# **The Inside Dirt**

*The latest company and industry news from L.R.E. Ground Services, Inc. and L.R.E. Construction Services, LLC. Family owned and operated since 1989!* 

Volume 13, Issue 4

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# L.R.E. carries out helical project in New Smyrna, FL



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# Four killed after massive sinkhole opens in Chinese City



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- 2019

since 1989

**L.R.E. GROUND SERVICES, INC.** Providing a Solid Foundation of Trust

### L.R.E. CELEBRATES 30 YEARS IN FEBRUARY

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### **Picture Perfect**



Team members dressed up for L.R.E. Scream in Oct. Year after year the costumes get more and more creative.



Darlene Veilleux, Rachel Vitale, and Rosemary Woolever were among many team members who came dressed to impress this year.

Follow L.R.E. on:



# **Celebrating 30 Years in Business**



L.R.E. Ground Services, Inc. is set to embark on its 30th year anniversary on February 7, 2019. The family owned and operated company has grown from just three employees to over one hundred full-time team members, and has completed over 8,000 projects throughout Florida over the years. L.R.E. has always been focused on upholding quality workmanship, excellent conduct, and moral principles which has helped them to maintain their stellar reputation and redefine customer expectations within the construction industry.

What started as Lar-Ray's Excavating Service in 1989, providing a variety of ground work, from site development to backhoe services, became L.R.E. Ground Services, Inc. in 1992. When owners Raymond and Susan Woolever saw a rising need for sinkhole stabilization in 1990 they transitioned the company into providing foundation repair and soil stabilization services which ultimately led to the name change two years later.



L.R.E. celebrates its 30th anniversary on Feb. 7th, 2019. This company photo was taken in 1993.

"We have come a long way, and L.R.E. couldn't be what it is today if it weren't for the people that are a part of it. The reputation we have maintained is a direct result of the hard work and sacrifices made by our team each day," said Raymond.

Frank Vitale, Vice President and General Manager added, "We believe that fulfilling work creates fulfilling lives, and we want to continue to make L.R.E. a place where our employees maintain a sense of pride in their work. That's really what they share with us. You have to love what you do, in order to do your work with love. We have the best employees and are looking forward to the next 30 years."

# L.R.E.'s Top Quarterly Performers



### **HELPING HAND AWARD**

This award goes to the team member who consistently looks for ways to help L.R.E. employees, our business, and clients.

This girl is a super star! Although Kristina DiCono's role in the Sales department as a Support Specialist is very consuming, she is always willing to lend a helping hand anytime, and in any department. Her attitude and willingness to do so does not go unnoticed. Although she has only been with the company for a little over a year, Kristina has already made a significant and positive impact on L.R.E. and its clients. Way to go, Kristina!



**INITIATIVE AWARD** 

This award goes to the team member whose work performance continues to impress despite taking on more responsibilities and projects.

Jessica Alvarez is always a smiling face at the front desk. Whether she is answering the phones or helping a fellow employee, her ability to stay positive and productive while juggling different tasks is noticed and appreciated! She has stepped up and taken on more responsibilities which has helped to free up some time and duties in other departments. Jessica, thank you for all that you do, and doing it ALL with a positive attitude!



### **ROCK SOLID AWARD**

This award goes to the team member who consistently shows leadership and dependability, and is a continued asset to the team.

Thank you, Adam, for always being a "Rock Solid" employee! Adam Crace has been with L.R.E. for over 12 years and continues to impress us with his willingness to help others. Not only has he shown tremendous leadership in the EMS division, but he is dedicated to training new hires in both water and mold, ensuring that our team has the knowledge and skills they need to be the best of the best. You are appreciated, Adam!

# Around the Web

**BEIJING, CHINA**— Four people died after they were swallowed up by a massive sinkhole in a Chinese city, despite rescue efforts to save them. According to state media, the sinkhole opened up around 2:30pm on Oct. 7th. Dramatic video from the scene showed people suddenly plunging through the pavement as it collapsed beneath them. Two victims died after being pulled from the pit and rushed to a hospital, state media said. They were reportedly married only days before. Efforts to rescue the other victims, a father and his young son, were unsuccessful, with the two found dead a few days later. Rescuers believe the final two were trapped around 10 meters (32 feet) underground, some two meters deeper than local rescuers' equipment could reach. "The biggest difficulty is that the road surface is thick with

a large amount of soil," Gao Mingyue, a fire service official, told state broadcaster CCTV, earlier in the search. "We had to move excavators to a lower place and we now have two large excavators digging out soils so that we can stand on a lower place and use the long arm excavator to dig deeper." More than 40 firefighters were involved in the rescue effort. The government still hasn't disclosed what caused the deadly sinkhole to suddenly appear. The cave-in area was more than 10 square meters (107 sq ft), the broadcaster said. "When we first arrived, the caved-in area was not big, which only covered two meters both in length and depth. But during the rescue process, it collapsed again, causing another two-meter sink. Firefighters at once evacuated while doing the rescue work," Gao said. The presence of high-voltage power cables and water pipes made the rescue work especially difficult.



Source: CNN World

### Please Welcome L.R.E's New Hires!



Welcome Chris Cassidy to our construction services team as the newest EMS Technician! Chris is IICRC certified and brings years of experience in water, fire and smoke restoration. We are lucky to have him!



Tavian Jackson has joined our fabulous Field Technician crew! We are eager to watch him grow with our stellar team. Welcome aboard Tavian!



He's back! Kyle Chesser has rejoined our field crew and we are thrilled to have him back! He was an asset to L.R.E. in the past and we know the future will be no different!



Our concrete crew is expanding! Please help welcome Victor Mendoza to the team. Victor comes with many years of concrete experience and will be a tremendous asset!

# FOR SALE: Auger Rig



MAKE: Casagrande MODEL: Continuous Flight Auger B175XP TYPE: Crawler YEAR: 2015 CONDITION: Excellent RIG LOCATION: Brooksville, FL WORKING HOURS ON RIG: 769 ENGINE: Modello Model—Power at 2200 RPM—194kw WEIGHT (in working condition): 41,000kg MAXIMUM DEPTH: 73 feet MAXIMUM DIAMETER: 30 inches



Please contact Rich at Richard.Blanche@LREGSI.com for additional details

# **Property Owners Helped**



Thank you, Jamie Wrigley and Sean Bishop, for continually providing exceptional service from start to finish.



L.R.E. works frequently with Property Managers eliminating trip hazards on sidewalks, driveways and pool decks. We also offer free estimates.



Frank Graziano and Scott Higgins redefined customer expectations on a recent project. Nice job, guys!

### It Was an Excellent Experience

I only have praise for L.R.E. Ground Services, Inc. and without hesitation suggest that anyone needing this type of service call you. Thank you for making a stressful situation turn around into an amazing experience!

Diane & Bruce H. Lake Placid, FL.

#### Superb Job, Once Again

We used L.R.E. before to fill voids under a 6" slab by the weir....job well done. This time we had massive erosion under the weir and had to build an 8" wall in front of the weir in concrete. The team of men that were assigned to the job were professional, respectful and very knowledgeable. The work was done superbly, and I will recommend your company to everyone I know.

Kori E. Land O' Lakes, FL.

### From Start to Finish, Job Well Done

I would like to share my recent experience with LRE personnel. From the beginning with the assessment of damage, Jamie Wrigley provided exceptional service. She carefully and efficiently assessed the damage and needed repairs and scheduled subsequent home visits to accommodate my work schedule. She worked with the insurance company to get additional recompense for the work needed. Sean Bishop was exceptional in supervising the restoration of the bathroom and bedroom. He coordinated all of the tradesmen efficiently and went well above the call of duty in order to locate the best materials for the job. It was a daunting project for me but Sean was always reassuring and supportive. Both Sean and Jamie deserve kudos for jobs well done. I will recommend L.R.E. to anyone needing your services.

Amelia T. Tampa, FL.

### My Property Looks Better Than Ever

The crew overall was amazingly professional. I would like to recognize Frank Graziano and Scott Higgins. They were both so pleasant to work with. They cleaned up everything after the job was completed. The front of my hotel has never looked better! Thank you again!

Patsy P. Property Manager

### You Have My Recommendation

Thank you so much for a job well done! The crew worked hard and they were all very courteous during their stay here. We are glad we chose L.R.E. and will not hesitate to give a recommendation.

Randy H. Ocala, FL

### **QUOTE OF THE QUARTER**

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

-Albert Schweitzer

# **Case Study:** Condominium Helical Pier Project

L.R.E. was called on for this project due to the deep foundations not being installed which created a 4" settlement on a 6 story condo building prior to completion. L.R.E.'s biggest challenges were the continually changing site conditions and low overhead clearance. Every footer exposed was different then the last and needed to be trimmed, prepped, and secured differently. Most of the piers installed were interior piers and since the overhead clearance was only 8 feet, installation was naturally a challenge.

Custom made galvanized helical piles, with six helix blades on each pile, were recommended for this project. All footers were cut to square, and footers were reinforced using angle steel in order to stop shear factor of the footer. One pier per column pad was load tested to 100 kips, and 114 total piers were installed. The piles, which were manufactured by Supportworks, were installed to 30 foot depths. We determined the depths for installation by using the torque correlation method. Additionally, in order to achieve the desired loading, hydraulic pressure is monitored using specialized equipment. Due to low overhead, and significant excavations, a mini excavator with a drive head was used to install the piers and make the entire system work. The water table for this project was right at or above our piers so the brackets for each of the helical piles were coated with Alocit after being installed and welded. Alocit is a corrosion blocking coating used in salt water applications.



Galvanized Helical Piles waiting to be installed



**Completed Construction** 

# Announcements

### L.R.E. Anniversaries

Raymond Woolever	30
Susan Woolever	30
Carl Hamm	19
Allen Daniels	19
Gary Carr	16
Frank Vitale	15
Chris Kawa	11
Thomas Dahl	8
Donovan Dokoupil	4
Antonio Castillo	3
Ryan Bourgoin	3
Linnea O'Brien	3 3
Yasmin Garcia	3
Keith Harrington	2
Derrick Fagin	2
Sarah Steen	1
Matthew Ray	1
Matthew Burkhart	1
Travis Wright	1
David Randall	1
Robert Erickson	1









Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to L.R.E., our Founders Raymond and Susan Woolever, and our entire L.R.E. Family & Team!

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## Letter from the CEO Looking Forward to a Prosperous 2019

As 2018 comes to a close and the holiday season is in full swing, I want to reflect on the past twelve months and take a look at what 2019 will hold.

Throughout this past year, we sent several team members to management training in Omaha, NE. With the fast pace of industry changes, we know it is essential to help our team learn and excel. We firmly believe in equipping our managers and team members with the knowledge and resources they need to grow and develop regularly. In addition, we've had a record number of representatives from Supportworks, our manufacturer and network leader, come to our facility in Brooksville, FL to provide additional consultation and training. Their training and support is invaluable to our team members as well as myself and Susan. As a result, we have experienced major strides and accomplishments this year in Sales, Production and Management.

Our sales team has met or exceeded their quotas consistently, driving us to achieving our goals. Our production team has really stepped up to the plate this year and I couldn't be more proud of them. Our management team has embraced their rolls and continues to strengthen and expand their knowledge and skills, providing the leadership that has truly made a difference this year.

As we continue to provide the tools needed to our team members, I believe, together, we will REDEFINE the industry in 2019, and beyond!

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year! -Raymond Woolever, CEO

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