

# FCDC NEWS

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## FCDC Member Feature



I am excited to feature another of our outstanding industries here in Franklin County.

All construction projects, including our homes, streets, business facilities, and more, contain aggregates. Locally, there is a good chance that material came from Martin Marietta, a national building materials provider that operates in our very own city of Ottawa. The company headquarters is in Raleigh, North Carolina, but they have more than 400 locations across the United States, Canada and the Bahamas. The company's Ottawa Quarry is part of its Kansas City District, which includes a total of five locations – three in Missouri and two in Kansas. Formerly known as Fogle Quarry, Ottawa Quarry was renamed after it was purchased by Martin Marietta in 1995.



I recently had the honor and privilege of visiting Ottawa Quarry and was hosted by Plant Manager J.R. Downs. My visit was highly informative, and I came away even more proud to call this company a member of the Franklin County Development Council (FCDC). Martin Marietta provides an invaluable product, but most importantly, makes doing so safely its number one priority. When its operations are active, environmental responsibility is a major focus. Once a site's material has been exhausted, the company reclaims

the land, leaving it in a pristine and natural condition. They are great stewards of our people and our resources. I did suggest a plant visit to the Bahamas operation this coming February, but I don't think it will happen.

J.R. has been with the company for 42 years. He started as a truck driver and worked his way up to lead the Ottawa team. While touring the facility, one quickly learns how much this company has meant to our local economic growth, and how important safe mining practices are to every member of their talented team.

Locally, Martin Marietta provides product to Killough Construction and Builders Choice Concrete, among others. From there, the material finds its way into our local roads, developments, and other construction projects. Martin Marietta also serves the communities in and around Great Bend, McPherson and Lawrence.



I mentioned that J.R. and Martin Marietta take the safety and health of their employees seriously. While moving hundreds of tons of rock may appear dangerous to those of us who work outside of the industry, working at Martin Marietta is actually safer than working in many of our most popular retail stores. This is due, in no small part, to the company's Guardian Angel safety culture, which encourages every team member to look out for the safety of his or her colleagues as well as their own. When a new employee comes on board with Martin Marietta, they are required to write down, in their own words, how they will work safely. This is not a pre-drafted form with a signature line at the bottom. It is a document they create and then sign themselves. This sets the tone for safety right from day one.

This culture of safety has been effective. When you walk through the office, you see numerous, and I mean numerous, safety awards. The last time someone was injured and missed work at Ottawa Quarry was in 2002. The last injury was in 2009, when someone cut their finger. Imagine that many tons of rock being moved around with so few injuries. Martin Marietta's Ottawa team truly has an incredible safety record.

As J.R. drove me around the operation, I was also impressed with the reclamation that had taken place. Included on the quarry's property are fields that are now used for grazing as if the land had never been disturbed. Because of Martin Marietta's reclamation work, the land truly is returned to its original state, and one would never know they had provided the community with tons of rock from that space. We can certainly be proud of the efforts made to maintain our great local environment. Martin Marietta is a leader in an environmentally conscious industry and a great partner in our community.

So, next time you see a new house, building, road, or just a pile of rock that will one day be used for some other structure that will benefit our society, please remember that there are great people working hard to safely make a product we all need on a daily basis. FCDC is proud to call Martin Marietta's Ottawa Quarry a member of our organization. You can learn more at: [www.martinmarietta.com](http://www.martinmarietta.com).

***It is a GREAT day to live in Franklin County!***

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