



Timeline Photography

TOWER OF CHANGE

October 2009
Volume I – Issue Eight

News from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center Project

One at a Time

One at a time. There is no other way for a bricklayer or cement mason to do his or her job. Each block laid down one at a time, brick by brick.

That sums up the progress of The Juvenile Justice Center Project (JJC) over the past year. Construction companies, organizations, unions, and dedicated workers come together each day to contribute their knowledge and expertise one person, blueprint, unit...block or brick at a time.

It takes a four-year apprentice program to become a bricklayer or mason, a tradesman who lays bricks to construct walls, buildings, and other concrete structures.

Masonry

One year ago, Foti Contracting began working on its portion of the JJC Project. John Innamorato, vice president, explained that over 60 workers from Locals 5 and 310 work together to do what is needed to get the job done. "The construction management team and the prime contractors are a good group of people," said Innamorato, "Everybody gets along."

Foti worked on the architectural precasts, completed the block concrete mason units, and the exterior bricks. In business over 46 years, Foti's masonry expertise lends itself to a superb finished product.

Rick Booth, Foti's project foreman says that working on the project has been good for everyone.

"It is a wonderful project and everyone gets along very well," he said. "We have about 47 people working on the project to create the walls and structure."

Most of the JJC's first floor and ninety percent of the interior walls are cement blocks, "All the walls in the housing units, jails, court chambers, and the first floor interior consist of cement blocks" said Booth. "This includes the mechanical, kitchen and dining, intake, medical, visitation and administration areas," he explained. The education wing, indoor gym and the exercise area will also be cement blocked.

Quick Fact

Q: How many bricks are used on the project?

A: The JJC Project uses approximately 650,000 cmu (cement masonry units/bricks) on over 90 percent of the interior walls.

Meet Dawn Precht

Chance landed Dawn Precht in the construction field 32 years ago. While in Louisville, Kentucky, she needed a job and a friend mentioned there were openings in construction. Precht passed a few tests and, "I got in," she said. Precht attended a four-year apprenticeship program and chose to be a bricklayer because, "that's what was open at the time. I thought it would be nice to learn," Precht said. She was the only female bricklayer back then and now finds she is one of very few female brick masons.



Eric Benson

Dawn Precht

Precht is a member of Bricklayers and Masons Local Union 5, which she says is, "a good group to work with." She includes on her resume Tower City, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & Museum, Gund Arena (now Quicken Loans Arena), Cuyahoga County Jail (the second one) and many other Cleveland building projects.

Daily Duties: I am a mason. I lay brick and cement block. I also run the saw, cutting bricks and blocks. I have been cutting for quite a while. I have become very good at it.

What She Likes About Her Job: I like being outside. I love to see what I've produced when the project is done.

Her Thoughts on the JJC Project: So far, the job has lasted a long time. Usually when you're on an assignment, you go in, do the job, and get out.

When She Is Not Working: I like to watch movies, especially comedies, romance, and some action movies. I spend a lot of time with my two dogs and one cat.

The Best Advice She Has Received: My grandmother used to tell me you can get a lot more done with sugar and honey than you can with vinegar. I've added to that - Sometimes you might have to add a little vinegar to that honey and sugar.

Her Best Advice to Others: Hang in there and keep trying. In the end, it will be worth it.

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



Dawn Precht, brick mason, operates masonry wet saw



Chad Wienhold, brick mason, operates the transit level gun to shoot heights for block walls



Several masons lay brick seals and veneer on outer JJC wall

Biometric Scanning at The JJC Project

The JJC Project uses the latest technology to ensure employee accuracy on the job site. Ozanne Construction Company instituted a state-of-the-art system in order to track accurately employee demographics and the time worked on the Project.

The Project utilizes biometric (fingerprint) scanning, or bioscan. Biometrics refers to methods used to uniquely recognize humans, based upon one or more physical or behavioral traits. These physical traits can include fingerprints, face recognition, DNA, and hand and palm geometry.

Each employee's fingerprint, along with specific demographic, trade and employer data is registered on the job site during an employee's first workday. At each clock in and clock out, the employee places his or her finger on the fingerprint scanner, and a clock in/out record is documented in the system. The Labor Compliance Specialist daily completes a report compiling the records from the previous business day.

"Technology is in construction and its uses are growing every day," said Johnny Horton, field representative. "If this is the way to monitor the federally-funded state, and city jobs, then that's what needs to happen."

Using the biometric scanning system has improved the process of tracking labor compliance on both time-tracking and demographic-tracking levels. J.R. Ratkovsky, controller, said that the goal is to get an accurate, almost to the minute, tracking of when an employee is working on the site. "If minority participation is a certain percentage, we can show that and help break it down by employee," said Ratkovsky. "The system shows the actual participation. This system is a lot more effective and a lot more accurate," he said. When using the bioscan, employees are not able to make erroneous claims about their work hours. By using only the sign-in sheet, many inaccuracies and fraudulent claims can occur.

Ratkovsky notes that the system is, "neither perfect nor foolproof," but makes reporting a lot more accurate. "This is good for labor compliance," he adds. "I can't imagine doing labor compliance without it. This is the best act in town and we keep trying to improve on it."

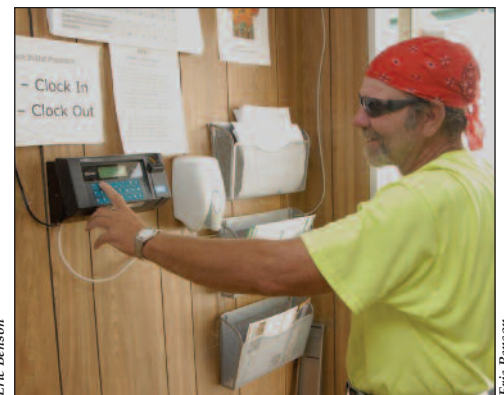
The JJC Project is the third (and largest) project in which Ozanne Construction has utilized the biometric scanning system.



Willie Chapman places his fingerprint on the biometric scanning machine



JJC Project biometric scanning machine



Dave Kenzora eagerly clocks in with the biometric scanning machine

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

"The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them." – Robert Frost