

CCIA HIGHLIGHTS *of the week*

A weekly information bulletin for members of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association

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THE 72ND ANNUAL MEETING of the AGC of Connecticut, Thurs., Feb. 13, 2019, at the Aqua Turf, Plantsville, CT, will feature keynote speaker, [Dr. Barbara Jackson](#) of the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business. Dr. Jackson is a nationally-recognized leader in the design-build industry. She is a leading expert in the area of integrated project delivery, design-build, interdisciplinary collaboration, and integrated project leadership. Social and food stations begin at 5:00 pm, and the program begins at 6:30 pm. Special thanks to Program Sponsor, Marcum LLP. Registration and sponsorship information may be found at this [link](#). Click [here](#) for on-line registration.



A NUMBER OF CONCEPT BILLS have been introduced in these early days of the General Assembly's session. Concept bills are generally defined as those bills not fully drafted but rather a short statement in non-statutory language expressing what the legislator would like the relevant committee to consider for legislation. Some bills notable for their potential impact to the construction industry that have been introduced include: [H.B. 5414](#), An Act Concerning Pyrrhotite Testing at Quarries; [H.B. 5418](#), An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the State Contracting Standards Board; [H.B. 5498](#), An Act Concerning Contractor and Apprentice Hiring Ratios; [H.B. 5537](#), An Act Concerning the Prevailing Wage and Public Works Projects Funded by Private Bequests.

ADDITIONAL CONCEPT BILLS of interest include: [H.B. 5590](#), An Act Permanently Prohibiting the Storage, Disposal, Handling and Use of Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in the State; [H.B. 5595](#), An Act Authorizing and Regulating the Retail Sale of Marijuana; [S.B. 1](#), An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave; [S.B. 102](#), An Act Establishing Electronic Tolls on Major Highways to Fund Transportation Infrastructure Projects; [H.B. 5656](#), An Act Concerning State Crane Inspectors; [H.B. 5665](#), An Act Concerning Reports on Gas Tax Revenue.

DEMOCRATIC LEADERS in the Connecticut House and Senate have indicated a willingness to reduce the gas tax in order to gain public and political support for tolls, according to a Yankee Institute [report](#). Senate President Martin Looney, D-New Haven, said he would be willing to cut gasoline taxes in exchange for tolling Connecticut's highways, as did House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz, D-Berlin, during an interview on WTIC 1080. A two-cent reduction in the gasoline tax would mark an eight percent reduction in overall gasoline tax revenue to the state, possibly saving residents \$40.4 m. per year in gas taxes while adding a projected \$651 m. in toll revenue.

A FAIRFIELD COUNTY LEGISLATOR has suggested that Connecticut residents should not have to pay a toll if a toll gantry is located within a certain distance to their residences, according to an [article](#) in *CT Post*. Sen. Will Haskell (D-Westport) said this week that he would put the burden of tolls on the backs of trucking companies and non-

resident drivers. In his mind, a driver wouldn't have to pay a toll if the gantry is within, for example, 10 miles of where an E-Z Pass is registered. Haskell, newly-elected and a member of the Transportation Committee, said he would only be in favor of tolls if residents paid less than out-of-state drivers. It's unclear whether any state has tried exempting people from toll payments based on their residency.

THE OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS (OFA) and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) released their [consensus revenue estimates](#) this week showing Connecticut may not only take in more tax revenue than anticipated, but that the state's Special Transportation Fund (STF) will also bring in more money to fund infrastructure projects. According to OFA, revenue to the STF is expected to increase from \$1.68 billion this year to \$1.99 billion by 2022. The growth comes largely from anticipated transfers of sales tax revenue into the STF and from growth in revenue from the oil company gross receipts tax.

GOVERNOR LAMONT told a gathering of hundreds of Connecticut environmental activists yesterday that every decision he makes as governor will take into account how state action will impact Connecticut's environment, according to an [article](#) in the *Hartford Courant*. The governor said a critical piece of his environmental agenda involves his commitment to improving mass transit to get people "out of their darned cars" in order to reduce auto pollution. "My biggest priority, the place where I can make the most difference in the next four years, is transportation," Lamont said, saying that getting people to use mass transit instead of cars would make "an enormous difference" to the environment.

THE CONNECTICUT BUSINESS and Industry Association (CBIA) has laid out a dozen policy priorities for this year's legislative session centered on a more business-friendly environment, according to an [article](#) in the *Hartford Business Journal*. CBIA recommended "significantly" reducing state-agency spending by outsourcing services to private entities, lowering the business personal property tax and the top income tax rate, eliminating the business entity tax and repealing gift and estate taxes. Under the transportation category, CBIA recommends protecting "a sustainable and affordable funding stream for transportation

and engage the private sector to accelerate planning and completion of projects.”

A NEW HOTEL could be coming to downtown Stamford next to the new Veterans Memorial Park, according to an [article](#) in the *Stamford Advocate*. Prominent land-use consultant Rick Redniss has presented early plans to build a 14-story structure behind the 119-year-old Stamford Savings Bank building next to the parking entrance to Stamford Town Center. A change to city zoning texts, the first round of city approvals needed to allow the hotel, will go the Zoning Board early next month. The change has earned a recommendation from Planning Board members.

WHILE THE FOUR PARCELS surrounding Hartford’s Dunkin Donuts Park remain in legal limbo, the city is moving forward with plans to demolish a former data processing center on Windsor Street which occupies an entire city block between Trumbull and Pleasant streets behind the stadium, according to an [article](#) in the *Hartford Courant*. “Demolition of the data center is essential to the development of those parcels in the future,” Mayor Luke Bronin said. “Getting that done now allows us to make progress toward our ultimate goal of activating those parcels, even as the legal issues are unsolved.”

THE GENERAL CONTRACTORS Association (GCA) of New York’s “Deconstructing the Cost of Construction” report says the top culprits for the state’s infamously protracted and expensive infrastructure projects are the state’s “scaffold law” and changing plans and goals for state-led projects, according to an [article](#) in *Crain’s New York Business*. The GCA echoed longstanding industry complaints that the scaffold law has increased risk costs and pushed insurers out of the market. It asserted that the law adds 10 percent to every construction budget. The GCA also blamed massive changes in project scope, designs, and orders from the government and public authorities after awarding contracts and even after work has begun or finished.

CONNDOT BID RESULTS for January 16, 2019: [Proposal No. 0302-0022](#), Wilton Railroad Station Water Line Connection: M. Rondano, Inc.: \$23,600.00; Guerrera Construction Co., Inc.: \$307,317.50; Dayton Construction Company Inc.: \$358,883.50.

A BIG CHUNK of the Tappan Zee Bridge was demolished this week following a scheduled detonation, according to an [article](#) in *CT Post*. The structure has been replaced by the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge at one of the broad Hudson River’s widest spots. The new bridge, which parallels the old one, was closed to traffic during the demolition. The Tappan Zee’s remnants will be salvaged and recycled.

A RECENT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION request revealed that OSHA issued an [internal memo](#) on May 18, 2018 that provided the agency’s regional administrators with rules for conducting inspections with “unmanned aircraft systems” or drones, according to a [report](#) on CBIA’s website. The bulk of the memo outlines stringent operational

and safety rules for conducting aerial inspections, including a requirement that any OSHA region planning to use drones must designate a program manager, who will oversee the entire operation. It’s also important to note that the memo requires OSHA officials to obtain “express consent” from employers before deploying a drone.

THE CT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC Health’s Occupational Health Program is working on a special emphasis program to encourage employers to recognize and support employees with an opioid use disorder or any type of substance abuse to seek treatment and recovery. From a two-day conference in 2017 hosted by the Occupational Health Unit, a number of resources resulted to help employers and employees fight the opioid crisis with a new proactive approach to deal with substance use/abuse in their workplaces. More information may be found at this [link](#).

AGC/CT 2019 SCHOLARSHIP applications are now available on-line. This year’s scholarship program consists of four available scholarships. The Angelo Giardini Scholarship and the Michael Timura Scholarship, sponsored by AGC of Connecticut, are each two-year scholarships of \$2,500 for two years for a total of \$5,000 each. The Young Contractors Forum (YCF) Scholarship and the AGC of Connecticut Foundation Scholarship are each one-year scholarships valued at \$1,000 each. Applicants must be Connecticut residents currently enrolled in or entering a construction management, civil engineering, or construction-related four-year degree program. Apply on-line at this [link](#). The deadline for submittal is February 28, 2019.

THE YOUNG CONTRACTORS FORUM (YCF) will hold a membership meeting on Feb. 21, 2019, 4:30 pm, at J. Timothy’s Taverne, Plainville. The guest speakers, Ginger Chicos and Juan Pinto, from Gilbane Building Company, will talk about the benefits of using 3D Printing and Scanning. Please register by Feb. 15. Register [online](#) or email [printable registration form](#) to [Jean Barlage](#).

THE FOURTH ANNUAL WOMEN Who Build Summit, hosted by the Construction Institute, will be held Thurs., Feb. 21, 2019, 7:45 am to 6:00 pm at Goodwin College, E. Hartford. The day consists of multiple panel discussions, breakout sessions, and a luncheon keynote presentation by Denise Berger, Chief of Operations, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Click [here](#) for more program information and registration.

FLIERS INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS, 1/18/19: 1) [CCIA January Calendar](#); 2) [72nd AGC/CT Annual Meeting 2/13](#); 3) [YCF Membership Meeting, 2/21](#).

FROM THE INTERNET: On January 18, 1993, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday was observed in all 50 U.S. states for the first time. Of the six men who made up the Three Stooges, three of them were real brothers (Moe, Curly, and Shemp). A dime has 118 ridges around the edge. The largest reported snowflake was in Keogh, MT during the year 1887 and was 15 inches wide.