



Underground Utility Contractors of Florida, Inc.

October 2011

SSOCOF IRTH Ticket Management System Upgrade (See page 4 for details)





UUCF 2012 Convention Site Secured

(See page 6 for details)



Underground Utility Contractors of Florida/Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation



Charitable Contribution Form

Looking for a business or personal charitable contribution for this year? Why not contribute to the UUCF/Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation? The foundation has been approved as a non-profit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Since its inception in 2000, the UUCF/Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation has awarded \$198,500 in scholarships to very deserving individuals. The foundation's only current source of revenue is its Annual Bass Tournament which is held each spring.

The UUCF/Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Inc. was established in memory of the son of two-time Past President of UUCF, Scott Johnson (Johnson-Davis, Inc.). On December 28, 1999, Scott and Robin Johnson's son Andrew "Andy" Scott Johnson was tragically killed in an automobile accident at the age of 19. At the time of his death, Andy was a sophomore at Vanderbilt University studying Civil Engineering with hopes of entering the family business.

In less than three years since its formation, the foundation, through the generous gifts of family, friends and a concerned industry, has established a scholarship fund that will hopefully serve the association's membership to enable college bound students and forever memorialize a bright young man. Please consider taking this opportunity to continue funding the foundation by making a contribution today.

Please accept my charitable contribution in the amount of \$_____ for the UUCF/Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

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Phone:	()	Fax: ()	``

Please complete form and return with check made payable to UUCF/Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation and mail to:

> UUCF ASJMSF/Contribution 231 West Bay Avenue Longwood, FL 32750-4125 Phone: (407) 830-1880 • Fax: (407) 260-1582

Contributions to the UUCF/Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Inc. help support its scholarship. Your support of the UUCF/Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Inc. qualifies as a charitable contribution and is deductible for federal income tax purposes to the maximum extent provided by law. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

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SSOCOF IRTH Ticket Management System Upgrade Begins December 1 at 6 p.m.

S unshine State One Call of Florida, Inc. (SSOCOF) will roll out a major upgrade affecting all areas of the IRTH Ticket Management System on December 1, 2011. Find out how the changes will impact you or your organization by reviewing the summaries below. Please forward this information to anyone in your organization who may be impacted by these changes.

Internet Ticket Entry Users

- The basic ITE process will remain the same but with a new look.
- The URL will change. ITE users will receive the new URL for testing purposes before the system goes live.
- The mapping tools have been rewritten.
- Your user ID and password will remain the same. A new feature of the upgrade gives you the ability to change or request a new password online. Note: Your email must be in the system to use this feature.

Action Steps

- 1. Save the new URL to your favorites. This will be the URL when the system goes live.
- 2. Test the new system and mapping tools before the final go-live date.
- 3. Have the go-live date, new URL and ITE-specific updates sent to your e-mail. Join the list: http:// list.callsunshine.com/ mailman/listinfo/ssocofite.

Members

- The User Interface has been rewritten and offers more flexibility. The "Service Area Definition" component has changed the most and is called "Registration."
- The URL for the IRTH System will

change. Members will receive the new URL for testing before the system goes live. Use this time to work with the map tools and get used to the screens.

- Any configuration changes made during the testing phase will remain when the system goes live.
- If you've had software developed to interact with the IRTH system (i.e. positive response) make sure your software developers are aware of these changes.

Action Steps

- 1. Save the new URL to your favorites. This will be the URL when the system goes live.
- 2. Test the new system and mapping tools before the final

go-live date. Remember, any configuration changes you make will remain when the system is live.

3. Have the go-live date, new URL and member-specific updates sent to your e-mail. Join the list: http://list.callsunshine.com/ mailman/listinfo/ ssocofmembers.

Contract Locators

- The URL for the IRTH System will change. Contract locators will receive the new URL for testing before the system goes live. Any configuration changes made during the testing phase will remain when the system goes live.
- If you have had software

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developed to interact with any part of the IRTH system (i.e. positive response) please make sure your software developers are aware of these changes.

Action Steps

- 1. Save the new URL to your favorites. This will be the URL when the system goes live.
- 2. Test the new system before the final go–live date. Remember, any configuration changes you make will remain when the system is live.
- 3. Check with your software developer to see if any changes need to be made for your system to interact with IRTH.
- Have the go-live date, new URL and member-specific updates sent to your e-mail. Join the list: http://list.callsunshine.com/ mailman/listinfo/ ssocofmembers.

Software Developers

The URL for the IRTH System is changing. You will receive the new URL for testing purposes before going live. Any configuration changes made during the testing phase will remain when the system goes live.

Action Steps

1. Test the new system before the final go–live date. Remember, any configuration changes you make

will remain when the system is live.

 Have the go-live date, new URL and member-specific updates sent to your e-mail. Join the list: http://list.callsunshine.com/ mailman/listinfo/ ssocoftechnical.

All Users

- You can individually subscribe to one or more of the lists above, or
- If you want to receive all messages sent to each list, subscribe to the ssocoftechnial email list: http:// list.callsunshine.com/ mailman/listinfo/ ssocoftechnical.
- If you have requested to be placed on our do not e-mail list, you will not be able to subscribe to any of these lists. To be removed from our DO NOT Email list, e-mail that request to postmaster@

mail.callsunshine.com.

YOU'RE INVITED to attend a 30– 40 minute web–based demonstration for an overview of the major Internet Ticket Entry System changes.

The sessions are demonstration only. You will be able to submit questions using an e-mail address posted at the beginning of the session. Questions will be answered after the demonstration is complete.

Demonstrations will be at 9:15 a.m.,

10:30 a.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time the following days:

- November 8, 2011
- November 9, 2011
- November 10, 2011
- November 11, 2011
- November 15, 2011
- November 16, 2011
- November 17, 2011
 November 18, 2011
- November 18, 2011November 30, 2011
- December 1, 2011

Each session is limited to 100 users. Please join early to ensure a seat at the session of your choice. You will need access to the Internet and a telephone to participate. Please mute your phone so external noise does not affect the sound quality.

WEB CONFERENCE LOGIN INFORMATION:

- Go to http:// suncom.conferencing.com/ iumgo.
- Select Join a Meeting or https:/ /lobby.mc.iconf.net/gcc/ conferencing/ partaccess.asp?ba= 300000972.
- 3. Meeting ID: 4770632483
- 4. Password: 12345

DIAL IN INFORMATION

1. Toll Free (888) 808–6959

2. Meeting ID: 4770632483#

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UUCF

The Underground Utility Contractors of Florida

2012 Annual Convention

The Ritz–Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes Orlando, Florida

July 19–22, 2012

Grande Slam at The Ritz UUCF in a League of its Own

Watch future issues of the *Ditchmen* for additional information.

UUCF 2012 Convention

UUCF will be holding its 2012 Convention at The Ritz–Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes in Orlando, Florida on July 19– 22.

UUCF has secured a room rate of \$159.00 per night. The Ritz–Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes **does not** have a resort fee; however, there is a charge of \$18.00 per day for self parking and \$24.00 per day for valet. This year's Convention Chairperson is Paula Lieser with Pensacola Concrete Construction Company, Inc. Other members of the Convention Committee consist of: Lauren Atwell, Reynolds, Inc.; Larry Falls, Associated Construction Products, Inc.; Chris Stewart, ITT Water & Wastewater, LLC; Kathy Blackman, NUCA of North Florida Executive Director; Sharon Fugatt, NUCA of Northwest Florida; and Misty McKendree, SUCA Executive Director.

On Friday, November 4, 2011, the UUCF Convention Committee held its first meeting. At this meeting, the committee adopted the 2012 Convention Theme which is

(Continued on Page 13)



oldcastleprecast.com

<image><image><image>

OSHA Update

construction, yet they are entirely preventable," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "I am deeply troubled by the continued violations of OSHA's trenching standards, many of which bring tragic results. These new educational materials provide clear guidance on the necessary steps that employers must take to protect workers in trenches."

The new information products, which are available on **OSHA's Publications page**, include:

 "Trenching and Excavation" fact sheet – an overview of the hazards that can occur while performing trenching operations and the safety measures required to protect workers; **Trenches**" **QuickCard** – an easy–to–use guide to trenching hazards and safety measures with graphics; and

"Do Not Enter an Unprotected Trench!" poster

- a resource for construction workplaces informing workers what steps must be taken to ensure trench safety, along with the warning "An Unprotected Trench is an Early Grave."

Subjects covered in the three documents include proper shoring and sloping; evaluations by competent persons; means of access/egress; atmospheric hazard testing; and protective systems. The guidance also describes the protective measures that are required under OSHA's excavation standards (**29 CFR 1926.650**, **29 CFR 1926.651**, and **29 CFR 1926.652**). Spanish–

OSHA Publishes New Educational Materials on Working Safely During Trenching Operations

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has released three new guidance products to educate workers and employers about the hazards workers face in trenching operations. Unprotected trenches are among the deadliest hazards in the construction industry and the loss of life is devastating: since 2003, more than 200 workers have died in trench cave–ins, and hundreds more have been seriously injured.

"No worker's life should end in a trench. Cave-ins during excavations are some of the most common and grisliest causes of worker fatalities in

• "Working Safely in

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language versions of the documents are also available.

Because of the severity of trenching hazards, OSHA conducts a Special Emphasis Program on Trenching and Excavations (Directive CPL 02-00-069 [CPL 2.69]), which sets procedures for enforcement activities wherever trenching and excavation worksites are observed. When OSHA's compliance officers see a trench, they will inspect a trench. On two separate occasions in the past year, this Special Emphasis Program allowed OSHA compliance officers to remove workers from unsupported trenches minutes before they collapsed – likely preventing possible injury and loss of life.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit *http://www.osha.gov*.

OSHA Publishes New and Revised Materials on Worker Safety and Health

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently published new and revised information that explains workers' and employers' rights, as well as how to protect workers from hazards in the construction, general and maritime industries. To order free copies of these materials online, visit OSHA's Publications page at *http:// www.osha.gov/pls/*

publications/publication.html, or call OSHA's toll free number at (800) 321–6742.

OSHA's Small Entity Compliance Guide for Respiratory Protection

Standard provides small businesses with a comprehensive step-by-step

guide complete with checklists and commonly asked questions that will aid both employees and workers in small businesses with a better understanding of OSHA's respiratory protection standard.

It's the law of the land that workers have a right to a safe workplace. OSHA's **Workers' Rights** booklet describes the rights to which workers are legally entitled to under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The booklet covers many topics, including rights provided under OSHA standards, filing a complaint with OSHA, whistleblower protections, and educational and training resources available.

OSHA provides employers with information on their rights and responsibilities following a federal OSHA inspection. The booklet, **Employer Rights and Responsibilities**, explains what happens after an inspection, and defines the types of violations for which an employer may be cited as a result of an inspection.

OSHA has also published information to help protect construction, general industry and shipyard workers, and those who work outdoors.

- Laboratory Safety document and fact sheets (*http://www.osha. gov/pls/publications/ publication.athruz?pType= Industry&pID=117*) advise laboratory managers on how to protect their workers from exposure to chemical, biological and physical hazards.
- Aerial Lifts Protect Yourself details measures employers must take to ensure safe use of aerial lifts by workers required to use this equipment.

• Aerial Lift Fall Protection Over Water in Shipyards

QuickCard lists ways to protect workers using aerial lifts from injuries and death resulting from equipment failure, tip-over, falls and ejection.

Permit-Required Confined Spaces in General Industry QuickCard explains what workers should do before entering a confined space, such as an underground vaults, tanks, storage bins, silos or manholes.

• Working Safely in Trenches QuickCard provides illustrations of protective systems that should be used to prevent worker injuries and death from trench cave-ins.

- **Nail Gun Safety** educates construction employers and workers on how to prevent work– related nail gun injuries.
- **Protecting Workers from Heat Stress QuickCard** and **poster** emphasizes the importance of employers providing workers with water, rest and shade to prevent workers from suffering heat illness, exhaustion and stroke.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit *http://www.osha.gov*.

Statement from Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis on Reported Decline in Workplace Injuries and Illnesses

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics *announced* that nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses among private industry employers declined in 2010 to a rate of 3.5 cases per 100 equivalent full-time workers, down from a total case rate

of 3.6 in 2009. Nearly 3.1 million injuries and illnesses were reported among private sector industry employers in 2010, down from 3.3 million reported in 2009. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis issued the following statement:

"We are encouraged by the reported decline in incidence rates for workplace injuries and illnesses, which is reflective of the joint effort of government, business, unions and other organizations. Nevertheless, 3.1 million injuries and illnesses in the workplace is too high. Serious injuries and illnesses can knock a working family out of the middle class. Workers should not have to sacrifice their health and safety to earn a paycheck.

"We remain concerned that more workers are injured in the health care and social assistance industry sector than in any other, including construction and manufacturing, and this group of workers had one of the highest rates of injuries and illness at 5.2 cases for every 100 workers. The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration will continue to work with employers, workers and unions in this industry to reduce these risks.

"Illness and injury rates for public sector workers also continue to be alarmingly high at 5.7 cases for every 100 workers, which is more than 60 percent higher than the private sector rate. We must continue to work with state and local governments to ensure the safety of our public employees.

"A report like this also highlights the importance of accurate record keeping. Employers must know what injuries and illnesses are occurring in their workplaces in order to identify and correct systemic issues that put their workers at risk. We are concerned with poor record– keeping practices and programs that discourage workers from reporting injuries and illnesses. That's why OSHA is working hard to ensure the completeness and accuracy of these data, which are compiled by the nation's employers.

"As our economy continues to rebound and grow, we must ensure that safety and health are a part of that growth. Let's all remember that no job is a good job unless it is also a safe job."

Secretary Vinyard Announces Advancing with Rulemaking for Numeric Nutrient Standards in Florida

"Today, I authorized staff to move forward with rulemaking for numeric nutrient standards for Florida.

"The future of Florida's environment depends on the health of our water resources, and no one knows our waters better than us. This is the right thing for Florida, and the right thing to do.

"If adopted, these rules will be the most comprehensive nutrient pollution limitations in the nation, and will serve to protect our rivers, lakes, streams, springs and estuaries.

"Using more than a decade of data collection and analysis, Florida has developed standards that account for the individual characteristics and needs of Florida's diverse water resources. By setting standards focused on site-specific conditions we are better able to protect public health, improve water quality and preserve aquatic life in Florida's unique water resources throughout the state.

"Florida's efforts go beyond crafting scientifically-sound standards for our waterbodies. We also provide a reasonable and predictable strategy to implement these standards, allowing us to direct our resources to where they will have the most meaningful benefit to our environment and reduce the financial burdens on Florida's homeowners and businesses.

"The state of Florida is, and has historically been, a national leader assessing and addressing the health of our waterways. Florida accounts for 30 percent of the national water quality dataset, far surpassing any other state in the nation. These rules are the result of years of work not only by DEP, but by Florida's stakeholders, including environmental groups, governments, water management districts, business and agricultural interests.

"We've worked closely with the EPA throughout the rule development process, and appreciate their cooperation and feedback.

"Florida has invested millions of dollars to create nutrient rules that address the complexity of Florida's waters, and we intend to finish the job."

For more information and to access the rules, please visit *http:// www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/ nns.htm*.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the lead agency for environmental management and stewardship, is one of the more diverse agencies in state government — protecting our air, water and land. DEP is divided

(Continued on Page 16)

Procedures for Atmospheric Testing in Confined Spaces¹

Atmospheric testing is required for two distinct purposes: evaluation of the hazards of the permit space and verification that acceptable conditions exist for entry into that space.

Ditchmen October 2011

A confined space is one that is large enough to enter and perform assigned work in; it has limited or restricted ways to enter or exit the space; and it was not designed to be occupied continuously by a worker.

Evaluation Testing

The atmosphere within a confined space must be tested using equipment that is designed to detect the chemicals that may be present at levels that are well below the defined exposure limits. Evaluation testing is done to:

- determine what chemical hazards are or may become present in the space's atmosphere, and
- identify what steps must be followed and what conditions must be met to ensure that atmospheric conditions are safe for a worker to enter the space.

The testing results and the decisions about what steps must be followed before entry must be evaluated by, or reviewed by, a technically qualified professional like an OSHA consultation service, a certified industrial hygienist, a registered safety engineer, or a certified safety professional. The technically qualified professional must consider all of the serious hazards in his/her evaluation or review.

A permit space is a confined space that has one or more of the following features: it has or may contain a hazardous atmosphere; it contains a material that can engulf a person who enters; it has an inside design that could trap or asphyxiate a person who enters (inwardly converging walls, or a floor that slopes downward to a smaller section); or it has any other serious safety or health hazards.

Verification Testing

Before a permit space that may have a hazardous atmosphere can be entered, the atmosphere must be tested using the steps identified on the permit (developed during evaluation testing). Verification testing is done to make sure that the chemical hazards that may be present are below the levels necessary for safe entry, and that they meet the conditions identified on the permit. Test the atmosphere in the following order: (1) for oxygen, (2) for combustible gases, and then (3) for toxic gases and vapors.² The testing results — the actual test concentrations --- must be recorded on the permit near the levels identified for safe entry.

Duration of Testing

For each test required on the permit, you must allow enough time for the air from the space to be drawn into the equipment and for the sensor (or other detection device) to react to the chemical if it is present. This is considered the "minimum response time" and it will be noted by the manufacturer in the operator's manual. Be aware that you will need to add time to this "minimum response time" if you have attached hosing or a probe extension to the inlet. The additional time is needed to allow the air from the different depths of the space to be pulled into the equipment inlet.

Testing Conditions in Spaces that May Have Layered Atmospheres For permit spaces that are deep or

have areas leading away from the entry point, the atmosphere may be layered or may be different in remote areas. For these spaces, testing must be done in the area surrounding the worker, which is considered four (4) feet in the direction of travel and to each side. If a sample probe is used to do the testing, then the worker must move slowly enough so that testing is completed, keeping the equipment "response time" in mind, before he/ she moves into the new area.

Retesting the Space During Entry or Before Re-Entry

Test the permit space routinely to make sure that the atmospheric conditions continue to be safe for entry.³

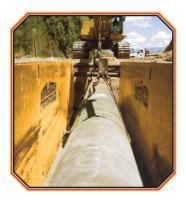
This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693–1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889–5627.

For more complete information: U.S. Department of Labor *www.osha.gov* or call (800) 321– OSHA.

¹ Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1910.146, Appendix B. ² 29 CFR 1910.146(c)(5)(ii)(C) and (d)(5)(iii). ³ 29 CFR 1910.146(c)(5)(ii)(F) and (d)(5)(ii).



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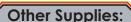
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Contractor Member of the Month: J.B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc.

J. B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc. (JBCCI), a Florida Corporation, has been in business since 1983 and remains a locally owned and operated company based in Jacksonville. JBCCI is a Florida licensed General Contractor and Utility & Excavation Contractor, and is currently prequalified to work for numerous municipalities and agencies throughout the state and the southeast U.S.

Initially established as a firm specializing in clearing and earthwork, JBCCI has expanded its scope of operations over the years to encompass complete site development, including underground utilities, as well as heavy highway and civil construction in the public and private sectors. In recent years,



JBCCI has furthermore established itself as a leader in the design– build industry. Notwithstanding JBCCI's locally based operations, the firm is

capable of handling the largest of heavy civil construction projects.

JBCCI's corporate operations also include disaster recovery services dealing with the impacts of hurricanes, tornados or other natural disasters. They provide recovery services consisting of debris removal, hauling and reduction, as well as rebuilding damaged infrastructure and constructing new infrastructure for temporary housing units. JBCCI is currently providing some of these services in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

JBCCI is well experienced and qualified in the areas of material handling. JBCCI owns and operates fill source sites totaling more than 5,000,000 CY. Every major project JBCCI has undertaken since 1983 contains varying degrees of embankment, excavation, subsoil and silt removal, dewatering, bypass pumping and erosion control. Numerous projects also included wetland mitigation and creation. Furthermore, all JBCCI managers and supervisors are trained and certified to meet all NPDES

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(UUCF 2012 Convention Continued from Page 6)

Grande Slam at The Ritz with a subtheme of UUCF in a League of its Own. The committee will be working on the convention logo and will have it available at the end of November.

Throughout the next several months, the committee will start working on the details of the convention. Some items discussed at the meeting were:

- Roundtable discussion(s)
- Cornhole Tournament
- Wiffle ball Tournament
- The Ultimate Fashion Show

The Hotel Registration Form will be available at the end of November. Watch your *e*-mails and future issues of the *Ditchmen* for additional information.

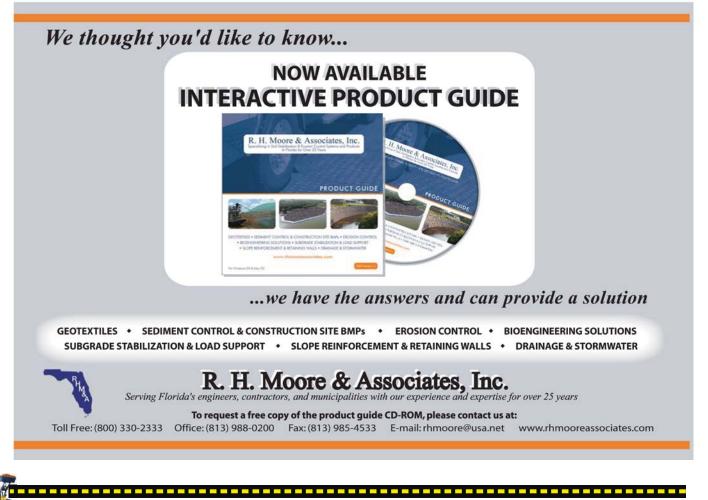
(Contractor Member of the Month: J.B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc. Continued from Page 12)

requirements.

JBCCI maintains membership with the Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA), NUCA of North Florida, Inc., and Builders Association of North and Central Florida. It is noteworthy that JBCCI's executives have previously held, or currently hold, leadership roles in FTBA and NUCA.

Earning and maintaining a favorable reputation in the contracting industry requires years of hard work, sacrifice and dedication. It has been, and continues to be, the philosophy and goal of JBCCI to work with the Owner and Design Professional to deliver the very best product on all endeavors undertaken, and to preserve the honesty, sincerity and integrity upon which their company was founded.





Did You Receive Your Copy of the UUCF 2011– 2012 Directory?

Ditchmen October 2011



The UUCF 2011–2012 Construction Users Directory was mailed in August to all UUCF members.

This directory is your best reference guide to members of the four chapters and three districts in the state of Florida.

If you did not receive your **free** copy

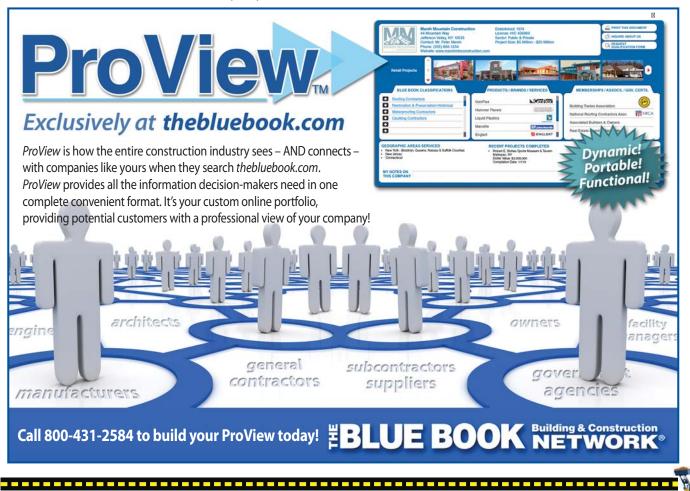
of the UUCF Directory or need an additional copy for your office, please contact your local chapter or the UUCF office at (407) 830–1880.

Registered Contractor License Renewal Reminder

Just a reminder that the Certified Contractor licenses from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) are up for renewal on August 31, 2012. Current law requires licenseholders to obtain 14 hours of continuing education with at least one hour in workplace safety, one hour in workers' compensation, one hour in business practices, one hour in the advance building code module, one hour in laws and rules (Chapter 489) and one hour in wind mitigation (this requirement only affects general, residential, building, roofing and glass and glazing contractors).

Don't forget to notify the DBPR office of any address change. Section 489.124(2) gives sole responsibility to the licensee for notifying DBPR in writing of the licensee's current mailing address and phone number.

Failure to notify the department of a change of address shall constitute a violation of this section. In addition, if your address changes and you do not notify the department, you may not receive important mailings from the department such as your renewal notice.



President's Message



One of the most valuable tools I have been using during this economic downturn to insure my business will be

around to see better times is the "office overhead budget." Many of us have used budgets at home to make sure we don't spend more than we take in. We know how important that has been lately. But if you're not watching your overhead expenses in your business, how on earth can you be competitive when the competition is watching every penny that goes out the door? Answer YOU CAN'T! An office overhead budget, or whatever you choose to call it, is a roadmap of your overhead expenses for a given year – this does not include project budgets. Sometimes you will have to take a detour here and there, but each year when you



get to the end of the road you can see if you took the shortest path between two distances.

Costs I have carefully scrutinized are advertising, contributions, dues and subscriptions, insurances, employee benefits, telephone and fax, travel, meals, shipping, copier service, credit card usage and the list goes on and on. As the years go by, the budgets get tighter and more accurate due to the constant pouring over of expenses from month to month.

As I have found the last three years, I was able to drastically reduce my

overhead expenses by cutting waste and making decisions about what is really needed to run my business like a fine tuned machine. Doing a very detailed budget will teach you more about your business than you ever thought you needed to know. It makes you ask the questions you never thought to ask and then find the answers. Another advantage of doing a budget is you can get other employees to participate in the process. You can even get great cost cutting measures from your employees. As a result, you will be a better business leader and a stronger competitor. I will go so far as to say that doing a budget is more important than eating your vegetables.

Dues to the local, state and national utility contractor associations are

(Continued on Page 16)



Proposed Numeric Nutrient Standards for Florida's Water

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is moving forward with draft rules to develop numeric nutrient standards for Florida's waterways. These rules set limits on the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen, also known as nutrients, allowed in Florida's waters. If adopted, these rules will be the most comprehensive nutrient pollution limitations in the nation, and will serve to protect our rivers, lakes, streams, springs and estuaries. Using more than a decade of data collection and analysis, Florida has developed standards that account for the individual characteristics and needs of Florida's diverse water resources. By setting standards focused on site-specific conditions we are better able to protect public health, improve water quality and preserve aquatic life in Florida's unique water resources throughout the state.

(Secretary Vinyard Announces Advancing with Rulemaking for Numeric Nutrient Standards in Florida Continued from Page 9)

into three primary areas: Regulatory Programs, Land and Recreation, and Water Policy and Ecosystem Restoration. Florida's environmental priorities include achieving regulatory certainty, consistency and protection, getting the water quality and quantity right in Florida, and ensuring our residents and visitors have more opportunities to enjoy Florida's award–winning state parks.

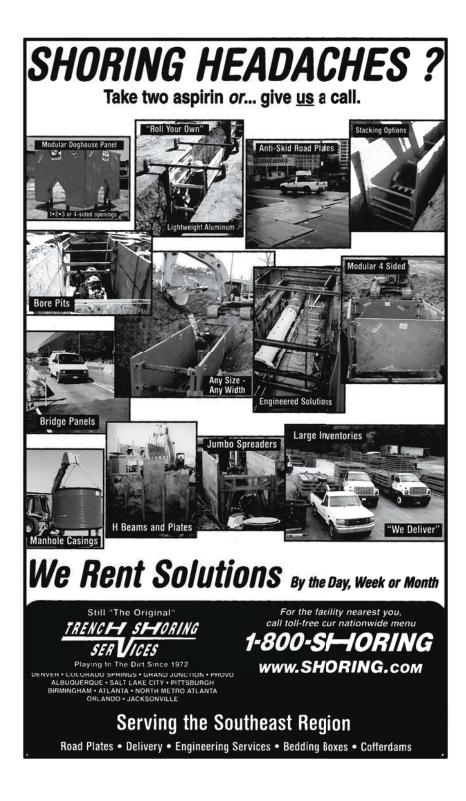
(President's Message Continued from Page 15)

expenses you must make sure you budget for every year. They are as important to your business as anything else in that budget.

I would love to hear your ideas about how you created your budget, how you track expenses and what kinds of successes you have had because of your budget. A great time to do that would be at the 2012 UUCF Convention roundtable discussions. Don't forget to put that in your budget for 2012.

> Sincerely, Bruce Wendorf UUCF President





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Division of Workers' Compensation Offers Free Classes

The Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Workers' Compensation, is offering free classes regarding Florida's workers' compensation laws and workplace safety to business owners, licensed contractors and employers.

Workers' compensation topics covered include:

- Review of Key Statutory Definitions
- Contractor Responsibilities
- Exemptions
- Insurance Coverage Requirements
- Enforcement Provisions

Workplace safety topics presented by OSHA (U.S. Dept. of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration) include:

- Direct and Indirect Costs
- Inspections
- Florida Fatalities

The following is a list of class dates and times for future sessions:

November 8, 2011

Pensacola 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST Alabama Associated General Contractors, Northwest Florida Section 201 South F Street Pensacola, FL 32502

November 14, 2011

Miami 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST State Office Building 401 N.W. 2nd Avenue, North Tower, Room 423 Miami, FL 33128

November 17,

2011 Pompano Beach 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST Workforce One 2301 West Sample Road, Building 4, Conference Room C Pompano Beach, FL 33073

<u>December 8,</u> 2011

Tallahassee 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST Southwood Complex, Betty Easley Conference Center 4075 Esplanade Way, Room 178 Tallahassee, FL 33128

<u>December 9,</u> 2011

West Palm Beach 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon EST Central Career Center 1951 North Military Trail West Palm Beach, FL 33409

December 14, 2011

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST Workers' Compensation WEB Based class

December 15, 2011

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST Workplace Safety WEB Based class

The Division of Workers' Compensation is an authorized provider (Provider Number: 0004354) for continuing education purposes through the CILB. Course Number: 0010118 – one hour satisfies the workers' compensation requirement and Course Number: 0010630 – one hour satisfies the workplace safety requirement.

Advanced registration is required. The form is available on the Division's website at *www.myfloridacfo.com/ WC*. For additional information, email *bocseminars@MyFlorida CFO.com*, or call (813) 221–6518.



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Mark your calendar now for the UUCF 2012 Convention at The Ritz– Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes on July 19–22, 2012.

Watch future issues of the Ditchmen for additional information.

Calendar of Events

Ditchmen October 2011

UUCF 2011

Nov. 4Board of Director's Meeting, Orlando

2012

Jan. (TBA) Board of Director's Meeting, Tallahassee
Mar./Apr. (TBA) Board of Director's Meeting, Orlando
June 1Board of Director's Meeting, Orlando
July 19–22 Annual Convention,
The Ritz–Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes, Orlando
July 19 Board of Director's Meeting,
The Ritz–Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes, Orlando
Nov. 2Board of Director's Meeting, Orlando

NUCA of North Florida

Nov.	8.	Executive Committee Meeting
Nov.	17	Board of Director's & Election of
		Officers Meetings
Dec.	13	Executive Committee Meeting

NUCA of Northwest Florida

Nov. 10 Board of Director's Meeting, Franco's Dec. 3 Annual Meeting, Museum of Commerce

NUCA of Southwest Florida

Nov. (TBA)	Board of Director's Meeting
Dec. (TBA)	Christmas Party

SUCA

Nov. 3	Membership Meeting & Installation of
	2012 Officers & Directors
Dec. 3	Year End Banquet,
	Tampa Club, Tampa

NUCA 2012

Mar. 12–16 Annual Convention, Renaissance Worthington Hotel, Fort Worth, TX

Sunshine State One Call of Florida, Inc. (SSOCOF) Meetings 2011

Nov. 17 .	Committee Meetings, DeBary Call Center
Nov. 18 .	Board of Director's Meeting,
	DeBary Call Center
Dec. 16 .	Executive Committee Meeting,
	DeBary Call Center/Conference Call

2012

Jan. 20 Executive Committee Meeting, DeBary/Conference Call
Feb. 16 Committee Meetings, DeBary Call Center Feb. 17 Board of Director's Meeting,
DeBary Call Center
Mar. 6–8 CGA Conference & Expo, Las Vegas, NV
Apr. (TBA) Spring Meeting
Apr. 20 Executive Committee Meeting,
DeBary/Conference Call
May 16 Committee Meetings, DeBary Call Center
May 17 Board of Director's Meeting,
DeBary Call Center
May 18 Golf Tournament
June 22 Executive Committee Meeting,
DeBary/Conference Call
July 11 Strategic Planning Meeting
July 12 Committee Meetings
July 13 Board of Director's Meeting
Oct. 16 Executive Committee Meeting,
DeBary/Conference Call
Nov. 15 Committee Meetings, DeBary Call Center
Nov. 16
DeBary Call Center

Construction Industry Licensing Board Meetings

Nov. 9–11..... Hampton Inn & Suites Amelia Island, Fernandina Beach, FL

In Memory Of

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of Samuel "Sam" M. Allen, of Wesley Chapel, on Monday, September 26, 2011. Sam was 60 years old.

Sam was employed by David Nelson Construction Co. in Palm Harbor as Project Manager. David Nelson Constructio Co. has been a long–standing member of the Suncoast Utility Contractors Association (SUCA).

Sam is survived by his three grown sons: Samuel, Michael and Jason.

Our thoughs and prayers are with the friends and family of Sam Allen.

NUCA 2012 Annual Convention

NUCA Convention 2012

NUCA's Annual Convention 2012 will be taking place March 12–16 in Fort Worth, Texas at the Rennaissance Worthington Hotel.

Join NUCA in "the city of culture and cowboys," for the only Annual Convention that's tailor-made for contractors, manufacturers and suppliers in the utility construction and excavation industry. You'll enjoy a value-packed week to relax and unwind while you conduct the serious business of connecting with colleagues and mingling with leaders in utility construction and excavation. Saddle up and head to Fort Worth – where you can build working relationships the old fashioned way – face to face.

You'll also enjoy all the Annual Convention events, keynote speakers, and parties. You can also register for the Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament and take any of number of great detours in this premier cultural capital of the southwest! Enjoy a trip to the Texas Rangers' Ballpark, Stockyards National Historic District (Fort Worth was once a stop on the Chisholm Trail), witness cattle drives right through downtown, go to the Texas Motor Speedway, and visit any of the 17 specialty museums including the National Cowgirl Museum, and the famous "Museum of Living Art" (also known as the Fort Worth Zoo), plus botanic gardens, a vintage railroad, and lots more western heritage sites and entertainment. Or just enjoy wandering around dazzling downtown Fort Worth, full of shops and restaurants.

An exciting program awaits you including a wide array of entertaining and educational events and opportunities to talk business and improve your bottom line. Nothing beats being there in person! Registration starts in August. Associate Members: limited Tabletop Exhibits are available, and this year they are only available to those in our National Partners Program. The good news is that this gives you MUCH more promotional value, year round, for your marketing dollar — including your annual NUCA dues!

For more information, contact Bonnie Williams at (703) 358–9300 or e-mail at **bonnie@nuca.com**.

Sunshine State One Call of Florida, Inc. 2011 Holiday Calendar

Thanksgiving Day	11/24/11
Thanksgiving Day Day after Thanksgiving Day Christmas Eve Christmas Day	11/25/11
Christmas Eve	12/23/11
Christmas Day	12/26/11

2012 Holiday Calendar

Observance of New Year's Day	01/02/12
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day	01/16/12
Memorial Day	
Independence Day	07/04/12
Labor Day	
Thanksgiving Day	
Day after Thanksgiving Day	
Christmas Eve	
Christmas Day	

SSOCOF's business hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please keep the above dates in mind when calling for locates two business days prior.



The law now requires two full business days prior to digging.

December 7

2011 FDOT Letting Date

2012 FDOT Letting Date

January 25 February 29 March 28 April 25 May 23 June 20

Chapter News

NUCA of North Florida

We had a great turnout to hear District 15 City Councilman Bill Gulliford at the Hampton Inn on September 22. Bill discussed the Mayor's budget, redistricting and other current issue with the City of Jacksonville. Bill has been in the construction equipment business for many years and has been a member of our association in the past. NUCA President Ryan Schmitt also provided a brief update on Private Activity Bonds and other NUCA issues. Brad Martin. Sunshine State One Call of Florida (SSOCOF). provided us with information regarding some on-line training that will soon be available on their website. The meeting was presided over by Mike Woodall, John Woody, Inc.

The Nomination Committee of NUCA of North Florida is now accepting applications for the 2012 Board of Directors. You can obtain an application by calling the NUCA of North Florida office at (904) 296–1230. The deadline to submit your application is Friday, October 14.

Election of the 2012 Officers and Board of Directors will take place at our November 17 General Meeting. All contractor and associate members are encouraged to attend and vote for the slate of officers. Affiliate members are encouraged to attend, but do not have voting rights. The Nominating Committee will mail to the general membership the slate of nominees at least thirty days prior to the election. Nomination will also be accepted from the floor at the election. We recently welcomed Allegiance Staffing as a new member of our chapter. Joe Ryan and his company provide skilled and unskilled labor. We look forward to having them as active members of our association.

Congratulations to Audrey Gibson on her September 20 Special Election

to the office of Florida Senator of District 1. Gibson received a PAC campaign contribution from the Underground Utility Contractors of Florida Political Action Committee (UUCF PAC). Audrey has been a friend of our association for many years. She always takes the time to meet with us and to listen to our issues. We look forward to meeting with Senator Gibson when we travel to Tallahassee in January.

We are pleased to report that two students from our chapter received meritorious scholarships as part of the UUCF/Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation. The winners were announced at the UUCF Convention held in Key West at the end of July. Receiving an award of \$3,000 is Benjamin William Burgess. Ben is currently employed by A. J. Johns, Inc. He is attending the University of Florida where he is pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration. Ben was a recipient of a 2009 meritorious scholarship as well.

Austin Taylor Wynn graduated from Trinity Christian Academy in 2009. Austin is the son of Donnie Wynn, Florida Roads Contracting, Inc. He is attending Mars Hill College in North Carolina where he is studying business with an emphasis on accounting. Austin was a recipient of a 2009 and 2010 meritorious scholarship. Congratulations Ben and Austin!

NUCA of Northwest Florida

NUCA of Northwest Florida is signing up the last of our anglers for our Annual Fishing Tournament which will be held on October 8 at Sabine Marina on Pensacola Beach. Joe Cook and Al Cheney will be our cooks this year. If you haven't had the chance to try out their barbecue, you should plan to attend the angler dinner meeting at 6:00 p.m. We are looking forward to a great day of fishing and food. Our association will hold our Annual Meeting on December 3 at The Museum of Commerce. This is located in the historic district of Downtown Pensacola. The inside of the museum is designed to look like downtown Pensacola in the early 1900's. Our dress attire will be from the 1900's era.

Our Association is working hard on recruiting new membership for the upcoming year. Our goal is to contact 25 businesses every other month and hope to get three to five new members out of those contacts. We have had a great start with two potential new associate members out of the first 25.

We would like to say thank you to our current board members and all the hard work they are doing to help improve our Association.

NUCA of Southwest Florida

The 2011 NUCA of Southwest Florida Annual Fishing Tournament was held the weekend of September 16–18 at the beautiful 'Tween Waters Inn on Captiva Island. Thank you to everyone who attended. Everyday WAS good, and it WAS the BEST place to be! The weather was beautiful, and the fishing was great. We are so happy for all those who won great door prizes and won some awesome Chinese Auction items. We saw a passing of the torch for this year's tournament. Chris Stewart has been a huge part of the tournament since it's inception. Chris was honored at the tournament for the many hours he spent to make this tournament such a success for many years. We now have another great Fishing Tournament Chairman, Bob Russell. Bob didn't miss a beat and did an awesome job making this year's tournament one to be remembered. Also credit is due to the whole fishing tournament committee, Aaron Hunt Branch, Brett Eckenrode, John Wirka and Tim Wise.

Congratulations to the following

tournament winners. Calcutta Winners: Inshore: First Place – ITT Water & Wastewater boat. Second Place – Oldcastle Precast, Inc. boat. Third Place – Dave Douglas & Associates boat. Offshore: First Place – J.P. Murphy boat. Second Place – Guymann Construction boat. Inshore; Heaviest Redfish -Susan Stewart, Heaviest Trout -Chris Stewart, Redfish Most **Spots** – T.J. Bubar. **Offshore**; **Heaviest Group** – Jim Murphy, Heaviest Snapper – Sam Williams. Jr. Angler Most Fish -Carrie Marshall. Jr. Angler Heaviest Fish – Sam Williams.

One of the most important things we have to mention is how grateful we are for all of our many Fishing Tournament Sponsors. This tournament would not have been possible without their support. Gold **Sponsors:** Coastal Precast of Florida, GCE Services, HD Supply Waterworks, ITT Water & Wastewater and Oldcastle Precast. Major Sponsors: Cabana Construction, Dave Douglas & Associates, MSC Waterworks, MWI Pump Rentals, Sewer Viewer and U.S. Precast. Cocktail Sponsors: Eli Contracting, Darryl Equipment, Forsberg Construction, Guymann Construction, Highway Technologies, Johnson-Davis, Inc., Nortrax Equipment, South Florida Lift Stations and Tincher Concrete. Fish Sponsors: Boyd Irrigation, Dave Foote Environmental, Denco Construction, Ferguson Waterworks, H.D. Supply Waterworks, J.P. Murphy Inc., Lee Mar Building & Construction, McWane Pipe, Rinker Mat., Concrete Pipe Division and Star Pipe Products. Jr. Angler Most Fish Sponsor: Star Pipe Products. Jr. Angler Heaviest Fish Sponsor: Valenti Trobec & Woody. Water Sponsor: Armadillo Underground. Chinese Auction **Sponsors:** Cast Systems, Guymann Construction, Stevens & Layton and Daniel Stewart. Hat Sponsor: Kelly Tractor.

As of July, we have had a change in

ranks. Tim Wise has taken over as NUCA of Southwest Florida President and will continue as our president through 2012. Former President Keith Richmond took a great opportunity to spend time with his family traveling for the rest of the year. Lucky Keith! Tim has done a great job in his new position. He is working on building a successful NUCA of Southwest Florida family and is keeping all members informed on what is going on. He has been instrumental in working with the FDOT on specification changes to pipe installation and means & methods along with members of our board of directors. He is involved in most chapter committees, including our POINT committee which is presently working hard to ensure that we have local elections steer toward our industry. We will keep moving forward with the betterment of our membership in mind. Thank you Tim for all you do.

We are continuing to sell tickets for Football Mania, our chapter fundraiser. Games have already started, and we have had winners already. Mike McDonnell is doing a fantastic job in keeping up with all the tickets and winners. Thanks Mike. Don't forget to support our chapter, buy tickets! The game is fun.

Our next membership meeting is Thursday, October 20 at The Holiday Inn, Gulf Coast Town Center in Fort Myers. This will be a very informative meeting as our speaker will be Doug Holdener with CEMEX. The main subject will be FDOT on specification changes to pipe installation. Don't miss it. The month of October is our donation month to help the community. We are asking attendees to bring a food donation for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Canned goods, boxed pastas, cereal, pasta sauces, etc.

We are getting ready for our upcoming Christmas Party which will be held on Saturday, December 4 at the Holiday Inn, Gulf Coast Town Center. We are working on a theme, and I am sure it will be a fun, happy event. Always is with our group!

Welcome New UUCF Members October 31, 2011

Allegiance Staffing Joe Ryan Jacksonville, Florida (904) 962–1215 Affiliate Chapter: NUCA of North Florida

American Recycling

Industries, LLC Lori Hark Sanford, Florida (407) 322–7718, ext. 105 Associate Chapter: UUCF District 1, District 2 and District 3

B & D Enterprises, Inc.

Donald Hess, Jr. Sanford, Florida (407) 878–2215 Associate Chapter: UUCF District 2

Bruder's Boring, LLC

John Giese Jacksonville, Florida (904) 730–7994 Contractor Chapter: NUCA of North Florida

Highway Technologies

Mike Goff Jacksonville, Florida (904) 695–7455 Associate Chapter: NUCA of North Florida

JRGO, LLC

John Giese Jacksonville, Florida (904) 730–7994 Associate Chapter: NUCA of North Florida

Murphy Pipeline Contractors, Inc.

Ryan Cole Jacksonville, Florida (904) 764–6887 Contractor *Chapter: NUCA of North Florida*

Secretary Prasad statement on the Purchase of the SunRail Corridor

Ditchmen October 2011

On November 3, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completed the purchase of the 61-mile SunRail commuter rail corridor owned by CSX. The purchase means work will soon start on the construction of the first phase of the commuter rail system. Secretary Prasad said:

"Today's purchase is another important step in the process to bring SunRail commuter rail to Central Florida. All along the way, the Department has worked closely with federal, state, local and private partners to help achieve the vision to deliver the most effective and efficient commuter rail system in the country.

Our partnership with CSX, and today's announcement of their increased infrastructure investment in Florida to \$500 million over the next 8 years, will improve the movement of freight and commuters throughout the state, will increase the capacity and efficiency of Florida's ports, and will make Florida the best place to live, work, and visit."

With the purchase of the corridor, the State's contractors will begin to manage and maintain the 61–mile corridor including signal and track maintenance. Today's closing will also enable contractors to begin construction on Phase I of SunRail which will include the double–tracking, signal improvements, stations and operations control center. Construction will start this year.

The 31-mile first phase of SunRail

will serve 12 stations, linking DeBary to Orlando. Phase II will serve 5 additional stations, north to DeLand and south to Poinciana. Service for Phase I is expected to begin in early 2014.

3% Withholding Tax Update

The U.S. House voted on October 27 to repeal a tax withholding measure for government contractors that never took effect.

Under the measure repealed on a vote of 405–16, all bills paid by the federal government for goods, services or property after January 1, 2012 would have been subject to a 3% tax withholding. The original bill, signed into law by President George W. Bush, had targeted contractors who were delinquent on their taxes but also would have penalized many small businesses that hadn't done anything wrong.

Because of the unintended consequences, the law has been delayed from taking effect until January 1, 2013.

However, widespread opposition by contractors, President Barack Obama and both parties ensured the measure's repeal. The House repeal now goes to the Senate where Democrats and Republicans have differed on how to pay for it.

Democratic leaders could bring the legislation to the Senate floor next week.

On Capitol Hill on November 1, Sen. Scott Brown (R–MA), along with members of the Chamber's Small Business Council and the Government Withholding Relief Coalition, called for the Senate to take up the bipartisan bill to repeal the 3% withholding tax

that passed the House of Representatives and also has the backing of the White House.

Current law requires that federal, state and many local governments withhold 3% of payments for goods and services as a way to close the gap between taxes owed and taxes collected. It also applies to Medicare payments and farm payments. Implementation of the rule has been delayed repeatedly and currently is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2013.

Sen. Brown asked "leaders of both parties in the U.S. Senate to bring this jobs bill to the floor for a clean vote. Currently, this is the only jobs legislation that has bipartisan majorities in both chambers as well as the President's support."

Giovanni Coratolo, Vice President of Small Business Policy for the Chamber, pointed out at the press conference that this bill transcends party lines and warned of what will happen if the Senate does not act:

[T] the 3% withholding tax will have a dramatic, negative impact on honest taxpaying businesses across the United States hurting their ability to create jobs. Local cities and counties will have to worry about whether they can afford to pay the higher prices for school busses or hire teachers, cash strapped colleges and universities will need to cut services or raise tuitions, the cost to build and repair roads and infrastructure will be more expensive, and yes, doctors and hospitals already frustrated with Medicare reimbursements will be even more challenges to take care of our seniors.

Repeal will provide greater certainty for businesses, doctors, farmers, state and local governments and colleges and universities.

The Senate needs to pass the bill and repeal this piece of economic uncertainty hanging over businesses.

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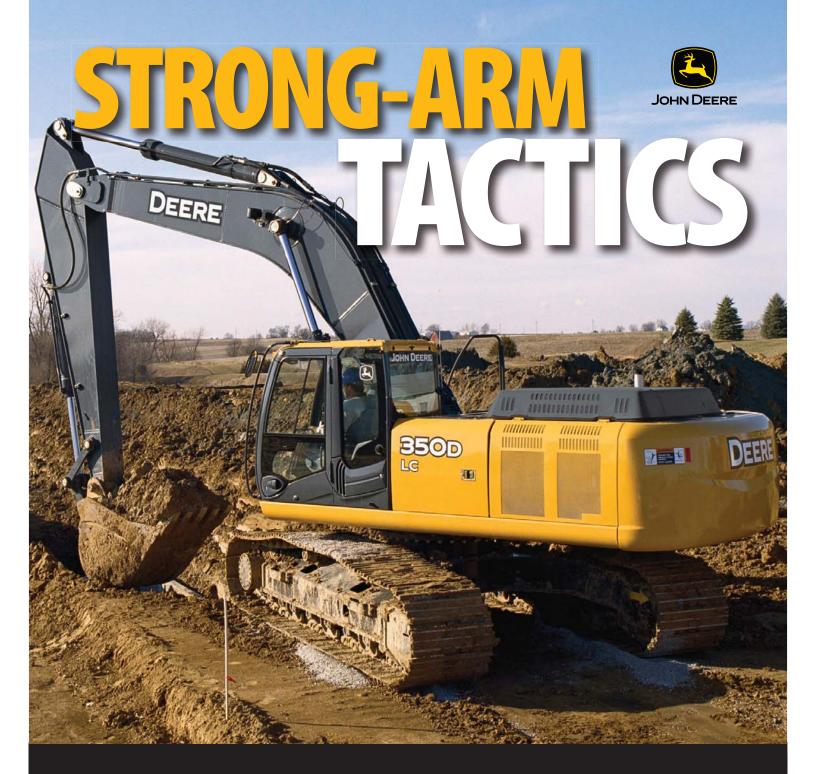
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