

WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE A CLEANER, SAFER ENVIRONMENT

MACC Members Speak Out

See page 6 for details



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ✓ Feature Article
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***Cerebral Palsy of Nassau County proudly displays
their commitment to cleaner, safer air!***

Shown L. to R.: Sean Libby, President of The TurboChyll Company, Dina Granados, Office Manager Of Physical Plant Operations and Maintenance of CP Nassau, and Philip Polito, Director of Physical Plant Operations of CP Nassau



Jimmy Moyaen
First Choice Mechanical

From the President

In this issue of the MACC News, we focus on the role of our members in addressing indoor air quality during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each day we are tasked in helping to ensure that the air in offices, stores and other buildings is safe for occupants.

From upgrading filters and air scrubbing systems to installing UV lights, we have our work cut out for us! As we have seen, everything is ever changing these days. That is why it is so important to be a part of an industry organization like MACC.

The association works hard to ensure that members are supported, especially in difficult and uncertain times like these. If you are not a member of MACC, I encourage you to visit our website, call the association office or shoot us an email to find out more about the benefits of membership. We must work together to get through this! Let the Metropolitan Air Conditioning Contractors of New York help you and your business navigate this new landscape and move forward in an effective and efficient manner!

Thank you to all who participated in our virtual trivia night fundraiser benefitting the Make-A-Wish Foundation! Everyone enjoyed a night of facts and fun for a great cause! A special congratulations to James Padavan and his family for using their extensive trivia knowledge to end up as the night's winners! For those who were unable to attend but would still like to donate to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, please visit maccnny.org for our fundraising page where you can donate directly!

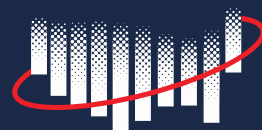
I wish everyone much success as we continue to navigate these turbulent times!

Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,
Jimmy Moyaen

ON THE COVER:

Improving Indoor Air Quality reaches a new level of excellence at Cerebral Palsy facilities of Nassau County with the installation of 130 new I-Wave Air Products from The TurboChyll Company.



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Product Showcase



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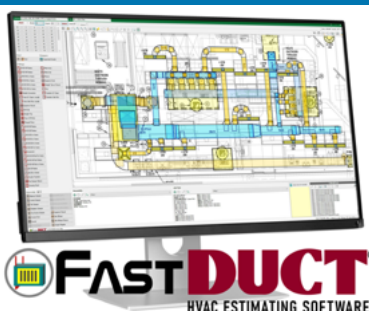
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Editor's Notes

By Anthony N. Carbone

The "dog days" of summer certainly permeated the months of June, July, and now even August with 18 days of over 90-degree temperatures as of August 12th.

The HVAC industry came out of the dark days due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As soon as the Memorial holiday hit, warm temperatures prevailed, jump-starting business that badly needed the infusion of revenue.

The employees were called back from unemployment and furlough. The wheels were turning at full throttle for many, especially in the resident HVAC circles where many people were working from home and required additional air conditioning systems to supplement the existing systems, especially where many set up home offices to work from. The local utilities were promoting rebates for heat-pump systems. This is a push to get homeowners away from the use of fossil fuel systems. Ductless air conditioning systems are making their way into many homes.

But then a sudden development occurs on Tues., Aug. 4th. The tri-state area got pummeled by a tropical storm Isaias, where 70 mile per hour winds tore throughout the area, knocking down thousands of trees. These downed trees and high winds knocked over trees into electrical supply lines. Thousands of homes were hit with the loss of power which included telephone and internet. Since most are using power from Fios, an Optimum cable, the home telephone lines were also devastated. The number of power outages on Long Island and Westchester and parts of Queens were devastating with many without power for 7-8 days in the sweltering heat of over 90-degree temperatures and record-breaking humidity. The utilities such as ConEdison and PSEG seem to be paralyzed. Although many propaganda public relation emails went out to tell you how ready the electric utilities were ready for the impending storm, the evident fact was they were not. The Long Island region on the North Shore were waiting to see the PSEG utility trucks which were nowhere to be found. Many told me this is worse than super storm Sandy. One utility worker told me the hard hat logos may have changed, but the men on the ground are the same. The executives have changed names, but the oversight was worse than ever.

Many out of state utilities assisted, as well as its sub-contractors were being employed to assist, but the mobilization took days to get in order.

Many subcontractors were "walking the lines" and were waiting on instructions from superiors and executives. So... LIPA has competition for poor response and poor preparedness... It's PSEG. Maybe the name "Worry Free" should be changed to "Worry Some."

This sudden August tropical storm reignited the race and need for natural gas stand-by generators. Many who had them installed previously suddenly learned that these 600 lb. power generator plants require maintenance. Those who thought they would never experience another outage like Sandy since the electrical Grid was revitalized over the past years. Well, what a wake-up call this was. Mix this with the heat wave and the pandemic and you end with chaos and fear. No one wanted to leave their homes unattended and potentially expose themselves to the virus. Elderly were left with no communication, no air conditioning, no alarm system, no cable TV, no telephone and cell phone towers were sparse and damaged in certain areas. This was truly devastation from a tropical storm with an ill-prepared utility. Now, granted that this is somewhat unpredictable. The communication aspect from the utilities was sparse and very unspecific.

Some residential contractors that also installed natural gas, stand-by generators saw a bonanza of business from people who revived the past proposals for a generator, while others immediately received new estimates and began the process of an installation. This provides peace of mind for many who recently heard on the weather forecasts that a series of tropical storms and hurricanes are headed this way.

Who knows what September has in store for HVAC contractors as these are tumultuous times. We need to protect our industry from unfair competition and cross-subsidization from utilities, especially the HomeServe competition that is allowed to masquerade as PSEG; this is a mask they may not want to wear this month as significant criticism has come across the media airwaves.

Stay tuned and give us your opinions...

Anthony Carbone
Systematic Control Corp.

ATTENTION, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS!

We have created a special page on the MACC website that is dedicated to helping Associate Members stay connected!

This page allows for members and the industry to stay informed of any news and/or updates from associate members, which can include new products, special promotions, training seminars, webinars and more.



Associate members are encouraged to email any information they would like published to info@maccnny.org.

Be sure to check out our Resources from Associates page at:
<https://www.maccny.org/Resources-from-Associates.aspx>

PLEASE SUPPORT THE MACC MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

On July 30th, MACC hosted a virtual trivia night fundraiser benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation!

We are continuing to raise money for Make-A-Wish to help grant wishes for children with critical illnesses. It's truly amazing what wishes can do... give kids renewed energy and strength, bring families closer together and unite communities.

Wish kids are some of the bravest and sweetest kids you'll ever know. They wish to work in a pickle factory, become a superhero, go snorkeling, give their baseball team new uniforms, and push all the buttons in a tall building's elevator.



Make-A-Wish grants thousands of unique wishes each year. But for every wish granted, another eligible child is waiting for their wish to come true.

Together, we can grant more wishes. Please donate today. Visit our website – www.maccny.org – to access our fundraising page!

Thank you for your support!



FEATURE ARTICLE**FIGHTING COVID-19: MACC CONTRACTORS SPEAK OUT ON IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

MACC Contractors report that maintaining optimum Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) is a vital defense against COVID-19 and other airborne viruses. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, our members have spent a great deal of time researching the most effective technologies and techniques to help customers improve their overall Indoor Air Quality.

Read on and listen to the experiences of Jimmy Moyen, James Padavan, Steve Palone, Scott Berger and Sean Libby, who report on the various ways they are helping customers defend against COVID-19 and other airborne viruses



"While our residential customers are focused more on emergencies, our commercial customers are geared toward Air Quality and ask us about the ways we can help them in mitigating Covid-19."

Jimmy Moyen, First Choice Mechanical

"The two key options we recommend to our customers are MERV-13 filtering and UVC lighting. We have been working with commercial customers that include restaurants, movie theaters, and health care providers such as dentists and dermatologists with these technologies.

"The challenge we face is that everyone wants a guarantee. While UVC lighting helps purify the air and kills many diseases, and high efficiency air filters -- HEPA filters -- have been shown to help reduce the presence of Covid-19 in the air (as per Governor Cuomo's recent press conference) you simply can't guarantee these precautions will prevent the disease.

"Social distancing, frequent hand washing and other preventative protocols like wearing masks are the absolute best way to prevent contamination. Wearing a mask is crucial -- clients are demanding it and ask us ahead of time if our technicians will be wearing a mask on the job."



"We have always provided Indoor Air Quality solutions for our residential customers. Since the pandemic, we are now offering a number of additional options."

James Padavan, Air Design Inc.

(Continued on facing page 7)

"We have taken some time to learn what is available in terms of technology and techniques and have been providing our commercial customers options for improved air filtration. Ionization type products such as the iwave or photohydroionization are among these technologies. We have been researching HEPA filtration and air scrubbing systems for our larger commercial customers such as schools, churches and large offices.

"We do make a point of letting customers know that these systems, along with improved filtration, may help reduce the spread of the virus, but these products are not guaranteed to eradicate the virus. They simply reduce their presence in the air. It is important to limit your liability during these times ... and keep the customers well informed.

"Customers are also more aware of what's available and have been self-educating so it makes the sale of certain products easier. The toughest part of this, however, is debunking the myths customers come in contact with from doing research on the internet. We explain to them that not every option they see may be best for their application."



"Our customers are very concerned about their overall Indoor Air Quality, especially in offices that have 5+ employees who are all worried about coming back into Manhattan."

Steve Palone, Palone Brothers Air Conditioning Corp.

"Requests from our customers are ranging from HVAC systems set to maximize outside air intake (as recommended by ASHRAE) ... cleaning and disinfecting of coils and air inlet chambers ... air filters upgraded to the allowable filtration specifications ... and UV lights installed in the ductwork.

"We are not installing HEPA filters as their static pressure is out of the design range of most previously installed systems. Typically, a system would have to be designed from the start to have HEPA filters. We have been suggesting and installing a variety of MERV filters.

"We have been using disinfectant sprays for coils and air inlet chambers. Many of our customers are requesting UVC lights but the problem here is stock issues and limited availability. We have been suggesting special products that use a combination of UVC light and special chemical reactions to bind particles together, similar to ionization."



"While there is no one universal solution addressing the role HVAC systems play in mitigating COVID-19, nor is there any definitive proof that the virus can be transmitted through HVAC systems, we believe a holistic approach encompassing proper personal hygiene as recommended by the CDC along with other mitigation strategies and technologies can help provide the safest indoor air quality possible."

Scott Berger, Arista Air Conditioning

"We have customers ask about installing air cleaning products such as photocatalytic oxidation units and ionizers that produce Hydro-Peroxide plasma that have been proven to be effective in reducing odors, air pollutants, VOCs (Chemical Odors), smoke, mold, bacteria, and viruses. These units can be placed within the air distribution system at relatively low cost and are effective in creating an overall healthier indoor climate.

(Continued on page 8)

FEATURE ARTICLE (Continued from page 7)

"Recent research has also shown that increasing indoor humidity levels can help to mitigate the virus. During the winter months when spaces are closed and heated, humidity levels tend to drop to low levels (between 20 and 40 percent). Unfortunately, those are the ideal conditions for the COVID-19 virus to thrive and remain viable for longer periods.

"Some of our customers have also asked us to clean and sanitize system components prior to starting their air conditioning systems. There is certainly a benefit to cleaning condenser coils (which is normally done during a PM visit) yet cleaning and sanitizing indoor components such as evaporator coils and blower sections is another strategy towards creating a healthier indoor environment. And of course the added benefit of a clean system is that it operates more efficiently, consumes less energy, and reduces downtime.

For detailed information on these mitigation tactics presented by Arista, as well as the company's overview on the benefits and limitations of high efficiency HVAC filters and ultraviolet light, we suggest you go to <https://aristair.com/blog/> for an outstanding blog on COVID-19 & Your HVAC System.



"Over the past months, we have been hyper-focused on providing our customers with Indoor Air Quality Products and Techniques that fit their equipment and building's needs. In April we implemented an Evaporator Coil sanitization cleaning for all Maintenance Agreement Customers. Any customer that had maintenance done previously, we circled back and performed that service at no additional charge. We now include a spring and summer coil sanitization on all maintenance contracts going forward."

Sean Libby, The TurboChyll Company

"At TurboChyll, we have found several technologies that are very effective. One that we have found to be of particular note is Needle Point Ionization by I-Wave Air. This manufacturer has created a product that produces no by-products such as ozone or formaldehydes. We had found many of the ionization products create these bad by-products which is a big turn off for us, as we wouldn't want to give customers a product we don't feel comfortable having ourselves. We believe the I-Wave Air products are the best ionization product to add to the Indoor Air Quality arsenal.

"We just finished putting in 130 I-Wave Air products across all of the Cerebral Palsy facilities in Nassau County (see cover photo). The I-Wave Air is a Needle-Point Ionization Air Purification product which has an ever growing presence across the country in educational, medical, government and commercial establishments. The I-Wave Air products are proven to provide substantial results in nursing homes, day care facilities and veterinary hospitals. Turbochyll feels confident that these are the products to be supplied in our partners' establishments.

"We believe that Indoor Air Quality is not totally dependent on a particular technology, but it also depends on cleaning techniques. Maintaining routine filter changes or increased filter changes, cleaning of the evaporator coils more often, sanitizing the interior of the air conditioning system, scheduling the air handler to run in fan operation 24/7 to maintain a constant air flow – are all essential to optimum air quality.

"Today our society is facing a pandemic that is putting current HVAC systems to the test," concludes Sean. "IAQ (Indoor Air Quality) has a whole new meaning as of now. It may be used to combat viruses and build confidence in everyone's mind as America is reopening. There are technologies that have been available to us that never before seemed as necessary, but now may be considered as standard. Modern HVAC systems have the capability to hunt down and destroy virus molecules, VOC's and airborne particles and provide cleaner indoor environments."

All of us at MACC extend a big THANK YOU to Jimmy, James, Steve, Scott, and Sean for their insight and experiences during these unprecedented times.



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Statement from Stuart S. Zisholtz, Esq.

The Importance of Bonded Liens

There has been a great deal of misunderstanding, miscommunication and misinformation circulating within the construction industry with respect to a bonded lien.

When a mechanic's lien is bonded it replaces the property and the lienor is guaranteed payment under the bond if he proves a valid lien. It is probably the best thing that a lienor can do. If the contractor or the owner goes into bankruptcy, becomes insolvent or otherwise goes under, the mechanic's lien is still good and the bonding company is required to pay if a valid lien is proven.

I have been told by various people on numerous occasions that their lawyers advised them that once the lien was bonded they cannot collect. It is the exact opposite. I have also been told that the bonding company gangs up on lienors, etc. This is also incorrect.

In a recent case, a major catastrophe occurred when dealing with a bonded lien. In that case, a lien was filed a discharge bond was filed. Thereafter, the parties agreed to go to arbitration. The blunder was that when they agreed to go to arbitration, the lienor consented to dropping the mechanic's lien foreclosure action. By dropping the action, the bond was cancelled automatically. As a result, the parties had to go to arbitration and the benefits of the bond were totally annulled. You never want to do that. I am not sure what the logic was in discontinuing the foreclosure action and releasing the lien, but the result was detrimental to the lienor.

What should have happened in that instance is the bond should have been transferred over to the arbitration proceedings if the lienor established its right to a recovery. The bond would have backed it up. Or, in the alternative, the action could have been stayed and the bond would have remained in place.

Never let your lien time run out!

For a free copy of our pamphlet pertaining to mechanic's liens and payment bond claims, kindly contact me.

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BACK TO SCHOOL ALERT!

As schools make their plans and take precautions for reopening in the fall, please consider the following...

Updated Reopening Guide for Schools and Universities from ASHRAE

The ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force has developed guidance on the operation of HVAC systems to help mitigate the airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 as schools prepare to reopen for the fall academic year.

The 41-page Presentation includes convenient checklists to prepare educational buildings to resume occupancy such as starting up HVAC systems as well as checks and verifications to maintain during the academic school year. The guidance is meant to provide practical information to school districts and university campus environmental health managers, facility managers, administrators, technicians and service providers.

"As schools prepare to reopen for the fall academic semester, it's important to keep children and school staff safe," said 2020-21 ASHRAE President Charles E. Gullledge III, P.E. "ASHRAE's school reopening guide will serve as a resource to school leaders as they work in lockstep with health experts to finalize plans to keep everyone safe."

The guide includes the following topics:

- Determining Building Readiness
- Equipment & System Specific Checks & Verifications During the Academic Year
- New/Modified Facility Design Recommendations
- Filtration Upgrades
- Operations of Occupied Facilities
- Controlling Infection Outbreak in School Facilities
- Higher Education Facilities Recommendations

Also included is guidance formulated to help designers retrofit and plan for the improvement of indoor air quality and to slow the transmission of viruses via the HVAC systems as well as new guidance on student health facilities, laboratories, athletic facilities, residence halls, and large assemblies, lectures and theatres.

"School and university officials are challenged with making very difficult decisions on how to best protect both students and staff as education facilities reopen, said Corey Metzger, ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force Schools Team lead. "This guidance offers a solid framework on ventilation control, filtration and maintenance that can be applied to different climate zones, building types and HVAC systems."

For the complete ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force school reopening guide and other COVID-19 resources, visit ashrae.org/COVID-19.



Carrier Launches Higher-Capacity OptiClean Air Scrubber for Healthy Indoor Air Quality in K-12

Carrier has announced the launch of its OptiClean™ 1500-cfm Dual-Mode Air Scrubber & Negative Air Machine, ideal for helping to maintain clean and healthy indoor air quality in classrooms, cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums, restrooms and more. The new unit joins the existing OptiClean 500-cfm unit, which was launched in April to help create infectious isolation rooms in hospitals treating COVID-19 patients and is now used in hospitals and dental offices and is ideally suited for individual classroom use. The new model draws air from inside larger spaces, removes many contaminants and discharges cleaner, filtered air.

(Continued on page 16)



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BACK TO SCHOOL ALERT! (Continued from page 13)

"Schools and school districts around the country are making very difficult decisions about how to adequately prepare to reopen in the fall while keeping their students and teachers safe," said Chris Nelson, Carrier's HVAC President. "Our new OptiClean technology will provide one piece of the puzzle to help protect the health of students and teachers when they return to school. The new units can be plugged into a standard wall outlet in any room where students and teachers congregate during the school day to help reduce contaminants like the coronavirus, improve indoor air quality, and slow the spread of disease."

Like the 500-cfm unit, the new OptiClean 1500-cfm unit plugs into a standard wall outlet and uses a greater than 99.97% efficient, long-life HEPA filter to significantly reduce the presence of coronavirus and other contaminants in the air. OptiClean units exceed the ASHRAE® school reopening recommendation* that portable electric HEPA machines be introduced into each classroom and provide a minimum of two air changes per hour.

The Carrier OptiClean units are portable, taking only about three-square feet of floor space when oriented vertically, and can also be operated horizontally, allowing for convenient, unobstructed placement in classrooms, cafeterias, libraries or gymnasiums. One 500-cfm unit can adequately clean the air in an average-sized classroom; the new 1500-cfm unit is designed for larger spaces. In both cases, multiple units can be used for more expansive spaces.

OptiClean is one of a number of solutions offered through Carrier's Healthy Buildings Program that can aid school districts in enhancing indoor air quality. Other product features and upgrades include filters with high MERV ratings; UV lights; Agion® anti-microbial coating, which can be applied to protect against bacterial growth; economizers; and a Humidi-MiZer® dehumidification system.

For more information, contact your local Carrier expert or visit carrier.com/commercial.



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Editor's Notes

By Jason Staiano

We are definitely in new uncharted territory in regards to the Covid world we live in. Even as some normalcy is returning to our part of the country, we are certainly far from the way it was. Masks are the new normal, greeting someone with or without a hand shake can be awkward, social distancing everywhere, and let's not forget the new issue of dry hands because of constant hand washing and hand sanitizer. So needless to say, pre-COVID was way better.

What's next for the new normal? Well, travel is not as easy as it use to be, since the number of flights to anywhere are greatly reduced. Work travel is down, and besides who really wants to travel and stay in hotels when COVID is still a threat. The next thing that seems to being pushed on everyone are virtual trade shows. Educational conventions when you listen to speakers can most certainly be accomplished virtually. But when it's trying to be attempted when the standard format are booth spaces set up in a large convention center and attendees walk around and get to see what companies are offering, then expecting that to be translated to a virtual format is not going to be easy.

It's understandable as to why it's being tried, a lot of trade shows are just another business trying to save their business. But sadly, those businesses might be another casualty of COVID. Even if they were able to put on a show at a convention center next month or in 2 months or 4 months, a lot of people might not feel very confident in attending a large gathering of that sort. What are your thoughts about attending a trade show? Visit our members section on Facebook and take the poll that is posted there.



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