

# GMB QUARTERLY UPDATE

MUNICIPAL ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING



SEAFORD DELAWARE CITY HALL

GMB President Jim Thomas presents a photo of City Hall to Seaford Mayor Dan Short at Grand Opening ceremony.



- Project Completion: August, 2004
- Total Project Cost: \$1.9 million
- Total Construction Cost: \$1.2 million
- Building Size: 7,900 square feet

Staggered, vaulted ceiling in the lobby makes the space open and inviting.



Landscaping complements the downtown streetscape and provides additional greenspace.



Drive through was creatively positioned on the site for traffic flow and for customer convenience.

**GMB specializes in architectural and engineering design services from wastewater treatment to marine engineering, residential custom homes to commercial office buildings and land development to municipal services. As a prospective client, we hope this quarterly update will serve as a reminder that GMB is available for any of your architectural and engineering projects.**

## ■ SITUATION

Seaford's former City Hall, located on King Street and built in 1960, was extremely outdated and inadequate in providing functions the City currently requires. Lack of office and storage space, as well as mechanical and electrical issues were a few of the main concerns. The City of Seaford teamed with GMB to design and construct a new municipal office building on the corner of High and Market Streets. The purpose of the new building was to provide the City with a larger, more efficient facility to house Council Chambers and various administrative offices.

## ■ SOLUTION

In order to accommodate site and budget constraints, GMB worked closely with City employees to finalize the design of the building. A building committee was formed and produced a conceptual layout for the new

building. GMB was able to modify this design to effectively position the building on the site and to enhance the architectural appeal. This team effort allowed GMB to take the committee's ideas and make them work.

Modifications were made to the proposed facade, in order to integrate architectural elements from the downtown area into the design. For instance, the arches on each window were added specifically to match other buildings on High Street.

A full basement was constructed for more storage, and a raised flower bed was added to the landscape to offer outdoor seating. Inside, the lobby area was designed with an innovative vaulted ceiling, intricate molding and accessibility from the front and back entrances.

GMB was challenged by various issues: expanding the size of the building, orienting the building at a 45 degree angle, creating a visual impact to those entering the City, accommodating the drive-through traffic flow, matching the downtown streetscape and working within the City's budget.

Through teamwork, the City of Seaford, the building committee and GMB worked from conception to construction to make the new City Hall a reality.

**GMB**  
GEORGE, MILES & BUHR, LLC