

# Metro COMMUNITY NEWS

# Weekly



**CAREER PASSION**  
Lewis following dreams in painting and politics.  
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Serving North River, Lookout Mountain, St. Elmo, East Ridge, Brainerd and Southside

## Lewis finds passion in painting, politics

BY HOLLY COWART  
COMMUNITY NEWS ASSISTANT EDITOR  
In an economy where having one business is considered a gamble, Brandon Lewis has two.

The Brainerd resident owns and runs Painter Ready, a commercial and residential painting business, and The Lewis Group, which does nonprofit and political fundraising consulting.

"Painting and politics are similar in that you're always trying to cover something up," he said.

The big difference is the clientele because everyone needs painting, but only few need fundraising.

"There are only about six or seven people in the state that do political fundraising consulting," Lewis said.

He got his nonprofit fundraising start working for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. On the side he was working with local political candidates and was asked to join Sen. Bob Corker's campaign as finance coordinator.

"We worked 13 hours a day, six days a week, and half a day on Sunday for a year and we raised as much

as had ever been raised in state history," he said. "It was amazing. Election night was terrifying because we didn't have any idea what would happen — you never do in politics."

Lewis said politics doesn't influence his Painter Ready business, which is located at the Business Development Center in North Chattanooga.

"Many of my best customers are democrats and libertarians, I've even painted for a Green Party member before," he said. "Everyone has differing viewpoints."



Brandon Lewis

Lewis said his experience with getting a new roof for his Brainerd home taught him about professionalism. The people he hired showed up three days after they said they would start. They charged for insulation that wasn't there and they did not flash the chimney. The long process of fixing these problems is something Lewis said his company helps homeowners avoid.

"At Painter Ready we bring professionalism to an often unprofessional trade," he said. "We deliver what's needed on time and on budget while treating the customer with respect. People are busy these days and they don't have time to deal with disreputable fly-by-night companies."

Lewis said he knows people think this is a bad time for new businesses.

"It doesn't matter what the economy is doing," he said. "It only matters what you are doing."

His advice was to put down the PlayStation, turn off "American Idol" and get moving.

"You'll be worm food in 40 years and have nothing to show for it," he said. "Make a difference now if you have a passion for something."

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### MORE INFO

Painter Ready can be found online at [www.painter-readychatt.com](http://www.painter-readychatt.com) and The Lewis Group at [www.lewis-fundraising.com](http://www.lewis-fundraising.com).

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Painting your business or home is the most cost effective way to update and protect it from the elements. Here are a few of the services we offer at Painter Ready.

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At Painter Ready, we strive to bring professionalism to an often unprofessional trade. Our pricing is competitive and we never accept payment until the customer is completely satisfied and happy to recommend us. Here's what a few of our customers have to say...

"The Raines Group has been in business 25 years, and managed over 10 million square feet in the Chattanooga market. We've worked with a lot of contractors consequently, Painter Ready gives us a quick, professional, detailed bid. Once the job is awarded they jump on the job and complete it on time and on budget. We're quite pleased." Bill Raines, Owner, The Raines Group

"Brandon Lewis has worked on several projects with me. I would highly recommend him for any project you might be considering. Thank you." Gerald McCormick, State Representative, Hixson, TN.

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