

CCIA HIGHLIGHTS *of the week*

A weekly information bulletin for members of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association Phone: 860-529-6855

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THE STATE BOND COMMISSION approved more than [\\$229 million](#) in general obligation allocations yesterday. The construction-related items include \$1.9 m. for elevator mechanical systems upgrades at the New Haven Superior Courthouse, \$2.5 m. for the construction of a new distribution facility for the Connecticut Food Bank in Wallingford, \$2.8 m. for upgrades to the New London Readiness Center and parking lot improvements at Stones Ranch Military Reservation in East Lyme, \$1.7 m. to finance improvements at various Department of Developmental Services facilities, \$10 m. to various municipalities under the Small Town Economic Assistance Program, and \$2.8 m. for the state's share of the cost of interest subsidy grants for the construction of local school building projects.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS throughout the region carried on with outdoor work despite single-digit temperatures this week, according to an [article](#) in the *Record-Journal*. The *Hartford Business Journal* [reported](#) that the regional cold snap has caused natural gas demand in New England to increase by 8 percent, and in a matter of days, the average price of natural gas in the region rose to \$38.10 per million BTU's from \$16 per million. Natural gas prices are expected to increase throughout the cold season.

ERIC ROSENGREN, President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, delivered a cautiously optimistic message on the national economy at the recent CBIA 2014 Economic Summit & Outlook, Tues., Jan. 7 at the Hartford Marriott. His presentation was covered in this week's [Hartford Business Journal](#). On the positive side, GDP growth will likely be 3 percent, up from last year's 2 percent figure, as the drag from fiscal austerity fades, consumers regain confidence and increase demand, and the housing market solidifies its emerging recovery. Not all is rosy, Rosengren warned, as he believes the unemployment rate is too high and inflation is too low.

CONNECTICUT'S PROJECTED state budget surplus has increased to a revised \$273.3 million for fiscal year 2014, State Comptroller, Kevin Lembo, stated in a [letter](#) to Governor Malloy on January 2. Growth in jobs, the housing market, and strong equity markets are factors in the surplus, but Lembo cited the state's tax amnesty program, which has yielded \$175 million, as the biggest contributor to the boost in revenues. Lembo, however, cautioned that it is essential to the state's long term fiscal stability that any General Fund surplus be transferred to the state's reserve fund for future projected shortfalls.

LOUD CONSTRUCTION OR DEMOLITION noise would have to be reduced two hours earlier in the City of Stamford under a proposed ordinance which moves the current noise limit from 8:00 pm to 6:00 pm, according to a recent [article](#) in the *Stamford Advocate*. The revisions were prompted by complaints about a CVS Pharmacy

construction site on Hope Street. The ordinance does not specifically require that construction be curtailed during the 8:00 pm to 8:00 am evening period, only that decibels produced not exceed decibels during the day, or 45 decibels at night.

THE NEW YORK BUILDING CONGRESS estimates that higher education institutions in New York City spent about \$4.2 billion on campus additions over the last five years, according to an [article](#) in the *Wall Street Journal*. And, in the next five years, it's likely they will spend about \$10 billion more, adding millions of square feet to existing facilities at City University of New York, Cornell University, Fordham University, and Columbia University.

THE U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE Conference Committee responsible for negotiating a water resources reauthorization bill was unable to reach a final agreement before Congress's holiday recess. [Congressional leaders](#) believe that negotiations on the measure will be finalized next month. Several major issues need to be resolved in order for the committee to complete its work, including Harbor Maintenance Tax provisions, streamlining the program's environmental review process, and House WIFIA provisions. An update on federal water funding issues, including the recent budget deal and the status of funding levels in the FY 14 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, is included in the [latest report](#) for the Clean Water Construction Coalition.

YET ANOTHER EDITORIAL calling for Connecticut's policy makers to make fixing the state's roads and bridges a priority [appeared](#) last week in the *Norwich Bulletin*. The editorial argues that re-installing tolls at the borders on our interstates to pay for repairs and routine maintenance makes sense but only if the toll revenues are protected from being raided by future legislatures. Similar editorials have shown up in the *Hartford Courant*, *New Britain Herald*, and the *Bristol Press* in recent weeks.

THE LEVEL OF BONDED DEBT Connecticut is carrying is likely to be an issue in the upcoming

gubernatorial election, according to an article by Keith Phaneuf which was [re-printed](#) recently in *The Day*. Senate Minority Leader John McKinney contradicts Governor Malloy's assertion that overall debt is less than when the Governor took office three years ago. Connecticut already has one of the highest per-capita debt levels of any state, and McKinney argued that the Governor's decision to allow the Bond Commission to approve up to \$1.8 billion in bonding in 2013, compared with about \$1.4 billion in 2012 is irresponsible. Governor Malloy [counters](#) by asserting that the borrowing will help jump-start growth in Connecticut and reforms he implemented against worker retirement benefits will save far more in decades to come.

DEEP RECENTLY issued a [notice of intent](#) to modify the General Permit for Water Resources Construction Activities to reflect two laws enacted in the previous session of the General Assembly. [Public Act 13-205](#) effectively repeals the Stream Channel Encroachment Line program as of October 1, 2013; therefore, activities that occur within Stream Channel Encroachment Lines no longer require authorization from the department. [Public Act 13-209](#) effectively eliminates the 60-day waiting period for general permit applicants and the submission of information to DEEP up to 25 days prior to the beginning of the proposed activity.

CONNDOT BID RESULTS of January 8, 2014: [Proposal 0159-0181](#), Salt Shed and Cold Storage Building: Mattern Construction Inc.: \$2,191,133.00; Connecticut Carpentry Corporation: \$2,229,000.00; Nosal Builders, Inc.: \$2,256,395.00. [Proposal 0165-0478](#), Bradley International Airport Terminal A; Concourse C TSA Office Fit-Out: Nosal Builders, Inc.: \$781,351.00; Lawrence Brunoli, Inc.: \$1,407,000.00.

AGC OF CONNECTICUT'S Build CT Awards and 67th Annual Meeting will be held Thurs., Feb. 13, 2014 at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. Join us as we celebrate award-winning projects which will be announced in next week's *HIGHlights*. Sponsorships and advertising opportunities and early registration are available at this [link](#).

THE CCIA SAFETY ROUNDTABLE discussion, [Federal Medical Exam Requirements for Commercial Drivers](#), presented by Marti-Ann Martins of St. Francis Centers for Occupational Health, is scheduled for Tues., Jan. 14, 2014, at noon at CCIA. The Safety Committee will meet immediately following the roundtable.

OSHA 10-HOUR Safety Training will be offered on Tues., Jan. 28/Wed., Jan. 29, 2014 as part of the 2014 CCIA Safety Training series of courses. Successful completion of the OSHA 10-Hour course is required for all construction workers on public construction projects in Connecticut. The instructor will be Dan Gorman of Safe At Work. [Registration](#) is required.

TRAVELERS RISK CONTROL Safety Academy is offering complimentary attendance to CCIA members who are interested in participating in its "Tie or Die®" – Fall Hazard Awareness program, Thurs., Jan. 30, 2014, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Travelers Risk Control Lab, 90 Lambertson Road, Windsor. This [program](#) is intended to provide attendees with an overview of their responsibilities toward managing fall hazards when working from heights. Anyone interested in attending should call Bob Suchenski at 860-985-2361, and please be aware that space is limited.

WORLD DEMAND for water treatment equipment is expected to grow 6.9 percent per year to \$53.4 billion in 2017, according to [Water and Wastes Digest](#). Developing parts of the world, the Asia/Pacific and Africa/Mideast regions, Eastern Europe, and Central and South America, are expected to show strong growth, with gains supported by improved access to treated drinking water and sanitation facilities, particularly through greater use of filtration and membrane systems.

ALL CCIA MEMBERS are invited to attend The Joint Dinner of the Design and Construction Industry on Tues., Feb. 25, 2014 at The Farmington Club, 162 Town Farm Road, Farmington, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Governor Malloy is the invited speaker. CCIA and its divisions are co-sponsors of this annual event which draws participants from all sectors of the Connecticut design and construction industries. [Registration](#) is being coordinated by AIA Connecticut.

FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS, January 10, 2014: 1) [Safety Roundtable 1/14](#); 2) [EMF at Gallery 1/16](#); 3) [OSHA 10-Hour Safety Training 1/28-1/29](#); 4) [AGC Build CT Awards Dinner 2/13](#); 5) [MSHA 8-Hour 2/14](#); 6) [CPR/First Aid & AED 2/21](#); 7) [STP Unit 1: Leadership & Motivation 2/25-2/28](#) 8) [Scaffolding & Fall Protection 2/26](#); 9) [AGC Lean Construction Unit 1: Variations in Production Systems](#); 10) [AGC Lean Construction Unit 2: Pull In Production](#); 11) [AGC Lean Construction Unit 3: Lean Workstructuring](#); 12) [CCIA Safety Training 2014](#); 13) [Joint Dinner of the Design and Construction Industry 2/25](#); 14) [STP Unit 3: Problem Solving & Decision Making 4/29-5/1](#).

FROM THE INTERNET: On January 20, 1920, the League of Nations formally came into being when the Covenant of the League of Nations, ratified by 42 nations in 1919, took effect. In 1946, the League of Nations was officially dissolved with the establishment of the United Nations. A lead pencil is good for about 50,000 words. If your eyes are six feet above the surface of the ocean, the horizon will be about three statute miles away. Although most people think that Napoleon was short, he was actually five feet six inches tall (1.676 meters), an average height for a Frenchman in those days. "Corduroy" comes from the French, "cord du roi" or "cloth of the king."