

Mike's Woodworking doubles in size, plans 2007 addition

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A local business, born and nurtured in Nelson County for 17 years, has announced its expansion this week. Mike's Woodworking, 397 Spencer Mattingly Lane, celebrated an addition of 16,400 square feet in a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday morning.

The addition will be on the east end of the existing building.

In 2007, the business has plans to add another 16,000 square feet, which would making the facility 48,000 square feet.

This is not the first time Mike's Woodworking has seen growth over the years.

Mike Johnson started the business in his father's garage in 1988, in Bardstown.

Since then, the business grew into a 2,400-square-foot building on the family's farm.

A few expansions later, Johnson's brother, Dan Johnson, joined as partner and the business flourished.

In July 1999, the success of the company and the amount of orders made the brothers move to Bardstown, in a 15,400-square-foot building with 22 employees.

Since then, Mike's Woodworking has doubled in size to more than 59 employees.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, the two brothers, all their employees and city, county and state officials came together to celebrate the growth of the company.

Kim Huston, CEO for Nelson County Economic Development Agency, began the series of speeches, calling the two business partners, "our home-grown boys."

Huston said the success of the business over the years has been good leadership, productivity and good work ethic.

"You're doing a good job," she said.

Bardstown Mayor Dixie Hibbs said her father had an auto repair shop in the family garage. She grew up surrounded by auto parts and the oil-stained hands of her father.

He expanded too, just like Mike's Woodworking did over the years, Hibbs said.

Step by step, the Johnson brothers have become a true success story, Hibbs added.

"Please invite me back for your next expansion," she said.

Nelson County Judge Dean Watts agreed with Hibbs and called Mike's Woodworking a true American dream.

"I watched your company grow across the years," Watts said. "May God bless you and your venture."

The lauding continued as Steve Jones, representative for the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, congratulated the two brothers for their work.

"I take the most pleasure dealing with home-town businesses," Jones said, as opposed to bigger corporations.

Jones commended the local leadership at city and county level for allowing businesses to grow.

When Mike Johnson's turn came to walk up to the microphone, he wanted to "keep it short and sweet."

Johnson said people working with him have been good team players, and they worked with him, not for him.

They all love what they do, he added.

"If you don't enjoy it, you don't belong here," Johnson said.