



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Al's Asphalt Makes Big Impact on Community By Saving Special Favors For Special Moments

Talk to Al Williamson of Al's Asphalt for a short time and you'll find his Taylor roots run very deep. The company is located at 25500 Brest Road west of Telegraph.

Back in 1964, Al's father and uncle had a smaller paving and sealing business. The City of Detroit, in those days, was still bustling with activity. Al started working in the business right out of high school. It was a family business run in a blue-collar way. Decades later, it still holds many of its same founding beliefs close to its core.

"Why should people want to do business with us?" he repeated the question. "We've been around for a long time. We're state licensed. We have an old-school mentality. We treasure quality. We have very good equipment. Personally, we're very involved. We don't ever want to lose our edge. I was born in Trenton, but I've lived in Taylor my entire life."

And that's why, when local people need a job done, are seeking a partner or just need a favor, Al's Asphalt is where they turn. When the Taylor Veterans Home Program needed driveway and parking lots redone, Al's Asphalt was on the job. The company renovated the long driveway of the program's second home on Polk Street south of Goddard. That home was awarded to Christopher and Darcy Holcomb. The

program's third home (a large brick house on Northline Road east of Racho), will become the headquarters for Enchanted Makeovers. Its driveway and parking lot look brand new, thanks again to the work of Al's Asphalt.

"We like to help our community," Williamson said. "We have a relationship with the Penrickton Center for Blind Children. They impact people's lives. You can't say 'yes' to everyone that wants a favor. We save the favors for something special. The veterans program is like that. Enchanted Makeovers works with battered women . . . they need help. Our main suppliers, like Ajax Paving, chip in too."

"People need to understand that life isn't always about getting something. It's not always about 'you.' Taylor has a lot of potential. I've always liked it here. We try to do our best."

Taylor Today took the time to meet with Williamson and another long-time Al's Asphalt executive, Ed Swanson, early in the spring. It was right after one of the worst winters in Michigan history, a season that left the state's foundation crumbling. Potholes were everywhere and streets and freeways were in a condition seldom – if ever – seen in even a cold-weather state like this. It was great if you were in the asphalt business, but even Al Williamson

had a common man's view of the situation.

"There's been so much financial pressure over the past five years," he said. "You look at what happened this winter. You don't see those holes until the first frost cycle. Cold-patch works, but its temporary. You need long-term answers. But things have gotten better to a degree."

Al's Asphalt is a member of the following associations: Construction of Michigan, Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation, Institute of Real Estate Management, Detroit Metropolitan Apartment, Community Association Institute, Washtenaw Arena Apartment, National Apartment, Pre-qualified Michigan Department of Transportation, Building Owners and Managers, International Facility Management, National Affordable Housing Management and the International Council of Shopping Centers.

They specialize in new construction, parking lot paving, asphalt resurfacing, pulverization, asphalt paving, milling, asphalt patching, crack filling, seal coating, concrete work, preventative maintenance and site evaluation.

For more information, call (888) PAVEMENT or click on www.alsasphalt.com.