



Timeline Photography

# TOWER OF CHANGE

December 2009

Volume I – Issue Ten

News from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center Project

## The Season of Service

**T**ower of Change began in March as a way to serve the Fairfax and surrounding communities. Each issue gives the community insight on contractor relationships and proud union workers in various trades. Many profiled commented on how grateful and excited they are to serve Greater Cleveland in a way that lasts for generations.

In this last issue of 2009, Ken Lusnia, former Court Administrator who for more than 25 years served the County in several capacities, shares his excitement about the new court building.

As we enter this season of service, we thank everyone who has served by contributing to *Tower of Change*.

## Administrator Welcomes Change



Ken Lusnia, stands on the Court House steps his final week as Court Administrator.

**F**or Ken Lusnia, the Juvenile Justice Center Project is bittersweet. He retired October 30th after serving almost ten years as Juvenile Court Administrator. He said good-bye to his old County responsibilities after 25 years to begin a new chapter of community service.

Lusnia served as Assistant County Prosecutor from 1984 to 1999. For one year (1999-2000) he was the Director of Court Services. Lusnia assumed the role of Juvenile Court

Administrator in 2000. As administrator, he handled the administrative court functions and had oversight of four departments: detention, court, probation, and fiscal and human resources. He worked closely with the architects and Justice Planning Associates, an organization that helped give the court guidance on how to develop the new court structure.

"I am very excited about the new juvenile court building," said Lusnia. "It will allow us to consolidate operations which are now out of three separate locations." The main court, which handles delinquency matters, is located on East 22nd Street. The Metzenbaum Center on Community College Avenue, conducts the juvenile and family drug court and private custody matters. The Whitlatch Building at 11910 Carnegie, handles abuse, neglect, dependency, and paternity and support cases.

The new facility will have sufficient space to allow staff to conduct meetings, training, or other events. "To bring staff together and operate out of one facility would be of tremendous benefit for efficiencies and court operations," said Lusnia. "It will better serve the youth and families that come before the court."

Lusnia mentioned that over the years the courts have recognized the mental health and family issues that have contributed to youth's delinquency. "We are becoming more aware of family issues like domestic violence and the lack of parenting skills. We have also tried to address "gender specific" issues, which involve female offenders and create appropriate interventions for them," he said. Previously the treatment focused on boys rather than girls, which proved to be inappropriate.

Though he retired before the Project finished, Lusnia wished the "absolute wonderful" staff much success in the new facility, "because they deserve it."

If you lose your copy, you can always find it online at [CuyahogaCounty.us](http://CuyahogaCounty.us)

"Education remains the key to both economic and political empowerment." – Barbara Jordan

# Juvenile Court Building in 1935



Juvenile Court Building, East 22nd Street, in 1935

## Quick Fact

The original Juvenile Court, built in 1932, was the first juvenile court in the country.

## What's On the Inside?

*The new building has nine floors (ten if you count the one below ground). The floor schematics show the department layout and locations.*

### Ground Floor

- Detention Administration
- Home Detention
- Visitation
- Education
- Large Gym
- Small Gym
- Medical
- Intake/receiving/release
- Laundry
- Kitchen
- Central Services/Maintenance
- Central Mechanical Plant
- Loading Dock

- Detention Arraignment Court
- And five detention housing units (180- total beds)
- Court diagnostics
- Sheriffs building security and court holding areas

### Floors 2-4

- Court Offices

### Floor 5-8

- Courtrooms

### Floor 9

- Magistrate Chambers

## Holiday Giving

To show its appreciation to Fairfax residents, companies that work on the Juvenile Justice Center Project will donate non-perishable food items and monetary gifts.

A special 'thank you' to the following companies for their past and continued support:

- Commercial Appliance Contractors
- Cuyahoga County
- E.B. Katz
- Forest City Erectors
- Foti Construction
- Fox Fire
- Heery International Inc.
- JWT&A, LLC
- Lake Erie Electric
- Ozanne Construction Co.
- Panzica Construction
- Perk Company
- Phoenix Cement
- Precision Engineering
- Solar Testing Laboratories, Inc.
- Smith & Oby
- Turner Construction Company

- Van Auken Akins Architects, LLC
- Vocon

*The Second Annual Charities Drive began November 9th and will continue through December 18th.*