

# A.W. MCCAY



**W**hen Bradford Woods residents Scott and Christy Payne had an idea for a new business, they ran into a bit of a roadblock.

"It was a pretty hard sell for any landlord in the area to accept the idea that I wanted to put a pool in their building," Scott Payne explained.

So in order to launch the first Western Pennsylvania franchise of Michigan-based Goldfish Swim School, the Paynes decided that constructing their own building was the way to go. They found a suitable piece of property in Pine Township, on Lake Drive near Wexford Plaza.

"We jumped in and never looked back," said Payne.

To bring their project to fruition, he and Christy hired A.W. McCay Contracting Inc. of Richland Township as general contractor. Starting in

mid-April and enduring a rainy summer, McCay had the building ready for Goldfish's Nov. 16 opening.

The Paynes worked closely with the swim school's home office to develop plans for the building, which represents only the second of 23 Goldfish franchises to occupy a facility constructed specifically for that purpose. As such, McCay had to work primarily with drawings instead of being able to view similar projects firsthand.

Nevertheless, the company completed the project with few complications.

"I think that speaks to the quality of work that McCay provides," Scott Payne said.

Members of his wife's family, who work in commercial real estate, recommended McCay for contracting services.

"They know Gus. They've worked with Gus before," Payne said about company president and chief executive officer

Gus McCay, who founded the business in 1978.

"McCay has built a good number of buildings in the Wexford area," continued Payne. "They know the area and what we needed to get us open."

A distinctive component of the Goldfish Swim School project is the building's interior, which was designed specifically with children and their families in mind.

"The finishes were definitely unique from anything we have done before," said Travis Wertman, McCay project manager, whose company has worked on a variety of commercial jobs ranging from financial institutions, medical and office buildings, hotels, restaurants, to religious facilities and LEED-certified projects throughout the Pittsburgh area.

The results at Goldfish Swim School have been a hit with visitors.

"The bright colors, the warm environment, the friendly staff: People come in and say, Wow!" Payne said. "In terms of community support, it's been great." The school offers lessons for infants through children age 12.

"Everything from a basic lifesaving skill all the way up to advanced swimming, we cover the full spectrum," Payne explained.

Jenny McCuiston, a competitive swimmer who is enshrined in the University of Arizona Sports Hall of Fame, and her husband, Chris, founded Goldfish Swim School in Birmingham, Mich., in 2006. Franchises now are located in several states.

The new Pine Township location is planning a grand opening party from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, featuring food, beverages, children's games, a photo booth and other attractions.



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