

Thoughts From the President



Bill Wallace

As we move into the heart of summer, there's a lot happening across Big C Lumber.

We've just wrapped up our annual Spring Inspections, during which members of the executive team visit each location to ensure stores

are clean, organized, and safely prepared for the busy summer selling season. I have to say—our stores have never looked better as a group.

These visits also give us the chance to connect with many of our team members and gather valuable feedback on ways to improve Big C Lumber. I'm proud to share that over the past 20 years, numerous improvements we've implemented have come directly from employee suggestions during these inspections.

In the coming weeks, the executive team will make unannounced return visits to a few locations to see which stores have maintained their high standards. One will be selected as our Inspection Store of the Year, and that team—along with their spouses—will be treated to a nice dinner at the restaurant of their choice. With so many deserving locations, the decision gets harder every year. I'll announce the winning location in the next edition.

In mid-May, we also had the pleasure of celebrating our 2024 Employees of the Year with a special dinner high above Notre Dame Stadium, in view of the iconic Golden Dome and Touchdown Jesus. Whether you're a fan or not, it's a truly incredible setting. Each year, I share highlights of each winner's career and read aloud the kind words from their nomination surveys. It's always a memorable and meaningful evening.

Congratulations again to all of this year's well-deserving honorees—you'll find their photos in this issue!
Until next time -

Tenth Anniversary of Adrian Acquisition

We're proud to celebrate the tenth anniversary of our Adrian, Michigan location joining the Big C Lumber family. Formerly known as Stevenson Lumber Co., this location holds a rich legacy as the second-oldest business in Adrian, having served Lenawee County for 142 years. While the yard officially opened in 1873, its roots go back even further.

In 1862, Richard Augustus Bury moved to Adrian to open a lumberyard and planing mill located on the corner of Church and Center St. Eventually, Bury relocated the operation to what is now our current site and brought on D.M. Baker as a business partner.

Next door, where our yard now meets the train tracks, Charles and Isaac Comstock—sons of Adrian's founder, Addison Comstock—opened a planing mill in 1869. According to Charles, their mill was the first in Adrian to generate an electrical current. Bury was appointed lumber agent in 1872 for the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad and sold his share of the lumber business to Baker. After the Comstock brothers closed their mill, Baker merged the two properties and renamed the business D.M. Baker Lumber & Coal.

Meanwhile, across the street in 1873, Archimedes Stevenson opened Stevenson Lumber Company. He operated the business until his death in 1908, at which point it passed to his sons. Baker's yard was sold in the 1920s and became Rogers Lumber & Coal, which was later acquired by Stevenson Lumber in the early 1960s. The original structures were replaced in 1966, and that building remains our current showroom.



Storefront of Adrian, MI location

Today, the Stevenson legacy continues through the nine dedicated employees who stayed with the location after Big C acquired it. Cal Deline started with Stevenson in 1973, working as a delivery driver. 11 years later, the Stevenson family wanted to sell the business, and the eight employees at the time pooled their money together to purchase it. Cal became part owner of the store and moved to inside sales when the deal was finalized. Aaron Stewart, now the Adrian General Manager, started in 2002 as seasonal yard help after his cousin encouraged him to apply. Beginning with paperwork filing and janitorial work, he quickly moved into counter sales, then outside sales, and ultimately became manager in 2019 after 17 years of dedicated service.

We're grateful to have Adrian as part of the Big C Lumber family and proud to carry on the strong tradition and service established by Stevenson Lumber.



Stevenson Lumber sign located in Lenawee Historical Museum



We'd like to welcome the following new associates to the Big C Lumber team: **ROSELAND** - Danny Moser (Yard and Warehouse), Jayden Semak (Yard and Warehouse), **ELKHART** - Cameron Freedline (Yard and Warehouse), **ADRIAN** - Jaret Kilpatrick (Inside Sales), **EAU CLAIRE** - Robert Dente (CDL Driver), **MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR** - Brian Bultinck (Yard and Warehouse), Johnathon Wietfeldt (Non CDL Driver), **SCHOOLCRAFT** - Dave Matelski (Outside Sales), **EDGERTON** - Cory Hull (Outside Sales), Matt Straley (Cabinet Sales), **DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS** - David Nichols (Production), **FORT WAYNE MILL** - Heath Blue (Production)

We're glad to have you with us!

ELKHART



Kids with their assembled dinner trays

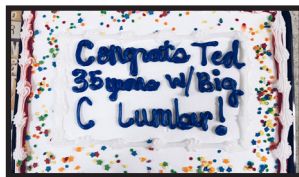
The Builder's Association of Elkhart County, in partnership with the Boys

& Girls Club of Elkhart County, held the Truss to Tray event at Northridge High School on April 24th. Students learned the process of truss construction and assembled dinner trays with the help of members from the association, including Elkhart General Manager, Brian Voorde.

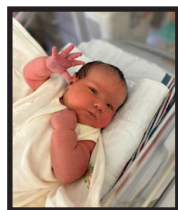
THREE OAKS

If you've been to our Three Oaks location, chances are you've met their manager, Ted Zebell. He recently celebrated his 35th anniversary with Big C Lumber.

+To give you a better idea of Ted's dedication to Big C, he is the only employee that has received four Employee of the Year awards in separate categories: Operations Manager, Outside Sales, Manager, and Marshall Holycross. As Bill Wallace puts it, "His hard work and dedication to his customers is second to none." Congratulations Ted!



Ted's 35th anniversary cake



Stella Penelope

Jordan and Stephanie Wojdula celebrated the birth of their daughter, Stella Penelope. She joins her older brothers John and Luke.

ADRIAN

Aaron and Kari Stewart announced the birth of their daughter, Remi. She weighed in at 7lbs 5oz, and everyone in the Stewart family is doing great.



Remi Stewart

CROMWELL

Rob Springer's son, Joey, graduated from Grace College on May 10th. He earned his Bachelors in Science for Finance and also obtained his MBA. He played baseball for Grace during his four years there.



Joey standing with Trina & Rob Springer

LAPORTE

Debbie Smith celebrated her 25th anniversary with Big C Lumber on March 21st. Between keeping the

aisles of Laporte in top shape, to helping customers behind the counter purchase their goods, it's hard to describe all the hard work Debbie contributes each day. Laporte manager Nick Hamill says, "I truly enjoy working with her every day, and managing this store would be much more challenging without her. I hope she stays with us for many more years!"



Bill Wallace & Debbie Smith

DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS



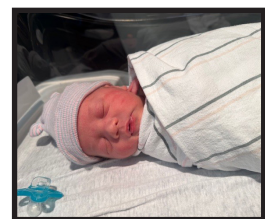
Group inspecting a basement during their tour

A few of the designers at our Structural Building Components Facility in Dowagiac had

the opportunity to inspect four job sites and see real world applications of the building components they design. The group was led by Dallas Austin and Matt Kurzhal, who took the time to point out key areas of the construction process to help the group in their future designs.

GRANGER CORPORATE

Congratulations to Peyton & Gage Nierzwicki for the birth of their son, Tate. He was born on May 17th, weighing in at 8lbs 1oz. He joins her big sister Blakely.



Tate Nierzwicki

Birthdays

Best wishes to the following people who will celebrate birthdays in June and July.

ROSELAND

Justin Chapman	July 5
Jennifer DeMeyer	July 16

ELKHART

Nash Shupert	July 5
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THREE OAKS

Courtney Kaptur	June 28
Scott Habel	July 9

COLOMA

Tony Vales	June 5
David Tivolacci	June 30
Phil Brunder	July 22

MISHAWAKA

Sean Wood	July 2
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ADRIAN

Aaron Stewart	June 2
Christian Bailey	June 12
Manuel Valdez	June 25
DJ Boehmer	June 26
Rufus Tovar	July 4

EAU CLAIRE

Michael Aflague	June 7
Mark Demski	July 8
Emily Feirick	July 26
Robert Dente	July 28

GRANGER

Nick Kaiser	June 14
Christian Hurley	July 3
Bridget Patzer	July 4
Dan Trimberger	July 9
Mike Kerr	July 30

MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

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

SHIPSHEWANA

Matt Bontrager	June 24
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SCHOOLCRAFT

Ron King	June 21
Tom Klutts	July 7

FORT WAYNE

Stephen Jones	June 14
Mark Bradtmueller	June 26

KENDALLVILLE

Ken Helf	June 10
Noah Shepherd	June 10
Jace Wade	June 28
Jason Wehri	July 15
Jerry Merriam Sr.	July 28

EDGERTON

Al Wonderly	June 4
Mitch Gonzales	June 4

Birthdays

DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

David Nichols	June 2
Nathan Bilancio	June 11
Jared Jewell	June 20
Logan Luthringer	June 28
Steven Bakeman	June 29
Lacie Klosinski	July 2
Braqsten Whitaker	July 10
Carlos Belmares	July 17
NeCe Bradshaw	July 24

GRANGER CORPORATE

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

FORT WAYNE MILL

Andy Bullinger	July 1
Tim Lange	July 6
Lila Thomas	July 31

Anniversaries

Congratulations to all who will be marking their anniversaries with Big C Lumber in June and July

Those with at least five years of service are recognized.

ROSELAND

June 2	Doug Kapica	11 Years
June 17	Don Wantuch	29 Years

THREE OAKS

June 17	Jordan Wojdula	10 Years
June 19	Courtney Kaptur	8 Years

COLOMA

June 8	Phil Brunder	16 Years
June 23	David Rodriguez	25 Years
July 2	Dakota Huff	7 Years
July 10	Jordan Burrell	12 Years

MISHAWAKA

June 15	Mike Senesac Jr.	27 Years
June 25	Andy Williams	29 Years

GRANGER

June 17	Christian Hurley	6 Years
July 22	Ryan Beck	12 Years
July 27	Lisa Laskowski	9 Years

LAPORTE

June 8	Noah Novitzke	5 Years
July 9	Nick Hamill	13 Years

MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

June 29	Neil Ackerson	10 Years
July 1	TJ Findley	23 Years
July 30	Dave Long	26 Years

SHIPSHEWANA

July 15	Mike Hostetler	20 Years
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SCHOOLCRAFT

June 17	Doug Hunt	23 Years
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FORT WAYNE

June 3	Todd Bills	5 Years
July 10	John Roy	8 Years

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Anniversaries

DELTON

June 23 Kelly Parker 22 Years

KENDALLVILLE

July 3 Chad Ihrle 19 Years

EDGERTON

July 10 Shane Smith 8 Years

DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

June 15 Emily Whitaker 10 Years

July 9 Devon Killarney 18 Years

July 14 Brandon Magor 11 Years

July 29 Dallas Austin 29 Years

GRANGER CORPORATE

June 8 Alec Evans 5 Years

June 9 Ben Chambers 28 Years

June 12 Jeff Mast 32 Years

June 14 Kevin Zygmunt 30 Years

June 18 Scott Foley 34 Years

July 1 Nick Brady 34 Years

July 27 Brandy Cox 10 Years

Employee of the Year Dinner

The recipients of the 2024 Employee of the Year award joined at Notre Dame stadium for a congratulatory dinner on May 10th. After dinner, Bill Wallace gave a presentation highlighting their accomplishments and handed each recipient their plaque. Congratulations to all of the winners, and we look forward to seeing who will receive the award for 2025.



Pictured (left to right): Matt Kurzhal, Alan Skryzpiec, Jennifer Baker, Jade Bashore, Jason Hamrick, Frank Parker, Eric Freedline, Neil Ackerson and Dave Noffsinger.
Not pictured: Christy Cuila & Todd Bills

Matt Kurzhal Promoted to Field Technician at Truss Plant

We're proud to announce the promotion of Matt Kurzhal to Field Technician for the Truss Plant. His practical experience, clear communication and relentless focus on solutions helps bridge the gap between the jobsite and the truss plant.

One salesperson put it best: "He is one very important piece that the truss plant has needed since I have been here." Matt's ability to quickly troubleshoot and adapt in the field has helped reclaim business and accelerate timelines on complex builds. Matt's promotion into this newly created role reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting our team and removing roadblocks to success. At Big C Lumber, working together toward our goal of being the best in the market is a top priority—and Matt is a great example of that dedication in action.



Career Development Day at Granger

The members of Career Development spent a day at our Granger location to learn more about the different departments that help run Big C Lumber. Managers took the time to give presentations on what their daily tasks are, and the team toured the yard to learn about its processes, such as unloading a train car. Afterwards, the team split into two groups to work on internal projects that aim to improve the efficiency of Big C operations. Garrett Baumann, mentor of the group, says "It was important for the group to see the interworkings of Big C and show how dependant everyone is on one another."



Career Development group listening to Bridget Patzer's presentation



Mark Young filming decking commercial

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

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2025

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Submit stories to news@bigclumber.com or contact
Alec Evans at the corporate office.

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