

# Youngers and Sons poised to celebrate its 50th anniversary

## Growth includes new facility in Wichita

Most people in the area know of Youngers and Sons Manufacturing and identify it with the machined parts facility located on west Highway K-42 near Viola. That image is a far cry from the bold steps the manufacturing company has taken in the past three years.

When co-owner Wayne Youngers retired in 2019, Neil Youngers became the sole owner of the business his father started in 1973. This next year, the company will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

As Neil Youngers took over full ownership of the business, he set his sights on additional growth for Youngers and Sons. To help accomplish that growth, in March of 2021, he hired Chad Hoheisel as the company's chief operating officer as well as hiring an entirely new management team to run the day-to-day operations.

"Neil knew he needed help to grow; this new management team is focused on growth and innovation and we're all very excited about the future," said Hoheisel. His first big challenge was to expand the operation into a new, state-of-the-art, 51,000-square-foot facility located in an industrial park of southwest Wichita less than a mile from Cessna Aircraft.

Youngers and Sons operates out of four facilities totaling more than 135,000 square feet located in Viola, Goddard and Wichita. In a short time, Youngers and Sons has grown to 90 employees, and is looking to add



Robotics are a key element in the new plant's operations.

10 more employees over the next year. At the new facility in Southwest Wichita, the focus is on engineering, automation, and performance-based operations.

While the company is always looking for skilled workers, it is also working to train and grow employees, as well. Those workers can find a good home at Youngers and Sons, where employees benefit from competitive health insurance, a 401K match and a profit-sharing bonus plan.

"Our diverse customer base includes oil and gas, agriculture, construction, performance automotive drive-lines and amusement park components," said Hoheisel. Manufacturing capabilities continue to include NC turning, milling, broaching and grinding.

Youngers and Sons is focused on three core initiatives as it positions itself for the future.

"Our business continues to grow across all platforms as we focus on customer service, customer diversification, and profitability through process simplification and waste elimination," said Hoheisel. New projects this next year will include plant refurbishment to support a new raw material receiving and storage location that will include saw operations.

And, of course, additional automation efforts will always be in the works.

"We've brought in the next generation of equipment at the new plant," said Hoheisel. "Automation will continue to be a key activity for loading and unloading parts. We have a 72 pallet three-tier automated Makino MAS system, Halter Robots, and LNS systems on lathes."

Youngers and Sons Manufacturing was founded in 1973 by Gerald Youngers. Youngers originally set up his shop in a 24'x24' metal building on the Youngers' family farm. Youngers had many successes in those early days, and three of his seven sons decided to join him in the family business. Current owner Neil Youngers has been with the company since 1978.

The first piece of CNC equipment was purchased and installed in 1984, and success brought the need for more equipment and expanded facilities. To learn more about Youngers and Sons and its machined parts operations, visit [www.youngersmfg.com](http://www.youngersmfg.com).



ABOVE: Miles Radovich operates a CNC lathe that is making fan shafts for a large square baler.

LEFT: A large palletized system in the plant allows for "lights out" machining work overnight.

RIGHT: Youngers and Sons COO Chad Hoheisel explains how automation efforts at the company's new facility in Wichita are improving production efforts.

