These Businesses are Proud to Serve Northwood & Worth County Areas With Over A

CENTURY OF SERVICE

Area businesses celebrate 4,903 years of service to Northwood and Worth County

Each year the Northwood Anchor gives area businesses an opportunity to showcase their years serving Northwood and the surrounding area, with a section known as "Century of Service."

The six page section of the paper begins with, "These Businesses are Proud to Serve Northwood and the Area With Over a Century of Service." The pages are filled with 83 businesses in the Northwood area.

While the message at the start of the section says that the businesses have served over a century, the businesses have served a combined 4,903 years to area residents. The average time of service for businesses listed in the section is 59 years.

The business that has served the area the longest is the City of Northwood itself, since 1858, for a total of 163 years.

The oldest entries on the list are a community group and business that have each operated for 152 years. The Northern Light Masonic Lodge has been serving Worth County in various capacities since 1869. Also beginning service to the community in 1869 was Worth County Abstract.

Others providing more than a century of service include Albert Lea Monument, the Worth County Fair, Worth Mutual Insurance, the Northwood Volunteer Fire Company, the Northwood Anchor, Viafield, Worth County Extension and Worth County Farm Bureau.

A number of businesses will be celebrating special milestones of service to Northwood and the surrounding area this year, including:

Ten years- WCTA, Loberg Construction, Interiors by Gretchen and Shell Rock Repair

Twenty-five years- Kenison Construction, Ken's Barber Shop

Thirty years- Signature's Supper Club, Mason City Glass, Bloomingdale Tax & Accounting and Quality Composites

Forty years- Agri-Sales

Sixty years- Lutheran Retirement Home

One hundred years- L.R. Falk Construction

The Northwood Anchor thanks these businesses for their service to the community and the community that has supported their local businesses for a combined 4,903 years.



City of Northwood
Established in 1858

Serving Worth County for 164 Years

Northern Light Masonic Lodge
Established in 1869

Northern Light Order Eastern Star Organized in 1899

Serving Worth County for 153 Years

Worth County Abstract
Established in 1869

Sarah Hendricks, 2011

Serving Worth County for 153 Years

Albert Lea Monument
Established in 1877

Serving Worth County for 145 Years

Worth County Fair
Established in 1878

Serving Worth County for 144 Years

Worth Mutual Insurance
Established in 1882

Kory Olson & Jayson Olson

GRINNELL MUTUAL

Serving Worth County for 140 Years

Northwood Fire Company
Established in 1883

Serving Worth County for 139 Years

The Northwood Anchor
Established in 1885

Kris Kenison, Publisher 2018

Serving Worth County for 137 Years

Viafield
Established in 1911

Viafield, 2010

Progressive Ag Cooperative, 2006

formerly Northwood Co-op Elevator

Serving Worth County for 111 Years

Worth County Extension
Established in 1913

Worth County 4-H

Serving Worth County for 109 Years

Worth County Farm Bureau
Established in 1918

Serving Worth County for 104 Years

Farmers State Bank
Established in 1921

Northwood Branch Office, 1996

Serving Worth County for 101 Years

L.R. Falk Construction
Established in 1922

Serving Worth County for 100 Years

NSB Bank
Established in 1933

Kary Paulson, Chairman

Serving Worth County for 89 Years

Olson Insurance
Established in 1934

formerly Glenn O. Tenold Insurance, Inc.

Tenold Olson Hagen, Inc.

GRINNELL MUTUAL

Serving Worth County for 88 Years

Falk family provides construction materials, farm products for 100 years

By JoAnn Lower

It was 1922 when LaVerne Falk, equipped with only a Model T Ford truck and a shovel, began a business that this year will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

LaVerne had just graduated from St. Ansgar High School when he started hauling sand, rock and vegetables (potatoes and onions). Several years later he bought a bigger truck to haul bigger loads – Caterpillar Tractors and large equipment.

By the 1940s Falk was into the sand, gravel and limestone business. He was one of first presidents of the Iowa Limestone Producers Association (ILPA) and a member of the National Limestone Institution (NLI). In 1961 the business was incorporated under the name L.R. Falk Construction Company.

LaVerne's son David began working with his dad after serving in the Army and in the 60s and 70s and grew the business, adding more locations. There are now over a dozen sites in North Iowa, the main office in St. Ansgar. Realizing the importance of agricultural lime, he also expanded Ag-Lime Services for the local farmers.

Following in his father's footsteps, David served as president of the ILPA and member of the NLI. Now 80 years old, he still comes to the office every day. His wife Kathy is on the Board.

Lindsey Falk now directs business operations in the company started by his grandfather.

"Growing up I always thought I would take over the business but, when I became a young adult, I thought there were bigger and better things out there. I attended Iowa State University, spent a couple of years in Colorado, and in 1999 moved back to St. Ansgar. Within a year or two I realized this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

"I enjoy working every day with my family, and it's still fun running big equipment. I like knowing that what we make is what everybody needs on a daily basis: Ag-lime spread out in the fields, roads and bridges we use to stay connected."

"We have been blessed over these 100 years," Lindsey smiled, "but it has taken lots of hard work and lots of luck."

Along with Lindsey, his wife Sommer also works at the company. The couple has three children – Aspen, Ava and Grayson.



Quality team helps Porters serve customers, community for 30 years

By JoAnn Lower

For 14 years Larry Porter worked at Carroll George, making interiors for tractors.

"As time went by and people came in wanting replacement pieces, I realized I could make them myself," he said.

Slowly venturing out on his own, Porter worked his last couple of years at Carroll George as well as for himself. Then one day the time came for him to do one or the other, so he and his wife Jodi followed their hearts and found their niche.

"At the beginning it didn't look overwhelming, but, if we'd known all the difficulties and all the roadblocks, we'd have never done it," the couple admits.

"Everything we thought of as an issue was a non-issue. It was things we'd never thought of that became an issue – marketing and regulatory stuff, endless rules and paperwork as well as our limited resources. But since we bumped into our problems only a few at a time, we kept going. It was actually ignorance of what we were undertaking that got us where we are now. We have also discovered there are always issues to overcome. This year pricing increases in shipping, raw material costs and inflation are the latest obstacles to deal with."

Larry and Jodi are happy with where they are now. "When we look back, it was a lot of work but a lot of fun. We have had exceptional employees and have never had any problems with customers, quality or manufacturing. Not quite two years ago we hired Cody to help manage the business. We have been pleased with his work and happy with the lighter workload. We can now vacation together instead of having one gone at a time and are hoping to continue down this path to eventual retirement."

"We compete with a lot of people in this market, a market that we have dominated. We're now involved in running two businesses in Lake Mills that complement our operation in providing Ag interior service parts. In addition, our customers are happy to learn that we have Jim and Jake Trainer to travel to their homes to do installations."

Jodi and Larry's son John and daughter Kathy have both worked at Quality Composites doing specialty projects.

"John is now a machinist and helps design and make equipment that meets the specific needs of our business."

"Kathy, a teacher in South Korea, still helps when she is home with videos of how our parts are made, how they fit and what to expect when people get one. We like having the whole family involved."

Larry was born in Flora, Illinois, and raised in Northwood. "My dad came here for a railroad job," he said. "He worked in Manly but bought a home in Northwood because it had a swimming pool."

The Porters are happy to have had support from everyone over these 30 years. "People treat us so well, and it's nice to live in a small Midwest community where people can be trusted and live by the Golden Rule."

"Looking back, we have received support and help from really good people. Unfortunately, one of them, Russ Hulshizer, passed away last year. He was instrumental in helping us to get going. He pitched in with labor, encouragement and resources, even allowed us to use his shop to build custom equipment at a time when we had very few resources."

Jodi and Larry were married in 1988. "We're sort of like a Reese's peanut butter cup," they smiled. "The pieces are different, but they're good when stuck together."



Farm Bureau Financial Services
Established in 1938
Ryan Hulshizer, Agent
Serving Worth County for 84 Years

Conner Colonial Chapel
Established in 1939
Gary Nerlien, 1990
Megan Ott 2014
Serving Worth County for 83 Years

Bratrud's
Established in 1945
Allan Bratrud, 1961
Randy Bratrud, 1996
Serving Worth County for 77 Years

#6779 Northwood VFW
Established in 1946
Serving Worth County for 76 Years

Northwood Country Club
Established in 1948
Serving Worth County for 74 Years

Fallgatter's Market
Established in 1948
Doug & Gloria Fallgatter
Casey Connors - 2019
Serving Worth County for 74 Years

Kensett Volunteer Fire Department
Established in 1949
Serving Worth County for 73 Years

Welsh Chiropractic
Established in 1953
by Dr. M.P. Welsh
Dr. James Welsh, 1984 - 30 Years
Serving Worth County for 69 Years

For 30 years, Signature's Supper Club has been a family, community affair

By JoAnn Lower

From 1981 to 1988 Rhonda and her husband Ken owned and operated the Corner Post. During those years the Lewerkes of Fieldstone Cabinetry ate at the Corner Post every day for lunch.

"One day the Lewerkes looked at us and asked if we would like to start a cafeteria for them at Fieldstone," Rhonda remembers.

And so it was. On April 18, 1988 Rhonda's sister Sue bought the Corner Post, as Rhonda and Ken opened up an employee cafeteria at Fieldstone. A couple of years later the cafeteria was closed.

Since Rhonda had always wanted to own a restaurant, she went to her Grandpa Ralph and asked if he'd loan her money to open a supper club.

"Our kids were really young," Rhonda said, "but we decided to dive in. My first husband Ken and I bought our initial building (previously a teen center) in December 1991 and gutted it. We opened on February 28 and 29 of 1992 – leap year."

Rhonda decided to meet with the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) – "best thing I ever did." Three men sat her down and told her she would starve to death for three years but, if she could make it through those first three years, it would be a lifetime opportunity.

"I'd had the Corner Post and it was successful, so that made me believe our new venture would also be successful."

"We were open for two months and it wasn't going well, nobody knew about us. We shut down for six weeks. We redid the menu, featuring what we thought people thought might like better and reopened."

"We both got jobs working 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., then came to Signature's to get stuff ready for the day. The girls were in school. We'd go home and sleep 4-5 hours, work at the restaurant from 5-9 p.m., then go to work from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. – seven days a week."

"Two and a half years later things slowly started taking off. Minnesota people found out about us. After almost exactly three years (2 years and 11 months) we were making a profit. We quit our night jobs."

Rhonda and Ken ran Signature's for 10 years; Rhonda and Mark have now been running it for 20 years.

"We have met so many wonderful people who have become friends. I also have the most phenomenal work staff. Thirty years later they're still with me. I've been so fortunate to have whole families work for me, families who really enjoy working and come back year after year."

"Through the 4-H alone we have met so many fabulous people. Special to us is that we will have kids from Iowa and Minnesota for 5-6 years, and years later they'll call me asking if I'll do their wedding."

"I am so thankful to be here after 30 years and am extremely lucky to have my restaurant in downtown Northwood, Iowa. I wouldn't want it anywhere else. I love this town."



Abrams Drainage
Established in 1954
Matt Abrams
Serving Worth County for 68 Years

Royal Motel
Established in 1955
Dan Luedtke & Deb Bartman
Serving Worth County for 67 Years

State Farm Insurance
Established in 1956
Dave Osborne, Jan. 2019
Serving Worth County for 66 Years

Izaak Walton League of America Inc.
Established in 1957
Worth County Chapter of the State of Iowa
(July 17, 1957)
Serving Worth County for 65 Years

Larsen Plumbing & Heating
Established in 1958
Fertile
Serving Worth County for 64 Years

Beauty Nook
Established in 1958
Cotter & Co., 1996
Jolene Cotter
Serving Worth County for 64 Years

Lutheran Retirement Home
Established in 1962
Serving Worth County for 60 Years

Greve Law Office
Established in 1963
John H. Greve & Jeffrey H. Greve, Law Practice
Serving Worth County for 59 Years

Peterson Excavating & Drainage Inc.
Established in 1968
Mike Peterson
Serving Worth County for 54 Years

Century 21 Preferred
Established in 1971
Northwood Office, 2003
Julie Hagen Robb
Serving Worth County for 51 Years

TUNE
Total United Northwood Effort
Established 1973-81
Re-established in 2003
Serving Worth County for 49 Years

Patterson Construction
Established in 1973
Harvey Patterson
Serving Worth County for 49 Years

Northwood Electric
Established in 1974
Todd Leonard, 2006
Serving Worth County for 48 Years

ADA Enterprise, Inc.
Established in 1974
Serving Worth County for 48 Years

Dick's Place Body & Towing
Established in 1974
Dick Beenken
Serving Worth County for 48 Years

Manly Specialty Care
Established in 1976
1994
Care Initiatives
Manly | Specialty Care
Serving Worth County for 46 Years

A & I Auto, Inc.
Established in 1976
Al Fredericks & Ivan Fredericks
Serving Worth County for 46 Years

Thofson Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Established in 1977
Tim Thofson 2007
Serving Worth County 45 years

Bloomingdale's tax business keeps her connected to home, community



By JoAnn Lower

Jane Bloomingdale had always enjoyed doing her own taxes, so after spending a year working for H&R Block, she took the required classes and became a CPA.

"With two little kids at home, I decided to start my own business," she said. "By 1992 Bloomingdale Tax & Accounting, built simply by word of mouth, had gone from 20 to 200 returns. Having my own office was a great way to be with my kids before and after school and to be there when they needed me."

"My office manager, Susan Grundel, is a great help. She keeps me organized, which is not an easy thing to do. While I've really enjoyed 30 years in the tax and accounting business, this is my last year."

Jane grew up in Northwood and attended college in Dallas, Texas. She and her husband Jim, a recently retired farmer, have two children – Mary and Michael. Sadly, Mary passed away two years ago. Mike is a loan officer at Northwood State Bank in Mason City. He and his wife Courtney have two little boys.

The Bloomingdales live in the house where Jane's parents and grandparents once lived, the house her great-grandfather built.

"I like small towns," she said. "Northwood is a great place to raise a family."

Along with serving the city of Northwood as a council member and mayor for 20 years, Bloomingdale was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives in 2016 and is now in her third term working for District 51.

"This is quite a learning experience," she said. "I enjoy the variety of issues, meeting people in my district, listening to their concerns and trying to help when I can."

Jane enjoys outdoor sports – volleyball, swimming, pickle ball and steering her scooter along the streets of Northwood.

InjecTech Diesel Service
Established in 1977
Injection Technology, 1988
Dennis Stoneking
Serving Worth County for 45 Years

Northwood True Value
Established in 1978
Kelly Hardware
Dan and Tara Kelly 2018
Serving Worth County for 44 Years

D & L Equipment
Established in 1979
Dave & Lucy Heiken
Serving Worth County for 43 Years

Hovey's Lawn & Garden LLC
Established in 1980
Larry Hovey
Serving Worth County for 42 Years

Dewey Kruger Music, Ltd.
Established in 1981
Duane & Betty Kruger
Serving Worth County for 41 Years

The Real Estate Office
Established in 1981
Clara Helgeland
Serving Worth County for 41 Years

Agri-Sales
Established in 1982
Serving Worth County for 40 Years

Worth County Veterinary Service
Established in 1984
Dr. Mike Dierenfeld
Serving Worth County for 38 Years

Kevin Springer Construction
Established in 1985
Serving Worth County for 37 Years

Krull Law Firm
Law Practice Established in 1985
Doug Krull
Serving Worth County for 37 Years

Northland Custom Interiors
Established in 1986
Sandy Madden
Serving Worth County for 36 Years

Mike's Automotive
Established in 1987
Mike Weisert
Serving Worth County for 35 Year

North Woods Cabinetry
Established in 1987
Tom Capranos & Tim Capranos
Serving Worth County for 35 Years

Sue's Corner Post
Established in 1988
formerly The Corner Post
Serving Worth County for 34 Years

Berge Oil
Established in 1988
Larry Berge
Serving Worth County for 34 Years

Schroeder & Sites Funeral Home
Established in 1988
Mitch Schroeder
Serving Worth County for 34 Years

Northwood Insurance
Established in 1988
John Midtgaard
Serving Worth County for 34 Years

CARQUEST Auto Parts
Established in 1988
Troy Fleener & Mike Brunsvold
Serving Worth County for 34 Years

Signature's Supper Club
Established in 1992
Rhonda and Mark Taylor
Serving Worth County for 30 Years

Quality Composites
Established in 1992
Larry and Jody Porter
Serving Worth County for 30 Years

Bloomingdale Tax & Accounting
Established in 1992
Jane Bloomingdale
Serving Worth County for 30 Years



Stambaugh shares many memories as he continues family career

By JoAnn Lower

With barbers in short supply these days, we are fortunate to have Ken's Barber Shop right here in Northwood.

"My dad, Bill Stambaugh, was a barber for 52 years. Watching him cut hair was something that caught my interest so I gave it a try."

Growing up in Northwood, Ken graduated from N-K in 1991. The next year he attended barber college in Waterloo and after graduation started cutting hair in Lake Mills. "Kermit Singlestad was my first customer."

In 1993 Ken took over the business from his dad in the building where True Value is now. Three years later he moved his shop to its present location on Central Avenue.

"Dad was pretty happy that I took over his business. He stops in at the barbershop once in a while for a haircut or just to visit."

After 29 years, Ken still finds barbering rewarding. "I enjoy cutting hair. Five generations of one family have come to my barbershop. If you like what you do, you don't look at it as work."

Since there aren't many barbers around any more, Ken's customers come from a large area, keeping him busy throughout the day. "My customers become friends," he said. "Some make appointments, some drop in. I'm pretty flexible, it always works out."

Lots of stories are shared at Ken's Barber Shop – some funny, some sad, always interesting.

A little boy getting his first haircut is a barber's day to remember. "One morning a man brought his son into the shop telling the boy he was getting a haircut whether he liked it or not! By the time I got done, we were all sweating."

"A gentleman on dialysis in his final days came in for a haircut. Sadly, a few days later he passed away."

When Ken isn't cutting hair, he enjoys snowmobiling, fishing and golfing with his family – all things outdoors. He's also a Cubs fan.

Ken's wife Kara teaches first grade at Harding Elementary in Mason City. The couple's two children are 13-year-old Kinley and Kellan, age 9. Piper, their miniature schnauzer is 14 1/2.

"I'm happy to say that people in Northwood have been coming to my shop throughout their lives. This is a nice town to barber in."

MASON CITY GLASS SERVICE
(641)423-3960
Established in 1992
Joe Fierova & Brian Akins
Serving Worth County for 30 Years

Ken's Barber Shop
Established in 1993
Kenny Stambaugh
Serving Worth County for 29 Years

North Iowa Advisory
Established in 1995
Financial Services
Shannon Kropp
Serving Worth County for 27 Years

Kenison Construction
Established in 1997
Brian & Connie Kenison
Serving Worth County for 25 Years

Top of Iowa Welcome Center, Barn Boutique
Established in 1998
Jean Stowell
Serving Worth County for 24 Years

Northwood Sanitation
Established in 1998
Mike Brunsvold
Serving Worth County for 24 Years

Hogen Lawn Care and Tree Service
Established in 1998
Paul Hogen
Serving Worth County for 24 Years

Shade Tree, Inc.
Established in 1999
Shade Tree Liquors, 2000
Serving Worth County for 23 Years

Buck's Recycling, LLC
Established in 2000
Manly, June 2000
Belmond, Dec. 2012; Kensett, July, 2016
Serving Worth County for 22 Years

Worth County Development Authority
Established in 2003
Serving Worth County for 19 Years

AJB Enterprises
Established in 2005
Al & Jerry Brunsvold
Serving Worth County for 17 Years

Brian Kvam Construction, LLC
Established in 2005
Serving Worth County for 17 Years

Falkstone
Established in 2005
Serving Worth County for 17 Years

Country Inn & Suites
Established in 2006
COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON
Serving Worth County for 16 Years

Kalvig Boarding Kennel
Established in 2006
Carolyn Kalvig
Serving Worth County for 16 Years

Gasteiger Electric
Established in 2006
Jarod Gasteiger & Jessie Gasteiger
Serving Worth County for 16 Years

Studio 3/Johnson Vinyl Johnson Dirtworks LLC
Established in 2006
Tim & Alisha Johnson
Serving Worth County for 16 Years

Worth Brewing Company
Established in 2007
Peter Ausenhus & Margaret Bishop
Serving Worth County for 15 Years

Linda Anderson Tax and Accounting
Established in 2007
Serving Worth County for 15 Years

Eilertson Repair
Established in 2008
Gene Eilertson
Serving Worth County for 14 Years

Northwood Pines
Established in 2008
A division of LRH
Serving Worth County for 14 Years

Nate's Powder Coating
Established in 2009
Nathaniel Julseth
Serving Worth County for 13 Years

Northwood Theatre
Established in 2009
Serving Worth County for 13 Years

Carpenter Bar & Grill
Established in 2009
Ty
Serving Worth County for 13 Years

MJ's Cheesecakes
Established in 2010
Mary Jo Senne
Serving Worth County for 12 Years

Tequila's Bar & Grill
Established in 2011
Manuel & Shawna Ramirez
Serving Worth County for 11 Years

TruStile Doors
Established in 2011
Serving Worth County for 11 Years

Shellrock Repair
Established in 2011
Troy Hillman
Serving Worth County for 11 Years

Loberg Construction
Established in 2012
Eric Loberg
Serving Worth County for 10 Years

Interiors by Gretchen
Established in 2012
Gretchen Hengesteg
390-1003
Serving Worth County for 10 years

Fat Jill's
Established in 2013
Jill Ehrhardt
Serving Worth County for 9 Years

Knudtson Automotive
Established in 2013
Kirby Knudtson
Serving Worth County for 9 Years

Northwood Tobacco
Established in 2013
Serving Worth County for 9 Years

Rock-A-Billies
Established in 2013
Jona Birr and Rose Roulet
Serving Worth County for 9 Years

Northwood Chiropractic
Established in 2013
Sawyer Schulz
Serving Worth County for 9 Years

R80
Established in 2014
Angela Heiken, Manager
Kensett and Northwood
Serving Worth County for 8 Years

Strike Zone
Established in 2014
Nordic Lanes 1984
Serving Worth County for 8 years

Law Offices of James W. Hackbart
Established in 2014
Serving Worth County for 8 Years

Signature's Hot Beef Sundae Trailer
Established in 2015
Serving Worth County for 7 years

Federal Foam Technologies, Inc.
Established in 2015
Serving Worth County for 7 Years

Bice Electric
Established in 2015
Brenton Bice
Serving Worth County for 7 Years

Worth Lumber Co.
Established in 2016
Serving Worth County for 6 Years

Fringe and Lace By Brittany
Established in 2017
Brittany Low
Serving Worth County for 5 Year

Subway
Established in 2018
Serving Worth County for 4 Years

Ehrhardt Express
Established in 2018
David Ehrhardt
Serving Worth County for 4 Years

Logeman Construction
Established in 2019
Brad Logeman
Serving Worth County for 3 Years

ONE REALTYONEGROUP BLACK DIAMOND
Established in 2019
Kris Gordon
Serving Worth County for 3 Years

J & L Auto Body & Custom, LLC
Established in 2019
Serving Worth County for 3 Years

The Rustic Thread
Established in 2021
Melissa Thofson
Serving Worth County for 1 Years

Farmers New Ag, LLC
FARMERS NEW AG
Established in 2021
Northwood Ag Products 1988
Farmers Feed and Grain 2010
Serving Worth County for 1 Years

The Timbers
Established in 2021
Northwoods Event Center
Serving Worth County for 1 Years