

# 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 14, Issue 4

December, 2019



**Stabilize and support your home long-term with pre-construction helical piers**



Case Study on Page 5

**A sinkhole swallows a Port Authority bus on a busy street in downtown Pittsburg, PA**



Story on Page 3



**L.R.E. CONSTRUCTION SERVICES REMEDIATES AND RESTORES A 9,786 SQFT RESIDENCE IN TAMPA DUE TO MOLD ISSUES**

Story on Page 2

## Picture Perfect



Team members surprised all managers with handwritten notes of gratitude and treats for National Boss Day on Oct. 16th.

Several team members dressed up for L.R.E. Scream on Halloween. It consisted of a potluck, office decorating contest and morning treats for field crew members.

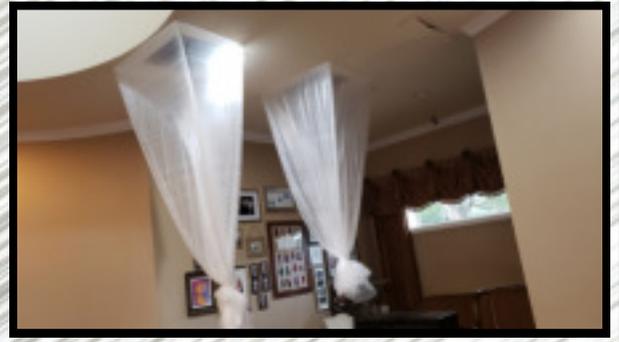
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# L.R.E. Takes on a Large Residential Mold Remediation and Restoration Project in Tampa



As mold removal and abatement specialists, L.R.E. Construction Services, LLC are the pros at getting rid of any serious mold contamination. As a full service restoration contractor, they can also repair any areas that were damaged by the mold.

Recently, L.R.E. was called on to remediate and restore an almost 10,000 sqft home in Tampa, FL due to mold issues. The homeowner first noticed mold upstairs in the four bathrooms and downstairs in the master suite area, but upon L.R.E.'s walkthrough, additional mold was also found throughout the mother-in-law suite and pantry. Total cost for the

mold remediation extended upwards of \$40K in total damages.

The initial mold began due to the ducting throughout the home not being properly sealed to the vent boxes in the attic. Each vent area was mixing cool and hot air which caused condensation on the drywall. Wet, warm drywall is a perfect place for mold, and it was all throughout the second story of the home.



L.R.E. contained the areas, removed the dry-wall, addressed every area, and called for testing in each one. Every area passed mold testing after the remediation was complete.

L.R.E. was also hired to remodel four upstairs bathrooms, the master bath and master closet downstairs, as well as turn the home gym into an additional closet. These remodels will include drywall, painting, crown molding, baseboards, tile work, vanity and tub replacement, showers, plumbing, and electrical.

L.R.E. Construction Services specializes in not only mold remediation and restoration services, but also wind, fire, and water mitigation, including 24/7 emergency services.

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



### CRUISING AND CRUSHING IT AWARD

*This award is presented to the team member who shows passion, has grown in their position, and has made significant contributions to their department.*

You are "crushing it" Jamie, and people are noticing! This past year Jamie Peak has improved greatly in both of his roles at L.R.E. He handles estimating and selling projects within the Construction Services department. Through professionalism, perseverance and the attention he exhibits while providing exceptional customer service in the performance of his job, he has proven time and time again what a huge asset he is to the team. Keep up the great work, Jamie!



### BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AWARD

*This award is presented to the team member who does more than what is required or expected of them to do on a daily basis.*

This guy definitely isn't recognized as much as he should be. Apart from juggling his many tasks as Vice President and General Manager, Frank Vitale always goes above and beyond in assisting all other departments with tasks outside of his own daily duties. He has always been a friend, team player, and confidant to every member of L.R.E. and genuinely cares about each member of our team. Frank is a thoughtful leader and confident decision-maker and L.R.E. is lucky to have him!



### STANDING OVATION AWARD

*This award is presented to the team member whose performance attributes are essential to our success and strengthening our connection to our customers.*

The results are in and Lee Williams deserves a standing ovation! As Production Coordinator, Lee handles a multitude of very important tasks. He sets up a plan for each project, looks for potential issues, proposes a solution to these ahead of time, and even trains the field crews when needed. He is a major asset to the sales department as well. His technical knowledge is invaluable to our sales reps and his expertise helps provide that peace of mind to our customers. Lee, you are a blessing to our team...thanks for all you do!

# Around the Web

**Pittsburg, PA**— Repairs are underway after a Port Authority bus was swallowed by a massive sinkhole around 8a.m. on Oct. 28th, 2019 in downtown Pittsburgh. The woman driving the bus and a second woman who was a passenger both managed to get off the bus and through the front door, and the passenger was treated by paramedics and was taken to a Pittsburgh hospital for neck pain, then released, officials said. The driver was not hurt. Witnesses said the bus was at a red light when the street gave way and the bus plunged into the 100-foot-wide and 20-foot-deep hole. A car also partially fell into the sinkhole. Public safety is working to determine exactly what caused the sinkhole, but when it happened, a 10-inch water main broke, sending water shooting everywhere.

Around 9:45 p.m. on the 28th, the bus was removed from the sinkhole by cranes. There was concern that the road could collapse further. Pittsburgh Public Safety Director, Wendell Hissrich, said there was also an electrical vault and several gas lines involved, and they were having a serious problem with the infrastructure because there are fiber optic cables around the sinkhole. Had the cables become disconnected while the bus was being lifted from the sinkhole, Hissrich said, there could have been a problem with communications throughout the tri-state area. "Granted how far the bus fell into the hole, we're really lucky here that pretty much no injuries happened," Port Authority Police Chief, Matthew Porter said.

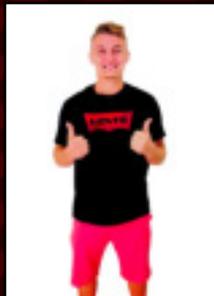
According to a release from the city of Pittsburgh, contractors are removing debris and concrete from the sinkhole, and they will then work on "securing the fiber infrastructure" that was also impacted. Once that work is done, PWSA will assess damage to any water, sewer and storm lines at the site. "There are a host of utilities impacted by the sinkhole, which complicates the restoration effort," the release said. "In addition to PWSA there is also below-ground infrastructure at the site." After all of that work is complete, the sinkhole will be filled up and a new concrete street will be poured. Crews will also restore sidewalks and curbs in the area. That entire process is expected to take an estimated eight weeks to finish. As repairs are made, officials said businesses in that area "may experience intermittent outages of water or utility service."

The Source: [wpxi.com/news](http://wpxi.com/news)

## Please Welcome L.R.E.'s New Team Members!



With a plethora of experience in concrete services, Felton Avant will make a wonderful addition to our concrete team. His expertise is the cherry on top we are thrilled to have! Welcome aboard Felton!



Say hello to Shaun Nicholson! Our field crews are expanding, and Shaun is one of our newest additions. Shaun will be assisting our customers and purpose-driven team with daily projects in the field.



L.R.E. recently hired Michael Robbins as a Concrete Field Technician. While new to L.R.E., Michael brings impressive experience to his position and the company. We are excited to see what you can do, Michael!

Once again we are excited to have Walker Finley on our team! "WT" was a valuable asset to L.R.E. in the past, and we can't wait to see what he accomplishes in the future with our crews.



Please welcome back Dave Randall to Team L.R.E.! Dave has re-joined our awesome field technicians and is ready to redefine customer expectations yet again. We are excited to have him back!



Donnie Hooper is back, and ready to rock with our field crews! We are eager to watch him jump back into the swing of things helping to redefine our industry and customer experiences daily.



# Property Owners Helped



Tom Watson and his crew received high praise for their skilled workmanship and exceeding expectations.



Scott Higgins (left) and Roy Woodie (right) went above and beyond for a homeowner in Citrus Springs, FL.



L.R.E. works closely with industry professionals and is often recognized for their integrity and dependability.

Dear Tom,

We are happy to have our foundation repaired and want to take this opportunity to thank you. You are the sole reason that we decided to go with L.R.E. Ground Services to repair work done by a previous contractor. From the moment you entered our home, you earned our trust and confidence. As you may or may not know, this is a trait that we are finding is rare for Florida homeowners dealing with construction contractors. Not only were you able to share your wealth of experience as it related to making the appropriate repairs to our slab, you made the time to come to our home and collaborate with our civil engineer to assure a cohesive action plan. And when we asked if you could be here when the actual job started, you fulfilled your commitment. We cannot tell you how much it meant to have you here. We were assured of a job done right with you at the helm and you assembled a great team. We were delighted with the skilled workmanship and positive attitude demonstrated by Frank and Rick, for Michael's cheerful willingness to accommodate my OCD tendencies, and for Victor, Donnie, Dave and Felton's hard work. Thank you for going above and beyond by coming to our home last evening and working so diligently to ensure that the vapor barrier and rebar was exactly as it should be. L.R.E. is incredibly fortunate to have you. Should we ever have a further need for the services of your company, we will be reaching out to you personally. If you could please let us know the email address of your manager and your marketing department, we

would appreciate it. We feel that your brand of service deserves recognition and would like to forward a copy of this note to them.

Sincerely,  
Jodi & Marty M.  
Hudson, FL.

## Amazing Crew, Terrific Job

I have to say how very pleased and satisfied my husband and I are with the project lead by Scott Higgins. The success is totally due to Scott, Mike and Roy working arduously in extreme heat without complaint, even when the concrete truck didn't have the pouring hose and the only way to get the concrete to the rear of my property were wheelbarrows back and forth. They were happy, polite and courteous. Please inform them of my gratitude. I even look forward to rain so as to see that my house won't flood anymore.

Randy & Angela W.  
Citrus Springs, FL.

## Outstanding Work!

Thank you and your team for being so professional and following through with schedule, installation and permit close out as promised. I work with a lot of contractors and, unfortunately, a lot of them don't do what they say they are going to do. Thanks again!

Nick S.  
Permacast Walls

## QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

*“The greatest accomplishment is not in never falling, but in rising again after you fall.”*

*-Vince Lombardi*

# Case Study: Pre-Construction Helical Pier Project

This property is located in Central Hernando County, FL. Due to concerns over high clay soils and sinkhole activity in this part of Florida, the owner hired a Geotechnical engineer. Standard penetration tests and soil borings were completed and soil samples collected. Due to the highly expansive clay soils found during the testing, it was recommended that piers be installed prior to any construction.



Advancing the helical piers

Helical piles were recommended for this project. Helical piles install quickly with little to no vibration and there is no waiting period after installation. This allows the contractor to pour the footers and column pads as the pier installation is completed. Using specialized software it was determined that a 10" - 12" helix configuration would be required for the specified loading. The piles, which were manufactured by Supportworks, were installed to depths below the clay soils to help isolate the foundation and prevent shrink/swell movement. The final installation depths were determined by the torque correlation method. In order to achieve the desired loading, hydraulic pressure is monitored using specialized equipment. The top of the piles are fitted with a pre-construction cap that is cast into the concrete footers and column pads.



Finished piers with caps



Completed Construction

## Employee Anniversaries

Raymond Woolever	31
Susan Woolever	31
Carl Hamm	20
Gary Carr	17
Frank Vitale	16
Donovan Dokoupil	5
Linnea O'Brien	4
Yasmin Garcia	4
Antonio Castillo	4
Ryan Bourgoin	4
Keith Harrington	3
Derrick Fagin	3
Sarah Steen	2
Matthew Ray	2
Matthew Burkhart	2



**L.R.E. GROUND SERVICES, INC.**  
wishes a very  
*Merry Christmas*  
and a safe and  
*Happy New Year*  
**TO ALL!!**

*Letter from the CEO*

**December: A Time for Celebration, Peace, and Joy, but also Reflection**

For me, I find that the month of December is a time for reflection. I think about the weeks and days that have passed by so quickly (the older I get, the quicker they pass!). I remember the loved ones and old friends that have passed from this world and the void that they have left behind...I miss them. I reflect on the accomplishments that have been made, and the sometimes failures, too. But then, as the Christmas season approaches, I think about the reason for the season, family, friends, and this great country...and I'm thank-

ful and grateful. I get a little emotional when I remember just three short years ago I was given a second chance of life by the Grace of God and my sister's donated stem cells. As 2019 winds down, I look back on the 31 years since Susan and I started L.R.E. in 1989. So many of our team members have come and gone over the years, and I am happy to have known them and had the opportunity to walk this journey with them. Several have gone on to pursue their own dreams and spread their wings, and I wish them the very

best in all that they do. Some have returned, and I'm excited to see these familiar faces again and have them back on our team to continue REDEFINING our industry into the future. As we close this year, I want to thank TEAM L.R.E. for their hard work and dedication and the many partners in the industry that we work with each and every day. Susan and I wish each one of you a blessed and Merry Christmas and a wonderful and glorious New Year!

*-Raymond Woolever, CEO*

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