

Etkin paired with minority firm in mentorship role

A.J. Etkin Construction, Farmington Hills, has agreed to participate in a mentoring program sponsored by New Detroit's Partnership Plan. Etkin will be paired with the minority-owned A-Mac Sales & Builders, a general contractor. The partnership formalizes a relationship between the two companies whose principals know each other.

Tom Landry, Etkin president, said he sees the mentoring program as "a means of insuring that the competition can compete successfully and fairly. It makes for a healthier industry."

A-Mac is headed by Andrew McLemore who said he hopes the partnership will help his company develop more private sector business.



Camille Cleveland

Terree Tosto has appointed Camille Cleveland of Bloomfield Township as a general broker in its commercial office division. She will be responsible for tenant representation and lease negotiations for the firm's commercial office clients. She is the former managing attorney/assistant general counsel for Eliza Brothers Restaurants and prior to that was in private practice.



Matt Schwanitz

Matt Schwanitz of Bloomfield Township has been named a principal in the Rochester Hills firm of Giffels-Webster Engineers. His responsibilities include marketing, management of land planning and private developments, and wetlands and landscape architecture projects. He has been with the firm since 1989. Prior to that, he was managing partner of a Texas development company.

Urent Furniture, 1914 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills, will host a seminar on leather 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the store. A factory representative will discuss how to buy leather furniture, determining quality in leather, what different grades mean, and care of leather furniture. Reservations must be made by Feb. 17 by calling 338-7718.

The Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan will conduct several seminars in February.

- Representative from Catherine McAuley Health Systems and the law firm of Miller Canfield will discuss

building news

single-family dwelling will be discussed by Chuck Breidenstein, director of construction technologies education for NCI Associates, 8:30-11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at the Radisson Plaza, Southfield. His topics will include site selection, planning, surveys, permits, excavating, footings and foundations, floors, wall framing, roofing, insulation and dry wall for single family homes.

- Daria Powers, president of the Powers Group, will address enhancing company growth and profitability by making the business customer driven from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at Penna's of Sterling Heights.
- Construction procedures for

Plywood applications graded

Since 1905 when plywood was developed in St. John, Ore., it has changed little — but its use in house building has changed the design and structure of houses radically.

Here's a review to help you understand the types and applications of plywoods that are available.

Softwood-veneer plywood is most widely used in construction and industrial applications. It's made by cross-laminating an odd number of wood veneers such as pine, spruce, fir, and hemlock. Running the wood grains at right angles to each other gives plywood its strength. It comes in 4x8-foot panels with 1/4-inch, 1/2-inch, and 3/4-inch common thicknesses.

During manufacture, wood veneers are bonded together with an adhesive under a hot press. Depending on the adhesive used, the plywood is graded for interior or exterior use. Interior-grade plywood is made with moisture-resistant glue. Exterior-grade uses 100 percent waterproof glue.

Plywood is graded by the quality of the veneer used on the face and back surfaces, as well as by the type of adhesive.

The highest quality veneer grades are N and A. These have smooth, defect-free surfaces. Grades C and D are the lowest.

N-grade natural finish is all sapwood or heartwood free of open defects and with no more than six well-matched wood repairs per panel. A-grade is similar with no more than 18 neatly made repairs parallel to the grain.

B-grade has a solid surface with circular repair plugs and light knots permitted to 1-inch diameter and minor splits allowed. C-grade (plugged) permits synthetic repairs, splits up to 1/4-inch wide and knotholes up to 1/4-inch diameter. D-grade (regular) allows light knots and knotholes to 1 1/4-inch diameter plus synthetic repairs and defects that do not impair strength. D-grade permits knots and knotholes to 2 1/4-inch diameter, synthetic repairs and stitching repairs.

Some plywood and reconstituted panels are performance rated by the American Plywood Association. These are stamped with a number such as 24-16, which means they can be used in walls over studs on 24-inch centers and floors over 16-inch centers.

Hardwood-veneer plywood is a quality interior panel for furniture and cabinet construction. The face and back plies are hardwood such as birch, oak, lauan mahogany, walnut and ash with softwood interior plies.

Lumbercore plywood is the highest quality, with hardwood face and back laminated to a center core of hardwood strips. It's used for desk and table tops and comes in 4x10-foot panels 1/4-inch, 1/2-inch and 1-inch thick.

Medium-density overlay (MDO) is exterior plywood veneered with an opaque resin-treated fiber overlay suitable for painting. It's used for exterior signs and soffits as well as kitchen and bathroom cabinets. MDO exterior plywood siding is also available.

High-density overlay (HDO) is similar to MDO but tougher and more abrasion-resistant. It's used to build concrete forms and for counter tops and work benches. Both MDO and HDO come in 1/4-inch, 1/2-inch, 3/4-inch and 1-inch thicknesses.

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