

COMMON GROUND

AUGUST 2024

KENWORTH UPDATE

A truckload of projects keeps the Rudolph Libbe team busy

Chillicothe, Ohio — Kenworth's goal is to build 200 trucks per day at its Chillicothe Assembly Plant in southern Ohio.

The RLG team stationed in Walbridge and at the plant are determined to help the longtime customer get there with 160 per day as the next milestone.

It recently completed eight new dock positions in two separate areas while the plant was operating. Construction has begun on a new chassis paint expansion that is expected to last well into 2025. These are just some of the 30-plus RLI-led projects that are in preconstruction or underway. There is a big push to get the work done by 2026 because Kenworth expects a big bump in business before new heavy duty truck emissions rules take effect in 2027.

Preconstruction Leader **Logan Wilson** said each completed project removes a production bottle neck that will move Kenworth closer to its goal. Future projects include installing a 15-ton overhead crane system and a new battery charging facility for Kenworth's soon-to-come electric line of trucks.

The team: Preconstruction Leader **Logan Wilson**; Preconstruction Manager **Christian Simpson**; Project Manager **Matt Dickens**; Site Management Project Engineer **Brogan Ambrozy**; Chassis Paint Project Engineer **Mark Keller**; Superintendent **Dan Mills**.



Kenworth's Chassis Paint expansion is expected to last well into 2025.

LIMA'S SMALLER FAB SHOP PROMOTES EFFICIENCY

Bigger isn't always better when it comes to getting the work done



Pipefitter **Cody Lewis** welds pipe at GEM's new Lima Fabrication Shop. GEM had been leasing its old fab shop but decided to buy a former truck repair shop and convert it.



Lima, Ohio — GEM Lima's new fabrication shop is an example of addition by subtraction.

GEM had been leasing a nearby building that was much larger. It also leaked so much that it confused welders performing hydrostatic testing because they couldn't determine the source of water. So when the opportunity to buy a former truck repair facility and convert it to a fab shop presented itself, GEM jumped at it.

After a great deal of planning and work, Lima now owns its fab shop, which is located a stone's throw from GEM Lima's new headquarters on Easton Circle. Pipefitter Shop Foreman **Terry Leppla** said the trade-off of less space for having a fab shop that GEM owns and has control over is a good one.

"Our old location was starting to fall into disrepair," Leppla said. "The pipefitters like the new shop. The layout is more open and organized, and it doesn't leak when it rains."

The reduction in space meant that



Pipefitter **Mike Laesch** checks to make sure the pipe he is about to weld is level.

the fab shop needed to be better organized and more efficient. So they started from scratch to redesign the work flow and followed in the footsteps of the Walbridge fab shop by using the Japanese kaizen method to bring order and standardization to the welding stations.

"You are kind of forced to be efficient with less space," Leppla said.

Three new floor-mounted jib cranes were purchased and installed in the building. The building's exterior was painted to match GEM's blue brand color. A new exterior GEM sign also was installed.

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NEW WORK

Bowling Green, Ohio — RLI will build a 150,000-square-foot high school that utilizes geo-thermal heating and cooling.

The existing Bowling Green high school will be partially demolished, and the remaining structure will have a new entry and be renovated.

There will be site upgrades to support the new high school and middle school campuses.

The team: Account Executive **Brad Deal**; Preconstruction Manager **John MacGregor**; Preconstruction Lead **Scott Gross**; Business Development Manager **Brad Delventhal**; Senior Project Manager **Brian Swope**; Superintendent **Tammy Euler**.

Maple Heights, Ohio — GEM in Northeast Ohio will install an exhaust system for Liberty Ford so it can convert its body shop to a truck repair shop.

GEM will install more than 300 feet of rail systems with nine exhaust hoses and three fans to service nine truck repair bays.

Liberty Ford gave a broad idea of what it needed, and the GEM team fashioned

TWO AT RLI COMPLETE SUPERINTENDENT TRAINING

Congratulations to RLI's **Montana Oberwegner** and **Dan Mills** for successfully completing the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America's Superintendent Career Training program.

The program consists of 16 mentoring sessions and 32 on-the-job training modules over an 18-month period.

RLI Director of Field Operations **Mike Keane** said the program helps superintendents in the field understand the reasons behind the company's practices and decisions. Nearly all RLI superintendents have participated in the program; **Tammy Euler** was the first female superintendent



Montana Oberwegner



Dan Mills

in the nation to complete the training in 2008.

Keane said the Carpenters' union is heavily invested in training and has one of the best training facilities in the U.S.

The union has allowed RLI to tailor its program to fit the company's needs. Each supervisor is assigned an in-house mentor to guide them through the program. Additionally, there are in-house experts on topics such as cost control, scheduling, contracts, and many others.

"It's really about getting into the nuts and bolts of a topic so they understand why we ask for certain things," Keane said.

a complete turnkey design and solution. Work begins in September and is expected to last about a month.

The team: Account Manager **Scot Faight**; Business Development Managers **Jordan Prosser, Jaime Hart**; Foreman **Steve Burgett**.

Warren, Ohio — RLG in Northeast Ohio is building a 119,000-square-foot manufacturing facility for Cleveland Steel Container Corp.

The project includes a Varco-Pruden pre-engineered metal building, plus adjacent office and storage space. The design-build project is expected to be completed by summer 2025.

The team: Account Manager **Gabrielle Delesk**; Project Manager **Don Mathewson**; Preconstruction Manager **Chris Lee**; Superintendent **Dave Kless**.

Ann Arbor, Michigan — GEM Service in Michigan will replace the dielectrics of each variable air volume box at the Toyota Technical Center.

Challenges for the project include following Toyota's strict safety protocols.

The work is expected to be completed by late August or early September.

The team: Account Manager **Don Bignall**; Project Coordinator **Adam Cloutier**; Field Foreman **John Aurandt**; Regional Safety Manager **Mike Thomas**.

New GEM Service Contracts

Columbus — GEM Service will perform HVAC work on a new wing of the Sarepta Therapeutics pharmaceutical research and development facility.

The work adds to the HVAC maintenance that GEM Service currently performs at the facility. Challenges include preventing downtime and working in clean rooms with HEPA filtration systems that require special attention.

The team: **Business Development** Manager **Ben Decatur**; Service Manager **Zach Arbogast**; Lead Technician **Avery Coles**.

THANKS FOR THE LEADS!

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

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

New Leads: **Toni Hubbard; Steve Simkus; John MacGregor; Dan Kovacevic**.

Report your leads to:
RLI — **Shannon Deppen, ext. 3005,**
Shannon.Deppen@rlgbuilds.com

GEM — **Julie Camper, ext. 2654,**
Julie.Camper@rlgbuilds.com

NEW ASSOCIATES

Welcome!



From left: **Don Thurston**, Project Manager, Site Management, Michigan; **Hunter Ringer**, Mechanical Project Manager, GEM Walbridge; **Cassie Woggon**, Benefits Specialist, RLG Walbridge.