

# PROGRESS 2007

## Workmanship is Bloom's trademark

Excellent workmanship and erecting buildings with character is the reason Bloom Builders of Oskaloosa remain in business for more than half a century.

Established in 1951 by Gus Gilderbloom, Bloom Builders has made a name for themselves with more than 11,000 projects to their credit. Owners Jerry Mitchell and Ben Douglas bought the business in the 1980s and continue to stress

the workmanship Gilderbloom envisioned.

"My wife, Cheryl, says we build buildings 'with character'," said Mitchell.

She should know. She keeps the books for the company and has seen the repeat business come back again and again.

Mitchell said the strength of his company is the leadership of our foremen and lead men. They have more than 70 year's experience in various aspects of construc-

tion. Each one brings a unique skill to the job.

Wayne Vitzthum, Curtis Crill, Bryon Finneman, and Cory Ransford lead the crews.

"Since the beginning we have been setting the standard," said Mitchell. "Our competitors are beginning to do some of the construction ideas Bloom has originated. We have built strip malls, mini-storage, horse barns, machine sheds, garages, suburban outbuild-

ings and commercial buildings. Many of them have specially designed features.

Uniqueness and the ability to take on challenges also give Bloom Builders an edge.

"We will do what others can't do or are unwilling to do," said Vitzthum. There needs to be a reason for people to buy your product and ours is our workmanship. We also do a lot of custom work."

Mitchell said Bloom

likes to have total control of the erection of a customer's project so they know that the work is done correctly. That autonomy allows the customer's needs and desires to be addressed during the building process.

Bloom Builders employs engineers and designers to help the customer design just the right look for their particular application.

Mitchell said with housing starts down, and lumber

prices low, now is the time to consider building. There is good pricing on construction projects.

Most of their work is within a 120-mile radius of Oskaloosa. With the onset of the Internet, inquiries have increased. Mitchell said their Web site, [www.bloombuildings.com](http://www.bloombuildings.com), is receiving many inquiries per month.

Bloom Builders continues to set the standards for other builders to follow.

## Bank Iowa: All signs point to progress



photo provided

The staff of Bank Iowa.

Bank Iowa is finalizing plans for a new branch building which will be located on A Avenue West in Oskaloosa.

"Our new facility will make banking much more convenient for everyone on the west side of town," President Daryl Petty said. "We intend to have the new facility open next year."

Bank Iowa invites anyone who has a lending need to stop in and visit with one of their experienced lending staff. Oskaloosa's lending staff includes Brian Hawk SVP, Dan Adams VP, and Joel Rochleau VP along with Mark O'Rourke VP in Fremont. They specialize in agricultural, small business, commercial and real estate loans.

Their tellers, operation staff, personal bankers and loan administration are known for greeting their customers with smiles and are always ready to help everyone with all of their banking needs. Bank Iowa is proud to take the approach to work

with each person individually to find the appropriate products for their needs and to ensure they understand how to use the product efficiently. They also feature a flexible IRA product and a HAS account that helps individuals make medical coverage more affordable.

"We are constantly updating and adding new products and services, to ensure our customers have the most efficient, up-to-date services possible," said Marketing Director Vicki Jones. "Some of the new services added in 2006 were a new teller system, which provides customers with automated receipts, free Internet Bill Pay, and a Web site enhancement, which enables customers to print copies of their checks and deposits. We know security is important to our customers. For that reason, we have chosen the highest possible security measures for our Internet banking. Bank Iowa is looking forward to introducing more new products in 2007."

Oskaloosa and Fremont are members of Bank Iowa Corporation, an Iowa-based organization of independent banks in eighteen locations. Each Bank Iowa Corporation bank offers the services of a modern financial institution while maintaining the integrity of a community bank where decisions are made locally.

This marks the 30th year of Bank Iowa Corporation. Their experience, professionalism and commitment to teamwork and customer service are the basis of the company's culture — a culture which forms the added value their clients demand in their banking relationship.

"Your success. Our priority. Bank Iowa's promise to you that we will work very hard to help you achieve financial success. Whether that involves helping you find the right mortgage, open a line-of-credit, or select the best checking account for you, your success is our priority," President Daryl Petty said.

Look for more Progress in Thursday and Friday's Herald

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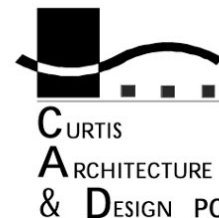


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Rod Curtis  
Owner-Architect



Jerry Vande Krol  
Senior Associate

### Curtis Architecture & Design PC

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