



A Half Century of Community and Service

Hartman Companies, based in Carver County, Victoria, MN, celebrates their 50th anniversary this year, a half-century of service!

Carver County ranked first as the "Happiest County in the United States" for two years in a row -- 2018 and 2019 -- according to the World Happiness Report (an undertaking of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network on behalf of the United Nations). And for five consecutive years, Carver County ranked in the top five happiest counties in the United States.

Ranking everything from affordability to unemployment rate, and physical activity rate to life expectancy, the indicators and metrics used to rank our community as the happiest county in the United States prove what we already know: Our community is the best place to live!

Jeffrey Hartman, owner of Hartman Companies Tree Farm and Landscaping, is proud to have been born in Carver County and raised in Victoria where he now employs nearly 60 people at Hartman Companies.

While the Hartman family tree farm business of planting trees throughout Carver County contributed to the beautification, charm, and attraction of our community, Jeff is the first to offer up a big thank you and a debt of gratitude to the community

for being a part of the Hartman Companies' success story.

In the early 1960's, Jeffrey Hartman's father, Marvin, took clippings from trees and shrubs in the area and grew them in his basement under grow lights which he borrowed from University of Minnesota professor, Dr. Leon Snyder.

The clippings were then transferred to Hartman's garden on a piece of land he had purchased for a development he named Hartwood, where he built and sold homes. Marvin planted his tree and shrub clippings around the homes he sold.

With the Hartwood development nearly complete, Marvin purchased the Schmieg farm in the late 1960's, which is where the current Hartman Companies is today.

Marvin Hartman promptly planted 6,000 trees of all varieties on the new farm, all sourced from the DNR. Eventually Hartman purchased over 200 acres of land adjacent to the tree farm, ultimately growing over 25,000 trees.

The soil on the farm was perfect for growing trees and they were ready to harvest in just a few years. Barely ten years old (born in 1957), Jeffrey was assigned his first job, maintaining the farm!

When Jeff wasn't mowing acres of grass and weeds or cultivating between

the rows, he was working with his dad and the crew who were building homes. Jeff learned the trade from a very early age, "with a broom in one hand and a rake in the other and eventually a hammer," he says.

As soon as his feet could touch the pedals, Jeff began driving the tractors and operating equipment, which is when "it all made sense to me that this is what I want to do." He laments, "Unfortunately, winters and school got in the way of all that fun!"

Harvesting trees and shrubs in the late 1960's to early 1970's, and planting them around the homes that Marvin Hartman built, is the time frame Jeffrey Hartman marks as the official start of what we now know as Hartman Tree Farm and Landscape.

Stated Jeffrey, "Times have changed, and 50 years have come and gone, but one thing remains the same. Enhancing our customers' lives by improving the environment around them is my way of helping our customers and community achieve happiness."

On behalf of Hartman Companies, Jeffrey Hartman thanks the community for the past 50 years and he strives every day to attain the same goal as over the past 50 years: "To beautify our community and make each customer happy."



Hartman Companies

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