

# Collaborations



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: CATHOLIC CARE MAIN STREET



2014 ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF KANSAS

AWARD OF HONOR: GRENE VISION GROUP



## HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM OPTIMIZING PATIENT EXPERIENCE FOR OPTOMETRY PRACTICE

Any time of the day, from his optometry practice two buildings away, Dr. Russell L. Doerksen can peer out the window at what will soon be his expanded Doerksen & Associates Family Practice Optometry. It's not unusual for him to pop in a couple times a day, checking progress and asking questions. "My office is literally 500 yards away from the construction site," he said.



*Dr. Russell L. Doerksen, O.D., and wife Kate are owners in Doerksen & Associates Family Practice Optometry, now expanding at 7570 West 21st Street North.*

After 21 years serving patients at Reflection Ridge Office Park, Dr. Doerksen is expanding his practice with an eye on convenience and patient experience. The project is a collaborative effort between him and his wife Kate, who also works for the American Red Cross. "She's in charge of the patient experience, and I'm in charge of the clinical side," he said. Together they're working with the Simpson team to create a contemporary spa-like feel for patients. The project was designed by Shelden Architecture.

Simpson Project Manager Chris Baalman said the high-end optometry center will feature a wooden reception counter with quartz top, and Dover shell limestone eyeglass display cases. Energy-efficient LED lighting produce an excellent light quality as well as cost savings for the owner.

Frequent visits reflect the owner's focus on quality. "Dr. Doerksen typically comes in a couple times a day, either during the lunch hour or after work," said Chris. "He's very professional, he wants it done right."

The office will double in size to allow for future growth, and is designed with an upbeat, contemporary style and an expanded frame selection in the optical center. "We will eventually add a second optometrist," said Doerksen, and some additional technology to keep patient care on the cutting edge.

In addition to the doctor's on-site presence, Simpson Superintendent Brad Cragun and Baalman attend meetings with the owners every other week, which keeps the project goal-oriented. "Chris and Brad are amazing. Chris has been very easy to work with and is very good at communication," Doerksen noted. The expansion is targeted for a spring opening.

# STUDENTS COME FIRST IN NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

Safety, security and student development are at the center of Northwest High School's phased renovation and addition now underway. Principal Gil Alvarez says that the project is a recommitment to the school's student-focused mission, its emphasis on career and technology education (CTE), and its dedication to preparing students for a future in business.



*Gil Alvarez*

“We want to upgrade our CTE and business courses, to create for students a pathway for the future,” said Alvarez. “Our goal is to provide state-of-the-art classrooms so they have a strong foundation for achieving the life they want.”

The 65,000 square-foot addition and 44,000 square-foot renovation includes transforming the existing business classrooms from one large open classroom to five dedicated classrooms, plus the addition of two more. The additions will include space for Northwest's yearbook and journalism programs. Students will also benefit from an upgrade of the athletic facility, including a new

state-of-the-art running track and a gymnasium accommodating 2,300. One of the school's three basketball courts will be renovated to create a wrestling room.

On par with its preparatory mission is the school's devotion to safety, with the gymnasium and band room dually designed to serve as storm shelters, said Simpson Senior Project Manager Josh Vogel. “Double-width masonry walls with brick on the outside and steel joists will create a durable and long-lasting structure,” said Vogel. Also, a new secure entrance will ensure that all guests check in at the office.

Northwest High has continued normal operations throughout the project, and Alvarez said the Simpson team and school officials come together for bi-weekly meetings at USD 259 offices. “Our goals are two-fold, the first is to make sure that the end results fit the needs of students, the second is to ensure that we're still functioning as a school and educating our kids as we progress,” he said. The project will complete in phases, beginning this summer and with final completion slated for summer 2016.

## JORGE SALAS

CARPENTER

If your project involves a staircase, crown molding or cabinets, chances are Jorge Salas will have a hand in it. Now going on 15 years at Simpson Construction Services, he began as a laborer in 2000 and worked his way up, eventually proving a talent with a jig and a miter saw. "I'm a detail person, I like to take my time and make sure I get something right," said Jorge.

Simpson Supervisor Rick Talbott describes him as a high producer and a motivated employee. "Jorge is a great worker, always on time and willing to go above and beyond. He can work well on his own, or he can rally the team and push them forward," said Talbott.

The qualities that make Jorge a great carpenter also make him a devoted family man.

When he's not on the job, he stays busy playing baseball with his 10-year-old son TJ, and spending time with his 3-month-old daughter Camila and wife Valine. The family spends time at the park or exploring Wichita's attractions. Twice a year the family travels to a different state for a special get-away, and in particular they enjoy amusement parks such as Kansas City's Worlds of Fun and Oklahoma City's Frontier City.

Jorge's commitment to learning is apparent in the work that he does for Simpson clients and his hopes for the future. "I would like to learn more and keep working my way up," said Jorge. "I have dreams to go higher."



Jorge Salas

# Chalklines

## A PARTIAL LIST OF CURRENT PROJECTS

Wichita Art Museum  
Confluence  
Construction Management  
<http://wichitaartgarden.simpsonconst.com/>

USD 375 Circle High School  
DLR Group & Gravity Works Architecture  
Construction Management  
<http://circleusd375.simpsonconst.com/>

Doerksen & Associates  
Family Practice Optometry  
Shelden Architecture  
Construction Management

Chinese Garden of Friendship  
at Botanica  
GLMV Architecture  
Construction Management  
<http://thechinesegarden.simpsonconst.com/>

Northwest High School  
Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture

Children's Dental Professionals  
Shelden Architecture  
Construction Management  
<http://jumpreachgrowsmile.simpsonconst.com/>

USD 379 Clay County  
SPT Architecture  
Construction Management

American AgCredit,  
Wichita Headquarters  
SPT Architecture  
Design Build

Emprise Bank Renovations  
Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture  
Construction Management

To see more projects, visit  
[www.simpsonconst.com](http://www.simpsonconst.com)

## SIMPSON CONSTRUCTION ANNIVERSARIES *Happy anniversary to our dedicated employees!*

26 years Fermin Gonzalez

12 years Luis Enriquez

7 years Christine M. Norris

18 years Jose Briceno

9 years Celestino Mendoza

5 years Lucas Lackey

13 years Josh Vogel

9 years Venancio Alba

1 year Daniel Herman

# THE CORNER OFFICE - BOB SIMPSON

## HATS OFF TO THE WEATHER WARRIORS

I am looking out my window on a snowy Friday afternoon. Every winter, not a week goes by without someone asking how the weather affects our work load. After 30 years I probably take it for granted, but I go on to explain that some of our projects are inside renovations, and others we take the necessary precautions to insure our work doesn't freeze and that progress continues.

While these are true statements, they minimize the efforts of those dedicated men and women who take on the physical nature of our industry. Not unlike farmers, utility linemen and municipal workers, these are people who take on added dimension to the challenges of their vocation. They are the folks who make office talent like me look good and continue the mission. So as I shut off my computer, I would like to give a shout out to those who give a little extra this time of year.



PRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
WICHITA KS  
PERMIT #431



**SIMPSON**  
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

P.O. BOX 771088 · WICHITA, KS 67277-1088  
www.simpsonconst.com · 316.942.3206

PROGRESS CONTINUES for USD 375 Circle Public Schools' Bond Issue launched in 2013. Visit <http://simpsonconst.com/project-blogs> for a pictorial on ongoing construction at Circle High School and archives of completed Oil Hill Elementary.