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NEIGHBORS

A SERVICE OF ASH GROVE CEMENT COMPANY – LOUISVILLE PLANT | FALL 2011

Ash Grove Hits \$20 Million Energy Reduction Goal

This August Ash Grove plants throughout the country achieved an ambitious goal to reduce energy costs by \$20 million – 15 months early, another Ash Grove energy management (AGem) success.

“Chuck Wiedenhoft always described the goal in terms of a three legged stool – reduce emissions, improve efficiency and reduce costs,” said Andy Lippert, Ash Grove corporate energy director, of the company’s then president and chief operating officer who died in 2010. “He got this started in 2007 and we set a five-year time horizon to make it happen.” *(continued on page 3)*



Louisville plant

MSHA Compliance, Injury Prevention Results Strong

The Ash Grove Louisville plant’s diligent work to improve its Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) compliance record is having a positive effect. “Over the last couple of years, the plant has seen a dramatic drop in citations,” said Ash Grove

A NOTE FROM DAVID DORRIS, PLANT MANAGER



David Dorris, plant manager

We are hopeful that the economy has bottomed out and we can expect in time to look for a slow rise in demand for cement.

All along Ash Grove Louisville employees have been as productive and good spirited as ever, not only doing well for the plant but active in our community, too, as you will read in other stories here on the Cass County Fair, the annual BUILD car show, Nebraska Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc., and the Lincoln Salt Dogs.

We have a great group of people who love what they do and where they do it, knowing that our plant, much like our local construction companies, play a large role in supporting the growth of the surrounding communities. Having a local supply of quality cement at a good price plays a vital role in the stable, continuous growth of the greater Louisville area.

New federal regulations from by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require cement plants to meet higher emissions and monitoring standards by September 2013. Ash Grove Louisville will continue to invest in its plant operations and will meet all the 2013 requirements. We all look forward to a long and bright future here in Louisville. ■

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Corporate Health & Safety Director Steve Minshall. When MSHA comes to a plant for an inspection, their professionals are looking for what they consider to be hazardous conditions. This can be anything from a nick in an extension cord to a loose or missing machine guard.

“While citations from MSHA inspections may have little connection to the types of injuries that are common in the cement industry –

soft tissue sprains and strains, slips and falls – Ash Grove’s injury prevention efforts focus more on what our employees are doing and how they are doing it,” Minshall added. These programs have proven over time to change the culture, from it being pretty awkward to speak to a co-worker about how they are performing a certain task if it might be less than optimally safe, to making that kind of interaction desirable and welcome. ■

Ash Grove Louisville Cement in New City Streets and Improved Highways



Cement from Louisville's plant is used in the re-pavement of a Louisville street.

While it is not always the local providers that contractors choose for Louisville projects, Ash Grove Cement Louisville is proud to say that the most recent street improvements project for the City of Louisville has our cement in it.

“Our friends with Lyman-Richey’s Ready Mixed Concrete Co., worked with the local contractor and made it happen,” said Northern Regional Sales Manager Ernie Peterson. “We hope to have more opportunities to serve the City of Louisville in the future.”

Other area projects using our cement include 19,000 tons for a Nebraska Department of Roads project on Highway 370 from Gretna to I-80, to be completed by the end of 2012; 34,000 tons for an I-80 lane expansion project between Omaha and Lincoln, also due to finish in 2012; and, a 25,000 ton pour, again on I-80, for improvements completed on three lanes both ways adjacent to Mahoney State Park. ■

CASS COUNTY FAIR AN ASH GROVE FAMILY AFFAIR

“We had an excellent turnout at this year’s Cass County Fair,” said David Dorris, Ash Grove Louisville plant manager. “Our employees staffed a booth where they handed out more than 400 sport bottles and bottles of water, arm bracelets, Frisbees, balloons and coozies. And Wendell Plunkett, one of our retirees after 40-plus years at Ash Grove, drove our 1939 dump truck in the parade.”

Joining Wendell in the truck for the August festivities were Jennifer Rust, wife of maintenance manager Jerry Rust, and two of the Rust’s kids, as well as Anna Weddle, wife of plant accountant/controller Rafael Weddle, and two of the Weddle’s kids. ■



Photos left to right: The city of Louisville hosted its 7th annual “Car and Truck Show-n-Shine” event on July 31, 2011. Several Ash Grove employees brought their cars to the show, which featured more than 250 cars; The Louisville plant was host to an Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn of the plant’s former office building.

Ash Grove Employees ‘Show and Shine’ at Car Show

The City of Louisville held its 7th annual car show in July sponsored by Business United in Louisville Development (BUILD), a group dedicated to Louisville growth of which Ash Grove is a member. Several Ash Grove employees brought their cars to ‘Show and Shine,’ joining more than 250 cars of all kinds that lined Main Street for the show, which was free and open to the public.

The show included retiree Bruce Breitkreutz’s 2002 Pontiac Firebird, Chuck McNew’s 1970 Plymouth ‘Cuda and several entries that also included a classic Buick Skylark owned by Guy Schliefert and his uncle Ted Schliefert, a former Ash Grove employee. ■

Ash Grove Saves Local Easter Egg Hunt

In April, Ash Grove hosted Louisville’s annual Easter Egg Hunt near the cement plant at its former administrative building. Louisville locals joined in the fun, searching for all the decorative eggs across the grassy property. Planning the event was a challenge this year because of construction at the usual location, the local ball field, and a big baseball tournament being held simultaneously. Ash Grove managers invited organizers to bring the event to its former front lawn, no where near the train tracks for safety’s sake, which allowed the Louisville-favorite event to go on. ■

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Brandon Stanley



Brandon Stanley

Brandon Stanley has worked in the yard as a laborer since his March start at Ash Grove Cement Louisville,

and he volunteers as a coach for Louisville Little League wrestling and football, and as a coach for Louisville Public Schools' high school wrestling team, and as assistant coach for the high school football team. Somewhere in there he eats and sleeps.

He is a Louisville native as well as a native of Ash Grove, where his mom, Keri Stanley, works in administration and where he spent five years as summer help in the plant's internship program while he studied at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. "It is interesting work at the plant, a good living close to home," he said. Engaged to be married, Stanley keeps busy on and off the clock.

"I've helped out with Little League since my freshman year in high school and wrestled for two years with UNO," he said. "My former coach asked me if I wanted to help out at the high school." Practices, games and watching film keep Stanley busy until late many evenings, mostly from September to March. There is not much time to slack off after season he said, "Then there is summer lifting with the high school athletes, starting at 5:30 a.m."

Stanley said helping out with Little League and the high school wrestling and football programs is a passion of his, and he looks forward to a good season. "I would encourage everyone to come out and support our teams," he said. "The kids put in a lot of time and to them the support of the community is huge. They see a crowd watching them and it gets them pumped." ■

Nebraska Wildlife Rehab Holds Grand Opening of Former Ash Grove Building

Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, Inc., (NWRI) hosted a fun grand opening event July 17 to celebrate its new Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Operations Center. The event featured a scavenger hunt, building tours, refreshments and public education regarding the organization's resource needs and how it saves and protects local wildlife.

For the first time, the organization will have a sustainable facility for its all-volunteer staff.

NWRI recently moved into the historic, 4,500-square-foot building that Ash Grove Louisville leased to them for \$1 per year over the next 10 years. For the first time, the organization will have a facility for its all-volunteer staff that works 12 hour days, seven days a week staffing a wildlife hotline and doing animal care, education, training and fundraising. "Ash Grove is proud to support the important work of Nebraska Wildlife Rehab," said David Dorris, plant manager.

In a July *Metro Magazine* article, NWRI volunteer operations chair and board member Laura Stastny gave a little background on the organization's relationship with Ash Grove Louisville. "We got to know Ash Grove when we approached them about using their vast riverside property for a coyote release a couple years ago and one good thing lead to another," she said.

The organization is now fundraising to retrofit the space for long-term needs and hire its first staff person, an executive director. ■



The Louisville plant leases its former office building to Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, which hosted an open house on July 17, 2011.

Ash Grove Hits Energy Reduction Goal

(continued from front cover)

To prepare, Lippert said that a team went through all the plants, five years of operating data and did some benchmarking. Then he joined Chuck, Ash Grove Chairman Charlie Sunderland, Vice President of Manufacturing Services Fran Streitman in meeting with senior staff and plant managers to design the program. In early 2008, the team held meetings at every plant with supervisors and hourly staff to talk it through and roll out the program.

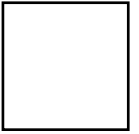
"Employee suggestions have been gratifying," Lippert said. "Everything from turning on a conveyor belt only when it is moving material to putting motion detectors on lighting to installing heat exchangers and reclaiming heat off the clinker cooling process. We still are receiving ideas good enough to implement companywide."

The company already has begun writing goals and procedures for 2013 and beyond to continue to conserve energy and natural resources by improving the efficiency and performance of the plants. ■



16215 Highway 50
Louisville, Nebraska 68037

(402) 234-2415
www.ASHGROVE.com



NEBCO AND ASH GROVE ENJOY PITCH PERFECT RELATIONSHIP

Ernie Peterson, northern region sales manager, recently got to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at a minor league baseball game between the Lincoln (Neb.) Saltdogs and the Kansas City (Kan.) T-Bones.

The Saltdogs are owned by NEBCO, a Nebraska-based holding company that owns numerous ready-mix, paving and building materials companies, and the company is one of Ash Grove's best customers in the region.

Ash Grove was given the chance to throw out the first pitch as a way of saying thank you for its longtime support.

Ash Grove has been a supporter and season ticket holder since the inception of the team, and the Saltdogs are celebrating their tenth anniversary this season. Ash Grove was given the chance to throw out the first pitch as a way of saying thank you for its longtime support.

Wearing a Saltdogs t-shirt for the occasion, Ernie said his pitch was a little high and outside, "At least I didn't bounce it in the dirt. It was fun. Even my own high school- and college-aged kids came and thought it was cool!" ■

Photos top to bottom: Ernie Peterson, northern region sales manager, delivers the first pitch at a Lincoln Saltdogs game; Ernie Peterson with Stan Maly, Vice President, NEBCO, Inc.