# 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 15, Issue 1 March, 2020

## L.R.E. Stabilizes a Settling Clarifier Tank in Orange Park Using Three Techniques



Story on Page 5

## Giant Sinkhole Threatens to Swallow Two Homes in Florida



**Photos:** *Tori Lynn Schneider/Tallahassee Democrat*

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## L.R.E. CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, LLC EXPANDS RESOURCES TO ASSIST WITH CORONAVIRUS

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## Picture Perfect



**L.R.E.'s annual Ugly Christmas Sweater/Tacky Christmas Attire day was celebrated on Dec. 3rd, 2019.**



**This year's Wacky Onsie Wednesday fell on Dec. 11th. Team members got to wear their favorite onsie pajamas to work, and all posed for a photo.**

**Follow L.R.E. on:**

# L.R.E. Providing Cleaning and Disinfecting Services to Assist with Coronavirus

According to the CDC, there is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Of course, we are all doing our best to prevent illness and avoid being exposed to this virus by taking every necessary precaution, but the speed of transmission and its ability to stay alive on multiple surfaces for up to a week or even longer is concerning.

We are all in this together though, and we know that health and safety, as well as business continuity, are top priorities for businesses during these uncertain times. So, in addition to wind, fire, and water mitigation/restoration and mold remediation services, L.R.E. Construction Services, LLC can assist with Coronavirus outbreaks. Thorough cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed with the appropriate techniques and disinfectant product is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19.

Being an IICRC certified company, L.R.E.'s trained professionals are equipped with all of the necessary equipment, products, knowledge and experience to clean, sanitize, and contain harmful pathogens in your workplace or home.

We will limit survival of the Coronavirus inside any facility, and on any surface, by using chemical fogging to decontaminate, EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectants to clean all common areas (e.g. tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remotes, handles, desks, toilets, sinks, etc.), and a HEPA vacuum to trap extremely small, micron-sized particles. A proactive initial and regularly scheduled cleaning and disinfecting maintenance program indoors for any structure is recommended.

We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will follow guidance from public health officials and government agencies at all times so we can continue to support our communities as needed.

In the meantime, should you need cleaning and disinfecting services for your facility, please visit our website at www.LREConstructionServices.com or reach out to us directly at 1-800-580-0229.

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



## CRUSHING IT AWARD

*This award goes to the team member who consistently goes the extra mile. Is "crushing it" day in and day out, and leads by example in all aspects.*

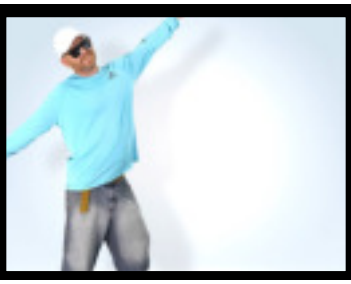
Antonio Castillo not only plays an integral role in the field assisting crew members, but from a Human Resource stand point, he has been leading by example in his punctuality and efficiency also. Antonio has had zero tardies this past quarter and he is extremely thorough when filling in time sheets with required info and job numbers. In the office or out in the field, he has proved time and time again what a valuable team member he is to all, and we couldn't be more grateful to have him!



## SHINING STAR AWARD

*This award goes to the team member who sustains high-quality job performance all while exhibiting a great attitude and willingness to help.*

Thank you, Scott Higgins, for being a stellar team member. Not only have you proven to be a top-notch Foreman (customers love you!), but you have also shown that you are willing to do whatever L.R.E. asks of you, not just for personal gain, but because you know it will benefit the entire company as a whole. You've especially been rocking those Google reviews and consistently sending in jobsite before and after photos. Thanks Scott, keep up the great work!



## MR. CLEAN AWARD

*This award goes to the team member who keeps their workspace, in this case, work truck immaculately clean all while maintaining his/her hard-worker status.*

Team member Jay MacDonald consistently goes out of his way to keep his L.RE. work truck immaculately clean, and it does not go unnoticed. You would never know he has a dirty job! Jay, not only does your truck look good, but you make L.R.E. look good in the process. In addition, your versatility in the field is a huge asset! You are a very hard worker and extremely adaptable. Thank you for being such a dedicated employee, Jay, you are appreciated!

# Around the Web

***Tallahassee, FL***— Anwar El Khouri, 74, has lived in a trailer off Capital Circle Southwest for 11 years. On Jan. 28th, while he took his visiting brother to the mall, a 50-foot sinkhole opened up in his front yard. El Khouri says he's worried about losing his home as loose dirt continues to fall from the walls of the sinkhole. His mobile home, and another, hang off the edge of the crater which also swallowed a pine tree. Yellow tape with the words, "Fire Line Do Not Cross," creates a perimeter around the crater. El Khouri described how, a couple days ago, he felt his trailer shake and he asked himself at the time: "Did the Earth change?" He doesn't know why the hole opened. "They tell me in Florida, it's like this," said El Khouri, adding he never saw one while living in Miami. Victory Crosby, 61, a neighbor living roughly 200 yards away in the same Capital Circle Pines mobile home park, said a smaller, "pool-sized" sinkhole opened a few years ago near his own house. It has since been filled in. He said his biggest question, seeing the new hole, is how they happen."It's unbelievable to me," he said. Sinkholes are most often natural occurrences, especially in places such as Florida with limestone or ground easily dissolved by water, according to the U.S. Geological Survey . They can be dramatic, such as with El Khouri's front yard, or happen over time. They can also be "human-induced" through construction and groundwater pumping, the USGS says. The Tallahassee Police Department responded to reports of the sinkhole Tuesday, and evacuated "several" homes. "We are really glad no one was injured and our thoughts are with the families," the department wrote on Twitter. A spokesman added that fixing the sinkhole is not in the department's jurisdiction. Deputy Chief Richard Jones of the Tallahassee Fire Department said authorities would continue to "monitor" the sinkhole until the Environmental Protection Agency can evaluate it. Then it's up to the property owner and the EPA working together to figure out next steps.



**The Source:** CD Davidson / Tallahassee Democrat, part of the USA Today Network

**L.R.E. Ground Services, Inc Celebrated 31 Years in Business on Feb.7th**

This year we are honored to celebrate 31 years in business. As we look forward to what the rest of 2020 has in store, we are also counting our blessings for the amazing customers and industry partners we have had the pleasure of working with over the last 3 decades. Thank you and cheers to many more!



Raymond & Susan Woolever founded L.R.E. in Brooksville, FL on Feb. 7th, 1989




# Welcome Back!



Jim Flynn is back, and L.R.E. is excited for what's to come! A couple of years ago, Jim held the role at L.R.E. as the Director of Sales and Marketing. He continuously brought new ideas, motivation and training to the sales and marketing departments and always had a passion to see L.R.E. succeed. His leadership, organizational skills and positive attitude will be a huge asset in his new role as the Director of Operations. Jim will be making decisions for operational activities, in charge of setting and implementing strategic goals and helping to streamline efficiency. We are happy to have him back as a part of our team, as we believe he will only contribute to the success of our organization by joining in our commitment to redefining the industry one customer at a time.

# L.R.E. Quarterly Recap



**Christmas Gathering**

Team members got together during the holidays to celebrate.



**B2B Networking**

L.R.E. visited Greenacre Properties with BMI and the donut truck in Dec.



**Promoting Our Services**

L.R.E. participated in several home and trade shows throughout 2019.



**L.R.E. Christmas Potluck**



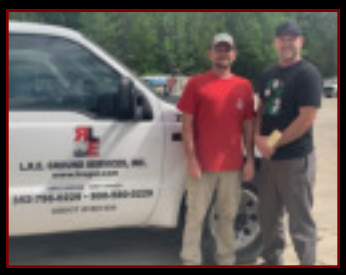
**Educating the Community**

Along with a panel of experts, L.R.E.'s VP, Frank Vitale, spoke with local realtors educating them on the signs of sinkhole activity and repair methods.

# Property Owners Helped



**Tyler Harman, Design Specialist, often receives rave reviews from homeowners for his thoroughness and expertise.**



**Scott Higgins (left) & his crew, along with Tom Watson (right) are constantly going above and beyond for customers. Way to redefine guys!**



**Donovan Dokoupil, along with the crew, received recognition on a job well done from a very happy customer.**

**Superb & Precise**

My wife and I were very satisfied with the work and ethics of your company. Tyler, your representative performed duties that really made the choice very easy to have your firm complete this project for us. His knowledge and prep work techniques to ensure that the problem was first identified, was superb and precise. He explained the procedures that would take place in constructing and completing the task, and was very knowledgeable in his explanation to me. The crew that was sent out to actually perform the task was professional and concerning. I'm totally satisfied with what was done by your company. Granted, would not want to go through it again, but if a friend or neighbor was looking for someone to perform a task as this, I wouldn't hesitate to have them look to LRE Ground Services, Inc for the professional services that you all could offer to them. Again, thank you all for the service that I received.

*William D.*
*Palm Harbor, FL.*

**You Have My Recommendation**

Excellent customer service and dependability. Tom came to my house and designed a system to best take care of my issues at hand. He went the extra mile to give me some more piece of mind at a limited cost to me. Scott arrived with his crew and had everything installed in a short time. They were very prompt and neat. Cleaned up the materials and did an outstanding job. Everything works great!!! I would recommend this company to anyone who needs anything done.

*Allen F.*
*Lakeland, FL*

**Like a Well Oiled Machine**

Both days, the crews worked like a well oiled machine. The guy on the bobcat made it look extra easy. They dug out our old driveway and framed the new one in less than a half a day. They even moved our palm tree so we didn't have to lose it! The group that poured the concrete each had their jobs and did them. No one needed to ask what to do next. No one stood around, watching. I would have them come back for another job, in a heartbeat!

*Sue C.*
*Clearwater, FL.*

**A Heartfelt Thank You!**

A very heartfelt thank you to Donovan who first showed up at my home to evaluate my project and to the amazing team who completed the project! They were all very professional and walked me through each phase of the process! If you ever need any ground services I highly recommend L.R.E.!

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

# "The price of doing the same old thing is far higher than the price of change."

*-Bill Clinton*

# Case Study: Clarifier Tank Stabilization

Clay County Utility Authority (CCUA) obtained Ground Penetrating Radar and found that an 18 inch deep by 20 to 30 foot anomaly had formed at the North side of the tank. Ramos Engineering & Associates (RE&A) was retained by the contractor, TB Landmark, to craft a plan to stabilize the settling clarifier tank due to high variability in the densities of the existing subsurface soils. Three separate stabilization techniques would need to be sequentially performed.

CCUA contracted with TB Landmark to oversee the tank stabilization. RE&A was retained by TB Landmark to craft a stabilization plan for clarifier tank #2. Three different repair techniques were recommended by RE&A to stabilize the tank and remediate the karst and loose soil conditions. Helical piers and both low mobility grout and polyurethane grout were recommended to stabilize the tank. L.R.E. Ground Services (L.R.E.) installed 3.5" diameter helical piers around the perimeter of the tank on 6 foot centers. Per OSHA guidelines, the pier installation required dewatering and trench boxes for bracket installation due to the foundation being 10 feet below ground surface. High pressure low mobility grout was installed to densify the deep karst conditions below the tank. Pressure grouting was performed from 75 feet and terminated at 22 feet below ground surface at 4 foot lifts. To stabilize the soils above this elevation polyurethane grout was performed at 17 feet below ground surface. The project was successfully completed without interrupting operations of clarifier tank #2.



*Helical Pier Lead Sections*

*Helical Pier Installation*





*Polyurethane Injection Pipes*

# Announcements

## L.R.E. Anniversaries

| | |
|---|---|
| Scott Higgins | 10 |
| Jeremy Sieber | 10 |
| Shawna Fleming | 8 |
| Greg Crossley | 8 |
| Craig Palko | 7 |
| Tom Watson | 7 |
| Gina Varn | 5 |
| Shea Dawson | 5 |
| Anthony Gochenour | 4 |
| Shawn Skinner | 3 |
| Jodi Ringos | 2 |
| Thomas Champney | 2 |
| Eric Thuesen | 2 |
| Michael Smith | 2 |
| Matthew Kupic | 2 |
| Zachari Spardello | 2 |
| Tyler Harman | 1 |
| Brittany Clayton | 1 |
| Mario Lopey | 1 |






# HELP US STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

**WASH HANDS OFTEN**
WITH WARM SOAP AND WATER FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS.





**KEEP HANDS AWAY**
FROM MOUTH, NOSE AND EYES TO AVOID TRANSFERRING GERMS.



**COVER COUGHS & SNEEZES**
WITH A TISSUE, THEN THROW TISSUE AWAY AND WASH YOUR HANDS.

**CLEAN & DISINFECT**
FREQUENTLY USED SURFACES LIKE DESKS, LIGHT SWITCHES, DOORKNOBS, AND COMPUTERS.

**IF YOU FEEL SICK STAY HOME**
FROM WORK, SCHOOL, OR OTHER ACTIVITIES AND AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH OTHERS

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