Vote “Yes” on Ballot #222

Everyone agrees that more money should be put into our public schools, but no one wants to pay for it. On Election Day, Miami-Dade voters will decide if they want to pay for school building repairs and technology upgrades with a $1.2 billion bond referendum.

Miami-Dade voters should wholeheartedly approve this ballot measure. Safe, secure schools in which technology upgrades enhance students’ academic achievement can only benefit South Florida’s future. Well-educated students fuel a skilled and competent workforce. And the quality of public schools are a priority when businesses consider relocating to Miami-Dade. Crumbling schools are not a lure.

The school district has built transparency and accountability into the construction and fiscal process. Forward-looking residents can support this initiative with confidence by voting “Yes” on item #222.

Member News

JWR Construction Services is pleased to announce its recent hirings of Bill Oakman - Project Manager, Lovett Gaither - Project Manager, and Sterling Fordham - General Superintendent. Bill has 38 years of experience in the construction industry serving as project manager, assistant project manager and estimator on a variety of projects throughout Florida. Bill is currently project managing the renovation of façades in the Harbor Village Shopping Center on East Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach.

The NSU Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystem Science Research Facility (CoE CRES) won overall in the education category of the Florida Design-Build Awards presented by the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) Florida Region.

The 54th Annual Craftsmanship Awards banquet, to be held Thursday, November 8, at the Signature Grand, will honor 46 masters in their trade for exceptional work done throughout South Florida.

This year’s Grand Sponsors who support the recognition of our craftsmen are Balfour Beatty Construction, Central Florida Equipment, Coastal Construction Group, John Moriarty & Assoc. of FL, Kaufman Lynn, Lotspeich Co. of FL, Miller Construction, Moss & Associates, Steel Fabricators and Stiles Construction.

The eighteen judges that viewed each nominated installation are: Brett Atkinson, Murray Bryntesen, Juan Caycedo, Pete Ebersole, Art Kamm, Bob Loucks, Larry Martineau, Alex McManus, Jim Moselund, Dan Nolan, Jeff Peal, August Pujols, Henry Shawah, Gary Slopey, Brian Sudduth, Jeff Suiter, Al Villarreal, and Andrew Youngross.

After selecting the winning craftsmen the judges voted to give the Eco-Discovery Center project by Stiles Construction Company the 2012 Overall Craftsmanship Performed on a Project Award.
Concentra Medical Centers was founded in 1979 by three physicians, Dr. Rehm, Dr. Fagan and currently still Chief Medical Officer W. Tom Fogarty, M.D. At the time, occupational medicine was a segment that nobody paid attention to and they wanted to build a better mousetrap in this segment of health care that not only needed quality medicine, but also a more efficient business system applied to it. Their main philosophy is to improve America’s health, one patient at a time, and the company structure has allowed physicians the room and authority to focus on providing medical care, instead of the pressure of running a business.

In 2007, the company expanded into urgent care, in 2010 they went through an acquisition with Humana, and in 2011 they expanded into primary care as well. Shifting the brand and company culture from one that focused on processes to one that embraces and caters to the needs and wants of patients was a larger obstacle than first anticipated for Concentra. With hard work and a few kinks along the way, they were able to become a premier service driven company and achieve excellent service. Their Nationwide footprint, support of a Forbes Top 100 Parent company, being the nation’s largest provider of employer health and urgent care services are just a few things that separate them from the competition.

Concentra provides the construction industry with pre-employment screenings, workers’ compensation injury care, onsite medical care, vaccinations and preventative care, ergonomic evaluations, environmental health and safety services, as well as OSHA-compliant health and safety regulations. They are always looking for new opportunities to bring quality and convenient medical care to more employers, their employees and the general public through innovative delivery models.

The company currently has over 320 centers across the US and employs about 9,000 people. A few key employees include CEO Jim Greenwood, CMO Tom Fogarty, M.D., Regional Sales Manager Don Bopp, and Account Executive Jodi Linn. “Some of the best thing about working here is getting to work with passionate colleagues who are united in the collective vision to improve the lives of others and there are ever-changing opportunities to apply and develop skills, which keep the job both interesting and challenging,” states Linn, who has been with the company for 17 years.

Concentra has been a member of CASF since 2006 and continues to stay active and show their support by sponsoring the annual Safety Conference every year.

Concentra has six centers located within the tri-county area to easily serve employers. For more information please contact Jodi Linn at 954-547-0269 or visit www.concentra.com to find the nearest location.
There’s nothing new about compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel that is less expensive than gasoline, but it is big news that some 2013 model pickup trucks are now available with factory-installed dual-fuel systems. For those who have been interested in adding dual-fuel pickups to their fleet of vehicles but thought their only option was to install an aftermarket conversion system, the ability to acquire vehicles with CNG systems installed by OEM-trained personnel right at the factory is long-overdue.

New models include those that feature a special engine calibration along with body remodeling to accommodate two separate fuel sources, as well as a single door for both fuel ports, and a fully automatic system that seamlessly switches from CNG to unleaded regular with no discernable difference in operation or capability. Compared to aftermarket conversion systems, factory installed CNG systems are covered under the manufacturer’s warranty and vehicles can be repaired at the dealership.

Regarding pricing, a recent article in Business Fleet compared the costs for pickups with CNG factory-installed system and an aftermarket conversion. "Expect to pay $10,000-$12,000 more for a bi-fuel CNG pickup straight from the factory over its gasoline-powered counterpart," the article stated. By comparison, a company that chose an aftermarket conversion system bought a new truck and had a qualified mechanic install it for $5,400 for the complete kit including installation. The article noted that the conversion for that company only worked with a larger engine, which added another $1,600. "Price (for conversions) is dictated by the size of the tank and its material, from steel to composite," stated Business Fleet.

Whether a company chooses a factory-installed or conversion system, CNG offers big savings at the pump. While CNG achieves nearly identical mileage as unleaded regular gasoline, it costs a lot less. For example, in Chicago, where conventional gasoline was recently priced at $4.50 a gallon, a local CNG pumping station was charging $2.65 GGE (gas-gallon equivalent). Depending on the average miles per gallon for a vehicle and the number of vehicles in a company’s fleet, using CNG can save thousands of dollars a year.

In addition to a lower price at the pump, CNG-powered vehicles reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are more environmentally friendly than gasoline or diesel. Also, because natural gas burns so cleanly, maintenance costs may be lower with less wear and tear on the engine and longer time intervals between tune ups and oil changes.

However, despite its advantages, CNG is best suited for fleet vehicles that regularly follow a fixed route or return-to-base routine, such as delivery companies and service providers. Although natural gas is in abundant supply throughout the United States, there are only about a thousand CNG fueling stations nationwide and fewer than 400 are public access. That means that if a vehicle becomes stranded it must be towed to a fueling station, which can be expensive and inconvenient.

Businesses considering CNG should consult a professional fleet management company that can conduct a comprehensive analysis to determine whether CNG is a viable choice based on a variety of factors, including projections for the best return on investment for either a factory-installed or conversion system.
Fall Social at the Biergarten in Boca