill jobs that anybody can do, which is what sets us apart from other site development contractors. And make no mistake, the Ferry Point golf course certainly had plenty of challenges associated with it."

To do jobs like Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point, LAWS Construction (the name comes from the first initials of William's four children: Lynda, Amy, Wendi and Steven) relied on longtime valued employees. As many as 150 people worked on the job during the busiest part of the schedule.

In addition to the Vescios, key personnel include co-owner and Executive VP Giacomo "Jack" Micciche, Mr. Outside to Vescio's Mr. Inside; VP and Chief Estimator Nick Toumanios; Project Manager Errol Stabiner; and Superintendent Augie DaSilva, Micciche's right-hand-man at the golf course. William Vescio's sons-in-law Bob Cook and Mike DiNolfo also work at LAWS.

"Two other men who were crucial to the golf course project were John Natoli and Course Architect Jim Lipe," said Steven Vescio. "We worked closely with both of them to get the job done. Our key golf shapers, Doug Graham and Ron Rekart, who utilized Komatsu equipment,



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