

Hometown home vibes from a hometown guy

Northfield enhances North Shore properties with business

JACQUELINE GLOSNAK, Editor

While most young adults have a general idea of the type of career they hope to follow, most don't taking the plunge right after high school to creating a business of their own.

However, after helping some family members with a series of local remodeling jobs, Sam Smith decided that he enjoyed the work so much that at the age of 19, he would start his own construction company.

"My family got halfway through and were frustrated with the process," said the Northfield native and Loyola Academy graduate, who offered to help out while home from college.

Following the successful completion of the local projects, according to Smith, people took notice of their good work, and from there, "the phones started ringing."

"I kind of fell into it, but I've always had an interest in wood working and stuff like that,

and it kind of blossomed into this business," he said about the creation of his company, SRS Management Construction Group.

Since 2000, Smith's business has mainly focused on residential projects in Northfield, Winnetka and throughout the North Shore, doing everything ranging from kitchen and bathroom renovations to additions and custom home building. Occasionally, Smith also works on commercial properties, including the 2017 buildout at Wilmette's Torino Ramen, of which he is also part owner.

"We pretty much do everything," he said.

But, despite the growing popularity of totally modern homes and flipping homes, Smith said he does his best to keep the work of his local projects as much in tune with the architectural feel of the local neighborhoods in which he works, like in his hometown of Northfield.

"I'm trying to not tear down as much, but more renovate to keep the kind of feel of Northfield, because we see a lot of these houses where they tear

them down and put these big castles up," Smith said. "[With] all of our projects, we try to stick to the feel of Northfield. I hear from people a lot, 'That house you built looks like it's been there for years.'"

And, while Smith and his small, 10-person staff do their best to satisfy customer after customer, he said that not only does his company ensure it tailors each project to each customer, but that his company truly runs off of old-fashioned mom-and-pop business principles, always valuing customer input and individuality.

"We don't want every house to look to same, and that's kind of what separates our firm from every other... builder," he said. "And, we just have a real good sense of the market as well in the area."

Smith, who continues to live in Northfield with his wife and two daughters, operates out of his showroom in Northbrook, located at 1866 Techny Court.

For more information on Smith and his business, visit srsconstructiongroup.com or call (312) 576-5980.



Sam Smith, of Northfield, began his own construction business, SRS Management Construction Group, at the age of 19 following enjoying helping his family out with construction projects in the area. PHOTOS SUBMITTED



The majority of Smith's residential construction projects, like the Northfield home pictured above, are done in the North Shore area.

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