



Glovin' life



David Norden, "The Lone Star Glove Guy" drives the Glovemobile throughout the Metroplex.

The things **David Norden** does for glove – er, love.

First, he moved from Ohio to New Mexico to be with, and then marry, the love of his life. Then last year, Norden's wife received a promotion, but her federal government job was to be in Texas – which meant they would be saying goodbye to their Albuquerque home. It also meant Norden would be bidding a fond farewell to his security police officer gig.

Wanting to find a new job before making the big move, Norden weighed his options.

"I decided to check out some franchises, so I went online," Norden says. "And I kept going back to **The Glove**

Guy."

In a Snap-on tools sort of way, The Glove Guy is a supplier of specialty gloves and safety products, such as hard hats and safety vests. Rather than an impersonal online or catalog shopping experience, The Glove Guy meets and serves customers on location via a fully stocked (and tricked out) can't-miss van.

"I decided it looked like a good business," Norden says. "It intrigued me. I liked the idea behind it, of going out and bringing the products to the customers and providing the service to the people."

It just so happened that The Glove Guy business is based in Albuquerque.

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Cummings, come all



Bounce houses and a hockey rink were part of the entertainment at Cummings Electrical's Employee Day Celebration.

The saying "When you're hired at **Cummings Electrical**, you're expected to retire here," isn't so much a joke as it is the sincerest wish of owner **Tim Cummings** – and his more than 400 employees just may grant it.

Take, for example, the company's annual Employee Day Celebration held Nov. 22. To say it's a far cry from a run-of-the-mill picnic is an understatement.

That's because there is bull riding, a petting zoo, sumo wrestling, a miniature train to ride, a juggler, and every type of bounce house imaginable – and that's just to get everyone warmed up.

And by everyone, Cummings means everyone – in-laws, grandkids, aunts, un-

cles, cousins – the entire family is invited to attend. The numbers of attendees reach nearly 2,000 each year, and Cummings makes sure each one goes home well-fed.

Being one of the largest healthcare electrical contractors in the Metroplex with projects in the works for Presbyterian and Baylor hospitals, Cummings also makes sure his company representatives are on site that day to answer any employee questions about health and dental insurance, 401k programs and any training and education programs that the company offers.

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Levitt's legacy lives on

The Levitt Pavilion legacy began with Mortimer Levitt, a custom-shirt shop owner who was enthralled with music since his youth. Levitt longed to create an outdoor environment where people from all walks of life could gather under the stars and enjoy music as much as he did.

So, after 60 years in business and on his 90th birthday, he sold his 82 shops with the goal of constructing Levitt Pavilions around the country. In 1974, construction on the first pavilion in Westport, CT, began. Funding from the Mortimer Levitt Foundation helped Pasadena, Los Angeles and Memphis build pavilions.

Finally, in March 2008, it was the turn of Arlington, TX, to begin construction on Levitt's dream.

Located in Founders Plaza at 100 W. Abram Street in the heart of Arlington's central business district, this \$4.5 million permanent outdoor amphitheater is hailed as the only one of its kind in Texas.



Arlington's Levitt Pavilion will host 50 free concerts to the community a year, in addition to a variety of other performances.

In October, a state-of-the-art outdoor stage, performance band shell, green room, electric amplification and lighting were completed by **AUI Contractors Inc.** for the city of Arlington.

Project manager **Josh Gojny** points out the many unique design features of the open-concept pavilion. Cut and smooth face stone exteriors contrast with teak wood exterior panels along stage walls and a burnished block and drywall interior. Intricate structural steel work plays up unique carved acoustical walls.

In addition, the project features a design-build fountain feature that gives the park "a very soothing feel," says Gojny.

Site work includes extensive landscape and irrigation with a streetscape surrounding the new plaza. The lawn blanketing the pavilion's front provides lush seating for 2,000 people.

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The oasis feel of the site makes it difficult to believe it is only blocks away from the bustling University of Texas at Arlington and across the street from a city building.

"One of the first challenges was organizing and scheduling a complex project in a very small and restricted site," says Goyne. "The project was also directly across the street from City Hall, which made it a highly visible site to all of the city employees and council members.

"AUI was very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the city of Arlington and their various departments involved in this project," Goyne says. "Working with architect **Randy Gideon, Alf Bumgardner and Bob Lowry** of the city of Arlington, proved to be a very satisfying experience for both the owner and the contractor. **Gideon Toal Architects** also did an outstanding job on the overall concept and design for the project."

AUI's **David Gray** served as the project's superintendent.

Another challenge was meeting an accelerated deadline in order to honor the scheduled dates of the pavilion's initial concerts. In order to meet the Levitt Foundation's requirement for funding, the park must play host to 50 free outdoor concerts and performances per year that specifically highlight popular professional musical acts.

The pavilion's design also allows it to be a blank canvas for a variety of perfor-



Cut and smooth stone provide a sharp contrast that will weather well over time.



A design-build fountain sits at the pavilion's entrance, book-ended by young trees that will grow to shade concertgoers in the future.

mances in addition to musical acts. The natural beauty of the structure provides an ideal backdrop for everything from theater productions to local competitions.

Goyne says it is a project in which his firm takes enormous pride and pleasure.

"AUI is extremely excited about delivering a project which all of our team members can be proud of and enjoy for many years to come," he says.

Originally founded as Architectural Utilities by **Jerry Roberts** in 1983, AUI Contractors Inc. focuses on privately and publicly funded projects of multiple scopes, with specialties in utilities, road work and municipal companies.

The company completes multi-million dollar projects in both commercial and civil construction and has executed more than 800 projects with hard-bid, construction management and design-build delivery methods in North Texas. -mjm

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"I was able to go to the class and talk to the owner and pick his brain, find out how everything worked," Norden says. He soon decided the job fit him like a hand to a glove.

Norden is settled into and enjoying his new Argyle home. A huge sports fan, he's savoring the various recreation opportunities the Metroplex has to offer. He says he's met friendly folks, and his allergies are even better.

"The Lone Star Glove Guy," as he is now known, is also enjoying his new ride. His wife rather likes it too. But, judging from the looks on their faces, he says his wheels' biggest fans are the littlest Texans strapped in the backseats of cars that he drives by on his way to work every day. -mjm



Norden's van with a plan – a fully stocked safety supply store on wheels.

There's hotelling



Walking through the glass doors of **NWH Management's** sleek downtown Dallas office, you notice the quiet before anything else. It's an intense, familiar silence one might recall experiencing during college finals week.

One by one, the friendly staff members break their concentration, emerge to introduce themselves and explain what they're working on. Suddenly, the office hush makes sense.

NWH Management, a full-service real estate development and construction management company, is learning something new – the hotel business – and they want to learn it all.

"We started out in real estate development in 2003, with a lot of different types of projects – residential, condos, townhomes," explains **Nathan Halsey**, NWH Management's chief executive officer. "Then we had a client who wanted us to do a hotel for them."

Halsey says the project, although different from the ones they normally

took on, proved to be an epiphany.

"After getting into that project, we realized it was a perfect fit for our 'systems,' if you will," Halsey says. "So we got out of the other types of products we were in, and primarily focus on hotels."

Each of the company's eight members is enthusiastically diving into this new hospitality endeavor. On a stark wood table in the back office lay hotel blueprints. It's hard not to notice staffers' eyes as they glance over at them while talking about how their skill set is evolving with the project. It's a more than a gleam of interest. The team is genuinely excited about learning something they weren't anticipating.

That excitement, coupled with their previous experience, is already starting to pay off.

"We found that we were able to cut our cost by about 10 percent below other contractors by bringing the value engineering from our experience with townhomes," Halsey says. -mjm

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