



Timeline Photography

# TOWER OF CHANGE

June 2010

Volume II – Issue Six

## News from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center Project

### From Wall to Wall

The plumbing, lighting, fixtures, and cabinetry in the rooms designated as Phase One of the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) have all been completed, and painters are now working the sprayers, rollers and brushes from wall to wall.

A coat of paint or a specialized wall texture can dramatically alter the appearance of a room or area. It's the finishing touch.

In this June issue, we're showcasing the painters who are responsible for transforming the walls in the hundreds of rooms and areas in the JJC, including courtrooms, offices, educational facilities, a gym, hallways and the parking garage. We're also profiling one of the painters – Foreman Julie Marsec – who works for Express Painting Corporation, the company responsible for painting the JJC.

### More Than a Steady Hand

The painting profession is all about details. A painter's work is on display for everyone to see and scrutinize; something missed or poorly done is glaringly obvious. It's a painter's job to put the finishing touch on rooms and areas. What they do can transform and create the tone or feeling of an environment.

Being a professional painter means more than just a steady hand, however. It calls for years of training, skill and a

*Continued on page 2*



Eric Benson

Painter Dennis Wielgosiek applies primer for litex, a specialty finish, on all public corridors

### Meet Julie Marzec

Julie Marzec is a foreman with Express Painting Corporation and has been in the field for nearly 15 years. She was initially motivated to get into the profession because her uncle owned a commercial painting company. "I joined his company after completing the four-year union apprentice program," she said. "I knew I could make a good living as a painter. I enjoy what I do tremendously, and I've never had second thoughts about being in this profession."



Eric Benson

Julie Marzec

**Daily Duties:** I touch base with our Director of Operations every morning to discuss plans for the day, manpower issues, and so forth. Then, I interact with the general contractor and the other trades to see what they're doing and where they are in their work. I have to know what's ready for us to start working on. I then meet with our painters to debrief them on the status of things and get them going. I also paint.

**What She Likes About His Job:** I enjoy the satisfaction of making a facility look good. I also like the people I'm working with and not being in the same location for too long. I look forward to the variety.

**Biggest Challenge at the JJC Project:** Coordinating with the other trades to stay on top of painting the areas they've finished.

**Her Thoughts on the JJC Project:** This project has helped a lot of construction workers put food on their table. Once it's finished, it's going to help a lot of people who will work here and be a nice facility for them to work in.

**When She's Not Working:** I'm a single mom of a seven-year-old daughter, a Girl Scout leader and active in my church.

**Best Advice She Has Received:** Never let anyone tell you that you can't do something. Always believe in yourself.

**Her Best Advice:** The same thing!

#### Quick Fact

While painting the first phase of the JJC Project, Express Painting Corporation used more than 5,000 gallons of various paints. The cost for the wall coverings for the second phase of the project is more than \$250,000.

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

*More Than a Steady Hand, Continued from page 1*

fierce attention to detail. In fact, becoming a member of the National Painters and Allied Trades Union requires a four-year apprenticeship. Apprentices spend time on site at various locations. They work under supervision performing different aspects of painting jobs.

In addition to on-site work, each of the four years includes six weeks of classroom study. They must learn every aspect about a wide range of topics, including dry walling, glazing, painting, spraying, specialty finishes and safety. An important lesson painters learn during their on-site training and classroom study is that the quality of their work will be viewed by people for years, so attending to details makes the difference.



Members of Express Painting Corporation strike a relaxed pose.

Eric Benson

## Express Painting: Transforming Rooms One by One

**F**ifteen painters from Express Painting Corporation are on site at the Juvenile Justice Center Project (JJC), transforming rooms one by one with a coat of paint.

“We’ve been working on Phase One since April 9, painting the administration area, housing, the educational facilities, gymnasium, mechanical rooms, parking garage and stairwells,” explained Kirk Teets, the company’s director of operations. “We’ll be done with the first phase by the end of June.”

They have also begun priming and applying the first coat of paint on some of the floors designated for Phase Two. “During the second phase, we’ll do the top coat and specialty textured wall coatings.”

Arriving early to set up and begin, Teets and the painters meet every morning to review the work list for that day. “Once a week, we have a meeting about safety called ‘Toolbox Talk,’” he said. “We discuss things like fall hazards, proper ladder and scaffolding set up, proper electrical grounding, hard hats, safety glasses, hearing protection, respirators, OSEA regulations and team work.”

According to Teets, the biggest challenge they face is timing. “We have to coordinate carefully with the other trades, so we’re painting areas as soon as they’re completed.” Paying attention to detail and making things look good is the job of painters, he noted. “That’s our goal here every day.”



Kevin Fallon, painter, applies paint primer with an 18 inch roller

Eric Benson



Express Painting Corporation Foremen Dennis Wielgosiek, Julie Marzec and Randy Dieckman



Painter Will Popowski sprays the wall with airless brush

Eric Benson

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

“To do today’s work well and not be bothered about tomorrow is the secret of accomplishment.” – William Osler