

The Maple Lake MESSSENGER *Extra*

Messenger Extra, March 2019

A publication of the Maple Lake Messenger - Distributed to 5,000 area homes & businesses

E.A. Sween Company: family owned and committed to community

By Brenda Erdahl
Since early last fall E.A. Sween Company, maker of Deli Express sandwiches, has been hard at work making a place for itself in the Heart of the Lakes.

In early October the Minnesota based company purchased the building formerly occupied by Select Foods in Annandale's Business Park for production and packaging of its core brand, Deli Express and Market Sandwich ready to eat sandwiches.

Since day one, the focus has been on earning a place in the community.

"We want to show Annandale we share their values. We are a family owned, local business that has been in Minnesota 64 years. We are committed to Annandale and want passionate people to join our family," Senior Vice President of Operations and Supply Chain Aaron Scott said.

E.A. Sween was on site the day Select Foods vacated the premises to offer jobs to any Select Food employees who wanted one, Scott said. Today, many of those workers are being bussed to Eden Prairie, E.A. Sween headquarters and only other production plant, for employment and training. A few will stay in Eden Prairie and others will join the team in Annandale when building renovations are complete, Scott said. He and Manufacturing Engineering Manager/On-Site Contractor Nick Staab are optimistic that construction will be done as early as Monday, Feb. 25.

The plant will open with 70 employees to operate two pro-

duction lines that will do everything from building the sandwiches to packaging and shipping them out. Late this summer, officials plan to open a third production line and hire an additional 25 employees.

"We're still hiring," Scott said. "Right now, we are about 16 people short of our goal of 70."

A long-term goal is to add a second shift, which would create about 70 more new jobs for the community.

E.A. Sween

The E.A. Sween Company was founded in 1955 by Earl August Sween in Bloomington, MN as Stewart Sandwiches. In 1967, it moved to its current Eden Prairie location and in the 1970s became known as E.A. Sween. It now employs 600 people at its Eden Prairie site who produce 80 million sandwiches a year.

Although Annandale and Eden Prairie are its only two production plants, E.A. Sween owns warehouses and distribution sites throughout the United States. It manages more than 250 wholesaler partnerships, and is a global distributor with the military, which is one of its larger partners. Approximately 25 states have direct store delivery of E.A. Sween products that include multiple brands and a variety of foods from sandwiches to baked goods and a host of burritos products just to name a few.

The company started with Deli Express ready to eat sandwiches which continue to be its anchor and what the business is best known for. The Market Sandwich is its premium brand

Business Buzz

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and the company has worked over the last couple of years to create specialty lines such as Market Artesian, Scott said.

Traditionally the company's sandwiches could be found mostly in convenience stores, but as small shops have closed and consolidated with chain stores, E.A. Sween has had to change too. The company con-

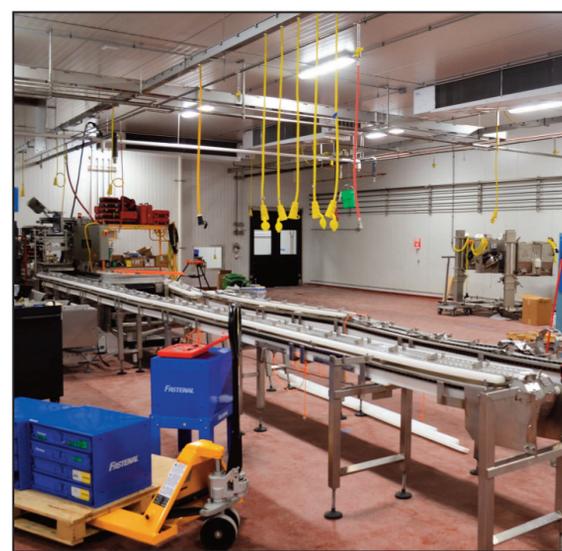
tinues to supply 10,000-plus convenience stores with its products and direct store delivery service but today, E.A. Sween products can be found in the more traditional grocery stores such as Walmart, Scott said. In total, E.A. Sween employs more than 1,100 people nationally and continues to grow.

into multiple aspects to include a segregated packaging area, maintenance shop, equipment cleaning room, laboratory for food safety and testing, prep rooms, cold storage and more. A mezzanine was built so when the company is ready to grow again, it can expand to a second floor, Scott said.

As of last week, all that was left before production could begin in Annandale was some detail work and a lot of cleaning. Production and assembly help is still needed, Scott said. For more information visit <http://easween.com/> and click on careers.



In early October the Minnesota based company, E.A. Sween purchased the building formerly occupied by Select Foods in Annandale's Business Park for production and packaging of its core brands, Deli Express and Market Sandwich.



At left, the plant is expected to be making Deli Express sandwiches by late February. At right, the maintenance team is busy preparing for opening day. They are pictured at right, front, from left, Maintenance Mechanic Rick Schuft of Buffalo, and Maintenance Mechanic Nick Moon of Annandale. Back row, from left is Maintenance Lead Darby Kramer and Manufacturing Engineering Manager/ On-Site General Contractor Nick Staab.



Above, left, senior Vice President of Operations and Supply Chain Aaron Scott explains the packaging process in the "Ready to Eat Room" at E.A. Sween's new production plant in Annandale's Business Park. (Photos by Brenda Erdahl)

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How mattresses affect sleep your quality

People make many renovations around their homes to improve their quality of life. When attention turns to the bedroom, some changes can greatly affect quality of sleep.

The temperature of the bedroom, its configuration and lighting can impact a person's ability to get a good night's sleep. However, the item that may bear the most influence is the mattress.

The Better Sleep Council says whether one wakes up feeling rested and healthy depends largely on the age of a mattress and its condition. A good mattress should alleviate pressure on joints while providing bodily support. It should not be a contributor to aches and pains. Mattresses that are seven years or older may need to be replaced.

A century or two ago, mattresses were constructed of whatever people had on hand — from feathers to pine needles to straw. That's all changed today. But even though there are many options, it's key for people to discover which material is right for them.

Innerspring
Innerspring (also called coil) mattresses have been around for some time. These metal springs provide internal support. The number of coils, types of coils and distribution pattern throughout the mattress impacts how well the bed will conform to the body. These mattresses may be best for back or stomach sleepers due to their level of support. Keep in mind that innerspring mattresses may have limited durability and

may start to sag after just a few years.

Memory foam
Memory foam mattresses are relatively recent additions to the market. According to the mattress shopping resource The Sleep Judge, memory foam mattresses may eventually replace inner-spring mattresses. Famous for its ability to contour to the shape of the user's body, memory foam envelops a person and absorbs energy. This means there's less motion transfer. That's a big plus when sleeping with a partner who moves around in bed. Memory foam provides a high level of pressure point relief and promotes proper spine alignment.

Gel foam
Gel foam mattresses bounce back to their original form when

pressure is released. Hollow columns in the mattress allow for increased air flow that improves this pressure release and enables people to sleep coolly and comfortably. Sometimes gel is paired with memory foam for a hybrid mattress.

Latex
Latex mattresses are coveted due to their durability and comfort. Latex also conforms to the body, but more generally than memory foam, so it bounces back quickly. One of the biggest draws to latex mattresses is how natural they are. Latex is made from natural rubber. Cost can be prohibitive, however, as latex mattresses tend to be expensive.

Purchasing a new mattress can lead to better sleep. This is a bedroom renovation worth pursuing.



The temperature of the bedroom, its configuration and lighting can impact a person's ability to get a good night's sleep. However, the item that may bear the most influence is the mattress. (Photo submitted)

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Must-haves for an amazing kitchen remodel

Kitchen remodels are among the most popular home renovation projects, whether they consist of swapping out cabinet hardware or doing major demolition.

Due to the sheer amount of time families spend in the kitchen, not to mention the number of tasks performed in this space, it is easy to see why Remodeling magazine consistently ranks kitchen renovations as projects that will enable homeowners to recoup a high percentage of their investments. In the magazine's 2018 "Cost vs. Value" report, midrange major kitchen remodels costing an average of \$63,829 recouped 59 percent of that investment.

When investing in a kitchen project, it is important to incorporate items that are coveted.

- Deep, double sinks: Having

a double sink enables you to soak dishes in one side and then wash on the other. It also makes it easy to wash and prep produce for meals.

• Kitchen island and bar stools: Even though many meals are enjoyed around the table, there's something to be said for the convenience of a kitchen island and some well-placed bar stools for quick breakfasts or snacks.

• Smart kitchen storage: Work with a contractor to include storage solutions built into cabinetry and the pantry. Slide-out shelving, nooks for a paper towel roll and custom-designed areas to store stand mixers and other necessities can make kitchens more functional.

• Outdoor access: If possible, design a kitchen so it is easy to access the backyard via sliding

doors. This can make outdoor entertaining or even coffee on the deck much easier.

• Under-cabinet lighting: Fixtures installed under cabinets provide both ambient lighting and task lighting. Such lighting makes it easier to see what you're working on as well, as even well-placed overhead lighting can fail to illuminate dark corners and spots on the counters.

• Convenient warming drawer: This appliance provides backup to the oven. It's a slide-out drawer that can keep prepared foods out of the way and warm until they are ready to be served. This is particularly handy for holidays and other entertaining.

• Beverage station: Designate one area of the kitchen to beverages, such as coffee and tea. Or make the area an informal bar.



When investing in a kitchen project, it is important to incorporate items that are coveted. (Photo submitted)

This can limit traffic in the kitchen to a single area.

Kitchen remodels are exciting and can make these high-traffic spaces even more coveted.

Separating facts from fiction in regard to organ donation

Organ donation is overwhelmingly supported by the adult population of the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 95 percent of adults in the United States support organ donation. In spite of that, the DHHS notes that only 54 percent of U.S. adults are signed up as organ donors. That gap only highlights the need for education in regard to organ donation. Separating the facts and fiction surrounding organ donation might compel more people to sign up as donors, saving untold numbers of lives as a result.

- People with medical condi-

tions can still be organ donors. Many people mistakenly assume that an existing medical condition precludes them from being organ donors. However, the DHHS notes that very few medical conditions would prevent people from becoming organ donors. Such conditions include HIV and active cancer. Transplant teams determine at the time of death if a donation is possible, so even prospective donors who have doubts can still sign up.

• There is no age limit for organ donors. The health and condition of the organs, and not their age, is what matters. In fact, the DHHS notes that the oldest

donor in the United States was 93 at the time of donation.

• Religions do not prohibit organ donation. The DHHS notes that most major religion support organ donation, considering it a final act of love and generosity. Prospective donors who are uncertain if their religion supports organ donation can visit <https://www.organdonor.gov/about/donors/religion.html> for more information.

• Celebrity status, race or financial well-being do not dictate who receives organs. In the United States, a nationwide computer system matches donated organs to recipients. Blood type,

geographic location and time on the waiting list are just some of the factors used to match donated organs to recipients. Race, celebrity status or financial well-being are never considered.

• Medical personnel will try to save organ donors' lives. Some people fear that signing up as a donor might compel medical personnel to abandon lifesaving methods if they become ill or injured. But that's not the case. Donation is not possible until all lifesaving methods have failed.

Organ donation is a selfless act that saves lives every day. Learn more at www.organdonor.gov.



Separating the facts and fiction surrounding organ donation might compel more people to sign up as donors, saving untold numbers of lives as a result. (Photo submitted)

Get ready: Early spring landscaping tips

During the cold months of winter, many people stare longingly out of the window dreaming of spring and time spent outdoors. For those with green thumbs, images of tending to the garden and other aspects of their landscapes no doubt dominate such daydreams.

Draw inspiration from those budding crocuses and daffodils pushing through the last rem-

nants of snow and employ these tips to prepare for the upcoming gardening season.

• One of the first steps is to apply a preemergent weed killer to get a head start knocking out weeds that can plague the lawn during the growing season. Killing weeds at the roots early on can mean far fewer hassles in spring and summer, and may prevent new

generations of weeds from cropping up each year.

• While it may be tempting to take a prematurely warm day as a sign that spring is in full force and purchase a bunch of annuals, it's better to know the last of the possible frost dates (check "The Farmer's Almanac"); otherwise, you may waste time and money planting flowers or vegetables only to

have them zapped by another frosty day.

• Amend the soil so that it is the right consistency — just crumbling when lifting it. Soil that is too muddy after spring thaw can harden, making it difficult for plants to flourish later on. Speak with representatives at a local lawn and garden center about which types of amendments you can add to the soil in your particular area to enrich it.

• Lawn and garden experts at The Home Depot suggest filling in bare patches of lawn now by mixing a few shovelfuls of

soil with grass seed. Then apply this patch to the bare areas, water, and continue to care for the area until the spot fills in.

• Spend a day in the garage or shed tending to the lawn mower and other gardening equipment. Clean all tools and ensure that everything works, repairing parts as needed.

• Give outdoor entertaining spaces a good scrubbing, clearing away dirt and grime that may have accumulated over the winter. Use a leaf blower to blow away any leftover leaves.

• Check if the front porch, railings or decking need paint-

ing and/or staining. Tackle these projects when the weather is cooler so everything will be ready for those peak spring days.

• Think about any annuals you might want to plant in the landscape this year that will complement any existing shrubbery or perennials. Come up with a theme so that the entire yard is cohesive.

Before homeowners know it, winter is gone and it is time to once again enjoy long days spent outdoors. Get a jump start on spring lawn prep as soon as you can.

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March 2019

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					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce meeting at the V by HH, 12 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legion Riders Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Legion Club 		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m. American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Late Start 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsman's Club Meeting, 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sons of the American Legion, 8 p.m. Lions Club Meeting, 7 p.m. at The V 		ST. PATRICK'S DAY Parade  St. Patrick's Day Grande Parade & Festival
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maple Lake City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. Albion Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Maple Lake Township Meeting, 7 p.m. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary, 7 p.m. 		
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Spring Break - No School					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Break - No School 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wright County Snowmobile Assoc. Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Legion Club 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knights of Columbus Meeting, 7 p.m. at St. Timothy's Church 		

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