



A&amp;Z ENGINEERING

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## SUMMER FUN FACTS

1. The first day of summer is between June 20-22 every year. The first day of summer is called the summer solstice, and the day varies due to the Earth's rotation not exactly reflecting our calendar year.
2. The last day of summer is September 20.
3. Watermelon is one of summer's best summer treats. Did you know that watermelons are not a fruit, but a vegetable instead? They belong to the cucumber family of vegetables.
4. The Eiffel Tower actually grows in the heat of the summer. Due to the iron expanding, the tower grows about 6 inches every summer.
5. If you love ice cream, the summer season should be your favorite. July is national ice cream month.

### A&Z's Mission Statement:

Dedication to provide the highest quality professional civil engineering solutions with competitive, honest, and timely services while maintaining public safety, integrity, and value to the community.



&gt;&gt;&gt; IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATION

## UTILITY COORDINATION – AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF PROJECT PLANNING



*By: Wesley Downing, Senior Designer and Utility Coordinator, A&Z Engineering*

One of the most commonly overlooked components of an infrastructure improvement project during the scoping stage of a new project is the impact to existing utilities such as a water main, storm sewers, gas line, and telecommunications. It is easy enough to see what is above ground, but what about all that infrastructure underground?

### PRE-PLANNING SAVES MONEY

It's important to realize that utility companies rely on street rights-of-way and easements to place their facilities to serve all their customers. So, even a small project could cost a utility hundreds of thousands of dollars to relocate. But, why should we care? We should all care because eventually those relocation costs go to the consumers.

From a planning standpoint, utilities won't generally be marked for design. So another tool to consider during planning is completing a subsurface utility exploration or **SUE survey**. A SUE survey employs ground penetrating radar to locate underground facilities on an X and Y coordinate.

### IMPORTANT DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

During the design process it is essential that considerations be given to existing utilities. Evaluate the design to see if something can be done differently to salvage what's in place. As designers, we must be creative in finding ways to avoid relocating utilities.

*“It is easy enough to see above ground, but what about all that infrastructure underground?”*

### COMMUNICATION IS ESSENTIAL

Utility coordination is essential during the design of any project. Meetings must be held so that all the utility companies are well informed of the project scope and schedule. Most projects require the utility companies to provide a work plan, which generally describes in written format, what type of existing facilities the utility company has, as well as what they plan to install for new facilities. Another component of the utility coordination process is a relocation plan, which is a set of drawings showing graphically where the new facilities will be relocated to. Utility coordination must be maintained throughout the life of the project until the completion of construction.

*Contact Jamal Anabtawi at 260.485.7077 for more information on A&Z's projects or services.*

## >>> COOKING WITH JAMAL



### Eggplant Casserole

*Easy and delicious*

#### INGREDIENTS

1 large eggplant (sliced)  
1 lb sirloin steak cubes  
1 onion  
2 garlic cloves  
½ can tomato paste (diluted with 1 cup of water)  
½ lb cherry tomatoes chopped

#### Spices (all to taste)

1 tbsp all spice  
½ tbsp cinnamon  
½ tbsp oregano  
½ tbsp thyme  
1 tbsp salt  
½ tbsp pepper  
1 tbsp basil  
2 tbsp olive oil

#### COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

>>>Step 1: Fry eggplant to golden color using 1 tbsp olive oil on medium heat.  
>>>Step 2: Fry the steak, onion and garlic until onion is a golden color (use half the spices with the meat).  
>>>Step 3: On 6x12 baking dish, lay the eggplant as first layer, add steak, onion and garlic and then add tomato paste and chopped tomatoes as top layer. Add the rest of the spices  
>>>Step 4: Bake for 1 hour at 375°

Serve with rice.

## >>> COMMUNITY CROSSING INDOT FUNDS UPDATE

### A&Z Helps Clients Utilize Funding Program

*By: Elias Samaan, Transportation Consultant, A&Z Engineering*

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will start accepting applications starting on August 6, 2018 and closing September 28 for the 2018 Community Crossings call for projects. Awards will be announced in November.

A&Z is happy to assist and walk our clients through the application process and any of the changes that have been made to the project requirements. For example, projects which receive funding will have to be under contract by April 15, 2019. There is a rumor that Indiana might have two separate calls for projects in 2019!

*For more information on how your community could benefit from the Community Crossing Grants Funding Program, contact A&Z Owner/ Business Development Director Jamal Anabtawi, PE, or Transportation Consultant Elias Samaan at 260.485.7077.*

**A few A&Z clients who have benefited from INDOT funding include Columbia City, Auburn, Garrett, Syracuse, Warren, Waterloo, Woodburn and Wells County.**



## >>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*A&Z looks forward to seeing our clients at the upcoming AIM conference October 2-4 in beautiful French Lick. Be sure to stop by and see us!*

## >>> LATEST NEWS FROM A&Z



**A&Z continues to welcome professionals to our expanding team — Pamela Davenport** | Pam will be joining the A&Z staff July 23rd. She is an accomplished CAD designer and Construction Administrator. She brings 18 years of previous experience working with various engineering firms across the midwest. Pamela specializes in INDOT transportation and LPA funding programs, municipal transportation, water, wastewater, and stormwater, community development projects, trails and multimodal transportation, right-of-way plans, design submittal plans, private development, commercial development, construction (WisDOT, INDOT) and quantity calculations

**Summer Interns** — A&Z has several interns joining us for the summer months. They will be assisting on various construction inspection projects throughout the summer.



**Anthony Mirra**  
Anticipated graduation 2020,  
Bachelor of Science Civil Engineering,  
Purdue University Fort Wayne



**Andrew Shields**  
Anticipated graduation 2019,  
Bachelor of Science Civil Engineering,  
Purdue University Fort Wayne



**Jason Pace**  
Anticipated graduation 2019,  
Bachelor of Science Construction Engineering  
Technology,  
Purdue University Fort Wayne



**Steven Moore**  
Anticipated graduation 2020,  
Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineering,  
Trine University



**Ryan Wenzel**  
Anticipated graduation 2020,  
Bachelor of Science Construction Engineering  
Technology,  
Purdue University Fort Wayne



## >>> A&Z WINS TWO PROJECTS

*Two New Significant Projects add to A&Z's Growing Portfolio*

**King's Highway Roundabout** in Winona Lake has Nitin Timble, PE, PS as the Project Manager leading a fantastic team including SEH, GME Testing, Metric Environmental, Rita Ann Gabriel, Dodd Title Services, Earth Exploration and Scheele Engineering. The project is located at the intersection of Argonne Road, Winona Avenue, Park Avenue and Kings Highway. The project length along each road is approximately 400-ft. The project will construct a single lane roundabout at the intersection with an additional right turn lane going north from Kings Highway to Argonne Road. The project intersection consists of two entering lanes (one left and other thru/right) and one exit lane. Argonne Road and Winona Road take you to the City of Warsaw going north and west. Park Avenue and Kings Highway lead you to the historic Winona Lake district going southeast and east.

**Drake Road Reconstruction** in Kendallville will be led by Chanchai Hocharoen, PE. Chanchai is leading a team that includes Green 3 LLC, Misner & Associates and Rita Ann Gabriel. A&Z assisted through the traffic study and trail connectivity study phase of this project, so we look forward to seeing it through to completion. The purpose of this project is to make improvements to Drake Road between Main Street and Weston Avenue to provide safe and accessible pedestrian facilities, improve traffic flow and enhance the roadway corridor. The proposed project improvements will include reconstruction of existing pavement with new concrete curb and gutter, drive approaches, sidewalk, multi-use trail, ADA curb ramps, closed storm sewer system, water main adjustments, mid-block traffic signal, decorative street lights, railroad grade crossing pavement and signal improvements, traffic signs and pavement markings.

**A&Z looks forward to continuing our long-term relationship with these valuable clients!**





## >>> EFFECTIVENESS OF TEAMING

*A&Z teams with surrounding firms*



*By: Mark Jesse, Client Service Manager, A&Z Engineering*

As consultants, we often team on projects where each consultant can't provide all the services required. This teaming opens doors to new client relationships and provides employees the opportunity to work with additional professionals across their field of expertise. It also provides our clients the best possible services, resources and

personnel available.

One great example is a large wet weather Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) project in Logansport called the Melbourne Avenue Wet Weather Project where A&Z teamed with Lochmueller Group. Originally, we teamed with Lochmueller Group in May 2017 on the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). Due to project scheduling, the design phase was initiated in August 2017 before the PER was completed with Lochmueller Group as the lead design firm. The project strategy was for Lochmueller to handle all drainage and for A&Z to do topographic survey, roadway design, traffic control, permitting and construction inspection.

Since then, A&Z has provided all topographic surveying and completed the roadway design for Melbourne Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Eel River Avenue road restoration and traffic control. The detour routes were fully coordinated with INDOT and effectively obtained the Genesee & Wyoming Railroad permit. Team coordination was maintained with frequent conference calls and efficiency has been prevailed throughout the project. This \$20M+ project is planned to receive bids on August 2. Shortly after bids, we look forward to assisting Lochmueller Group with construction administration and inspection services.

This project is a great example of how consulting firms can work together using weekly progress meeting, FTP sites and other digital tools over multiple offices to provide a quality product to our clients. **Teaming really does work!**



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