THE CCIA ANNUAL Membership Meeting & Holiday Reception is right around the corner. Register today for this annual event, which is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2013, at 5 pm at the Aqua Turf Club. CCIA Community Service Awards and Safety Recognition Awards will be presented during the meeting. The event is a great way to celebrate the holiday season with your construction industry colleagues. We’d like to add a special thank you to our Program Sponsors Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming and United Concrete Products.

CCIA SAFETY AWARDS will be presented at CCIA’s Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Reception. Platinum Level Awards will be presented to six member-companies: Dimeo Construction; Manafort Brothers, Inc.; Petra Construction; Tilcon Connecticut, Inc.; Turner Construction Co.; and United Steel, Inc. Safety Recognition Awards will be presented to the Platinum Level Award winners plus the following 27 member-companies that have maintained a proven construction safety and health program: Bartlett Brainard Eacott, Inc.; Chapel Construction of New Haven, Inc.; C.H. Nickerson & Co., Inc.; Connecticut Water Services, Inc.; Costello Industries, Inc.; Downes Construction Co.; Epifano Builders, Inc.; Fay & Wright Excavating, Inc.; Field Safety Corporation; The Fusco Corporation; Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming, Inc.; Gilbane Building Co.; The Hartland Building & Restoration Co.; Hobbs Inc.; The Lane Construction Corporation; Loureiro Contractors, Inc.; J.F. White Contracting Co.; John J. Brennan Construction Co., Inc.; KBE Building Corporation; McAllen Building & Remodeling Inc.; Midstate Site Development, LLC; O&G Industries, Inc.; Rotha Contracting Company, Inc.; Semac Electrical Contractors; Southington Metal Fabricating Co.; Standard Builders, Inc.; Waters Construction Company, Inc. Congratulations!

GOVERNOR MALLOY this week spoke at a press conference organized by Local 478 of the Operating Engineers to publicize its efforts to train workers for the upcoming $7 billion natural gas expansion project that will take place in the state over the next 10 years. An article in CT NewsJunkie provides the details. Expansion is expected to begin in early 2014 and will provide Connecticut consumers with increased accessibility to natural gas services from Yankee Gas, Connecticut Natural Gas, and Southern Connecticut Gas.

THE CCSU CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT Team placed second out of 15 teams recently in the Commercial Building Division in the Associated Schools of Construction Regional Student Competition in New Jersey. The project consisted of the renovation of MEP systems, window replacement, and asbestos removal for a six-story dormitory at Syracuse University. The team spent 15 hours preparing an estimate, schedule, logistics plan and other items, and made their presentation to The Pike Company employees who were corporate sponsors for this division. AGC/CT and CRBA provided financial support for the students’ participation in the competition. In the attached photo, the students who participated in the competition are (l-r) Ian Rogers, Shawn East, Anthony Diana, Kristen Cortigiano, Mike Fallat and Doug Hess

THE FOUR CONNECTICUT STATE Universities and the state's 12 community colleges need an infusion of $836 million to complete necessary renovations and eliminate a growing backlog of construction projects, according to an article in CTMirror this week. Jim Kadamus, a consultant with Guilford-based Sightlines, told members of the Board of Regents for Higher Education last week that there is a significant backlog. The state has spent about $123 million a year to finance construction projects at the 16-campus public college system over the last several years. But only one-third of that funding has gone to keep up with existing buildings and roads; the priority has been on new construction to handle overcrowding. According to the Sightlines report, college systems across the country are deferring needed construction projects.

BALANCING CONNECTICUT’S STATE budget is a political, not a financial exercise, according to a recent opinion piece in the Hartford Business Journal by Julie McNeal, CPA, Director of Finance and Operations at the Connecticut Society of CPA’s. Ms. McNeal asserts that Connecticut "balances" its budget by borrowing, deferring expenses, and having a negative net worth. In the 10 years between 2002 and 2012 Connecticut's borrowing nearly doubled from $15.5 to $28.2 billion dollars. That is a direct result of the methods used to balance the budget, according to McNeal. No family, nonprofit, or business could
reasonably or legally call their budget balanced using Connecticut’s biennial tactics.

DEEP IS REQUESTING APPROVAL from the Office of Policy Management (OPM) to propose a bill in the 2014 legislative session to increase the dollar value threshold of small building and repair projects on their properties that can be directly administered by the department. Currently the DEEP Commissioner may administer projects up to $500,000, or with the permission of the Department of Administrative Services, up to $1 million. This proposal would increase those dollar figures to $2 million and roughly $3 million respectively.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS NATIONWIDE continued to improve at architecture firms in September, according to the American Institute of Architects’ Architecture Billings Index (ABI) score which rose to 54.3 (any score above 50 indicates billings growth). Despite uncertainty in the general economy related to the federal government shutdown, firm billings have been accelerating every month since the beginning of the summer. Inquiries into new work continue to rise, despite having dipped slightly from their most recent high earlier this year, and the value of new design contracts increased in September as well.

FEATURED SPEAKERS at the Connecticut Transportation Summit, scheduled for Thurs., Dec. 12, 2013 at 8:30 am at the Sheraton Stamford Hotel, are: Anna Barry, Deputy Commissioner, ConnDOT; Philip Byrd, Chairman, American Trucking Association and President and CEO of Bulldog Hiway Express; Jack Condlin, President, Stamford Chamber of Commerce; Pete Goia, Vice President and Economist, CBIA; and Mario Smith, President, Waters Construction Co. and Past Chairman of the Board, CCIA. Sponsored by UIL Holdings Corporation, this event is presented by CBIA, the Stamford Chamber of Commerce, the Motor Transport Association of CT (MTAC), and CCIA. Registration is required.

FEDERAL BANKRUPTCY FILINGS nationwide declined 12% in fiscal year 2013 compared to the prior fiscal year, according to new data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Overall, businesses and individuals filed 1,107,699 bankruptcy cases in the federal courts in fiscal year 2013, which ended on September 30, 2013. For Connecticut, the number of bankruptcy filings declined by 14.3%, from 8,546 in fiscal year 2012 to 7,321 in fiscal year 2013.

OSHA’S BRIDGEPORT AREA DIRECTOR, Robert Kowalski, recently put out a warning about an on-going issue that is targeting Connecticut employers. Employers are being asked to contact a certain phone number which connects to a person claiming to be with OSHA’s Office of Compliance and Safety Standards, and asking for a registration fee to avoid fines. Mr. Kowalski would like all Connecticut employers to know that this is not a U.S. Department of Labor OSHA initiative and cautions everyone not to respond to such inquiries.

OSHA HAS CREATED a Winter Storms webpage providing tips on keeping employees and the workplace safe during winter weather conditions. Information on vehicle preparedness, hypothermia prevention, and building care are included.

TABLES ARE AVAILABLE for employers at the Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) Career Fair on Mar. 27, 2014, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm in Alumni Hall on the CCSU campus in New Britain. There is no cost to attend. If you plan to participate, please RSVP to Diane Hunter to reserve a table, and indicate how many from your organization will be attending (include names if possible), if you will need power to your table, and what majors you are interested in (Mechanical, Manufacturing, Civil and/or Construction).

THE YOUNG CONTRACTORS FORUM (YCF) is looking for interesting construction projects to tour in 2014. The group is currently scheduling its meetings and events for the next year, and would like to include several ongoing projects for its members to tour. Depending on the timing and location, it’s expected that there would be roughly 20 attendees and the ideal time for the tour would be for two hours at the end of the day. If you know any such projects, please contact Carol Hall at the CCIA office at chall@ctconstruction.org or 860-529-6855.


FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS, November 22, 2013: 1) CCIA Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Reception 12/4; 2) Connecticut Transportation Summit 12/12 3) YCF Membership Meeting & Holiday Get-Together 12/12 4) AGC/CT BIM Unit 4 12/13; 5) AGC/CT 2014 Build CT Application Kit - Submission Due by 12/27; 6) ACI – Flatwork Finishers Certification; 7) 2014 ACI Certification Schedule; 8) ACI Grade 1 Field Technician Application.

FROM THE INTERNET: On November 22, 1963, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, was assassinated while traveling through Dallas, Texas, in an open-top convertible. Disneyland does not sell chewing gum because Walt Disney did not want guests inconvenienced by stepping on gum purchased in the park. USGA regulation golf balls have 336 dimples. Clinophobia is the fear of beds. The escalator in the CNN Center in Atlanta, Georgia is the longest freestanding escalator in the world, rising 160 feet or approximately eight stories in height. Every workday, 6.7 million people commute to Manhattan. February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have had a full moon.