



# IN THE LOOP

The Quarterly Newsletter of Midasco, LLC

Volume 3 Issue 1 ■ Winter 2007

**Signing ■ Lighting ■ Signals ■ ITS ■ Construction and Maintenance**

## Noteworthy New Jobs:

- 07-01-00: Branch Highways @ Richmond International Airport I-64/895 Connector; 13 Sign Structures & 5,700 SF Sign Panels.
- 07-02-00: Six-M @ Fort McHenry Tunnel Signing; 35 Sign Structures, 15,600 SF Sign Panels, Power Feeds.
- 07-03-00: Lane @ Arena Drive; 120 Light Poles & 5 Lumitraks.

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Building tomorrow's transportation systems:  
our direction, your safety*

### Vision Statement:

Midasco, LLC will be the premiere specialty infrastructure contractor in the Mid-Atlantic by 2012. We will achieve this by:

- Delivering quality projects safely and on time.
- Creating a company culture that recognizes employees for taking personal responsibility, rewards them for achieving company goals, and supports their personal growth and development.
- Effectively partnering with customers to become their contractor of choice.
- Developing and maintaining effective working relationships with vendors and subcontractors that share our commitment to the customer.
- Communicating effectively with and fulfilling our obligations to our lending and surety partners.
- Generating substantial returns to shareholders.

### Values

1. Honesty and Integrity
2. Safe, Quality and On Time Work
3. Positive Work Ethic and Personal Responsibility
4. Experience and Teamwork
5. Continuous Improvement

### Message from the President

The senior team at Midasco recently took time at a strategic planning session to define our companies' mission, vision, and values. You might ask, "Why would anyone spend time on this and why is this important?" These are good questions that I want to answer. The importance of our mission, vision and values is that they provide a guide by which we make decisions in the business. Anytime that there is a decision to be made, at any level of the organization, the right answer will be the one that most fully supports our mission, vision and values.

Try it. For instance, "Should we bid this job?" The right answer will support the mission, vision and values. Or, for instance, "Should we get this task done today or leave it until tomorrow?" The right answer will support the mission, vision, and values. Again, "Should we work as a team or do what benefits the individual?" The right answer will support the mission, vision, and values. I challenge you to come up with a question where the right answer does not support our mission, vision and values.

You may see these words displayed around Midasco's workplace. If so, stop for a moment and test to see if your current actions are supporting our mission, vision and values.

Lastly, I welcome your comments on the mission, vision and values. True to our value of continuous improvement, we believe that Midasco's mission, vision and values will be improved over time when we continue to work on them.

*Michael Filipczak*

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## A Word From Harry

It's great to have our newest edition of "In the Loop" back in circulation. We hope to keep you informed of all of the latest greatest news here at Midasco.

Rick Walton has been diligently working on the Springfield Interchange Project which has a completion date of April 9<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all of those who have come to our aid. Chuck Goles and his crew did a great job completing the foundations. Joe Fowler and his signing crews have been installing structures and signs as fast as they are delivered. Thanks to Brian Griffin and Mike Bush for their electrical expertise. Thanks also to Scott Schuh, Brock McGregor, John Reid, Ed Heck, Al Heinz, Bob Beano, Jason Herring, Joe Barron, Kim Gonzales and their crews for their continued support as we make the final push towards the completion date.

Upon completion of the Springfield Interchange, my primary job will be to estimate new projects and seek out new work opportunities. Midasco has bid on some of the largest transportation projects this area has offered since the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The "Hot Lanes" Project and the Inter County Connector are among those projects that we have bid and we are currently waiting to see who is awarded these projects. There are numerous projects being bid along the I-95 corridor in Maryland that include everything from ITS, signing and electrical work that we are currently pursuing.

Midasco will have many opportunities to get some of this work and we look forward to our future growth in the transportation market. We can only do this with your help. We need to bring good quality people into the company. We need to do our work right the first time and eliminate punch lists and we need to take the time to train the people that are a part of our team. With your help we can make Midasco the best in the transportation industry.

Harry Leef

## Material Loss

Have you ever had a coupling or a bell end fall out of a box or out of the truck? "It's just a piece of plastic, no big deal". This week a 2" PVC coupling cost Midasco .43 cents, not much money; after all it's just one. What about ten of them? A 2" PVC bell end cost \$2.95, a 2" ground bushing with a lug cost us \$8.60. All of these items are relatively small and easily lost on a job site. If you are driving a ground rod and lose the ground clamp, there goes \$2. Drive down the highway and you are bound to see the remains of a bucket of jet line that fell out of a truck, \$23.

Material loss is a huge expense in the construction industry. Go to any job site and you can find parts of this and pieces of that littered around the lay-down yards and job sites. We aren't too concerned with these parts and pieces, after all the money doesn't come out of our pocket. But it does! The raises we expect the company to come through with each year, the new equipment for the job; all of this is impacted by material loss.

Attention to your materials can save Midasco thousands of dollars a year. Those thousands of dollars can translate into a more profitable company that will benefit each of us.

Tom Sprague



*Celebrate good times at our 25th Anniversary Party, Friday August 17th!!!*



## Midasco's 25th Anniversary

Midasco, Incorporated was founded in 1982 as a rebar installation contractor operating in the Mid-Atlantic region. There have been many changes over the past 25 years. One thing has remained constant: we want to be the premiere infrastructure contractor in the Mid-Atlantic Region by continuing to work as a team, following our mission and vision statements along with our core values.

**Building tomorrow's transportation systems:**

**our direction, your safety**

Midasco will be celebrating 25 years in business this summer. We plan to have a huge celebration with awards and recognition for years in service. We plan to party down with music, games, food and fun. The picnic will be held in **Centennial Park, Friday August 17th** for an all day event. Employees and their families will be invited. So, save the date! Details to follow.

Carden Snider



## Rod and Pipe Electrodes

When installing ground rods and rock is encountered, it is permissible per NEC Section 250.53 (G) to drive the rod on a 45 degree angle. If rock bottom is encountered at a 45 degree angle the rod is permitted to be buried in a trench not less than 30" deep.

Consult the local inspector as to whether to leave the head of the rod in the handbox, or buried in the trench. If no inspector is available, it is my recommendation that the head of rod be left visible in the handbox. In either case, a 90 degree bend should be placed on the end of the rod to accommodate the cadweld.

Craig Hoffman

Source: NEC Section 250.53 (G)

(G) Rod and Pipe Electrodes. The electrode shall be installed such that at least 2.44m (8ft) of length is in contact with the soil. It shall be driven to a depth of not less than 2.44 m (8ft) except that, where rock bottom is encountered, the electrode shall be driven at an oblique angle not to exceed 45 degrees from the vertical or, where rock bottom is encountered at an angle up to 45 degrees, the electrode shall be permitted to be buried in a trench that is at least 750 mm (30") deep. The upper end of the electrode shall be flush with or below ground level unless the above ground end and the grounding electrode conductor attachment are protected against physical damage as specified in 250.10.



## Idea Corner

In the next five years, Midasco, LLC will be moving aggressively to grow the company to be the premiere specialty infrastructure contractor in the highway construction industry. In order to accomplish this challenging task, employees of Midasco need to work together more than ever as a team. We need your ideas and input to make our work more efficient and productive.

The IDEA System is a program that will enable your good ideas to be brought to the forefront of management where they will be analyzed and implemented into our day-to-day operations. You may be asked to participate in the task force that analyzes your idea. There is a team member representing you in each area of our company. We have formed a task force that will meet on a quarterly basis in order to discuss and find solutions on the best way to run the IDEA System.

There will be an IDEA System box and board located in the Operations area which will serve as a home for your suggestions. You can post your ideas on the board or place them in the box. They will be gathered daily, analyzed and decided upon. The originators of good ideas will be placed in a quarterly drawing to win a prize. The originators of implemented ideas will be featured in our newsletter.

It is an exciting time and you are a part of it!

The Members of The IDEA System Team :

Carden Snider  
Tenea Clements  
Tom Sprague  
Jeff Young  
James Holland



Carden Snider

## Health News

Midasco wants everyone to experience an excellent quality of life by providing its employees with outstanding healthcare. Unicare is our Healthcare Provider and there are many free or discounted services and benefits offered through the Unicare website ([www.unicare.com](http://www.unicare.com)). We will be providing you with information on what is available through the Quarterly Newsletter.



If you are not a Unicare participant, Midasco still wants to encourage your overall health and well being. Look forward to helpful hints and suggestions about healthcare to be published in our Quarterly Newsletter. We will be looking to you for healthy tidbits and ideas to be shared with everyone. We will be starting up a Midasco Health Rewards program to promote a more healthy lifestyle. You can earn gift certificates or rewards once certain requirements are completed at the end of the year. More information on how the program works will be coming out shortly.

Midasco will be mailing it's own Health Newsletter monthly with a bounty of healthy news and information. We hope you enjoyed your first issue that was mailed in March. Look forward to the next issue arriving soon in April.



Carden Snider

## Birthday Bash: Employees with Birthdays in the First Quarter

Kathy Conti	1/1	Joseph Kinhart	2/3	Tom Sprague	3/14
James Holland	1/1	William Sparrow	2/3	Mario Ramirez	3/20
Fidel Garcia	1/1	Camille Baaklini	2/5	Richard Murphy	3/24
Shane Floyd	1/5	Elmer Smith	2/6	Brock McGregor	3/24
Anthony Stolar	1/6	Romualdo Sandoval	2/9	Brian Griffin	3/27
Eric Hatfield	1/13	Jeffrey Stutzman	2/9	Luis Osorio	3/28
Tibebe Tafesse	1/14	Samuel Hume	2/12	Richard Parks	3/28
Jon Hermann	1/15	Kizzy Fulton	2/13	Lionel Johnson	3/31
Rico Renzi	1/17	Clifton Thompson	2/13		
Jack Lockhart	1/18	Robert Bussey	2/15		
Joseph Barron	1/19	Tim Harkleroad	2/23		
Walter Burnette	1/22	Howard Metzler	2/29		
Timothy Sprague	1/23	David Wolf	2/29		
Brian Stolar	1/25	Thomas Howell	3/1		
Kelly Thompson	1/29	Jermaine Houston	3/14		



## Stephen King Movies

Find and circle all of the Stephen King Movies that are hidden in the grid.

The remaining letters spell a secret message.

I N N S I N G R A V E Y A R D S H I F T E  
 M A X I M U M O V E R D R I V E T E Q C E  
 N L E T S E V E S N A M G N I N N U R A N  
 T A Y N F I W O H S P E E R C O I T N R U  
 R N D A R O S T A N D B Y M E C M O E R U  
 B G Y L N O L G W E O D A Y K I D M E I T  
 R O R T I T B N S R J E L S S A I M D E E  
 E L A A G H S I H E U A I E R I T Y F N L  
 N I T N H E K N A S C L R K W A O K U I L  
 N E A I T S C I N L V Y H O D P L N L T U  
 I R M S F T U H K E C A H E E T S O T S B  
 H S E T L A R S R D L S C A R P M C H I R  
 T R S R I N T H E F P R E I E U E K I R E  
 E W T A E D I H D E I C H R S P L E N H V  
 W A E E R G R E E N M I L E O I A R G C L  
 S S P H H T E R M P H E N K R L S S S I I  
 N G S W F I C R P M A N G L E R O S T P S  
 U B A F I R E S T A R T E R L I S D H E D  
 E Y E S T A C N I S R E K L A W P E E L S  
 N R O C E H T F O N E R D L I H C O V E L  
 E N O Z D A E D N R E H C T A C M A E R D

ART PUPIL	CUJO	GREEN MILE	NIGHT FLIER	SHINING
CARRIE	DARK HALF	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS	PET SEMETARY	SILVER BULLET
CAT'S EYE	DEAD ZONE	LANGOLIERS	QUICKSILVER HIGHWAY	SLEEPWALKERS
CHILDREN OF THE CORN	DOLORES CLAIBORNE	MANGLER	ROSE RED	STAND BY ME
CHRISTINE	DREAMCATCHER	MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE	RUNNING MAN	THE STAND
CREEPSHOW I	FIRESTARTER	MISERY	SALEM'S LOT	THINNER
CREEPSHOW II	GRAVEYARD SHIFT	NEEDFUL THINGS	SHAWSHENK REDEMPTION	TOMMYKNOCKERS TRUCKS

## Midasco Trivia Contest



### MIDASCO TRIVIA CONTEST

Since this is our 25th year let's take a walk down Midasco memory lane. Whoever answers the most of the following trivia questions will win a gift card. Some of these are tough so an extra bonus to anyone who gets them all!!! Send your answers to me via email (kconti@midasco.net) or drop them off to me at the office. Don't forget to include your name. The winner (and all the answers) will be announced in the next newsletter.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. What was the first official name of Midasco?                         | 10. What was the first sign job?                                 |
| 2. Where was our first office?  | 11. Our first electrical job?                                    |
| 3. What was the street location of our old yard?                        | 12. What was our first Prime job?                                |
| 4. When did we move into our current building (month and year)?         | 13. What was our first job with Corman Construction (not rebar)? |
| 5. Who won the contest to name the newsletter when it was first issued? | 14. What job was the farthest location from the Maryland office? |
| 6. When was the first newsletter issued?                                |  |
| 7. Name or describe one article in the first newsletter?                |  |
| 8. What was the first major piece of equipment that Midasco purchased?  |  |

*Kathy Conti*

## Tenea's Tidbits

### SAVINGS~ SAVINGS~ SAVINGS

Did you know that the average employee will spend over \$400 in fees associated with cashing a Payroll Check this year alone? Employees that opt for stress free Direct Deposit will be able to pocket or spend that \$400 on FUN, such as a much anticipated vacation. Direct Deposit is the easy way to guarantee that you receive your Payroll Check ON TIME, ALL THE TIME, whether you come in to work or not. Another important **tidbit bit** to remember is, if you are already on vacation, you will have access to your money on payday without having to worry about not being able to pick your paycheck up in the office.

*Tenea Clements*

### Tenea Update:

I have been out on maternity leave for a while. Here is an update on what is going on in my life. I went into labor after getting home from work on a Thursday. My timing couldn't have been better. Sydney Renee was born on 1/26/07 at 10:15am on a Friday in St. Agnes Hospital. She was 21 inches and 8.2 pounds. David, my husband, was home from Afghanistan for a 30 day Emergency Leave stay in February and will be home permanently sometime in the end of May. Big brother, Alexander is 19 months old now and has just begun counting to 8! Not in the correct order, but it is a start!

Here are some pictures of my family.

*Tenea Clements*



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Construction and Maintenance**

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**Reminder:** Friday, August 17th is our  
25th Anniversary Picnic!!!



## **LET'S TALK SAFETY– Defensive Driving – Safety-conscious drivers prevent accidents**

Defensive driving is driving to prevent accidents, in spite of the incorrect actions of others or adverse weather conditions. Drivers who are safety-conscious have developed good habits and practice them daily. Every time they get behind the wheel, they remember to:

- **Keep alert and focus on driving.** Keep the mind free of distractions and concentrate on the road. Road hazards can pop up in a split second, and you may not catch them if you're fiddling with the radio, talking on your car phone, scanning the newspaper headlines, or putting on makeup in the rearview mirror.
- **Obey all traffic laws.** Pay attention to changing speed limits and other posted warnings. Make a full stop at stop signs. And remember, a yellow light means slow down and prepare to stop, not speed up and try to beat the red light.
- **Be courteous to others.** Give other drivers a break. Road rage leads to accidents. Defensive drivers take it easy and get home safely.
- **Adjust your driving to suit weather conditions.** Driving on wet or slippery surfaces is not the same as driving on dry surfaces. When the weather is bad, slow down and adjust your driving time and habits to the road conditions.
- **Stay a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you.** One vehicle length for each 10 mph is the minimum distance for safety. This gives you time to apply your brakes gradually so that you don't go into a spin or grind to a stop so quickly that the vehicle behind you runs into you.
- **Anticipate traffic problems.** Defensive drivers constantly scan the road and look for potential problems—for example, curbside vehicles pulling out into traffic without warning, drivers running stop signs and red lights, unexpected stops and turns by other drivers, drivers changing lanes without signaling.



When you get behind the wheel of any vehicle, remember that defensive driving is a full-time job. The most dangerous mile you have to drive is the one directly ahead of you.

*Mike Anderson  
Safety Manager*

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