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Engineering firm Yerkes Associates celebrates 150th birthday



Yerkes Associates President and CEO Nick Cirilli shows Michele Truitt, East Goshen Supervisor, left, and State Sen. Carolyn Comitta a firm artifact, at Thursday's 150th anniversary event.. (SUBMITTED PHOTO/YERKES)

By **BILL RETTEW** | wrettew@dailylocal.com | Daily Local News
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EAST GOSHEN–Yerkes Associates, one of the nation's oldest civil engineering and surveying firms, celebrated its 150th anniversary during an event at its headquarters, Thursday, on East Boot Road.

Yerkes leaders joined local and state officials, community members and employees to mark the firm's century-and-a-half legacy. The engineering firm has worked on much of the infrastructure in the Philadelphia Region.



Yerkes Associates celebrates 150 years. Don Naimoli, Valley Forge Park Alliance, left, former Yerkes President Al Giannantonio, East Goshen Supervisor Michele Truitt,state Sen. Carolyn Comitta and Yerkes President Nick Cirilli. (SUBMITTED PHOTO/YERKES)

“Today is a momentous occasion for Yerkes Associates,” said Nick Cirilli, president and CEO. “This milestone reflects our unwavering commitment to quality, service and community.

“We put clients over self. While keeping up with technology, we meet the needs and client expectations.

“We don’t serve clients, we serve relationships.”



Yerkes Associates celebrates 150 years. (BILL RETTEW/MEDIANEWS GROUP)
Cirilli talked about new projects, and much of the infrastructure in Chester County, which is getting older.

“New challenges are presented with the change in our climate,” he said.

“Here we turn an idea into a reality, or a problem into a solution, Cirilli later said.



Some of the tools used by Yerkes Associates. (BILL RETTEW/MEDIANEWS GROUP) A company release reads: “Founded in 1874, Yerkes Associates, has been instrumental in the tri-county region’s development. From its early days of land surveying, including Valley Forge National Historical Park, to becoming a comprehensive engineering powerhouse, Yerkes has provided essential planning and design expertise for both public and private entities.

“For over a century, four generations of the Yerkes family guided the firm’s growth, expanding its services beyond surveying to encompass civil engineering, planning, landscape architecture and municipal services.”

State Sen. Carolyn Comitta presented a formal citation from the state Senate to Cirilli.



State Sen. Carolyn Comitta presents a formal citation from the State Senate to Yerkes Associates President and CEO Nick Cirilli. (SUBMITTED PHOTO/YERKES)

“It’s an honor to celebrate this milestone with Yerkes, a true pillar of our community,” Comitta said. “We’re incredibly fortunate to have such a visionary company right here in our backyard.

“Thanks so much for keeping communities safe—people safe.”

During the celebration, Yerkes Associates presented a donation to the Valley Forge Park Alliance for the renovations and expansion of the historic Maurice Stephens House, where General Washington trained the Continental Army.

“Yerkes Associates has been instrumental in shaping the landscape of our community and the surrounding region,” said East Goshen Board Chair Michele Truitt. “Their work over the past century and a half has had a lasting impact on our infrastructure and growth, and we’re so grateful for their expertise.”

“At different moments in time, Yerkes has served as East Goshen’s township and municipal engineer, prepared the township’s standards for construction of sanitary sewers, the zoning map that is still used today, prepared the survey plans for the current township building site and worked on countless other projects that positively impact our residents on a daily basis,” Truitt said.

Truitt also noted that Yerkes prepared the original design for “one of the most brilliant gems” in the township, East Goshen Park.

Former president Al Giannantonio started working with Yerkes 53 years ago.

“The variety of the work constantly changes and the leaders are professional in every sense of the word,” he said.

A display of historical equipment and original hand-drafted plans offered a glimpse into Yerkes’ storied past. The event concluded with new signage symbolizing a bright future, followed by a reception.

For more information about Yerkes Associates, visit https://yerkes-assoc.com/.

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