

# Franklin Bronze marks 140th year

## Company invests in local workforce

Franklin Bronze Precision Components, an automated investment casting company located in Franklin, boasts nearly 100 employees working in a facility that covers 50,000 square feet.

The company owners said it is proud to be a part of the Franklin community — participating and supporting the activities and businesses around the area.

Franklin Bronze is listed as a world leader in the supply of investment castings for glass container industry and a supplier of general industrial and commercial investment castings.

The Franklin firm marked its 140th year in business last year.

It made two significant capital investments last year and continues to invest in training, education and development of its employees.

In 2018, Franklin Bronze marked a full year in which it boasted a new font-based logo.

The new logo showcases the Franklin Bronze Precision Components name prominently.

FBPC worked with local signage company, Caldwell Signage Solutions, to create new signs for the facility.

The new signs improve the professional appearance of the facility and help with visibility for customers as well as shipments to the plant.

### A global leader

Franklin Bronze exhibited at Glasstec 2018 to promote its investment castings for glass mould components.

Glasstec, held every two years in Düsseldorf, Germany, is the International Trade Fair for glass production, processing and products.

Franklin Bronze manufactures parts for glass bottle manufacturing including guide rings, baffles, blanks, plungers, inserts, thimbles, blowheads and top-plates.

Through a Global Access Program grant, a portion of the company's Glasstec 2018 expenses were reimbursed.

Franklin Bronze was awarded a GAP grant through its partnership with Northwest Training Commission.

GAP is designed to promote small to mid-sized Pennsylvania businesses overseas in order to increase export sales.



Franklin Bronze employees participated in the Applefest Race for Any Pace 5K last year. Among those who participated in the race were Jody Giesler, Neil Kruse and his wife, Emily, and Sherry Miller and her husband, Eric.



Over the four-day show, the Franklin company shared a stand with Wall Colmonoy, its parent company, and was able to meet with a number of its top customers.

Rick Skinner, glass sales manager, represented Franklin Bronze at Glasstec.

"This is a must-attend for us," Skinner said. "I'm able to meet with our customers face to face which can be difficult to do because we are all located around the world. This show can be one of the few times I can meet with our global customers," he said.

### Workforce Investment Is key

Having an agile cross-trained and skilled workforce is a key initiative at Franklin Bronze.

"We want our employees

engaged, and we want to provide them the skills to do their best work," explained Dave Greene, operations manager and interim general manager.

With that, the company has been partnering with Venango Technology Center to create customized training programs.

"What is great for us is that the school customizes training based on areas that are most important to us. We are able to train using real-world examples of what we do on the shop floor," said Greene.

Last year the technology center conducted blueprint training and maintenance tech training with FBPC employees.

"For the blueprint training, we recognized a gap in our overall employee skill in this

area," Greene said. "VTC conducted an initial test to see what some of our employees knew, and confirmed that it was a gap."

"Blueprints are very important for the investment castings process as they are included with each shop router and travel with the job through the shop floor," said the operations manager.

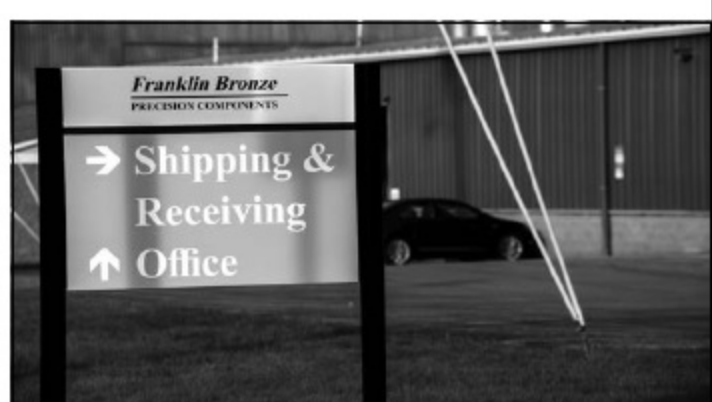
A total of 20 employees from various departments over a three-month time frame took part in the blueprint training.

"We had to limit the class size and hope to do another class later as we had more people that wanted to take it than we had space for," said Greene.

### Machinery, system added

FBPC made two significant capital investments this past year.

In September, Franklin Bronze added a new Doosan



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Vertical Machining Center 5700 to provide additional capacity for customers requiring fully machined cast parts.

The machine replaces two outdated ones, increases tool hold capacity and tool change time is quicker. This helps get parts out the door faster, noted Greene.

A Wheelabrator shot blast system was installed to improve the cycle time of parts.

The new shot blaster removes shell material from investment cast molds at a faster rate than the old process. It also reduces water consumption and disposal significantly, resulting in a more environmentally friendly approach to removing shell.

### Community support

Franklin Bronze is a yearly sponsor of Franklin's Applefest celebration.

During the 2018 Applefest weekend, Franklin Bronze employees and family participated in the Race for Any Pace 5K.

Believing health and wellness are important corporate initiatives, Franklin Bronze donated to the local YMCA in support of its renovation plans.

"The Y mission is to make a significant difference for the wellness of all who live in the community," a news release said. "The YMCA is extremely beneficial to the youth in the Franklin area, and many FBPC employees use the Franklin YMCA," Greene noted.

### Parent company marks 80th year

In 2018, Wall Colmonoy, owner of FBPC, celebrated 80 years of being in business. It has been family-owned and family-operated since 1938. The family continuation demonstrates the company's consistency, stability and long-term commitment to all stakeholders, which includes its customers, employees and society, according to a press release from the firm.

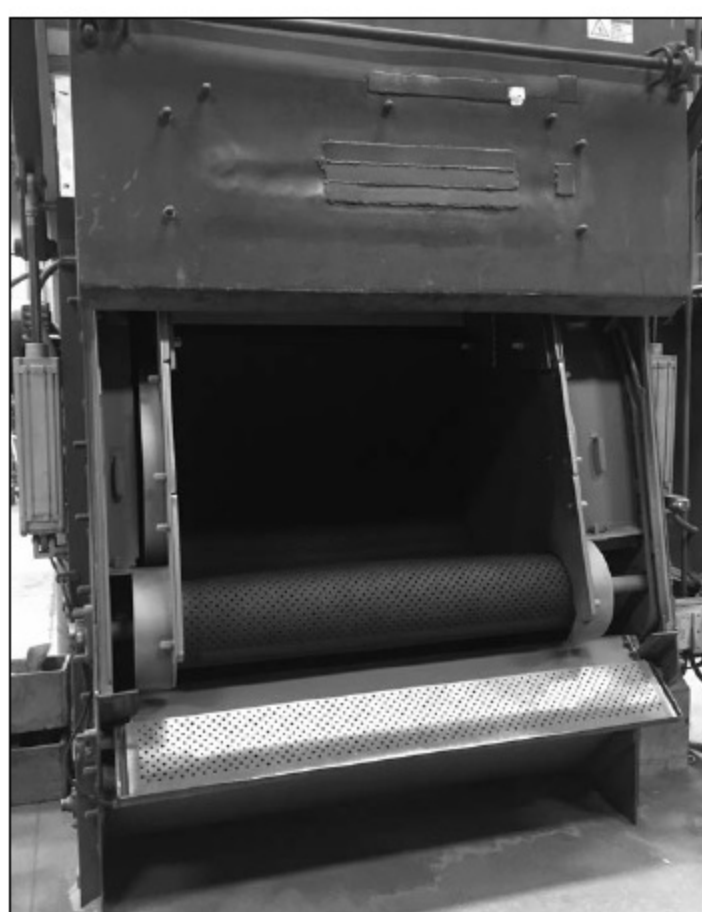
Wall Colmonoy, a global metallurgical engineering company, celebrated the milestone with an 80th anniversary logo and tagline. "Making Metals Work Harder Since 1938" highlights Wall Colmonoy's innovative products and services which are fundamental in keeping airplanes in the sky, glass bottles in production, food fresh, pumps pumping, nuclear turbines powering, and transportation greener.

In partnership with customers, Wall Colmonoy strives to develop value-added solutions that help shape the future through a dedicated talented team, technical expertise and high-tech quality products.

Wall Colmonoy is headquartered in Detroit and has operations throughout the U.S. and the United Kingdom with nearly 500 employees.



A new Doosan Vertical Machining Center 5700 was installed in September at Franklin Bronze to provide additional capacity for customers requiring fully machined cast parts.



A Wheelabrator shot blast system was installed last year at Franklin Bronze. The unit removes shell material from investment cast moulds at a faster rate; it conserves water and consumes less energy than the old process.



Twenty employees at Franklin Bronze participated in Blueprint training in 2018 at the Venango Technology Center.



Employees representing Franklin Bronze Precision Components and Wall Colmonoy attended Glasstec 2018 in Dusseldorf, Germany. The international trade fair for glass production was held in October.