

WHEN DID YOU BECOME A PHYSICALLY ESTABLISHED BUSINESS IN RAMSEY?

VISION EASE LENS: We started construction in 1997 and completed in 1998.

ACAPULCO: Acapulco Ramsey opened on June 11, 2010

BOLTON & MENK: The Ramsey office of Bolton & Menk was opened in 2006. The business initially opened in the NAU building until construction of the Ramsey Office Plaza was completed in late 2006.

THE LINKS AT NORTHFORK: 1992

WHAT IS YOUR ESTIMATED NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES/FTE (2012)?

VISION EASE LENS: As of June, we currently have 280 FTE at our Ramsey Location.

ACAPULCO: We currently have 20 FT employees and 25 PT employees

BOLTON & MENK: Bolton & Menk currently has 265 full-time employees companywide. The Ramsey office of Bolton & Menk currently has 16 full-time employees.

THE LINKS AT NORTHFORK: 50-55 seasonal and 5 Full-Time

HOW DOES YOUR BUSINESS POSITIVELY AFFECT THE COMMUNITY, BESIDES JOB CREATION (I.E. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, DONATIONS, SPONSORSHIPS, MEMBERSHIPS, ETC.)?

VISION EASE LENS:

- Annually we participate in Habitat for Humanity (Twin cities habitat for humanity). We try to get projects in Anoka County. Typically we get roughly 70 volunteers over the course of 1 week to build/refurbish a house.
- Recently in April, we gave to the Anoka County Brotherhood Council food shelf.
- Annual contributor of monetary and food items through Toys for Tots.
- Feed my starving children program. Multiple departments organize a day/half day to volunteer. This is an initiative driven by individual managers.
- We give to the “gift of sight” program (Internationally based program).
- Highly active participants of United Way Program.
- Employee Garden. We have a community garden which produce is sold to employees. All proceeds from the garden are donated to local food shelves.

ACAPULCO:

We like to participate in quite a few local events: Taste of Community, KinderCare Kitchen Tours, Ramsey Happy Days, Ramsey Business Expo, Ramsey Golf Tournament, Nat'l Night Out, AMOR Bike Run. We sponsor the Ramsey Raceway and MVP Softball team. Part of the Anoka Chamber and hold wine tastings here. Sponsor the American Cancer Society.

BOLTON & MENK:

Bolton & Menk has been an active participant in the community. We have sponsored the Main Stage of the annual Happy Days event for six years. The Office Manager is a member of the Ramsey Foundation Board. We have provided event sponsorships for Ramsey Business Appreciation days, Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce, Youth First Community of Promise and Trott Brook Benefit Bash.

THE LINKS AT NORTHFORK:

Annually we raise money for the local food shelves through our end of the year British Open tournament; we do a food drive annually raising thousands of pounds of items for the food shelf, as well as do a toy drive at Christmas time to gather toys for organizations such as Toys for Tots, etc. We have from year to year sponsored a few of the local area high schools and allowed them to use our facility as their home course. One of our biggest donations throughout the year are the many, many rounds of golf given to local charity events and organizations.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS, WHAT IS NOTEWORTHY OR WHAT MAKES YOUR BUSINESS DIFFERENT THAN YOUR COMPETITORS (I.E. INNOVATIVE PRODUCT/BUILDING, SIGNIFICANT JOB RETENTION/CREATION, OVERCOMING A SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLE, ETC.)?

VISION EASE LENS:

- Most notably, our premium products are made here in Ramsey and are some of the only products in that area that are manufactured in the USA. It gives us a competitive advantage.
- Sustainable lens manufacturer. We were the original lens manufacturer to establish this position. Business has been one as a result. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.vision-ease.com/home/about-us/sustainability.aspx>
- We currently hold numerous patents on polarized lens technology for which our competitors give us royalty.
- High employee retention.

ACAPULCO:

What is unique is that we are a family-owned and operated store. Our restaurant is very unique in the inside and we have 2 patios!! We are known for our famous cheese sauce(you can't get it anywhere else, it is a housemade recipe). Customers love to come here for a nice, casual dinner in a fun, upbeat atmosphere!

BOLTON & MENK:

Our Ramsey office opened shortly before the significant economic downturn of 2008 and, despite the challenges, has continued to grow the Ramsey office as well as adding four new office locations throughout Minnesota and Iowa within the past two years. The integration of a wide area network and successfully utilizing various communication technologies to balance and distribute workload across our twelve office locations has helped to maintain employment through the economic fluctuations. This has ultimately helped us to continue achieving our goal of providing professional engineering services in the most efficient and effective manner.

THE LINKS AT NORTHFORK:

The Links motto is "Enjoy Golf". Over the years we have reinvested significant capital to maintain and improve our facility to help create a memorable experience for every client. We also have created a number of programs such as Kids Play Free after 5:30 daily; Free Tips on the Range every weekend morning and affordable Junior Programs.

ADDITIONAL/EXTRA MATERIAL SUBMITTED:

BOLTON & MENK:

At Bolton & Menk, our staff is trained to consider new and innovative technologies in designing, planning and building for tomorrow. Ever since John Bolton and Martin Menk founded the company over six decades ago, we have been committed to improving quality of life through engineering excellence and client service.

Bolton & Menk, Inc. was founded in 1949, incorporated in 1960, and is owned and operated exclusively by the professionals and technicians on the staff. Today, Bolton & Menk, Inc. has 265 employees including a professional staff of over 100 engineers, planners and licensed surveyors. The firm has provided a broad range of engineering, planning, environmental and surveying services to more than 225 communities and agencies in Minnesota and Iowa.

Bolton & Menk, Inc. is focused on providing professional engineering services to meet the needs of municipalities. Over the past 60 years, the firm has continued to grow and expand its expertise based on the needs and challenges facing Minnesota cities. In addition to engineering in support of basic community services such as reconstruction, expansion and maintenance of public infrastructure, we offer specialized expertise in many practice areas. This complete range of municipal services enables our firm to readily accommodate the diverse needs of our many clients.