



Experience the **BEST VALUE**, enduring **QUALITY**, and have your project done **ON TIME** and within **BUDGET**



Pictured left: Chad Derrick, left, presents the award to Joe Waller and Steve Wilkens of Jerry's Towing. Right: Kevin Derrick, Paul Werni, Owner, and Chad Derrick during the award presentation at 45th Parallel Distillery.

Two Projects of Distinction Winners

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Wisconsin hosted the Projects of Distinction Awards Ceremony and two Derrick Building Solution projects were recognized with awards.

Gold Award – Jerry's Towing Expansion



Midwest Star Group, the parent company of Jerry's Towing completed their headquarters facility in Roberts, Wisconsin. The new expansion consists of more than 23,000 square feet of space for growth in several parts of the business. The project broke ground in

December of 2019 and was completed in the Fall of 2020.

"We are very happy with the final product and greatly enjoyed working with the team at Derrick Building Solutions. Our facilities are trend-setting in this industry and are so well-planned and well-designed in layout, design, and the smart systems that will serve us well for years to come," said Joe Waller, Operations Manager.



Silver Award – 45th Parallel Distillery Events Center

New Richmond's 45th Parallel Distillery added an 8,000-square-foot special events space and tasting room during 2020 to provide

a much-needed expansion to the company's visitor area, tasting space, and an indoor/outdoor special event area. The facility was designed and built to coordinate with the existing distillery, originally built in 2006 by Derrick Building Solutions, and offers a comfortable and attractive destination.

The projects were judged in a rigorous process by a panel of construction experts based on a number of criteria, including safety, quality, owner satisfaction, execution and coordination, budgeting, difficult and unusual challenges and overall distinctiveness.

"ABC members do amazing work for clients in areas like

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Speaking Our Language

Dogs understand words at the level of a 14-month-old child, a recent study has found. According to the *Science Focus* website, scientists in Budapest studied brain activity in dogs using electroencephalography, playing recordings of words the dogs knew, along with similar-sounding words and nonsense words that sounded completely different.

The brain readings showed that the dogs could distinguish between words they knew and the nonsense words, but their brains didn't differentiate between familiar words and similar-sounding words—"sit" and "sut," for example. Dogs, like very young humans, don't pay attention to all the sounds of a word. In children, this short attention span disappears as they learn to process different words and expand their vocabulary, at 14–20 months of age. Dogs, however, never progress beyond this point, and learn only about 165 words during their lifetimes.

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



Follow These Not-So-Secret Secrets For Success

A successful career takes hard work, but the secrets aren't very mysterious. You can reach your goals with focus and determination—and this advice from *The Seattle Times*:

- **Pick one positive quality to emphasize.** Assess your strengths and decide which one suits you best. Choose tasks and assignments that let you show off that aspect of yourself. People will associate you with your strongest ability and call on you when they need it.
- **Always have a Plan B.** Not all of your plans will succeed. Although you've got to make your best effort, don't assume everything will go right. Anticipate obstacles and have a fallback option. This will help you stay one step ahead of potential setbacks.
- **Be reliable.** Always finish what you commit to, without excuses. People want to depend on you, and when they know you're going to follow through, they'll call on you more often.
- **Act ethically.** When you're asked to do something unethical or dishonest, decline politely but firmly. Most people will back off in the face of a clear "no." If not, you may be in the wrong job or working with the wrong people.
- **Treat everyone with respect.** From the janitor to the CEO, show everyone the same degree of respect you expect for yourself. You never know whose assistance you'll need, and being nice to people is a good investment in your future.
- **Don't be afraid to ask questions.** If something is unclear, ask for clarification. You'll get in more trouble for making mistakes due to misunderstanding an instruction than by asking questions up front.

"Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live."

—Mae Jemison

Keep Older Loved Ones Engaged During Difficult Times

We worry about our children during the pandemic, but that doesn't mean we should forget our older loved ones. Many are isolated and lonely, which can lead to depression and other health problems. Here's what *NPR* recommends to keep their spirits up:

- **Stay in touch.** Call them as often as possible. Talk about what you're doing, what makes you happy or sad, and what they're up to. Ask for their advice. This lets people know you're thinking about them.
- **Have a virtual dinner.** Schedule a shared meal via Zoom or another app. Cooking and eating together, even in different houses, can create a feeling of togetherness. Try watching TV shows together, too.
- **Connect to their interests.** Find out what they like to do and share it. If an older loved one likes books but has eyesight troubles that make reading difficult, offer to read a book to him or her, or set up a deal for audiobooks they can listen to.
- **Ask for help.** Just because people are older doesn't mean they're helpless. Often they have useful skills. Ask for recipes of family favorites. Encourage them to sew masks for the family.
- **Go for a walk or drive.** If they're able to go out, take a weekly walk together, or go out for a drive—with proper precautions like masks and social distancing, of course.

Decrease Financial Stress For The New Year

As we begin the new year and the COVID-19 pandemic continues, most of us are worried about money. It's a stressful time, but you can take steps to ensure your financial survival. The *CNB Select* website has this advice:

- **Make minimum payments.** You don't have to pay off debts in whole while your situation is uncertain. Low-priority debts like credit card and student loan bills won't have an immediate impact on you or your family if not paid off right away. Just remember to make the minimum payment to stay current and keep your credit rating healthy.
- **Find new forms of comfort.** Get out of the habit of buying things to make yourself feel better. Find new routines that help you feel in control of your life—making the bed each morning, dressing as if you're going to work even if you're working from home, exercising, doing artwork, or chatting with friends via Zoom. You'll reduce stress while also cutting your outgoing expenses.
- **Enhance your financial savvy.** Use the pandemic as an opportunity to manage your money better. Take a look at what you're spending and find expenses you can eliminate, like that latté from Starbucks every morning or all those cable channels. Once you have a better handle on your spending, you'll make better decisions and be able to save money for your emergency fund.

"You have to be odd to be number one."

—Dr. Seuss

Bringing Top Talent To The Table

Hiring the right people is essential to your organization's long-term success. You have to be picky. Here are the people to look for, according to *Forbes*:

- **Fierce negotiators.** Candidates who know what they're worth and are capable of making a case for themselves usually turn out to be powerful performers. Don't shy away from them. You want confident employees on your team.
- **Self-aware individuals.** Good employees know how they come across to other people and where they fit into the workplace and culture. Look for evidence of attention to others, empathy, and a willingness to encourage people.
- **Courageous people.** You want people who are comfortable taking risks, who choose courage over comfort. Ask about challenges they've confronted, obstacles they've overcome, and problems they've solved, as well as failures they've had to deal with. This should give you a good idea of their desire not to always play it safe.
- **People who add to your culture.** Go beyond looking for a "good fit." Seek out candidates who bring something different and new to the table. They may come from different backgrounds or have unconventional experience, but the best people will contribute to your organization in new and exciting ways.
- **Curiosity seekers.** Your organization needs creativity and innovation, so target candidates who ask lots of questions about your organization and industry and who don't blindly accept the status quo. The best questions include, "Why are we doing this?" and "Why don't we try that?"

"Some failure in life is inevitable. It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all—in which case, you fail by default."

—J.K. Rowling



Brain Teasers

Q: According to Greek mythology, who was the first woman on Earth?

A: *Pandora*

Q: Which singer's real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta?

A: *Lady Gaga*

Q: Where were the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights stored during World War II?

A: *Fort Knox*

Q: Which two U.S. states don't observe Daylight Savings Time?

A: *Arizona and Hawaii*

Q: Which mammal has no vocal cords?

A: *The giraffe*

Q: What was the first toy to be advertised on television?

A: *Mr. Potato Head*

Q: Which of William Shakespeare's plays is the longest?

A: *Hamlet*

Q: Before the Beatles were formed, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, and George Harrison were originally members of which group?

A: *The Quarrymen*

Q: What country won the very first FIFA World Cup in 1930?

A: *Uruguay*

Q: Which two countries share the longest international border?

A: *The United States and Canada*

Q: How many hearts does an octopus have?

A: *Three*

—Thought Catalog

Congratulations, Tom!



Owner Tom Derrick

Well, it is official—long-time second-generation owner of the Derrick Companies, Tom Derrick, retired as of December 31, 2020. Tom has dedicated more than 50 years to this company that was founded in 1967 by Bill and Mary Ann Derrick, and it will be very different without him here daily. As the Director of Field Operations since the early 1990s, Tom has contributed so much to the company and its success. It would be too difficult to even try to summarize what he has meant to Derrick Companies over the

years. Tom's brothers and partners, Bill and Ron, will continue to lead Derrick Companies with the assistance of the new leadership team that has been put in place. Bill Derrick, speaking for both he and Ron, stated "It has been truly a pleasure to work side-by-side with Tom as our brother and partner all these years. He will be missed as we adjust to not seeing him on a day-to-day basis." A post-COVID retirement party will be planned to celebrate Tom later this year.



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Congratulations, Chad!



Sr. Project Manager Chad Derrick

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Chad Derrick to Senior Project Manager Derrick Building Solutions (DBS). With this new position, Chad joins the DBS leadership team and will be closely involved with strategic planning for the future success of DBS. Chad will continue to provide exceptional project management services to our clients and will also provide daily leadership to the DBS project management team. We appreciate the 16 years of devoted service Chad has already provided and wish him success in his new position.

Winners... *from page 1*

manufacturing, hospitality, healthcare and education," said John Mielke, ABC of Wisconsin president. "We appreciate when our members are willing to have independent, third-party judges evaluate their work, so we have the opportunity to recognize their professional construction services that stand among the best anywhere."

Congratulations to Jerry's Towing and 45th Parallel Distillery on their exceptional awards! The entire Derrick team is honored to have assisted with the growth of our clients.



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