

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: JOHN VENA



What a difference a year makes.

When John Vena joined PS&S as Senior Director in April 2013, the firm was still several months from establishing a formal presence in Monmouth County through temporary quarters on Wyckoff Road in Wall Township. By October, PS&S had secured permanent office space along Route 34 in Wall, in recognition of the firm's growth in both staff and client base.

"We've grown faster than any of us expected," said Vena, an expert in water resource planning, management and construction. "It's really been an exciting year."



Like his colleagues in Wall, Vena has been committed to helping state, county and municipal officials recover from Superstorm Sandy. The demand for post-Sandy restorative work and planning expertise has kept PS&S busy, he noted, with the development of storm water pumping stations along Route 35 as part of reconstructive work along the Shore's barrier islands.

"It goes without saying that everybody wishes they could have anticipated the severity of the storm, and been prepared," he said. "We're here to do everything we can to make sure something like this doesn't happen again."

It was PS&S's reputation for exceptional performance that drew him to the firm last year after years with other Monmouth County-based firms, Vena said. "The fact that they had such a strong water resources group in place made it attractive," he said.

In addition to his work in Shore communities, Vena also oversees other key projects throughout New Jersey, including the North Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority, the Camden Municipal Utilities Authority and replacement of water mains across the Garden State Parkway in East Orange. He's also had extensive experience with the New York Department of Environmental Protection, working on large waste water treatment facilities.

Born in Jersey City, N.J., Vena moved with his family to the Flatbush section of Brooklyn when he was five. He attended the University of Vermont and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, having minored in water resources. Licensed in five states, including New Jersey and New York, Vena's career has spanned nearly four decades. Today, the father of two grown daughters lives in the Shore community of Bradley Beach. In addition to being an avid skier who enjoys trips to the Catskills, Vena said he is working on improving his golf game.

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