



## A Rise in Public Construction

Total construction spending eked out a small rise in June as gains in stimulus-aided public categories offset decreases in private nonresidential spending, according to the **Associated General Contractors** of America in an analysis of new Census Bureau data. "Stimulus dol-

private nonresidential spending. "Every private category was negative, most deeply so, compared to June 2009," Simonson observed. *"But there were encouraging gains for the month in private hospital and power construction, both of which should be growth markets over the next several quarters."*

Among public categories, Simonson remarked that highway and wastewater construction each rose for the fourth consecutive month; other public trans-

portation facilities-transit, rail and airports-jumped 20 percent from a year earlier; and public housing soared 31 percent compared to June 2009. "All of these categories have benefited from stimulus funds. In contrast, public primary and secondary school construction, which has been battered by falling property tax receipts and lower in-migration to formerly fast-growing school districts, shrank 27 percent in the past year."

## Member News

Kimberly P. Riehn, CPA, has joined **Miller Construction Company** as controller. With more than 20 years of experience in corporate accounting and commercial real estate, she is responsible for streamlining and enhancing financial processes for Miller.

A certified public accountant (inactive), Riehn earned her Master of Arts and Bachelor of Business Administration degrees from the University of Georgia.

**Builders Plus** has been awarded the tilt-up shell contract for the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute (VGTI) project by **Whiting Turner Contracting Company**.

VGTI Florida, as the campus has been dubbed, will be built on eight acres at Core Communities' Florida Center for Innovation at Tradition, a fledgling research park that's home to another biotech outfit, the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies. It will be a 99,000-square-foot biomedical research facility. VGTI intends to use its local labs to research ailments such as cancer, HIV and West Nile Virus.

**Builders Plus** also helped construct the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies.

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Kimberly P. Riehn



lars are supporting construction jobs, but the pain is continuing for most contractors and their workers who depend on private projects or school construction," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist.

Simonson noted that total construction spending inched up 0.1 percent in June at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, buoyed by a 1.5 percent increase in public construction, which offset a decline of 0.5 percent in

# Attention to Detail and Fair Pricing

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 James A. Cummings, Inc., will be held on Thursday, September 23, 7:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott-Cypress Creek in Ft. Lauderdale.

ServiceMaster Clean by Robinson has been serving South Florida for over 20 years and has become a proven leader in the industry. They operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to insure timely disaster restoration response to restore your home or get your business back in business.



Founded in 1989 by Jim Robinson,

ServiceMaster Clean by Robinson has continued to grow through the years through a continuing philosophy of honesty and integrity in business. From the beginning, their goals have always been to provide the very best customer experience through attention to detail and fair pricing practices. These same practices

apply today and the ServiceMaster Clean staff is always available to answer any questions you may have, from emergency response unit in a disaster situation, to bringing freshness back into your business or home with their professional cleaning division. ServiceMaster by Robinson has a highly qualified staff, with highest credentials in the industry, so you can be assured when their crew members are on your property, you are in excellent hands.

As experts in commercial restoration, ServiceMaster by Robinson has handled large loss projects resulting from pipe bursts to catastrophes such as Hurricane Ike in Texas. Their staff has seen it all from flood, fire or mold, and can greatly reduce business interruption and get you back up and

running as soon as possible. Commercial Restoration requires very specialized equipment in order to effectively dry a large structure in a timely manner to mitigate secondary damages. Since they own their equipment on-site, they can always insure timely response to a large loss.

Water damage can strike your business or home at anytime. If you find yourself at the mercy of a broken pipe, leaking roof or any number of other water sources, ServiceMaster's expertly trained technicians will put you at ease. They utilize the latest drying technology to quickly and effectively mitigate your damages and work alongside your insurance provider to insure your property is restored to a pre-loss condition. In addition, they may also utilize Fluke Thermal Imaging cameras that can reveal a hidden world of damaged materials. This imaging capability gives their technicians a precise view of what is wet, and determines the strategy to dry the structure in a timely manner.

Furthermore, they also keep all thermal images on file and backed up, just in case you might need to prove your property was dried effectively.

In addition to the above services, they also offer Fire Damage Restoration, Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning, as well as, Tile and Grout Cleaning. ServiceMaster by Robinson is located at 1520 NW 65th Avenue - Suite 2, Plantation, FL 33313. You can visit their website at [www.sm2restore.com](http://www.sm2restore.com) or call Jim Robinson at 954-749-9544.

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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.

# Prescription Drugs at the Workplace

The August Safety Committee meeting on prescription drugs at the workplace was presented by Alan Siegel, M.D. from Interventional Pain Physicians of South Florida. The session provided helpful information about the differences between medication classifications and their needs. Below is a brief overview of the session.

## The Basic Facts About Prescription Drugs and the Worker

The impact that chronic pain has on over 50 million Americans is a concern for all health care providers and a problem that is expected to grow as advanced medicine allows for greater and greater longevity. Unfortunately, chronic pain sufferers face many challenges including mediocre access to care, lack of understanding of their diagnosis and drawn out treatments with poor outcomes.

As interventional pain management physicians, Interventional Pain Physicians of South Florida shares your goal of minimizing obstacles to provide the highest standard of care for patients with chronic pain. Their doctors are board-certified in anesthesiology and pain management and have been serving the South Florida area for many years. The practice is focused on: diagnosing the source of pain; formulating comprehensive treatment plans; utilizing the most advanced techniques available to attempt to eliminate pain;

and, when indicated, selectively using medication to control pain. The ultimate goal is to provide relief from pain and allow patients to get back to life (and work).

## Opioids

Chemicals that bind to opioid receptors in the central nervous system.

## Opioid Classifications

1. Natural
2. Semi-synthetic
3. Fully-synthetic

## Opioid Withdrawl Symptoms

Sweating, Tearing Eyes, Runny Nose, Increased Heart Rate, Cramps, Nausea, Vomiting

Hydrocodone: The most prescribed medication in the U.S.

Misuse: 5-10 million misuse prescription drugs in the U.S.

Tolerance: Condition that may follow repeated ingestion of a drug in so that the effect produced by the original dose no longer occurs.

Physical Dependence: The level of substance abuse at which disagreeable or severe physiologic symptoms will occur if use of the substance is suddenly terminated.

Addiction: Compulsive physiological and psychological need for a habit-forming substance.

## Adherence Monitoring Program

Opioids are important, if not essential, agents in treating certain types of chronic pain. However, the prevalence of drug misuse, abuse, and addiction has fostered considerable consternation among physicians, who may hesitate to prescribe these medications

both due to concern for patients (misuse, abuse, and addiction), and fears of prosecution and/or professional sanction. Such practice may reflect inadequate knowledge about patients' susceptibility to, or current drug misuse or abuse; lack of familiarity with extant assessments and/or regulations, and/or an unanticipated reaction to existing guidelines, policies or laws.

## What is the difference between acute and chronic pain?

Acute pain is pain of a short, limited duration which is usually the result of an injury, surgery or medical illness. Acute pain typically goes away within the normal healing process. Chronic pain continues for longer periods of time, and can be associated with frustration, depression and anxiety. Treatments for acute and chronic pain often differ greatly.

## Are there psychological effects of chronic pain?

Yes. Chronic pain often produces feelings of anger, sadness, hopelessness and even despair. In addition, it may alter one's personality, affect their sleep patterns, interfere with work and have an effect on other family members. It is normal to have psychological problems with pain.

*September Safety Meeting: Thursday, September 30 - 8:00 AM - CASF Office - Fort Lauderdale*



*Alan Siegel, M.D., DABAPM  
Interventional Pain Physicians*

# Fewer Jobs. Higher Taxes. Weaker Economy.

## **FEWER JOBS**

Passing **Amendment 4** will cost Florida tens of thousands of jobs and hurt working families. We're in the deepest recession in our lifetime and it's no time to pass an amendment that leading business groups call a "jobs killer."

## **WEAKER ECONOMY**

During these difficult economic times, the last thing we need to do is pass **Amendment 4**; experts say it will raise property taxes, hurt our sluggish economy, and make it more expensive to live in Florida.

## **HIGHER TAXES**

**Amendment 4** will mean higher taxes in order to pay for more elections, more liti-

gation and more bureaucracy. Property taxes could hit record levels to cover the soaring costs of **Amendment 4**.

## **UNWORKABLE**

**Amendment 4** is so extreme and so poorly written that it doesn't provide exceptions for vital community needs such as hospitals, police stations, fire trucks and new schools.

## **AMENDMENT 4 HAS ALREADY FAILED**

St. Pete Beach has already passed a local version of **Amendment 4**; it's been a disaster, costing local taxpayers nearly \$1 million in legal fees. **Amendment 4** will cost taxpayers millions, hurt working families, and devastate our economy.

**We can't let this devastating legislation pass...Be sure to vote NO on November 2!**

*Educate your employees, sub-contractors and vendors on the perils of **Amendment 4!** Ask them to "register" for the Industry Mobilization Program (IMP) online at the Web Portal: [www.noamendment4.com](http://www.noamendment4.com)*

*This is a major e-mail registration drive. Once someone is registered online, volunteers will make sure they are registered to vote, determine if they're an absentee voter, and ensure that they are fully-mobilized to share the message with their friends, family members and co-workers via social networking platforms. **ACT NOW BEFORE IT'S TO LATE!***



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