



ADVANTAGES

A newsletter by The RAM Family of Companies

SUMMER 2014

P.O. Box 660 Winsted, MN 55395 • Toll Free: 800-710-4726 • Office: 320-485-2844 • Fax: 320-485-3625 • www.rambuildings.com



Carpentry Training Program



American Workshop and **RAM Buildings, Inc.** are working together in a joint venture to draw individuals into a career in carpentry. Thanks to continuous growth in the construction industry, carpentry positions are on the rise. Carpenters are highly respected craftsmen and YOU can become a part of our thriving post frame and steel frame building company. **WE WILL TRAIN YOU!** We are looking for individuals willing to learn, interested in making an investment in their employment future, with good work ethic, and hands on skills..



SUMMER PROJECTS ARE IN SWING

RAM General Contracting has been busy with our summer projects in full swing. We have been busy working on one of our own even. We have been converting an existing warehouse area into new offices, conference room, expanding the cafeteria and other internal areas. This is just the first phase of this long anticipated office remodel. The majority of this first phase is not visible from outside the building but just wait for phase 2 coming this fall. Phase two will definitely be noticeable as you drive by.



We have also been awarded the Building Construction portion of the new City of Victoria City Hall and Library. This project is set to break ground the first week in June and our section of work will commence around early November.

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If you enjoy being outdoors, working with your hands, a variety of projects & challenges, and having the ability to visually see your accomplishments then this is the career for you!

Don't wait! Classes begin June 16, 2014 in Lester Prairie, MN. 4 Week (128 Hour) Green Construction Trades Course ~WIA Certified~



We are still offering a great referral incentive. Give us a call to start your planning process or if you have an idea in your head let us help you put that idea into a drawing or 3-D perspective and give you a budget. No need for our services, but know someone who is ready to build or add-on? Then call or email us today with a lead, if that lead turns into a project for RAM GC you will be awarded a referral free!

We currently have a 100% placement record! This means you WILL find work after you graduate from this program. Within a carpentry career you will find opportunities for advancement, a job secure future, and great pay. Call today to see what scholarships



Proper Lawn Care

With our recently obtained Commercial Pesticide Applicator license in hand, we are really focusing on growing our new lawn maintenance program. Our lawn maintenance services include:

Lawn Mowing

Mowing is one of the most important factors in maintaining a good lawn. A professional mower and proper mowing techniques all help to ensure a smooth, well groomed appearance for your lawn. Our courteous crews have years of experience caring for all types of lawns. Any clippings will be blown from your walkways and driveway after each mowing.



Core Aeration

Aeration involves the removal of small soil plugs, or cores, out from the lawn. The plugs taken out are a couple of inches long. They are then left on your lawn, but will decompose in a couple of weeks. Usually done in the spring or fall when the soil is moist, aeration is one of the most beneficial practices for maintaining a healthy lawn. As lawns age or sustain heavy use, soil compaction can occur. This greatly reduces the pore space within the soil that would normally hold air - negatively impacting the nutrition intake and water infiltration, in addition to being a physical barrier to root growth.



Muddy Paddocks

Mud can be a common issue in many horse paddocks - but it doesn't have to be! We offer professional equestrian footing services, customized based on performance requirements and traffic volume, which can reduce or even eliminate the mud.



Using a laser level we are able to ensure the surface is perfectly flat; keeping the safety of the riders and the horses our number one priority. The purpose of the footing is to build up the area to keep horses out of dirt and allow rainwater to drain through.



RAM is Hiring! Join Our Team!

Due to our continued growth we have multiple positions open throughout our organization. If you know of anyone who may be looking for employment please send them our way.

Dethatching (Power Raking)

Thatch is the buildup of stems and the roots of dead grass that is layered between the green grass stems and the surface of the soil. Dethatching removes the excess thatch from your lawn, helping the roots to get oxygen, moisture, and nutrients.

Shrub Trimming

Shrubs need to be trimmed, once or twice a year, to maintain shape and form - promoting proper growth.

Power Edging

Edging along sidewalks and driveways puts on the finishing touch; giving your lawn a neat, clean appearance.

Weed Control & Mulching

Weed control is provided in all the areas in and around your landscape. These unsightly weeds compete with the grass and other plants for moisture, nutrients, light, and space.

Mulching helps control weeds from getting started in the landscaping by depriving the weeds with what they need to grow. It also provides the additional benefits of conserving soil moisture and preventing erosion - while accentuating your landscape for a more attractive appearance.

Mulch-Application Fertilization

Fertilizer provides nutrients to the grass, improving the color and growth of your lawn. Treatments are used to supplement the essential nutrients required to grow healthy grass. Our fertilization and herbicide products are carefully selected based on the season and the specific needs of your lawn at that time. We hold a Minnesota pesticide applicator license and a fertilizer license.

Sod/Seed Installation & Repair

Whether you need sod installed in a small area or need to create a whole lawn, RAM Landscape Services can get the job done right. If you have thin areas of grass or dead, brown spots in your lawn, our lawn experts will select the correct seed combinations to fix the damage and make it blend seamlessly into your existing lawn. Taking care of your lawn can be a chore; it requires more than just mowing to look its best. Don't stress about maintaining your lawn - let us do the work for you! All you need to do is relax and enjoy your beautiful, well manicured lawn.



RAM Buildings, Inc Customer Referral Program



Here are the positions currently open:



- Entry Level Carpenter
- Experienced Carpenter
 - Draftsperson
- Territory Manager



- Project Manager/Site Superintendent – Commercial Construction



- Landscape Sales Position
- Landscape Designer

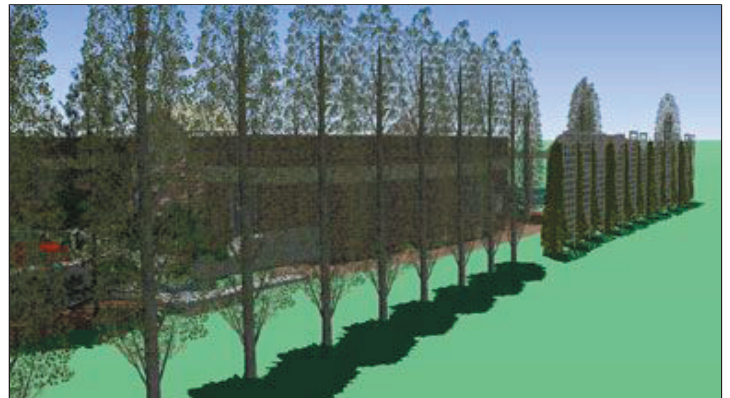
For full details on all jobs please visit:

<http://rambuildings.com/employment-wram>



Proper Lawn Care

Create a private space with a dense row of evergreen trees or shrubs or by using arbor structures. With an outdoor privacy screen, you can add some much-needed privacy to your pool or hot tub. Maybe you're seeking a private space for a backyard retreat or a patio, deck, or balcony.



Double Your RAM Referral Dollars \$ Double Your RAM Referral Dollars \$

We want to give back to you. Let RAM Buildings, Inc give you **\$100 - NO! - \$200** per referral for a limited time! Tell your friends!



You love money! We love referrals!
From June 15th, 2014 - July 15th, 2014 receive double
your money for referrals (\$200 instead of \$100)
from RAM Buildings, Inc.
HURRY! Refer us today!



**Each corporation has an individual referral program.
Call 800-710-4726 for more details.



Meet TJ Aalid

A plant screen or "living wall" gives you personal space away from the view of neighbors and passersby. They also block unwanted views, help block wind, and reduce noise.



Rain, Rain, Go Away!

With all of the rain we have had recently, chances are if you have a dirt driveway, it is a muddy mess. Driveways without enough gravel tend to get muddy in wet weather. A neglected driveway will only get worse over time - water that becomes trapped under the surface of the driveway can cause potholes. In order to properly address and fix driveway problems, part of the repairs should include improving the drainage in the area.

Luckily, we are here to help! Whether its potholes, cracks, surface water damage, water from below the soil, or just a touch-up or re-surfacing required, our experienced team will assess the problem and get it fixed properly.



Midwest Motion & RAM Break Ground



Photo by [Herald Journal](#)

The groundbreaking of Midwest Motion was on Thursday, May 29, 2014. Don Schnaser, Territory Manager at RAM, is currently working with the owners; Randy, Patti, & Marcus Cordes to streamline the design and construction of their business. Midwest Motion is a family owned company currently based out of Watertown, MN. They design, manufacture, & distribute motion controlled equipment. RAM will begin constructing the 80' x 72' x 16' Shop with a 66' x 32' x 12' Office in Howard Lake, MN within the next few weeks. This building will quadruple the size of their current work space. With the expansion of the business the Cordes' family is predicting an additional five full time employees and some part time employment opportunities as well. This fourteen year old company is currently in demand and the need for their motion controlled products is on the rise. This is an exciting venture for all!



TJ is one of our Landscape Foreman. TJ is responsible for himself and his crew members. TJ said, "Each job needs to be done correctly and finished in a timely manner. All employees represent the RAM family on & off the job sites." It is TJ's job to be a role model, teacher, and motivator. He also works hard right alongside all of his crew. RAM has been lucky to have him. He is now in his 5th season with the company.

He is now in his 14th year of landscaping. He has worked with Ron Wischnack, one of the owners of RAM Landscaping, all this time. Prior to working for RAM, TJ worked for Ron at NYA Garden Center.

TJ is married to his loving wife, Kim of 21 years. Together the two of them have three children; Tyler is 19, Joe is 17, & Aaron is 6. The family currently lives in Cokato.

He has a wide variety of hobbies/interests. TJ enjoyed playing amateur baseball for 21 years. After last season, he made the decision to retire. He also has a good time watching his kids participate in sports. He has fun hunting, fishing, really doing just about anything outdoors. Lastly, and I am sure certain not least, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends.

Here are TJ's thoughts on RAM, "It's been a great experience so far working for RAM. Ron Wischnack has been a great boss to work for and taught me everything I know about landscaping. Also, I'm grateful to Rollie & Gregg for taking a chance and starting a landscape division & adding to an already great family of RAM companies."



"RAM" - Field Trip Status

For the past 8 springs RAM has enjoyed a visit from the Lester Prairie Kindergarteners. Their smiles, curiosity, & happy little voices are always welcome here. It seems that with each year there are familiar faces of family and friends among the group.



The tour is short but sweet. It begins in our shop where there is a presentation that helps them to decipher what items are made of wood. It is fun for them and something that keeps their interest peaked, and still they are learning. Each of them receives a toy hard hat and a mini flash light; they are ready for work at RAM.



Now it's time to go check out some machinery. The kids take turns sitting in an excavator, a forklift, and a semi. Some of them pretend to drive the machines & in the semi they get to blow the horn. If it wasn't for their size, you would mistake them for RAM personnel. Talk about a good time!

Meet Greg Anderson



Greg joined the RAM team in April of this year. He is a Heavy Equipment Operator. He comes to us with 18 years experience in the industry. The main focus of an operator is to have the site at the correct grade.

Prior to being an Operator he was a Mechanic. This is a skill set that can be a real asset when working on the jobsite with machinery. Greg resides in Excelsior, MN with his wife Mary, and their children, Jayda(15) & Jeramiah(12). The family enjoys their trips with the travel trailer. They especially enjoy camping in the southern part of MN. Waseca is their favorite.

Although Greg no longer works exclusively as a mechanic, he still has a good time working on all types of vehicles. He owns a variety of vehicles himself that he works on; a Harley Davidson, a tractor, a Bobcat, & cars. On occasion he helps out a family member with their engine trouble. Greg states, "I haven't been at RAM long but I am happy and get along with everyone. It's all good."



Featured Plant: Bloomberg Lilac



The visit comes and goes so quickly. We look forward to the kindergarten visits to come. We thank all those who made their visit enjoyable!



Saddle Stand Winner!

At the 2014 MN Horse Expo, RAM held a drawing for this quality saddle stand. It was made by our very own employees. They did a great job!

Bloomerang Lilacs, part of the reblooming Lilac series, bloom for months – unlike traditional lilacs that bloom for only a few weeks. The dark purple buds first open in the late spring, then again midsummer, sometimes blooming right up until the first frost. You can enjoy the classic lilac fragrance all summer long!



Bloomerang Lilacs will grow in full sun or part shade, requiring moderate moisture. They attract butterflies and hummingbirds, while generally being deer resistant.



New Shed for Westgate Field



Pictured left to right Holy Trinity: Kyle Raduenz (senior), Danny Heller (senior), Mr. Snell (Instructor) Not Pictured: Jordan Fasching (senior)

Rick Baumann, WYBSO President, set out to have a much needed shed built for Westgate Field in August of 2013. The Winsted Youth Baseball and Softball Organization, aka Winsted Little League, were in need of more storage space. They have a shed at Barrett Field. When playing at Westgate Field, the coaches and players would have to move all of their equipment from Barrett Field to Westgate Field and back again when they were done.



Winner: Johanne Pardiac, JF Stables, out of Detroit Lakes, MN

We hope you enjoy the saddle stand for years to come!

Congratulations!

Rick began by contacting Tom Snell, an instructor at Holy Trinity and local businesses to see if they were interested in helping WYBSO build a shed. Once school began, Tom confirmed that he had enough students in his class to build the shed if someone could supply his class with materials. At that point Rick called RAM Buildings, Inc. He asked if RAM would be interested in helping supply the material. RAM was very willing and supplied the class with the materials, donating a portion of them and contributing the rest at cost.

Rick Baumann says, "WYBSO appreciates the help of Tom Snell and his class provided in building the shed. I would also like to thank RAM Buildings for all their help and cooperation in making this project happen. The WYBSO really appreciates all the hard work and many efforts that were put into making this project a success. The WYBSO looks forward to continuing to work with Holy Trinity and RAM on other projects and would like to build relationships with others businesses as well in the Winsted community."

The class did a great job and should be very proud of themselves for the work performed. Who knows? Maybe they will be future carpenters at RAM Buildings, Inc.
