

## Thoughts From the President



Bill Wallace

It's hard to believe I'm already writing the fall column — it feels like just yesterday I was wrapping up spring.

This November marks the 10th anniversary of our transition to the Epicor BisTrack operating system after

more than 25 years on the same platform. As with any change to a process as critical and customer-facing as a company-wide operating system, the road wasn't without challenges. The shift was particularly difficult for those who had used the old Enterprise system for years, while new team members seemed to adapt more quickly. That first year was tough, but looking back now, it was well worth it as this system offers so much more.

In August, we also celebrated the 35th anniversary of acquiring McKinley Lumber in Mishawaka from Erhart Strohm, who originally built the store in 1955. Today, the location continues to serve our customers with our full range of products, while specializing in shingles and drywall as it did back then. It's also home to our fleet of boom trucks serving the greater St. Joe County area.

We are nearing completion of our transition from Do it Best to Orgill Hardware. While we valued our long-standing membership with DIB, we believe Orgill better meets our current and future needs. The change hasn't been easy as most items across all stores had to be removed and replaced. But the transition gave us the chance to fine-tune our product mix, ensuring we stock exactly what our customers need and expect from Big C Lumber.

## Orgill Transition

Each of our locations are having a product makeover completed by our new hardlines supplier, Orgill. Their team has been hard at work sorting through the preexisting product on our shelves, bringing in new inventory, and updating product displays. Most of our locations have already been converted over, but the ones remaining will be finished by the end of this year.



Orgill employee placing product on Mishawaka's shelves

## Summer Customer Events

Six of our locations held events for our valued customers between August and September.

In August, our Delton and Schoolcraft locations welcomed the public to speak with our product vendors to learn about the newest products in home improvement. There was also lunch provided and door prizes. Our Shipshewana, Coloma, Laporte, and Granger locations held events in September, with the largest event being Granger.

These events are an exciting opportunity for Big C employees to be able to speak directly with a large group of our customers and show their appreciation for them continuing to do business with us. The vendors in attendance included Palmer Donavin, Owens Corning, Andersen, Woolf Distribution, Milwaukee, and many more. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend these events and can't wait to see you all in 2026.



Attendees enjoying lunch in Granger



People speaking with Diablo representative in Laporte



Vendor booths in Schoolcraft



We'd like to welcome the following new associates to the Big C Lumber team:

**COLOMA** - Danai Peterson (Hardware Cashier), **EAU CLAIRE** - Leigha Vinson (Cabinet Sales), **DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS** - Robert Bacon Jr. (Production), Nate Davis (Yard Load Builder), Trever Hampton (Builder/Stacker), Alexander Perault (Production)

We're glad to have you with us!

**ROSELAND**

Our Roseland store recently updated its showroom flooring. It was formally white tile, but now the display area has modern woodgrain vinyl laminate from HappyFeet. This is the second major change to the interior of the store this year, with the first being an updated kitchen and bathroom showroom. The new flooring helps brighten the showroom and create an inviting experience when browsing our product displays.



New flooring in Roseland showroom

**THREE OAKS**

The remodel of our Three Oaks location is coming along smoothly. Earlier this year we showed the demolition of a storage barn, attached on the backside of the original store. Now, there is a new building constructed which will house our display showroom as well as offices. We plan to have the project finished sometime in 2026.



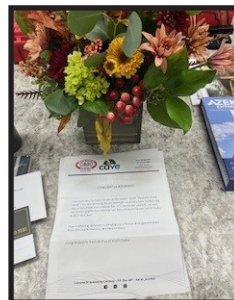
New showroom building in Three Oaks



Entrance of Three Oaks location

**ADRIAN**

A local radio station in Lenawee County, WLEN 103.9, awarded our Adrian location with "Business of the Week" on September 17th. Congratulations Adrian!



Award from WLEN

**EAU CLAIRE**

Our Eau Claire location donated lumber to the woodworking class at Eau Claire Middle/High School. The class, led by Hanns Heil, used

the lumber to build picnic tables. The tables are for a fundraiser to help support the future endeavors of the class.



Hanns Heil helping student build picnic tables

**GRANGER**



Jeff Mast with his daughters, Riley and Piper

Jeff Mast and his family took a trip to the Medieval era at the Michiana Renaissance Festival located at the St. Joseph Fair Grounds on August 23rd. There were

dozens of merchants, games, and performance stages reenacting Medieval battles. The Mast family had a wonderful time enjoying the festivities.

**FORT WAYNE**

John Roy and his sons, Bryce and Brock, took their boat out on a fishing trip in Boulder Junction, Wisconsin. They had a successful day Musky fishing, including two that were nearly four feet long.



John, Bryce, and Brock Roy holding a Musky fish

## Birthdays

Best wishes to the following people who will celebrate birthdays in October and November.

### ROSELAND

Ashley Smittendorf October 16

### ELKHART

Brett Griggs November 3  
Anne Feirick November 10

### THREE OAKS

Glen Togtman October 26  
Jeff Keller November 4  
Chris Nemitz November 12

### COLOMA

Brenden Strong October 26  
Jordan Burrell November 5

### EAU CLAIRE

Rodney Evans October 24  
Austin Dohm November 11

### GRANGER

Tommy Foster October 19  
Scott Dudeck October 20

### CROMWELL

Jennifer Baker October 11  
Tim Sheets November 13  
Frank Parker IV November 28

### MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

Jeff Bultinck November 15

### SHIPSHEWANA

Hunter Dolson October 3  
Jade Bashore October 29  
Steve Christian November 30

### SCHOOLCRAFT

Cameron Genther October 2  
Steve Waldron November 13

### FORT WAYNE

Darrin Radke October 1  
Mike Spratt October 31

### DELTON

Dakota Dunn October 3  
James Reed October 21  
Alison Hawk October 28

### KENDALLVILLE

John Wagner October 4  
Sam Shultz October 14

### EDGERTON

Quintin Miller October 20  
Charles Albertson Jr. November 27

### DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

Chris Conn October 4  
Carl Yeager October 7  
Isaiah Cosey October 8  
Wendall Whitaker October 9  
Jeannette Bergman October 14  
Isaiah Jones October 15

## Birthdays

### DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

Aaron Morgan October 25  
John Morales November 1  
DJ Killarney November 4  
Dallas Austin November 5  
Mike Dorman November 6  
Joe Rafacz November 13  
Hunter Underwood November 13  
Bryan Younger November 14  
Delmur Phillips November 17  
Alexander Perault November 17  
Mark Martin November 19

### GRANGER CORPORATE

Chris Cook October 2  
Cathy Dudeck October 4  
Jeff Mast October 10  
Lon Wenger October 17  
Cliff Williamson October 22  
Ben Chambers November 27

### FORT WAYNE MILL

Danielle Sperry October 14  
Nate Bradtmueller November 8

## Anniversaries

Congratulations to all who will be marking their anniversaries with Big C Lumber in October and November. Those with at least five years of service are recognized.

### ROSELAND

October 26 Scott Bunkelman 10 Years

### ELKHART

October 1 Eric Freedline 18 Years

### THREE OAKS

November 7 Tim Shott 31 Years

### GRANGER

November 13 Kerry Snyder 8 Years

November 18 Bridget Patzer 6 Years

### MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

October 6 Kory Shedd 11 Years

### SCHOOLCRAFT

November 17 Dave Kronewetter 22 Years

### DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

October 8 Bryan Younger 18 Years

October 13 Lucas Sanders 11 Years

October 26 Jared Jewell 10 Years

October 31 Ben Townsend 14 Years

November 11 Chris Conn 6 Years

November 11 Jeannette Bergman 6 Years

November 11 Yasmin Escamiroso Nanco 6 Years

November 27 Tim Craig 8 Years

### GRANGER CORPORATE

October 15 Rob Sherman 18 Years

November 25 Peyton Nierzwicki 6 Years

**Four Winds Field Baseball Outing**

It was a fun night in South Bend at the Four Winds Field on July 18th. Over 350 Big C employees and their family members gathered to enjoy an exciting baseball game between the South Bend Cubs and the Beloit Sky Carp. The game ended with fireworks lighting the night sky. We look forward to our employees and their families attending next year.



Jeff Mast and his family enjoying the game

**Caught in the Act**

In this issue, we would like to feature James Taylor's submission for Danny Moser. "I would like to recognize Danny Moser. He is new to the Big C Family and has a lot of potential to go places. I noticed last week that our Ops Manager was on vacation and Danny ran the yard. And he did a great job. Good Teamwork, Relationships, Caring, and left a good Impression overall with what I observed. Danny has definitely been a good addition to the team. Great job Danny!"



**Career Development Day**



Group inspecting a jobsite

On August 6th, our Career Development group took a trip to a job site in Northbridge Valley located in Osceola. The group was led by other Big C Lumber team members as well as our President Bill Wallace. Bill educated the group on

the different parts of the building process so they can gain appreciation for the hard work it takes to construct a home. We appreciate Kline Custom Homes for allowing us to visit one of their jobsites.

**Camping Trip**

Employees from several of our locations joined in Michigan at Van Buren State Park with their families on August 15th. We have held this tradition for over ten years to bring employees with their families together that might not see each other day to day, all while sitting by the campfire. Campers got to enjoy tie dying, a glow stick party, and an afternoon relaxing on the beach in South Haven.

**HBA of Southwestern Michigan Golf Outing**

Employees of Big C Lumber attended the Home Builder's Association of Southwestern Michigan golf outing at Lake Michigan Hills on August 13th. Big C was a co-sponsor for the event in partnership with Owens Corning. We look forward to attending next year's outing!



Members of the HBASWM at Lake Michigan Hills



Bill Wallace standing with sponsor board



Campers enjoying the beach weather



Campers tie dying Big C shirts

A rainbow next to the Granger location sign

**INDIANA**  
 CROMWELL · ELKHART · FORT WAYNE · GRANGER  
 LAPORTE · MISHAWAKA · ROSELAND ·  
 SHIPSHEWANA · KENDALLVILLE

**MICHIGAN**  
 ADRIAN · COLOMA · EAU CLAIRE  
 SCHOOLCRAFT · THREE OAKS · DELTON

**OHIO**  
 EDGERTON

**MANUFACTURING**  
 CUSTOM MILLWORK & CABINET FACILITY  
 WINDOW & DOOR FACILITY  
 STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS FACILITY

NEXT ISSUE IS SCHEDULED FOR

**November 28th,  
2025**

The Big Scene is a bi-monthly publication.  
 Submit stories to [news@bigclumber.com](mailto:news@bigclumber.com) or contact  
 Alec Evans at the corporate office.

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