

K & D, KMK thriving in Trenton locations

Both businesses are in midst of expansion

Two Trenton manufacturers on Thursday briefed members of the Trenton Chamber of Commerce on their business activities and current expansion projects.

KMK Metal Fabricators and K & D Counter Tops both are relatively new companies and both are flourishing in their Trenton locations.

Kirk Kastle and David Mollett, two-thirds of the partnership that operates KMK, told chamber members that their current construction project will add eight to 12 new employees to the company's current total of about 60 here in Trenton. The addition to the KMK building will accommodate a powder-coating facility, a function that company is now having done in DuQuoin.

KMK's roots are in Carlyle, where the metal fabrication business was founded, but when the company purchased Trengo (the old baby buggy factory) here in Trenton a few years ago, they broadened their product line to include wire and tubing.

Kastle described the powder-coating process as an environmentally-friendly one that includes spraying, washing, and oven-baking the coating. The company reclaims most of the powder it uses and the rest is safe to go down the sewer.

Troy Kapp, who with his brother Dave and brother-in-law John Daiber comprise the ownership of K & D Counter Tops, told chamber members of the company's rapid expansion and movement into more modern kitchen counter top products.

Troy and Dave's father, Duane Kapp, was in the cultured marble manufacturing business here in Trenton for many years, and both sons gained their first experience there. "We moved out of the bathroom and into the kitchen," said Troy in explaining K & D's main product line.

Where once the company made mostly laminate formica counter tops, expansion is now necessary to house and fabricate more solid and stone materials like Corian, granite, and Cambria (a quartz product).

Kapp said the company, which employs about 70 people, now produces 15 to 20 kitchen's worth of laminate tops per day, 10 to 12 kitchens' worth of solid (Corian) counter tops, and three to five kitchens' worth of natural stone tops.

Once the expansion is complete, the company hopes to increase its stone production to seven to 10 kitchens in the near term and eventually to 12 to 15 kitchens.