

October 1, 2021



## ONE PARK

### Message from the Corner Office

Hello Park Construction!

With the month of October upon us now, we're reminded once again of the great seasonal transition we experience here in the Upper Midwest, from summer to fall, with ever-shorter days, leaves changing and cooler temps, a telling sign the seasonal industry which we reside, is nearing its completion.

A sincere "Thank You" is to everyone who has worked to manage through the various effects caused by the pandemic over the last eighteen months. It hasn't been easy, and, having never experienced something of this magnitude ever, no real game plan, other than patience, flexibility, and vigilance. No matter the medium, it's difficult to escape the discussion concerning the difficulties and challenges caused by the pandemic. Yet, as we can acknowledge 2020 was challenging in many respects, 2021 appears to show signs of returning to some semblance of normalcy.

Even though the Twins were less than a championship team in 2021, it's been great to see baseball parks, NASCAR tracks and football stadiums return to capacity, not to mention the Ryder Cup and all it offers on the world's stage! It's encouraging to see our industry begin to resemble the same. I can honestly say that I've never been more encouraged to attend an in-person construction meeting, attend a workshop or participate in an industry event.

2021 will be the year where Park surpasses 2,000,000 tons of asphalt paving. What started in 2014, today, the paving division is known as a leader in the paving community, not only in volume of tons paved, but more importantly by the quality of its' projects delivered by the people who build them. From estimating to the field, the shop and Park Ave Trucking to accounting, the ability to consistently yield positive results is accredited to everyone involved. A sincere Thank You for what you do; it's truly a team effort!

So, please continue to keep yourself and others around you safe, stay vigilant with our social responsibility, and enjoy everything the fall has to offer here in the upper Midwest. After all, Football Season is underway, the NHL is soon to follow, and the Minnesota Wild signed Kirill Kaprizov to a multi-year deal! LETS GO!!!!!!

Charlie Borene

Vice President | Paving Division

### Project Profile:

# Penn Ave and 494 (Hennepin Co. Mill/Overlay)



## Project Overview:

Park Construction was awarded the Hennepin County Bituminous Mill & Overlay and Chip Seal project on 5/13/21. This project is inclusive of 13 different road segments, located in various cities around Hennepin County. 3 Segments were rehabilitated with the chip seal method and 10 were milled/overlaid.

**Project Contract Amount - \$4,177,358.76**

## Notable Road Segments

- 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn Park - by Fleet Farm and North Hennepin Community College
- Penn Avenue South, Bloomington/Richfield - over the 494 Bridge
- Shady Oak Road – Minnetonka
- Bottineau Blvd, Robbinsdale (Chip Seal)
- Zane Avenue, Brooklyn Park – Between Highway 610 and Brooklyn Blvd

## Estimated Quantities

- 352,726 SY Mill Bituminous Surface
- 41,641 Tons of Bituminous Pavement
- 4,822 LF Bituminous Curbing
- 231,454 SY of Chip Seal

# Employee Spotlight!

## Steve Devlaeminck - aka "Cuz" - Paving Screed Operator



### ***Tell us a little bit about your background and how you get into paving?***

I grew up in a small southern MN town called Winthrop. My parents have a dairy farm so most of my childhood was spent washing cows so they could be milked. Never cared much for the milking par of farming, but I always loved the field work and baling hay. My parents decided to purchase a farm in Ogilvie when I was in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, three years later when they got out of it and moved back to Winthrop, I decided to stay in Ogilvie and finish out my senior year of high school. That spring I worked for a local farmer for 2 months doing fieldwork. One day the farmers son mentioned he worked for a small sealcoat and paving company out of Maple Grove. He asked if I would be interested in working there since the field work was done until fall. Boom; I became a blacktopper.

### ***What is your favorite thing about your job?***

My favorite part of my job is wondering if six sandwiches is going to be enough for the day. I always enjoy looking up at Matt Wilkens (paver operator) and saying "Holy sh\*t, Matt! We have to hurry up, I only have 2 sandwiches left!" The best part of my job is taking a young guy like Matt, throwing him up on a paver and help mold him into one of the finest paver operators I have ever worked with. I have been fortunate enough over the years to always work with a great crew and some great foreman. Not Kevin though.

### ***Why do you work safe?***

I work safe because I had to learn safety the hard way. I was a farm casualty back in the day when a conveyor fell on me. It collapsed one of my lungs, ruptured my liver, 32 stitches in my head, 16 staples in my gut, and 8 staples in my arm. I remember how fast it happened and what it put my family through. I don't want to put my family, or anyone's family, through something like that because of an accident at work. I also work safely because of my children; Mellisa (27), Dylan (25), and Wyatt (9). Watching them grow up is extremely rewarding and wouldn't want it any other way. Plus, they enjoy helping me restore an old 2 cylinder John Deere and an old Homelite chainsaw!

### ***How did you get started at Park Construction?***

The company I used to work for did a few paving jobs for Park. One of them was a job Jeff Carlson ran at Hopkins Crossroad and the other was for Mike Kmetz at the railroad. As a screed operator, I was impressed with their grading and how well they ran their work. We still have great blade folks at Park which helps reduce the stress of my job!

Well, Jeff Carlson invited us to a meeting and mentioned that he would like to start a paving division. He said that if he was going to buy the equipment, he wanted to make sure he had some of the best people operating them. So I jumped up and told him, "I'm your huckleberry!". Actually, I didn't say that but I did commit to it though. I really did feel, and still do today, that I'm an asset to Park Construction and wouldn't change a thing.

### ***What's it like working for Brent Thompson?***

I started working with Brent in 1996 and I have to say, that the Brent Thompson everyone now knows, is a teddy bear compared to the 90's Brent. He had a poetic-like way of swearing and chewing you out with every swear word in the book. It made you feel about 2" tall but it made you want to come back for more because he cared. If you paid close enough attention, after removing the swear words, there were lessons in there and you had better figure it out.

I remember getting him so mad at me once that his face turned redder than his hair! Remember this - If he tells you your looking at something "narrow mindedly", do not, I repeat, do not reply to him that "I think you're looking at it narrow mindedly! " Lol

But those were the glory days of construction, we were a human resource officers worst nightmare! Feelings were for the next generation! I wouldn't change a thing though, I would do it all over again in a heartbeat! Working for Brent has been one of the greatest experiences! We know when to be serious, and when to crack a joke when we are being too serious. It's been a hell of a ride working for Brent, and most important, a lot of fun!

If you get a chance, ask him about Cabela's and the end of the year turkey giveaway from Cub Foods!

**This past August, Park Construction hosted the Association of Women Contractors for their monthly Member Mingle. Despite it being one of the hottest days this summer, Park was able to make new connections, strengthen our old ones and enjoy the awesome Taco food truck!!**





## 2021 Photo Contests

**Winning photo taken by Cuz**

**Runner up photo - Titled "The Heaser" by Brent Thompson**

*Location: Penn Ave and 494 (Hennepin Co Mill/Overlay)*





Take some cool pics of our jobsites, equipment, etc., and you can win a \$75 gift card to the company store! Simply take the photo and send it in to our "news" email address. The winner will be announced monthly and their picture will be the headline.

[news@parkconstructionco.com](mailto:news@parkconstructionco.com)

