

Business Resources During COVID-19

The following resources for small business are listed on the village's website at elkgrove.org:

The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering Illinois businesses low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19). For more information, visit www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance or review the resources below:

Start your disaster loan application: disasterloan.sba.gov/ela

Disaster loan assistance: disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/EIDL-Loans

Stay up-to-date: www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources

Locate your nearest Small Business Development Center: viewer.blipstar.com/blipstar?uid=5161672 or text LOCATE to 7234.

For frequently asked questions: choosedupage.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/EIDL-FAQ-2020-03-19.pdf

Register for webinars on the Economic Injury Disaster Loans by visiting www.sba.gov/offices/district/il/chicago. The trainings will cover program eligibility, use of proceeds, terms, filing requirements, and additional small business resources.

Hospitality Emergency Grant Program:

DCEO is launching the Hospitality Emergency Grant Program with \$14 million drawn from funds originally budgeted for job training, tourism promotion, and other purposes. Grant funds are available to support working capital like payroll and rent, as well as job training, retraining, and technology to support shifts in operations, like increased pick-up and delivery.

Visit us.accion.org/news/covid-19-hospitality-business-grant-program for more information and how to apply.

Emergency Day Care Resources:

On Friday, March 20, the governor's executive order included the closure of daycare centers.

Daycare centers can apply for an emergency daycare license under the emergency rules that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) posted. The rules can be found on the State of Illinois website.

These emergency daycare centers can provide care to those individuals who are authorized to work under the executive order. Daycare homes (as opposed to centers) may continue to operate (without a license from DCFS) with up to 6 children.

Additional resources related to providing emergency daycare services can be found at www2.illinois.gov/dcf/brighterfutures/healthy/Documents/COVID-19_Frequently_Asked_Questions_Following_the_Mandatory_Closure_of_All_Child_Care_Centers_and_Homes.pdf.

The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development has also additional information and resources that can be found at www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/For-Communities.aspx.



Terry Weiner (center), president of Abbott Rubber Company, Inc., is proud to have a third generation of his family – Kyle and Marc – working in the business his father founded in 1951. (Submitted photo)

Making Ends Meet

Manufacturer's Industrial Hose Assemblies Keep Industry Moving

By MELANIE KALMAR

Special to the Journal

Terry Weiner was only 18 years old in 1970, three weeks into his freshman year of college, when his 53-year-old father Arthur, an entrepreneur who fabricated and distributed industrial hose assemblies, died suddenly, leaving behind the business he built.

"After he passed away, everyone told me what a nice guy he was," recalled Terry, president of Abbott Rubber Company, Inc., noting it had a profound impact on him. "I try to be a nice person, to be of help to the customers that need solutions to their hose product needs. If you're helpful and you can solve the customer's problem, they'll reward you with an order."

His father founded Abbott Rubber Company, Inc. in 1951 by purchasing surplus hose products from manufacturers and fabricating it (cutting it to length, placing fittings on it and other customizations) for Original Equipment Manufacturers, distributors and end-users. Long before Total Quality Management helped manufacturers prevent overordering, this surplus of hoses ripe for customizing to customers' needs gave many distributors like Arthur, referred to as jobbers in those days, their start in the industry, Terry explained. Today, the company serves a host of industries, such as: agriculture, construction, consumer products, fire suppression, food and beverage, landscaping, and septic and liquid waste. "Everything is custom," Terry said. "Hose

assemblies keep machines operating so consumers can get the products they need."

Spring is Abbott's busiest time of year, Terry said. "When the snow melts and the rains come, contractors have to get pumps out and farmers start planting." In March, the coronavirus pandemic caused a slight decline in business and adjustments to how employees work to keep them from con-



Left to right: A third generation of the Weiner family, Marc and Kyle, inspect the crimp on a newly fabricated hose assembly with Francisco Martinez.

tracting the illness. Still, in spite of all the uncertainty, Terry maintains positivity. "I've always been a positive person," he said.

After Arthur passed away, Terry did double duty as an emerging entrepreneur and student, earning a degree in marketing from the University of Illinois at Chicago. "I got out of school early and put in six-hour days at the company," Terry said. "I started at the bottom, the only way to go. When you only have one or two employ-

ees, you're doing everything: purchasing, receiving, fabricating, shipping, selling." His brother Dennis, vice president of the company and instrumental in leading it to where it is today, was 5 years old at the time.

The business moved in 1972 from a loft building in Chicago's West Loop to a 4,000-square-foot facility in the Elk Grove Village Industrial Park. It now occupies more than 100,000 square feet of space at three locations in Elk Grove Village, including its 1700 Nicholas Blvd. headquarters and an additional facility in Belvedere.

"We keep industry moving," Terry said of Abbott, which has approximately 125 employees that serve both domestic and international clients. "A hose failure will stop a machine. If a hose needs to be replaced, that's what we do."

Lately, Terry is seeing second-generation owners begin to retire and national powerhouses, seeking to increase their footprint, acquiring the businesses and eliminating the possibility of third generations taking over one day. He is proud that is not the case at Abbott. His two sons, Eric and Marc, and Dennis' children, Kyle and Kami, all work in the business. "Not only are the family members working here, but their interest is heightened by the fact that they want success," Terry said. "They don't go home and shut everything off. They're always thinking about how to do things better and be more successful. There's a lot of passion in what we do. Once you're in this industry, you usually stay in it your whole business career."