

Making Building Easy

October 2014



The Value of Indoor Parking

Have you ever hit the snooze button one too many times or just woke up a little later than planned? Running around getting everything ready for work and deciding if you have time to make coffee or swing through a drive thru on you way into the office, you decide on drive thru. Then you get out to your car and it is freezing and now you have to scrape the heavy frost off of the windshield. You have to hurry so you now go with the great driving style of leaning way down to view your path through the small part that is staying defrosted. You are now regretting not paying for the



Safety: Winter Planning

Like it or not winter will be in the Midwest soon. Winter weather creates a variety of hazards that can significantly impact everyday tasks and work activities. These hazards include slippery roads/surfaces, strong winds and environmental cold. Learning how to prepare for work during the winter, protect workers from the cold and other hazards that can cause illnesses, injuries, or fatalities, is essential to maintaining a safe work environment and completing tasks successfully.

optional heated seats. Oh great, now you don't have time to stop and grab a cup of coffee either. This is the reality for many renters during the winter months.

Indoor parking for tenants has several obvious advantages. A few of them are:

- Security
- Vehicle wear and tear
- Convenience
- Protection from the elements

One of the greatest advantages and sells of apartment garage parking is the added security. If you live in an apartment with only an open parking lot or parking on the street, you leave your vehicle far more exposed. This may not be much of a concern in a generally crime-free neighborhood and may utterly not prove worth the additional cost, but it can prove quite an advantage in an area that's more prone to nighttime prowlers. Plus, you won't have to be as worried about not storing items in your car for fear of attracting thieves.

These types of parking options also help the building owner to have a more successful property allowing owners to charge a higher rent and these properties average a higher occupancy rate. Underground/indoor parking is common for multi-family residential, mixed use and senior living facilities.

“When designing a mixed use commercial/residential building in the Midwest, under-ground parking is a critical element to success. People want the convenience to enter the climate controlled parking area and access the elevator.” Randy Miller – Mid-West America Commercial Realty
[click here to continue reading](#)

Some of these hazards are:

- Winter Driving
- Work Zone Traffic Safety
- Stranded in a Vehicle
- Shoveling Snow
- Working at Heights
- Walking Safely on Snow and Ice
- Cold Weather Stress

One example of how we are addressing these hazards is the addition of the [“Ice Alert”](#) system, which has signs posted that change color when ice conditions may be present. The more conscious people are of the conditions around them the safer they are. What are some of the steps your team is taking to make sure your team is ready for winter conditions? Send us your ideas and we will be happy to share them. [Here](#) is a link to some more great ideas on preparing your team for what's coming.



Spartan Race: You'll Know at the Finish Line



Staining Precast Wall Panels

When it comes to architectural finishes on precast wall panels, staining is a very cost effective finish. With project budgets almost always very tight, staining provides unique and satisfying looks while being cost sensitive. A few of the key attributes of a stained finish option are:

- Penetrating stain-will NOT mask surface texture
- Water Repellent
- Durable
- Warranty (25 yr)
- Water Base
- Low VOC Content
- No peeling, fading or frequent maintenance

A recent project, St. James Catholic Church, in Belvidere, IL offered a couple unique opportunities. Budget and appearance were the two major concerns. The original structure was built in 1886 and has a brick exterior. The addition needed to compliment the existing structure in appearance. The successful

On September 27th, seven of us here at Mid-States competed in and finished the Chicago [Spartan Super](#). The race is an obstacle course race that is 8+ miles with 20+ obstacles. Admittedly what seemed like a great idea 6 months prior was making most of us (all of us if we are honest) a little nervous. For all of us this was our first obstacle race, although Bill Abel has completed two 100-mile ultra marathons. The goal was for all of us to get into better shape than we were when we signed up and to finish the race as a team by helping each other along the way. Banged up and bruised and as muddy as possible, we accomplished all of it. The obstacles were incredible. The spear throw, barbed wire crawl (through muddy water pits), many walls, steep hills, rope climb (which kicked all of our butts), monkey bars and atlas carry were some of the favorites. The 30 burpees you have to do if you are not able to complete an obstacle, well those were very tough. We had a blast! So much fun in fact that we are issuing a challenge to the other precasters in the region to a race in 2015. Stay tuned. [Check out this short video of our race!](#)

design consisted of precast wall panels with a custom formliner to match the 128-year-old brick texture. ([here for photos](#)) Integral colored concrete was used to match the existing mortar color and a field applied stain is what made the building come to life. [Nawkaw](#) provided the staining of the precast wall panels. [click here to continue reading](#)



Great Articles

Liam is a lion this year. You can also see his starring role on our school construction [video](#) on our home page.

[Ten last minute Halloween costume ideas](#)

[And more costumes on Pintrest](#)

[What is Leadership Really?](#)

[A good life contains these 6 essentials](#)



The Best Halloween Video You've Ever Seen

Click the picture or [here](#) to watch.



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