

**Thoughts From the President**



Bill Wallace

We have another announcement to share, and once again it involves retirement, something that seems to be a growing trend as of late.

First, we recognize Joe Leichtman, who will retire at the end of February after 41 years with Big C Lumber.

Like many, Joe began his career in the yard and went on to become our first-ever boom truck operator. After many years as a driver and operations manager, he transitioned into inside sales and later became the General Manager in Roseland. In 2015, when a General Manager was needed at the Door and Window facility, Joe once again stepped up, accepting the role despite having little prior experience in that area. Under his leadership that operation grew to become the largest sales location in the company. We wish Joe and his wife Becky, who retired from Big C in 2021, all the best as they begin this next chapter.

Next, we recognize Chuck Goethals, who will retire at the end of March after more than 50 years in the industry. Chuck joined Big C with the acquisition of Wilson Lumber in LaPorte 30 years ago, where he served as Operations Manager. A few years later when Big C needed a Fleet Manager, Chuck was the obvious choice and essentially created the role, as it did not previously exist. His ability to juggle fleet management, fleet cards, training, and many other responsibilities helped us streamline operations and establish processes where none had existed before. We wish Chuck and his wife Brenda continued health and happiness in their retirement.

As we enter another year, affordable housing, or more accurately the lack of, remains the biggest concern among builders and dealers alike. Attached housing, such as condos, villas and multifamily apartment buildings, appears to be one of the most viable solutions at this time. Nationally, there is also a growing push for

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**Executive Team Changes**

In December, Bill Wallace announced a few changes to the Executive team. Scott Foley, formally VP Operations Western Region, has been promoted the newly created Vice President of Sales. Scott's new role will be responsible for driving and supporting sales across the company, particularly on large projects. His ability to build relationships as well as his 34 years of experience make him uniquely qualified for this role.

Taking Scott's former position is the General Manager of our Three Oaks location, Ted Zebell. For the past 35 years, Ted has held most of the positions available in Big C Lumber, and has been awarded Employee of the Year in each of them, along with being awarded our highest honor, the Marshall Holycross Award. His leadership at Three Oaks has led to it becoming our most profitable and busiest location in Big C Lumber.

We are excited to see what Scott and Ted will bring to their new roles.



Scott Foley



Ted Zebell

**Career Development Group**

The 2026 Career Development group held their first in person meeting at our Granger location recently. The group, led by Caitlin Stone and Tiffney Sweezey, will help expose aspring Big C employees to the different areas of our business in order to guide them towards a rewarding career. Jade Bashore and James Taylor serve as mentors and there are a total of 13 members in the group this year.

The program was created in 2009 to help train people for positions that were soon to be vacant due to retirements. The team worked on filming an updated safety video as well as learning the curriculum of this year's Career Development program.

We wish for all the current members to have a wonderful experience in the 2026 Career Development program!



Group touring the Granger yard



Career Development group: Jace Wade, Austin Dohm, Robert Dente, Josh Johnson, Caitlin Stone, Tiffney Sweezey, Bill Hildebrand, Jade Bashore, James Taylor, Johnathon Wietfeldt, Kathleen Miltenberger, Danny Moser, Forrest Lohle, Kade Stone, Matt Wrobel, Gilberto Meza  
Not pictured: Jaret Kilpatrick



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

**ELKHART** - Dustin Fritz (Outside Sales), **MISHAWAKA** - Bryce Stone (Inside Sales), **GRANGER** - Dominic Jennings (Yard & Warehouse), **CROMWELL** - Keegan Turner (Yard & Warehouse), **MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR** - Derrick Haines (Installer), **EDGERTON** - Kenzie Randolph (Kitchen Designer), **DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS** - Issac Neal (Stacker/Builder)

**THREE OAKS**



Courtney Kaptur has been selected to be the new General Manager of our Three Oaks location. Courtney has been a Kitchen & Bath Designer at Big C Lumber for over eight years, and has consistently been one of the top performing salespeople in that department. She has served as Assistant Manager in Three Oaks for the past two years, which makes her a natural fit for her new position.

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**MISHAWAKA**

We would like to welcome back Bryce Stone to the Big C Lumber family. Bryce previously worked in the Mishawaka yard for five years and now has accepted the role of Inside Sales at the Mishawaka counter. Kade Stone, who was previously in Inside Sales, has accepted a role in Purchasing/

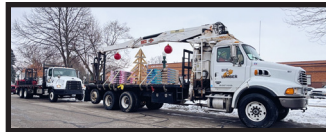


Bryce Stone

Quoting for our Window & Door shop. We wish Bryce and Kade all the best in their new roles.

**KENDALLVILLE**

Our Kendallville store participated in the 57th annual Kendallville Christmas parade in early December. Three of our delivery trucks were featured in the parade, with two of them having holiday decorations such as large ornaments and a Christmas tree made from truss components.



**DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS**



Matt Kurzhal

Matt Kurzhal has been promoted from Field Technician to Design Manager. Previously, IT Director Brandon Magor was managing the truss design center for the past year and a half, and now will move back to the IT Director role. Matt is highly qualified for this role with his experiences in union carpentry, outside sales, and various responsibilities at the SBC. We know Matt will excel in his new role as Design Manager.

**GRANGER CORPORATE**

Caitlin Stone and Chris Roelandts visited Van Buren Tech in Lawrence, MI to give a presentation about the career opportunities at Big C Lumber. Students participated in trivia as well as hands-on activities, such as designing a blueprint for their dream home.



Van Buren Tech class

Friends, family, and Big C Lumber employees gathered at our Granger location on December 18th for the retirement party of Mark Young. Attendees got to enjoy a catered lunch while they watched Mark's old commercials and took photos with his cardboard cutout. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate Mark's retirement!



Mark Young



Jayne Moyer

Corporate Credit Manager Chris Roelandts has announced that he will leave Big C Lumber at the end of February to move down to Houston. Taking over his position is Jayne Moyer, who is currently the Assistant AR Manager. Jayne has worked for Big C Lumber for over 30 years and has spent most of her time in the credit department. We wish Chris all the best in his next chapter of life in Houston, and congratulate Jayne in her new role.

Garrett Baumann has been promoted to Fleet Manager due to Chuck Goethals, current Fleet Manager, retiring at the end of March. Garrett has been the Granger Operations Manager for many years, and has helped Chuck with several fleet responsibilities during his time. Taking over Granger Operations is Brett Griggs, who was formally Elkhart's Operations Manager.



Garrett Baumann

## Birthdays

Best wishes to the following people who will celebrate birthdays in February and March.

### ROSELAND

Kathleen Miltenberger March 20

### ELKHART

Brian Voorde February 14

Dewayne Gangwer February 18

Eric Freedline March 23

### THREE OAKS

John Demorrow March 2

Michael Riggenbach March 5

### COLOMA

Dakota Huff February 17

David Rodriguez February 18

Brandon Higgins March 8

Kate Shembarger March 11

### MISHAWAKA

Chris Rice February 5

Nick Danley February 24

Jeff Morris March 12

Mike Senesac Jr. March 25

### ADRIAN

Josh Edinger February 6

Randy Stewart March 2

### EAU CLAIRE

Owen Bilton March 24

### GRANGER

Lisa Laskowski February 5

Mark Remus February 14

Ronald Felix February 25

Mark Manuszak March 2

Kevin Cullen March 13

Cyle Milewski March 29

### CROMWELL

Travis Bradley February 7

Rob Springer March 16

Griffin Morgan March 24

### LAPORTE

Debbie Smith March 7

Austin Morford March 22

### MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

Austin Clark February 10

Gordon Wendland February 10

Amanda Abeyta February 23

Gaie Lynne Leer February 24

Ron Goetz March 16

Dave Long March 25

Mason Lehman March 31

### SHIPSHEWANA

Steve Vail March 29

Ryan Owen March 31

### SCHOOLCRAFT

Doug Hunt February 14

Kirsten Smith March 5

Chris Maze March 30

### FORT WAYNE

Bryan Bechstein March 16

Todd Bills March 17

### FORT WAYNE

Greg Schmidtke March 21

John Roy March 26

### KENDALLVILLE

Jerry Merriam Jr. February 25

### EDGERTON

Matt Franz February 15

### DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

Robert Perault February 12

Joshua Bryant February 21

Ben Townsend March 1

Lucas Sanders March 10

Barry Frost March 28

Levi Clark March 30

### GRANGER CORPORATE

Randy Huff February 1

Rob Sherman February 16

Alec Evans March 6

Joe Brough March 12

Kevin Zygmunt March 28

### FORT WAYNE MILL

Daniel Bradtmueller February 16

Brian Bair March 4

## Anniversaries

Congratulations to all who will be marking their anniversaries with Big C Lumber in February and March.

Those with at least five years of service are recognized.

### THREE OAKS

February 7 Scott Habel 24 Years

March 16 Julie Fournier 8 Years

### EAU CLAIRE

February 11 Ken Branham 22 Years

February 23 Chuck Huscher 13 Years

### GRANGER

February 29 Brice Voorde 10 Years

### CROMWELL

February 9 Frank Parker IV 11 Years

### LAPORTE

February 26 Wendy Church 31 Years

February 26 Eric Deletter 31 Years

February 26 Bob Lisak 31 Years

March 21 Debbie Smith 26 Years

### MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

February 3 Jeff Bultinck 33 Years

March 1 Shane Lane 7 Years

March 8 Gaie Lynne Leer 26 Years

### SHIPSHEWANA

February 25 Jade Bashore 13 Years

March 4 Alan Skrzypiec 13 Years

March 23 Steve Vail 34 Years

### SCHOOLCRAFT

March 13 Mike Wright 26 Years

### FORT WAYNE

February 12 Jeff Sims 19 Years

February 16 Jason Allen 11 Years

February 20 Jason Hamrick 13 Years

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**Thoughts from the President (cont.)**

Build-to-Rent (BTR) housing developments. While this concept has not yet taken hold in our area, it will likely emerge in some of our markets soon. BTR communities allow the current generation to achieve their goal of living in a single-family home environment without the burden of a large down payment or ongoing maintenance costs. Every generation has faced its own housing challenges, and we have always found solutions. I have no doubt we will do so again.

Wishing you all the best in 2026, make it your best year yet!

*Anniversaries*

**FORT WAYNE**

March 26 Mark Bradtmueller 16 Years  
 March 29 Darrin Radke 16 Years

**EDGERTON**

February 18 Kim Binder 14 Years  
 February 18 Al Wonderly 14 Years

**DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS**

February 15 Delmur Phillips 10 Years  
 March 11 Max Howe 7 Years  
 March 30 Matt Kurzhal 11 Years

**GRANGER CORPORATE**

February 17 Lon Wenger 34 Years  
 February 18 Cathy Dudeck 13 Years  
 February 22 Eric Decraene 20 Years  
 February 24 Jayne Moyer 11 Years  
 February 26 Chuck Goethals 31 Years  
 March 3 Bill Kuminecz 39 Years  
 March 9 Joe Brough 34 Years  
 March 17 Ted Zebell 36 Years

**FORT WAYNE MILL**

February 6 Lou Dornseif 19 Years

**Caught in the Act**

In this issue of The Big Scene, we would like to feature Sam Schultz's submission for John Wagner.

One of our customers forgot to order a few pieces of lumber after we sent them a framing package right before Christmas. They were going to work on the day after to get started on their project and needed these boards. They called their salesman in the middle of his day off. John put the order together, reached out to us to make sure he had the right keys to the yard and didn't set off any security alarms, and then filled the order on his truck. He then drove about an hour, round trip, to deliver these few missing boards himself. Way to go above and beyond for one of our longtime customers, John!




**William & Gladys Foley Scholarship**

Each year, we provide college scholarships to the children of Big C employees to help fund their learning and set them up for success in their careers. The scholarship awards up to \$6,000 per year for students pursuing a four year degree, or up to \$3,000 per year for students pursuing a two year degree through a community college or technical school. To submit an application, go to [www.cfsjc.org/scholarshipapp](http://www.cfsjc.org/scholarshipapp) to create an account and navigate to the apply page. The deadline to apply is February 15th. Similar to last year, we expect to award up to eight scholarships in 2026.



Plaque of previous scholarship recipients



Granger store sign in a snowstorm

**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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2026**

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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# Marshall Holycross Award - Jeff Bultinck

Jeff Bultinck started at Big C Lumber in 1992 at the Mishawaka store where his best friend worked. He stayed there until 2008, when he was asked to move to the door shop. This was meant to be temporary but soon became his permanent home.

After all these years, he still loves all the moments he gets to have at the door shop, especially working alongside his coworkers. "The teamwork is probably the best part of it," Jeff says, "That's part of the reason why I liked it when I first started is you felt like you were part of the family. Working together with the guys, loading doors, and you joke around at the end of the day." A piece of advice Jeff gives is, "My big thing is to respect other people. If you can set aside your differences, I think your days go by fast and you get along with people better."

This award is a big honor for Jeff since he was able to work with Marshall while he was at Big C Lumber. "He was always friendly and would stop what he was doing to help you. He was a people person, so I think that is what I got from Marshall."



Marshall Holycross was an operations employee who joined Big C Lumber in 1968 and worked until health issues forced his retirement in 1996. During his 28 years at Big C Lumber, his devotion to the company and his fellow employees was an example for all of us. He had a great work ethic and a strong sense of urgency for anything related to customer service. He was the first one to show up in the morning and often volunteered to take the day's last delivery. If there is such a thing as the perfect employee, it was Marshall Holycross.

## 2025 Employee of the Year Awards

Bill Wallace, President & CEO, announced the 2025 Employee of the Year winners.  
Our winners are:

### Manager

Aaron Stewart - Adrian

### Operations Manager

Tim Shott - Three Oaks

### Outside Sales

Mark Bradtmueller - Fort Wayne

### Inside Sales

Mike Padgett - Three Oaks

### Driver

Tommy Foster - Granger

### Yard Person

Jason Elston - Multiple Locations

### Production

TJ Findley - Mishawaka Window & Door

### Office

Gricel Roman - Dowagiac Structural Building Components

### Estimating

Nathan Bilancio - Dowagiac Structural Building Components

### Above C Level

Chris Cook - Corporate

# 2025 Safety Awards

In 2025, we embarked on the 24th year of our Safety Incentive Program which recognizes our operations employees who work the entire 12 months without injury, a safety or DOT violation, or an at-fault accident. The third proclamation of our Value Statement reads “We will do our work safely. The safety of our employees, customers, and the public will always supersede the need for expedience.” We’d like to recognize and thank the following associates for achieving this important milestone

## ROSELAND

Scott Bunkelman  
Ashley Smittendorf  
Mike Kieffer  
Justin Chapman  
Mike Swartz

## ELKHART

Brian Voorde  
Payton Voorde  
Brett Griggs  
Dewayne Gangwer  
Nash Shuphert  
Nate Droste

## THREE OAKS

Ben Nelson  
John DeMorrow

## COLOMA

Jason Elston  
Bruce Hilliard  
Dakota Huff

## MISHAWAKA

Jeff Morris  
Brandon Snider

## ADRIAN

Josh Edinger  
Aaron Stewart  
Refus Tovar  
Christian Bailey  
Brian Follis  
Manuel Valdez

## EAU CLAIRE

Braqsten Whitaker

## GRANGER

Mike Kerr  
Brayden Baumann  
Garrett Baumann  
Tommy Foster

## CROMWELL

Frank Parker  
Travis Bradley

## LAPORTE

Randee Radloff  
Noah Novitzke

## MISHAWAKA WINDOW & DOOR

Alan Guerra  
Dave Long  
Neil Ackerson  
Shane Lane  
Heath Rhodes  
Javon Lenoir  
Gordon Wendland

TJ Findley

Jeff Hanyzewski

## SHIPSHEWANA

Ryan Owen  
Steve Christian

## SCHOOLCRAFT

Luke Whitaker  
Olley Wise  
Nico Kronewetter

Ron King

## FORT WAYNE

Darrin Radke  
John Roy  
Todd Bills  
Chris Huffman  
Bryan Bechstein

Jason Allen

Drew Hart

## KENDALLVILLE

Jerry Merriam Sr.  
Jace Wade

## EDGERTON

Shane Smith

Greg Bell

Matt Franz

Quintin Miller

## DOWAGIAC STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS

Steve Bakeman

Bryan Younger

Ben Townsend

John Morales

Isaiah Jones

Kevin Vandenburg

Delmur Phillips

Tim Craig

Michael Berry

Max Howe

Christopher Conn

Aaron Morgan

Logan Luthringer

Brandon Younger

Emily Whitaker

Jeannette Bergman

Joseph Rafacz

Blaine Evans

Brandon Eichel

Isaiah Cosey

Caleb Luthringer

DJ Killarney

Lucas Sanders

## FORT WAYNE MILL

Steve Strole

Lou Dornseif

Daniel Bradtmueller

Nate Bradtmueller

Aaron Miller

Brian Bair

Danielle Sperry