



THE SPECK
The Construction Specifications Institute

CSI KNOXVILLE CHAPTER MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH **TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS AND PRODUCTS FOR OUTDOOR SPACES**

Presented By: Brent Midyett, DFA Solutions
brent@dfasolutions.com

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CSI Knoxville September Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, September 13th, Time: 11:30 AM EST - 1:00 PM (EST)

Brent Midyett, DFA Solutions

In-Person Meeting Location:

Associated General Contractors (AGC)

Address:

[3306 Ragsdale Ave NW, Knoxville, TN 37909](#)

RSVP: **Boxed Lunch Provided**

RSVP: [Click here to RSVP for In-Person Meeting](#)

The Knoxville Chapter meets on the second Tuesday of every month. Guests are Welcome!

Virtual Meeting: **Zoom Link**

Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone

[Click here to Register in advance for this meeting](#)



THE SPECK Editor

Stacy Flick Colbaugh - Editor
scolbaugh@lewisgroup.net

THE SPECK is published monthly by the Knoxville Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute. Readers are encouraged to submit articles and images of the construction industry interest for our membership. All submittals should be sent via e-mail in a typical file format, such as .pdf, .docx, or .jpg. Please verify the accuracy of the information such as correct dates, spelling, and grammar. Deadlines are the 25th of each month.

CSI KNOXVILLE IS A MEMBER OF THE CSI GULF STATES REGION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 06** **CSI Board Meeting** - Tuesday, September 6th
 Meeting from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (EST)
MBI Companies Inc.
[299 N Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville, TN 37919](#)

- 13** **CSI Chapter Meeting** - Tuesday, September 13th
Time: 11:30 AM EST - 1:00 PM (EST)
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 Address:
[3306 Ragsdale Ave NW, Knoxville, TN 37909](#)

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Virtual Meeting: Zoom Link
 Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone
[Click here to Register in advance for this meeting](#)

- 22** **CSI Knoxville's Decompression Hour is every 4th Thursday – see you after 5:00 p.m. at Abridged Beer Company!**
[100 Lockett Rd, Knoxville, TN 37919](#)

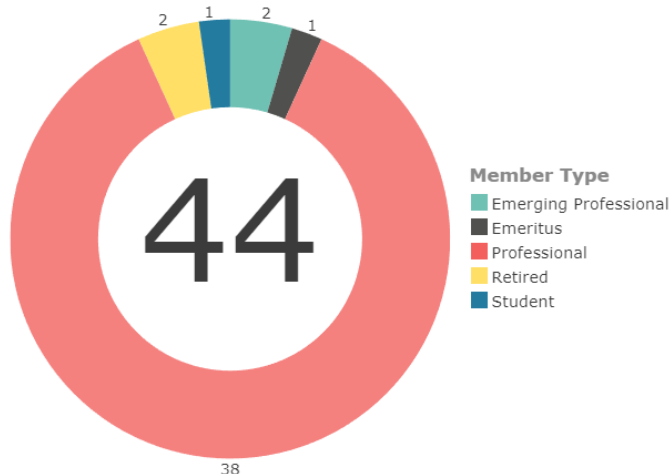


CSI HIGHLIGHTS

Summary from Tuesday, August 2nd Board Meeting

The board met via Zoom online conferencing to discuss the following CSI events:

- Planning for the October Golf Tournament at Egwani Farms is underway and we are seeking sponsors and volunteers!
- Who's going to Denver, CO? We are planning the trip to CSI National Conference in Denver, CO in October 12th - 14th, 2022!



Anniversaries

JOINED THIS MONTH

William Trimble	54 years ago
Patricia Corbitt	28 years ago
Josh Buchanan	3 years ago
Patrick Brown	2 years ago
Matthew Epple	11 months ago

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GREETINGS, CSI KNOXVILL-ANS!

Kathryn E. Fuller, AIA, NCARB, CSI CDT
 CSI Knoxville Chapter President
kathrynf@mbicompanies.com



You are all cordially invited to our next lunch n learn on Tuesday September 13th at Noon!

This month's program will feature Brent Midyett, co-owner of DFA Solutions, offering commercial products. His topic will be "Technology Systems and Products for Outdoor Spaces." See you at AGC of Tennessee on Ragsdale Ave. next Tuesday for this awesome presentation.

CSI Knoxville's Decompression Hour is every 4th Thursday – see you after 5:00 p.m. at Abridged Beer Company!

Congratulations to Gary Bergeron for attaining the status of Fellow – one of the highest honors granted by CSI! Congratulations to Stacy Colbaugh for earning the Communications Award – you did it again, with your creative flair and leadership skills!

Several members will attend CSI's National Conference in October 12th -14th. Conferences are not only a great place to network, it is also a one-stop-shop for expanding your mind - learn something from others within CSI's diverse mix of construction backgrounds and disciplines.

Our year is well-underway, and we are in the midst of another set of great programs and events brought to you by CSI Knoxville! Stay tuned for upcoming announcements, and come join us!

Kathryn E. Fuller, AIA, NCARB, CSI CDT

CSI Knoxville Chapter President

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Stacy Colbaugh wins Institute Communication Award

Mon, Sep 05 2022



The Knoxville Chapter's Publication Chair, Stacy Colbaugh, CSI, CDT, has won the Institute Communication Award. This award will be presented at the CSI Convention in Denver, CO this October. This award celebrates the combination of communications managed by Stacy including the chapter newsletter, The SPECK, and our constant contact communications to all the chapter membership.

This is not the first time that Stacy's work has been recognized. Stacy has won the Institute Communication Award in 2017, 2016 and 2012. Previous to this she was recognized at the Institute level in both 2008 and 2009 for The SPECK. The Gulf States Region also recognized Stacy's work with Continuing Publication Awards in 2008, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

The Knoxville Chapter recognized Stacy's contribution to the chapter over a long period of time in 2019 when she was presented with the Miller Euler Memorial Award for outstanding work as the chapter publisher, one of the highest awards of the Knoxville Chapter.

SEPTEMBER 2022 PRESENTATION

TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS AND PRODUCTS FOR OUTDOOR SPACES

Presented By: Brent Midyett, DFA Solutions

brent@dfasolutions.com



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Today's homes have technology everywhere – inside and out! This market has grown beyond simple audio and video options. This course will provide design and build partners with a familiarity with outdoor technology options and how the environment (weather, location, and terrain) influences outdoor technology choices. Additionally, participants will discuss the infrastructure, and equipment needs and options to ensure a successful project! Real world examples will be provided throughout the course to ensure attendees understand how these principles are relevant to any project that includes an outdoor component.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Know how to list technology options for outdoor spaces
2. Understand outdoor project site evaluations
3. Identify how environmental conditions influence outdoor technologies
4. Review infrastructure and equipment needs/options
5. Examine control options and real-world applications

Brent Midyett, co-owner of DFA Solutions, our commercial focused brand, and @home audio-video-technology, our residential retail brand. Our company was founded in Knoxville in 1985, and my brother, Mark started working here in 1995. He and I bought it in 2006. My position has been focused on professional outreach and education from the beginning because so many of our products are geared to the design community. I am also the Operations and Warehouse Manager.



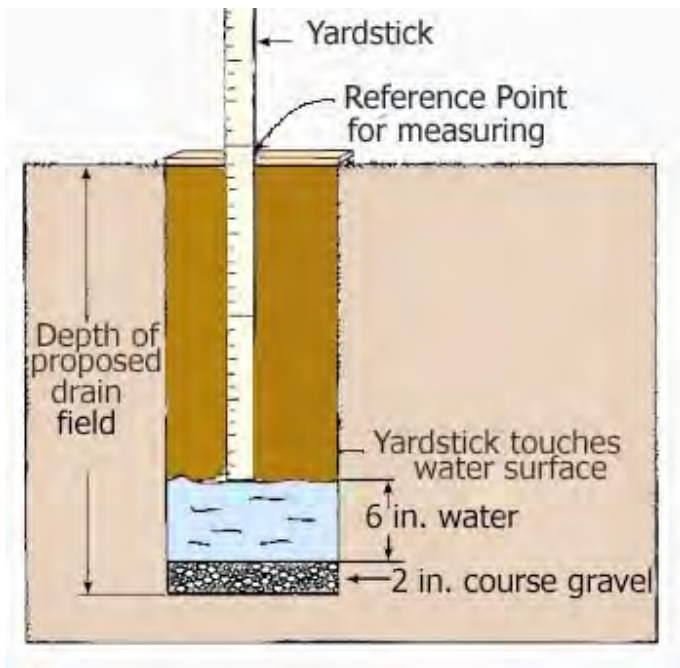
WHAT I LEARNED FROM CSI...

SMELL YA LATER: WHY YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

A CSI friend recently called about an overflowing septic system that was backing up into his shower floor drain. If a septic system encounters a problem, this is often the first sign of septic system trouble.

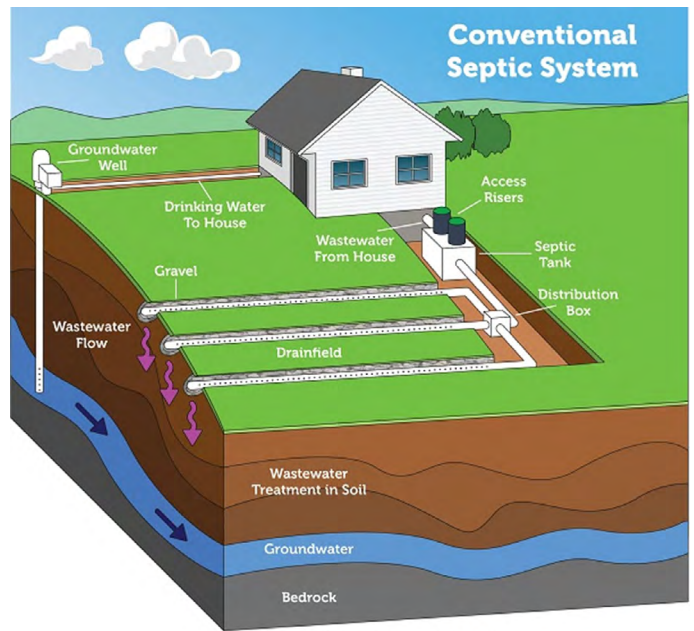


We all are familiar with the plumbing fixtures in our house and office, but how many of us think about the waste that is flushed or goes down the sink after it leaves our home or office. If you live outside of the city limits, many structures that are beyond the city sewer are equipped with a septic tank and a drainfield. The septic system is considered a temporary sewer disposal system until the city sewer system is extended to the building structure. A septic system is approved and sized by the local health department soil scientist who performs a percolation test in the proposed area for the drainfield. A percolation test (perc test) consists of the following procedure: A typical perc test consists of two or more holes dug about 30 to 40 feet apart in the proposed drain field area (see illustration). The holes are typically 6 to 12 inches in diameter and 2 to 3 feet deep, the typical depth



“perc” test

<https://buildingadvisor.com/buying-land/septic-systems/soil-and-perc-testing/>



Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.

Diagram of a Conventional Septic System
<https://www.epa.gov/septic/types-septic-systems>

of the absorption trenches in a leach field. Next, you or the technician should place 2 inches of clean gravel in the bottom of the hole. A standard septic system will only work if the soil is sufficiently permeable to water, as determined by a “perc” test. If the test fails, you may need a more expensive alternative system—or the site may be unbuildable.

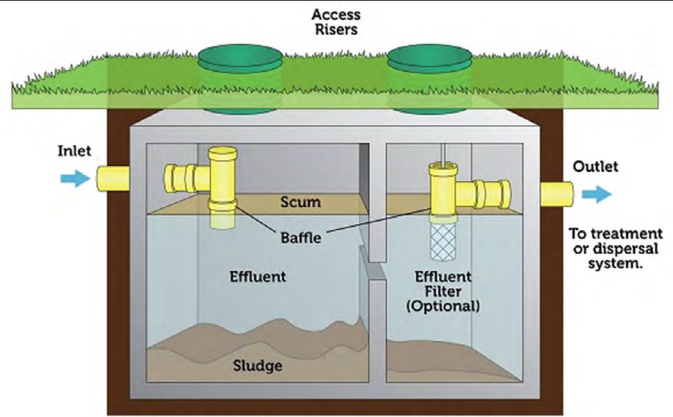
<https://buildingadvisor.com/buying-land/septic-systems/soil-and-perc-testing/>

There are three main components of a septic system which consist of the septic tank, a distribution box, and the drainfield itself. The septic tank is the “first stop” where the bacteria breaks down the solids into a fluid by anaerobic bacteria. The septic tank does not always have an access riser as shown in the diagrams and is often evident just by a cleanout in the sanitary piping as the drain line leaves the structure. Some septic tanks are equipped with a concrete cover with a rebar “handle”. The concrete cover edge is beveled and usually requires the use of a backhoe to remove the cover. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does NOT recommend additives for a septic system because they cause more problems than they solve. Rid-X contains a much stronger form of enzymes than the natural bacteria found in a healthy septic system and solids are broken down further than they normally would be. You might think a more effective breakdown of these solids would be a good thing, that it would allow you more time between septic cleanings. However, these particles are so small they don’t settle to the bottom of your septic

tank and instead make their way through the outlet baffle and into your drain field. Soon thereafter, the drain field will become clogged and need to be replaced. An old tried and true solution of flushing a gallon of buttermilk or pouring packets of yeast into the toilet then flushing are a sure cure. These products contain the same bacteria which make your septic tank work and can help enhance and restore colonies which are missing or have been compromised for some reason..

Once the microbes have turned the solids into liquid, it flows into the distribution box which conveys the liquid effluent into several drainfield sections. This might be TMI, but the septic system industry has several proponents which advocate deletion of the parallel distribution box and prefer a sequential system or a serial serpentine distribution system over a parallel system as shown in the overall diagram.

If you want to learn more about construction techniques, specifications, and other systems, please come to the next local CSI meeting or regional CSI conference.



Please note: The number of compartments in a septic tank vary by state and region.

Septic tank cross section

<https://www.epa.gov/septic/types-septic-systems#septictank>

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Distribution Box

<https://westcoastsanitationinc.com/what-is-a-septic-distribution-box/>

Below: Clogged Septic Tank in Samer's Backyard!





October 21, 2022

19th Annual CSI Golf Tournament

It's time to come out and play golf and network with friends. Win cash prizes, eat, drink, and let's have fun!

At CSI Knoxville Chapter, we are committed to promoting education in construction related fields. Proceeds from this event benefit the University of Tennessee, College of Architecture and Design, the CSI Scholarship and other local construction and design educational programs.

Date: October 21, 2022
 Time: 1:00 PM Tee Time
 Lunch: Served at 11:30 AM
 Egwani Farms Golf Course
 3920 S Singleton Station Rd
 Rockford, TN 37853

<u>Contact</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Wes Crow, CSI	Individual \$120.00
wcrow@johnsongalyon.com	4 person team \$450.00
Phone: (865) 770-0727	

Please make check or money order payable to CSI: Mail payment & entry form back to: CSI Golf Tournament c/o Wes Crow Johnson & Galyon Construction 1130 Atlantic Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917
 Credit Card payment accepted or you can register and pay on line
<https://csiknoxville.org/>

ENTRY FORM: (Entry Deadline: 10/17/2022)

Team/Company Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____
 Team Captains: _____ #Teams: _____ x \$450 = _____

 Players: _____ # Players: _____ x \$120 = _____

TOTAL = _____

EVENT SPONSOR FORM: (Entry Deadline: 10/17/2022)

Cart Sponsor: \$400.00 **Long Drive Sponsor:** \$200.00
Sign at the registration table and on drink cart *Sign at the tee box*
 Tee/Hole Sponsor: \$150.00 **Closest to the Hole Sponsor:** \$200.00
Sign at a tee box *Sign at a tee box*

Company Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

[KNOXVILLE] BY DESIGN



[Knoxville] by Design is quickly approaching and the Art Salon will kick things off with a First Friday showcasing the vast range of original works of art created by architects and related professionals in East Tennessee.

This year is especially exciting, as the work will be displayed at the Emporium Center between the dates of October 7th-31st, with a First Friday celebration in conjunction with the Emporium Center taking place October 7th from 5:00-9:00PM.

Please fill out the FORM below by no later than SEPTEMBER 9th if you are interested in displaying work.

[Submit Your Art](#)

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CSI KNOXVILLE CHAPTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSOR

NEW MEMBER NEWS

MICHAEL HOULE

I would like to introduce you to Michael Houle. He accompanied Michelle Mokry to the CSI chapter meeting in August and has just become a member of the Knoxville chapter. He joined TAC (The Architecture Collaborative) in June of 2022 as a Business Development Manager. His duties include all written communication, ranging from proposal contracts, RFQs/ RFPs, social media posts and specification writing. Additionally, Michael explained, “I am also training to manage TAC’s various Housing Authority projects.”



Michael earned both a Bachelor and Masters’ degree in English Literature at UTK. After graduation he spent a few years at UT as a lecturer for the English department and then had a tenure as a legal assistant at a law firm before finding his way to TAC. Now he brings these skills to the design and construction industry. He joined CSI to learn more about specification writing. Michael is a perfect candidate for the CDT program!

Michael came to Knoxville when in grade school from West Palm Beach, where he has lived ever since. He shares a flat with his favorite feline friend, Venus.

TAC is a small boutique firm that is growing quickly on Baum Dr. in West Knoxville. When asked what he admires about the firm, Michael replied, “Dan Britton is the principal architect who holds to the Golden Rule – treating others as you would want to be treated. Dan applies this principle to every aspect of the firm, from forming connections with our clients to cultivating a diverse, creative work atmosphere. We believe TAC’s fun atmosphere helps our team flourish creatively, leading to innovative designs.” Currently the firm has a staff of 8 members.

Michael shared that the opportunities to network also drew him to CSI. “Specification writing is a skill that takes years of practice to master. I joined CSI as a fledgling spec writer to learn the ropes and begin to hone my abilities” he explained. “I want to be in a community that lifts each other up and cultivates success. I also need all the advice and expertise I can get as I learn this new set of skills.”

“I’m a perfectionist in all things. If I don’t know something, I get tunnel vision until I’ve figured it out.” Michael is open to mentoring from each of CSI’s specification writers to help him polish his skills and become an effective asset to the design and construction industry here in Knoxville.





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2022**

**PROJECTS AND PRACTICE
IN A CHANGING INDUSTRY**

**OCTOBER 13-14
DENVER, CO**

CSINationalConference.org



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