



## Unlicensed Contractors Nabbed in Broward

**D**ozens of unlicensed contractors lured to a home in Cooper City were arrested in a Broward Sheriff's Office sting — Dressed in casual attire and looking like new homebuyers, Daniel Belyeu and Debra Wallace showed the two men around their opulent, unoccupied home and asked whether they could help spruce it up.

When the men agreed to perform masonry and carpeting work, six uniformed deputies and officers stormed into the living room, forced the workers to the ground and arrested them.

Belyeu and Wallace were undercover Broward sheriff's deputies. The workers were arrested Thursday, April 5, on the charge of unlicensed contracting.

Curbing illegal home improvements, officials say, has been an elusive goal in South Florida amid the downturn in the economy: Unemployed workers contract without a license as an easy way to make money. And some homeowners turn a blind eye to the unlicensed work for bargain prices.

But authorities say they've made some progress during the past three years, organizing 12 undercover opera-

tions to nab workers with histories of unlicensed contracting. First-time offenders face a first-degree misdemeanor. Second violations are a third-degree felony.

*"The latest trend that we've noticed is that about 60 percent of the respondents to our operations have extensive criminal histories that include felonies,"* Belyeu said. *"Everything from sexual abuse to aggravated battery. We've even had a murderer show up at one of our things."*

During the operation, more than 40 workers who authorities say had histories of contracting without licenses showed up one by one to a foreclosed Cooper City home. The home was equipped with surveillance cameras to record negotiations.

The workers were invited to the home by undercover deputies posing as homeowners in need of home repairs.

Helping the Broward Sheriff's Office perform the undercover sting were Broward County's permitting and licensing officials, the state Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the state Division of Insurance Fraud.

## Member News

**Miller Construction Company** announced a contract to build an early learning center at 3291 NW 183 St., Miami. The new Carol City Early Learning Center's 8,140 square feet will include seven classrooms, seven bathrooms, a laundry room, multi-purpose room, fenced-in playground area and space for a commercial grade kitchen. It will also include a functional drive-thru drop off lane and sizeable parking lot.

Carol City Early Learning Center is owned and operated by Education First, Inc., a minority owned company. Brian Sudduth, Miller's senior vice president said, *"This facility will become an important small business to this community. We worked hard to make sure that all the necessary safety requirements were exceeded while still providing some cost-saving options for our client."* The center is slated to open October 2012.

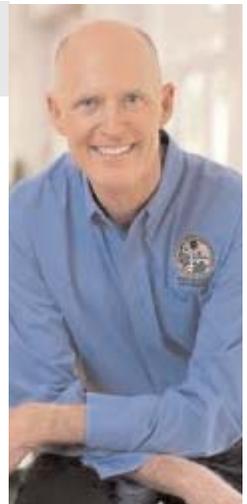
## CICTC Night

Join CASF, ABC, AGC and LBA for the Construction Industry Collaboration Task Force's first ever joint networking cocktail reception with our special guest speaker, **Florida Governor Rick Scott**

Join us for an evening of networking with top construction professionals.

**Wednesday, May 16, 2012  
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Place: BankAtlantic Center  
2555 NW 136th Ave, Sunrise  
Cost: \$40.00 per person



May 2012  
Vol. 23, No. 05  
Ft. Lauderdale,  
Florida

# One of the Top 400 Contractors Globally

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 Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, will be held on Thursday, May 17, 7:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites - Boca Raton off Yamato Road.

**V**alleyCrest Landscape Companies was founded in April of 1949 by Burton S. Sperber and is currently the nation's largest landscape and site construction company.

The ValleyCrest Companies, which ranks on Forbes Magazine's list of America's 500 Largest Private Companies, is commissioned by architects, developers, commercial real estate owners, public agencies, property managers and luxury home builders to help create, build and maintain some of the world's most extraordinary natural environments.

They are also ranked number 54 on Engineering News Record's list of Top 400 Contractors globally and were recognized by Training Magazine for the second consecutive year as one of the Top 125 Best Training

Companies in the world. With more than 10,000 employees and operations in more than 150 locations nationwide, ValleyCrest continues to expand. Some of the key employees include: CEO Roger Zino, COO Andrew Mandell, President Tom Donnelly, SVP Williams Leathers, Branch Manager Andy Johnson, and in charge of Business Development for about 5 years, Alberto Miranda. "Some of the best things about working for ValleyCrest are the resources, the experience the management team has, and the working environment focused on safety", expresses Miranda.

During nearly 63 years of operation, the company has been awarded numerous prestigious landscape projects and completed hundreds of hotels and resorts, corporate campuses and

office buildings, retail and mixed-use centers, master-planned communities, golf courses, urban parks and habitats, public highways, theme parks, sports venues, museums, cultural, municipal, and educational institution properties, medical facilities and private residences.

Some of the company's recently accomplished projects include, Miami Marlins Park, Miami SoundScape Park at Frank Gehry's New World Symphony, The Village at Gulfstream Park, West Kendall Baptist Hospital, and St. Regis Hotel & Resort in Bal Harbor. They will also be starting on the Miami Art Museum, MIC East Concourse and Fort Lauderdale Latter Day Saints Temple projects very soon.

ValleyCrest Landscape has been a member of CASF since 2007 and they feel the association is a great environment for connecting with colleagues, industry professionals, and decision makers in forums outside of the office. "The association has allowed us to stay present with key contractors in the marketplace and has been a great place to connect with contractors entering this region, whom we may have worked with in other regions. I also enjoy the consistency and professionalism of the organization and the ability to deliver programs tailored to the industry", explains Miranda.

ValleyCrest Landscape Companies' main office is located at 4155 E. Mowry Drive, Homestead. For more information, call 305-258-8011 or visit [www.ValleyCrest.com](http://www.ValleyCrest.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.



## 1st Memorial Celebration Raises Over \$15k!

The Association's first attempt at raising money for the **Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center** in *Jim "Mad Dog" Mandich's* memory proved to be a big success. "We knew it was going to be tough in this economy and with all the other worthy charities out there, this was going to be a challenge.", said Bob Benson, Crowe Horwath, Co-Chair, "But the members of CASF, along with Jim's friends came out and helped raise over \$15,000."

Jim Mandich was so diversified in his business life that, along with being a key Dolphin player on the Perfect Season team in 1972, a local sports radio host, restaurant owner and founder/ MC of the Miami Dolphins Touchdown Club, very few people knew he also ran a very successful construction subcontracting firm in Miami. **Ray Southern**, Division CEO for Balfour Beatty Construction

paid tribute to Jim in his recollections of Jim's career in construction. He told the crowd that following an illustrious football career Jim went to work for Jerry Lotspeich as a Project Manager for the Lotspeich Company in Miami and within four years he was co-owner and Chief Executive of the firm. "Jim told me not to judge people by how they handle the good times, but by how they act when things get tough." he continued, "As you can imagine, there were several times on some of our construction jobs that everything didn't go as planned," recalled Ray, "And Jim's response was always 'I'll take care of it', which he did. He was a man of his word."

**Coach Howard Schnellenberger**, the Offense Coach for the Dolphins during Jim's years with the team was on hand to tell a couple of stories about the rookie from

University of Michigan who he coached when Jim arrived at the Dolphin's camp in 1970. **Dick Anderson**, a Dolpin teammate of Jim's, followed up with some comical recollections of how Jim met his wife Bonnie and his notorious antics with Dolphin great, Jake Scott. Jim's friend and business partner, **Dan Richey**, closed with some heart-felt recollections of Jim in his later days facing his biggest challenge.

"Jim was such a great guy and a champion for South Florida's construction industry", remarked Rick Schuerger, JMA of FL and Chair of the event, "that I felt we had to do something in his memory to raise money for his charity. Thanks to all our sponsors and those who attended. We hope to see everyone next year at the '2nd Annual Mad Dog Mandich Memorial Celebration'."

CONSTRUCTION  
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CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA

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FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309

ROUTE TO:

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## CASF's 5th Annual Safety Summit a Success!

