



8th Graders and Careers

On Monday, September 21st, the first group of eighth graders attended *Junior Achievement's Finance Park* at 1130 Coconut Creek Blvd. in Coconut Creek to learn about real life work conditions and the importance of planning for their future careers. CASF occupies one of seventeen storefronts in the Finance Park section of the **JA World Huizenga Center** at Broward College's North campus. Throughout the coming school year there will be 50,000 eighth graders attending day-long sessions at the facility to learn how to live within their means. CASF is using their storefront to present thirteen construction trades and compensation



rates for them to work into their curriculum. Following years of going to area High Schools to teach kids about career opportunities in skilled trades, the Youth Education Committee decided to pursue a different approach to attracting young people to a career in construction. "We felt the Junior Achievement project provided the ability to get our message out to a larger audience of young people" said Doug Wallace, YE Committee Chairman.

The following CASF members helped make this project a reality: *Stiles Construction, James A. Cummings, Expressive Designs, Central Florida Equipment, Elcon Electric, Lotspeich Co. of Fla., Cayman Manufacturing, Safety Guys, Skyline Steel, Baron Signs, Rightway Plumbing and Pomeroy Electric.*

Member News

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The Urban Land Institute (ULI) Southeast Florida/Caribbean District Council has honored **Stiles Corporation** Chairman and CEO Terry Stiles with its 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award. In his acceptance speech, Stiles praised the individuals within the Company for contributing to its long-term success, noting that it is a rarity in South Florida to have such a large number of associates that have been with the Company for over 20 years.



Ken and Terry Stiles
('83-'84 Past-President)

Adonel Concrete Celebrates 25 Years of Award Winning Service. The company's expansion northward has continued as Adonel recently opened two new plants in Fort Pierce, bringing the company's total to eight. Today, Adonel Concrete serves all of South Florida from the Treasure Coast to Florida Keys. Adonel looks forward to another 25 years of service to South Florida.

Save the Date!

CASF Scholarship Fundraiser
Thursday, October 29
Ft. Lauderdale Antique Car Museum

CPA Firm Going Above and Beyond

Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by John Moriarty & Assoc., will be held on Thursday, October 22, 7:30 a.m. at Shula's Hotel in Miami Lakes.

Bentman & Geller Certified Public Accountants, P.A. was founded on the premise of providing the highest quality professional services and personal financial advice to their clients. Their business philosophy is to be consistently responsive and to tailor services to the specific needs and requirements of the clients industry. In addition to the Construction industry, Bentman & Geller offers their diverse knowledge and experience for Retail, Wholesale Distribution, Restaurants, Mortgage Brokerage Services, Textile, Condominium Associations, as well as, Legal and other Professional Services.

Bentman & Geller offer accounting and auditing services that are comprehensive and customized to a company's particular needs.

Going above and beyond providing traditional auditing, review and compilation services, they concentrate on evaluating and understanding a client's business operations, accounting procedures and other needs. By doing an in-depth analysis, Bentman & Geller help clients make strategic business decisions to maximize profitability and manage cash flow. Furthermore, the hand-on analysis assists to streamline operations and improve internal controls. If necessary, Bentman & Geller will also work closely with the financial and credit community on behalf of their clients.

When complex business questions arise, Bentman & Geller are highly experienced business advisors that can help address any concerns a client may have. Bentman & Geller have

many years of helping businesses run more efficiently. They can facilitate better communication between management and employees, as well as, determine if a company has the right management in place. They are proficient at addressing numerous questions which impact a company's bottom-line. By working closely with management and analyzing business operations, Bentman & Geller can recommend procedures to lower administrative costs and help with the flow of information.

In addition to being professional business advisors and accounting experts, Bentman & Geller can also assist a company with an array of Human Resource services. They fully understand that employees can either be an asset or a liability. Locating a key individual is not only crucial, it is also time-consuming. Bentman & Geller can help develop a human resource strategy for a client and provide hiring recommendations. They understand that in our competitive, ever-changing business environment, "business as usual" is as outdated as last year's tax regulations. Today's diverse market needs an accounting firm that is knowledgeable in diverse industries.

Bentman & Geller, located at 4855 W. Hillsboro Blvd. - Suite B3, Coconut Creek, FL 33073. For further information or a personal consultation, please contact Bentman & Geller's office at 954-428-4735.

CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION of South Florida

2929 North West 62nd Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL., 33309

Phone: 954-974-6333; FAX: 954-974-6633

info@casf.org

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Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.

Overview of Chinese Drywall Removal

The Chinese Drywall health issue is a recent discovery in that the health affects and correlation was not made until 2008. Most of the drywall in question was produced in 2004-2006 after the active hurricane seasons that caused significant damage in Florida and Louisiana resulting in a shortage of gypsum in the United States forcing suppliers to buy drywall from China.

According to an EPA Sampling Analysis conducted in May of 2009, there were four noticeable chemical composition difference between Chinese-produced and United States-produced drywall:

- ♦ Sulfur was detected at 83 parts per millions (ppm) and 119 ppm in the Chinese drywall samples. Sulfur was not detected in the four US-manufactured drywall samples.

- ♦ Strontium was detected at 2,570 ppm and 2,670 ppm in the Chinese drywall samples. Strontium was detected in the US-manufactured drywall at 244 ppm to 1,130 ppm. Total acid soluble sulfides were not detected in any samples.

- ♦ Iron concentrations of 1,390 ppm and 1,630 ppm were detected in the Chinese drywall samples and in the range of 841 ppm to 3,210 ppm for the US-manufactured drywall samples. Additional drywall samples will be tested to determine whether the iron is present as oxide, sulfide or sulfate.

EPA's analysis showed the presence of two organic compounds in the Chinese drywall that are associated with acrylic paints: propanoic acid, 2-methyl-, 2,2-dimethyl-1-(2-hydroxy-1-

methylethyl) propyl ester at estimated concentrations of 58 ppm and 92 ppm, and propanoic acid, 2-methyl-, 3-hydroxy-2,4,4-trimethylpentyl ester at estimated concentrations of 50 ppm and 84 ppm. These compounds were not detected in US-manufactured drywall."

Due primarily to the presence of sulfur, the following hazardous chemicals have been discovered to be present in or emitted from the drywall:

- **Iron Disulfide** (Iron Sulfide) FeS₂ - flammable dust, respirable dust, and skin and eye irritant
- **Hydrogen Sulfide Gas** (H₂S) - Toxic respirable gas - PEL 10 ppm Construction Industry - deadly at concentrations in excess of 300 ppm.
- **Carbonyl Sulfide** - Flammable and respirable gas - PEL 10 ppm
- **Sulfur Dioxide** (SO₂) - Allergen - non-toxic gas - may cause respiratory distress to individuals with Asthma or other pre-existing respiratory illness
- Carbon Sulfide - Toxic respirable gas - PEL 20 ppm

Based on the contents and elements listed above, preliminary recommended safety procedures for workers removing Chinese drywall should include:

1. Windows and doors in the facility should be opened to allow air replacement in the facility.
2. Floor fans should be used to increase air exchange and ensure air replacement.
3. Employees should be required to wear a NIOSH-approved dust, vapor or mist mask when cutting and carrying the drywall.

4. Personal gas detection monitors with a H₂S toxic gas alarm and flammable gas alarm should be used at all times when employees are working in an enclosed area as drywall is being removed. In the event the alarm sounds for the presence of H₂S at 50% of the PEL or Flammable Gas at 10% above the LFL, employees should be instructed to leave the confined area until the area is adequately ventilated to a safe level.

5. Employees should be required to wear rubber gloves when handling the drywall. These gloves should be cleaned with water after use.

6. Employees should be required to wear eye goggles when cutting or removing drywall.

7. Employees should be required to wash their hands and face area before eating, drinking, or smoking.

8. Employees should not be permitted to smoke during the operation.

These recommendations are based on the preliminary studies of the Chinese Drywall Investigation that is on-going at this point. OSHA, NIOSH, nor any known state agency has provided any safety recommendations regarding this issue. These recommendations may not completely protect employees from the exposures that have been identified as the studies in this situation have not been conclusive. These recommendations have been developed based on the properties of the identified chemical compounds and the information provided on MSDS's of the chemicals and the corresponding standards set forth by OSHA and the EPA.

Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines

The following is a brief summary from the Safety Committee informative session on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).: Vergie Bain, OSHA Compliance Assistance



Specialist from the Fort Lauderdale office, reviewed Personal Protective Equipment Assessment Standards. She provided additional

helpful tips and advice:

- ◆ Determine the job site hazards and assess the proper equipment required to perform the job.
- ◆ Maintenance of equipment is very important to the

safety of workers.

- ◆ Workers must be properly trained in how to use the equipment.
- ◆ Workers also must understand the limitations of the equipment they are using.
- ◆ PPE rules and regulations should be actively enforced.
- ◆ Everyone needs to be aware of any contamination issues that may occur or are present on the job site.

Employers are responsible for supplying Personal Protective Equipment (with some exemptions) to comply with OSHA Standards.

- A partial list includes:
- Metatarsal foot protection
 - Rubber boots with steel toes
 - Shoe covers, toe caps and metatarsal guards
 - Non-prescription eye

- protection
- Prescription eyewear inserts - lenses for full face respirators
 - Prescription eyewear inserts - lenses for welding and diving helmets
 - Goggles and face shields
 - Fire fighting PPE
 - Hard hat
 - Hearing protection
 - Welding PPE
 - Chemical resistant gloves
 - Mesh cut proof gloves, mesh or leather aprons
 - Barrier creams
 - Respiratory protection
 - Fall protection
 - Ladder safety device belts
 - Climbing ensembles
 - Personal floatation devices
 - Encapsulating chemical protective suits

ROUTE 10:

3500 NW 9TH AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309

