

Spotlight

A publication of Spotts, Stevens and McCoy



SPOTTS | STEVENS | MCCOY

MARCH 2022

Our work touches everyday life.

From the water you drink to the air you breathe to the buildings and communities where you live, work and play.

Spotts, Stevens and McCoy is a family-owned regional engineering, environmental, and surveying firm serving local and global clients. We engineer solutions for a better world. Our work touches everyday life; from the water you drink, to the air you breathe, to the buildings and communities where you live, work and play.

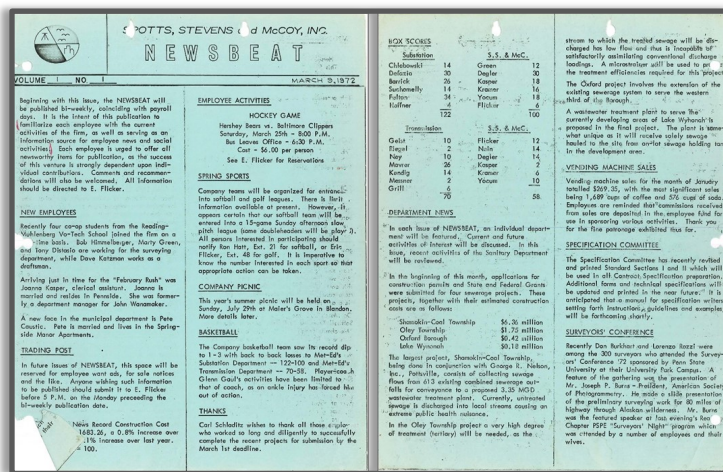
EXPERTISE

- Building Engineering
- Site and Civil Engineering
- Survey, Data Capture and Modeling
- Water and Wastewater Engineering
- Construction Phase Services



Celebrating the Stories that Made Us

This year, SSM celebrates its 90th anniversary in business. Follow along through our newsletter and through social media as we share 90 stories for 90 years. Stories - just like these - that demonstrate where we came from, and how we got here.



Communication is Key to our Success

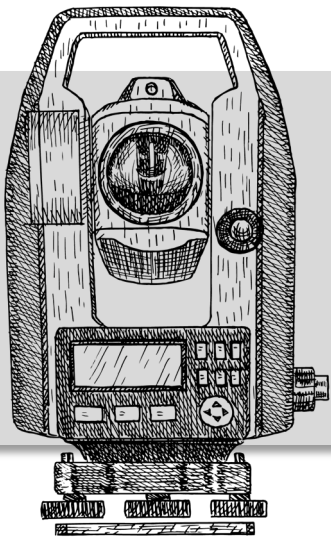
In March of 1972, SSM put out the first edition of the *Newsbeat*. It was a bi-weekly newsletter intended to communicate with members of the firm about current activities within the firm as well as to serve as an information source for employee news and social activities.

Over the years, SSM has maintained this value: communication is key to our success. Internal and external newsletters are riddled with columns from regulatory updates all the way to employee bowling tournaments. A few face lifts here and there have given them a new look, but the emphasis on communication has always stayed the same.

Where are we now?

Our internal communications have never stopped. Although, now they reflect the hybrid work environment we maintain. Our internal communications are a part of our robust digital infrastructure. This means all of our people know everything, all the time, everywhere. And for external communications, we continue to live on the tradition of regular newsletters. Only now- we've enhanced our environmental stewardship by sending them straight to your inbox, no paper necessary.

At SSM we've always maintained a company-wide commitment to communication. We believe that whether it's to our employees, or between us and our clients - communication is the foundation for good working relationships, quality teamwork, and project efficiency.



Celebrating National Surveyor's Week

Accuracy. Expertise. Care.

This month we celebrated National Surveyors Week and it goes without saying that our survey team does work that touches everyday life. They're at local parks, establishing property boundary lines. They're at lakes, finding spots for public water drains. They're at community organizations, hospitals, landfills, shopping centers, parking lots, and the list goes on. And sometimes they're at their desk, turning valuable data into functional deliverables.

The SSM survey and data capture team collects and manages data that allows for the best designs, the most comprehensive solutions, and highly effective, efficient results.

Since 1932, we have consistently refined our practice while maintaining our values: to provide surveying services with accuracy, expertise, and care. Our expertise defies standard surveying boundaries thanks to our extensive experience. From expansion to preservation, land to buildings, residential properties to multi-faceted commercial spaces, and relocation all the way to revitalization- SSM surveyors solve problems.

At Spotts, Stevens and McCoy we're here to help. Because what we do best, is what you don't. Our surveyors see the world differently: through the vision of making the world a better place, through the lens of advanced technology, and through the eyes of precision and accuracy.

We like to say there are four things that make our surveyors unique:

1. **At the forefront.** We've been at the forefront of surveying expertise since 1932.
2. **Pioneers.** We've consistently pioneered new, cutting-edge technology in the field. From drone technology to automatic levels and high-definition scanners. We take pride in upping our technology game to decrease equipment error and increase results.
3. **Know what it takes.** We use the right equipment and the right skills for the job. Because when it comes to your projects, they shouldn't just get done. They should get done correctly. And precision matters. Attention to detail matters. Expertise matters. You know the data you need, we know what it takes to get it.
4. **Shared values.** We provide quality work, with teamwork as our foundation and pride and integrity as our guides.

We thank our surveyors, for the skill in which they look at things, for the eyes through which they see the world, and for the points of view with which they bring to the table.



Groundwater Awareness: Protect and Conserve

Tips courtesy of NGWA.org in celebration of National Groundwater Awareness Week

Go Native | Use native plants in your landscape. They look great, and don't need much water or fertilizer. Also choose grass varieties for your lawn that are adapted for your region's climate, reducing the need for extensive watering or chemical applications.

Reduce Chemical Use | Use fewer chemicals around your home and yard, and make sure to dispose of them properly - don't dump them on the ground!

Manage Waste | Properly dispose of potentially toxic substances like unused chemicals, pharmaceuticals, paint, motor oil, and other substances. Many communities hold household hazardous waste collections or sites - contact your local health department to find one near you.

Don't Let it Run | Shut off the water when you brush your teeth or shaving, and don't let it run while waiting for it to get cold. Keep a pitcher of cold water in the fridge instead.

Fix the Drip | Check all the faucets, fixtures, toilets, and taps in your home for leaks and fix them right away, or install water conserving models.

Wash Smarter | Limit yourself to just a five minute shower, and challenge your family members to do the same! Also, make sure to only run full loads in the dish and clothes washer.

Water Wisely | Water the lawn and plants during the coolest parts of the day and only when they truly need it. Make sure you, your family, and your neighbors obey any watering restrictions during dry periods.

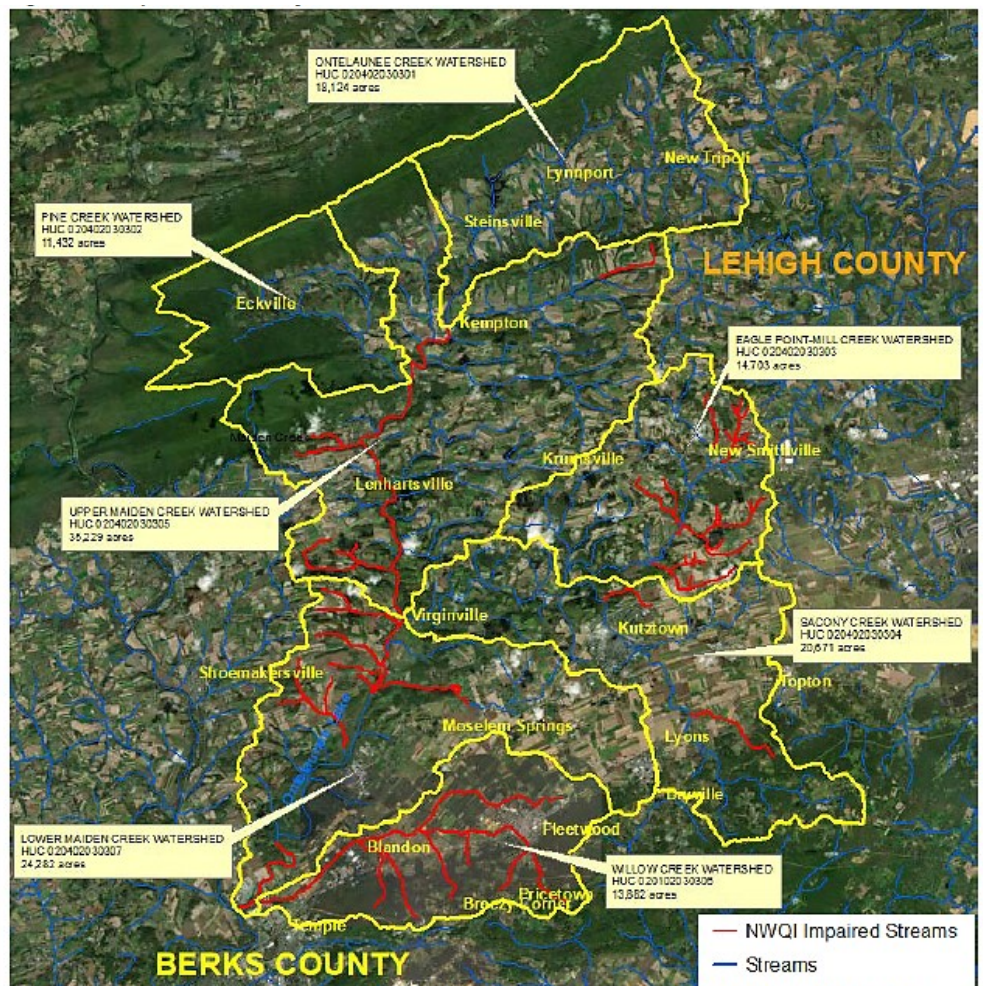
Reduce, Reuse and Recycle | Reduce the amount of "stuff" you use and reuse what you can. Recycle paper, plastic, cardboard, glass, aluminum and other materials.

Natural Alternatives | Use all natural/nontoxic household cleaners whenever possible. Materials such as lemon juice, baking soda, and vinegar make great cleaning products, are inexpensive, and environmentally-friendly.

Learn and Do More!

Get involved in water education! Learn more about groundwater and share your knowledge with others.

DID YOU KNOW: National Groundwater Awareness Week is an annual observance sponsored by the National Groundwater Association (NGWA). This year, it was celebrated March 6-12, 2022.



*SOURCE: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Project Profile: National Water Quality Initiative Readiness Assessment Plan

Write-up courtesy of Kent Himmelright, Watershed Coordinator, Berks County Conservation District

In celebration of both National Agriculture Day and World Water Day, this case study highlights the collective efforts of local farmers and the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) to improve water quality in Berks County.

Through collaboration with the Natural Resource Conservation Resource (NRCS), the many partners of the Schuylkill Action Network, including Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, were able to engage the Reading Area Water Authority, and begin the process of developing a National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Readiness Assessment Plan for the Maiden Creek Watershed. The goal of the Plan was to evaluate the water quality needs of the watershed's Source Water Protection Areas and Public Water Systems.

As a result, the completion of Readiness Plan in 2019 yielded the allocation of \$5 million over 5 years to implement agricultural conservation practices in the Maiden Creek Watershed.

Now, in it's third year of implementation the NWQI and the many great farmers of the Maiden Creek watershed have allocated over \$2 million and implemented dozens of conservation practices like manure storages, animal heavy use area protection, pasture management, and fencing to restrict livestock from waterways.

The implementation of these conservation practices helps improve water quality and keep our drinking water sources healthy. It has been the strong relations and cooperation between both conservation partners and agricultural operators that have made these worthwhile efforts possible.

Kutztown Wellhead Project Receives National Award



The Borough of Kutztown has won an award from the Groundwater Foundation for the Kutztown Wellhead Protection Program. SSM was the engineer for this project. (See article excerpt of project on page 2.) Keith Hill, Kutztown Borough Manager, will be accepting the award at the Groundwater Foundation's annual conference in Indiana in November. The Foundation will also be presenting the award locally on November 28th. The above photo shows one of Kutztown's wells, located in the middle of farmland, which is cultivated by a local farmer under a lease agreement with the Borough. An Integrated Crop Management Plan was implemented to address issues that might affect groundwater quality.

CELEBRATING

90
years
1932 → 2022

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Wellhead Protection

SSM was the engineer for an award-winning Wellhead Protection Implementation project in the Borough of Kutztown years ago. After the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1986 highlighted the need for wellhead protection to safeguard drinking water, SSM worked with Kutztown Borough, as well as Topton and Lyons to provide a regional approach to wellhead protection with grant funds provided by the EPA.

This was one of the first plans of its kind to be implemented in Pennsylvania. But, it was most certainly not the last time SSM would be involved in protecting groundwater.

Over the past 30 years, SSM has continued to provide expertise in wellhead protection plans including construction of several groundwater flow models to delineate the source water protection area for wellhead protection projects. Working directly with PaDEP through the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program as a result of the Reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1996 and later with the Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program, our team continues to assist in protecting water for community systems throughout the state.

While the Kutztown Wellhead project may have been years ago, it is one that we are proud to say continues to make an impact today.

LULU Awards

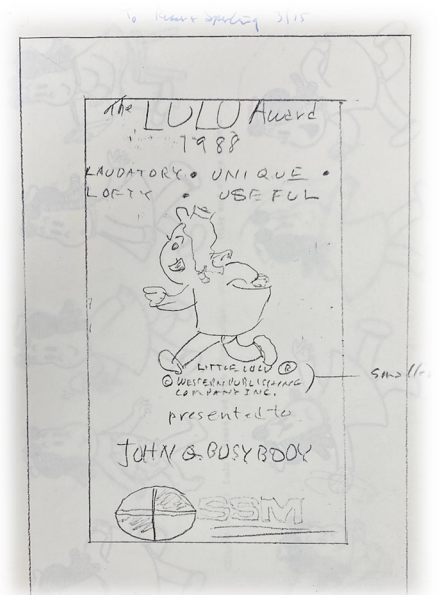
You may recall a comic strip character from the 1950's called Little LULU and the expression for something great being described as "that's a LULU."

In 1986 SSM received permission from Western Publishing Company, Inc. to use an illustration of Little LULU for use on a certificate awarded to employees. LULU winners were those that demonstrated performance well past the normal expectation.

The first awards were presented during the 1986 Christmas Party to six SSM employees. The tradition continued on until 1996.

Current SSM Employees that were recognized as a LULU:

Karen Sandman (1988, 1991)
Craig Momose (1988, 1990)
Mark Stabilepszy (1988, 1994)
Donna Noll (1989)
Darryl Jenkins (1992)
Eileen Kaley (1993, 1995)
Tom Rowe (1990)





Wally Spotts (middle) with survey crew on Main Street in Kutztown PA along the Saucony Creek.



Wally Spotts and his Orchestra



Walter Spotts | Charles Stevens | Lewis McCoy



"Engineers are plotters of direction and measurements — on land, sea, in the air and of all physical things. And in a sense, navigators to set a course to solve earthly problems. We are concerned with the direction from which the wind blows and advise our clients so that they might avoid the dangers of unexpected storms."

Walter E. Spotts, circa 1952

Walter E. Spotts

Walter Spotts is the namesake for *Spotts* in Spotts, Stevens and McCoy.

Walter E. Spotts received technical training in the field of engineering at the Keystone Institute in Reading, having completed study in 1922. From this time until 1932, he was employed by William H. Dechant and Sons, Reading. A highlight of his employment was the layout of the Susquehanna Pipe Line from Chester PA to Syracuse, New York.

From 1932 to 1961, Mr. Spotts served as Owner and President of Walter E. Spotts and Associates. During these years, the firm provided consulting engineering services for nearly 40 municipalities. In 1961, the company was incorporated into the firm of Spotts Engineering Associates, Inc. and later merged with Stevens and McCoy, Inc. in 1970.

Through the years, Mr. Spotts received many awards and honors, including the PSPE - Reading Chapter "Engineer of the Year" award in 1963 and the Crostwaite Award (1961) and Outstanding Service Award (1971) from the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs. Mr. Spotts was a member of the Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Association and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

In addition to his engineering accomplishments, Mr. Spotts was also noted in the community for his activities as a bandleader and for his work in the Rajah Temple.

Staff News

Welcome new team members!

DAVE EISENBERGER | Construction Project Representative, Field Services

RYAN LEID | Survey Technician, Survey and Data Capture

SYLVIA CONNOLLY | Project Coordinator, Civil Engineering

ANN BRIGHTBILL | Project Coordinator, Environmental Engineering



Where we've been this month



Pa Rural Water Association Annual Conference

Our team joined PRWA and water/wastewater colleagues throughout Pennsylvania at the largest conference in Pennsylvania for water and wastewater operators.

Darryl Jenkins, PE; SSM Vice President of Environmental Engineering and Chief Engineer presented a class on Chemical Safety.

The course covered common water/wastewater chemicals, the risks and safe work practices related to those risks.

Where we'll be next month

PEDA Spring Legislative Conference | April 4-6

Opportunities to share best practices that enhance the professional dialogue and support local, regional, and state economic development initiatives.

PA-AWWA SE District and WWOAP Eastern Section Spring Meeting | April 6

Legislative and Regulatory Update presented by SSM's Serena DiMagno, Special Environmental Consultant.

PSATS Annual Conference and the 2022 Engineers Seminar | April 24-27

Largest Municipal Conference and Exhibit Show in the Commonwealth of PA. We will also be attending the 2022 Engineer Seminar with issues of interest to municipal engineers and clients.

PA-AWWA Annual Conference | April 25-27

A highlight of the Pennsylvania American Water Works Association activities of the year. Plus, several technical sessions for education related to public water supply.



Spring Forward Checklist

Put these 4 things on your to do list for added energy and money savings!

Use this check list twice a year when you change your clocks and you'll enjoy savings year-round.

ADJUST YOUR CEILING FAN

Adjust your ceiling fan to spin counter clockwise once winter is over. Having your fan spin in this direction helps to create a downdraft which provides a cooling breeze through the summer months.

ADJUST OUTDOOR LIGHT TIMERS

Don't forget that when clocks changes so do the time it gets dark or light outside. Be sure to adjust your outdoor timers to light when it is getting dark and turn off when it gets light.

AUDIT LANDSCAPING

When summer is on its way it's always a good idea to take an audit of your landscaping and tree branches. Strategic and intentional tree growth can provide perfect shade to your home and windows through the hot summer months.

CHECK AIR SYSTEMS

Now is a good time to check on your air conditioning system operations. It might not be the same system that ran your heating over the winter, so be sure to give it a good check!