

Outlook

"Your project. Our passion."

MIKE LOHR, PSM – RETIRES AFTER 38 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

One of the longest full-time tenured employees to work for Johnson Engineering, Mike was instrumental in establishing the company's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services.

Originally from Ohio, Mike Lohr and his family vacationed in Cape Coral each summer throughout the late 1970s and early 80s. One summer in 1983, Mike thought his wife Judy was out shopping, when she returned home to announce she was going to start Monday as a receptionist at the new Fort Myers airport. With this exciting life changing decision, Mike and his boys returned to Ohio, packed up their life, and moved to Cape Coral.

Within a week of the move, Mike began working for Ardaman & Associates providing geotechnical testing, soil, asphalt and concrete testing, pile driving, and drilling. At the time, the Edison Mall was undergoing a major expansion and Johnson Engineering was providing the site design, parking, and drainage for the project. It was there where Mike met Johnson Engineering construction inspector, Dan Dickey. As the geotechnical expert on site, Mike was responsible for ensuring quality control for soil densities, pavement, and concrete. Dan took notice of how Mike demanded precision, despite upsetting contractors with failed soil tests and turning away concrete trucks. Dan thought Mike would make a great fit for the fast-growing Johnson Engineering team. In 1984, Dan took Mike under his wing and taught him all about construction inspection



(L to R) Mike Lohr, PSM, Andy Tilton, PE, and Lonnie Howard, PE, in 1996, discussing advanced water resource strategies after the historic 1995 Lee County flooding.

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Mike spent the majority of his career creating, managing, analyzing, and mapping all types of data for the company.

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We're Hiring!
Join our Team!

We're
HIRING

PEOPLE & PROJECTS: ON THE MOVE



Erik Howard, PE, PSM
was elected as the Vice Chairman of the Desoto County Republican Executive Committee for a two-year term which began January 2023.



Chloe Johnson
has joined our Water Resources team as a Hydrogeologist. She is responsible for performing hydrogeologic investigations, Phase 1 ESAs, assisting with water use permits, and compiling NPDES reports.

and how to help get the work done correctly in the field, on time, and within budget. Dan was known for setting high standards associated with Johnson Engineering projects.

Mike's first project at Johnson Engineering was as a FAA Resident Inspector for the Punta Gorda Airport runway extension project. This project was an integral part of the airport being able to accommodate the larger airliners that fly in and out today.

A few years later, then company President Archie Grant, PE, PSM, offered for Mike to work in the Water Resources group, requiring him to learn drafting and design for stormwater projects, while also continuing to provide construction observations.

Throughout his years at Johnson Engineering, Mike worked on many well-known, eco-sensitive projects throughout Southwest Florida which included permitting and construction phases for the water control structures (weirs) for Midfield Terminal Expansion at Southwest Florida International Airport, Golden Gate Estates for Big Cypress Basin, Six Mike Cypress Slough to Ten Mile Canal, and the Telegraph Cypress Swamp at Babcock Ranch, to name a few. Mike has been in the trenches, literally, at times crawling through long lengths of 24" potable water lines to check the integrity of pipe joints. Talk about claustrophobia!

In the mid-1980s, Mike attended a hand drafting course at Edison Community College, now known as Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW). At the conclusion of that course, the instructor suggested he might be interested in a new course being offered called AutoCAD or Computer Assisted Drafting (CAD). Mike saw the future potential of this program, but was met with resistance for suggesting a change from the company's existing Vango software. He was eventually successful in leading the charge to convert the company to use this program. Today AutoCAD is the global leader software application used in the civil, architectural, and mechanical engineering and other industries.

Mike checking setup for water level recorder at Lake Catherine in Seminole County.



In 1995, the Water Resources team began a project for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to do a watershed study in South Lee County following the historic flooding. This project required our team to use data from their ESRI based mainframe Geographical Information Systems (GIS) server. This was the catalyst for the company to begin utilizing GIS to assist in an array of mapping, data management, and spatial analysis solutions. Mike spearheaded the company's GIS services for the last two decades, which today benefits projects in every one of our market groups.

Mike continued to pursue his education and in 1999 he received his Professional Surveying & Mapping license. He was always on a mission to learn new technology that would benefit the company. In 2000, he became a stockholder of the company. Shortly thereafter, Mike's son Paul began working for the company as an engineering technician. Throughout the last 23 years, they worked closely together on GIS related projects. Paul is now a senior Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP) and will step into his father's shoes in supporting the company's GIS efforts.

We wish Mike well in his next adventure and thank him for his 38 years of commitment and dedication to Johnson Engineering. We are honored to have had him as a part of our team. ■

Mike worked closely with his son Paul throughout his career and the pair are the go-to GIS specialists.



Mike checking outfall structure geometry at Shadow Wood Preserve in Fort Myers.

"The most significant recollection of my time at JEI would have to be my chance to know and work with so many people of high character, dedication, work ethic, and absolute integrity. Current staff and past Johnson Engineering giants such as Archie Grant, Lester Bulson, Dan Dickey, and Forest Banks shared their abilities, gifts, and perseverance grooming the next generation of Johnson people who followed them. I was lucky enough to be one of them."

- Mike Lohr, PSM

Mike making GPS checks for a 2,407-acre survey for Seven Star Properties off CR 833 in south Hendry County.

EAST VENTURA AVENUE, THE ROAD NOW MORE EASILY TRAVELED

The City of Clewiston recently completed the rehabilitation of East Ventura Avenue from Deane Duff Avenue to Francisco Street. This project was partially funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) through their Small County Outreach Program (SCOP). Created to assist cities and counties in rural areas, SCOP grants through FDOT provide municipalities funding for the maintenance and construction of local roadways. At the eastern terminus of this project lies Francisco Street, a Hendry County roadway recently rehabilitated through the SCOP program.

Nearing the end of its service life, East Ventura was littered with patches, and in some instances, there were patches on the patches. Geotechnical borings indicated a layer of organic material (muck) underneath portions of the roadway. To minimize future maintenance efforts and provide a structurally sound roadway, the rehabilitation efforts in these areas included excavation of the muck and reconstruction of the roadway base, subgrade, and embankment with suitable materials. These areas were then resurfaced with asphalt for the remainder of the roadway for a continuous patch free surface.

Three other beneficial improvements were made to this road as it traverses through primarily residential areas. The first was the installation of inlets and pipes under the roadway to improve drainage from the road and adjacent properties. This change to the drainage system helps reduce water on the pavement. The second was improvement of the sidewalk system to bring it into compliance with the current standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The third reestablished pedestrian crosswalks at three of the intersections. All three improvements contribute to the safety of the traveling public and pedestrians.

For more information about this project or to have similar work done, please contact John Glenn, P.E. at (239) 334-0046 or jglenn@johnsoneng.com. ■



BEFORE



AFTER

CAPE CORAL STUDENTS REUNITED AFTER LOSING SCHOOL TO HURRICANE IAN

When Hurricane Ian ravaged Southwest Florida, Hector A. Cafferata Jr. Elementary School in Cape Coral was one of three Lee County Schools that suffered significant damage during the storm, preventing students from returning when the rest of the District went back to class. The students were split up with K-2 temporarily going to Hancock Creek Elementary School and grades 3-5 going to Pelican Elementary, both five miles away in opposite directions.

Since Johnson Engineering is on Lee County School District's continuing services contract, they reached out to us with an urgent plea to help design a temporary portable campus adjacent to the existing school on Cape Coral Technical College's property. The area was intended for the college's eventual expansion, but luckily was available to accommodate this need of 46 portables to bring the students back together again.

Johnson Engineering has been working with the School District for decades, which allowed our Director of Development, Dana Hume, PE to hit the ground running, working around the clock with Cotton Global Disaster Solutions, BSSW Architects, TLC Engineering, the School District staff, and Principal Dr. Jason Kurtz, to quickly get the campus designed, permitted, and ready for students. Together, this team took what is typically a six-month project, and got these students back together under one roof in an astonishing 52 days. It was a job well done by an experienced team to accomplish this feat. It was an especially nice gift for students to go into their Christmas break knowing they would all be together again to start the new year.

For more information contact Dana Hume, PE, at DLH@johnsoneng.com or (239) 461-2471. ■



Hector A. Cafferata Jr. Elementary School's damaged campus.

Hector A. Cafferata Jr. Elementary School's temporary campus.

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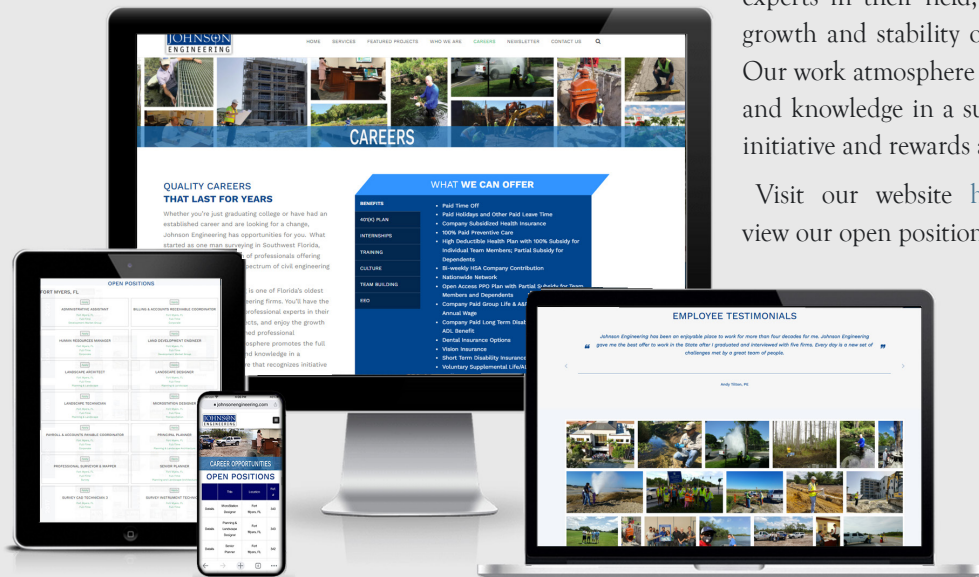


We're HIRING

Whether you're just graduating college or have had an established career and are looking for a change, Johnson Engineering has opportunities for you. Johnson Engineering is one of Southwest Florida's oldest and best-known civil engineering and surveying firms. Our team of more than 120 team members consists of professional engineers, surveyors, ecologists, scientists, geologists, certified planners, and landscape architects located in six offices throughout Florida.

You'll have the opportunity to work alongside professional experts in their field, work on exciting projects, and enjoy the growth and stability of an established professional organization. Our work atmosphere promotes the full potential of your skill set and knowledge in a supportive corporate culture that recognizes initiative and rewards achievement.

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