



# @7000ft

*By The Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce*



BECAUSE A  
**HEALTHY  
BUSINESS  
CLIMATE**  
AND A  
**THRIVING  
COMMUNITY**  
ARE INSEPARABLE

**LOVEN  
CONTRACTING**  
35 YEARS OF  
BREAKING GROUND

---

**MAYORAL  
CANDIDATES**  
DEASY AND ODEGAARD RESPOND  
TO CHAMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

---

**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
NAVIGATING THE  
FALL 2020 SEMESTER



# LEADERSHIP @7000ft

*Advancing  
a Strong  
Community*



*Photo credit: Raina Page*





## MIKE LOVEN, PRESIDENT LOVEN CONTRACTING

1100 S. Pinnacle Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
www.lovencontracting.com (928) 774-9040

### WHAT BROUGHT YOU INTO YOUR BUSINESS OR PROFESSION?

The construction gene runs in my family – my great grandfather and grandfather were contractors. As a kid, I delivered newspapers, mowed lawns, and had a job at Double D tire. Once I was old enough, I began working on jobsites in the summer. The combination of physical labor, acquired skills, and critical thinking fit my personality. On the first day, I knew I had found my calling.

### HOW LONG HAS YOUR COMPANY BEEN IN BUSINESS OR HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS PROFESSION?

I've been in the industry for 46 years – since 1974. In 1985, I took \$5,000 dollars out of savings to start Loven Contracting. We've grown exponentially over 35 years, but at the core, we are builders and always will be builders. I'm a carpenter by trade, and I have 46 years of practical knowledge that informs our company's culture.

### IF YOU COULD GO BACK AND CHANGE YOUR PROFESSIONAL PATH IN SOME WAY, WOULD YOU? IF NO, WHY NOT?

When I began in the trades, my priority was a paycheck to help support my mom and sisters. College was not a priority. I think that going to university and then working for a very large contractor would have been simpler than inventing the business on my own. But, here we are, and it's been a great ride!

### WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR INDUSTRY?

I love the diversity of people and positively affecting the built environment in the communities where we work. Every high quality project that meets the owner's budget and schedule requirements directly contributes to their success. Our work is the first step in a new business adding to the community's economic growth. We take that responsibility very seriously.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT IN YOUR PROFESSION?

96 percent of our work is for repeat clients who know that we are going to deliver a transparent process and the very highest quality result. Invest in these relationships, and treat every project as an opportunity to reinforce confidence in your ethics, quality, and personnel. That is the route to long-tail stability.

### TO WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE YOUR PERSONAL SUCCESS?

My family, mentors, employees, and clients have all contributed to our success. I learned the value of hard work, tenacity, and caring for others from my Mom, Grandparents, and Gary from Double D Tire. If it weren't for my dearly missed sister Elaine, for whom Elaine's Forest House hospice is named, Loven Contracting wouldn't be here today – she was a pistol of an operations manager in the early days.

### WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN OR TO BALANCE OUT YOUR WORKLIFE?

In a typical year, much of my fun comes from Flagstaff's social scene, this year, I've added more responsibly distanced

golf, motorcycle rides, and teaching carpentry to my little grandsons (albeit with plastic tools).

### WHAT INSPIRES YOU OR RE-MOTIVATES YOU?

At this point in my career, watching the young professionals at Loven Contracting grow into leaders is a real motivator. They bring energy to our firm and are as enthusiastic about building community as I am. A great example is our ongoing COVID-19 response. Our craftsmen responded to local healthcare providers within hours to construct the containments needed to keep these essential services up and running.

### WHY DID YOU CHOSE TO PUT DOWN ROOTS IN FLAGSTAFF?

My family moved to Flagstaff when I was 4 years old! I stayed because of the community. Flagstaff has taken care of me and I hope I have done the same.

### WHAT PART OF YOUR LIFE TODAY COULD YOU NEVER HAVE ANTICIPATED 10 YEARS AGO?

I would have never guessed that I would be at the helm of such a young and diverse construction firm. The industry has changed a lot over the years, and I am proud that we are at the forefront in that regard. I'm years from retirement, but we have invested a lot in ensuring that our young leaders are as invested in the community as I am.

### DO YOU HAVE A RULE OR MANTRA YOU STRIVE TO LIVE BY?

Be fair and put yourself in the other person's shoes. We've been Building Relationships Since 1985! 🛠️