



Timeline Photography

TOWER OF CHANGE

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News from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center Project

Let It Flow

Now that we're deep into winter, many homeowners are making sure the pipes in their homes stay warm. This ensures that water continues to flow. When it does, it takes a well thought out path from the water's beginning to its destination. Otherwise, frozen pipes can mean disaster for any home or building.

Most of the Juvenile Justice Center Project's (JJC) external construction is complete. Skilled tradespersons working internally are now providing the plumbing, lighting, flooring, cabinetry, and fixtures.

In this February issue, we highlight those who work in the plumbing trade, the Holiday food drive and awarded bid packages for the final construction phase.

Plumbers Keep It Moving

Plumbing as a trade owes a debt of gratitude to the Old Roman Empire.

Yes, the Romans built solid roads, created a system of law and order, but they also had the engineering genius to develop piping systems made from wood or earthenware to move fluids from one place to another.

Plumbers today are responsible for installing and maintaining various types of piping systems and fixtures. The exact responsibilities of a plumber vary depending on the setting. In new construction they need to know how to design piping systems, the types of materials appropriate to use, how to follow blueprints and work with plumbing tools. They must also know how to weld and solder to attach fittings. Once the piping system is installed, plumbers install fixtures, including sinks, toilets, water heaters, bathtubs, showers and dishwashers.

Plumbers require both classroom and hands-on training. Educational programs are available at community colleges or vocational schools. Some choose to pursue an apprenticeship program, which generally last between four and five years.

For more information on pursuing the plumbing trade, contact UCIP-ASAP at 216-432-7033.

If you lose your copy, you can always find it online at CuyahogaCounty.us

Meet Frances Shaw

Frances Shaw can't think of anything she'd rather do as a career than be a plumber.

She's been a journeyman plumber for 20 years and has never regretted a minute of it. Shaw has been with E.B. Katz Plumbing, the plumbing contractor for the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center Project, for three years.

Daily Duties: I run the copper mains to the fixtures, like toilets and sinks. I also install the fixtures.

What She Likes About Her

Job: I really enjoy working with my hands. It's the best. I also like being out in the field and meeting and working with different people. I get a lot of satisfaction when I see the finished product that we're working on. It makes me feel good.

Her Thoughts on the JCenter Project: I think it's going to be a very nice facility. I hope it will help the kids who use it and will also help the neighborhood.

How Do You Feel About The Work You Do? I'm extremely proud of what I do as a plumber. It's a rewarding job, plus pays decent money. I also like that you can meet people in other trades and learn from them. For example, if you're doing a project at home and need some advice on something that isn't your area of expertise, you can ask someone and they'll tell you how to handle it.

When She's Not Working: I love to spend time with my three grandchildren. I also like to travel and go to casinos. My favorite trip was a cruise to the Western Caribbean.

The Best Advice She Has Received: Whatever you do, try to do the best that you can.

Your Best Advice: No matter what it is you're doing, try hard at it and don't give up.



Frances Shaw

Eric Benson

Quick Fact

By the time the project is completed, E.B. Katz will have used 70,000 feet of piping. That measures more than 13 miles!



Plumber Joel Reyes operates a solder torch on ball valves



Plumber Frances Shaw runs water main lines



Plumber Doug Bryson tightens the flush valve

E. B. Katz Plumbing – Making Sure Things Run Smoothly

Plumbing in a building is like arteries in the body. It is essential to the building’s operation - transporting fluids to and from different locations within the structure.

Making sure the plumbing is done right on a big job like the Juvenile Justice Center Project calls for a lot of experience and expertise. The E.B. Katz Company, established in 1961, has a proven track record of success on thousands of large projects.

“We’ve been on the JCC Project since it began in 2008,” David Katz, company president, explained. “We put in all the underground piping before they constructed the building shell.” Katz noted that a few hundred toilets and a few hundred sinks will be installed in the building by the time it’s completed.

He said that all their plumbing work on the project has gone smoothly other than during the summer of 2009. “That was the peak of activity,” he recalled. “We had 25 employees on site, and other contractors had a lot of their people there at the same time. That type of situation can lead to some confusion and present challenges, but we worked everything out just fine.” The company has 10 plumbers on site now, and Katz estimates that they will be there for another two months.

“We’re proud to be part of this project,” he said. “I think it’s been good for the neighborhood as far as getting some of the residents involved in the construction. I believe the project will have a positive impact on the area.”

Holiday Cheer For Fairfax

The employees of the Juvenile Justice Center Project (JJC) partnered with the prime contractors to make the Christmas holidays a little brighter for Fairfax residents. Gifts of non-perishable food, money and presents were distributed at a party on December 21 at the Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation.

The employees and contractors donated more than 1,000 non-perishable food items for Fairfax Senior Housing residents. Three Fairfax families, who had been chosen for their accomplishments and contributions to the Fairfax Neighborhood, received gifts from their holiday wish list. JJC employees purchased the gifts with the \$1,700 that they and the prime contractors donated. Prime contractor Smith & Oby, provided the largest donation of non-perishable food items.



The OTVJ staff spread joy to Fairfax residents: (l to r) B. Smith, T. Eaton, J. Molnar and L. Galardini

Bid Packages Awarded to Small Vendors

Company

A.1.Z. Enterprises, Inc.

The Minority Trucking Company

Petti Landscaping

Petty Group, LLC

RAR Contracting

S.E. Blueprint

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Award

Street Cleaning, Parking Lot Maintenance, Field Office Complex Temporary Fence Removal

Parking Lot Security

Lawn Service and Site Cleaning

Perimeter Fence Maintenance

Snow Removal, Parking Lot Grading

Temporary Signage

Final Photos

The Tower of Change is a monthly publication of Cuyahoga County. For comments, suggestions and story ideas, please contact Montrie Rucker Adams at 440-684-9920 or info@visibilitymarketing.com

"Endurance pierces marble." – North Africa