Business By Nature Page 1 of 2

<Back Print



In This Issue...

Success Story - Door County BUSINESS by NATURE

Door County Business Development Center

Natural Stone Surfaces

Bridges & Highways

Contact Us

Entrepreneurship On The Door County Peninsula

Success Story - Door County Natural Stone Surfaces

Door County Natural Stone Surfaces is a full-service marble and granite fabrication company, providing custom-cut stone countertops for kitchens, bathrooms and fireplaces in residential and commercial applications. Company founders Luke Peterson and Jeff Tebo started the business in March 2006 after completing their business plan as part of DCEDC's annual NxLevel Entrepreneurial Training Course.

Tebo and Peterson have almost 25 years combined experience in the stone industry. The pair was initially attracted to starting a business in Door County through many years as vacationers on the peninsula. The young entrepreneurs from Green Bay identified a need and market opportunity in Door County and their company is now the peninsula's only stone fabrication shop; their clients are able to inspect stone slabs locally, without having to leave the area.

Door County Natural Stone Surfaces has consistently exceeded the growth projections laid out in their business plan. They have nearly doubled their sales since inception and recently added their fourth employee. The company is located in the Door County Business Development Center, the small business incubator DCEDC founded in 1997 in the Sturgeon Bay Industrial Park.

Door County Business Development Center



County

The <u>Door County Business Development Center</u> currently has 3,900 sq ft of light manufacturing space and 315 sq ft of office space immediately available for rent. Much of the available space is dividable to accommodate the needs of any size or type of business. Eligible clients include new or young companies looking for support to get a strong start in business. The Business Development Center, a small business incubator, helps reduce business start-up overhead costs by offering affordable rents and providing free or low-cost access to shared facilities, services and equipment, including: truck docks; forklift; high-speed internet access, copier, fax and mail services; and a private conference room.

Center clients may also qualify for special business incentive and finance programs: low interest loans; business finance training and consulting; tax incentives; and financing eligibility and application assistance. Tenants typically graduate from the Center within three to five years. Fifteen businesses have graduated from the Center to date, creating 76 jobs. For more information regarding the available space in the Door County Business Development Center, contact Mary Paitrick, DCEDC Operations Manager at (920) 743-3113 x202 or mary@doorcountybusiness.com.

Bridges and Highways



The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) completed two major projects in Door County this autumn. On September 21, the City of Sturgeon Bay and WisDOT celebrated the opening of the new \$32 Million channel bridge crossing, connecting Maple and Oregon Streets. On October 6, the County of Door and WisDOT opened the final section of State Highway 57 as a four-lane divided highway, allowing for uninterrupted travel from

Business By Nature Page 2 of 2

Green Bay to Sturgeon Bay. The \$72 Million four lane highway project and the new Maple-Oregon bridge will dramatically improve the transportation infrastructure in Door County, significantly enhance public safety and improve accessibility of the county for the vital tourism, industrial and commercial sectors of the local economy for many years to come.

DCEDC has been at the forefront of the advocacy for both of these projects, going back to the organization's founding. The Highway 57 expansion was a top goal of the DCEDC Board from 1989 until 1996 when the final approval was secured. DCEDC also took a lead in bringing the bridge issue to Madison during Door County Legislative Days in 2005. Over the years, the strong support of a broad cross-section of the County – including local government, schools, regional planning, agri-business, manufacturing, commercial business, tourism industry, law enforcement/emergency services and private citizens – helped secure the state and federal funding required for completion of these crucial infrastructure projects.

Contact DCEDC!

We invite you to learn more about doing business on the Door County Peninsula. The <u>DCEDC staff</u> stands ready to answer any questions you may have about starting, expanding or relocating your business to Door County.



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