

Hometown Service...Hometown Pride!

Thoughts From the President



Bill Wallace

I can't believe I am saying this, but we are approaching the mid-way point of 2024! Thus far our sales are trending close 2023, which overall isn't bad considering last year was a decent year. I'm proud to report we were listed as #44 on the LBM top 100 Building Material Suppliers for 2023, up one spot from the previous year. Not bad considering there are thousands of LBM dealers in the US. Sales predictions in our industry for 2024 are all over the board, but no one is predicting a blowout year, either way. They do say that the end of the year could possibly see some relief in interest rates, which may start a rally in new home construction. The real problem is how to build an affordable home and that will be a challenge for years to come. Recently the National Home Builders Association offered up a 10-point plan to help reduce the cost of a new home ranging everywhere from tax rebates to the elimination of excessive regulations and inefficient codes that drive up costs. We will see how many get passed but am afraid we won't know those results till after the upcoming election.

To put our money where our mouth is, we continue to put more emphasis on safety in 2024. First, we changed the Safety Bonus to a quarterly cash reward vs a year end product selection. This total cash reward will likely exceed \$150,000 for 2024 and will be paid to all operations personnel and management that can do their job without incident during each quarter.

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21st Annual William & Gladys Foley Scholarship Award Recipients Announced

Since 2004, William & Gladys Foley Scholarship Award has benefitted the children of full-time Big C Lumber employees in the memory of late owners William and Gladys Foley. When we first started this scholarship, it was for two applicants each awarded \$2,000. This year, we are proud to have awarded seven deserving applicants with \$4,000 each! New to the group in 2024 are Jenna Trimberger and Parker Lee.

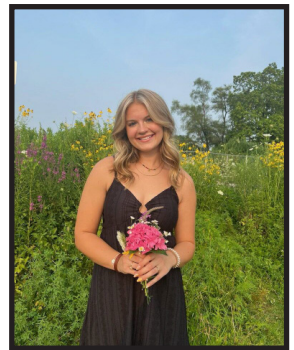
Jenna Trimberger, daughter of Dan Trimberger (Granger) and his wife Joellen, just finished her sophomore year at Ball State University and is currently majoring in Nursing.

Parker Lee, son of Jeff Carroll (Roseland) and his wife Tracy, just finished his freshman year at Indiana University Bloomington and is currently majoring in Public Financial Management with a minor in Financial Literacy. Some of his extra curriculums include Club Golf at IU and intramural football.

Past recipients eligible for renewal include: Brendan Kerr, son of Mike Kerr (Granger) and his wife Lori, Zeb Bodtke, son of Bruce (Slim) Bodtke (Eau Claire) and Teresa Cheatham, Joey Springer, son of Rob Springer (Cromwell) and his wife Trina, Catherine Wright, daughter of Mike Wright (Schoolcraft) and his wife Sheli, and Evan Yoder, son of Brent Yoder (Cromwell) and his wife Lorie.

Congratulations to all of these recipients!

“and so I came toward the end of high school. As I have said previously, I was determined to make a life for myself - and the time for making that was approaching. An education seemed far and away the best way to make this wish happen - but money was a problem”- (William Foley autobiography)



Jenna Trimberger



Parker Lee

Three Oaks Expanding

Big changes are coming to our Three Oaks location! Being a busy location means that space can be tight at times, so it was more than necessary to expand. Earlier this year we acquired a lot next to this location to construct a storage barn, and now it has been erected. The improvements don't stop there though; the retail side will also be updated with a new showroom to better showcase our various displays. This is our oldest location with it being brought into the Big C family in 1923.



Aerial of new storage barn located on Linden St.



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

COLOMA: Rolando Mancera - CDL Driver, Hannah Falor - Cabinet Sales
FORT WAYNE: Brian Antonides - Inside Sales
EDGERTON: Patrick Pilmore - CDL Driver, Kaleb Tingle - Inside Sales
DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS: Marquez Lyons - Production

We are glad to have you with us!
ELKHART



Will Mounts & Brian Voorde helping build a truss

The Builder's Association of Elkhart County held its Truss to Tray event on March 26th to local students of Jimtown Middle School. This event helped demonstrate the process of truss building, unloading shingles from a Moffit truck, and building table trays. Thank you to Brian Voorde (General Manager) & Will Mounts (Driver) from our Elkhart location to take the time to participate in this event!

DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

Roberto Overton (Robbie) came to work for Big C in June of 2018 after graduating from high school. In March of 2021, Robbie chose to pursue his lifelong dream of serving in the Marine Corps. After suffering a knee injury

and being honorably discharged, he returned back home and went back to building trusses. Now, Robbie has chosen to dedicate some time doing humanitarian aid work in the war affected cities of Ukraine. Robbie says the experiences and relationships he has developed while working at Big C have been amazing. He is looking forward to returning to work after completing the new adventure he is embarking on. We wish Robbie the best in the work he will be doing, and pray for a safe return home with great stories!



Roberto Overton

Justin and Ashley Vandenburg's daughter, Melissa, will be going to Biloxi, Mississippi to compete at Nationals for competitive cheer! The team she is a part of is Niles Elite, and Big C Lumber even helped sponsor a golf outing that this team had in May. We wish Melissa good luck!



Melissa Vandenburg

FORT WAYNE

Ron Childers (Inside Sales) has announced his retirement. He joined the Big C family 8 years ago, but he has had over 25 years in the building materials industry. He is looking forward to spending more time with his grandkids and visiting more racetracks. We appreciate your

commitment during your time here at Big C Lumber!

GRANGER CORPORATE

Devin Bilton, grandson of Jayne Moyer (Assistant AR Manager), recently was



Ron Childers



Devin Bilton

awarded Student of the Year by the Berrien County Career & Technical Education program in the HVAC program. He will graduate Berrien Springs High School this month, and has been working part-time with a local HVAC company. He will continue to do so after he graduates. Great job Devin!



Alec Evans

Alec Evans (Director of Marketing) and his wife Melanie ran in the Indy Mini half marathon on May 4th. Over 15,000 participants were on the streets of downtown Indianapolis, and racers had the opportunity to run around the Indy 500 track.

Birthdays

Best wishes to the following people who will celebrate birthdays in June & July!

ROSELAND

Justin Chapman July 5
Jennifer DeMeyer July 16

ELKHART

Nash Shupert July 5

THREE OAKS

Courtney Kaptur June 28
Scott Habel July 9

COLOMA

Tony Vales June 5
David Tavalacci June 30

MISHAWAKA

Sean Wood July 2

ADRIAN

Aaron Stewart June 2
Manuel Valdez June 25
Rufus Tovar July 4

EAU CLAIRE

Michael Aflague June 7
Eric Martin June 15
Mark Demski July 8
Emily Feirick July 26

GRANGER

Christian Hurley July 3
Bridget Patzer July 4
Dan Trimberger July 9
Mike Kerr July 30

LAPORTE

Justin Brown July 11

MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

Joe Leichtman June 7
McCade Reese June 10
Kurt Gibson June 28
Kory Shedd June 30
Javon Lenoir July 21
Neil Ackerson July 25

SHIPSHEWANA

Matt Bontrager June 24

SCHOOLCRAFT

Tom Klutts July 7

FORT WAYNE

Mark Bradtmueller June 26

KENDALLVILLE

Ken Helf June 10
Noah Shepherd June 10
Jace Wade June 28
Jason Wehri July 15

EDGERTON

Al Wonderly June 4
Mitch Gonzales June 4
Scott Brink June 13

DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

Jared Jewell June 20
Logan Luthringer June 28
Steven Bakeman June 29
Brittany Almaguer July 6
Braqsten Whitaker July 10
Andres Brito July 12
NeCe Bradshaw July 24

Birthdays

GRANGER CORPORATE

Peyton Nierzwicki June 10
Nathan Bilancio June 11
Nick Brady June 18
Jayne Moyer June 19
Bill Kuminecz July 28

FORT WAYNE MILL

Andy Bullinger July 1
Tim Lange July 6

Anniversaries

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

ROSELAND

June 2 Doug Kapica 10 Years
June 17 Don Wantuch 28 Years
July 25 Jeff Carroll 23 Years

THREE OAKS

June 17 Jordan Wojdula 9 Years
June 19 Courtney Kaptur 7 Years

COLOMA

July 2 Dakota Huff 6 Years
July 10 Jordan Burrell 11 Years

MISHAWAKA

June 15 Mike Senesac Jr. 26 Years
June 25 Andy Williams 28 Years

EAU CLAIRE

June 23 David Rodriguez 24 Years
July 19 Eric Martin 7 Years

GRANGER

June 17 Christian Hurley 5 Years
July 22 Ryan Beck 11 Years
July 27 Lisa Laskowski 8 Years

LAPORTE

July 9 Nick Hamill 12 Years

MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

June 29 Neil Ackerson 9 Years
July 1 TJ Findley 18 Years
July 30 Dave Long 25 Years

SHIPSHEWANA

July 15 Mike Hostetler 19 Years

SCHOOLCRAFT

June 17 Doug Hunt 18 Years

FORT WAYNE

July 10 John Roy 7 Years

DELTON

June 23 Kelly Parker 21 Years

KENDALLVILLE

July 3 Chad Ihrle 18 Years

EDGERTON

July 10 Shane Smith 7 Years

DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

June 15 Emily Whitaker 9 Years
July 9 Devon Killarney 17 Years
July 24 Shawnee Roy 7 Years
July 29 Dallas Austin 28 Years

GRANGER CORPORATE

June 9 Ben Chambers 27 Years

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Thoughts from the President (cont.)

While this is a large investment, if the result improves our safety record and more of our Big C family members go home at night in the same shape they came in that morning, it will be well worth it. We also appointed our very first Safety Director, Randy Huff, to oversee all our safety programs and protocol. While our goal is for 100% of those eligible to earn their bonus each quarter, our first quarter results were less than stellar at 88%. This number is not what we expected and while it is just the first quarter, we certainly hope that we far exceed this number for the remaining three quarters of 2024.

Here are the next two in our celebration of the 20th anniversary of our Value Statement:

#5 – Respect: We will show respect towards fellow employees, suppliers and especially our customers.

#6 – Fun: We will endeavor to enjoy the job we do and have some fun every day.

Anniversaries

GRANGER CORPORATE

June 12	Jeff Mast	31 Years
June 14	Kevin Zygmunt	29 Years
June 18	Scott Foley	33 Years
July 1	Nick Brady	33 Years
July 14	Brandon Magor	10 Years
July 27	Brandy Cox	9 Years

On the March 2024 printed issue of "The Big Scene", there were employee anniversaries accidentally omitted. Here are the names listed below:

DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

April 3	Mike Dorman	18 Years
April 19	John Morales II	11 Years
April 20	Justin Vandenburg	9 Years

GRANGER CORPORATE

April 16	Holly Oshinski	9 Years
April 18	Randy Huff	8 Years
April 23	Mike Jurgensen	17 Years
April 29	Chris Cook	9 Years
May 7	Matt Magor	42 Years
May 9	Laurie Mills	36 Years
May 9	Jenny Szucs	6 Years
May 20	Bill Wallace	22 Years
May 21	Blake Upham	6 Years

FORT WAYNE MILL

May 19	Chris Huffman	21 Years
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Spring Inspections Underway

It's every location's favorite time of year: spring inspections. Each year, our executive team takes the time to go out to each store and check on its cleanliness and safety to ensure the best experience for employees and our customers when they come to visit us.

At face value, upkeep for a location may seem simple. However, the scale of property that each location has to maintain can be intricate at times. This is why we all follow the 6S principles to keep everything orderly (Sort, Straighten, Shine, Standardize, Sustain, and Safety). We appreciate each location keeping their stores safe and clean for all.



Executive Team inspecting the Granger yard

Elkhart Career Quest

The Elkhart Career Quest offers an exciting two-day experience for local 7th graders from Elkhart community schools. It's an excellent opportunity for them to explore various business sectors such as construction, manufacturing, and healthcare. Shawnee Roy (Dowagiac Structural Building Components), Brian Voorde (Elkhart), and Square1 Builders led the students in constructing a real-life playhouse during the event. The playhouse will be raffled off during the Parade of Homes event hosted by Builder's Association of Elkhart County. Approximately 3,000 students participated in this event.



Shawnee Roy helps a student with the playhouse



Brian Voorde demonstrating to students



Behind the scenes of new commercial shoot at our Roseland location.

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

July 31st,
2024

The Big Scene is a bi-monthly publication.
Contact Alec Evans at the corporate
office with comments or news stories.

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