

FCDC NEWS

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FCDC Member Feature



I am especially pleased to present this month's member feature. We get to honor and learn more about one of our longest serving members and a long serving member of our community. Loyd Builders has been a staple in our community and in FCDC for decades. I have had the honor and privilege to know each generation of owners.

Loyd Builders was started in 1959 by Allen Loyd, who was a community leader here in Ottawa. In 1988, two employees of Loyd Builders - Sonny Burch and Jerry Thompson - purchased the company. Under their leadership the company continued



to grow and continued to be a great community partner. Like Allen, Sonny and Jerry were heavily involved in the community and had a significant impact on the city's growth through their business but also through their time, talents, and financial gifts.

That level of community impact has continued under the current owner, Josh Walker. Josh grew up working for Loyd Builders where his dad, Sam Walker, has been a longtime superintendent. After graduating from Pittsburg State University and working for the largest construction firm in the Kansas City metro, Josh became a minority owner of Loyd Builders in 2007 and took over full ownership in 2011.

Loyd Builders initially worked in the housing sector, but in 1971 completed its first commercial project, which shifted the focus of the company to commercial and industrial projects. Ironically, that first commercial project was the Safeway grocery store on Main Street, which Loyd Builders later renovated into the Gollier Center and is currently renovating for AdventHealth to expand its patient care services.

Today, Loyd Builders has 20 employees and generates over \$30 million in annual revenue. This growth has been good for the business, but also very good for Ottawa. The Loyd Builders name and reputation now reaches far beyond our community with Josh and his team managing major construction projects throughout the state of Kansas and western Missouri.



Here at home, some of the Loyd-built projects you may recognize include the Gangwish Library & Gibson Student Center at Ottawa University, AventHealth's Emergency Department, Sunflower Elementary School, the renovation of Ottawa High School, PrimeTime Grille & Fusion Alley, Legacy Square, Kalmar, Bob Allen Ford, the Corner Market building at 401 Main and The Historic Post Office. You can hardly go anywhere in Ottawa and not benefit from a remodel or build that was done by Loyd Builders.

They are currently working with Victory Dodge and Oak Star Bank on their new facilities in Ottawa. One of Loyd Builders' newest local projects is intended to address the shortage of workforce housing as major employers in our community look to attract and retain new employees. Josh is preparing to renovate a hotel on the south side of town into modern apartments, adding around 40 new apartment homes to our community.

Just as Allen, Sonny, and Jerry before him, Josh has been an active leader in our community while at the same time successfully growing Loyd Builders into a well-respected construction management firm that specializes in quality education, healthcare, industrial, retail and justice facilities. He has served on various boards including FCDC, United Way, OHS CTEC Advisory Council, and the Construction Board of Appeals as well supporting various community events and initiatives.



If you want to learn more about Loyd Builders, you can visit their website, www.loydbuildsbetter.com. Or you can meet me (or Josh) for a cup of coffee, sandwich, or more at Corner Market! (another of his contributions to our community!)

It is a GREAT day to live in Franklin County!

Paul Bear

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