



Timeline Photography

TOWER OF CHANGE

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News from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center Project

Lending a Hand

There is an African Proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child." In order for a child to become a productive citizen, everyone must contribute to his or her guidance and instruction. The same is true in construction. It takes laborers to raise a building.

Building sites need construction laborers to clean, prepare, remove, tend, build, erect, and disassemble. They load, unload, identify, and distribute. Laborers mix, pour, dig, install, operate, and clear. They are the backbone of any job site and workers of all trades benefit from the helping hand of qualified laborers.

Construction Laborers

Ask any construction laborer what they like about their job, and they will most likely answer, "variety."

Construction laborers perform a wide range of tasks on almost all construction sites - from the very easy to the potentially hazardous. No two jobs are the same. They are as individual as the people who perform them.

Roy Jones, a labor steward for the Juvenile Justice Center Project, is responsible for worksite cleanliness and safety. In addition to working as a laborer, he ensures a safe worksite for his fellow workers and other trades.

"We keep the water out of the building, remove any debris, and assist the bricklayers and masonries," said Jones. "Foti Construction provides the most labor force - 26 laborers and about 30 bricklayers. We provide support for all of them," he said.

Jones has been a laborer for 24 years and a steward for 14. His previous experience was working for Elie Wrecking Company, which, according to Jones, twenty years ago was

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Larry Caver, laborer foreman. Johnny Horton and Roy Jones, labor steward

Eric Benson

Meet Johnny Horton Jr.

Johnny Horton Jr.'s mother always told him, "You guide your own destiny." Heeding these words is what makes him a success as a Field Representative for Laborers Local 310.

Horton was recruited for the position while working as a laborer. Not knowing anything about his new job, he learned on the job, educating himself by reading the Agreement Book up to six times a day. Horton asked many questions, and went to work daily with the members' needs first.



Johnny Horton Jr.

Eric Benson

Daily Duties: My primary responsibility is organizing non-union contractors. I try to sign them up to become union members for better benefits and wages.

What He Likes About His Job: I can go downtown and say to my kids, 'I helped build that building.' I get to work with diverse people, learning about them and their way of life.

Many people don't know anything about construction, but we help build Cleveland - from the roads, to the bridges. We are building this city up, making it bigger, and making the people want to come here. It's a great feeling to know that you helped build something and contributed to the betterment of the city.

The best thing about my job is that I can send people to work so that they can take care of their families and make a good living.

When He Is Not Working: When I'm not working hard for Local 310, I am a disc jockey. I work with all kinds of artists promoting a variety of music.

The Best Advice He Has Received: Never give up on your dream. You never know whose life you are going to help by pursuing your own.

Your Best Advice: Learn everything possible that you can. An educated construction worker is a paid construction worker. The more you know, the more you earn.

Quick Fact

The Juvenile Justice Center Project employs over 24.5% minorities, 6.5% females, 22% Cleveland residents and 50% Cuyahoga County residents.

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

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the largest African American demolition company in the United States.

A laborer, Jones describes, tends to carpenters and bricklayers. They load, unload, identify, and distribute building materials to the appropriate location according to project plans and specifications. They are a strong component for any job site. "

One of the most important is clean up. "There is a lot of debris that builds up. We clear out the leftovers that others leave behind," he said.

Labor Foreman Larry Caver enjoys working on the Project. "The job is good. The harmony is good," he offers. "You would think that there would be a lot of problems for a job

this size. There is a good management team and the trades respect each other." That is very important in ensuring the job is completed right and on time.

"To work as a laborer, individuals must work hard, and learn the ins and outs of the job," said Caver. Many construction laborer jobs require a variety of basic skills, while others may require special training and experience. Most learn on the job, but formal apprenticeship programs provide the most thorough preparation. "It is always good to take advantage of all the classes and programs available, including safety," reminds Caver. "If someone came into Local 310 and learned the job functions and completed the safety classes," offered Caver, "It could turn out to be a decent career, depending on where there head is."

Laborers Hard at Work



Ed Miller mixes and tends plaster for fireproofing



General Labor Foreman Tim Montalvo moves heavy loads with the lull



Laborers Larry Caver, Dave Martin and Allen Jones cut wood for swinging door with circular saw



General Labor Foreman Tim Montalvo moves small material with the prime mover

The Next Phase

Now that the Juvenile Justice Center's exterior is well underway, it's time to think about the interior.

When an opportunity arises for prime and sub-contractors to bid on upcoming projects, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) holds a pre-bid meeting. These meetings are necessary so that those interested can review the bidding instructions and ask questions.

On Thursday, July 2, the BOCC rented space at the historical Karamu House. The more than 50 construction professionals learned about the "Court Interiors" requirements, the interior judicial tenant improvements following the "Main Building" package.

The interiors package describes the requirements to build out the Court Interiors. They include: doors/frames, hardware, case-work, painting, floor finishes, ceilings, drywall, stud framing, masonry wall systems, interior carpentry, architectural woodwork, coatings, specialties, equipment, furnishings, kitchen equipment, plumbing piping and fixtures, HVAC mechanical piping and

systems, sprinkler piping and heads, lighting, power distribution and building technology/security/communications systems.

The BOCC has also established small business enterprise (SBE) goals for that bid package:

- General Trades 30% SBE
- Plumbing 20% SBE
- Electrical 28% SBE
- Fire Protection 5% SBE
- HVAC 28% SBE
- Kitchen Equipment 5% SBE

There was a lot of interest at the meeting. Many are looking forward to the next phase. Bids were received July 31 and contracts will be awarded in September.

You Want to Know

Q: I am fascinated by the construction in progress at the Juvenile Justice Center site. Will there be an opportunity for community tours of the construction site?

A: Sorry, but there is too much activity and special conditions on a construction site to safely conduct public tours. At time of opening in early 2011, there will undoubtedly be an Open House event.