



2nd Quarter 2021

THE MELTMINDER

A PUBLICATION BY BENTON FOUNDRY, INC.

Web Site: <http://www.bentonfoundry.com>

Construction is Underway at the Foundry

It seemed like the planning took forever, but we finally were able to break ground on our core room expansion. Demolition of part of the core room is complete. We have started pouring some of the foundations and setting some of the steel. There was a lot of site work that needed to be completed prior to pouring foundations.

It is exciting to finally be underway and we will continue with updates in upcoming newsletters. The picture to the right shows our building prior to the start of the demolition, and the picture below shows the beginning of the steel work. You can see the crane is in place and some of the work is underway.

This extensive expansion project is slated for completion by October of 2022.



Senator Gene Yaw Visits Benton Foundry

On May 4th, Senator Gene Yaw met with our Vice President Tim Brown and toured our facility. They discussed our operation in detail. This discussion included our current expansion endeavor, our automation efforts over the last several decades, as well as, our need for additional skilled labor.



Senator Gene Yaw represents Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna (part) and Union Counties. Benton Foundry employs 235 employees, 41 living in Lycoming or Sullivan Counties. If you include these employees, their spouses and families this covers over 84 constituents.



Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. He is also the Chairman of the Pennsylvania College of Technology Board of Directors. They discussed the importance of manufacturing in Pennsylvania. Also discussed was our Pennsylvania Foundries Program at Penn State University and our internship program. Nick Troutman, Senator Yaw's Chief of Staff also was present for the tour and discussions.

Senator Yaw serves on several committees. He is the Chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. He is also a member of the Appropriations, Judiciary, Law and Justice, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Banking and Insurance and the Majority Policy Committee. Senator Yaw serves on a number of Boards and Commissions including as Chairman of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a member of the Environmental Quality Board, a member of the Pennsylvania Aggregate Advisory Board, a member of the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority and a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water



Congratulations - Employees of the Quarter



Congratulations to **David Buma** (above), Benton Foundry's 1st shift Employee of the Quarter. David works in our Core Room, setting up the core boxes and getting them ready to go on the core machines. He has been employed since February of 2020. David lives in Stillwater, PA. He enjoys working on his pickup truck, fishing and hanging out with his friends when he is not at work. Dave was nominated for this honor as he is a hard worker, dependable and he is willing to take on additional responsibilities.

Great Job!

Congratulations to **Maria Higgins** (below), Benton Foundry's 2nd shift Employee of the Quarter. Maria works in our Core Room. She is a Core Machine Operator and has worked at the foundry for three years. Maria lives in Unityville, PA. She enjoys spending time with her children when she isn't working. She also enjoys swimming, hunting, fishing, yard work, carnivals and fairs. Maria was nominated for this honor for her versatility in completing many jobs in the core room, as well as helping out in other departments. *Great Job!*



Retiree



Michelle Williams retired from Benton Foundry on July 30, 2021. She was hired in 2010 as an order entry clerk. Upon her retirement, she was working in Accounts Payable. Her organizational skills and attention to detail were very beneficial for the A/P job. Michelle lives outside of Benton on a small farm where she and her husband Bill raise alpacas, goats and chickens. In her spare time, she works in her vegetable garden and flower beds. She also tends to her bee hives and lavender fields as well as drying and painting gourds. She will be starting her retirement by training her new puppy. We wish Michelle the best in her retirement.

HAPPY Retirement!

10 Reasons to Choose American Made Products

When you buy goods manufactured in the USA, it's a win-win for the nation and its people. Begin adjusting your shopping style today. Choose an American-made product whenever possible.

There have always been periods of uncertainty between the United States and other countries in the global market throughout the years. No one knows when political unease will begin and how the U.S. and other countries will relate to one another. Therefore, it's crucial to invest in products made in the USA to create more stability for the future of America. Buying American goods helps strengthen the country as a whole. It also benefits your local community and its various businesses. Here are 10 of the best reasons to purchase American-made products.

1. You're Getting Better Product Quality

American-made products are associated with high quality because U.S. manufacturing companies typically construct their products with higher - quality parts. The excellent quality not only makes them function great but also increases their lifespan. Therefore, while you may be spending a little more on an American-made product than its foreign counterpart, it's likely to be useful to you for much longer.

2. You're Contributing to Fair Wages for Employees

Foreign countries often don't have minimum wage requirements. However, if you buy American-made products like Made in USA tote bags, you know you're supporting fair wages.

3. You're Contributing to Safe Labor

Products manufactured in foreign countries may be cheaper than ones that are American-made. However, you don't know under what conditions the workers in the foreign country have worked to produce the goods. The U.S. requires labor standards for manufacturing companies that federal and state laws enforce. These standards are more stringent than those of many other countries, minimizing the chance for accidents and granting certain rights to workers. As a result, you can be sure that when you buy products made in the U.S., your money won't be contributing to negative factors such as dangerous working conditions, child labor, trafficking or slavery.

4. You're Opting for a Cleaner Planet

Federal and state governments have strict environmental regulations for U.S. manufacturing companies. So, when you purchase products made in the USA, you can be confident you're contributing to a healthier Earth. These benefits will also carry on to future generations.

5. You're Increasing Demand for American-Made Goods

The U.S. is currently in a world trade deficit, which means that it's importing more goods than it's exporting. So, when you buy American-made products, you're lowering the trade deficit of the U.S. by increasing demand for these products and boosting the American economy.

6. You're Helping Decrease the National Debt

By purchasing products made in the U.S., you're supporting American jobs and taxes. When more workers are paying more taxes, the U.S. Treasury Department is receiving more revenue. This increased revenue contributes to paying off the national debt.

7. You're Ensuring Product Safety

The U.S. has stricter product safety standards and consumer protection laws than many other countries. These safety standards instill the confidence that the American-made goods you purchase are safe for you and your family.

8. You're Expanding America's Self-Reliance and Independence

The U.S. has traditionally emphasized being self-reliant and independent from other nations for various essential items. By purchasing American-made goods, you're helping secure more independence for the U.S. In addition, when you rely on imported goods from other countries, you're setting yourself up for trouble during political unrest.

9. You're Keeping Americans Employed

As America continues to have a robust manufacturing sector, Americans can find jobs suitable for their needs and abilities. As a result, you, your neighbors and others throughout the country will be able to enjoy earning a living wage. In addition, the benefits will last generations as everyone can provide for their families.

10. You're Supporting Local Economies

Buying American-made products can cause a chain reaction in the benefits to the U.S. economy. Purchases benefit not only the national economy but also local economies. These purchases contribute to employing more Americans and bringing in more tax revenue. It also creates more demand for products made in the USA.

Again, when you buy goods manufactured in the USA, it's a win-win for the nation and its people. Begin adjusting your shopping style today. Choose an American-made product whenever possible.

Legal News, Analysis & Commentary
Kevin Gardner - July 1, 2021



Dryer Vent vs. Lint Trap

Clothes dryers are responsible for nearly 15,000 house fires each year. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the leading cause of fires is failure to clean lint from the system.

Since it's warm weather, now is the perfect time to make sure you also clean out your dryer vent. We all know the importance of cleaning your dryer's lint trap to prevent dryer fires. Many homeowners neglect to look beyond the machine itself to inspect their home's dryer vent.

The chart below shows a breakdown of the difference and why each needs to be cared for differently.

Like most home maintenance, general upkeep is cheaper than paying for expensive repairs.

Dryer vent cleaning is a perfect example of one of those thankless jobs you just need to do to maintain a household.



Dryer vent

What is a dryer vent?

When you dry a load of laundry, your wet clothes produce moist, warm air. It's the job of your dryer vent to direct all that air outside of your home.

Why clean your dryer vent?

Even if you clean your lint trap every time, your dryer vent can still become filled with lint, which reduces your dryer's efficiency and could create a serious fire hazard.

Cleaning out your dryer vent increases efficiency, which can save you money on gas and electric bills.

Fires peak in winter months. Make sure you plan regular vent cleanings and checks to help make your dryer run safely.

How can you tell if a dryer vent is clogged?

Blocked vents are one of the main culprits of dryer fires and cause millions of dollars in property damage each year. Look for these warning signs:

- Your clothes dryer is warm to the touch.
- Your clothes take a long time to dry.
- Your laundry room is hot or humid when drying clothes.
- Your find lint in, behind or around your dryer.
- Your dryer's lint screen is filling up faster than normal.

How often should you clean your dryer vent?

According to the NFPA, you should clean your dryer vent a least once a year. This depends on how often you use your dryer, how many people live in your house, where your vent is located and whether or not you have pets, it may need to be done as frequently as every few months.

Lint trap

What is a lint trap?

A lint trap will trap lint from clothing fabrics that accumulate during a dryer cycle.

Why clean your lint trap?

Your dryer's built-in lint trap is the first line of defense.

Removing lint that's captured in the mesh screen of your lint trap is critical to preventing fires. A clean trap allows for better airflow, which lowers your risk of a fire.

How can you tell if your lint trap is clogged?

If you use dryer sheets and fabric softeners, there's an increased chance residue can build up on the mesh lint trap. It's important to proactively clean this trap (an old toothbrush dipped in warm, soapy water will work just fine). Just make sure you give the trap time to dry completely before putting it back into the dryer.

How often should you clean your lint trap?

You should clean the lint trap screen after every load you dry. However, make sure to clean the trap itself on a regular basis to avoid too much lint buildup.

When you do clean your lint trap, remove the lint trap and vacuum the area with a crevice attachment from your vacuum to keep dust and debris from lingering and compacting in your lint trap.

Eriesense Spring 2021

Employee Savings and Retirement Plan

Contribution Source						
	Balance As Of 01/01/2021	Contributions	Withdrawals	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance As Of 06/30/2021	Vested Balance
EMPLOYER PROFIT SHARING	\$79,630	\$0	(\$1,907)	\$7,018	\$84,741	\$84,741
EMPLOYER MATCH	\$3,090,977	\$90,726	(\$106,970)	\$245,198	\$3,319,931	\$3,288,254
EMPLOYEE 401(k)	\$8,481,384	\$272,218	(\$179,613)	\$673,481	\$9,247,470	\$9,247,470
EMPLOYEE ROLLOVER	\$291,296	\$0	(\$7,664)	\$19,609	\$303,241	\$303,241
BENEFICIARY	\$0	\$0	(\$24,174)	\$24,174	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$11,943,287	\$362,945	(\$320,329)	\$969,481	\$12,955,384	\$12,923,706

Activity By Fund						
	Balance As Of 01/01/2021	Contributions	Withdrawals	Exchanges	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance As Of 06/30/2021
American Funds New Perspective Fund A	\$824,224	\$19,174	(\$54,048)	(\$129,575)	\$78,067	\$737,842
American Funds Growth Fund of America A	\$1,610,642	\$35,920	(\$68,080)	(\$24,976)	\$175,051	\$1,728,558
American Funds Fundamentallnv A	\$864,741	\$17,554	(\$28,768)	\$31,990	\$119,077	\$1,004,594
American Funds American Mutual Fund A	\$893,894	\$15,423	(\$4,876)	(\$2,530)	\$119,347	\$1,021,257
American Funds American Balanced Fund A	\$1,392,604	\$49,742	(\$8,452)	\$100,247	\$134,607	\$1,668,747
American Funds Bond of America A	\$468,138	\$14,619	(\$13,764)	(\$97,663)	(\$7,088)	\$364,243
American Funds SMALLCAP World Fund A	\$624,608	\$16,515	(\$16,434)	\$126,311	\$77,119	\$828,118
American Funds New World Fund A	\$265,170	\$6,837	(\$2,471)	\$0	\$26,703	\$296,240
American Funds Capital Income Bldr	\$270,435	\$7,027	\$0	\$0	\$26,644	\$304,106
American Funds Cap World Growth IncA	\$275,541	\$6,391	\$0	(\$6,652)	\$28,417	\$303,697
American Funds Inv Company Of Ameri	\$162,364	\$5,744	(\$5,287)	(\$2,784)	\$22,325	\$182,363
MFS Mid Cap Growth R3	\$0	\$6,456	(\$6,365)	\$164,383	\$10,324	\$174,798
VanEck Global Resources A	\$0	\$11,567	(\$1,720)	\$157,961	\$17,591	\$185,398
Invesco Gold And Spec Minerals R	\$747,112	\$19,933	(\$2,830)	(\$22,682)	(\$16,775)	\$724,758
American Funds Money Market Fund A	\$1,636,457	\$60,928	(\$68,573)	(\$80,396)	\$0	\$1,548,415
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2020A	\$13,644	\$549	\$0	\$0	\$852	\$15,045
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2025A	\$297,644	\$11,961	\$0	(\$1,237)	\$19,984	\$328,351
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2030A	\$556,518	\$9,365	\$0	(\$1,268)	\$43,288	\$607,904
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2035A	\$57,911	\$6,319	\$0	(\$1,317)	\$5,601	\$68,514
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2040A	\$495,708	\$8,978	\$0	(\$1,340)	\$51,828	\$555,174
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2045A	\$23,802	\$5,776	\$0	\$5,286	\$3,199	\$38,063
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2050A	\$185,133	\$12,989	(\$37,738)	\$1,302	\$17,702	\$179,388
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2055A	\$41,717	\$3,121	(\$921)	\$2,614	\$4,928	\$51,458
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2060A	\$26,426	\$6,399	\$0	(\$1,375)	\$3,074	\$34,524
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2065A	\$0	\$3,658	\$0	\$0	\$172	\$3,830
TOTAL	\$11,734,434	\$362,945	(\$320,329)	\$216,299	\$962,036	\$12,955,384

Price Per Share By Fund						
	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	6/30/2021
American Funds New Perspective Fund A	\$35.33	\$43.16	\$37.67	\$47.26	\$60.49	\$66.89
American Funds Growth Fund of America A	\$42.04	\$49.54	\$42.76	\$51.13	\$67.54	\$74.96
American Funds Fundamentallnv A	\$54.44	\$62.21	\$52.29	\$62.02	\$69.15	\$76.37
American Funds American Mutual Fund A	\$36.83	\$40.80	\$37.51	\$43.52	\$44.61	\$50.15
American Funds American Balanced Fund A	\$24.81	\$27.15	\$24.90	\$28.50	\$30.20	\$32.65
American Funds Bond of America A	\$12.72	\$12.89	\$12.57	\$13.09	\$13.79	\$13.49
American Funds SMALLCAP World Fund A	\$45.98	\$55.80	\$46.90	\$58.83	\$79.55	\$88.50
American Funds New World Fund A	\$51.45	\$66.92	\$57.36	\$70.55	\$87.95	\$96.75
American Funds Capital Income Bldr	\$57.64	\$62.82	\$56.33	\$63.32	\$63.01	\$68.35
American Funds Cap World Growth IncA	\$43.83	\$51.11	\$42.81	\$52.28	\$59.39	\$64.95
American Funds Inv Company Of Ameri	\$36.23	\$40.39	\$33.91	\$39.57	\$44.42	\$49.94
MFS Mid Cap Growth R3					\$28.02	\$29.48
VanEck Global Resources A					\$33.51	\$39.86
Invesco Gold And Spec Minerals R	\$13.85	\$15.74	\$13.64	\$19.88	\$26.63	\$26.06
American Funds Money Market Fund A	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2015A	\$10.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2020A	\$11.29	\$12.56	\$11.69	\$12.96	\$13.75	\$14.60
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2025A	\$11.77	\$13.44	\$12.43	\$14.07	\$15.39	\$16.41
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2030A	\$12.30	\$14.42	\$13.17	\$15.16	\$16.80	\$18.10
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2035A	\$12.38	\$14.84	\$13.38	\$15.77	\$17.85	\$19.53
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2040A	\$12.57	\$15.20	\$13.63	\$16.20	\$18.57	\$20.50
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2045A	\$12.69	\$15.43	\$13.84	\$16.51	\$19.00	\$21.03
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2050A	\$12.44	\$15.10	\$13.56	\$16.22	\$18.72	\$20.75
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2055A			\$16.92	\$20.29	\$23.45	\$26.02
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2060A			\$11.24	\$13.56	\$15.72	\$17.44
American Funds Trgt Date Ret 2065A					\$14.58	\$16.18

* Share price does not reflect fund dividends.

Kudos

Benton Foundry participated in the Iron Casting Research Institute's (ICRI) 48th round of Spectrometer Proficiency Testing this spring. This testing measures repeatability and consistency between various technicians within a lab and reproducibility and consistency between different labs. Certified reference standards with unknown concentrations of numerous elements are analyzed and results forwarded to the ICRI. For this last round of testing, Benton Foundry's Lab has had no statistically significant differences for repeatability and reproducibility. The Benton Foundry Laboratory has continually been recognized for consistently high performance in these exercises. Thanks to Ron Steward, Ana Ponce, Jackie Showers, Tim Antonello, Cody Snyder, Don Copeland, and Bill Simback. ***Congratulations!***



Asphalt Recycling

In the demolition process and site preparations we removed several loads of asphalt. Approximately ten loads of our used asphalt returned to H&K Group in Pikes Creek for recycling. These millings will be ground and used for new asphalt products. The recycling of these materials to make new asphalt keeps them out of our landfills where space is limited. Benton Foundry, like H&K continues to look for ways to improve our carbon footprint.



Congratulations

Good Job to Eric Malcein and Ryan Keeler for completing the ASK Chemical Training.

AFS E-Learning Courses Completed Over The Past 12 Months: 319

Participants during this time period include: David Buma, Chad Davis, Sue Hanna, John Harvey, Eric Malcein, JR Peterson, Lori Nafus, Ana Ponce, Robert Smith and Colton Young

Congratulations to the following personnel for the 2nd Quarter 2021.

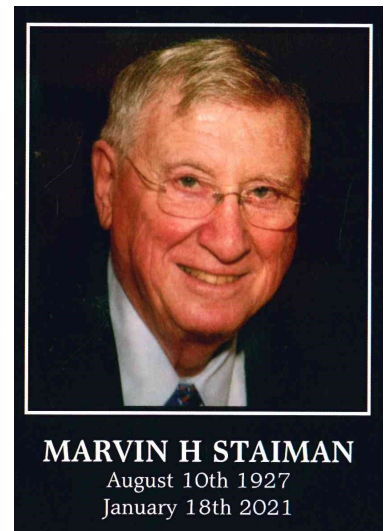
Luis Cruz Luquis - Highest Grinding Efficiency
J.R. Peterson - Highest Core Operator Production *
Tammy Norton - Highest Assembly Production
Paul Oteiza - Lowest Auto Molding Scrap Rate
David Straub - Highest Molding Operator Production
Melt Department - Highest Average Tons Tapped per Shift for the Quarter - However, we did not pour as many shifts as we would have liked due to other constraints.
 *This is remarkable as JR is only in a supporting role and normally works in our pattern shop.

Good Job!

Condolences

Marvin H Staiman

Marvin was a long-time supplier to Benton Foundry. He was a treasure in the Williamsport area for all his good deeds. He was a true gentleman and a very good businessman. Marvin was laid to rest in Israel next to his recently deceased wife. Marvin was very proud of his family and he loved to share their recent exploits.



***Our condolences to the Staiman family.
His was a life well lived.***

Birthdays

August

Dale Engle
Lily Schechterly
Adolfo Barrientos
Felix Ivan Lopez
Steve Lappan
Tina Bizup
Beth Litwhiler
Tom Boatman
Dustin Burke
Roger Green
Nick Lawton
Eric Piatt
Billy Ribble
Nate Steinruck
Jacob Beckwith
Emma Haug
Mike McAndrew
Zachari Santey
Ed Evans
Isabella Kubasek
Walt Lutcavage
Rhonda Scheetz

September

Lori Nafus
Bryanne Lynn
Shawn Nevel
Tim Kepner
George Bagdoyan
Dave Travelpiece
Ben Weaver
Steven Simmers
JR. Peterson
Mark Brown
Bill Keefe
Eric Malcein
Ruth Dawson
Andrew Ritinski
Tracey Kindler



October

Evelin Sanchez
Sherry Steele
Aaron Nunez
Ana Ponce
Tim Schechterly, Jr.
Chris Newhart
Adam Showers
Tom Vandine
Luis Cruz Luquis
Gordon Gottshall
Ronald Shanahan



Happy Birthday!

Trivia Question???

What country has the most tornadoes by area?

Answer will be in 3rd Quarter 2021

Answer from 1st Quarter question:

Which US State has the longest cave system in the world?

Kentucky



Want



\$250.00?

Company Referral Plan

Refer a Potential Employee to Lou
(Before They Come In)

If Hired, After
6 Months of Employment
You Get \$250.00



IRONY



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“There are no traffic jams
along the extra mile.”

~Roger Staubach

