GLASS & METAL ALLIANCE

MATT FINERAN

AGMT CERTIFIED GLAZIER & FOREMAN

SPOTLIGHT

On Matt Fineran:

Title Foreman with Guthrie Glass & Metal (Egg Harbor Township, N.J.)

Hometown Northfield, N.J.

Family Wife Shannon and daughter Scottie (8 months)

Favorite TV Show Breaking Bad

Favorite Sports Team Philadelphia Phillies (or any Philly team)

ABOUT MATT

When he graduated from Egg Harbor Township High School in 2012, Matt Fineran didn't know what his career trajectory had in store. He spent a year at Atlantic Cape Community College. Then he moved west to California for a year. When he returned to New Jersey, family and friends began to ask about his future. A family friend explained the opportunities available in glazing and offered to help him get a job. That first job, as a driver for Guthrie Glass & Metal, ushered in his future career. On March 30, 2015 – Matt's 21st birthday – he began his apprenticeship with the Glazier Academy through the Finishing Trades Institute.

Matt on the job at the South Jersey Gas building in Atlantic City, NJ

LEADERSHIP ROLE

Today, Matt has earned his associate degree as part of the apprenticeship program and in six years of work experience has risen to the role of foreman. He remains with Guthrie where he feels his employers have always provided good guidance, enabled him to ask questions, and helped him learn and grow.

SENSE OF PRIDE

Matt asserts that the best part of his job is the people with whom he works. But there's also a sense of accomplishment in glazing. "I've worked at other jobs where you don't really feel like you can see progress," he explained. Instead, with glazing, "there's a sense of pride being able to do something and look at the finished product and it looks cool."

COOL FACTOR

The cool factor certainly came into play on the first job Matt had the opportunity to run. At the start of his fourth year as an apprentice, he led Guthrie's scope of work for the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City. The project involved a dramatic glass staircase in the hotel lobby, vestibule doors, storefront

glass, interior glass railings, and glass display cases to hold vintage rock memorabilia. Although a general foreman remained available to show him the ropes, Matt admits he felt "thrown in with the wolves" in his first leadership role, "but it was a great way to learn."

BUILDING CREDENTIALS

Despite being relatively young in his glazing career, Matt has already earned the prestigious Architectural Glass & Metal Technician (AGMT) credential. "I thought of it as a good opportunity," he said. "It ended up being a really good challenge with all the studying, and obviously it's a good credential for me and to help the company."

RECENT WORK

Recently, Matt has worked on several projects with specialty art glass, including the Kennedy Health System Medical Office Building (now Jefferson) in Cherry Hill, N.J., and a second Kennedy project in Washington Township, N.J. He enjoys the specialty interior work, including back-painted glass, all-glass doors, and interior glass partitions.

NEW DAD

Matt and his wife Shannon have been married for three years. In 2020, they welcomed daughter Scottie to their family. Now nearly eight months old, Scottie has begun to sit up, and Matt is clearly smitten with the joys of fatherhood. The Covid-19 pandemic prevented many family members from meeting Scottie immediately after she was born, so Matt and Shannon have been excited to now safely introduce her to family and friends.

FUN PLANS

Matt and Shannon both swam in high school and spend a lot of time at the beach. They can't wait for Scottie to share their love of the sand and the sea. They also look forward to being able to travel again, after taking pre-pandemic trips to such far-flung locations as Ireland, Scotland, and Puerto Rico. Matt anticipates having Scottie accompany them on future travel adventures. When he's not working or spending time with family, Matt enjoys swimming and surfing.

YOU NEVER KNOW

For Matt, glazing has been an amazing chance to earn a good living while taking advantage of the many opportunities the union offers to advance and excel. "I see a lot of young people who go to college and then they are looking for jobs," he explained. "You never know what college has in store, but if you learn a trade, you'll always have that. You can do anything you want with it."

Clockwise from top: Scottie, Shannon, and Matt in fall 2020; Shannon and Matt vacationing in Puerto Rico; Matt surfing at the Jersey Shore; Scottie enjoying her first beach day of summer 2021