

PRESIDENT'S  
CORNER

## THIS ISSUE

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## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

## EMPLOYEE CORNER

Happy Memorial Day Weekend,

I hope everyone is ready to celebrate and remember all of those who came before us and made so many sacrifices to improve the families and the freedoms of America. Hopefully everyone can get some rest and relaxation, and spend some time with friends and family. As this holiday kicks off the summer, I almost feel like we have been in summer mode for a month or so because the weather has been so nice. The weather has definitely made the construction season kick off with some speed. It seems most projects have gotten a good jump out of the gates and I feel like a lot of the delays may be starting to disappear. We are still battling Switchgear for lead times but a lot of the other materials supply chain issues have been cured.

We have made it thru another month with no lost time incidents. Thank-you to everyone that is taking this seriously, this is not a by chance, this takes a lot of effort and planning and education for this to happen. I would like to ask everyone that is driving a company vehicle to play it safe. We have been getting a few phone complaints on speeding and reckless driving. I understand these calls are 50% or less of the truth but I would like to challenge everyone to take the high road and please drive safe and remember we are driving bill boards and need to be an example of safety.

We will be having some great opportunity for overtime this summer, for those who want to earn some extra dollars, if interested, please contact your project manager or HR department. We will then create a list and let you know when work is available. We have been extremely happy with the new projects we are bidding and have landed under contract; we continue to keep the back log looking very healthy and this will ensure our next 2 years is full of success stories.

As always, a big thank you for everyone's hard work and dedication, we have a lot going on every day and sometimes we focus on our challenges we faced but we all should very, very proud of the huge accomplishments we continue to achieve day in and day out. This company is full of great people!! Let's make June a good one. Below is a list of new projects we have landed:

- 2 traffic signal projects in Ames
- West Des Moines Law Enforcement Addition
- Ankeny Football Stadium Improvements
- DSM Airport South Ron and Cargo Deicing project
- DSM Airport Gray Lot project
- DSM Airport Electric Car Charging Stations

Sincerely,  
Nate Van Maanen

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Colfax-Mingo School District received approval for a massive athletic improvement project at their Jr/Sr High School. The new athletic complex includes 1,200 seat stadium, 8 lane track, elevated press box with all of the newest tech, concessions, restrooms, apparel store, team rooms, practice field, new synthetic turf football field with support facilities and additional parking. The construction also includes a new 40,000 ft athletics addition with grand entry, gymnasium, and state of the art weight lifting facility, running track, wrestling room and even an indoor batting cage. Construction is being completed in phases. The football stadium was completed in fall of 2022 and the gym was completed in May 2023.

We want to thank our Project Manager Matt Van Maanen and Foreman Michael Smith for keeping this job on track and managing the almost 7,000 hours of work, as well as the crew that helped complete this job; Carlos Aguilar Ruiz, Roel Baez Rocha, Kyle Cogil, Mike Davis, Nate Doeden, Andrew Girod, Derek Jones, Dalton Kelley, Thomas Libke, William Martin, Jerred Miller, Tyler Miller, Taylor Reed, Ivan Riasichenko, Kristopher Sonsoucic, Jon Warnick, and Paul Wilson.

This team worked together to face the known and unknown challenges associated with building a football stadium in a valley. There were occasions of torrential downpour and mudslides in unfinished construction areas. "We've really had a lot of help from our subcontractors that have come in here and have really dug in and helped out and changed their schedules to make things happen," said Tim Salmon, the superintendent at the Colfax-Mingo School District. The team dealt with design changes, scope changes due to unforeseen conditions and design discrepancies. It also dealt with supply chain shortages from the most recent pandemic. Appreciation goes out to the crew that is constantly ready for the changes that have come up and for continuing to make our client happy.

## PROJECT

Colfax Mingo Jr/Sr High School  
Athletic Improvements

## CLIENT

Colfax Mingo CSD

## DELIVERY METHOD

Van Maanen Electric, Inc.

## PROJECT MANAGER

Matt Van Maanen

## PROJECT FOREMAN

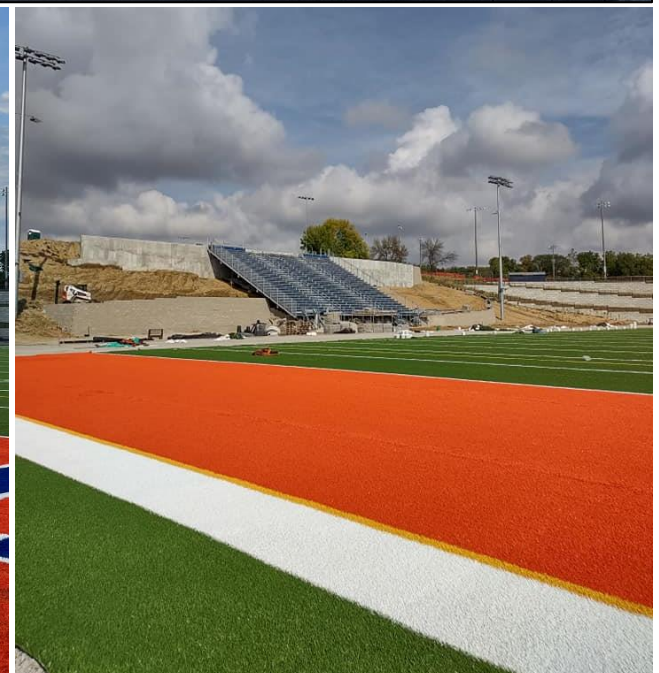
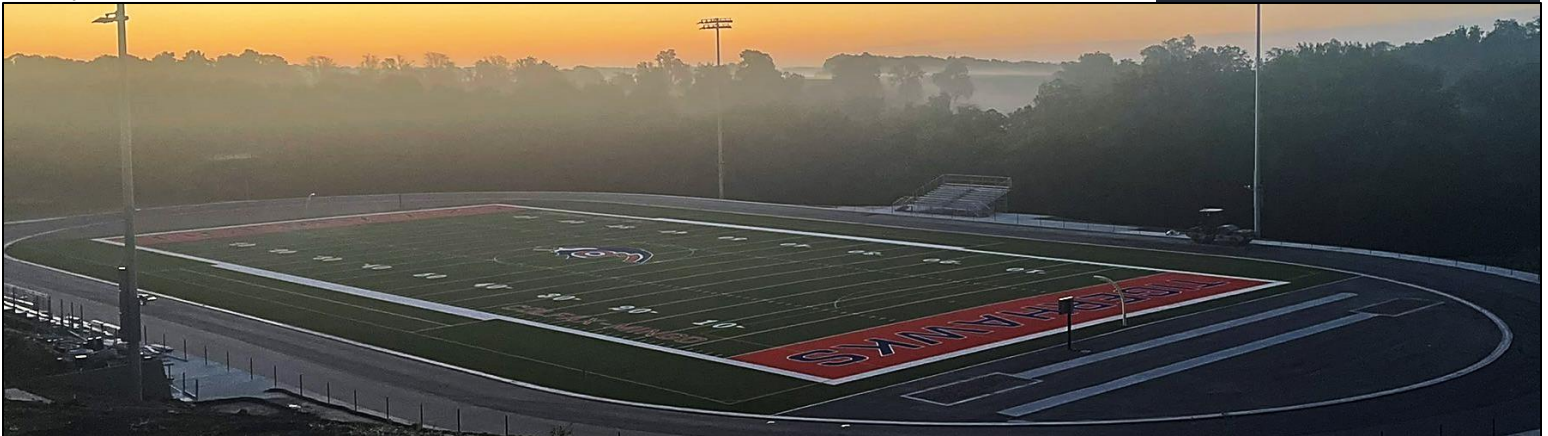
Michael Smith

## PROJECT SIZE

Football Stadium & Support  
Facilities

## DATE COMPLETED

Phase Project 2022-2023



## Some Tips and Tricks from Your Fellow Electricians

The idea to share some tips and tricks to be more efficient in your work came from your fellow electricians. With these tips in hand, you'll work faster and avoid some preventable annoyances. So, take what you want, leave the rest and please share any tricks you know with us for next time!

- Need a large hole for conduit, but don't have a big enough drill bit? Make a template where you will want to drill and drill a series of holes around the exterior, follow up with one center hole. Then you can tap a piece of rigid conduit with a hammer and bang out the hole clean.
- Do you have to cut an awkward placed exposed PVC? Instead of trying to clear to cut with a hacksaw or hand saw, wrap a piece of cotton string halfway around the conduit and see-saw the ends. The friction will cut the PVC cleanly as quickly as a hacksaw and does not require the space. Nylon string will not work because nylon and the PVC melt together.
- Are you working in the attic, or have to lay in a ceiling that has insulation? There is a remedy to keep that itch away. Take a bottle of baby powder or corn starch and apply it to your hands, arms, neck and face (be careful not to get it in your eyes). The powder protects your skin from the insulation and prevents the irritation and itching.
- Running cable around corners? Fish the cable around corners by bending a sharp hook in it. Stick your little finger into the hole and feel for the cable and guide it through as you apply pressure with the other hand.

Hope these tips and tricks help you with your next project.



# SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

## NO NEED TO SPEED!

Safety is Van Maanen's number one goal! So, despite the common belief, speeding does not save time and is actually not a more efficient way to get from one place to another. Any time saved is marginal as compared to the increased risks, indirect collision costs and higher rates of fuel consumption. There is also the cost of getting photographed by a speed camera on one of the more frequently traveled roads for Van Maanen employees. If you are driving a company vehicle and get photographed speeding, the ticket is mailed to our office and docked from your pay. We want to keep everyone safe and prevent any financial repercussions that speeding may cause. Speeding is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to crashes and traffic related deaths. So, the next time you are driving, company vehicle or not, remember to keep your speed down and watch for speed cameras. The cameras are often installed on the back of the exit signs or under overpasses. There are several areas in Iowa with speed cameras, the two most frequently traveled are:

- **Des Moines – Located on I-235 E, monitoring all eastbound lanes near mile marker 4.9, between 56<sup>th</sup> Street and Polk Boulevard**
- **Prairie City – Two outside of the school on South State Street, and one on Highway 163 W, westbound mile marker 18, under the overpass**



**If you or someone you know is struggling and wants help, you can contact the Employee Assistance Program 800-316-2796, it is free and confidential**

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL SMITH

We are pleased to introduce you to Michael Smith. Michael started at Van Maanen as an Electrical Apprentice just a few weeks shy of 15 years ago. He is now an Electrical Foreman. As an Electrical Foreman, Michael works on new construction. He is often planning conduit routes, feeder routes, different types of systems, lighting control packages and managing a group of electricians.

His most memorable project was Fellows Elementary School in Ames, Iowa. Michael describes working with a great group of subcontractors and general contractor that all just got along and worked really well together. The project was superbly planned and easy to interpret.

A Colfax, Iowa native, Michael moved to Newton 15 years ago and has been with Van Maanen since. Outside of work, Michael enjoys spending time with his wife and two kids. He likes to camp and garden as well as play video games with his kids.



# APPRENTICE CORNER

We are pleased to introduce yet another one of Van Maanen's 4<sup>th</sup> year Apprentices, Josh Jensen. He is from the small town of Newell, Iowa and has been with Van Maanen for almost 3 years. He chose an apprenticeship with Van Maanen for the opportunity to work on bigger projects. He enjoys learning new tricks of the trade. His most memorable project to take part in was the PT Building at Camp Dodge.

Outside of work, Josh likes to go camping, biking and attending live music show.



## New Employees

The season for being busy is upon us, we have several new temporary employees as well as the following new hires. Please take some time to welcome them to Van Maanen.

Jacob Kleywegt  
VME Intern

Ryan Nook  
VME Intern

Devyn Taylor  
VME

Jaren Nuzum  
VMT

## June Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Jagger Olson  
Stephen Robnett

7<sup>th</sup> Scott Allen

9<sup>th</sup> Marco Martinez

11<sup>th</sup> Jason Hanna

Joe Voshell

14<sup>th</sup> Trevor Meester

15<sup>th</sup> Samuel Jabara

19<sup>th</sup> Steve Huyser

Omar Magana Alanis

22<sup>nd</sup> Ben Nelson

Desmonne Hoffert

27<sup>th</sup> Juan Castro Martinez

28<sup>th</sup> Adam Carr

29<sup>th</sup> Garrett Arnold

## June Anniversaries

1<sup>st</sup> Jeffery Alexander

James Rethmeier

Matthew Pester

Steve Schinkel

4<sup>th</sup> Desmonne Hoffert

6<sup>th</sup> Aaron Barajas Ramirez

8<sup>th</sup> Luis Chavarria Alcaraz

Austin Klinkenberg

9<sup>th</sup> Zachary Voshell

Thomas Wilmes

10<sup>th</sup> Kendra Pothoven

11<sup>th</sup> Bryan Adamson

13<sup>th</sup> Joltic Coronel

William Martin

14<sup>th</sup> Austin Andreasen

15<sup>th</sup> Carlos Aguilar Ruiz

Daniel Corona Regalado

Jose Rico Corona

16<sup>th</sup> Ed Levesque

21<sup>st</sup> Raymond Assogba

Thomas Hodnett

Luis Martinez

22<sup>nd</sup> Joseph Henning

24<sup>th</sup> Michael Smith

26<sup>th</sup> Austin Crady

28<sup>th</sup> Gabe Enfield