BUSY IN HARTFORD COUNTY

O&G continues building on decades of diverse construction in the capitol region

Hartford Union Station finishes on a fast track  
Conservation: Building “The Bat Cave”  
Community: Touch-a-Truck rides again
“Truly superior pilots are those who use their superior judgment to avoid those situations where they might have to use their superior skills.” This was a safety slogan I once saw on a poster in a flight operations office during my days as a pilot in the Navy. The poster was developed by the Naval Safety Center as part of an effort to change a culture of arrogance and recklessness that had led to many unnecessary losses. They wanted to refocus pilot and aircrew ratings on how well they planned for missions, identified hazards and controlled risks. In other words, they wanted their workforce to exercise good judgment.

Now at O&G, over a decade later, this message holds as true as it did when I first read it. Simply substitute the word operator, driver, mechanic, laborer, carpenter, supervisor or manager for pilot. It doesn’t matter what industry you are in or what your occupation may be: the superior performer is the individual or team that consistently uses good judgment to avoid taking unnecessary risk.

With great pride I can state that the O&G workforce is living up to this expectation in all aspects. Our record stands for itself. We have not suffered a lost-time accident in any of our quarries since 2010. Additionally, we had only two lost-time accidents in our quarries in the last decade. That is remarkable when you consider that the statistics include five busy sites and hundreds of thousands of work hours.

A record like this is not due to luck. It is the accomplishment of a workforce dedicated to safety. Our dedication is evident in the continual application of the S.L.A.M. (Stop, Look, Analyze, Manage) principle, the daily use of Job Safety Task Analysis worksheets, and the adaptation and implementation of lessons learned throughout the industry. These are the tools we use to maintain solid judgment when, as humans, our decision-making falls to the pressures of time, personal problems, weather and even demanding bosses.

While such bold proclamations about the safety performance of our workforce could be a setup for failure, I am confident that the skills we have honed will keep us safe for many years to come.

I will, however, end on a cautionary note due to the ever changing, dynamic environment in which we operate. This wisdom is again taken from a memorable Navy poster: “Complacency or a false sense of security should not be allowed to develop as a result of long periods without an accident or serious incident.”

While we are safe today, we are not automatically safe tomorrow. It is up to all of us to remain vigilant, to exercise good judgment and to make the right decisions when it comes to our safety.

Here’s to a job well done!

Thank you and stay safe,

T.J. Oneglia
Assistant Vice President, Materials Division
O&G’s first project in Hartford was completed in the early 1960s. Since then a diverse portfolio of projects has demonstrated O&G’s ability to work successfully across construction disciplines, from excavation, sitework and bridges to buildings large and small. In recent months, teams completed four projects that met client needs for four very different buildings.

**Hartford Rail Upgrade at Hartford Union Station**
The DOT’s Greater Hartford Transportation District had a pressing need. The access platform at the historic Hartford Union Station was not only deteriorating, it had always been low enough relative to the Amtrak trains servicing the station that patrons had to take a four-foot step getting into and out of the trains. Handicap access was also too limited. An O&G crew, under the direction of Project Manager Nelson Reis, spent one year – working around daily rail operations, over a busy roadway, and addressing unforeseen issues that increased the scope of the project – resolving those issues. After surveying the access staircases and the platform, steel drawings were completed and crews cut out rotting platform down to the supporting girders. A higher platform – four feet higher, almost 300 feet long and 10 feet wide – eliminated the climb on and off trains. New access staircases on either end of the platform and handicap ramps were also added, along with security upgrades, new lighting, signage and PA and passenger information display systems.

Brian Orcutt is a Transportation Engineer II with ConnDOT who oversees jobs on behalf of the state as chief inspector. He was pleased with the project, and especially how O&G responded to several unknowns that cropped up and the $200,000 in changes ConnDOT needed mid-stream. At the outset of the job, he explains, O&G had to self-perform field surveys of the entire steel structure, something that is not normally the responsibility of the
contractor. “Every time something came up, [Project Superintendent] Mike Edwards responded well. Every time he was quick. He didn’t sit back and wait for answers.” He appreciated Edwards’ willingness to take on submittals, a task usually done by administrative staff, using new software developed for rail corridor projects. Seeing Edwards’ take-charge attitude inspired Orcutt, he admits. “From my perspective, our lives in the DOT are dictated by the contractor. I see someone who is interested, dedicated and pushing and I want to do the same so he can accomplish what he wants to get done.” Despite the add-ons and unknowns encountered, O&G turned the project over one month ahead of schedule this April.

St. Francis Hospital’s Comprehensive Women’s Health Center A 2016 Women’s Choice Award recipient as one of America’s Best Breast Centers, the facility needed to enlarge to handle its growing caseload. This expansion project, self-performed by O&G, created new exam and procedure rooms, office areas and a nurses’ station. It was the first of five phased projects and would be critical as swing space for construction slated to follow. When unexpected site conditions were uncovered and threatened to significantly delay this fast-track project, O&G was quick to add manpower to maintain schedule. “What should have been straightforward pretty quickly became complicated,” says David Wolkowicz, Construction Administrator for project architect TRO, referring to the snarl of underground utilities that were either not where drawings showed them to be, or were collapsed, or missing altogether. “O&G went what I would say was above and beyond. They brought in ground-penetrating radar and located all the utilities.” And because O&G had the capabilities in-house, Project Manager Nelson Reis and Superintendent Mike Edwards quickly began work on saving thru the concrete without arranging with an outside subcontractor. By making up time on the back end the project finished within a week of schedule. “The client was very happy. We all loved working with Nelson and Mike,” says Wolkowicz. St. Francis’ Vice President of Facilities Design and Construction, Bob Falaguerra, appreciated the professionalism of the O&G team: “They kept the project on time and budget and followed our internal requirements for safety and infection control closely. The project was a significant success.”

Miss Porter’s School Admissions Center Tucked behind the classic buildings of Miss Porter’s School that line middle Main Street in Farmington, down the hill along the banks of the Farmington River, sits what Mike Bergin, the School’s Chief Financial Officer, calls “our flagship building.” It is the prestigious boarding school’s new, 6,500SF Admissions Center. Calling it “new,” though, is a misnomer: it is a repurposed post-and-beam grist mill built in the late 1600s. Bergin boasts that it is the nicest such center of any independent school in the Northeast. Rejuvenating the mill to handle the activities that go along with a busy admissions office without losing its period charm was the job of architect Drumme Rosane Anderson and the O&G team led by Superintendent George Givens. In eight months the building was thoroughly transformed with high-end mechanicals and finishes throughout. The site was also extensively redesigned. “George was fantastic to work with,” says Katie Bradley, Miss Porter’s Director of Campus Planning and Design. “We demanded very high quality and attention to detail and George delivered.” The admissions office, she points out, is the first point of contact many prospective Porter’s families have with the School, so first impressions are hugely important. “George would help us in our decision process and anticipate issues, so that we really felt he was our advocate.” Bergin agrees: “This job was important, with limited time and budget and we knew that O&G would deliver. As CFO I have to trust people. With George on site and Greg [Oneglia] a phone call away, I knew we had the right people. I knew that whatever they said would happen, would happen.” The building was turned over on schedule in June.

The Cathedral of Saint Joseph Were you not told it was an addition, you wouldn’t suspect it. That is precisely the beauty of the three-floor, 3,100SF addition to the Cathedral’s west side. Architect Pat Moore of Pepin Associates Architects made sure of the fit. Handsome and refined, it melds into the 1960s cathedral, the mother church of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Says Moore, “For a smaller project it was complicated, requiring O&G to work off foundations made by another contractor. O&G did very well manning and running the job and the workmanship is very nice.” Its improvements include covered drop-off for parishioners, elevator access to the Cathedral and ample restroom capacity. Father James Shanley, Vicar of Pastoral Planning, knows that his parishioners who will turn out by the thousands for large events this fall “are really going to love it.” Mark Flukinger has been the Cathedral’s Plant Manager for 20 years. He was the one, with the Diocese’s Project Manager, Ken Mucherino, who worked closely with O&G. He appreciated how everyone hustled to meet a soft opening deadline in June. “To finish the flooring, the last thing to do, they were never afraid to burn the midnight oil.” Flukinger had high praises for the team (calling it “a well-oiled machine”) and the results they achieved. “The entire team, Leo Nardi, Christina Rossi, Ron, Mike Edwards, Nelson Reis, all talked together, worked together and just got it done.” Flukinger commended O&G for selecting the right subs – the very best, he says – which had not been his experience with past projects. “The focus on safety, timeliness, the workmanship – it was all there.”
ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL COMPREHENSIVE WOMEN’S HEALTH CENTER

2,400SF expansion including exam and procedure rooms and a nurses’ station, with new mechanicals and finishes throughout.

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH

Three-story addition to better accommodate handicapped visitors and make access to the Cathedral easier and more welcoming.

THE HARTFORD UNION STATION

Reconstruction of passenger access and installation of updated signage, security and other features.

MISS PORTER’S Admissions Center

Conversion of an historic 1600s grist mill, maintaining its character and incorporating antique mill devices while updating all mechanicals, finishes and telecommunications and remaking the grounds.

ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL COMPREHENSIVE WOMEN’S HEALTH CENTER

2,400SF expansion including exam and procedure rooms and a nurses’ station, with new mechanicals and finishes throughout.

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In some 40 stand downs at every O&G facility, fixed location and project, between 2,000 and 2,500 employees and subcontractor employees were reached with special messages during Safety Week 2016, May 2 to 6. The focus was on engaging employees and subs through conversations and hands-on demonstrations, and having the department’s six safety managers speak on topics they are passionate about. Caswell Sewell, for instance, presented a video and talk about the necessity of speaking up when danger is seen, using an example involving a friend of his. Brian Ohler addressed what he called “mental fitness” – how our private lives can effect our safety mindset on the job.

At the I-95/91/34 Interchange Project in New Haven, heavy equipment was used to demonstrate blind spot awareness. Cones were positioned in equipment blind spots and every worker took a turn in the operator’s seat to see for themselves how obstructions block lines of sight. The intent was to re-educate workers who thought it was “the operator’s job” to see everything. The Safety Department also re-ran the demo for students in the Platt Builds Program at Platt High School.

“It’s a win anytime workers gather and hear about safety,” says Ferry, “if they are actively engaged at a stand down they are likely to be engaged on the job, where it counts.”
IT BEGAN AT ROCKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL. That’s where Project Manager Tyson Burk and Safety Manager Caswell Sewell came up with a way to give all workers on their site a tangible way to show their connection to job site safety during Safety Week. They pulled a jumbo Safety Week tee and had all workers on their job sign it. “When all the guys sign it they feel more a part of the safety effort,” Sewell says. It hangs now in the job trailer as a daily reminder to the team of their commitment to safety. Sewell carried the idea to the other half-dozen facilities and job sites he oversees. (L to R) Intern Tim Lopes, Project Engineer Danielle Morin, Project Manager Tyson Burk, Safety Manager Caswell Sewell and Superintendent Ed Bjorbekk.

Safety Week Poster Contest

Seeing safety as a family affair

When Corporate Communications Director Seth Duke and Corporate Safety Director Mike Ferry met last year to plan Safety Week 2016, high on their agenda was involving the families of employees around the topic of working safely. Says Ferry, “The idea we had was to get a safety conversation going around the kitchen table, so employees could talk with their families about the nature of their work, the risks involved and the importance of being safe.”

They decided on a poster contest where kids would depict what they’d learned. Four age groups were defined and prizes set for the winners in each group: a $500 cash award and a day off with pay for the O&G parent.

Ten-year-old Isabelle Dangonini wanted to take her family to Disney World with her prize, at least until she had actually won it. Athletic Mary Masarro, who entered high school this September and loves to draw, figured she had a strong chance of winning but said, “I’ll do my best and see what happens.” Brianna Duba, an Ethel Walker sophomore active in sports, worked on her entry over three days. She plans to spend her prize a little at a time.

(top to bottom) GRADES 3-5 Isabelle Dangonini, daughter of Mike Dangonini, Bogue Road Quarry, with his wife Stacie; GRADES 6-8: Mary Masarro, daughter of James Massaro, South Main Maintenance; GRADES 9-12, Brianna Duba, daughter of Tom Duba, Main Office, with wife Mary. Missing: GRADES K-2, Lillie Ambrose, daughter of Steve Ambrose, New Haven Joint Venture
Built in 1889, rebuilt after a fire in 1914 and now listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Hartford Union Station’s one remaining rail platform was in need of important improvements. Work recently completed by O&G has accomplished numerous repairs and upgrades: removal of harmful materials, upgrading security, and adding ornamental railings, lighting and travel communications. But most significantly, the rebuilt, 260-foot-long elevated platform has made the Amtrak trains servicing Hartford much friendlier and more accessible for the disabled. Gone are the four-foot climb and wheelchair ramps. Passengers now embark and disembark with ease at train-door level. Amtrak customers returning to the station are routinely expressing their appreciation of the upgrade. O&G completed the project for ConnDOT one month ahead of schedule despite contract additions and disadvantageous site conditions. The platform was officially opened in August.
When a client highly accomplished in the business world engages an award-winning architect with a strong neoclassical bent to design an elegant estate, a grand design process occurs. That was how an imposing residence in New Canaan began.

With the ambitious vision came high expectations placed on the craftsmen who would build it, and on the suppliers of fine materials like O&G’s Masonry Division. Ed Moavero, Architectural Sales out of Stamford, worked with Wadia Associates of New Canaan, the project architect. He had done so numerous times before and has since. Moavero oversaw the supply of exterior stucco, interior brick for a wine cellar, and large architectural door surrounds fabricated from Indiana limestone at the company’s Beacon Falls facility. But it was Elizabeta Miljovska, Architectural Sales and Showroom Consultant at the Danbury Earth Products Showcase, who walked architect, client and mason through the process of selecting numerous unusual materials and then overseeing their fabrication and timely delivery.

“The homeowners were very nice people,” says Miljovska. “We met here near the end to talk about all the final architectural features. All along we worked with Wadia who selected the materials. There was great teamwork between everyone.”

Jason Cipriano, principal of J. Cipriano and Sons, masons and pool builders of Woodbury, performed the masonry work, building dramatic walkways and steps, the long free-standing retaining walls faced with stone, and other stonework from decking and pool coping to veneers.

Cipriano depended upon his relationship with Miljovska and the Showcase team in Danbury that had developed over a decade working together on high-end residences in Southwest Connecticut. “They’re absolutely professional. They’ve feel almost like our extended family,” he says of the Showcase staff. More than once, says Cipriano, he’s called Danbury at closing time, needing one more palette of stone to finish a day’s work or set up for the next morning, and has always been accommodated by someone staying late to load his truck when it arrived.

“Any time I’ve needed anything they have always produced and I’ve never been delayed,” says Cipriano. “At the project in New Canaan we needed tractor trailer after tractor trailer of stone. They always arrived on time and never kept us waiting.”

“The client loved everything – the selection of stone, the production, the masonry, everything. Because of this job the mason and client have built an ongoing relationship,” Miljovska says, adding, “It was a very pleasant project and a good collaboration.”

This Wadia-designed estate in New Canaan incorporates unique masonry products supplied by O&G’s Earth Products Showcase. 

(top to bottom) Back garden; spa; polished granite patio; pool.
Your immediate word association with "safety director" would probably not be “psychologist,” but what makes people tick is one of the first things Mike Ferry brings up as he talks about what he does. For him, the importance of reading people is a close second to the web of procedures that make for safe work places. Without understanding motivations and behaviors, workplace safety cannot happen as effectively as it should.

Back in 2004, with a fresh degree in occupational health and safety from Keene State College, Ferry took his first job in safety with a metro Boston construction company. He joined O&G in 2015. Long gone is the safety net a boss provided (“Hey you've got to help me here!” he laughs). He has become the authority on safety issues. Ferry is responsible for six safety managers assigned to the company's construction jobs and production facilities. Just as he and his team are passionate about construction safety, Ferry understands that the workers his team watches over are equally as passionate about what they do. “Understanding their challenges on the job first and then applying safety makes for a better outcome,” he says. Ferry is practical. No one, he knows, likes to be told what to do by someone who is abrasive or by someone they feel doesn't have the construction know-how to speak with credibility (even though all O&G safety personnel are specialists with strong construction industry backgrounds). The thick hide Ferry has developed helps when he bumps up against tough people in stressful situations. He also tries to see “through” those situations. “The influences you don’t think about,” he reflects, “are the things going on for people outside of work — their personal life, the person they love who’s sick or the kid they’re having issues with. When you correct someone you have to be aware of the things that could impact their state of mind.” Great safety managers, he says, take everyone’s safety personally. “It’s for your well being” could be their motto. When he meets resistance as he tries to change someone's habits and beliefs, it irks him. “I’m not doing it for me, it’s for their own safety. It’s about them going home at the end of the day. Don’t get me wrong. Worker injuries and losses greatly impact the safety professionals involved but the worker and loved ones will have to live every day with the fallout.” Walking a building job recently, for instance, Ferry encounters two issues: someone tying off for fall protection in a manner that could snap the protective cable in the event of a fall; another, a man lift at maximum height with a worker straddling the lift's side rails to reach the work overhead. He knows both are matters of practicality for the workers, not malicious choices, but he also knows the risks need to be addressed. He suggests a workaround to one (trade for a different lift with higher reach) and explains the tie-off risk to the other who corrects his method. When Ferry visits a site, usually meeting the safety manager assigned there and the personnel running the job, they will resolve the easier safety issues and brainstorm approaches to the thornier matters that are less clear cut. They’ll discuss situations and Ferry will aim for a bottom-line assessment and a resolution that controls risk. Unfortunately, he acknowledges, “things happen” and some days he spends his time stomping out fires. But the focus of the Safety Department under Ferry is to shift away from responding to issues and toward integrating safety into the plans of a job and core operations of a facility. “We want to get ahead of things. We want everyone planning with us. You can project the work and interject the safety. It’s preplanning so things go seamlessly with the schedule and the process,” he says. He’d rather not have his department oriented to compliance inspections — the old reactive mentality — but to know where a job is heading, know the challenges safety poses to constructability, and know the risks associated with the work coming up. Visiting the Waterbury Bus Facility on a hot July morning, he, Safety Manager Brian Ohler and Project Superintendent Corey Morin talk about the crane that had just tipped over on the Tappan Zee Bridge. The boom had been caught by the wind, the crane fell and blocked the old bridge. No one was seriously hurt and it could have been much worse, they all agree. Then they talk about the cranes and picks of heavy iron girders coming up in Waterbury and talk about safety. Men, massive machinery and unexpected twists of fate — that’s the trio Ferry and his crew manage. For Ferry, directing safety company-wide is like plowing the sea in this regard; his plans for the day routinely get bumped off the rails when a call comes in reporting an incident or an OSHA visit or requesting help to resolve an urgent situation. It’s triage Ferry performs, prioritizing the needs that are constantly flowing his way — this on top of his own writing, reporting and speaking duties and maintaining a healthy personal life as a husband and father. Mike Ferry’s days are very busy indeed.
Moving mountains of materials with centimeter accuracy

Using GPS satellites, a receiver/transmitter unit and working receivers either held by hand or mounted to earth-moving machines, excavation-assist systems deployed at O&G job sites are bringing new heights of accuracy and productivity to the brawny task of moving earth. It all starts when a conventional electronic site plan is converted by an engineer or surveyor like O&G’s Jeff Jurzynski into a 3D model that the system can work with. All movements, positions and elevations are keyed to that model.

Dozer and excavator operators watch their machines move on video screens that show their location to the centimeter. With input from the operator, the digging and grading is precisely executed in angle, depth and distance.

With a receiver mounted on either end of a dozer blade, the Caterpillar Accugrade™ system knows the angle of the blade and where that blade is on the site plan to the centimeter. Mounted to the arm of a backhoe, it knows exactly where the bucket’s teeth are in elevation and location relative to the site plan, to the centimeter. It shows machine operators precisely where they are on the plan, how much deeper they need to dig or the grade angles at any given position in a cut. Instead of relying on a second worker in the field to measure depth and stake location as the excavation proceeds, the system calculates and displays it all for the operator.

The hand-held, stick-mounted SitePulse® gives a real-time display of location and elevation anywhere it is positioned.

These new systems cut the man hours involved in before and after measurements and can increase productivity by up to 40 percent, claims Caterpillar of its Accugrade™ system. GPS systems boost accuracy, reduce rework and provide printable documentation of work quality.

O&G’s New Milford quarry provides an ecologically important home to a vigorous population of bats who overwinter here. These large brown bats – named for their foot-wide wingspans – have been largely untouched by the deadly “white-nose syndrome” fungus that has been wiping out large swaths of them as they hibernate in the winter.

Bats have used a defunct tunnel in a rocky hillside inside the quarry for decades. According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, it may be the only such disease-free haven in the state. So as the company’s mining operations slowly work their way to the site (they won’t reach the tunnel for ten or more years), O&G took the initiative to create a replacement habitat well ahead of the need.

Says Director of Planning and Permits Ken Faroni. “We believe the sooner we build a new cave the sooner the bats will discover it.” O&G hired an engineering consultant to create a design suited to this species, taking into consideration humidity, temperature, air circulation and other factors. It took miners about four weeks to complete the tunnel and chamber, called a “hibernaculum.” They finished in late July.

The new habitat is a 40-foot-long tunnel in the limestone, six feet high and seven feet wide, that runs to an underground chamber 17 feet wide, 10 feet deep and 15 feet high.

Jenny Dickson is Supervising Biologist in DEEP’s Wildlife Division. She understands the importance of this project to protect the bats who overwinter there. “What O&G is doing is critically important to conservation of numerous bat species as they try to recover from the syndrome.”

Also, by avoiding the old tunnel for an extended period while creating this new hibernaculum, Dickson says O&G has been doing a lot to protect the quarry’s bat population. “It’s a tremendous help for us and our conservation efforts for species that are declining as fast as our bats are to have a partner like O&G step up and help,” she says. The new hibernaculum will exist in perpetuity – a fact that delights Dickson.

Miners from Cowin & Company of Birmingham, Alabama, in the early stages of drilling and blasting the new “bat cave”

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Green neighbors
Supporting Flanders Nature Center earns Green Circle Award

O&G’s collaborations with the Flanders Nature Center date back to the late 1980s when the company began with materials donations: gravel for trails and parking areas, concrete to build a sugar house and most recently sand for a replacement septic system at one of the property’s period farmhouses. Special events have included a fund raiser for kids wanting to ride heavy equipment through the Woodbury quarry, and popular geology tours led by SCSU Professor Tom Fleming at the Southbury quarry.

Says T.J. Oneglia, Vice President Materials Division and a member of the Center’s Board of Directors, “O&G is a land holder in Woodbury and they’re a land trust. We look at this the way neighbors would. Helping them is one way we can support the good work they’re doing for the community and the environment.”

The Green Circle Sustainability Award from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, presented in May, recognized the varied contributions O&G has made to the Center and toward keeping Connecticut “cleaner and greener.”

T.J. Oneglia (left) and Flanders Nature Center Executive Director Arthur Milnor

Families flock to second annual Touch a Truck

Spotty downpours and ominous skies couldn’t keep more than a thousand guests away from O&G’s second Touch a Truck event. Open to friends, family and community, they came from across Connecticut, many with a caravan of kids in tow, to participate in the lively event on Saturday morning, May 7.

Twenty-five O&G vehicles and another 12 guest vehicles – mixers, loaders, dump trucks, sweepers, ambulances and police cars – were available to explore at the South Main Maintenance Facility in Torrington. Steering wheels spun, lights flashed and air horns blasted at the command of tiny hands.

In addition to the equipment, the event featured youth activities like hay rides, face painting, frisbee toss and sand art. The Torrington Fire Department also brought its “smoke house” to help put an accent on safety.

More than 50 volunteers organized, manned and took down the event. Special credit goes to organizers Mike Ferry, Terry Creighton and Seth Duke. Thanks also to Jim Zambero and the South Main team of Bob Puzacke, Alan Tracy, Doug Owens, Jonathan Famiglietti, Rich Thibault, Mike Santopietro, Mike Castle and Dave Zambero. Behind the scenes they handled all the site and vehicle preparation that made the event a spectacular ending to O&G’s Safety Week activities.

O&G Safety Director Mike Ferry was pleased with the event that capped off Safety Week. “O&G has a strong commitment to safety, families and community. Touch a Truck is a perfect marriage of the three. Our intent is to reinforce the message that working safely is about being able to return home to your family.”

Plans for an expanded event next year are already being made.
Teaching and safety are intertwined for Safety Manager Tom Hunter, and not just on the job. Tom directed his life-long love of fishing and hunting, for instance, into instructing for ConnDEEP, introducing new hunters to safety and survival out in the woods since 2001. He also teaches firearm safety as an NRA-certified instructor. These are things he sees no reason to stop just because he is retired. For 19 years with O&G Tom worked in the safety arena, mainly responsible for O&G’s mining operations. He is proud of the rock-solid safety record there, quick to deflect credit off himself and back onto the crews. “If you think about the hundreds of thousands of hours they work and how few accidents there have been – it’s a tremendous milestone those people are accomplishing.” He likes best knowing he helped people, especially when he could show someone a better, safer way to do the work and exchange an old habit for a better one. “Safety is training and explaining,” he says. “They do the work the right way and they go home to their families at the end of the day.” He and his wife Carol have no immediate plans now that Tom’s off the clock. Mostly, they’re enjoying the simple freedom of getting up in the morning and deciding what it is they want to do.

Paul Patch has always been a steady man. He worked for 36 dependable, productive years at the Main Office, and he’s approaching the first months of his retirement with the same pleased, steady, forward-looking air. Paul was hired as a junior accountant in 1980, becoming an accountant after proving himself and, in 1985, was made Assistant Corporate Secretary where his horizons were broadened. As the company expanded Paul wore various hats: Safety Officer, EEO Officer, HR Manager. He has worked some in credit. Whatever his boss Ken Merz requested of Paul, he made sure to get it done. “O&G was a wonderful place to work. It was,” he says, correcting himself, “it is all about family. I was involved with benefits. I saw how the Oneglias took care of people and invested in their pensions and insurances. They care about their people.” Paul’s loving his time at home with his wife, Barbara, and the weekdays they get to spend watching their rambunctious granddaughter, 15-month-old Caroline. (Paul and Barbara have two kids, two grandkids and a third on the way.) Their big retirement trip – a cruise on the Western Mediterranean – is going to have to wait until they can arrange time away from Caroline because, after all, Paul says, “family always comes first.”

For 44 years Jared Smith has done what, for most, would be unpleasant business. He was hired by O&G in 2001, moving from another contractor, to collect bad debts for O&G. Nine years later Jared became credit manager and his duties expanded. He says matter-of-factly, “Every day you heard a different story. I grew to like it.” Most excuses were legitimate and O&G was always willing to work out terms with the indebted when, in Jared’s eyes, they were giving him “the straight scoop.” But as the years advanced, having trained his eventual replacement and lamenting the erosion of the days of handshake deals and one’s word being one’s bond, he was quite ready to retire. Now Jared works (it’s not a hobby, he insists in his low-key way) on his legacy Christmas tree farm, Smith Farm, in his home town of Guilford. His house sits on part of an 80-acre farm started by his dad in 1955 where the family once sold as many as 500 trees a season. He works it with his wife Betty, who goes by “B.J.,” whose help is limited: she is highly allergic to bees and poison ivy, two unavoidable things when you are a tree farmer. They have a son in Montana with three kids, and a daughter with twins and triplets in Fairfield.
O&G SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP
Aquarion Pump Station

This $520,000 project will see the construction of a new booster pump facility in Western Brookfield for adjacent areas serviced by the Aquarion Water Company. Work includes new piping, an access drive, a precast pump house, generator and booster pumps. Work was awarded in June and is scheduled for completion in December. O&G is self-performing the concrete work. The project designer is Environmental Partners of Quincy, MA.

O&G SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP
Manufacturing Tower

O&G as General Contractor is raising a new six-story tower section in existing light industrial space for a manufacturer of precision materials. The project began inside the existing building and will elevate four stories above. Work on the 2,400SF tower includes structural steel, metal siding, roofing and equipment rigging. The project is valued at $520,000. Work started in June and is scheduled for November completion. The project architect is id3A of Glastonbury, CT.

O&G SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP
St. Mary’s Cath Lab 2

Having successfully built the Cardiac Unit’s Cath Lab 1, O&G was called back to prepare Lab 2 for a major upgrade at St. Mary’s Hospital in Waterbury. Surrounded by normal unit operations, Lab 2 was built in the same footprint with upgraded mechanics to accommodate a state-of-the-art imaging system. This $160,000 project began in June and finished ahead of its nine-week schedule. The project architect is Moser Pilon Nelson; the engineer is van Zelm Engineers.

O&G SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP
St. Mary’s Sleep Lab

St. Mary’s Hospital has tapped O&G to perform the conversion of a 700SF office space into a new sleep laboratory for the study and evaluation of sleep disorders. Work will include demolition, drywall, upgraded mechanical/electrical/plumbing, millwork and other finishes. Moser Pilon Nelson is the project architect. Work is valued at $160,000 and will be finished this fall.

O&G SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP
UConn CUP Building

Returning to UConn’s Central Utility Plant in Storrs where it had successfully managed a turbine upgrade project, O&G is directing the installation of a new rooftop intake screen that will serve to protect the air intake from snow accumulation. As GC, O&G will supervise the installation of steel and fall protection equipment. Work is valued at $350,000 and was completed in August.

O&G SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP
St. Mary’s Church Entrance

O&G is General Contractor for this small but specialized project to repair brownstone steps at the “Mother Church” of New Britain. O&G will secure, straighten, repair and grout the large stones to revive and protect the beautiful, turn-of-the-century entrance. The steps were installed after a fire devastated the church in 1902. The work, valued at $100,000, began in July and will be completed in September.
O&G Industries’ Special Projects Group congratulates Miss Porter’s on carrying a vision to transform an historic mill into a modern admissions center, marrying past with present. It is a building befitting one of New England’s premier independent schools.

Thanks to Miss Porter’s Mike Bergin and Katie Bradley; Architects Drummeys Anderson and Richards Corporation, Quality Welding, Owleagle Flooring, Roberge Painting, Professional Plumbing & Heating, Vision Electric and O&G’s Earth Products Showcase.