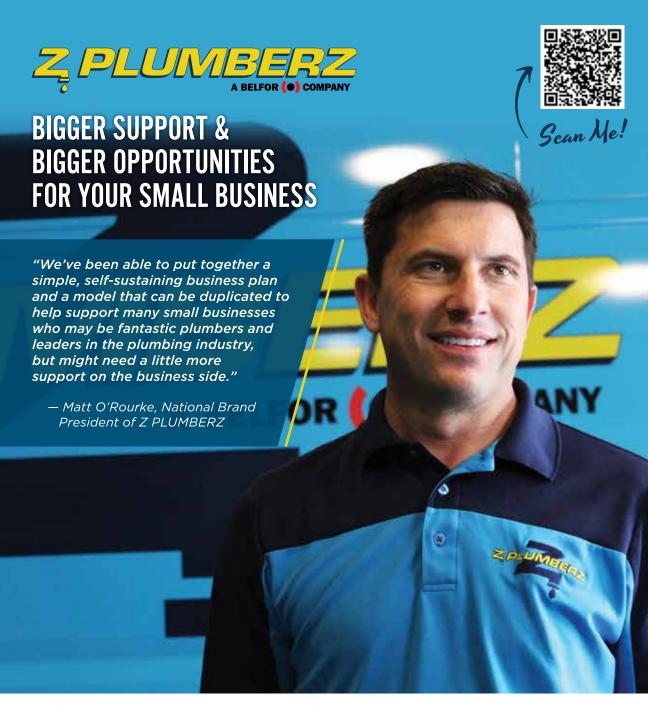




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# Profile

### **Pressing Restart**

Miami contractor continues to find paths to success for his plumbing company as he shifts its focus.

- By Giles Lambertson



#### On the Cover

Joe Jaremko, owner and president of Arko Plumbing Corp. located in Miami, is pictured here at his company shop with two of his work vehicles. (Photography by Chris Tilley)

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### FROM THE EDITOR



Cory Dellenbach

### **Community Pride**

There are many different ways you and your team can become a part of a community, and they're all beneficial



hat does it mean to be a part of a community? It could mean something different depending on what definition of community you are thinking of.

There are two definitions for community according to Oxford Languages. The first is "a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common." The second definition is "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals."

No matter what type of community we're talking about, someone should feel a sense of pride when they are a part of a community. It is something you want to take care of, to represent well and be excited to say you're a member of.

### PLUMBING COMMUNITY

If you work in the plumbing industry you are a part of the plumbing community. This is why it is so important to think about how you represent yourself and your community. How you act toward a customer or outside of this industry gives people an impression of everyone else in it.

Being a part of this community doesn't mean you're just a plumber. This could include plumbing business owners, manufacturers, educators, students and more. Being a part of this community opens opportunities you can take advantage of, whether it is for training or career advancement.

Don't be afraid to lean on this community. There are many associations and groups to join from PHCC to IAPMO and many others. There's also Facebook and other social media groups that you could jump into. It's all there to help you and guide you in this community.

#### **EMPLOYEE COMMUNITY**

No matter if you work for a plumbing company or own one, you're a part of the employee community. When you

are working with and getting to know the same people every day you form a community with those people.

You're working toward the same end goal — being successful and getting the jobs done. It's a community that will grow stronger the longer you and others work for the company. You learn what each other is capable of and what your strengths are on the job.

#### LARGER COMMUNITY

Your company itself is a part of the community in which you are based and operate in and that creates some opportunities as well. Make sure your company is getting involved in activities taking place in your town or city. Be a sponsor of youth athletic teams, bar teams or whatever else might be out there.

There are some plumbing companies out there right now that are doing great things for their community. Gina Grundmeier, owner of T'NG Plumbing in Dexter, Minnesota, launched a nonprofit — Pay-It-Forward — that helps area homeowners with much needed repairs to their houses. You can learn more about that program by going to www.payitforwardtng.org.

This month we are profiling Arko Plumbing in Miami. He helps out his community in a different way. He provides expert testimony at court cases. It's an interesting way to help the community.

### WHAT DOES COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?

How do you or your company get involved in the community you are a part of? Email me at editor@plumbermag.com and tell me your story.

Enjoy this issue!

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We're always on the lookout for relevant and interesting plumbing content across the internet and social media. In our e-newsletters, we regularly highlight that and share what else out there we're reading and watching. For example, this news story about Wisconsin updating its plumbing code for the first time in more than a decade. Be sure to sign up for Plumber e-newsletters if you haven't already.



### Minnesota Plumbing Company Celebrates a Decade of Community Service

Over the years, we've regularly highlighted the annual project Minnesota's T'N G Plumbing takes on as part of its Pay It Forward program, a way to give back to the community by doing a free home renovation for a person or family in need. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Pay It Forward program, and to celebrate T 'N G Plumbing undertook two major home renovations. Read about it here. / plumbermag.com/featured

### **OVERHEARD ONLINE**

"Regardless of how number-phobic you are, it's crucial to familiarize vourself with vour business's figures and you don't need an accounting degree."

— Overcoming Number Phobia: A Guide for Business Owners



### **CUSTOMER RETENTION**

### **Diagnostic Inspection Reporting Gains Client Trust**

Transparency is an essential element of building customer trust, many times making the difference between a one-time or repeat client. A simple way to enhance transparency is by providing customers with a diagnostic inspection report, a tool that provides visual data to back up verbal communication of an issue before and after work is completed. Brad Yuronich of RIDGID discusses it more in this online exclusive.

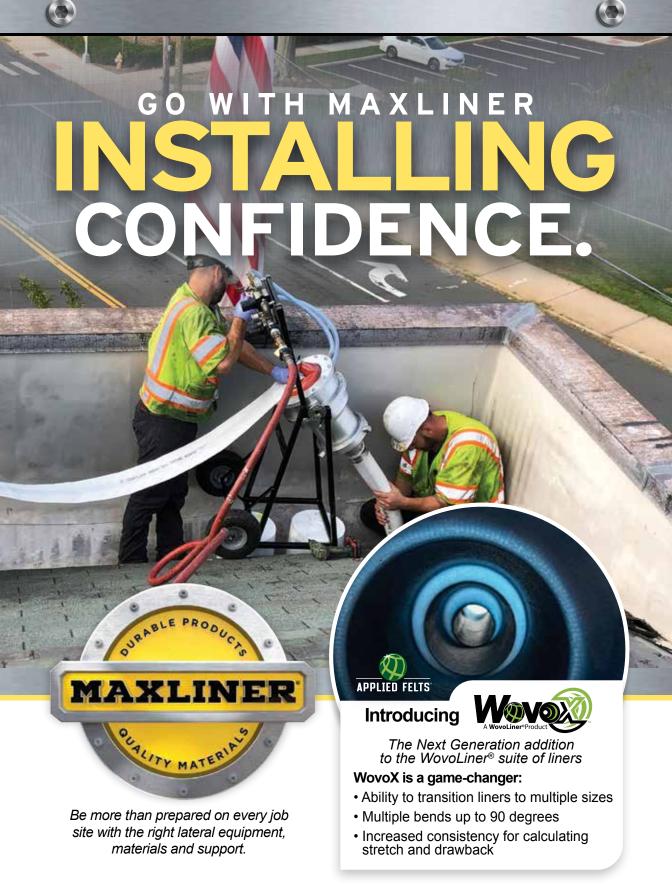
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Joe Jaremko, owner and president of Arko Plumbing Corp., explains the steps he has taken to combat theft while operating his business in the larger city of Miami. He has installed large locking RIDGID tool storage containers in all of his unmarked work vehicles to house more expensive equipment used daily like endoscopic cameras.

oe Jaremko began plumbing reluctantly, became a journeyman plumber, opened a plumbing house of his own and experienced ups and downs in it — "always making money, though" — and finally became a court-recognized "expert" in the trade.

Now he's sort of starting over again, determined to be on top of his game even better than before.

"Last December, I sat down and made a decision," says the 62-year-old owner of Arko Plumbing Corp in Miami. "Should I retire or keep working? I decided I couldn't part with the company. I get too much satisfaction out of the work. I don't have to work. I want to work and I'm in a position now that I feel like a parent to my employees."

The businessman has opened another chapter in his plumbing career.

### **LEARNING THE TRADE**

The Florida native grew up around the trades. His father was a general contractor and Jaremko loved to visit

job sites, often where four-plex residences were being constructed. Other extended family members were brick masons and electricians. Jaremko liked working with his hands, too, and believed auto mechanics was his thing.

One day his father questioned his son's mechanics-focus, drove him down to a structured plumbing apprenticeship program and enrolled him. Jaremko liked it well enough to excel in the program — his father must have known his son pretty well — and looks back with satisfaction at the experience of learning from master plumbers.

46 I didn't realize I had an entrepreneurial bug in me, but there was just something that would not let me be satisfied working for other people."

Joe Jaremko



### Profile

### Thinking About Security

One of the costs of doing business in Miami is crime, says Joe Jaremko, owner of Arko Plumbing. He has firsthand experience with it.

"There is nothing like seeing your vehicle being stolen on a video cam," Jaremko says. "I watched on a housing camera. The guy was in the truck faster than if he'd had a key!"

Jaremko searched for the truck and came close to finding it before the police did. "I got the truck back in perfect condition, but all the equipment was gone."

The equipment carried by service plumbers in work vans includes fairly high-end items — battery-powered tools, inspection cameras and other modern tools of the trade. So, a work van wrapped brightly with logos and other branding art is a beacon to a thief wanting to make some quick money.

To frustrate such theft, Jaremko doesn't have anything on the sides of his Nissan 2500 vans that identify them as work vans. Plain Jane. They don't have ladder racks on them either. This not only makes it harder for thieves to target his equipment, it also lets Jaremko's crew members park their work trucks at their homes without running into Dade County officials who object to work trucks being parked in residential neighborhoods.

He also has outfitted his vans with three hidden GPS units, one of them hardwired. "I know where the trucks are at any time," says the business owner. Tools that might be taken in a theft are locked in a gang box that's bolted to the floor

Eleven years ago, Jaremko was the victim of theft that occurred right outside his home. He had a brand new 2012 pickup truck at the time and, one week after the purchase, a neighbor knocked on his door and told him he'd been robbed.

Jaremko walked outside and found his truck still sitting there. Unfortunately, it sat on blocks. The rims and tires of the vehicle had been removed. He didn't recover them, of course. In response to that incident, Jaremko installed a camera on his property that scans the front of his house and immediate neighborhood.

"That's Miami," he says.



Arko work vehicles are equipped with large locking RIDGID tool storage containers to combat theft while operating in a metro area.

He was a union apprentice and an eager one. "Every time I learned something I'd look forward to using the skill and learning something else," he says. The work mostly was in high-rise buildings.

Jaremko ultimately gravitated to residential subdivision work, helping build custom and tract homes in the Miami area. Then he moved to service work as a plumber for General Plumbing. "I used to think I was a plumber until I went to work for a service company," he says.

In 1988, after three years of "learning a lot" on service calls, Jaremko was ready to take the plunge and open his own business. The move rather surprised him. "I didn't realize I had an entrepreneurial bug in me, but there was just something that would not let me be satisfied working for other people."

His exit from the service company was not particularly sweet. His employer tried to discourage him from leaving. "You think it will be easy working for yourself?" he told me. "'You'll find out it isn't. You won't last six months.' Well, here it is 35 years later and I'm doing fine. It was his pushback that challenged me."

A bit of serendipity came into play at that moment,

too. As Jaremko was weighing whether to start a business or not, a celebrity death helped resolve the situation. A high-profile Miami personality, Don Aronow, who built the Cigarette Racing boats and raced them in venues around the world, was murdered.

"After Aronow died my partner and I went to snake out the drainlines at Aronow's house," Jaremko says. "We found a huge diamond ring in the drain." They turned it over to Aronow's widow, who said it wasn't hers. "'I guess this was Don's gift to you,' she said and gave back the stone. The diamond was appraised at about \$25,000." It was timely seed money for a new company.

The company was dubbed Arko Plumbing. Arko? Jaremko wanted the company to be the first one listed in the Yellow Pages and his mother came up with the name. Arko was a one-or-two-man operation at first, with his wife answering the phone. For a couple of years, Jaremko survived, mostly on word-of-mouth referrals.

Business was up and down, mostly up, according to Jaremko, but the progress was interrupted by the unexpected passing of his wife. "Life happens," he says, looking back. He pressed on.

**66** I'm a people person and salesman and I love helping people solve problems. It's not just money. I've written off jobs, done them for nothing. It's about helping people."

Joe Jaremko

### SUCCESS IN VARIOUS WAYS

During the last three decades, Arko Plumbing has continued to experience success, but it has been a fluctuating success story. As a young business, the company was "stuck" for a while operating with four service trucks, Jaremko says, then grew to as many as 20 trucks, then was scaled back to three or four, where it is today.

One growth factor during its period of expansion was the abundance of cast iron drainpipes in the area, which "are failing at an alarming rate," according to Jaremko. Vintage waterlines mostly are copper or galvanized steel and largely are still intact. "The drainpipe deterioration





The team at Arko Plumbing Corp. includes, from left, Alejandro Naranjo, head plumber; Juan Carlos Alonzo, plumber helper; Medardo Huerta, plumber; Guiller MoLazo, plumber; Joe Jaremko, owner and president; Ryan Hayes, manager; and Mark Garcia, plumber helper, at their company shop in Miami.

might be partly from soil conditions, but mostly the problem is they were engineered to last a hundred years in the ground but only are lasting 30 or 40."

At one point, Arko advertised "cast iron colonoscopies," that is, inspection and replacement of cast iron infrastructure. "We did hundreds of cast iron replacements. The insurance companies would pay for it and the jobs just kept coming in. The average ticket was about \$4,500," says the company owner.

Eventually, he became immersed in a tangential facet of the industry. One of the insurance company people working with him on the cast iron situation referred Jaremko to Morgan & Morgan, which bills itself as the largest injury law firm in the country. It is an aggressive outfit, declaring on its website that "we have the resources to take on the biggest bullies in America."

Jaremko was hired by Morgan & Morgan to give testimony in plumbing cases. "They asked me to come work for them as a trial expert. They offered me the kind of pay I couldn't ignore." To put a number on it, Arko Plumbing — through Jaremko's testimony — has for the last four years averaged \$3 million in testimony billing.

Unfortunately, the bloom has come off that rose. After the Florida legislature nullified some of the financial oppor**\$** Should I retire or keep working? I decided I couldn't part with the company. I get too much satisfaction out of the work."

Joe Jaremko

tunities for law firms in injury cases, Morgan & Morgan pulled back. As recently as April, 80% of Arko Plumbing's revenue stream was from expert testimony. That has fallen to 50%, so Jaremko says he is going "back to my roots" by building out his drain-cleaning business.

Fifteen years ago, the business owner remarried and, perhaps coincidentally, the business found new stability. His office manager has been with Arko for all of those 15 years as have three of his crew members. "They all have stayed with me through thick and thin."

His service crews work in and around Miami, with most out-of-town work being camera inspections and hydrostatic testing of residential systems. All of Arko Plumbing's customers today are homeowners and residential property owners.

### **BIG GOALS AHEAD**

The company operates with four new Nissan service vans loaded with Milwaukee battery-powered tools, RIDGID cameras and drain cleaning equipment and Picote milling machines. The company subsout any excavation work needed to replace a line, so there isn't a mini-excavator in its fleet of equipment. If a customer wants a tankless water heater, Jaremko points him toward a Rinnai unit. If a heater with a tank is wanted, he favors A. O. Smith or Ferguson.

Nowadays, Jaremko doesn't get to dirty his hands repairing or installing a pipe or fixture. Instead, he often shows up in his pickup to chat with a customer. "I still could do just about any plumbing task I need to working from my pickup. I just choose not to. It doesn't pay for me to do that."

Did he have a favorite task when he was handling tools every day? "It was helping the people," he says. "I got the most satisfaction from helping someone. I'm a people person and salesman and I love helping people solve problems. It's not just money. I've written off jobs, done them for nothing. It's about helping people."

The future of Arko Plumbing Corp. is bright, partly because the market in Miami is strong, partly because Jaremko still has goals he wants his company to meet. He has it all laid out, from daily and monthly plans all the way to a 10-year vision of the operation. "I'm hungry," he says. "I was just writing my mission statement and vision statement. I want to create a multi-million-dollar business and create opportunities for thousands of employees. I have seen how to do that."



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### It's All in the Design

Equipment design is more user-focused than it has ever been, helping workers be productive with minimal body strain By Don Embree

ot long ago a tool's impact on its user was not given much thought. The expectation was that the trade professional would adapt to the tool, not the other way around.

Today, that reality has shifted. Manufacturers take the time to observe and understand the user's experience to find new ways to enhance tool ergonomics. These insights, combined with a better understanding of ergonomics and advances in technology, are allowing for the development of more thoughtful, ergonomic tools. For example, new technologies have reduced the size and weight of tools. Brushless motors, battery technology and changes in material application have led the way for more ergonomic designs.

If you are considering swapping out older tools for newer ergonomically designed ones, think about the various benefits. For example, an ergonomic tool provides trade professionals:

### Peace of mind

No tradesperson wants to come to work thinking that they might get injured during their workday, particularly not by their tools. Providing well-designed ergonomic tools ensures that the individual is healthier, less stressed and looks forward to their workday.

Reduced body strain

Ergonomic tools are designed to align with the body's natural movement so that they have as little effect on the body as possible. It reduces the likelihood that users will suffer strains or sprains after a day of working in confined or difficult positions.

Enhanced job performance

Ergonomic tools increase job efficiency. Wasted motions are less likely when an individual uses ergonomic tools,

If an employee is distracted by pain or fatigue caused by their tools, it leads to mistakes. and mistakes lead to downtime and cost.

allowing the worker to get more done in the same amount of time. And because ergonomic tools are designed to work with the body, you likely will not need to take breaks as often due to aches and pains, which also increases efficiency.

• Improved job capabilities

Ergonomic tools can increase a worker's capabilities. Using the tools in natural positions means they will not lose power bending and twisting, which allows them to do more than they might using non-ergonomic tools.

### **BUSINESS BENEFITS**

The benefit is equally significant for a business. The science of ergonomics has proven that if tools cause pain, discomfort, or distraction from a job in some way, it will affect a company's productivity, the health of its employees, and the company's bottom line. Businesses are finding ergonomic tools that result in:

More engaged employees

When a company provides employees with a properly designed, ergonomic tool, employees will notice the company is committed to their health and safety. Reducing employee fatigue and discomfort can reduce turnover, decrease absenteeism, improve morale and increase employee involvement.

· Fewer errors

If an employee is distracted by pain or fatigue caused by their tools, it leads to mistakes, and mistakes lead to downtime and cost. Having employees focused on their work ensures fewer errors and keeps the employee engaged.

Increased productivity

The more focused employees are in doing their job, the more productive they are. Ergonomics can make all the difference. Ergonomics are meant to make things feel safer and more natural, and not distract the employee from their work. When the body is less strained, especially in the case of repetitive motions, the health of employees will improve.

#### FEATURES TO LOOK FOR

As ergonomic tool design becomes the standard, understanding basic ergonomic features to look for when making



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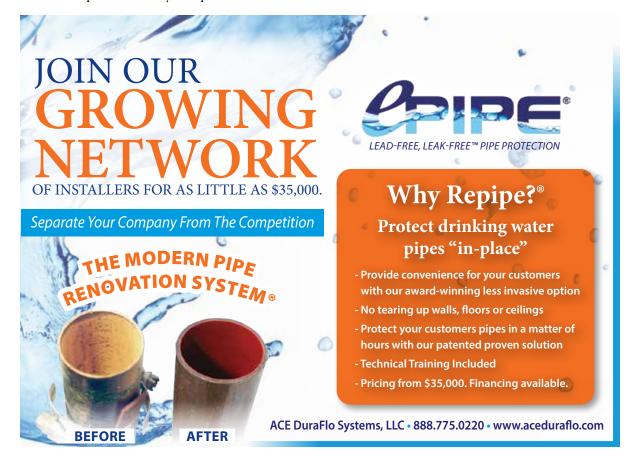
Two initial features to look at are the size and weight of the tool. Advances in technology are enabling tools to become smaller and lighter, both minimizing strain and fatigue for the user while increasing productivity on the job site. Looking for the smallest and lightest tools to meet the demands of your typical jobs is ideal.

Beyond these two key areas, there are additional features to look out for:

- · Tools that are well balanced, lightweight and can ideally be operated with one hand. The weight will vary depending on the use of the tool.
- In the case of hand or press tools, the center of gravity should be aligned with the center of the gripping hand. In other words, the tool should feel "easy" to hold either in an upright position or in the position it will be used.
- For tools being used for precision work, the handles and grips of hand tools should have a "power grip." Handle diameter recommendations vary, but in general, cylindrical handles at 1 1/2 to 2 inches offer a better power grip. For precision grips, a diameter of 1 1/4 inches is recommended. The larger diameter will allow for maximum torque, while the smaller diameter helps with dexterity and speed.

- To ensure a good grip on a handle, sufficient friction must exist between the hand and the handle and remain consistent even with a sweaty hand. Hand tools should be made of nonslip, nonconductive and compressible materials such as textured rubber that help keep the tool from slipping out of the hand.
- To avoid tendonitis in the index finger, otherwise known as "trigger finger," look for solutions that allow for the use of two or three fingers to activate switches to reduce discomfort and minimize the risk for injury.
- Large drain cleaning tools should feel balanced during transport and use. Use proper lifting and form when maneuvering stairs or into work vehicles to avoid injury. When in operation, any information the user might need should be visually accessible and large enough for the user to see. Smaller, handheld drain cleaners should feel comfortable when managing the cable to ensure the user is in control.
- Minor aches and pains add up over time, taking individuals off the job site for injuries or down a different career path entirely. Using tools with even just a few of the above features will go a long way in reducing this physical strain and injury.

Don Embree is an industrial design manager for RIDGID.



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Kate Zabriskie

### **Making Training Stick**

Explore these three root causes why training doesn't stick with your crew and make some changes By Kate Zabriskie

ach year, businesses waste thousands of dollars on training that doesn't deliver expected results. Consequently, many company owners or managers determine that either training has no value to their employees, the training facilitators don't know what they're doing, the program designers are out of touch with reality, or all three.

If only the root causes of training failures were as simple as those. Even with willing learners, great content and strong facilitation, a host of problems could keep you from realizing strong returns on those training investments. If your training isn't delivering what you think it should, you may be suffering from one of three major problems that plague organizations large and small.

### Problem 1: Training isn't part of a larger learning ecosystem

Just because people participate in a workshop, it doesn't mean they will change their behavior back on the job. In fact, even if while in class they demonstrate an ability and willingness to do whatever is being taught, all may be lost once participants exit the classroom.

Why does this happen? Good workshops usually fail to deliver because they are treated as a training solution instead of a component of one. In other words, a workshop isn't the answer in itself; rather, it should be part of a larger apparatus or ecosystem.

Regardless of level, every employee should have a development plan and some learning and growth goals that connect to the big picture and enhance their skills.

### **Solution**

Creating a strong learning ecosystem is an ongoing and often complex endeavor. It takes time to build a holistic structure that supports continuous development. That said, start small. For example, ask yourself:

- Prior to training, do managers explain to workers why they will attend a course and how they are expected to use what's learned after the session?
- Will someone with authority in your company (other than the facilitator) launch the session by explaining how the workshop ties into the bigger picture?
- Are there check-in opportunities after training to ensure that participants are implementing new behaviors?

If you answer "no" to any of those basics, do what you need to do to shift those answers to "yes."

Next, think about the incentives you can put in place to encourage behavior change and the barriers you need to remove to encourage success, and the corrective action you will take if what's happening in the classroom isn't replicated on the job.

Once you start thinking holistically and view courses and workshops as a component of learning versus learning in its entirety, you will have taken the first step in getting the most out of your training dollars.

### Problem 2: Continuous learning isn't part of the culture. and training isn't treated as a priority

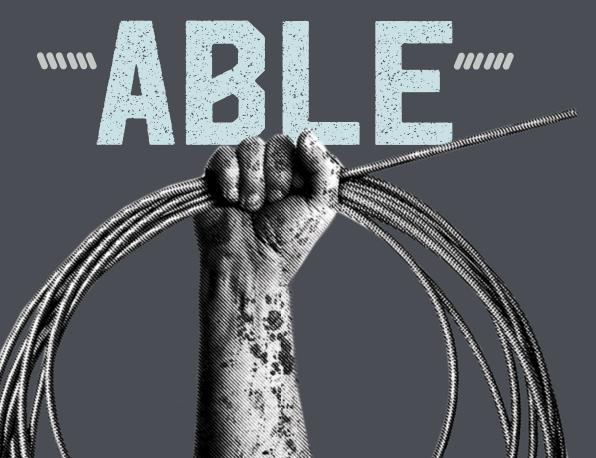
You have great content, you have a skilled facilitator in place, and half the people scheduled to attend the course don't attend because training isn't a priority.

When training occupies a position of "nice to have" and not "need to have," getting the most from it becomes problematic. This most often happens when people are in survival mode instead of on a growth trajectory. In other words, they are scrambling to get through the work instead of thinking mindfully about the work they're completing and how they're completing it.



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In practical terms, if people are always putting out fires and don't regularly ask "what have we learned" and "how can we improve," why should they care about learning new skills?

#### **Solution**

Shifting from a reactive culture to one that is deliberate about its activities takes months or even years. However, it's not difficult to make big strides over time when you begin by asking the right questions up, down and across your workforce.

Start the improvement conversation at multiple levels and at different times. Frequently ask, "What have we learned?" "What do we need to do better next time?" "What do we wish we'd known earlier?" and other such questions after projects, meetings, presentations and so forth. In the rare instances when something goes perfectly, remember there are still questions to ask: "How can we replicate what we just did?" "Why did that work well?" "Is there any reason this approach won't work again in the future?" and so on.

When questioning becomes the norm, the solutions offered via training should have stronger importance and value. For example, if turnover is an issue, a learning organization wants to know why and may ask several questions: "Are we hiring the wrong people?" "Are we expecting too much?" "Is there something better for the same money somewhere else?" "Do our managers not manage well?" "Do we need to provide people with better tools?" and so on.

Then, when learning and improvement are a priority, you'll hear such things as, "Today is a training day for me. I'll be unavailable until 4 p.m. If you have an emergency, please see my supervisor Melissa. The workshop I'm attending is of top importance and part of my effort to reduce the turnover."

Who can argue with that? The logic sounds right and ties into big-picture improvement goals.

To get larger returns from training, use questioning to drive improvement. The answers will help people connect the dots and understand why training is a priority and not just something they do because it's on the calendar.

### Problem 3: Few annual development plans exist

The world doesn't stagnate, and your employees shouldn't either. If they're doing their work the same way they were five years ago, and nobody is encouraging or demanding change, why should they care about training or think you care about them?

### Solution

Regardless of level, every employee should have a development plan and some learning and growth goals that connect to the big picture and enhance their skills.

"I want to improve XYZ skill to drive ABC result, and 123 is how I plan to grow," is a quick and easy format to follow when setting development goals and three to five goals is a good number for most people.

Better still, if you can tie those goals to performance reviews, you'll be amazed at the interest people develop in improvement, training and implementing new skills.

As with the other two solutions, start small. If your company, for example, has no development plans, choose one area — such as service technicians — and pilot them.

#### **ACT NOW**

Whether you suffer from one, two or all three of the problems described, take action now. When thoughtful goals and development plans are put in place for workers, it is almost impossible not to realize a stronger return on your training dollars. 🖪

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Kate Zabriskie is president of Business Training Works Inc., a Maryland-based talent development firm. Reach her at www.businesstrainingworks.com

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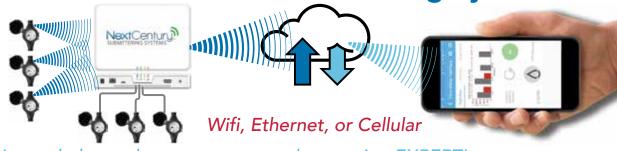


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Anthony Pacilla

### **Dominating Local Social Media**

Becoming a force in the social media world starts with liking and following other businesses and "influencers" within your home area Bv Anthony Pacilla

hen you think of social media platforms, you may think of Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc. You probably think of your business and how you occasionally put out great posts and content. You probably have a few hundred or a couple thousand "likes" or "followers."

Typically, if a business owner is doing the social media work themselves, they get a few likes and views, do some branding, run a few ads, and that's about it. Even businesses that hire professional marketing firms don't usually maximize the platforms' power. At most, many marketing firms do better with content, tracking, adaptations and ads. So how do these online brands who pop up on your screen seem to be popping up everywhere, dominating your screens, making tons of money, getting tons of clicks, conversions, tons of traffic and dominating the market, reaching hundreds of thousands, sometimes millions of followers?

Most of these pop-up brands that take over and go viral are run by kids who aren't even out of high school. Newer social media platforms are insanely complex on the business end, and these kids are crushing it; it is truly a young person's game. And they're doing it without paying for ads. Most marketing firms would kill to have two or three of these kids on their staff. So, what's their secret? That could be a volume of books itself, but here are a few pointers. Remember, you should consistently put out engaging content throughout this process.

### Who is your customer? And what do they like?

Start by making a list of what your average local homeowner wants and what they are interested in, and make a detailed list. Some examples could be a grocery store everyone goes to, a local deli, locally famous familyowned restaurants, dog park, gym, movie theater, fire hall, dog pound or humane society, coffee and donut shop, bar, high school or minor league baseball team.

Newer social media platforms are insanely complex on the business end, and these kids are crushing it; it is truly a young person's game. And they're doing it without paying for ads.

Make a list of what most homeowners in your area are interested in. Once you get that list, start "liking" each one of those business pages. Don't send them any corny messages; just "like" and follow them for now. Most local businesses will be shocked to see that another local business started following their page. Follow this up by "liking" some of their posts and pictures, start leaving positive comments on their posts and repost their posts. They will take even more notice and might even do the same for you.

Local citizens who already follow these other businesses will notice your comments and likes, and many will piggyback and start liking and following you. And your audience will grow.

#### Join Groups

Now do the same with local groups online. Search for Facebook groups for your local community and join them. There are local Facebook groups for almost every community, gated community and subdivision. I'll bet there's a group for the neighborhood or county you live in right now.

There will be local support groups, local church groups, local groups for high school alums, local groups for nature walk meetups, local youth groups, local community organization groups, etc. Join them all and do the same process as described above. Find out who the group's admins are and start "liking" things they say and leaving positive

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### **PROfile**

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Jayson Arendall saw the need to expand and diversify his leak detection business. He chose NuFlow in March of 2019 because of their superior products and reputation for outstanding support.

"The culture of NuFlow is what makes this work. They give you a sense of family with the type of support they provide."

The NuFlow team worked with Jayson to get him up and running, first with hands on technical training and then following up with onsite support.

"One of my very first jobs was really technical. I called NuFlow and they sent two guys out to help me bid and execute the job. Everyone talks about support, NuFlow actually provides it."

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comments on something they say. You will begin to stand out. Some of these groups can easily have over 100,000 local homeowners in them.

### Influencers

Make fun of the term all you want, but online influencers are a huge part of society online. They are the modern celebrities for the younger generation. Since you've gone through every popular local business and online group and "made new friends." You will start to see who the influencers are because the social media platforms think you are exactly like the local homeowners where you live. So it will begin feeding you the exact things it provides to the local population.

When this happens, you will see "influencers" pop up. These people are in the middle of everything, very popular online, and they usually will have videos of themselves doing things, etc. Do the same thing you've done before by liking their posts and leaving positive comments, and you will stand out.

### The Final Blow

Once you've established months of positive relationships with all the popular local businesses for the massively popular online community groups, and many of the local influencers, it's time to take this to the next level. One at a time, start messaging each of your contacts. Make it very personal: "Just wanted to say that I noticed your Facebook page, I think you have great content, and I love eating at your restaurant." That's it — don't ask for anything. Do this for every business, group admin and influencer, and give it a few months.

At this point, your business page will be snowballing off the charts. Then, when the timing is right, ask if you could offer a special discount for your services through their page or group. Offer influencers free services for them to talk up your company.

When you get to this point, you've got a lot of time into your page, but you'll notice that you will start accumulating an unbelievable number of followers with whom you can now advertise for free. Thousands and thousands of local customers and businesses who you can advertise to immediately any time you want, with any message you want for no money whatsoever — just time and effort.

Anthony Pacilla has been in the trades since he was 9 years old (family business). He started cleaning toilets, mopping floors and putting fittings away in the warehouse. As he picked up skills, he would add becoming a ground man and laborer. When he was ready, Pacilla became an apprentice and then a journeyman plumber. He graduated college with a business and economics degree and immediately wanted to come back to work in the family business. A few years ago, Pacilla became a licensed master plumber. To contact Pacilla, email editor@plumbermag.com.



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### **Industrial and Commercial Plumbing**

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### **Controls**

#### SJE Rhombus Model 32S

The **Model 32S** control panel from SJE Rhombus is designed to alternately control 2 three-phase pumps in industrial and commercial water and sewage systems using the robust DPC-4F Pump Control Four Float Controller for pump sequence, alternation, selection, lag



pump delay time and alarm. If a high water alarm condition occurs, the high water alarm float activates the audible/visual alarm system along with auxiliary contacts for remote alarm. Common applications include lift stations and pump chambers. Models are available with intrinsically safe relay for circuit extension into hazardous locations. It is UL/cUL Listed. 888-342-5753; www.sjerhombus.com

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### **Fittings**



### REHAU EVERLOC+ copper press adapters

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mercial applications. Available in 1/2- to 2-inch sizes, the adapters are designed to provide quick yet secure transitions from copper to RAUPEX PEXa pipe. As an extension of the REHAU EVERLOC+ product line, the adapters feature the same compression-sleeve technology and joining technique. The system uses a textured PEXa compression sleeve that delivers an extreme grip and immediate seal. Each PEX connection further contains multiple sealing edges, a signature feature of the system that provides enhanced security. Connections are made using a consistent, two-step expansion and compression process with

battery-powered compression-sleeve tools. Completed connections are immediately secure and ready for pressure testing regardless of pipe diameter and weather conditions, streamlining commercial installations while reinforcing system reliability. 800-247-9445; www.everlocplus.com

### SharkBite PEX-a pipe and expansion fitting system

The SharkBite PEX-a pipe and expansion fitting system combines highly engineered materials with robust testing standards to provide a system that's quick to install



and built to last. It allows for longer pipe runs and fewer fittings needed for a job, reducing installation time and potential leak points. Because it expands, it is less susceptible to burst in freezing conditions compared to rigid pipe. It has a high chlorine resistance and UV rating. The brand's range of expansion fittings, which come in dezincification-resistant brass or engineered polymer, comply with NSF 14 and are designed to resist corrosion. 877-700-4242; www.sharkbite.com

### Vista Water Group VIAgap

VIAgap from Vista Water **Group** is a certified plumbing water fitting designed to prevent backsiphonage while receiving a single drainline from various types of appliances and devices, including reverse osmosis systems, water softeners, whole house water filters, medical



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The in2aqua PS Techno S shower system is ergonomic and sustainable without losing comfort. Its super slim slide bar will give any shower bathroom a minimalistic and timeless touch. With a 60-degree angle, it ensures full body coverage for an enhanced shower experience. Compatible with any in2aqua CALGreen or max 2.5 gpm shower head and head spray, it offers plug-and-play functionality. The systems



are multifunction models, offering the choice of hand shower spray technologies. The powerful massage spray can exhilarate the body, and the Swirl technology with uncloggable spiraling hollow spray treats the skin in a circular motion. Other hand spray technologies include the rejuvenating Silk spray, as well as Airdrop, which operates quietly and saves water at the same time. 800-257-6051; www.in2aqua.com



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### **Uponor AquaPort**

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- Integrated mixing valve control no need for third-party control and programming





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### Safety/Personal Protection Equipment

#### Thunderbolt Locks Alarm Padlock

The Alarm Padlock from Thunderbolt Locks has a built-in sensor that can detect movement to activate a 110 dB alarm siren to ward off thieves. It is manufactured with a heavy-duty, corrosion-resistant body and a thick stainless steel shackle for



increased security. The padlock is weatherproof, has a dual high collar body to fend off bolt cutter access, includes three high-security keys and can be used in silent mode. The alarm resets automatically and includes two sets of batteries. A warning label is applied to the lock body to warn potential thieves there is a siren alarm built into the lock, and a break-in attempt is not advised. This lock is suitable for securing box trucks, trailers, toolboxes, fences, construction equipment and any other application that requires a padlock. 765-652-6587; www.thunderboltlocks.com

## Tools

#### **Dallas Specialty Internal Pipe Cutter**

The Internal Pipe Cutter from Dallas Specialty features a



free spinning shaft, and its blade attaches easily to the chuck, quickly adjusting using the convenient twist/set handle. Simply release the twist/set handle and slide the guide collar over the shaft gauge to the correct depth, tighten the twist/set handle, insert into the pipe and cut. The blade spins freely. It can be used to cut pipe sizes 1 1/2 to 6 inches, with an adjustable cutting depth 1 to 6 inches. A safety collar prevents the blade and shaft from falling down the pipe. It is ideal for tight spaces, and for cutting pipes against walls and below concrete surfaces. Its handle gives stability and control to the cutter. 800-222-5644; www.dallasspecialty.com

#### Milwaukee Tool M18 FORCE LOGIC **Long Throw Press Tool**



Milwaukee Tool's M18 FORCE LOGIC Long Throw Press Tool has an in-line design that offers access for navigating around installed pipes, while also delivering a high level of press accuracy and reliability. Powered by the M18 REDLITHIUM Battery, the tool is part of the only press tool system where users can cut, fasten and connect on one battery platform. It utilizes REDLINK Intelligence, which features auto-cycle and pre-press battery checks to prevent partial presses. Indicated by a green LED light on the tool, it visually alerts users when a press cycle is completed, and when calibration is needed. The press tool operates at 50,000 cycles before calibration is needed. This delivers a long calibration interval, keeping the tool on the job to maximize users' return on investment. 800-729-3878; www.milwaukeetool.com

#### Valves

#### **Aduaquard WAGS Valve**

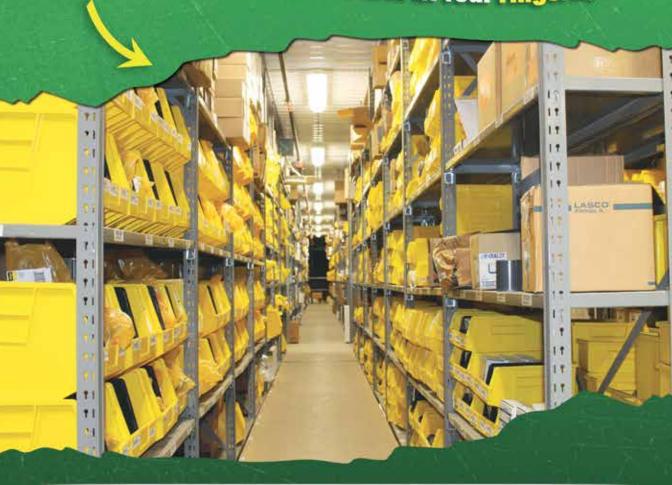
WAGS Valves from Aquaguard can stop a leaking water heater



tank from continuously refilling and dripping, or until the tank fails catastrophically. The shut-off valve halts the incoming water supply, and on gas-fired units, shuts off the gas supply to ensure the home's safety from water heater failure. They are mechanically operated; meaning no maintenance, no electricity or no battery checks are required. They sit in a drip pan under the water heater and are activated when leaking water accumulates to a predetermined level in the pan. Once activated, the industrial-duty, one-shot safety valve shuts off the water and gas supply if so equipped. A red tab pops out to indicate valve activation. 844-438-9247; www.wagsvalve.com

Continued >

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#### **Bradley Navigator** digital mixing valve

Bradley's Navigator digital mixing valve delivers precise temperature control and programmable features. Engineered with technology to deliver and maintain water temperatures within +/- 3 degrees F, even during



low and zero demand periods, the digital valve maximizes safety and efficiency for domestic hot water systems. The valve's intuitive controller allows proactive temperature control by setting the temperature for normal operation and scheduling periodic thermal disinfection cycles. Data logging and BMS integration allow for convenient remote monitoring to ensure the proper water temperature is being distributed, eliminating the risk of elevated temperatures and scalding. Its automatic daily ball rotation feature removes scale to keep the valve running smoothly while reducing cleaning and maintenance time. The valve's programmable weekly thermal disinfection system — with four programmable settings — raises temperatures to kill *Legionella* and other harmful bacteria. After disinfection, the system will automatically flush hot water and reset for daily use. 800-272-3539; www.bradleycorp.com

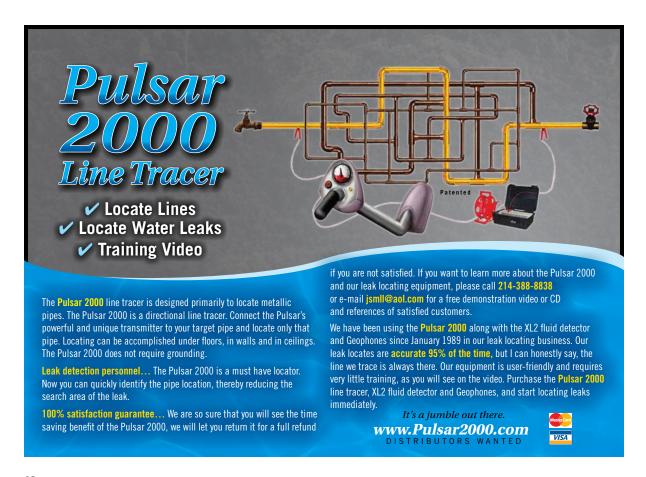
#### Jomar Valve Lead Free Brass **CPVC Insert Rall Valve**

Lead Free Brass CPVC Insert Ball Valves from Iomar Valve have a standard CTS connection. and are full port, two-piece, 150 WOG valves featuring a durable brass body, quarter-turn opera-



tion, CPVC end connection inserts and an optional drain tap 1/8-inch orifice. Made for hot and cold water systems, the valves are 100% leak tested and available in 1/2- to 1-inch sizes. 586-268-1220; www.jomarvalve.com

Continued >





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#### **Water Heaters**

#### **Bradford White Water** Heaters ElectriFLEX MD

**Bradford White Water Heaters' Elec**triFLEX MD medium-duty commercial tank-type electric water heaters are available in 50-, 80- and 119-gallon capacities to fit a variety of applications. With available advanced features such as Incoloy lowwatt density elements, field conversion kits to fit demanding application needs, Vitraglas lining with Microban antimicrobial



product protection, and a Hydrojet sediment reduction system, they are designed to deliver reliable high performance in any conditions. 800-523-2931; www.bradfordwhite.com

#### **Heat-flo Extra High Output**

The Heat-flo Extra High Output (XHO) indirect series of tanks are available in 85and 115-gallon capacities. The entire tank including the 100 feet of coil, body and dip tube are all made of 316L stainless steel. All the piping connections are easily accessible and make for an efficient, cost-effective installation. The finished tank is jacketed with a dent- and rust-resistant HDPE plastic and is highly insulated to minimize standby heat



loss. Applications requiring high volumes of domestic hot water but are limited to a small tank footprint are ideal. These tanks excel when utilized in apartment buildings, dormitories and nursing homes. 508-278-2400; www.heat-flo.com



#### **Intellihot Electron**

The **Electron** tankless heat pump water heater from **Intellihot** provides the energy efficiency, water safety and on-demand performance of tankless water heaters. It uses electric heat pump technology with carbon dioxide as the refrigerant paired with a specially designed thermal battery. Carbon dioxide is environmentally friendly, with a



low Global Warming Potential of 1; it has superior heat transfer characteristics compared to synthetic refrigerants; it's a naturally occurring substance and abundant in the atmosphere; and it's safe because it's nonflammable and nontoxic. The specially designed thermal battery stores heat energy and enables heating water on demand. Models include the iE1, an integrated unit with a thermal battery that can be installed indoors or outdoors; and the iE6, a larger unit that installs outdoors and pairs with the iB3, an indoor thermal battery. 866-692-6791; www.intellihot.com

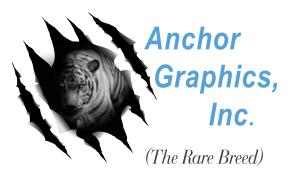
#### Rheem ProTerra Hvbrid Electric **Heat Pump Water Heater**

Rheem's ProTerra Hybrid Electric Heat **Pump Water Heater** is available in a variety of sizes (40, 50, 65, and 80 gallon) with the same footprint as a standard electric water heater, making it an ideal replacement solution. With zero-clearance requirements and front-facing components, the unit easily fits into small spaces and improves serviceability. Built-in EcoNet Wi-Fi technology provides advanced diagnostics. Hybrid electric heat pumps offer immediate energy sav-



ings and are eligible for federal tax credits and local utility incentives. 866-339-2388; www.rheem.com





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## Industrial and Commercial Plumbing By Craig Mandli

By Lraig Mandii

### Commercial water heaters a fit for large hotel



**Problem:** Located in Ashland City, Tennessee, a new fourstory Hampton Inn welcomes travelers from around the globe. Opened to the public on March 3, 2022, the hotel has had consistent occupancy thanks to its proximity to Nashville. During planning and construction, hotel general manager Sammy Naquin knew he needed a dependable water heating solution to help provide a continuous supply of hot water for the 75-room hotel, which also includes a kitchen and industrial laundry facilities. "In the past, I've had problems getting enough hot water up to the top floors at peak hours when more people are showering," he says, so he knew the water heaters he chose for the Hampton Inn had to guarantee hot water for every room at all times of the day.

**Solution:** Naquin worked closely with **A. O. Smith** to specify two 750,000 Btu/h **Cyclone XL** commercial gas water heaters. With a smaller footprint than other large commercial properties, the Cyclone XL was the ideal solution to ensure ample hot water and allow adequate room for installation and maintenance. It excels in applications with maximum hot water requirements by adjusting the firing rate to meet demand. The unit has a dual stainless steel heat exchange system that utilizes a two-step heat transfer process to deliver thermal efficiencies of 97%. It also comes equipped with the iCOMM Connectivity Platform, allowing hotel management to remotely monitor and adjust each unit's settings.

**Result:** "We have been incredibly pleased with the consistency Cyclone XL has provided—the water temperature you get on the first floor is the same temperature you get on the fourth floor," says Naquin. "We've been busy since opening and even with reaching room capacity on multiple occasions, we have received positive feedback from guests about always having hot water." **800-527-1953**; www.hotwater.com

## Hanging system transforms how pipes are supported overhead



**Problem:** A Illinois commercial customer's job required that the hot, cold and vent pipes be supported overhead. At Water Plumbing of Roselle, Illinois, needed to find a quick and easy solution to hang all three pipes together in an overhead installation.

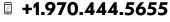
**Solution:** The company used **HAP Bullets** from **HAP System** that are designed to work with HAP Hangers for overhead pipe installation. HAP Bullets combined with HAP Hangers provide flexibility for hanging one or multiple pipes overhead from an anchored 3/8-inch threaded rod. The plumber starts by threading two HAP Bullets on the threaded rod. HAP Hangers are secured to the Bullet by using the provided attachment screws. Height adjustment can be made quickly by spinning the HAP Bullet/Hanger assembly up or down to the desired height.

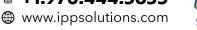
**Result:** The HAP Bullet, PL-1111-BTR1, used in combination with small and medium HAP Hangers, provided a quick and cost-effective solution for overhead pipe installation for the plumber. **847-787-7777**; www.hapsystem.com

Continued >













#### Supply box system delivers labor savings at hotel project



**Problem:** The Grand Hyatt Nashville is a massive construction project with 591 guest rooms and various amenities. As such, plumbing was a challenging process for the building team Clark Construction and Bell Associates. To save on labor costs, mechanical contractor Lee Company recommended using Oatey's MODA Supply Box System for plumbing connections in each guest room which eliminates the need for a copper stub-out, saving time and effort. However, the white finish of the MODA boxes' faceplates did not match the color of the surrounding HVAC grille, causing aesthetic concerns. A color match was necessary for approval.

**Solution:** In order to address the aesthetic concerns with the MODA Supply Boxes, local sales agent Jim McClain took it upon himself to create a makeshift paint shop within his warehouse facility. Alongside the help of other individuals, they prepped, painted and repackaged 600 MODA faceplates within just 12 hours. This allowed for the plates to be installed in the hotel's guest rooms over several months. While only the plates were painted, it was sufficient as the lavatory plates would be concealed behind the vanity. The MODA modular boxes are made of durable PVC and offer advantages such as recessed valves and plumbing, which appealed to the installers.

**RESULT:** Due to the installation of the MODA Supply Box System, the Lee installation crew was able to achieve substantial labor savings. The MODA modular boxes are becoming increasingly valued due to their savings in installation time. They are now a part of Lee's standard protocol for commercial jobs. 800-321-9532; www.oatey.com

#### Company streamlines 404 tub-toshower conversions at hotel



**Problem:** The Four Seasons Houston hotel opened in 1982 and is now in the latter stages of converting 40-year-old cast iron tubs to modern showers. Project assistant-superintendent, John Upshaw of Turner Construction says converting 404 bathtubs to step-in showers in a building constructed in the '80s, is no small feat. "When we demo out a tub, we're essentially running into different conditions in 404 different bathrooms," Upshaw explains. The team had to adapt to unexpected plumbing rough-in configurations and various showerenclosure sizes.

**Solution:** ShowerLine, the solution, is a high-quality PVC linear drain system and features a fully sloped trough where water exits through either a vertical or a side waste outlet. Plumber Larry Adams, from Kilgore Industries in Houston, says he highly recommends the QuickDrain linear drain system because it's easy to install and provides flexibility for the drain installation. Adams was the foreman apprentice during the original construction of the building in the 1980s. "These are old cast iron tubs, so the drains were set at different positions and often off-center," explains Adams. But jack-hammering or core-drilling through the concrete to adjust drain positioning wasn't an option. Since the hotel is constructed via post-tensioned slabs, core-drilling would compromise the building's integrity. To allow enough room for Adams to stub out the existing DWV lines, they had to chip out the concrete surrounding the existing pipe. "Fortunately, we were able to find a location between the rebar to chip a small area around the drain," he says. There was also no way to solder the existing copper pipe to a new copper joint because of jagged pieces of metal coming through the concrete and less than half a hand space, so plumber Adams had to use a mechanical fastening coupling between the copper and the transition material.







**RESULT:** Thanks to QuickDrain's PET shower pans' flexibility, the construction crew was able to cut the drain support panel in half to allow Adams to make the mechanical connection. "The finished installation looks great, and as long as it looks good, the hotel is happy," says Turner. 866-998-6685; www.lrbrands.com/quickdrain/



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#### Contractor uses duplex vortex pump systems for restroom additions at large medical warehouse



**Problem:** The HCA Healthcare HealthTrust location in Lakeland, Florida, functioned as one large warehouse before the decision was made to section off an end of the building to accommodate offices, restrooms, and break rooms for the staff. The project landed with project manager Nate Hefner of Feddon Mechanical. HealthTrust previously installed one restroom and two connecting restrooms in different warehouse sections. The new project scope required tying new restrooms into the existing sanitary sewer, with the furthest restroom roughly 850 feet away from existing sanitary sewer access. "The original spec included grinder pumps to be excavated 6 feet deep and 4 feet wide down in the ground to then pump up across the warehouse," Hefner explains, "but before we pulled the trigger on that, we decided to reach out to Saniflo to see what they had to offer, since we had an existing relationship with our local sales representative."

**Solution:** After confirming that they could accommodate the electrical components to operate the Saniflo systems, the Sanicubic 2VX duplex lift station came out on top as the unit that could adequately handle the flow and distance of the plumbing system. The decision was made to install two units to handle the wastewater coming from three new single user restroom facilities. The powerful 1.5 hp pump system provides above-floor drainage for multiple plumbing fixtures for an entire commercial structure, thus eliminating the need for costlier and less convenient pit installations.

**Result:** "Using Saniflo products that were readily available and didn't require long lead time was cost-effective, compared with the equipment initially specified," Hefner explains. 800-363-5874; www.saniflo.com



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### **Product Spotlight**

Routing program helps growing fleets stay organized **Bv Tim Dobbins** 

rganization is key to efficiency, and as businesses grow, that can become a challenge. OnTerra developed RouteSavvy, an automated software to help meet that challenge and wrangle in the growing fleets of small to midsize businesses.

"RouteSavvy is route planning software designed for service calls, sales calls, deliveries and pickups," says Steve Milroy, president of OnTerra Systems. "By deploying route planning through RouteSavvy, plumbing businesses can plug in the addresses of the day's service calls, and it will generate the most efficient route."

The software can determine efficiency based on least miles driven, or fastest route to either save money on gas, or optimize time.

Other standard features include automated data upload, round trip or start-to-finish routing, and the ability to locate stops using coordinates. "At times plumbing calls aren't tied to an actual address," Milroy says. "For example, if the water main is located in a grassy area of a big park, the ability to specify coordinates becomes really important."

The software starts at a base price per month and per vehicle and as additional vehicles are added, the cost per vehicle goes down. "With RouteSavvy, you only pay more as you add vehicles that need to be supported with route planning," Milroy says. "All users get access to the same functionality."

Through the RouteSavvy mobile app, service techs can



also capture photos to prove a job's been done, get signatures of customers to confirm completion of a job and send notifications to customers alerting them the job has been completed.

For an additional cost, RouteSavvy also offers GPS tracking. It uses a driver's cellphone to provide GPS tracking eliminating the need for specific hardware. "You toggle the GPS tracking on, right on the driver's personal or company smartphone," Milroy says. "RouteSavvy then shows people back at the office where the driver is located using the app. When the driver is done for the day, simply toggle the application off until they go back to work."

Milroy also says RouteSavvy is easy to use, with a clear and understandable interface, simple language, and clear action buttons. "We have had customers tell us that they got a quick tutorial on how to optimize routes with RouteSavvy, and they started doing so in 15 minutes," he says. 720-836-7201; www.routesavvy.com

#### Make lifting safer with Patterson Davit Cranes

The Patterson Davit Crane is built for safer lifting with high-quality materials and an advanced brake that keeps loads in position without creeping. As with all of Patterson's products, the crane's design was rigorously tested both digitally and physically to ensure safety and reliability for the entire life of the product, leading to fewer injuries and more productivity. Plus, the easy-to-assemble design and portable nature of the crane allows for service at multiple locations with a single piece of equipment, minimizing upfront investment. For over 160 years, Patterson has been a trusted supplier of products for lifting applications that deliver on the company's promise of helping businesses run safer, easier and faster. The USA-made cranes



are available in ½- and 1-ton capacities. 800-322-2018; www.pattersonmfg.com/crane-details Continued > "If we're there and they have an issue with a soffit or roof guttering or a door seal — **anything at all** — whatever a customer throws at us, we'll help them out. It's a small town."

## **Dennis Dallos Plumb Twisted**Cushing, Oklahoma



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#### **Matco Norca water** heater connectors

Matco Norca's SSCWH stainless steel water heater connectors are now available with PEX and

cold expansion PEX ends. These popular corrugated connectors come in lengths 18- and 24-inches long with a maximum working pressure of 125 psi and are NSF61-, NSF14-, cUPC-, ASME A112-.18.6-2017- and CSA B125.6-17-approved. Flexible water heater hose connections are designed for use in accessible locations to connect water heaters to the water supply. 800-431-2082; www.matco-norca.com

#### Intellihot telliSize dynamic sizing tool

Intellihot released telliSize, a six-dimension dynamic simulation software tool for correctly sizing heat pump water heaters. The telliSize tool uses real-world data and advanced mathematical mod-



els to simulate performance over 365 days to provide guaranteed sizing for plumbing engineers and architects. Three different sizing options are provided to meet varying needs: an option with the least upfront cost, one with the lowest operational expenses, and one that balances both. Users select their property type and input its ZIP code, fixture count and desired outlet temperature online at telliSize. The calculator uses real-world data from similar properties and runs an advanced dynamic mathematical model on cloud computers using parallel computing technology. The users are emailed configuration options within three business days. 866-692-6791; www.intellihot.com



#### SunStat CommandPlus Wi-Fi thermostat

SunStat, a Watts brand, announced the latest addition to its Smart & Connected thermostat line, the SunStat CommandPlus thermostat. It allows customers to remotely access and control a floor warming system

using the Watts Home app. The thermostat can be connected to a home's Wi-Fi system to enjoy features including automatic clock setting and warm-weather compensation and shut down. Key features include a stylish design with glass front and touchscreen and programmable seven-day schedule. 888-432-8932; www.suntouch.com



#### Caleffi 304 Series Vacu-Stop vacuum relief valve

Caleffi North America expanded its plumbing product portfolio with the 304 Series Vacu-Stop vacuum relief valve. Available in ½- and ¾-inch MNPT, the Vacu-Stop

is suitable for use in water and low pressure steam services, and is ideal for use in water heaters and supply tanks. The valve automatically allows air into the piping system to prevent a vacuum which could siphon water from the system and damage water heater/tank equipment. The valve meets ANSI Z22.21 Standard and is compliant with International Plumbing Code Section 504.2 governing safety devices. It is also NSF 61 and NSF 372 compliant making it usable in potable water environments. 414-238-2360; www.caleffi.com

#### Rheem RTGH Series tankless gas water heaters

Rheem launched the next generation of its RTGH Series super high efficiency condensing and RTG Series high efficiency non-condensing tankless gas water heaters. The RTGH Series condensing (0.93 UEF) and RTG Series noncondensing (0.82 UEF) offer uncompromised performance while using up to 34% and 25% less energy respec-



tively, than a standard residential 50-gallon tank water heater. New convenience features include an integrated digital display for diagnostic information, built-in EcoNet Wi-Fi (on select models) for real-time service alerts and control with the mobile app and Rheem's LeakGuard detection and prevention system with auto water shut-off (available on indoor Wi-Fi models). The new design of the RTGH and RTG Series is both smaller and lighter than previous models. With 1/2-inch clearance, the units are ideal for safe and flexible installation in tight spaces, including closets. 800-621-5622; www.rheem.com

#### SJE Rhombus SJE VerticalMaster 3 Plus pump switch

SJE Rhombus' SJE Vertical Master 3 Plus mechanically-activated pump switch is designed for direct control of pumps up to 1/2 hp at 120 volts AC and 1 hp at 230 volts AC in nonpotable water and sewage applications. The vertical design makes this a



perfect fit for limited space applications, including small sump chambers, laundry trays and effluent, as well as in large tanks. SJE Rhombus has incorporated many of the

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#### WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PRIMARY JOB FUNCTION?

☐ President/CEO/Owner ☐ Management/Supervisor ☐ Operator/Technician ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### HOW MANY EMPLOYEES DO YOU SUPERVISE OR WORK WITH AT YOUR FACILITY?

□ 1-3 □ 4-9 □ 10-19 □ 20+

#### HOW MANY VEHICLES DO YOU CURRENTLY HAVE IN SERVICE?

□ 1-5 □ 6-10 □ 11-15 □ 16-20 □ 21+

#### WHAT IS THE APPROXIMATE POPULATION OF THE AREA IN WHICH YOU PROVIDE SERVICE?

□ 1-10,000 □ 10,001-50,000 □ 50,001-100,000 □ 100,001-200,000 □ 200,001-500,000 □ 500,001+

#### WHAT IS YOUR ANNUAL EQUIPMENT BUDGET?

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- WHAT SERVICES DU YOU PERFORM ON A REGULAR BASIS?
   □ Plumbing Maintenance/Repair □ Sewer/Drain Cleaning
- □ New Construction Commercial □ Pipe Bursting
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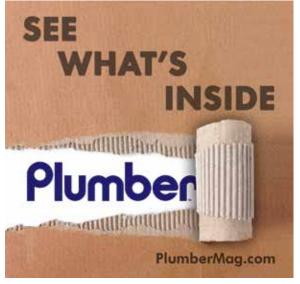
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features from the original version, as well as some new features, including redesigned compact float housing for improved buoyancy, increased contact force, and an easily adjustable plastic clip. A cable entry design helps prevent moisture ingress, and it has been; life cycle tested to over 1 million cycles. 218-847-1317; www.sjerhombus.com



#### Geoflow WaterflowECO drip tubina line

Geoflow's WaterflowECO subsurface drip irrigation tubing for wastewater and nonpotable water applications was developed to expand

customer options and to provide a more complete line of products for the wastewater market. WaterflowECO is made in the U.S. and has 0.67-inch tubing which incorporates Geoshield, an antimicrobial lining that stops bio slime build-up. It is purple tubing with flat emitters, which are available in flow rates of 0.4, 0.6, and 1.0 gph. 800-828-3388; www.geoflow.com

#### Watts ligature-resistant floor drains and shower channels

Watts ligature-resistant floor drains and waterline shower channels all have strainers that are compliant with ligature-



resistant requirements. Watts FD-1100-A-LR and FD-1100-M-LR ligature-resistant floor drains — constructed with a durable epoxy-coated cast iron drain body (or cast stainless steel) and anchor flange — are now offering fabricated stainless-steel ligature-resistant strainers with vandal-proof screws. These strainers can also easily be retrofitted to existing Watts FD-Series drains. The strainers are available as round or square in 5-, 6- and 8-inch sizes. Watts WSC-300-LR waterline shower channels have a ligature-resistant drain body and grate. Constructed of AISI Type 304 stainless steel and available in a range of lengths: 12, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48 and 60 inches. Center outlets are standard with end outlets also available. 978-688-1811; www.watts.com

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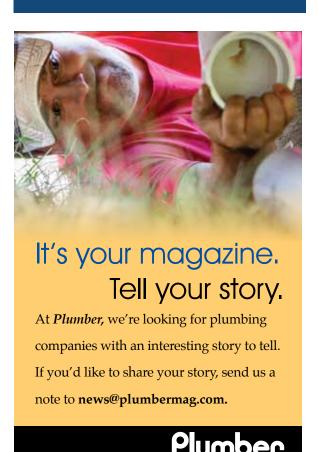
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#### INDUSTRY NEWS

#### Viega announces North American Expansion

Viega announced plans to expand its production capacity in McPherson, Kansas. The first wave of these investments is approximately \$14 million and will increase the U.S. production of its ProPress products. The McPherson manufacturing and distribution center is currently around 1 million square feet, with the facility more than doubling its footprint and workforce since opening in 2008. The new ProPress equipment is expected to be in production by the end of the third quarter in 2023, with additional investments to come. In addition to its McPherson facility, Viega supports its customers and partners through distribution centers in Reno, Nevada, and Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with further North American expansion planned for 2024 and 2025.

#### Winners of the SkillsUSA Plumbing Championship named

The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association Educational Foundation announced the six plumbing students who received top honors in the plumbing competition during the annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, held June 22-23 in Atlanta, Georgia. The winners were first place secondary - Shadrach Roundy, Davis Technical College, Kaysville, Utah; first place post-secondary - Christopher Hayes, Pinellas Technical College, St. Petersburg, Florida; second place secondary - Nicholas Gerasimov, Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, Billerica, Massachusetts; second place post-secondary – Brent Offenberger, Rowan Cabarrus Community College, Salisbury, North Carolina; third place secondary - Benjamin Tuck, Putnam Career & Technical Center, Eleanor, West Virginia; third place post-secondary - Chris Martinez, Texas State Technical College - West, Brownwood, Texas.



#### Mickey McMillan ioins Oatev as VP. corporate controller

Oatey announced that Mickey McMillan has joined the organization as vice president, corporate controller. He will use his wide range of expertise to lead Oatey's U.S. and global



accounting operations. Prior to joining Oatey, McMillan served as vice president of global financial shared services at Synthomer, where he oversaw a team of more than 100 associates across the Americas, Europe and Asia. He also held previous leadership positions at A. Schulman.

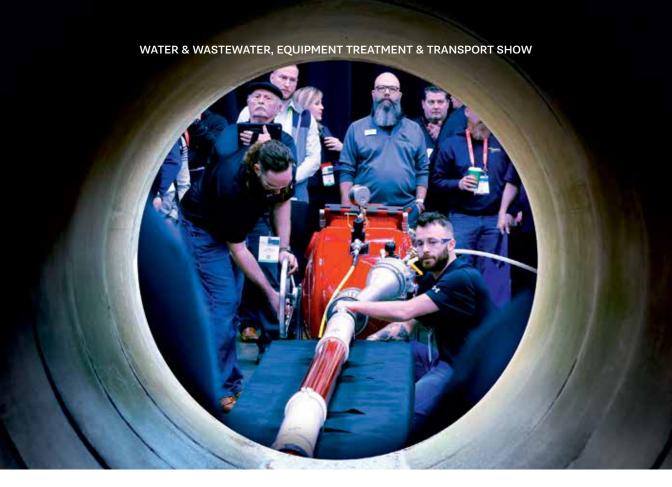
#### Bradford White announces For the Pro photo contest

Bradford White Water Heaters announced the Bradford White For the Pro photo contest, offering weekly opportunities through 2023 for contractors to earn a Carhartt thermal-lined duck active jacket. To enter, contractors can submit a photo of a recent Bradford White installation at www.bradfordwhite.com/photo-contest. Contractors are encouraged to include themselves and their teams in the photos. A new winner will be selected every week through December and shared on social media.

#### Franklin Electric celebrates 10th anniversary of its headquarters

Franklin Electric celebrated the 10th anniversary of its global corporate headquarters in Fort Wayne, Indiana. CEO Gregg Sengstack kicked off the daylong celebration by addressing the employees and cutting the anniversary cake. Completed in 2013, the company's 120,000-squarefoot headquarters sits on 102 acres. The building is constructed with 294 tons of steel, and it's powered by more than 70 Franklin Electric products. Outside, a cooling pond provides geothermal heating and cooling. The company was granted LEED Silver certification through the U.S. Green Building Council.

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Don't miss your chance to gain the edge and rise above the growing competition. Join us and thousands of other professionals in Indianapolis in 2024!





#### CALENDAR

#### Nct. 3-6

**Service World Expo.** Phoenix Convention Center. Phoenix. Visit www.serviceworldexpo.com

#### Oct. 3-5

#### WaterSmart Innovations.

South Point Hotel and Conference Center. Las Vegas. Visit www.awwa.org/events-education/watersmart-innovations

#### Oct. 17-20

World Plumbing Council. Shanghai Convention & Exhibition Center of International Sourcing, Shanghai. Visit www.worldplumbing.org

#### Nrt. 22-25

Mechanical Service Contractors of America Annual **Education Conference.** JW Marriott, Marco Island. Florida. Visit www.mcaa.org/events/calendar/msca-2023-annualeducational-conference/

#### Oct. 25-27

PHCC Connect 2023. Huntington Convention Center. Cleveland. Visit www.phccweb.org/connect

#### "First and foremost,

the two things that are most important to us

#### are that we leave a legacy behind

for our children and the second is that our employees would benefit from that legacy and they too would have something to pass on to their children."

#### Kelli Frank

Four Star Plumbing San Clemente, California

Read what matters to contractors in every issue of Plumber.





#### Nov. 9-11

#### Service Edge Conference.

Plano Event Center. Plano. Texas. Visit https://serviceedaeconference.com/

#### Nov. 15-16

#### South Florida Build Expo.

Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. Visit https://buildexpousa.com

#### Dec. 6-7

**Charlotte Build Expo.** Charlotte Convention Center. Hall B. North Carolina. Visit https://buildexpousa.com

#### Jan. 16-18. 2024

2024 Mechanical Contractors Association of America Safety & Health Conference. Loews Ventana Canvon Resort, Tucson, Arizona, Visit www.mcaa.org/events/ calendar/2024-safety-health-conference/

#### Jan. 22 - 24. 2024

AHR Expo, McCormick Place, Chicago. Visit https://ahrexpo.com

#### Jan. 24-27, 2024

#### Water & Wastewater Equipment. Treatment & Transport Show.

Indiana Convention Center. Indianapolis. Visit www.wwettshow.com

#### Jan. 29-31. 2024

**Manufacturing Extension Partnership Innovative Conference.** Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek. Orlando. Visit www.mcaa.org/events/calendar/2024-mep-innovationronference/

#### What's New With You?

Send In Your Industry News To Us!

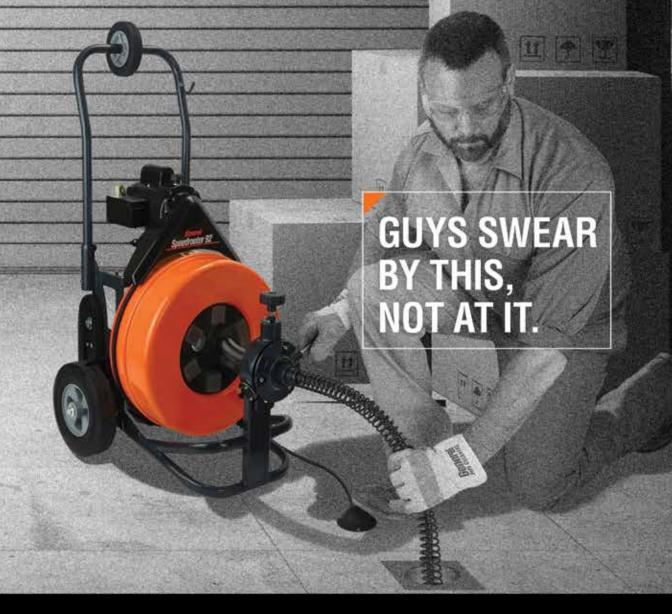
Send your company's latest business news to info@ plumbermag.com. Newsworthy items may include business expansion, honors and awards, new contract announcements, employee promotions and executive hires, and new services. Please include high-resolution digital photos with the news releases. Plumber

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James Capelli, California plumber "...rugged reliability, optimal control and ease-of-use." Larry Linn, Linn's Plumbing

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