



## If I had a hammer Entrepreneur expands construction outfit

*This story ran on nwitimes.com on Wednesday, October 25, 2000 12:00 AM CDT*

CHESTERTON - Ray Yagelski III started off in a minivan doing roofing and siding work for friends, family and neighbors.

When he started making money, he bought a full size van. He made a little more money and bought some tools. For the first couple of years, every dime he made went back into the business.

Established three years ago as All Star Roofing, the one-man company focused on roofing and siding.

Renamed Midwest Construction Co., the general contracting firm has expanded to include gutters, concrete, remodeling, insurance specialists and new construction of residential and commercial buildings. Today, Midwest Construction boasts a crew of 12 to 20 people at any given time.

Yagelski, 24, said Midwest Construction is a dynamic and growing business. Based in Chesterton, it is committed to providing quality service at competitive prices. He said his goal is to anticipate and exceed a customer's expectations, focusing on personalized attention to customers, repeat business and exploring opportunities for growth in the construction industry.

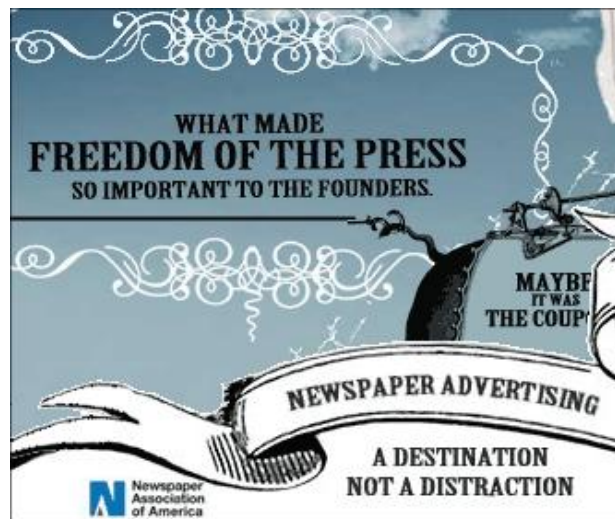
"I really enjoy the business that I'm in," Yagelski said. "We're providing full services to customers. We don't have to subcontract the work out. We've got framers and roofers."

Yagelski's partner is his wife, Erica, who handles the office. He recently brought in Chris Sopata as general manager.

Sopata formerly owned Dynamic Construction, with a specialty in windows. The pair, who are former classmates, decided to combine their skills into one business. In addition to being general manager, Sopata also handles some sales calls and project estimates.

Midwest Construction recently became an exclusive dealer for Milgard Windows, rated the best quality vinyl windows nationally by Builder's Magazine. It also offers other varieties of windows, including Seaway.

ADVERTISEMENT



[EXTRAS]

E-mail this story  
to a friend

View a printable  
version of this story

Search the nwitimes  
online archives

Discuss this story  
in our reader forum

The combined business has allowed Yagelski to expand, adding a showroom in the 1,100-square-foot building owned by his father. The showroom features samples, displays, pictures and color coordinating programs to make the decision as easy as possible for customers.

"The showroom allows customers to stop by and see first hand the product they are about to purchase," he said. "Clients can also get brochures and look at window and siding materials."

Carmen McCollum can be reached at [carmenm@howpubs.com](mailto:carmenm@howpubs.com) or (219) 462-5151, ext. 346.

[<< Previous Story: Area deaths](#)  
[For Wednesday || Next Story: U.S. Steel Kosice may have new carmaking neighbor, customer](#)  
[BMW eyes site near U.S. Steel Kosice for car plant >>](#)



[Back to top](#) | [Return to homepage](#) | [More stories from 25](#)

**Related Advertising Links**

**South Bend Finest Florist**  
Guaranteed Same Day Local Delivery 100's of items to choose - Save \$10  
[www.11Flowers.com/SouthBend](http://www.11Flowers.com/SouthBend)

**Local South Bend Florist**  
Same Day South Bend Flower Delivery Family Owned For Over 90 Years!  
[www.FlowerShopping.com/SouthBend](http://www.FlowerShopping.com/SouthBend)

**Feedback Form**  
Questions, comments, concerns? E-mail us!

Your e-mail address:

Your comment/question:

The Times reads all the e-mails we receive from this form and while we very much appreciate your feedback, we will not be able to respond to each one. If your comment requires a response, please call us at 219-933-3200. Thank you!

ADVERTISEMENTS



[Lake News](#) | [Porter News](#) | [Illiana News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Features](#) | [Community](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Personals](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Archives](#)

Copyright © 1996-2006 nwitimes.com. Reproduction or redistribution of content is expressly forbidden without the express written consent of nwitimes.com.  
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Do Not Call Policy](#) | [Ethics Policy](#)