Notes From The Director

As we close out 2016 and look forward to the year ahead we want to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. It has been a hectic year for many of us thanks in part to an improved economy and an uptick in construction activity. So, perhaps it is fitting to take a little time out during the holidays to reflect on the things that are most important in our lives.

I also want to thank all of our PCANY members, promotional partners, and valued subscribers to this newsletter for your support. It has been our goal for over 25 years to provide interesting and informative articles about the many uses and innovations in the precast concrete industry. As always, I welcome and encourage any of your questions and feedback as well as suggestions for articles.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
Flushing Commons—Borough of Queens, NY

Submitted by David Wan, PE, LEED AP of Oldcastle Precast BSD.

Oldcastle Precast provided 13 levels of 8” Elematic precast-prestressed hollow-core planks for Phase 1 (levels 5 through 17) of a new condominium project in the heart of Flushing, Queens, NY. The construction of this high-rise facility in a dense urban environment was facilitated by the off-site fabrication of some 1518 plank elements and the meticulously coordinated delivery of each piece directly to the crane hook. Precast elements were delivered and erected by Berlin Steel from October 2015 and March 2016.

Project Credits:
Owner: Flushing Commons, LLC
Architect: Perkins Eastman
Contractor: Berlin Steel—Tishman Construction Corp
Engineer-of-Record: DeSimone Consulting Engineers
Precast Manufacturer: Oldcastle Precast BSD, Selkirk, NY
Suffolk County Approves Advanced On-Site Treatment Systems

Submitted by Tom Montalbine of Roman Stone Construction Company

Aquifers underlying Long Island supply drinking water to over 2.8 million people. There are over half a million unsewered homes in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and many of these homes use a 16th century technology called a cesspool to dispose of their wastewater. A cesspool is a gravity fed, bottomless concrete tube, usually 8 feet in depth, with perforations around its sides and a concrete top. According to the Suffolk County Health Department, a properly functioning wastewater system consists of a septic tank and a cesspool. However, many of the unsewered homes on Long Island are grandfathered in before the 1970 health code and only have a cesspool. Many of these cesspools are located in high ground water situations where tidal action floods the system at high tide and then sucks it out into the neighboring surface waters during low tide. Cesspools are outlawed in many parts of the country because they are a significant source of nitrogen discharge into ground and surface waters. Nitrogen discharges are considered a major cause of brown and red tides and other algal blooms that have wreaked havoc in the bays and other water bodies of Suffolk. The bigger picture however is that the County is also concerned about pollutants infiltrating the aquifers that provide drinking water for millions of its residents.

Accordingly, the county engaged in a demonstration pilot program under which 19 advanced on-site treatment systems were installed and monitored for performance. Two advanced treatment systems have recently been approved as a result of the pilot program. One of the systems is the Norweco Singulair® TNT which was found to have effectively reduced nitrogen levels below 19mg/l. This aeration unit with flow equalization and effluent filtration is housed in a specially designed precast concrete tank manufactured by Roman Stone Construction of Bayshore. Systems are delivered, installed and maintained by Roman Stone. Roman Stone is working with PCANY to get their tanks certified under the PCANY Wastewater certification program.

Roman Stone Construction Company is a Producer Member of PCANY. Check out our members in the PCANY Buyer’s Guide located on our website.
FHWA Expert Task Group on Precast Concrete Pavement (PCP) Technology to Meet...
In Burbank, CA on February 1, 2017. The meetings will include updates on several SHRP2 demonstration projects including reports by PCANY members Peter Smith of The Fort Miller Company and Tom Montalbino of Roman Stone Construction.

FHWA/NPCA Workshop on Precast Pavements...
Will be held following the ETG meeting on Feb 2 in San Diego, CA. The workshop is intended to discuss the potential of PCP technology for the precast community. (Information)

The Precast Show 2017...
Will be held March 2-4 at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, OH. PCANY will be represented at the first Affiliate’s meeting to be held in several years. Visit precast.org/theprecastshow/ for information and registration