

NEWS



VIEWS

Sanford • Springvale Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development

Focus on: Paul Bourret

Evonik Cyro has a long history as an employer in Sanford. Paul Bourret is Production Superintendent for the firm, managing approximately 30 people. Paul gave me a brief history of the company before speaking to me about his new role on the Junior Achievement Sanford•Springvale (JASS) Area Board.

“About 50 years ago, American Cyanamid initially began producing acrylic sheet goods in a factory on Dale Street. In 1963, the company built its enlarged production facility at its current site, off of Route 109 in South Sanford. In 1977 Cyanamid formed a partnership with Rohm GmbH of Germany, and thus Cyro was born. Today the firm is entirely owned by German-based Evonik.”

The firm produces acrylic pellets which are used to make acrylic sheets for store displays, signs, automotive wind deflectors, auto lenses, light diffusers, windows ... even artwork. The table next to Paul in the photo at right is made entirely of Evonik acrylic. It's too bad this is not in color, because Evonik's logo and the top of this table are a vivid neon magenta. Evonik also takes the clear pellets they manufacture and adds pigment to them for the above uses and others.

Did you know that Evonik operates its production of acrylic pellets and acrylic sheets 24/7? “We are fortunate to have a good group of people here on the floor; I enjoy working with them. Obviously, I cannot be here all the time. I can rely on the floor operators to provide input toward ensuring optimum production. Dealing with people and working together toward solutions to problems is what I like most about this job.”

This month, Paul will be succeeding Christian Magnuson as President of the JASS Area Board. Paul has been an active member of the Board since 2001, initially starting as a volunteer instructor. “I would say that one of the things that I've always been interested in is education. With a good education, people have the opportunity to move up and



Production Superintendent for Evonik Cyro of Sanford and Incoming Junior Achievement Sanford•Springvale Area Board President.

be whatever they want to be. When the Area Board came to Cyro seeking volunteers, I volunteered in elementary classes for JASS in grades four through six. Subsequently, I joined the Board.

Recently, working with the Sanford•Springvale School Department, we integrated the JA curriculum into the Junior High School. While JA was initially taught at the eighth grade level, this past year, the teachers requested that we offer the program earlier. The JA program 'Economics for Success' is now offered at the seventh grade level.

It's a great program. I wish I had an awareness of this information when I was that age! Students explore career planning, budgeting, balancing a check book, credit (when are the good and bad times to use credit), insurance, and how income is tied to education. It gets students thinking about their future both in terms of their income sources and the things they will need or want to spend money on. They think about how they are going to manage their money.

Chris, Rick Stanley, and a few others have been cornerstones of the JASS program in our community. When Chris expressed an interest in stepping back, I was more than pleased to step forward. Chris is interested in new challenges, and so am I.

I want to grow the program both in the local schools and in the outlying areas, getting the curriculum into more classes. Beyond the curriculum, it is great for these young people to have members of the business community acting as role models. We welcome additional sponsors (JASS is funded by local corporate sponsors and fund-raising events coordinated by the Area Board) and classroom volunteers. We are also currently seeking additional members for the Area Board. Join us!”

Volunteering as a teacher takes just 1 hour for five to six weeks. JA has curriculum packets which include all the materials and lesson plans you need. “When you enter the classroom, students welcome your arrival as a break from the norm. You can even job shadow with another volunteer instructor first, if you are hesitant. I've found teaching extremely enriching.”

Paul lives in West Newfield with his wife, Lisa. They cultivate and sell plants at their business, Rockhaven Daylilies, (www.RockhavenDaylilies.com). To speak with Paul, call his cell @ 207-459-8373 or email Paul.Bourret@Evonik.com.

photo and article by Kristi Borst, Ad•Mark•Com/Advertising & Marketing Communications, www.AdMarkCom.com.