

# The Greeneville Sun

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*Sun Photo by Jim Feltman Mike Idell, left, and Jeff Idell, review the blueprint for one of the homes Idell Construction Co. is building. The local general contracting company has shifted in the last two years to focus on home construction.*

*Thursday, February 07, 2008  
(Last modified: 2008-02-07 12:13:12)*

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Source: *The Greeneville Sun*

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Managing Editor

Idell Construction Co., a local general contractor, has successfully shifted its business focus in the last two years.

Idell Construction is headed by Billy Idell, its founder and president, and his two sons, Mike and Jeff, both vice presidents.

The company, which was a subcontractor that developed into a general contractor, has completed some major projects. They include:

- \* Pioneer Park, the baseball stadium at Tusculum College that also is the home field for the Greeneville Astros; and

- \* the headquarters for Landair, the Greeneville-based trucking company;

More recently, Idell Construction also completed the new headquarters along Depot Street of Milligan & Coleman, the Greeneville law firm.

Idell was general contractor for the recent expansion of Consumer Credit Union's office along Myers Street, which

Jeff Idell said was completed 31 days ahead of schedule.

### Shift In Projects

However, Jeff and Mike Idell said in a joint interview this week that about two years ago Idell Construction decided to change its focus, since there were not enough local commercial projects to keep their company busy, and move toward residential construction.

Instead, the brothers said, Idell Construction could have started seeking work farther afield than Greene County. But that was not something they wanted to do.

Rather, Jeff Idell said, about two years ago the family-owned company shifted to a considerable extent into home construction, though it still seeks commercial projects when they are available.

### 'Needed To Diversify'

"For us to stay in Greenville, we needed to diversify a lot," he said.

Thus, in the last two years, Idell Construction has done a variety of residential construction, including: a 5,000-sq-ft. home with a unique, even whimsical design; a concrete house in Baileyton; a 2, **550-sq.ft.** house built in just 75 days, and a 1,350-sq.-ft. house, as well as continued construction of units within the expanding Southridge Condominiums, a development Idell Construction owns.

Currently, Jeff Idell said, the company is building a 3,500-sq.-ft. house here for a family from Miami and a 1,350-sq.-ft. residence for a couple from Massachusetts, and "is working with a client from Washington, D.C., to build a 6,100-sq.-ft. home in Greene County."

### Different Responsibilities

Billy Idell's sons share day-to-day responsibilities. They said that Mike Idell, the older brother, is often called "the builder," as he devotes most of his time to visiting the company's various work sites to be sure projects are going well and arranging for subcontractors.

In contrast, Jeff Idell joked that he is sometimes called "the biller," in that he oversees the administrative activities in the company's office, which is located within Landair's headquarters, and leads its efforts to recruit clients.

Mike Idell said that smoothly coordinating the company's work on various projects and "managing the different subcontractors is the key element" required in their work.

Mike Idell is expert in this. He has close relations with many local subcontractors, making him confident of their capabilities.

Jeff Idell added, "There is a lot of talent in Greene County with all of our subcontractors and all of our craftsmen."

The brothers said that a typical project involves the use of up to a dozen subcontractors to do the electrical wiring, plumbing and a wide variety of other aspects of the construction.

However, Mike Idell added that an Idell Construction representative is present at every job site.

Besides the three senior Idell men, Idell Construction has only seven other employees. They are: Ralph Dingus, Mike Cobble, Harold Johnson, Elias Quintana and Ramon Sanchez, Matt Idell, Mike's son, and Regina Idell, Mike's wife, who is the office secretary.

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