

**SPRING
2006**

Volkert Views

BON SECOUR VILLAGE

\$500 Million Resort Community is a Pacesetter for the Gulf Coast

Several once sleepy beach towns along the Florida and Alabama Gulf Coast are busy reinventing themselves with the development of upscale resort communities. That is clearly evident near Gulf Shores, Ala., where Bon Secour Village is gaining widespread attention. The first phase of what will eventually be a \$500 million, one-thousand acre planned community is slated for completion later this year.

“Bon Secour Village sets a new standard of excellence for coastal development,” said Steve Commander, manager of the Volkert & Associates office in nearby Foley, Ala. “Opportunities to participate in projects of this caliber are rare and we’re happy to be part of the Bon Secour Village team.”

Leading the team are three developers who have strong ties to the region. Birmingham resident, Clint Guthrie of Guthrie Development, Atlanta resident and Alabama native Rick Skelton of Skelton Development, and Cullman, Ala. residents Eddie and Josh Canaday of Midnight Properties are responsible for bringing the Bon Secour Village vision to reality.

“We needed a large and capable engineering partner to assist our efforts,” said Guthrie. “Naturally, we turned to Volkert & Associates



Streetscapes and architectural styling for Bon Secour Village are reminiscent of the New Orleans French Quarter.

because of their full-service capabilities, their knowledge of the community and their reputation for client-focused service.”

Volkert eagerly responded to the opportunity presented by the development team. The firm provided engineering design for the transportation and utility infrastructure, along with surveying services. In addition, Volkert professionals used their in-depth knowledge of the site to secure environmental permits and handle the platting and re-zoning for the residential areas of the development.

“There are similar resort communities along the Gulf Coast,” said Guthrie. “But Bon Secour Village is being done on a much grander scale and features an active waterfront along the Intracoastal Waterway.”

Commander views Bon Secour Village as a prototype for future developments in the region. “The Florida/Alabama Gulf Coast is no longer a well-kept secret,” said Commander. “With baby-boomers reaching retirement age in large numbers, this part of the country will continue to experience significant and steady growth. Our firm is excited to be a part of that growth.”



The town center reflects the elegance of Bon Secour Village, a one-thousand acre luxury resort community under development near Gulf Shores, Ala.

CORRIDOR STUDY SUPPORTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Volkert's Guy O'Connor, P.E. (right) discusses the Interstate 85 corridor study with citizens at a public meeting in Uniontown, Ala.

The Alabama Department of Transportation has enlisted the help of Volkert & Associates for a major corridor study and Environmental Impact Statement focused on extension of Interstate 85 in central Alabama. The study is the largest of its kind ever undertaken by ALDOT and represents a significant opportunity for

Volkert to showcase its expertise as the state's premier transportation engineering firm.

Corridor studies are comprehensive evaluations that determine the transportation infrastructure improvements needed within a study area, the best location for the improvements and the potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the new facilities. An environmental impact statement is a federally mandated analysis of the project alternatives and their associated impacts upon the natural and socioeconomic environment.

The proposed project will extend Interstate 85 westward from Montgomery, Ala. to I-59/20 near the Mississippi state line. The study area encompasses more than 2,433 square miles and includes both urban and rural areas.

In the heart of the study area are six counties that are among those recently designated as "Black Belt Counties" by Alabama Governor Bob Riley. This region takes its name from the dark, rich soils that run across central Alabama. The counties are heavily dependent upon agriculture, and according to the governor's executive order, are also "plagued by high rates of poverty, illiteracy and infant mortality and suffer from severe economic stagnation."

The extension of Interstate 85 to Interstate 59/20, near the Alabama-Mississippi border, will deliver the opportunity for significant regional economic development benefits.

"As an Alabama-based firm, Volkert & Associates is especially pleased to be supporting ALDOT on this important initiative," said Senior Vice President and Director of Transportation Operations Malcolm Beasley. "A properly planned and constructed extension of Interstate 85 will not only improve transportation and enhance safety for the region; it will also help create the potential for new jobs and other economic development opportunities for future generations."

In March 2006, Volkert and ALDOT hosted a series of public meetings to introduce the project to communities that are a part of the study area. More than 250 citizens attended meetings held in York, Uniontown and Prattville, Ala. Participants had the opportunity to view preliminary plans for the proposed efforts and to discuss the project with representatives of Volkert and ALDOT. Three additional public meetings will be held in 2006 and three public hearings are planned for 2007.

Interested parties may obtain current project information and view alternate corridor maps at the project website, www.I85Extension.com.

Key members of the project team include Guy O'Connor, P.E., Paul Griggs, P.E., Buddy Covington, and N.B. (Skeeter) McClure, P.E.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

North Carolina Department of Transportation Reduces Notices of Violation

An educational partnership between Volkert & Associates and North Carolina State University is helping the North Carolina Department of Transportation reduce notices of violation associated with highway construction projects. Notices of violation are issued by state and federal regulatory agencies when inspections reveal violations of environmental regulations.

"One NOV is considered too many," said David Allsbrook, P.E., a Volkert vice president and former NCDOT chief engineer. "The department had received several in recent years and was determined to reduce the number to zero NOV's annually."

A goal of zero NOV's is especially aggressive for North Carolina, a state that spends more than a billion dollars annually on its transportation infrastructure. NCDOT projects are routinely inspected by state regulatory agencies such as the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and federal agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. When regulatory authorities issue NOV's, they can be expensive and damaging to the department's public image.

Two years ago the NCDOT called upon North Carolina State University and Volkert to begin providing training for employees at all levels of the organization. Allsbrook developed a single-day seminar focusing on erosion control, stormwater management and environmental permitting. These areas were the most problematic for the NCDOT and frequently cause similar difficulties for departments of transportation throughout the nation.

The seminar has been delivered 56 times for more than 2,200 department personnel. Participants have so far included the most senior engineers to mid-level technicians who work on highway construction projects. Since the training sessions began the NCDOT has been cited for only one notice of violation.

"We can't take all the credit," said Allsbrook. "Environmental stewardship has always been a high priority for the department and its employees. But the training is raising environmental awareness and helping the department reinforce its environmental objectives."

David Allsbrook, P.E. manages the Raleigh, N.C. office of Volkert & Associates. For more information on environmental training for transportation professionals you may contact him at (919) 612-0575.



Volkert's David Allsbrook, P.E. delivers a session on environmental management issues for employees of the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

FAST GROWING SCHOOL DISTRICTS RELY ON VOLKERT

Rapid growth in Florida is fueling an aggressive program to build new schools and update existing educational facilities. Three central Florida school districts have turned to Volkert & Associates for help in meeting the challenges of growth. The firm is providing general civil engineering services for the Pinellas, Pasco and Hernando County School Districts.

Jerry Dabkowski, a Volkert vice president and director of local government services for the firm's Florida operations says Volkert is uniquely positioned to assist school districts in managing growth.

"Our knowledge of permit requirements, zoning changes and land use amendments is valuable," said Dabkowski. "We have the ability and the understanding to help districts make wise decisions about sites for new schools."

The Pinellas County School District is Florida's seventh largest school district and the 22nd largest in the nation. More than 148 thousand students attend classes in Pinellas County each day and the number continues to grow. The school district is working to allocate more than \$730 million for new schools and the renovation and repair of existing schools over the next five years.



School buses, students, and school construction are all familiar sights in Central Florida. Volkert & Associates is assisting several school districts in the region to meet the demands created by growth.



Pine Grove Elementary School in Brooksville, Fla. is just one school that is experiencing unprecedented growth.

Neighboring Pasco County has a similar challenge. It is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and currently has 12 new schools under construction. The Pasco County School District plans to spend \$250 million over the next five years to build an additional 20 new schools.

Just a little to the north, in Hernando County, the future construction program is equally ambitious. Hernando County grew at an astounding 802 percent between 1960 and 1990 and today, its schools are bursting at the seams. Portable classrooms are temporarily being used to meet the demand, but the district is aiming for real progress with plans to spend \$190 million for new construction over the next five years.

"We've developed two separate teams to assist the school districts," explains Dabkowski. "One team is focused on broad issues to determine whether a prospective site meets all the state requirements. The other team works with site specific issues. Our clients appreciate the efficiency this creates and the fact that we can manage any size project on their behalf."

Coming This Summer

in Volkert Views

America's interstate highway system is 50 years old this year. Conceived by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as an aid to national defense, the system's real pay-off has been in the area of economic development. Volkert & Associates has been involved in the planning, design and construction of the interstate highway system from practically the beginning. The next issue of *Volkert Views* will chronicle the history of America's interstate highway system and the company's role as a pioneer in making it a reality.

NEWS OF CORPORATE PROMOTIONS

Two longtime Volkert & Associates executives received promotions earlier this year at the company's annual Board of Directors' meeting. **Jack Roberts, P.E.** is the new executive vice president and chief operating officer. **Perry Hand, P.E.** has been promoted to executive vice president and chief marketing officer of the firm.



Jack Roberts, P.E.

Roberts joined Volkert in 1987 after a 30-year career with the Florida Department of Transportation. He worked his way through the ranks at FDOT, where he served the last five years as the state's maintenance engineer. He began his career at Volkert as a vice president responsible for project development in Florida. In 1994, he was promoted to senior vice president with responsibility for the firm's Florida region. Roberts now has corporate oversight of the company's four regions.

Hand came to Volkert in 1993 after a distinguished career in private industry and public service. He served as the highway director for the state of Alabama and as the Alabama secretary of state. He also served two terms as a state senator in the Alabama Legislature. In addition to overseeing corporate-wide marketing services, Hand will continue to provide operations leadership for the firm's right-of-way acquisition, program management, construction management services and for the Tennessee and Georgia engineering offices.



Perry Hand, P.E.

Roberts and Hand were also selected to serve on the company's standing executive committee that is chaired by Volkert Board Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer T. Keith King, P.E.



David Webber, P.E.

David M. Webber, P.E. has been promoted to vice president. Webber, who works with the firm's transportation group in Mobile, Ala., joined Volkert & Associates in 1993. He holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee. Webber is also very active in a number of professional organizations. He was recently selected as the *Young Engineer of the Year* by the Mobile Area Council of Engineers and serves as the president of the Alabama Society of Professional Engineers.

Jerry Dabkowski, P.E. is the new director of local government services for the company's Florida operations. Dabkowski is a vice president who joined Volkert in 2002. Prior to that time, his career included assignments at FDOT and at the city of Largo, Fla., where he was director of traffic engineering.



Jerry Dabkowski, P.E.

In his new role, Dabkowski assumes leadership for all municipal government

assignments in Florida. The company works closely with the counties of Hillsborough, Pasco, Lee and St. Johns; and the cities of Dunedin, Largo, St. Pete Beach, Clearwater, Newberry, Temple Terrace, St. Augustine Beach, Tampa and Treasure Island.

Linda L. Bookout, P.E. has been appointed to the position of assistant vice president. Bookout works with the firm's transportation group in Mobile, Ala. She is a graduate of the University of West Virginia, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. Prior to joining Volkert, Bookout served as an engineer officer in the United States Army. She is an active member of the Society of American Military Engineers and other professional organizations.



Linda Bookout, P.E.

HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Choctaw Point Terminal Environmental Impact Statement, completed last year for the Alabama State Port Authority, has been honored with the 2006 *Merit Award for Engineering Excellence* from the American Council of Engineering Companies in Alabama. The project was recognized by the organization for "engineering achievement that demonstrates the highest degree of innovative design, engineering merit and ingenuity."

The ASPA is constructing a \$300 million, world-class, deep water, intermodal container transfer facility in Mobile, Ala. The port authority secured the services of Volkert to prepare the environmental impact statement in order to evaluate potential impacts for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to obtain the necessary permits to initiate construction.

Key members of the Volkert project team included N.D. (Skeeter) McClure, Buddy Covington, Henry Malec, Paul Looney, Paul Griggs, Jerald Overstreet and Missy Shumer.

The project was named a national finalist in ACEC's engineering excellence competition and will receive that award later this year in Washington, D.C.

The Alabama Asphalt Paving Association recently honored Volkert with its "Quality Pavement Award" for the work on the State Road 14 resurfacing project for the Alabama



ALDOT Director Joe McInnes presents Volkert's Wes Nelson (right) with the AAPA "Quality Pavement Award" for the State Road 14 project in Macon County, Ala.

Department of Transportation. Volkert provided design and construction administration services for the resurfacing of a 9.3 mile section of the highway in Macon County, Ala. Wes Nelson served as the project engineer, while Josh Hartman worked as the senior inspector. Level I inspectors for the project were Steve Schellinger, Matt Hand and David Lyle.

FIELD NOTES



The Mobile, Ala. office has three new professional engineers. **Bobby Odom**, P.E., who works in the utilities department, **Justin O'Donnell**, P.E. of the civil engineering department, and **Ken Powers**, P.E. of the electrical engineering department all recently passed the professional engineers examination for the state of Alabama.

Anthony Fresolone, of Pensacola, Fla., and **Steve Heraty**, P.E., of New Orleans, La. provided a technical presentation to the American Society of Civil Engineers Alabama Section at the group's annual meeting in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The presentation focused on the firm's work in repairing the Interstate 10/Escambia Bay Bridge and the Interstate 10/Twin Spans in the wake of Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina.

Fresolone was the Volkert senior inspector for the Escambia Bay Bridge project in Florida, while Heraty served as the assistant project engineer for the Twin Spans project in Louisiana. In both projects, the work of Volkert Construction Services was credited with restoring traffic on the storm-damaged structures ahead of schedule.

Engineering News-Record, the most prestigious publication serving the engineering and construction industry, recently reported on the firm's work on the I-10/Twin Spans project. Volkert provided construction management services on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for the repair of the bridge structures, and is now performing

construction engineering and inspection services for maintenance of the steel panels used to patch gaps in the bridge caused by Hurricane Katrina. The ENR article quoted both Volkert Senior Inspector **Larry Havens** and Project Engineer **Bob Larkin**.

Paul B. Looney, CEP, CSE, PWS, Mobile, Ala., has been elected to a second non-consecutive term as president of the Northwest Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals. Looney continues to serve as the past-president for the organization's state board of directors.

Bill McDowall, P.E., **Carlos Vargas**, **Abdullah Elsheit**, **Marquette Mayberry**, and **Jaffat Rodriguez** recently completed Virginia Department of Transportation certifications training. The five are construction inspection engineers based in the Volkert & Associates office in Alexandria, Va.

Brian Graham, P.E. and **David McDonald**, P.E. recently completed the National Highway Institute's Safety Inspection of In-Service Bridges course. The pair satisfactorily fulfilled training requirements of the National Bridge Inspection Standards for a comprehensive training course. Graham and McDonald are bridge engineers based in the Volkert & Associates office in Alexandria, Va.

Vicki Griswold and **Tom McCutcheon**, both of Tampa, Fla., are among the company's newest certified bridge Inspectors. The two received certification earlier this year.

CORPORATE SERVICE AWARDS

Volkert & Associates prides itself on recruiting and retaining the finest professional talent available. The firm's success in this area is demonstrated by the number of long-term Volkert employees. This month we recognize those who have recently achieved significant milestones with the company.

Five Years

Ross Barfield (Walker, La.)
Leon Barkan (Birmingham, Ala.)
Mohammed Chaudry (Orlando, Fla.)
Steven Combes (Mobile, Ala.)
William Conway (Mobile, Ala.)
Tawanda Davis (Mobile, Ala.)
Edward Foster (Mobile, Ala.)
James Garrison (Tampa, Fla.)
Ron Hallford (Pensacola, Fla.)
Robbie Hayes (Mobile, Ala.)
Karen Headley (Chattanooga, Tenn.)
Lloyd Hughes (Mobile, Ala.)
Scott Hughes (Tampa, Fla.)
Matthew Jones (Hope Hull, Ala.)
Martha Kemp (Alexandria, Va.)
Tracy King (Atlanta, Ga.)
Charles Ledford (Tampa, Fla.)
Willard Livingstone, Jr. (Mobile, Ala.)
Edward McGuire (Tampa, Fla.)
Melinda Nye (Chattanooga, Tenn.)
Evangeline C. Roberts (Tampa, Fla.)
David Rothman (Tampa, Fla.)

Robert Schuler (Tampa, Fla.)
Cindy Shell (Chattanooga, Tenn.)
Felisa Slater (Foley, Ala.)
Joel Swanson (Chattanooga, Tenn.)
Charles Sweeney (Mobile, Ala.)
Frederick Turner (Birmingham, Ala.)
William Webb (Pensacola, Fla.)
Veronica Wilkerson (ChIPLEY, Fla.)
Jami Wilson (Birmingham, Ala.)
Nancy Wimberley (Mobile, Ala.)
Wade Wolfe (Tampa, Fla.)
David Young (Chattanooga, Tenn.)

Ten Years

David Barton (Foley, Ala.)
Belinda Campbell (Foley, Ala.)
William Carlson (Alexandria, Va.)
Donald Gordon (Tampa, Fla.)
Melinda Immel (Mobile, Ala.)
Kathleen Lee (Mobile, Ala.)
Jennifer Longmire (Foley, Ala.)
Steven McGill (Mobile, Ala.)
Earl Wilkins (Alexandria, Va.)

15 Years

David Benton (Mobile, Ala.)
David Chaltain (Mobile, Ala.)
Joann Clark (Mobile, Ala.)
Misty Gilley (Mobile, Ala.)
Glenn Kossow (Mobile, Ala.)
Theresa LeCroy (Mobile, Ala.)
Newton Taylor (Mobile, Ala.)
Daniel Teal (Tampa, Fla.)
Bobby Vaughn (Mobile, Ala.)
Ray Wilkins (Mobile, Ala.)

25 Years

Steve Commander (Foley, Ala.)
Clay Hare (Mobile, Ala.)
Rodney Manasco (Mobile, Ala.)
Phan Tran (Mobile, Ala.)

35 Years

Malcolm Beasley (Mobile, Ala.)
Edward Stringer (Mobile, Ala.)

45 Years

T. Keith King (Mobile, Ala.)

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Youth Program Promotes Engineering and Academic Excellence

For nearly two decades, Volkert & Associates has been a supporter of the Boy Scouts of America Explorers program. The company has regularly sponsored an engineering post to provide high school students an opportunity to gain practical knowledge of the engineering career-field. Larry Oliver has led post activities in the company's Mobile, Ala. corporate headquarters for the past five years.

"When I graduated from college in the mid-70s, there were five commonly accepted engineering disciplines," Oliver said. "Now there are 26 disciplines, and a major goal of the Explorers program is to give students the opportunity to investigate the growing career field and to learn about academic scholarships that are available to them."

Popular features of the Volkert Engineering Post include the annual visits from college recruiters. "Alumni" of the post are represented at colleges and universities throughout the nation.

"We have students enrolled at the University of Alabama, Auburn University, Tuskegee Institute, Tulane University, LSU, Michigan State, and Ole Miss to name just a few," says Oliver. "Most of these young people are recipients of scholarships they first learned about through their participation in Explorers."

Last year, Oliver initiated a Saturday morning program to help students prepare for the ACT examination. The standardized test measures aptitude in mathematics, science, English and reading comprehension. Colleges and universities use test results in the admissions process and to qualify students for academic scholarships.

"We taught several four week sessions that were open to Explorer Scouts, students from area high schools and children of Volkert employees," Oliver reported. "All together, we had about 50 students who took part and we plan to offer it again this fall."

The volunteer spirit exhibited by Oliver and others is a primary reason the Explorers program has flourished at Volkert. Oliver is quick to share the successes with those who came before him.

"I'm not looking for accolades, just the opportunity to help young people further their education," says Oliver. "The program was active at Volkert for 13 years before I assumed leadership. All I've done is carry the torch that was passed to me."

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