

The Rooster Crows

A quarterly newsletter for the employees of Western Waterproofing Company as well as RAM Building Restoration & Waterproofing

Golf Outing Prize Winners

Closest to the Pin # 3 Woods Course: Dennis Olszewski

Closest to the Pin # 6 Hills Course: Mike Flanigan

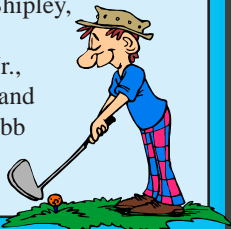
Longest Drive # 5 Hills Course: John Mazur

Shortest Drive # 2 Hills Course: Vince Griffin

Longest Drive # 6 Woods Course: Stephen Beattle

Lowest Team Score: Richard Maxwell, James Craft, Rob Taylor, Steve Cleary

Highest Team Score: Charlie Shipley, Charlie Shipley Jr., AJ Cox, and Mike Webb



Architectural beauty restored for Detroit landmark

Archdiocese of Detroit / St. Aloysius, one of Detroit's downtown gems, has long served the community from its original location within city's Washington Boulevard Historic District and continues to this day to hold mass and offer services to the poor. In fact, this church has been fondly known as "everybody's church" since its first Roman Catholic mass was celebrated there on August 23, 1873.

Today, the current granite limestone structure, which was completed in 1930, and the adjoining chancery (business office / priest living quarters) are looking good again thanks to the restoration work of the three-man crew led by Western Waterproofing Foreman **Joe**

Johnston. Designed by renowned local architect Walter R. Meier, the church features a unique triple tier design in the Italian and French Romanesque style. With such fine details, Western's crew is carefully and meticulously cleaning the face of both structures, including soda-blasting the limestone to remove decades of city grime. The guys are also tuck pointing and refurbishing the windows, including re-caulking

them. The job, which began in early summer, is scheduled for completion this September. When all is said and done, "everybody's church" will be a sight worth seeing for everyone who passes by on Washington Boulevard.



Golfers take a swing for charity

On Saturday, August 18, the 2nd Annual Western Waterproofing Annual Charity Golf Outing was held at the

Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Plymouth, Michigan, raising an impressive **\$18,054** for the Karmanos Cancer

Institute. Ninety golfers played eighteen holes on a beautiful, summer day, followed by a buffet luncheon, raffle, and the awarding of contest prizes (see sidebar). The day included voluntary cash games to raise additional funds for the Karmanos Cancer Institute, including the "low

team score" won by the team of Maxwell, Craft, Taylor and Cleary and a skins game awarded to the team headed by Ray Chapman, representing Local # 1 of Michigan, for their "eagle 3" on the 459 yard Woods #6 par 5. This was the only skin of the 18 holes played! Beyond the money raised by the golfers, fifty-one separate individuals and/or organizations contributed directly to the Karmanos Cancer Institute with twenty-four sponsors contributing food, prizes, contests and gifts.



First place winners (from left): James Craft, Rob Taylor, Steve Cleary, and Rich Maxwell

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Here's the scoop on the latest news

Stone Cold Trivia

Did you know that most limestones are formed by the deposition and consolidation of the skeletons of marine invertebrates? It's true, although a few originate in chemical precipitation from solution.

Movin' up the career ladder

Hats off to newly promoted Cincinnati Superintendent **Jim McGill** who joined the crew in Ohio earlier this summer. This latest career move for Jim comes on the heels of a long tenure with Western Waterproofing Company in Livonia. Jim first joined the Western family 15 years ago when he was hired in as a heavy equipment operator in 1992. He quickly rose in rank to the position of foreman in 1993 where he managed projects with crews of up to 30 guys. In his new role as superintendent, he's facing a whole new ball game where the challenge is overseeing multiple projects at one time. "Right now, my focus is getting into the groove of things down here in Cincinnati and building an infrastructure," he told *The Rooster*. "It's a challenge but it's also a great opportunity." As a seasoned employee, Jim brings great experience and leadership to his new post.



Jim McGill

Making safety priority one

At the Book Cadillac project, one of Western Waterproofing Company's largest jobs in its history, Foreman **Paul Misiolek** and his crew are prioritizing safety. Early on, field workers were educated through asbestos awareness safety meetings and provided the best respirator filters for lead dust - something Misiolek researched extensively and obtained for his crew. At the job site, the guys continue to follow tough safety protocols including wearing hard



hats even during lunch. As always, safety is the name of the game. All employees are reminded to know safety protocol and help ensure safety is a priority each and every day.

Creative Spark!

The following employees took the initiative to offer creative suggestions and in the process made our company better. Do you have an idea? Pass it on to your supervisor and help make our company better than ever!

A Foreman **Loren Streffon** of the Restoration Department saw a way to simplify a laborious paperwork process involving pre-use equipment checklists. His idea is to utilize a weekly format rather than a daily one, thereby simplifying the paperwork shuffle. Great idea, Loren!

While on the job at the MGM Casino, **Greg Bridwell** and **Nick White** of the New Work department discovered a way to improve the levelling of expansion joints that is quicker and produces better results than angle irons. By using some two-by-fours, they were able to raise up off the concrete so they could get underneath and not affect the finish of the product. Their idea saved time and money, plus it looked great. Way to go, guys!

Projects in the Works

Hail to the victors! (Ann Arbor)

Wolverine fans visiting the "Big House" football stadium in Ann Arbor this fall will be sitting pretty thanks to some fine workmanship of Foreman **John Miller** and his crew that, at



times, had upwards of twelve people. The two-year, University of Michigan job involved laying out and installing new seating for the 107,501 seat stadium, including brackets and the benches themselves. The "Big House" is the largest American football stadium in the world and the sixth largest stadium in the world. Miller estimates that just in the past year alone, they did 4,000 brackets, drilled 8,000 holes and installed 8,000 anchors. Work during the previous year was even larger than that! Since the brackets themselves are very visual and seen by the visitors to the stadium, the Western crew was meticulous in lining them up to 1/16 of an inch. That meant a lot of math

whet into their work. In addition to the seating aspect of the job, Miller and his crew also did the concrete restoration in the portals (the area where people walk from street level into the bowl). The successful two-year job wrapped up in August in plenty of time for kickoff!

Gabriel Richard (Detroit)

Speaking of the University of Michigan, the Gabriel Richard building in Detroit was named after the co-founder of the university and one of Michigan's most prominent historical figures, Father Gabriel Richard. Owned by the Archdiocese of Detroit, the ten-story auxiliary chancery building sits at the corner of

Attention All Foreman!

Tips and procedures for better utilizing the Centralized Call-In Center

Primary: (734) 245-4790 / Alternate: (866) 357-5039

- ❑ **After hours** Calls made after 5:00 p.m. to the Call-In Center will be processed the next business day on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ❑ **Back-order receipts** All foreman are reminded to request back-order receipts with confirmation numbers.
- ❑ **Demobilization** When calling in a DEMOB, remember to request a "Tool Assignment Report." This document serves as an inventory checklist outlining tools currently in a foreman's possession and tools that need to be returned.
- ❑ **Record Keeping** In the event of inventory discrepancies, remember to keep all tool return slips on file for at least a year.
- ❑ **Cancellation Charge** Should an order need to be cancelled or changed, remember to call in and cancel it. Otherwise, the job could be charged, and in some instances, the charges may be doubled.
- ❑ **Tool shortage** To help alleviate the tool shortage, all foreman are asked to turn in tools to the warehouse that are no longer needed so they can be re-used.



Gabriel Richard Chancery Building

Michigan Avenue and Washington Boulevard in downtown Detroit and is now the focus of a Western Waterproofing four-man restoration effort led by Foreman **Don Couture**. To bring the old building back to its former glory, the crew is washing the whole exterior, tuck coating, needle

Competitive Edge

Union work threatened

The construction industry is battling more than tough economic conditions this year. More than ever, rustbelt union states like Michigan are seeing more and more jobs lost to non-union contractors. In fact, in 2007 alone, Western Waterproofing Company has already lost jobs totaling 3,030 man days and a three year maintenance package to non-union contractors, including the following jobs:

- Michigan State — 150 man days
- Dexter District Court — 125 man days
- Greek town Casino — 250 man days
- Daimler Chrysler — 625 man days
- Grosse Pointe school district — 3 year masonry repair
- Wayne State University — 825 man days
- DTE — 975 man days

Western also saw a total of 80 man days lost to jobs at the Woodmont Academy, Fenton High School, Hamburg Fire Station and Oakland University. Today's challenge of securing jobs and staying competitive is becoming more difficult. Western Waterproofing Company has received minimal help from organized Labor. The "non-union" contractors are winning the battle, and we are all going to endure financial hardship from this non-union activity.

Success in Georgia!

Taking Western Waterproofing Company from the rustbelt to the land of peach and honey is Foreman **Paul Yerman** and his crew of three. Earlier this year, the crew travelled to a parking deck job at the University of Georgia in Atlanta where they did re-caulking, traffic-coating and lead abatement (sandblasting). The profitable, six-week job ran flawlessly, finishing on-time and securing Western's reputation beyond the rustbelt as a contractor that delivers. Well done.



glazing windows, caulking, and patching. By far, the toughest part of the job, according to Couture, is removing the terra-cotta beltstones from the 3rd and 9th floors and roof level, then replacing them with fiberglass beltstones. The process involves refurbishing the steel behind the beltstones before replacing them. The project, which began in June, is slated to run the rest of the year when restoration efforts will wrap-up.

Florida job market heats up

Tapping into a broader market of work opportunities, Western Waterproofing Company has a three man crew in the Gulf Coast community of Destin,

Florida. Led by Foreman **Don Purcell**, the guys are working on a new parking deck and building where they are doing exterior pre-casting of wash and cove joints as well as the Ts. The crew is also working on 150-175 exterior windows on the office building. Work got underway in early August,

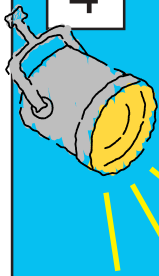


From left: Matt Morris, Don Purcell and John Moeck. Not pictured: Superintendent Mike Cosway.

and true to Florida's summertime reputation, the crew has sweated its way through a heat index of 110 degrees! Thankfully, Destin is home to some of the world's most beautiful beaches - a nice perk for a job relocation! The job is expected to continue through early December.

Lock it up!

National Insurance Crime Bureau reports that close to \$1 billion a year is lost nationwide due to the theft of construction equipment and tools. Remember to lock up your tools in a Game Box or Connex Box at the end of a work day. Chains will not stop thieves.



Name that employee

For the second year in a row, this estimator has won the National Power Lifting Championship. This year, he bench pressed 525 lbs., squatted 865 lbs., and dead lifted 815 lbs. Who is he?



The answer is...
Minnesota
Estimator Mark
Taschuk



M & M Corner

By Michael McNab and Al Manley

Employee Spotlight

In the spotlight this month is Western Waterproofing Company Superintendent **Michael Ramey** whose career story is an inspiration for anyone aspiring to make a true career through hard work.

Michael's story with Western began back in October of 1989 when he joined the company as a caulker and tuck-pointer.

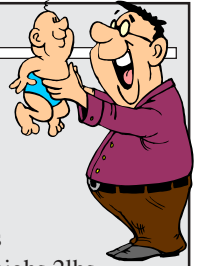
His hard work paid off quickly and he was promoted to foreman in 1990 within the New Work and Restoration department. Ten years later, he was promoted again to the rank of superintendent where he continues to oversee Restoration work with fellow superintendent, **Charlie Shipley**. It is a job he looks forward to each day. "Being a superintendent is a great fit for me," he told *The Rooster*. "Working with the field guys and still being able to get out there and get my hands dirty is something I look forward to every day. I'm proud of the work we're doing and all my guys out there." Over the years, Michael has logged many proud, memorable moments but the project that stands out most



Michael Ramey

Oh, Baby!

The Western Waterproofing Company is blessed again with the arrival of some giggling, toe-grabbing, bottle-slurping babies! Congratulations to the families of these new arrivals.



Foreman **Joe Maus** in the Restoration Department welcomed his son, **Nolan James**, on July 19, 2007. Young Nolan came into the world weighing a health 6 lbs., 9 oz.

Tom Green of the Restoration Department reports that his new

son, **Jacob Michael**, is doing well and now weighs 2lbs., 10 oz. (as of August 6). Please keep little Jacob in your prayers.

Connie Moody of Livonia's office staff recently became a grandmother (for the first time!) to Sophia, a beautiful, healthy baby girl born July 11.

for him is his work as a foreman at the new Veterans Hospital in Detroit. "I was a young man when I ran that job and I learned so much and met so many great guys," he recalled. "It was an experience I won't forget."

As for what lies ahead, Michael takes a moment to think it over. "Oh, I don't know," he says, "maybe an estimator or project manager, eventually." But that is something to think about tomorrow because today, Michael has his mind on his RV that he keeps in Jackson County and

his motorcycle. Hard work has its rewards.

In our thoughts and prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of **Damian Farmer** (Restoration Foreman) whose mom passed away recently from cancer and **Al Manley** whose brother, **Ernest Freeman** of Tennessee, passed away this July. Please join us in supporting Damian and Al during this difficult time.

Golf outing scores big

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Adding even more excitement to the day were some special hole-in-one prizes at each of the Par 3. These included a 2-year lease of a Jeep Commander, sponsored by Cuetter Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge; a 2-year lease of a Chrysler 300, sponsored by Western Waterproofing; a 4-day European vacation for 2 sponsored by Western Waterproofing; and thirty-six dozen golf balls sponsored by Cuetter Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge. In the end, these prizes went unclaimed as no one scored the big hole in one.

A hearty thank you goes out to everyone who participated and/or contributed. Special thanks to "game-day" volunteers Tammy Gagnon, Jessica Farley, Lizzette Hollingsworth-Gunkel, Brian Leporowski, Michelle Riley, Jim Nystrand, and Arvis Washington, and to Connie Moody for her "behind the scene" efforts. And finally, a warm thanks to John Mazur and A. J. Cox for taking the lead again this year and helping us take this event to the next level.

3rd Annual Western Waterproofing Annual Charity Golf Outing

Saturday, August 16, 2008
Details TBD
(Tentative Date)

A family affair

This month, another family is featured as relatives who call Western Waterproofing Company their employer. This time around, it's the Nystrand clan which includes Warehouse Supervisor **Jim Nystrand** and his son, **Drew**, who joined his proud papa this past summer doing general warehouse labor (loading and unloading, etc.).



Though Drew did not directly report to his father (he reported to **Glen Runyon**), his dad did supervise him getting out of bed bright and early each morning for a good day's work! This fall, Drew will be a senior in high school with plans to eventually head off to college, but during weekends and school breaks, expect to see both Drew and Jim working the warehouse in Livonia.