



Special Invitation from AGC

If there is one person who has his fingers on the pulse of the economy and its effects on construction it's Ken Simonson, Chief Economist of AGC of America and 2012-13 president of the National Association for Business Economics.

Construction employment in South Florida has sunk to the lowest levels since at least the 1980s. Yet there are signs of improvement both nationally and regionally. Will the industry finally turn around in 2013? Or will the dreaded "fiscal cliff" combination of sudden steep tax increases and spending cuts push construction still deeper in the hole? Will materials costs flare up again? Will workers still be available when contractors are finally ready to hire? Ken Simonson will answer these questions—and yours—in a lively, interactive session.

Ken has 30 years of experience analyzing, advocating and communicating about economic and tax issues. Before joining AGC, he was senior economic advisor in the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of

Advocacy. Earlier, he was vice president and chief economist for the American Trucking Associations. He also worked with the President's Commission on Industrial Competitiveness, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and an economic consulting firm.

The AGC South Florida Chapter and its Student Chapter at FIU have extended a special invitation to members of CASF to join

them on **Monday, December 10**, at the FIU School of Construction Management, 10555 West Flagler Street, Miami, 2nd Floor of the Engineering Building, for a 6:00PM

Reception and 6:30PM Dinner followed by the program.

Special considerations have been made allowing CASF members the same \$40 registration fee as AGC members and AGC will invoice you so you don't have to initially send a check or pay by credit card.

See the enclosed flyer and fax back your registration to (954) 382-5748 to register.



Ken Simonson,
Chief Economist

Member News

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Florida

Estiatorio Milos by Costas Spiliadis ("Milos") in South Beach, the internationally-acclaimed restaurant recently completed by **Plaza Construction's Interiors Division**, was

named winner of the 2012 "Best Projects" Award (Retail/Mixed-Use category) by ENR Southeast magazine. Plaza also announced that it was awarded a \$65 million contract to construct the 35-story EnV at Mary Brickell Village, a 390-unit residential tower to be located at 999 SW 1st Avenue in Miami. Slated for completion in 2014.

Current Builders announced it will be participating in their 7th Annual **Toys for Tots** bike drive. Last year Current received nearly \$18,000 in donations, which was used to purchase 200 bicycles and a substantial number of toys. In addition, they donated \$4,000 from the proceeds to the **America 4R Marines Project**.

This year they will apply half of the donations to **Toys for Tots** bike program and the other half to the **Wounded Warriors Project**, which supports our returning troops and whose mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors.

Please note that any unwrapped toys will be received at Current Builders offices up until Friday, December 14.



Milos in South Beach



Dedicated to Getting the Job Done

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 Pirtle Construction, will be held on Thursday, December 13, 7:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott-Cypress Creek in Ft. Lauderdale.

Genset Services, Inc. provides CASF members with a wide-range of emergency power products from 7 to 9000kw to meet their needs, including stationary generator systems, mobile generators, transfer switches/switchgear, fuel systems, service/maintenance and generator rentals. Based in Pompano Beach, Genset Services is known for fast and professional response times, as well as their knowledgeable staff.



As the Authorized Generac Industrial Dealer for South Florida, they offer a full-line of Industrial, commercial, mobile and residential equipment. Single engine and paralleled systems are available in LP, NG and Diesel, and their team can also provide factory EPA certified Bi-Fuel (Diesel and NG).

Communication, flexibility, expertise, on time delivery and a dedication to getting the job done are the fundamental strategies that have made Genset Services very successful in serving electrical contractors working in the high rise residential, hospital, educational, corporate, nursing/ALF, warehouse/ manufacturing, and large retailer markets.

Whether you are in need of top of the line products in emergency power or fire/security, working with Genset's skilled professionals is a value-added component in the sales and installation process. Their entire sales team invests an enormous amount of time in assessing just the right equipment for their customer's immediate and long-term needs. They are extremely well versed in the product options available and look at all the factors that may impact a facility,

including code requirements, staff training needs, customer needs, and budget. Genset's staff also includes a customer support team that knows from experience that technical support during the installation is every bit as critical as the brand and model of the system purchased. They work closely with the customer to perform site investigation, financial evaluation, technical evaluation and system design support.

Genset always strives to help their clients avoid the devastating risks of downtime. When an emergency strikes, they put their client's needs first. They have a unique understanding how Florida's history of hurricanes, tornados, flooding, lightning, downed power lines, and extreme temperatures are a constant threat to the vital utility power supply. All of their customers throughout Florida get assistance with knowledgeable advice, detailed work statements, and fair estimates. Flexible maintenance agreements are also available and can be tailored to a client's specific needs. It should also be known that they will service any make and model of engine driven generators and fire pumps, automatic transfer switches, enclosures, fuel tanks, paralleling and distribution gear, circuit breakers, fire alarm and commercial integrated security systems.

Genset Services, Inc. South Florida headquarters is located at 3100 Gateway Drive, Pompano Beach, FL 33069. The Central Florida market is serviced from 545 Johns Road Apopka, Florida 32703. For more information on their full-line of products and service, contact them at 954-956-9252, or visit their website at www.gensetervices.com.

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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.

2012 Craftsmanship Award Winners



ASPHALT PAVING *Bruce Clair* with J.D. Backhoe, Inc.
CRANE RIGGING & HOISTING *Thomas Dondona* with Allgiance Crane & Equipment
LANDSCAPING *Randy Flynn* with PSL Landscape Services
CONCRETE *Jesse Stofflet* with Cost of Wisconsin
CONCRETE FORMWORK *Gaudencio Gonzalez* with Baker Concrete Construction
CONCRETE TILT WALL *Chris Rambarath* with Go-Tilt Construction
NATURAL STONE/ GRANITE *Andy Medina* with Twin Stone Designs & Installations
PRECAST VENEER *Timothy Anderson* with Central Broward Construction

SEA SHELL TABBY CONCRETE *Mike Fox* with Connery Concrete
TILE & LIMESTONE VENEER *Ralph Alvarez* with Marmol Exports
CLADDING SYSTEM *Stephen Miller* with Cladding Systems
MISCELLANEOUS METALS *Tony Muniz* with D&D Mobile Welding & Fabrication
ORNAMENTAL METAL *Giraldo Garcia* with Designer's Specialty Millwork
STRUCTURAL STEEL *Norman Nelson* with Steel Fabricators
ARCHITECTURAL WOODWORK *Marcos Marrero* with Hollywood Woodwork
HEAVY TIMBER CONSTRUCTION *Tom Sinkle* with Structural Roof Systems

MILLWORK *Jim Parenti* with Parenti Raffaelli Ltd.
ROOFING- MEMBRANE *Orville Walters* with Decktight Roofing Services
ROOFING- STANDING SEAM METAL *Nelson Davalos* with Decktight Roofing Services
GLASS & GLAZING *Samuel Hart* with Crown Corr
GLASS & GLAZING *Thomas Saultric* with Harmon, Inc.
ACOUSTICAL CEILING *Jeff Whitaker* with Lotspeich Co. of FL
CEILING- WOOD PANEL *James Clemence* with Lotspeich Co. of FL
CERAMIC TILE *Mauricio Ponce* with Artisan Tile & Marble
DRYWALL FINISHING *Gordon Brent* with Lotspeich Co. of FL
EIFS *Jose Gutierrez* with Lotspeich Co. of FL
FLOORING *Bela Palcz* with Acousti Engineering Co of FL
FLOORING- EPOXY *Alfredo J. Rossman* with Dura Bond Company
FLOORING- WOOD *Wayne Tindell* with Endurance Floor Company
GYPSUM FRAMING *Charlie Hughes* with Lotspeich Co. of FL.

GYPSUM WALLBOARD *Julio Picado* with Miami Drywall
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METAL FRAMING *Paul Irving* with Lotspeich Co. of FL.
METAL WALL PANEL SYSTEM *Judd Tucker* with Five T
STUCCO *Charles Irwin* with KHS&S Contractors
TERRAZZO *Rafael Cambronero* with Artistic Surfaces
TILE *Gary Dew* with Floor Pro
WATER FEATURE *Brian Blanford* with Blueworld of Water
ELEVATORS *Chris Auld* with KONE
HVAC *Rafael Luciano* with AA Advance Air
HVAC PIPING *Todd Aquilo* with Hill York Corporation
PLUMBING *Glenn Donatelli* with Right Way Plumbing
ELECTRICAL *Dale Jones* with C. Davis Electric
ELECTRICAL CONDUIT *Robert Rues* with ION Electric
ELECTRICAL LIGHTING *Rogers Dasilva* with C. Davis Electric
LOW VOLTAGE TELECOM *Carlos Montero* with Custom Call Center

Vehicle Safety in Any Climate

By Brett Frazee, *Enterprise Fleet Management*

Businesses with a fleet of vehicles face a variety of challenges during the winter months. With fewer hours of daylight and more hazardous road conditions caused by rain, sleet, snow or ice, safe driving practices and proper vehicle maintenance can go a long way in controlling costs and increasing efficiencies for drivers and their vehicles. The advantages can include everything from reducing the chances of vehicle collisions, personal injuries, worker compensation claims and downtime to avoiding expensive repairs caused by excessive wear and tear on a vehicle.

In addition to having a good driver training program that includes a written fleet safety policy, it's important to make sure drivers are familiar with some of the newer emergency icons that may light up on the dashboard to signal problems that need to be addressed. These icons include: (see graphic with icons for each of the following)

- ◆ **Traction Control**, also called acceleration slip regulation (ASR), is designed to ensure maximum contact between the road surface and the vehicle's tires when accelerating from a complete stop or speeding up to pass another vehicle, particularly under less than ideal road conditions.
- ◆ **Stability Control** uti-

lizes speed sensors on each wheel, as well as steering-angle sensors and a hydraulic modulator control to increase traction during potential side-skidding situations.

Dashboard Warnings to Know



- ◆ **Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS)** uses pressure sensing transmitters mounted inside each tire to monitor an unsafe change of 25 percent or more in the air pressure in one or more of a vehicle's tires.

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ROUTE TO:

Vehicle Safety

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◆ **Antilock Braking System** (ABS) senses and prevents wheel lock-up to improve traction and steering during hard braking. Because the ABS allows drivers to steer while applying maximum braking, there is greater vehicle stability in an emergency and this can make a significant difference in avoiding obstacles.

While it is never a good idea to skip or postpone routine maintenance, it is essential to be vigilant about maintenance in the winter, especially for the following.

◆ **Wipers, Windshield & More.** Inspect wiper blades, windshield washers and washer fluid level. Seal any windshield cracks, which tend to spread in the winter. Also check each vehicle's battery for load capacity and the electrical/charging system, as well as all belts and hoses for softness and wear.

◆ **Tire Replacement.** Match dimensions indicated on the tire information decal for new tires to help avoid inaccurate speedometer/odometer readings, ABS brake malfunctions and multiple engine and transmission errors. Some vehicles with all-wheel drive require replacement of all tires at the same time because of potential driveline problems. Consult your owner's manual or a fleet management professional for additional information.

◆ **Tire Maintenance.** Use a quality air pressure gauge to check pressure at least once a week. Correct tire pressure helps extend tire tread life and gas mileage and contributes to good traction and handling. Rotation of the tires, recommended every 10,000 miles, will also extend the tire life further. This is especially true for front wheel drive

vehicles.

◆ **Gasoline Selection.** Seasonal blends of gasoline will ensure better performance in the winter. Always consult your owner's manual for recommendations regarding grade or octane of fuel. While gasoline that is too low in octane can drastically affect vehicle performance, higher octane can drive up expenses unnecessarily.

Last but not least, check the vehicle's emergency roadside kit to make sure it is winter ready. Items may include a cell phone car charger or extra battery, first aid kit, and extra winter clothing, including gloves and boots, as well as a flashlight, tire gauge, fire extinguisher and snow shovel. Even with roadside assistance, being prepared can increase safety, reduce stress and make waiting for assistance more comfortable.